

Global crisis shows capitalism won't recover

Fight for jobs, Social Security!

By Fred Goldstein

The latest economic reports show a dismal outlook for workers, students, youth and communities. The numbers show that there is not now, nor will there be, a genuine recovery from the capitalist crisis that began in 2007. The only way out for workers is mass struggle.

In June, the second anniversary of the so-called "recovery," only 18,000 more jobs were created than were lost. It takes 125,000 to 150,000 new jobs each month just to keep up with new workers entering the workforce. The official unemployed rate went from 9.1 percent to 9.2 percent. Thus the official unemployment rate has been 8.8 percent or higher during the entire "recovery."

Oppressed people fare much worse. According to a July 8 report from the Economic Policy Institute by Heidi Shierholz, unemployment in June for African-American workers was 16.2 percent and for Latino/a workers 11.6 percent. For workers age 16 to 24 as a whole, unemployment was 17.3 percent.

When those who have given up looking — so-called discouraged workers — and those forced to work part-time are added to the general statistics, the picture is even bleaker. The official number of those underemployed as well as unemployed now comes to 25.3 million, rising in June from 15.8 percent to 16.2 percent of the entire workforce.

In addition, wages fell in all age groups; hours worked declined; average weekly earnings dropped 3.9 percent; and more than a quarter-million workers dropped out of the workforce. The long-term unemployed — jobless for more than 26 weeks — hit a record at 6.3 million.

'Debt-ceiling' frenzy used to attack 'entitlements'

President Barak Obama dropped a bombshell just days before these job numbers were released. In a secret meeting with Republican Speaker of the House John Boehner on July 6, Obama made an agreement to exchange new tax revenues for "substantial spending cuts, including such social programs as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security — programs that had been off the table." (New York Times, July 7)

The compromise/capitulation by Obama on cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security was made in the atmosphere of a "debt-ceiling" frenzy created by both parties, as well as the capitalist media and economists of the ruling class.

As a result of massive bank and corporate bailouts; trillions in military spending on weapons and wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and now Libya; and interest payment to the banks on government loans, the federal government has had to borrow vast sums of money to pay its bills. The limits on that borrowing are set by law. The current debt ceiling is \$14.3 trillion. That debt limit, passed by Congress earlier this year, will have to be increased by Aug. 2 in order for the government to pay its bills.

Washington needs to borrow more money to continue to pay off the banks and bondholders and to fund operations, including social services, in the coming period. Thus the administration needs Congress to raise the debt ceiling so it can continue functioning.

Don't take one cent from the people!

From a working-class point of view, there should be no crisis over raising the debt ceiling. Not one penny should be withheld from payments for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, government pensions, veterans' benefits or any other funds legally due to sustain the masses, especially in a time of high unemployment. To keep expenses below the ceiling, the government should simply

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Supporters greet caravan headed to Cuba



Rev. Luis Barrios of IFCO/Pastors for Peace and other caravanistas made a stop in Milwaukee, Wis., on July 8 at the Central United Methodist Church. There they met other friends of Cuba, gathered supplies and enjoyed a dinner and evening forum where presenters talked about the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba and other topics regarding the socialist nation.

A special guest of honor was Milwaukee resident Joya Mosely, who is one of the U.S. students receiving free medical education in Cuba. After the presentations, everyone joined in packing the bus with supplies which had been stored at the church.

The caravanistas on this bus include an array of working people. The bus is on its way south to Mexico where all the sup-



Wisconsin

plies gathered by caravans traveling throughout the U.S. will be loaded onto ships bound for Cuba. There are 47 caravan events in 25 states and Washington, D.C.

On July 9 a similar event took place in Racine, Wis. The Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba sponsored both events. The Racine activity was also co-sponsored by the Racine/Kenosha Central American Solidarity Coalition and the Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice. For more information, see <http://wicuba.wordpress.com>.

— Report and photos by Bryan G. Pfeifer

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Monica Shay, ¡Presente!

By Stephen Millies
New York



Monica Shay and Paul Shay.

Monica Shay was a revolutionary who spent four decades fighting for poor people. She was known as “Kathryn” to her neighbors and other activists, including members of the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation.

Monica Shay died on July 7 after being shot five days earlier, along with four other family members in Montgomery County, Pa. Her comrade and partner, Paul Shay, was severely wounded. His nephew, Joseph Shay, was killed. Two-year-old Gregory Erdman was killed, and his mother, Kathryn Erdman, was wounded. They were all shot in the head by a gunman who was later killed in an alleged shootout with police.

Many people were horrified by this bloodshed. Activists gathered at two vigils on New York City’s Lower East Side to remember Monica Shay and the other massacre victims.

On July 5 people came to the Shays’ home on East 10th Street. Among those who took part was Juanita Young, whose son, Malcolm Ferguson, was killed by a police officer on March 1, 2000. Five days before his death, Ferguson had been arrested for protesting the shocking acquittal of four cops who had shot immigrant worker Amadou Diallo 41 times.

Nicholas Heyward Sr. came to the vigil. A cop killed his 13-year-old son, Nicholas Heyward Jr., on Sept. 27, 1994, as he played with friends in a stairwell in Brooklyn’s Gowanus Houses.

Allene Person was there. Police killed her 19-year-old son, Timur Person, on Dec. 13, 2006. This was less than three weeks after cops fired 50 shots at Sean Bell, killing him.

Margarita Rosario attended. Two New York City detectives, who had been volunteer bodyguards for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in the 1993 mayoral campaign, killed her son, Anthony, and his cousin, Hilton Vega, on Jan. 12, 1995. Both young Latinos were shot in the back 22 times while they were on the floor.

Mourning loss of dedicated activist

These parents knew Monica Shay as someone who was always there for them, whether it was on a picket line or in a courtroom. The parents and grandmother of 11-year-old Briana Ojeda — who died from asthma on Aug. 27, 2010, after a cop stopped her mother from rushing her to an emergency room — never met Monica. But they too were choked up.

Monica was an organizer and writer. She directed the Arts and Cultural Management Program at Pratt Institute.

On July 9 friends gathered at Tompkins Square Park. Activists recounted how both Monica Shay

and Paul Shay stood with homeless people as they fought against being driven out of the neighborhood. They told of how Paul Shay, a skilled plumber, helped squatters while giving jobs and skills to the unemployed. Pratt students described how Monica Shay encouraged them. Everyone marched around the park in their honor.

Steve Yip, October 22nd Coalition activist and supporter of the Revolutionary Communist Party, spoke about his comrade:

“Raised in a progressive Quaker family in Pennsylvania, Monica traversed the tumultuous 1960s participating in anti-war marches and supporting liberation struggles. She visited then-revolutionary China in 1971 while still a college sophomore. She witnessed the achievements of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, which was a watershed for her. She joined with peasants in the fields, trained in acupuncture, and witnessed the political struggles there over the correct road to build a socialist society.

“Monica was someone who had a big heart and big love for the people. She dedicated her life to serving, and struggling with, the people to build resistance against injustice and oppression. We have lost a precious comrade. In this case, under tragic and senseless circumstances. And her loss is indeed weighty and heavy. But the goals to which she dedicated her life remain more urgent than ever. A void has been created, and the challenge is out there for many to take up and to fill this void.”

Monica Shay, ¡Presente! □



Parents whose children were killed by police attend the July 5 vigil: Steve Yip, Juanita Young, Nicholas Heyward Sr. and Margarita Rosario.

PHOTOS: JED BRANDT

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CALIFORNIA

Pelican Bay prisoners' hunger strike enters second week

By Judy Greenspan
San Francisco

The voices of thousands of California prisoners — those who have been locked away in “security housing unit” (SHU) prisons — were heard loud and clear in downtown San Francisco on July 9. More than 150 former prisoners and allies rallied to support the just struggle of prisoners at Pelican Bay State Prison who continue their hunger strike into a second week.

“Picture yourself in a 6-by-10-foot cell, probably ugly drab green, spending 23 hours of your day locked down with no human contact,” began rally chair Linda Evans, former political prisoner and member of All of Us or None, who spent over 16 years incarcerated in U.S. prisons. “Today we need to show unity ... throughout our community,” Evans declared.

Some activists dressed in bright orange jumpsuits with “CDCR” (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) on the back to bring home one of the realities of being locked up in California’s prisons. The banner they held up — “Stop the Torture” — brought home the truth about SHUs, also known as supermax prisons.

PBSP is a maximum security prison located in Del Norte County, along California’s northernmost border with Oregon. The prison, which opened in 1989, has been the object of many lawsuits, including *Madrid v. Gomez*, a class action which exposed and challenged the torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners incarcerated there.

On July 1, hundreds of prisoners at PBSP went on hunger strike to win five simple but key survival demands: SHU prisoners want an end to group punishment and administrative abuse; the abolition of the “debriefing” policy and modification of ac-



Solidarity action July 9 in San Francisco.

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

tive/inactive gang status criteria; CDCR to comply with recommendations regarding long-term solitary confinement; the provision of adequate and nutritious food; and the expansion of programming, correspondence and other privileges for indefinite SHU-status prisoners.

Widespread torture in SHUs

Since the hunger strike began, prisoners at more than 11 other California prisons have joined the protest. Former prisoners and other supporters have also been on solidarity hunger strikes.

Jessica Escobar, a member of California Prison Focus, corresponds with several prisoners at PBSP and spoke out about the inhumane conditions that prisoners now endure: “There is nothing rehabilitating in torturing prisoners and keeping them in solitary confinement. This ... is unacceptable and we should ... demand more from the CDC officials. They must answer for this type of cruelty and the violence they create, ... demeaning and degrading [prisoners] as human beings, and breaking their spirits and that of their loved ones.”

Urgent bulletin *Editor’s note:* As we go to press July 13 it is reported by the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity coalition that 200 of the Pelican Bay hunger strikers are experiencing life-threatening health conditions according to an urgent update received by the coalition from medical personnel at the prison. The California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation continues to refuse to negotiate. It is urged that phone calls be made to the following authorities immediately, demanding they enter into negotiations before they have (more) deaths on their hands: Gov. Jerry Brown: 916-445-2841, fax 916-316-0558; CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate: 916-323-6001; Pelican Bay State Prison Warden Greg Lewis: 707-465-1000 x 9040; and Ombudsman Ralyn Conner: 916-324-6123. See prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com for updates.

Becnel explained why the PBSP prisoners, as well as thousands of other California prisoners, are continuing with their hunger strike: “Why would someone opt to starve to death? The prisoners say they are slowly dying anyway from the torture. They are willing to go until they are dead.

“We need to muster up at least a fraction of the courage that these prisoners have showed. Please make calls to the CDCR, sign the online petition, send the faxes and put pressure on them,” Becnel urged. “We are going to have to raise a lot of ruckus to get the CDCR to meet the demands of the prisoners.”

Manuel LaFontaine, a former prisoner and organizer with All of Us or None, has been on hunger strike in solidarity with Pelican Bay prisoners since June 30. “We have our own Guantanamo Bay prison here in California, several of them — Pelican Bay, Corcoran, Tehachapi and Valley State Prison for Women. The reality behind the CDCR image is torture,” LaFontaine told the protest.

For more information about how to support the PBSP-SHU prisoners in their hunger strike, visit prisonerhungerstrike-solidarity.wordpress.com. □

In U.S. & worldwide

Support grows for Calif. prisoners' hunger strike

By Sharon Danann
Cleveland

Even California prison authorities acknowledge that 6,600 prisoners were participating in the hunger strike called by inmates in Pelican Bay State Prison’s Security Housing Unit over the “Fourth of July” weekend. (Los Angeles Times, July 9) Pelican Bay is California’s supermax prison. The prisoners in the SHU are in solitary confinement, some for decades.

More than one-third of California’s 33 prisons had inmates refusing food, many of whom are also in SHUs. There is widespread support for the hunger strikers’ demands for such basic human rights as an end to collective punishment and to long-term isolation, adequate food and a phone call a week.

Support for the hunger strike spread worldwide. On July 3 in Perth, Australia, as part of a celebration of Aboriginal survival, the Deaths in Custody Watch Committee held an action in solidarity with the hunger strike. On July 4 activists in Kingston, Ontario, unfurled a huge banner saying “Collins Bay to Pelican Bay, Solidarity for Prisoners on Strike.” Inmates in Collins Bay Federal Penitentiary there started a work

stoppage June 28 to address the issues of overcrowding and prison conditions.

Dancers from Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc in Los Angeles performed ceremonial dances in front of Pelican Bay prison on July 4. Supporters held rallies in cities in the U.S. and Canada almost daily from July 1 to July 9, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and Eureka, Calif.; Seattle; Harrisonburg and Blacksburg, Va.; Cleveland; New York; Montreal and Toronto.

Activists in Montreal are hosting a “Contractor Crawl” to “discover some of Montreal’s prison contractors on July 16. On July 23 there is a rally at Ohio State Penitentiary at 2 p.m., followed by a program on torture in today’s prisons at 4:30, both in Youngstown. For more information contact lucasvillefreedom@gmail.com.

Solidarity from behind the walls

In the supermax unit at OSP, prisoners went on a 36-hour solidarity hunger strike from July 1 to July 2. Among these was Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan, one of three OSP prisoners who were able to improve the terms of their confinement through a hunger strike in January of this year. All three were sentenced to death as



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

Cleveland activists hold informational picket and leafletting July 9 in solidarity with California prisoners.

the result of their alleged roles in the 1993 prison uprising in Lucasville, Ohio.

In his solidarity message to the California prisoners entitled “United We Stand,” Imam Hasan proclaimed, “Their injustices have been going on for far too long. ... Twenty-five years is too long for human beings to be subjected to the cruel terms and dictates of their oppressors.”

Lucasville uprising hunger striker Jason Robb wrote, “I can fully understand and respect the path [the Pelican Bay hunger strikers] chose. They have made a decision that is not easy at best, but men must stand as men or be subject to being treated as less.”

The third Lucasville uprising hunger striker, Bomani Shakur, posted in his “Letter of Support” at www.kersplebedeb.com: “In a country that incarcerates more of its citizens than any other country in the

world (over 2.6 million men and women behind bars), human rights violations are inevitable, and it falls to those of us who must suffer through the experience to stand up and speak truth to power, for as Frederick Douglass suggested: ‘Power concedes nothing without a demand.’ In the days to come, the men at Pelican Bay will need each and every one of us to support them, to stand with them as they seek to bring their situation to a tolerable level.”

For the complete list of hunger strike demands, a link to an electronic petition, up-to-date event information, and what you can do to help, visit <http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com>.

Danann is a member of the Lucasville Uprising Freedom Network and visits prisoners in OSP, Ohio’s supermax prison.

Humberto Leal Garcia

Texas execution breaks international law

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Humberto Leal Garcia was executed July 7 in Huntsville, Texas, despite a firestorm of worldwide opposition and outrage. His execution is symptomatic of the deep and ongoing crisis of U.S. capitalism, characterized by criminality abroad and racism, brutality and economic terror at home.

In violation of international law and defying a ruling by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 ruling gave the OK for this legal lynching.

At the eye of this storm is U.S. noncompliance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which the U.S. Senate ratified back in 1969. It requires nations to notify consular officials if a foreign national "is arrested or committed to prison or to custody pending trial or is detained in any other manner."

Leal is a Mexican citizen. Officials in the Texas criminal justice system never informed him of his right to contact Mexi-

can consular officials, nor did they inform those officials that a Mexican national was in their custody on a murder charge. Thus they deprived Leal of any "meaningful opportunity to show that he was not guilty of capital murder," said his attorney, Sandra L. Babcock.

This deliberate violation of international law is such an embarrassment to the U.S. in its dealings with other countries that Leal's case was at the center of uncommon appeals from President Barak Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. A request for a reprieve by the Mexican ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukhan, was also dismissed. Editorials from the New York Times to the Los Angeles Times called on Texas to stay the execution. So did Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., who said it would have "serious repercussions" for U.S. relations with Mexico and the European Union.

Just as in the U.S. government's bombing of Libya, which violates the War Powers Act, the state of Texas also follows the law only when convenient. "Texas is not

bound by a foreign court's ruling," said Katherine Cesinger, press secretary for Gov. Perry, dismissively referring to the Vienna Convention after the execution.

When Texas executed Jose Medellin, another Mexican citizen, in August 2008, Perry's response to appeals was that "Texas didn't sign the Vienna Convention."

Demand justice for the oppressed

Death penalty abolitionist Delia Perez-Meyer, whose brother is on death row in Huntsville, Texas, was in the visiting room the morning of Leal's execution while his family, the Mexican consul and his attorneys had their last visit. She was with them during the execution.

Perez-Meyer told Workers World: "Words cannot describe the sorrow and pain that the families of the victim and the family of Leal went through over this execution. It was truly one of the most difficult and saddest days of my life. They were brave, strong and hopeful until the last minute. Leal's sister went in to witness the execution despite having fallen to the ground and vomiting when attorney Sandra Babcock told us the U.S. Su-

preme Court had denied the stay."

As Leal lay on the gurney in the death chamber, he apologized to his family and the victim's family. "I have hurt a lot of people. ... I take full blame for everything. I am sorry for what I did.

"One more thing," he shouted, as the lethal drugs began taking effect, "Viva Mexico! Viva Mexico!" Leal will be buried in his hometown.

After the execution, relatives of Leal, who had gathered in Guadalupe, Mexico, burned a T-shirt with an image of the American flag. Leal's uncle, Alberto Leal, criticized both the U.S. justice system and the Mexican government.

Demonstrations against the execution took place in more than a dozen Texas cities.

Gov. Perry, who may run for U.S. president in 2012, is calling for his "fellow Americans" to join him in a stadium in Houston on Aug. 6 for "a day of prayer and fasting on behalf of our nation."

His prayers are not for an end to executions, home foreclosures, joblessness

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Global crisis shows capitalism won't recover

Fight for jobs, Social Security!

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suspend or cancel debt payments to the corporate rich.

Workers should have no obligation to assume responsibility for the debt to billionaire bankers and bondholders, the military-industrial complex — nothing but merchants of death and destruction — or the oil companies and other corporate vultures. These parasites all feed off the public treasury and devour the funds that rightfully belong to the working class. The funds in the treasury come from taxes paid by workers and the middle class, or taxes paid by corporations, which are simply taken from the profits they stole from workers in the first place.

Social Security is a right won by workers through struggle in the 1930s. It is paid for out of their wages, and the bosses are required by law to contribute matching funds. These funds are supposed to be held in trust by the government for workers. This money should be inviolable and not part of the government budget in the first place.

Now, in mid-2011, there is \$2.6 trillion in the Social Security trust fund, enough to fund the system for decades. If the fund really needs more money, the government need only lift the cap on the highest-paid people and make all their salaries subject to Social Security deductions, instead of them paying only on the first \$107,000 earned each year. Finally, in order to really replenish the fund, reduce the retirement age and increase benefits, the bosses and/or the government should put the millions of unemployed back to work and raise wages. That would instantly solve any hypothetical financial problems of Social Security.

The fact is that the rich, both the financiers and the industrialists, have wanted to destroy Social Security since it was created. And now they are using the so-called "debt-ceiling" frenzy as a battering ram against this program, which has benefited hundreds of millions of workers and seniors for three-quarters of a century.

If the threats materialize to cut Medicare for seniors and Medicaid for the poorest people, which are vital programs to help fund health care also won through long struggle, that would only further impoverish the population and add to deteriorating health conditions for the multinational working class.

Behind austerity program: capitalism is stalled

Behind the entire political and economic establishment's full-court press against Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid is a deeper reason. Mass unemployment and austerity are intimately connected. The ruling class is completely overwhelmed by the utter failure of the capitalist economy to show any real signs of recovery.

The politicians and the rich know that the only way back to solvency of any of the social funds, not to speak of the well-being of their profit system as a whole, is through economic expansion. Not just the kind of miniscule growth that they refer to pathetically as a "recovery." They need the robust growth of a previous era, an energetic capitalist expansion that puts the millions of unemployed workers back to work. They need the type of expansion that generates massive quantities of surplus value, which is unpaid labor from workers. The bosses and their system need the creation of real wealth, real value, not just the paper value of speculation.

Surplus value is the lifeblood of the system. But as millions remain jobless for protracted periods and mass unemployment stubbornly grows, despite the stimulus programs and the bailouts, the prospects for growth are fading. All the predictions of the bourgeois economists about growth have failed.

The experts projected that the economy would grow at 3 percent or more last quarter. Instead it grew at 1.8 percent. The pundits predicted the creation of 150,000 jobs or more in June. Instead there were 18,000 net jobs, with thousands of government workers laid off.

Crisis of capitalism is global

And the crisis is global. Behind the Greek debt crisis is a decline in the Greek economy. The Greek economy is contracting at an annual rate of 3 percent. European and U.S. bankers are demanding that Greece deal with its crisis by cutting workers' pensions, raising the retirement age, and selling off state industries and facilities to private capitalists. The European bankers are demanding the layoff of 120,000 Greek workers.

Now the debt crisis is spreading from Greece, Portugal and Ireland to Italy. Italy's economy is twice as large as the other three combined. Investors are moving to dump Italian bonds. German Chancellor Angela Merkel telephoned Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to tell him to cut 40 billion euros from the Italian budget. In the last quarter, the Italian economy had its first decline in two years.

This is a formula for making the economic and financial crisis of the Greek and Italian capitalist governments worse. It can spread to all of Europe and the U.S. It will bring suffering and hardship so the bankers get paid interest on their bonds. The profit motive is so strong a force that billionaire financiers are willing to accelerate a financial and economic crisis because none of them is willing to give up their loot.

V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917, said that a capitalist will sell you the rope you use to hang him. This describes not only the European bankers, but the U.S. bankers and capitalists as well.

In Washington, both parties are negotiating over how much to cut from the working class. The Democrats want to cut a lot, but make the rich pay a contribution, while the Republicans want workers to pay more and the rich little to nothing.

But seen objectively, both parties are negotiating over how much to deepen the crisis of capitalism. Capitalism cannot function without markets, without selling for profit. But it cannot sell if the masses have little money. By cutting government

spending for workers, by cutting the benefits to which they are entitled, the bosses are slashing away at their own markets.

The entire capitalist world is in a state of slow growth to no growth to economic contraction, despite the trillions of dollars poured in to bolster the system over the last three-and-a-half years.

What is becoming clear is that the capitalist system, because of economic crisis and continual war, is having the historic difficulty of reproducing itself. It cannot grow, and it is moving toward absolute decline.

After the Middle Ages, the capitalist class in Europe rose from the status of an "oppressed minority" under the domination of the feudal aristocracy to become the global, imperialist monster it is today through a process that Karl Marx called "expanded reproduction." The capitalists steadily revolutionized the means of production. Each business cycle of boom and bust was followed by an expansion greater than the previous cycle.

The Great Depression of the 1930s brought this process to a devastating and catastrophic end. After the market crash of 1929, the capitalist system was unable for years to reproduce itself. It only resumed significant growth on the basis of military preparations for World War II, increased production during the war itself, and then replacement of the factories and infrastructure destroyed by the war. The normal means of capitalist expansion had run out of steam. The system was strangled by capitalist overproduction and could not recover.

The working class must recognize that a similar crisis point has been reached again. As in the 1930s, workers will have to organize, mobilize and fight to put an end to the capitalist offensive and gain concessions that push the crisis back onto the ruling class. Workers need a massive government program that provides decent jobs for all. They need housing and an end to foreclosures and evictions. They need an end to the assault on education, health care and pensions. And they need an end to oppression and imperialist war. □

Milwaukee actions hit transit cuts



Members of the Milwaukee Transit Riders Union and the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement held a noon-time informational speak-out at Milwaukee's Summerfest on July 9. They denounced the millions of dollars in proposed service cuts to transportation and other public services in metropolitan Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin.

Proposed are fare increases and the elimination of dozens of routes, all shuttles and "freeway flyers" to the many festivals and other events in metro Milwaukee, and bus routes to

industrial parks. Although all changes would have a devastating impact on poor and working people, these cuts would be especially harmful to the African-American and Latino/a communities and to women, both riders and drivers.

Later that afternoon the Amalgamated Transit Union held a similar informational picket to oppose the proposed cuts and attempted union busting. For more information and how to assist this struggle, visit <http://www.transitridersunion.org/wp/>.

— Report and photo by Bryan G. Pfeifer

Youth brigade fights food stamp cuts



Congress is threatening to cut food stamps and turn this essential program into a block grant with limited funding for states to administer. Meanwhile, some 44 million people in the U.S. are on food stamps, with the number rising every day due to massive unemployment. The Summer Organizing Brigade hit the streets of the South Bronx, N.Y., to

begin a campaign to defeat these cutbacks. Organized by the Solidarity Center, the group — led by youth of color and open to all ages — also got out Workers World newspapers and condemned the bombing of Libya. To join call 212-633-6646.

— Report & photo by Gavrielle Gemma

Public education struggles rooted in anti-racist legacy

By Stephen Millies

The right to education is under attack across the United States.

The American Association of School Administrators estimated "227,000 education jobs are on the chopping block for the 2011-2012 school year."

College has become even more expensive. Since 2007 the University of Arizona's tuition has doubled. It has increased by 40 percent at the University of California since the 2008-2009 school year. Racist Georgia politicians have prohibited undocumented immigrants from attending state colleges.

Taking advantage of Hurricane Katrina, and the horrible damage caused in New Orleans, government officials have privatized most schools there and turned them into charter schools.

The wealthy and powerful have declared war on public education. Billionaires aim to privatize schools under the name of "education reform." Teachers are their first target.

One "education reformer" is Microsoft's Bill Gates, who according to Forbes magazine is worth \$56 billion. That's almost twice the gross domestic product of Ghana's 24.8 million people.

William Henry Gates III attended Seattle's private Lakeside School with a tiny pupil-to-teacher ratio. But he doesn't think class sizes of 35 students or more are a problem. Gates urged school administrations to "[identify] the top 25 percent of teachers and [ask] them to take on four or five more students." (Washington Post, Feb. 28)

This is just like factory owners demanding employees operate more machines or hospital administrators ordering nurses to care for more patients. Bosses always push workers to produce more at less pay. Teachers are workers, too.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation spent \$373 million on education in 2009; \$73 million was for "advocacy." This "ad-

vocacy" was really anti-union propaganda and lobbying. It helped finance "Teach Plus," which got supposedly rank-and-file teachers to testify in Indiana and other states in favor of eliminating union protection as a way to stop layoffs — a lose-lose proposition. (New York Times, May 21)

Abolitionists fought for public schools

The struggle for public education in the U.S. was linked to the struggle against slavery.

It was a death penalty offense in most Southern states to teach enslaved people to read and write. The slave masters viewed literacy as dangerous as handing out weapons on a plantation.

Horace Mann was an abolitionist congressman from Massachusetts who is often credited with establishing the state's public school system.

The Horace Mann School in the wealthy Riverdale section of the Bronx defames this anti-slavery leader's memory by charging yearly tuition of \$37,275. Real education reform means fighting for South Bronx students to attend this exclusive prep school.

Thaddeus Stevens fought almost single-handedly in the 1830s to defend and build Pennsylvania public schools. Racists still hate him for his support in Congress for Black freedom during the Civil War and Reconstruction. As Ways and Means Committee chairperson, he demanded arms and the right to vote for enslaved people. He also urged the break-up of plantations and giving the land to formerly enslaved people and poor whites.

Black struggle for schools in U.S.

Black people had to fight for centuries to get into U.S. schools. When the African Free School was established in 1787, it may have been the first free school in New York not tied to a church. Three formerly enslaved people opened the first school for Black students in Washington,

D.C., in 1807.

Racists attacked northern Black schools. In 1833, racists in Canterbury, Conn., tried to burn a school for African Americans. Two years later, a white mob used oxen to drag a Black school into a swamp outside Canaan, N.H.

By the start of the Civil War, there were 32,692 African-American students enrolled across the country. Black churches had formed Wilberforce University in Ohio, explains Lerone Bennett Jr. in his historic work, "Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America."

Formerly enslaved individuals built schools and hoped that teachers would come. Black parents in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore struggled to establish high schools named after the great poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Among the Black institutions founded was Langston College in Oklahoma. It was named after John Mercer Langston, who was Ohio's first African-American lawyer and Virginia's first Black congressman. He was Langston Hughes' great-uncle.

How can this history mean anything to Gates? Microsoft has a record of discriminatory hiring practices. It took a civil rights lawsuit to reveal that just 2.6 percent of Microsoft's 21,429 employees in 1999 were African American. (<http://www.faceintel.com/relatedclassactions.htm>)

Billionaires need skilled workers, but they're afraid of poor and working people who get an education. Their attitude is like that of Prussian serf-owner "Frederick the Great" more than 200 years ago, "If my soldiers were to begin to think, not one would remain in the ranks."

Education in socialist Cuba

Colonial regimes are among the worst examples. After 300 years of Dutch rule in



It took a struggle to win the right to learn to read. Illiteracy is a tool of oppression used to deprive people of basic rights.

the early 1900s, there were just 70 college graduates in Indonesia.

"Illiterates with the right attitude to manual employment are preferable to products of the schools," declared Kenya's British rulers in 1949, when three Kenyan high schools admitted only 100 African students annually.

Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba was barred from college and forced to take correspondence courses. His assassination on Jan. 17, 1961, was ordered by President Dwight Eisenhower. (Guardian, Aug. 20, 2000)

The Russian and Chinese Revolutions, and the liberation struggles that swept the planet, finally opened up some school doors. African students were allowed to attend U.S. colleges in hopes they wouldn't enroll in Patrice Lumumba University in the socialist Soviet Union.

The first battle of the Cuban Revolution was to wipe out illiteracy. Conrado Benítez García, a Black teacher, was lynched by CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries for teaching peasants to read and write.

After the Soviet Union's overthrow in 1991, Cuba lost most of its foreign trade. Despite this tremendous economic blow, not a single Cuban school was closed. Cuba saved its schools because of socialist economic planning. Today its Latin American School of Medicine trains thousands of doctors from around the world, including from poor U.S. communities.

Cuba has what we need. □

Egyptians protest military gov't, demand changes

By Gene Clancy

Tens of thousands of protesters were in the streets across Egypt July 8 showing their revolution is continuing. Demonstrators packed city centers, demanding faster reforms and voicing frustration at what they see as foot dragging by military rulers and government officials.

Anger has been building up among ordinary Egyptians and activists against the ruling military council over what they see as delays in the prosecution of President Hosni Mubarak and former officials charged with corruption and killing demonstrators during the uprising that toppled him.

Most political groups and parties backed calls for the protest called "The Revolution First."

"The demands of the revolution have not changed since day one," declared the 25th January Revolution Youth Coalition in an online statement calling on Egyptians to join the July 8 demonstration. "It was not just about toppling the old regime but about building a state where people can have freedom, dignity, rule of law and social justice." (The Guardian, July 7)

Demands for change have been increasing ever since the early spring uprising that toppled Mubarak. The army council that took control has used repressive tactics to prevent the Egyptian masses from raising legitimate demands. The council outlawed strikes, for example.

Although Washington gave lip service to supporting the revolution, it depends on its significant influence within the Egyptian military leadership — through military aid and training — to slow down the process of change in Egyptian society.

On June 1, after it faced public criticism for torturing demonstrators and admitting that it forced some female detainees to undergo "virginity tests," the military pressed the Egyptian news media to censor harsh criticism of it and protect the military's image.

After an Egyptian pipeline supplying natural gas to Israel was blown up, the line was repaired, but on June 2, gas was not flowing and foreign shareholders of the company were threatening legal action against Egypt.

On June 29, a night of fighting between demonstrators and security forces made it clear that there were differences between those who want faster change and those who want to keep the status quo of the Mubarak era.

'We won't leave the square!'

On July 5, an Egyptian criminal court acquitted three former government ministers of corruption, while convicting a fourth in absentia. These verdicts aggravated public anger over the pace of efforts to hold former officials accountable for killing almost 1,000 people during and after the country's 18-day revolution last January-February.

On July 10, following the massive July 8 protests, demonstrators blocked access to the Egyptian capital's largest government building and threatened to expand sit-ins to other sites unless authorities speed up reform efforts. These reforms include probing abuses that occurred during the uprising that toppled Mubarak.

In addition, demonstrators blocked access to the government administration building in Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the 18-day uprising. They halted traffic and threatened to broaden the sit-ins to include the nearby Interior Ministry and state TV building if their demands were not met.

In the city of Suez, east of the Egyptian capital, protesters have blocked the coastal road linking the Suez Canal city to the Red Sea ports of Safagah and Hurghada. The protests disrupt maritime trade by trapping hundreds of cars and trucks.

Beside justice for the martyrs of the uprising, protesters are demanding the resignation of Interior Minister Mansour al-Issawi, who is in charge of the hated police force, and of the country's top prosecutor. They also want the government to stop trying civilians in military courts and to release and retry civilians previously convicted by military tribunals.

On July 10, protesters called for massive nationwide demonstrations on July 12 to press their demands. "We will not leave the square until all our demands are met," said Essam el-Shareef, one of the protest leaders. (AP, July 10) □

Egyptian student o 'Tahrir Sq

By Joyce Chediak
Cairo, Egypt

For 18 days the people of Egypt gathered in the streets in the millions and brought down the 30-year reign of U.S. client Hosni Mubarak. This January 25 Revolution, named for its first day of protest, was led by youth and students.

Among those playing an organizational role were socialist students, steeled in the struggle through years of battles with the police on campus. During a mid-June visit to Cairo, this reporter spoke with three such students who went to Tahrir Square, the heartbeat of the revolution, and stayed.

Kassem Moussa, age 21, a medical student at Cairo's Ain Shams University, is an organizer fighting to get the political police off campus. Essam Mohamed is a 21-year-old law student at the University of Cairo. The political police on that campus recently prevented him from taking his final exams because of his political activity. Mohamed Mohamed Ali is a 21-year-old engineering student at the same campus. He is a third-generation Marxist, whose father was a student activist and whose grandfather was jailed under Nassar.

"For us youth, the revolution is about freedom," Moussa said. "Within the last five or six years, the economic situation has been so hard. We wanted to change this. The state responded with repression.

"Police bother all of us all of the time, arresting everyone political, from left to Islamic," he said. "In the last two years the student movement has been very strong. Last November there were protests of

Wall Street's cutbacks & global class war

By Caleb T. Maupin

Wall Street is coming for us.

The people who rule this society are taking aim at every gain we and generations before us have won. Their rallying cry is "cutbacks!" and their butcher knives are sharp and ready.

Billionaires like Michael Bloomberg, committed union-busters like Scott Walker, the rich bankers who run the Democratic and Republican parties, extreme racists like the Koch Brothers with their Tea Party schemes, military contractors like GE and Halliburton — all of them are united around attacking the workers of the world.

They seek to sink their fangs into our wages, our pensions, our student loans, our Social Security, our Medicare and Medicaid, and our very right to form unions, so they can suck more profits from us.

When faced with this menacing assault, the toiling people of the world have responded the way we always have. We are taking to the streets in huge numbers. We are sitting down in places like Wisconsin's Capitol building and Tahrir Square. We are sleeping out on the streets of New York City.

We are screaming loudly, in one voice: "We will not accept your austerity! Our lives will not be sacrificed so your profit margins can grow!"

The crosshairs of this coalition of wealthy plutocrats are trained not just on workers in the United States, but on workers in every part of the world.

Just as they seek to bust our unions and our will to resist them, they seek to remove and overthrow any leader who

challenges their "right" to force their will on the whole of humanity.

Bosses turn their guns on Libya

Is it any surprise that Western capitalists now turn their guns on Libya?

Libya's leader, Moammar Gadhafi, came to power in a popular revolution that began among officers within the Libyan army. The revolt removed the king of Libya, who was a mere puppet of Western capitalists.

Libyan oil is the property not of Wall Street corporations but of the Libyan

Youth
Commentary

people. The income derived from oil is used to provide free health care and education for the Libyan people. Libyans live longer, on average, than the people of any other country on the African continent, according to both CIA and United Nations statistics.

For decades the Libyan government gave material solidarity to people all over the world struggling for justice — from the Irish Republican Army fighting against British colonialists to the Black Panther Party as it fought for self-determination and Black Liberation against police brutality and racism.

When British miners went on strike against Margaret Thatcher's Reagan-style program of cutbacks and layoffs in 1984, the Libyan government welcomed a delegation from the National Union of Miners. Libya and the people of Cuba have a strong alliance, aiding each other as both face endless threats from the Wall Street-owned U.S. government.

Tremendous economic and military pressure from the imperialists caused Libya to pull back in many areas, domestic and international, over the last ten years,

but that didn't satisfy the U.S. and NATO. They want a complete counterrevolution and a takeover of Libya's oil, as they have done in Iraq. Right now U.S. and NATO bombs are falling on Libyans, and capitalist politicians daily call for Gadhafi to either step down or be "taken out."

The NATO bombs that kill innocent people in Libya differ only in their lethal power from the clubs, handcuffs, nets and Tasers used by police in the United States as they break up demonstrations and repress those who fight Wall Street terrorists in this country.

The same politicians and officials who order the leader of Libya to step down also order workers in the U.S. to "accept the cuts" or "compromise" their jobs and livelihoods away.

Is it possible that some Libyans disagree with Gadhafi for legitimate reasons? Of course. Politics in Libya, like any country, are always full of disagreement, contradictions and debate.

But it should be obvious that the highly armed but numerically weak rebels are not a "people's movement from below," especially now that the Pentagon is backing them up with cruise missiles.

Just as Wall Street can find a few willing pawns to join their "Tea Party," they can surely find a few people of Libyan descent who will march and cheer as bombs fall on their own people.

A traitor can always be bought as long as enough money is available. And money is one thing the Wall Street exploiters have plenty of.

The people of Libya, who fight against NATO's efforts to force on them a fully compliant, austerity government, face the same enemy that students, the elderly, public workers, labor unionists, women

and all here who struggle for justice are fighting.

Sam Marcy, the founder of Workers World Party, called this the "global class war." Marcy made clear that workers in the U.S. had no "independent destiny." He pointed out that our struggle against Wall Street is the same struggle workers all over the planet are engaged in.

The battle is heating up, not just in Libya, but in the United States, Britain, Egypt, Greece and every corner of the globe where working people are resisting Wall Street's attacks and refusing to be stomped into submission.

Let us stand together with the Libyan people. The workers of all countries fighting together have the inherent power to bring the Wall Street class and their whole imperialist system to its knees. Let us build a whole new world without any billionaires or NATO bombs and with jobs, education and a decent life for all. Let us abolish capitalism and fight for a new socialist world. □



Organizers tell their story

Square was owned by all the people'

2,000 to 3,000 against police stations in the universities — [which are] there for the purpose of arresting and harassing students. This has been a big issue for many years. The courts have even ruled it illegal for police to be inside the universities, but they won't leave."

The need to outsmart the police just to have these protests; withstanding constant arrests and beatings by police; defending their demonstrations against police in sometimes pitched battles — all this became a school for struggle. How did these young activists use these skills to organize the people on the first day of protests on Jan. 25?

All youth planned to gather at Tahrir Square on Jan. 25. They knew the square would be ringed by thousands of riot police and police would be looking for demonstrators throughout Cairo.

Marching from the pyramids

Mohamed explained that he was part of a group of fewer than 100 young people who gathered by the three pyramids at Giza, with plans to march to Tahrir Square. "The small numbers was an advantage, as the police weren't alerted. We called to the people to join us, shouting that if you are generous, if you are Egyptian, if you love your country, you must work to make it good.

"At first, others didn't come, out of fear of the police," he said, but after seeing that they weren't attacked, "People gathered to us as we walked." They grew to several thousand.

"We entered Tahrir from the Dokki entrance. This was the first time the police tried to stop us. They beat us with night sticks and tear gassed us. On the bridge a police car blocked us and threatened to run us over. I stood in front of the police car and wouldn't move. This allowed people to pass. [The police] brought a fire truck and started to set up a water cannon. Two protestors disabled the cannon so it couldn't be used. People passed around the truck. The people went over the bridge and into Tahrir Square. Because we began at a gathering point that wasn't known to the police, we got in easier that day."

From 50 to 10,000, outnumbering police

Ali was with a group of 50 who gathered on Jan. 25 at a mosque in the Mohandeseen neighborhood. "We began chanting and going around and gathering the people, and soon we were 500. We saw others coming — workers and the unemployed from the poor neighborhood — and we became 2,500. We started walking to Tahrir Square, and we grew to 10,000. It was the biggest demonstration I had been on in my life. The police [in Mohandeseen] left us alone. They didn't know what to do, as the crowd was too big for them.

"When we entered Tahrir Square, the police began fighting us, shooting rubber bullets, using water cannons, throwing tear gas grenades, hitting us with night



Egypt, Tahrir Square, February.

sticks and stun guns. We got into the square because the demonstrators outnumbered the police. The police were astonished. They never imagined the numbers would be so great, especially since no political movement called the protest, only the Egyptian youth." After the attack, the police left the square, and Ali's group was "in Tahrir with the people."

Revolution's key demands are born

"In the square then were all the youth, from left to right parties, and the people as a whole, without identified political views," said Mohamed.

Moussa added, "All the youth had had enough and felt that they, and the people of Egypt, deserved better. This is why they all came out." He explained: "The youth of the Moslem Brotherhood came with us in the streets from the first day against the decision of their leadership. They came with us because of their national feelings. They have the same issues as we do — jobs, education, health coverage."

"There were about 50,000 of us on Jan. 25," Mohamed said. "At about 8 p.m., without a sound system, people in the square began shouting for the first time the main demand — 'The people of Egypt want to get rid of the regime.'" A few minutes later, he said, a second major slogan was born, "People need bread, freedom and social justice!"

"At 1 a.m., a large number of police penetrated the square with tear gas grenades, firing rubber bullets, and beating us. We dispersed, with the police following us," Mohamed continued. "I was wounded in the shoulder, head and body by rubber bullets, and still have a fragment imbedded below my left ear. A friend had 62 pieces of rubber imbedded in him from rubber bullets being fired."

The young protesters were forced out of the square, but they didn't go home. They walked the streets all night, going from neighborhood to neighborhood, telling the people what happened at the square.

All three interviewees were arrested soon after, and Ali was tortured with a stun gun while in custody. As soon as they were released, however, they all returned to the square.

"We decided to stay in Tahrir Square until Mubarak left," Mohamed said. "At one time there were 3 million people in the square. After Mubarak left [on Feb. 11], we decided to stay until Ahmed Shafik, his Prime Minister, left. And we succeeded in that," he added with pride. Shafik resigned March 3.

"Friday of Anger," other battles

The three revolutionaries described some of the critical days of the struggle. On Jan. 28, now called the "Friday of

Anger," their numbers grew from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands, as workers from all over Cairo flooded into the square.

"That day 5 to 8 million people protested in all of Egypt," Mohamed explained. When the police attacked, there were pitched battles. "In only four hours, the people destroyed the police forces all over the country, forcing the police to return to their own camps. The number of police in Egypt is 3.5 million. We destroyed that," he said emphatically. The next day the Egyptian army entered the square.

On Feb. 2, now known as the "Battle of the Camels," the state staged a major attack on the protestors, with men on horses and camels, snipers firing live ammunition into the square from surrounding buildings, and thousands of plain-clothes police and hired thugs swinging bats and sticks and throwing Molotov cocktails at the demonstrators. Taking many casualties, the unarmed people of all classes, women and men, fought back and won. How was this possible?

"The Egyptian people are for freedom," Mohamed said. "All the people in Tahrir Square said 'freedom or death.' We gave everything we had to defend our square. So we won, and the revolution continues now."

Moussa added, "Tahrir Square was owned by all the people. All people were welcome."

"This is the reason for our success," Ali explained.

"Tahrir was owned by the people, not the capitalists," said Mohamed, who emphasized the importance of the trade union strikes of 200,000 workers on Feb. 10, which raised economic demands but also called for Mubarak to resign. The unions threatened a general strike. He explained, "It was the workers who gave the knockout blow to Mubarak," who resigned the next day.

Continuing the revolution

What are the views of these young fighters on the present situation in Egypt and the tasks ahead?

"We still have work to do. All the goals of the revolution haven't been met. They are still arresting and attacking people," said Mohamed. "We want food and work for the people."

"For our people, Mubarak, [deposed Tunisian head of state] Ben Ali, the Saudi Arabian rulers are all U.S. allies — the hand of the U.S. here," Mohamed said. "They are stealing from us like the U.S. is stealing from the whole world."

"Sixty years ago there was a big uprising in many Arab states. Why has nothing been achieved after 60 years? The revolutionary states became allies of the U.S.,"



Essam Mohamed



Kassem Moussa



WW PHOTO PORTRAITS: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Mohamed Mohamed Ali

stated Moussa. "We have been moving backwards for the last 60 years. But now the people are looking for a new start for their lives. When the people here can't have bread, education, health services, they have to struggle against the regime.

"It could be the start of a new world. It's about real democracy which is not just political. It's about human life — 40 million people can't read or write and can't get jobs or earn enough to live."

Ali added, "When you have millions in the streets, you can't stop them, even with nuclear weapons. There is a new objective circumstance here."

"We have a situation here which is revolutionary," Moussa explained. "So we have to build a real revolutionary Marxist organization."

"We want a socialist revolution. That is our goal," said Ali. □

GAZA: Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediak

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Order at [Amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or bookstores around the country <http://gazaresistancebook.com/>

Popular progressive musician silenced

Facundo Cabral assassinated in Guatemala

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Facundo Cabral, the well-known Argentinean songwriter, died July 9, the victim of a horrendous shooting in Guatemala on his way to the airport. He was 74 years old and had just finished a concert in that country's capital before heading to Nicaragua where he was planning to end his concert tour. He was suffering from cancer and was about to go for treatment.

Cabral, who was internationally famous for his songs against violence and right-wing governments, was killed by these same forces.

The vehicle in which he was a passenger was driven by Henry Fariñas, the business agent responsible for the musician's tour. Even though Cabral's and Fariñas' bodyguards, who were accompanying them in separate cars, tried unsuccessfully to deflect the aggression, three cars approached Cabral's vehicle, one in front to make it reduce speed, while the other two drove on the sides, shooting several times at Fariñas and Cabral.

At the end, Cabral was dead and Fariñas severely injured, although still alive and under protection in a Guatemalan hospital.



Facundo Cabral

This atrocious murder has left the progressive international community with great sadness and anger. The Guatemalan government has declared three days of mourning. The Guatemalan people are so outraged that this crime was committed on their land that many have written signs asking for forgiveness from the world.

Cabral's childhood was extremely poor and tragic. Later in life he had to leave his native Argentina because of the military dictatorship. But instead of causing rage or sadness, his experiences served to inspire great songs against injustice.

Cabral's best known songs, "No soy de aquí ni soy de allá" ("I am not from here, nor from there") and "Pobrecito mi Patrón" ("Poor of my boss"), reflect his profound internationalist solidarity and rejection of the oligarchy's power.

During his life Cabral received many awards and accolades. His assassination is still being investigated, and although several sources point to the possibility that he was victim of an attempt against Fariñas and not against him, the fact remains that this was a very carefully planned attack.

Forces behind the assassination

Rigoberta Menchú, the Indigenous Guatemalan Nobel Peace Prize winner, with whom Cabral shared a United Nations Good Will Ambassador title, stated in an interview with *El País*, "It is a crime planned from the highest ranks of the fascistoid ultra right." (July 11)

Guatemala, the poorest country in Central America, is also the most violent in that region. Crimes and human rights violation are committed routinely against the indigenous Mayan population, women, trade unionists and progressive forces.

Since the criminal U.S. company United Fruit, now Chiquita, established itself in Guatemala at the beginning of the 20th century, the Pentagon has kept the people in a virtual prison, preventing the development of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country. And after the U.S. invasion in 1954, conducted on behalf of transnational corporations to topple the progressive government of Jacobo Arbenz, a protracted war against Guatemalan left forces has resulted in more than 1 million displaced persons, more than half a million killed, and thousands still disappeared.

Even though a peace accord ended the 36-year war, Guatemala still hosts the military and paramilitary forces trained in the infamous U.S. School of the Americas, whose legacy forms the core of the current violence and whose only beneficiaries are the members of the oligarchy and the transnational corporations. This situation, alongside extreme poverty and lack of opportunities, particularly for the youth, is the breeding ground in which the country's infamous criminal gangs grow. These forces and their U.S. backers are the real criminals who killed Facundo Cabral. □

Another WikiLeaks revelation

Okinawans don't fall for U.S.'s China-bashing

By Deirdre Griswold

U.S. troops have occupied the island of Okinawa ever since World War II. In April 1945 the U.S. launched an 82-day battle to take Okinawa from Japan. The largest amphibious assault in the entire Pacific war, the battle killed half the civilian population of Okinawa. Japanese forces sustained 100,000 casualties there; 50,000 U.S. troops were either killed or wounded before Japan surrendered the island.

Millions died in Asia because of this horrendous war between the two competing imperialist powers. Yet today the U.S. and Japan are strategic partners. So why are tens of thousands of U.S. troops still in Okinawa?

The U.S. is trying to convince the people of the island that its troops are there to protect them from the "threat" of China. But the Okinawans are not buying it.

That's the gist of an April 2006 cable from the U.S. consul general in Naha, Okinawa, that was recently released by WikiLeaks. The U.S. official, Thomas Reich, wrote to Washington about a conversation he had had with Mitsuko Tomon, a lawmaker from the Socialist Party who had been a candidate for mayor of Okinawa City.

Reich had tried to put Tomon on the defensive by showing her a map that purported to give the locations of Chinese "incursions" in the area around Okinawa. But, cabled Reich, she replied, "Japan and the United States had been more harmful to Okinawa than China had ever

been." She added that China's behavior "did not justify the concentration of U.S. forces and facilities in Okinawa." (Wall Street Journal, July 4)

That is the sentiment of most Okinawans, as expressed in countless demonstrations, marches, vigils and protests against the bases.

Today 75 percent of all U.S. bases in Japan are on Okinawa, an island that makes up less than 1 percent of Japan's territory. In fact 20 percent of the land on the island is taken by U.S. bases. (CNN World, March 12) Moreover, the Pentagon wants to expand its existing bases.

It is important that progressives in the

U.S., who may think that Washington and Wall Street are friendly toward China because of extensive U.S. investment and trade with that country, are aware that U.S. imperialists, whatever the diplomatic maneuvers of their politicians, are deeply hostile to China. They see China not only as a growing economic rival but one that comes out of a profound social revolution that liberated the Chinese people from foreign imperialist domination.

Which is one of the reasons why the people of Okinawa, who were occupied first by Japan and then by the U.S., regard China as their friend. □

Humberto Leal Garcia

Continued from page 4

or homelessness. Nor are they for health care, even though Texas now ranks number one in the number of people without health insurance.

"People are adrift in a sea of moral relativism," says the governor.

The gay community, immigrant rights activists, anti-war activists, supporters of Palestine as well as death penalty abolitionists will be outside to demand Perry pray for justice for the oppressed.

Texas has executed 470 of the 1,260 killed since the death penalty was reinstated in the U.S. in 1976. Throughout the U.S., executions are actually down, death sentences are down, and support for the death penalty has gone down. Many people on juries are aware that innocent people have been executed and fear having to face the prospect of sending someone to his or her death. □

More than 100 days of U.S./NATO bombing of LIBYA 16,000 bombing sorties



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JULY 24 SUNDAY
Atlanta
JULY 28 THURSDAY
Newark, NJ
JULY 30 SATURDAY
New York City
AUG. 6 SATURDAY
Boston
AUG. 7 SUNDAY
Los Angeles

After discussions involving millions of people

Cuba crafts economic changes to raise efficiency

By Teresa Gutierrez

This July 26 marks 58 years since the attack on the Moncada Garrison in Santiago de Cuba by heroic Cuban revolutionaries.

The 1953 military assault against the U.S.-supported dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista failed. Many of the combatants were killed and leaders of the action, including Fidel Castro, were jailed.

But that failed struggle for Cuba's independence led just a short six years later to the successful ouster of the brutal Batista regime and, with it, the end of imperialist domination over Cuba. The revolutionary government within two years began dismantling capitalist ownership and replacing the profit-driven economy with socialist construction.

History was made just 90 miles from the shores of U.S. imperialism.

The Cuban Revolution born in 1959 forever changed the course of world history. Workers and oppressed people worldwide, no matter their ideological formation, saw Cuba as having achieved an unwavering victory against imperialism.

Cuba was and remains a shining beacon of hope for all those who seek their own emancipation.

Since then, the Cuban people and its leaders have remained undaunted in building socialism, guided by the exceptional teachings of not only Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin, but also of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, a winning combination.

Easier said than done

But it has been a most difficult road.

How could it not be when U.S. imperialism has been hell-bent on sabotaging the Revolution? From the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 to the longest economic and political blockade in history to countless mercenary attacks, the U.S. government has been relentless in its war against Cuba.

To add to Cuba's difficulties, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 ushered in one of the most difficult periods in its history. For example, shortages of the most basic necessities occurred, and there was real hunger. It was indeed a bleak chapter of the Revolution.

It is important to note, however, that if any capitalist government were to lose 85 percent of its trade almost overnight, as Cuba did, it would have seen riots and subsequent government repression in the streets.

But not in Cuba. Instead, the people and the government pulled together to survive the Special Period, as it was called. It imposed conditions of war during peace, but Cuba survived.

Today marks yet another turning point for Cuba and the beginning of an adjustment toward building socialism.

Throughout the globe, workers and oppressed people are experiencing some of the most difficult times they have ever faced. They confront a worldwide economic crisis they did not create but one that the banks and corporations are forcing them to pay for.

Cuba is not immune to this worldwide economic crisis.

How can Cuba build socialism under these conditions? It is almost impossible.

A bump in the road

A few months ago, the capitalist press here ran several articles declaring that the Cuban government had announced it would cut hundreds of thousands of state jobs. This sounded so much like the dire news in the U.S. and elsewhere about the massive layoffs, furloughs and government shutdowns sweeping the country.

How could socialist Cuba, a government built on workers' control rather than profit, lay off workers?

This evoked the decades-old problem of viewing Cuba through U.S. eyes. Nothing in the U.S. can compare to Cuba. No inequality, no economic problem that people face in both countries can be equated.

Before the announcement was made that Cuban workers would be "redirected," a months-long process of deliberation and consultation was held in Cuba. Discussions and analysis were carried out in every single social and government venue.

Yes, indeed, Cuba was experiencing another bump in its long road to building socialism. It had to adjust its economic model of socialist construction in light of the worldwide economic crisis.

But it was a bump that once again included the workers of the nation in the most incredible way and led to discussions guided by the defense of socialism.

Based on much analysis and thought, the Cuban government issued "Draft Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution" last Nov. 9. Discussions about this document took place throughout the island from Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 of this year. An incredible number of 8,913,838 Cubans — out of a population of a little over 11 million — participated in these discussions in more than 163,000 meetings.

Three million people offered contributions to the document.

This mass, incredibly deep process culminated in the Sixth Party Congress of the Cuban Communist Party in Havana from April 16 through 19. The congress brought together 1,000 delegates representing almost 800,000 party members from more than 61,000 party cells.

The congress opened with a massive, youthful demonstration commemorating the defeat of imperialism in 1961, when U.S.-trained and -armed mercenaries invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. Video footage of the march indicates not just a tremendous display of the liberated masses, but a united and disciplined show of Cuban youth in unison with the government.

Along with all Cubans, the youth are tireless in their fight to free the Cuban Five heroes, who sit in U.S. jails today despite their innocence.

As anyone who has traveled to Cuba can report, Cubans often say, "The people and the government are one." That is



Cuban doctor cares for child in Haiti after January 2010 earthquake.



Cubans support their Revolution.

exactly what was seen on April 16 in the streets of Havana.

Nonetheless, it is a difficult time in Cuba. As Cubans have also said, "We are not the hell our enemies decry, but we are not the paradise our friends declare either."

In 2009, Cuba experienced \$10 billion in losses and damage caused by three devastating hurricanes. As reported in Granma newspaper, "In just 72 days, approximately 20 percent of Cuba's GDP was lost."

Falling prices for Cuban exports like nickel have also had a dire effect. In 2009 nickel sold for \$21,000 per ton. That dropped to \$11,700 the following year.

Tourism is a staple of the Cuban economy. Even though the island received 2.9 percent more visitors in 2010, income from tourism declined because of the deteriorating exchange rate. As Raul Castro said, "In short, more tourists but less income."

But above all the U.S. economic and political blockade of Cuba, the oldest in the world, is the number one cause of havoc in the economy. Estimates are that 50 years of the blockade have cost Cuba a whopping \$751 billion.

This is an act of imperialist war and must be considered a crime against humanity.

Currently, in year 53 of the Revolution, the Cuban Communist Party — in consultation with government bodies, workers' unions and mass organizations — has concluded that in order to deal with the times, it must carry out major changes in order to become more efficient.

As Cuban economists and leaders point out, "No one can indefinitely spend more than they earn; two plus two always equals four, never five."

This is why the restructuring of the state apparatus and reduction in expenditure and staff are beginning. The big question is, who will create the wealth that people need? Raul Castro said eloquently, "Sometimes one has the sensation that we are eating socialism before building it, and aspiring to spend as though we were in communism."

In order to assure its free education and health care and see that every Cuban who wants a job has one, Cuba's leaders say they must make adjustments to the current socialist economic model.

Cuban government leaders and workers alike are assessing and revamping policies with the view identified by the Cuban leadership that there has been an "irresponsible attitude of consuming without anybody, or very few people, wor-

rying about how much it costs the country to guarantee that, and above all, if it can really do so."

A policy under scrutiny, for example, is the ration book. Ration books, which have been provided to everyone, ensure that all Cubans can purchase basic foods at very low, subsidized prices. After analysis, it has become clear that this was leading to waste and inefficiency. How to phase out ration books while guaranteeing that no one goes hungry in Cuba is now under discussion. The Cuban Constitution says that the means of subsistence, health care and shelter are guaranteed as human rights.

But Raúl Castro wrote in Granma recently: "Many of us Cubans confuse socialism with ... subsidies and equality with egalitarianism. Quite a few of us consider the ration card to be a social achievement that should never be gotten rid of. In this regard, I am convinced that several of the problems we are facing today have their origin in this distribution mechanism."

Despite Washington's wishes and distortions, however, no market economy has been introduced in Cuba. The problems of distribution will be dealt with by strengthening socialism.

Based on the record of its leadership, coupled with its mass participatory democracy, a market economy will never be introduced in Cuba. Cubans have traveled to countries in the region like Haiti and Mexico, and they see what capitalism brings. The masses are overwhelmingly clear on the options: Defend and maintain the Revolution or return to the days of capitalist exploitation.

In an August 2009 speech Raúl Castro stated, "They did not elect me president to restore capitalism in Cuba or to surrender the Revolution. I was elected to defend, maintain and continue perfecting socialism, not to destroy it."

Strengthening socialism, defending the gains of the Revolution and building on them are all part of the revolutionary process unfolding in Cuba today.

Revolutionaries and progressives around the world have the utmost confidence in the Cuban Communist Party, the workers of Cuba and their leadership. The Cuban Revolution will prevail.

Cuba is making its own road to socialism, but its Marxist foundation, coupled with the legacy of the great revolutionary, Fidel Castro, is extraordinary.

What those in capitalist countries need to do is build and widen the anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist struggle. It is the defeat of imperialism that will absolutely guarantee Cuba's success. □

Hands off Social Security

A fraudulent and dangerous collusion of the two big capitalist parties in the U.S. has put Social Security at risk. The excuse for attacking Social Security is the phony crisis over the federal debt ceiling.

The debt ceiling could be solved in an instant by an agreement between Republicans and Democrats to simply raise this arbitrary limit. It wouldn't solve the real crisis of capitalism that has brought prolonged high unemployment and suffering for so many millions, but it would end the phony crisis that allows the ruling class to attack all social programs.

No one can be surprised that the Republican leadership has targeted Social Security. Ronald Reagan talked against it, and George W. Bush tried to hold hearings to privatize it. But even the Republican rank and file wanted to keep benefits for their parents and themselves.

Now joining the Republican right-wing leadership, President Barack Obama has offered to put Social Security on the table for "compromises" with the Republicans, along with Medicare and Medicaid.

The very rich have targeted Social Security since workers' struggle won it 76 years ago during the Great Depression and the New Deal. It is the most broad-based and popular program of social benefits in the United States, along with Medicare. Aside from some federal government and railroad workers, nearly everyone active in the U.S. economy winds up collecting

Social Security benefits.

Currently 55 million people are collecting monthly payments. Most of these people depend on their Social Security check as part or all of their retirement or disability income. So do their children or other relatives, who might otherwise be faced with unpleasant choices. Its almost universal application has made Social Security popular and until now unassailable. Its enemies have been unable to divide workers by age, by race or by gender over defense of the program itself.

That's not to say that Social Security is perfectly equal or egalitarian or couldn't be improved. But nearly everyone wants to keep it, and many can't survive without it.

The working class and its organizations must make it clear that any giveaway of benefits from Social Security — or from any of these programs essential to the working class — is unacceptable and will be fought tooth and nail. Anything that reduces benefits or eliminates people from coverage or differentiates between those currently receiving Social Security benefits and younger workers can only harm the program and can lead to weakening support for it.

The working class, which includes the unemployed, the poor and the oppressed sectors of the population both young and old, must make it crystal clear to both the Republicans and the Democrats: Hands off Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid! □

Spurred by global capitalist crisis

Famine looms in East Africa as strikes erupt in Nigeria, South Africa

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

As the world capitalist economic crisis accelerates, growing food deficits, poverty and imperialist militarism have prompted dislocation and unrest throughout the African continent. Africa has been subjected to the price fluctuations for raw materials and agricultural commodities sold to the West. Meanwhile, the Pentagon and NATO are intervening in the internal affairs of former colonial states.

Big capitalist financial institutions and their military forces are strangling Africa. The impact can be seen in East Africa. The Horn of Africa region and surrounding nations potentially face the worst drought in six decades.

The corporate media do not draw the link between climate change and drought. However, African specialists on this phenomenon say that the increasing floods, lack of rainfall and consequent crop failures can be attributed to the so-called developed countries' industrial policies. Moreover, drought does not necessarily translate into famine — the inability of populations to adequately feed themselves. Today, famine is largely derived from the unequal distribution of food and water resulting from capitalist underdevelopment in Africa.

Most East African countries that face large-scale dislocation and starvation have governments which are politically and economically dominated by the U.S. and other imperialist powers. Washington supports the regimes in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti and provides them with military and security assistance.

Somalia's Transitional Federal Government gets hundreds of millions of dollars annually from the U.S. Pro-U.S. regimes in Burundi and Uganda militarily prop up the TFG; 8,000 troops currently occupy Somalia to stop the Al-Shabab Islamic resistance movement from seizing power.

Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi government is subsidized militarily by the U.S., which has used that regime to occupy Somalia on its behalf. Ethiopia is hit hard by the drought; however, U.S. partnership and assistance have not led to success in feeding the population or maintaining stability.

The Kenyan-based East African newspaper reported, "Perhaps no country in the region is as badly affected as Somalia. The Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit

estimates that 2.85 million people — a third of the population" are in "humanitarian crisis and in need of urgent assistance." This is 42.5 percent more than in December. (July 10)

The Manila Bulletin noted, "Two successive failed rains have left ... 11 million people ... across Southern Ethiopia, Northern Kenya, and Somalia facing famine because of food shortages." The lack of water has caused large-scale cattle deaths, "leaving families unable to cope with the loss of food and livelihood." (July 11)

The Financial Times wrote, "Livestock mortality has risen dramatically ... when staple cereal prices have also increased sharply." The wholesale price of maize in Kenya has risen 160 percent since July 2010, while red sorghum's retail price has jumped 169 percent. (July 5)

Mass uprisings & labor unrest

In December, high unemployment, low wages and poverty sparked Tunisian workers and youth to carry out unprecedented demonstrations and general strikes, which toppled longtime Western-backed dictator, President Zine-el-Abidine Ben Ali. Since December, countries in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula have erupted with mass uprisings and labor unrest.

On Jan. 25, Egyptian workers and youth launched similar actions in response to rising prices and political repression. On Feb. 11, the massive people's movement pushed out the U.S.-backed 30-year dictator Hosni Mubarak.

Similar unrest spread through Yemen and Bahrain. The imperialists intervened in Libya in March in an effort to engineer regime change and seize control of Africa's largest oil reserves.

Labor actions are escalating. Nigerian trade unions are pushing for crucial wage increases. Per capita income is very low — even though Nigeria is one of the largest exporters of crude oil to the West.

The July 11 Nigerian Tribune reported, "The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria has vowed that all [Nigerian] ports will be shut ... during the planned nationwide strike by organized labor over the delay in the implementation of the N18,000 national minimum wage by the federal, state and local governments." It added that unions have warned that this strike could start after the Nigeria Labor Congress' and Trade Union Congress' ultimatum expires on July 14.

South Africa's Times Live "predicted a marked increase in strike activity [there] during 2011 by 22 percent compared to last year." (July 11) Since July 4, 200,000 members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa have been on strike. They are demanding a 13 percent pay hike — a living wage.

An additional 70,000 workers, members of the Chemical, Energy, Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union, joined the NUMSA strike on July 11. Peter Rapoo, the union's vice-president, warned of petrol shortages if the strike goes on. (South Africa Business Day, July 11)

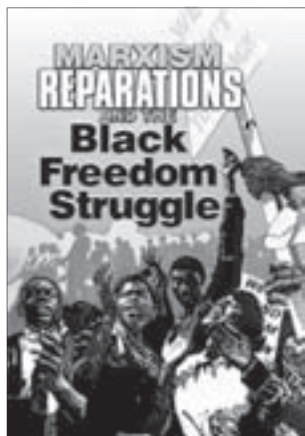
Labor actions in the two largest African economies reflect the vagaries of today's capitalist crisis, in which workers worldwide face rising unemployment and attacks on their wages.

These developments, although posing monumental challenges for workers, provide greater opportunities for international solidarity and joint actions aimed at reversing the austerity and repression imposed by capitalism and imperialism. □

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Despite U.S./NATO bombing of Libya, imperialist war stalls

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

After four months of heavy bombing, the U.S./NATO forces have failed to dislodge the Libyan government in Tripoli. The Western-backed Transitional National Council contra forces remain confined to select areas in the east and west of the oil-producing country of 6.5 million people.

There is no concrete evidence that the TNC and its imperialist backers are on the verge of taking the war to the capital, despite their constant claims. Hundreds of thousands of people in Tripoli continue to publicly demonstrate their opposition to the U.S./NATO war. The Libyan military continues to strike the rebels in areas around the port city of Misrata and in the Nafusa Mountains near the border with Tunisia.

With the escalation of the fighting in Misrata, which is being used as a transport area for rebel forces and Western humanitarian organizations, the conditions among the civilian population have worsened over the last several weeks.

In efforts to help the TNC gain a stronger presence in western Libya, NATO warplanes have escalated their anti-people bombing campaign. On July 9, NATO forces struck Libyan army units stationed outside Misrata. Nonetheless, the Associated Press admitted on July 9: "The civil war has fallen into a stalemate with rebels unable to make significant advances, even with NATO bombing Gadhafi's forces to enforce a U.N. resolution protecting civilians."

Actually, the war has never been geared toward protecting civilians. The actions of the rebel TNC and their U.S./NATO sup-

porters have created dire conditions for the population in Libya and those who have fled the country by land and sea.

NATO, TNC cause humanitarian crisis

The beginning of the civil war in Libya on Feb. 17 prompted the worst humanitarian crisis in North Africa in modern times. Immediately the Benghazi-based rebel gangs set out to attack those perceived as supporters and allies of the central government in Tripoli. Dark-skinned Libyans and migrant workers from neighboring African states were harassed, beaten and even murdered.

Videos and photographs of these executions have been circulated broadly over the Internet. They remind some of the lynchings racist mobs carried out in the southern U.S. against African Americans during the late-19th and early-to mid-20th centuries.

The vast oil reserves in Libya, reputed to be the largest on the African continent, allowed the country to achieve the highest standard of living and per capita income in the region. Anywhere between 1.5 million to 2 million migrant workers were employed on oil, construction and service projects throughout the country.

The TNC and NATO attacks forced hundreds of thousands of these migrant workers to flee Libya. The International Organization for Migration, which monitors the dislocation of migrant workers as well as Libyan nationals, reports that 150,000 people have already left the country.

IOM spokesperson Jean-Philippe Chauzy said some 2,000 Chadian workers were left without transport in the south-

ern Libyan town of Sebha: "They are really very vulnerable migrants — children, women and the elderly — very weak and sick," too weak to continue traveling. Another 300,000 migrants who want to leave cannot due to the crisis caused by the U.S./NATO war. (AP, July 9)

A July 10 New York Times article exposed the political character of the TNC forces. When the TNC overran the village of Qawalish, many of the residents evacuated the area.

The Times noted that the shops were still well stocked with fresh fruits, vegetable and bread. However, almost immediately, "The [TNC] rebels began helping themselves to the fuel in Qawalish's only gas station. ... A short while later rebels were shooting padlocks off the metal doors to shops, and beginning to sweep through them." The article noted, "The town, in short, was being looted by the rebels, and vandalized, and worse."

This report exposed the imperialist lie that the TNC army has mass support. After the NATO bombing of these villages and towns, the TNC forces move in to take nominal control. Yet the majority of the population flees in fear of the violence perpetuated in other areas of the country.

This is true even in the Nafusa Mountains where the Western corporate media have claimed that widespread support exists for the NATO bombing and the TNC. The village of El Harabah "still flies the green flag of the Gadhafi government," the Times reported.

France calls for talks

On July 11 French Defense Minister Ge-

rard Longuet called upon the TNC rebels to negotiate a settlement with the Libyan government. He emphasized that talks would be the only mechanism to end foreign intervention in the North African state.

At the same time Saif al-Islam, the son of Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, announced that the government in Tripoli is currently in negotiations with Paris. In an interview, the Libyan official said that Libya's government "was negotiating with France and not with the rebels. Our mediator met with President Nicolas Sarkozy. (El Khaber, July 11)

After four months of bombings and a naval blockade of Libya, the NATO forces have begun to have serious internal disagreements over the war. Norway announced several weeks ago that it would halt its operations by August. Italy, the former colonial power, called for a ceasefire during early July.

A July 5 article in the Philadelphia Tribune reported, "In the Netherlands, Defense Minister Hans Hillen complained last week of 'mission creep' and suggested that the campaign's advocates were deluded to believe they could crush Gadhafi. 'People who thought that merely by throwing some bombs it would not only help the people, but also convince Gadhafi that he could step down or alter his policy were a little bit naive.'"

Inside the U.S. Congress both the Republicans and Democrats, although expressing reservations about the war, have continued to support its funding. This comes at the same time that a proposed defense budget would provide another \$17 billion in funding for the Pentagon. □

Rallies denounce NATO bombing of Libya

By **Caleb T. Maupin**
Washington, D.C.

Rallies in Washington and San Francisco on July 9 demanded an end to the U.S./NATO bombing of Libya. At the White House, more than 300 people included supporters of the Nation of Islam and other local Black Muslim organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. A delegation of Libyans drove to the protest from Colorado and waved green flags in support of Gadhafi and the people's revolution that brought him to power.

A contingent of people from the Ivory Coast came from around the country to protest intervention in their own country and oppose the bombing of Libya. At the rally, that contingent chanted "Free Gbagbo," referring to the deposed and arrested ex-president, and carried placards about the struggle in the Ivory Coast.

In San Francisco, about 150 people marched in the demonstration opposing the bombing of Libya and then joined the demonstration in solidarity with the prisoners holding a hunger strike at the Pelican Bay State Prison in California. (See articles this issue.)

In Washington, a contingent from Workers World Party distributed a booklet entitled "U.S. Hands of Libya," containing articles from this newspaper exposing the nature of U.S. intervention in Libya and supporting Cynthia McKinney's national tour in which she is telling the truth about what she saw in Libya. Every single one of the booklets was scooped up by attendees, apparently excited to see an anti-imperialist explanation of the bombings.

Members of the American Party of Labor were also in attendance, as was a delegation from the Iranian-American Friendship Society. The Answer Coalition had initiated the anti-war actions in both cities.

At the rally, Sharon Black, representing Workers World Party, made clear as she spoke to the media that the money used to bomb Libya could be used instead to provide employment to the millions across the country in need of a job or an income.

A much smaller contingent of counter-protesters made clear its true agenda by waving the flag of the Libyan monarchy of King Idris and openly supporting the murder of their own people with signs such as "NATO is the 'Bomb.'"

Numerous times the small group of counterprotestors shouted racial slurs at people of African descent and insinuated that because of their ethnicity they were "getting welfare from Gaddafi."

Speakers at the closing session, held indoors at the George Washington Univer-



WWP contingent in New York City anti-war march, April 9

WW PHOTO: LEILANI DOWELL

sity School of Business, said that Minister Louis Farrakhan and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark were both in full support of the rally and its goals.

Organizers of the event hailed rallies in Libya against the bombing, which reportedly had 1.7 million people in attendance. The organizers urged all to attend the upcoming rally in New York City on Aug. 13 initiated by a coalition of Pan-African or-

ganizations, including the December 12th Movement, the New Black Panther Party and the Nation of Islam, and endorsed and supported by anti-imperialist groups like Answer and the International Action Center.

The rally planned for Aug. 13 will also demand that the U.S. end its effort to destabilize Zimbabwe and other African countries. □

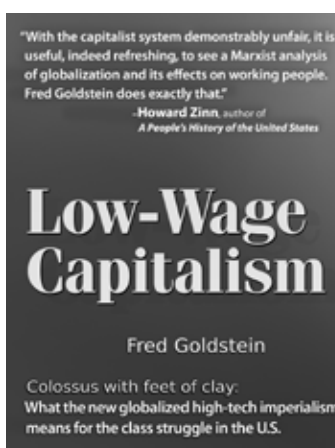


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EEUU / OTAN y las marionetas libias rechazan el plan africano para un cese al fuego en Libia

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

Este año, la 17ma. Reunión Cumbre de la Unión Africana intentó una vez más negociar un cese al fuego en la guerra imperialista de casi cinco meses contra Libia. La reunión de la organización de 53 miembros se celebró en Malabo, capital de la antigua colonia española de Guinea Ecuatorial, entre el 30 de junio y el 2 de julio.

El debate de la Unión Africana sobre la cooperación económica y las condiciones sociales de la juventud fue opacado por el trabajo de su Comité Ad-Hoc sobre Libia. En su último plan, la UA pidió el cese inmediato de los bombardeos que comenzaron el 19 de marzo y el inicio de negociaciones serias encaminadas a establecer una solución política a la crisis dentro de Libia.

El gobierno ruso también pidió un alto al fuego de la OTAN en una reunión con la alianza imperialista militar el 3 de julio. El presidente sudafricano Jacob Zuma viajó a Moscú a raíz de la Cumbre para promover los esfuerzos por un cese al fuego. Zuma señaló que el entorno del trabajo avanzado por la UA era el mejor mecanismo para asegurar la paz en Libia.

El presidente de Zimbabue Robert Mugabe, dijo a los periodistas al regresar a Harare después de la Reunión Cumbre de la Unión Africana que estaba muy satisfecho con la reunión. “Sí, sí, estamos contentos. Los países de la Comunidad de Desarrollo de África Austral y los países en otras partes de África estaban contentos con el resultado sobre Libia”. Agregó Mugabe que “La OTAN debería poner fin a su ataque terrorista en Libia. La OTAN no puede seguir atacando a Libia porque no son los gobernantes del mundo. Las Naciones Unidas deberían oponerse (a esta cruzada) a la OTAN”. (Zimbabwe Sunday Mail, 3 de julio)

CNT y Washington rechazan propuestas de la UA

El plan de la UA habría dado paso al cese de las hostilidades, a un plan de cese

al fuego exhaustivo, a la reconciliación de las partes en conflicto en Libia y a elecciones nacionales supervisadas internacionalmente.

Las medidas políticas propuestas por la Reunión Cumbre de la UA darían como resultado el levantamiento del asedio impuesto a las ciudades y el movimiento de todas las tropas, milicias y elementos armados de todos los partidos hacia los cuarteles, el final de todos los ataques y los abusos contra la población civil incluyendo a aquellos/as que se vieron obligados/as a abandonar el país; incluye también la liberación de presos políticos y el acceso sin restricciones y sin obstáculos a los civiles en extrema necesidad de asistencia humanitaria.

Los contrarrevolucionarios apoyados por Occidente llamados el Consejo Nacional de Transición (CNT), sumariamente rechazaron el plan de alto al fuego, al igual que Washington. “El vocero rebelde Abdel Hafiz Ghoga dijo que rechazaron abiertamente el plan de la UA, ya que no cumplía con sus demandas básicas, las cuales abogan por el derrocamiento de Muammar Gadafi, sus hijos y los colaboradores en su círculo íntimo. Ghoga dijo que la oferta de la UA dejaría a Gadafi en el poder, algo que no era aceptable para ellos”. (Allheadlinenews.com, 4 de julio)

Desde el 11 de marzo la Unión Africana ha emitido varios comunicados llamando a un cese al fuego en Libia y la retirada de la participación extranjera en la guerra civil. Los estados imperialistas que bombardean a Libia y/o dan ayuda al CNT han rechazado todos estos llamados.

UA rechaza órdenes de la Corte Penal Internacional (CPI)

La UA también se negó a aceptar la legitimidad de las órdenes de la Corte Penal Internacional emitidas contra el líder libio Muammar Gadafi, su hijo Saif al-Islam y el jefe de inteligencia, Abdullah al-Senussi. Desde la Cumbre de Malabo la organización continental dijo, “los estados miembros de la UA no cooperarán con la

ejecución de las órdenes de detención”.

La UA añadió que la emisión de las órdenes de la CPI “complica seriamente los esfuerzos encaminados a encontrar una solución política negociada a la crisis de Libia, la cual también abordaría de manera que se refuerzan mutuamente, las cuestiones relacionadas con la impunidad y la reconciliación”.

La UA había rechazado de manera similar el propósito de la CPI de señalar como objetivos para su hostilidad a los líderes africanos en el 2009, cuando trataron de detener al presidente sudanés Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Mientras que la UA estaba trabajando para una solución pacífica, la secretaria de estado de los EE.UU. Hillary Rodham Clinton, continuaba la retórica descarada y provocativa en contra del gobierno libio. Desde Madrid el 2 de julio, Clinton repitió la demanda de la administración Obama de que el liderazgo de Libia fuera derrocado.

Clinton dijo que Gadafi “debe abandonar el poder. Los rebeldes están ganando fuerza e impulso. Tenemos que llevar esto a su fin”. (Prensa Asociada, 2 de julio)

Clinton agregó: “Vamos a seguir ejerciendo la misma presión militar y política”. Ella también elogió las medidas de austeridad impuestas por el gobierno español en contra de la clase obrera que sufre de una tasa de desempleo del 21 por ciento debido a la crisis económica mundial del capitalismo.

La UA y Rusia también condenaron a Francia por suministrar abiertamente armas al CNT. Hablando desde Malabo, el Presidente de la Comisión Jean Ping, dijo que las armas francesas “serán utilizadas para desestabilizar a los estados africanos y para secuestrar turistas por quienes se cobraría por el rescate”. (Sbpost.ie, 03 de julio)

El canciller ruso Sergey Lavrov dijo que la entrega de armas por Francia representaba una “cruda violación” al embargo de armas que las Naciones Unidas pidieron en la Resolución 1970 del Consejo de Seguridad. Sin embargo, el Departamento de Estado de los EE.UU. defendió el envío de armas francesas a los rebeldes.

Crece oposición mundial a la guerra en Libia

Dentro de la propia Libia, las fuerzas de defensa han seguido golpeando las posiciones rebeldes en las montañas de Nafusah y en otras áreas del país. El 1 de julio se llevó a cabo una gran manifestación en Trípoli de un millón de personas en apoyo al gobierno y en oposición a la guerra imperialista.

Al mismo tiempo, manifestaciones y reuniones públicas siguen en los Estados Unidos para oponerse a la guerra. En Harlem, una coalición de varios panafricanistas, izquierdistas y fuerzas anti-guerra han hecho un llamado para una Marcha de Millones en defensa de Libia y otros países africanos que están bajo ataque por los países occidentales.

El periódico Final Call, una publicación de la Nación del Islam, declaró lo siguiente: “Preocupados por lo que consideran una Casa Blanca que ha ignorado sus inquietudes, activistas contra la guerra convocaron una rueda de prensa en Harlem para anunciar la ‘Marcha de Millones en Harlem’ para exigir el fin a los bombardeos de la nación norteafricana y el cese de las sanciones ilegales contra Zimbabue en el sur de África”. (29 de junio)

El Partido Freedom, el Partido All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party, el Partido New Black Panther, el Committee to Eliminate Media Offensive to African People, el International Association Against Torture, el Centro de Acción Internacional y la Coalición Answer entre otras organizaciones apoyaron la marcha.

La manifestación, prevista para el 13 de agosto pide el cese inmediato de la participación de EE.UU. en la guerra contra Libia. El gobierno de Obama afirma que el compromiso del Pentágono es “limitado”, pero un comunicado de prensa emitido por la página web del Depto. de Defensa el 4 de julio declara: “La Fuerza Aérea y la Marina de EE.UU. siguen volando cientos de misiones de ataque sobre Libia”, a pesar de que la OTAN supuestamente se hizo cargo de estas misiones el 31 de marzo. □

Activista detenida por grabar en vídeo a la policía

Por **Gene Clancy**
Rochester, N.Y.

La activista política Emily Good se despertó por las luces intermitentes de la policía frente a su casa en una comunidad oprimida el pasado 12 de mayo. Preocupada por los casos anteriores de identificación racial por la policía de Rochester, ella salió y comenzó a grabar en vídeo.

Ryan Acuff, amigo de Good y compañero activista, describió la escena:

“Ambos salimos a ver de qué se trataba la conmoción y nos encontramos con que dos patrullas de la policía estaban bloqueando la calle mientras realizaban una parada de tráfico. Más tarde, una tercera patrulla se detuvo, llegando a un total de cuatro los agentes en la escena. La persona detenida era un joven de raza negra. No estaba claro el porqué habían detenido al hombre inicialmente, pero uno de los agentes interrogaba al hombre acusándolo de posesión de drogas.

“No satisfecho con las respuestas del

hombre, el policía sacó al hombre de su coche, lo esposó y lo metió en la parte trasera de una de las patrullas. Después de que el hombre fue detenido, los agentes registraron su vehículo y no encontraron ninguna droga. Los oficiales luego pusieron en libertad al hombre y le dijeron que se podía ir”. (Rochester.indymedia.org)

Cuando uno de los oficiales vio a Good y su cámara, le exigió que regresara a su casa. Good se negó, afirmando que ella tenía el derecho a estar en su propio patio. Así que la policía la arrestó por obstruir la administración gubernamental. Acuff cogió el iPod y continuó grabando el arresto.

En junio, Good lanzó el video de su arresto en YouTube y las acciones flagrantes del oficial causaron que el video se propagara masivamente. (Vea el video completo en youtube.com “Rochester police arrest woman” [Policía de Rochester arresta a mujer]) Good y su abogado fueron entrevistados en vivo en CNN y el video se mostró en el noticiero NBC Nightly News y en otros medios corporativos.

El 23 de junio miembros de la comunidad asistían a una reunión en el centro comunitario Flying Squirrel para discutir el caso de Good, cuando cuatro vehículos policiales llegaron. Usando una regla para medir la distancia, la policía comenzó a emitir citaciones de estacionamiento a los coches que estaban estacionados o muy cerca o muy lejos de la acera.

El 27 de junio el fiscal de distrito retiró los cargos contra Good, citando una “falta de evidencia de que algún delito se hubiera cometido”. (Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, 28 de junio)

Aunque el caso penal en su contra terminó, Good dice que está planeando presentar una demanda civil contra el Departamento de la Policía de Rochester y del oficial Mario Masic, quien la arrestó. (Noticiero WHEC TV, 28 de junio)

Good dijo que con el retiro de los cargos “me sentí muy bien”, pero le preocupa aún que “el oficial que me ordenó al interior de mi casa no ha sido responsabilizado por nada”. Ella dijo que no espera que

la revisión interna del DPR dé resultado alguno. (Matt Sledge, 28 de junio)

Good planea reclamar compensación monetaria por daños y perjuicios en su demanda. Ella dijo: “Yo no estoy en busca de dinero, pero esto es sin duda más que un inconveniente para mi vida. Y también es un lenguaje de gran alcance para las personas que operan en este mundo que parece girar en torno al dinero, así que es algo que haría una poderosa declaración”.

Good y Acuff son activistas en el área de Rochester que han participado en manifestaciones contra las guerras en Afganistán e Irak y contra el control de la Alcaldía sobre el sistema escolar público. Good fue una de varias personas recientemente detenidas cuando intentaban evitar la ejecución hipotecaria y el desalojo de un indigente residente de Rochester. Ellos/as y otros/as han llamado a una junta de revisión civil para monitorear las acciones de la policía. Por eso merecen la solidaridad y el apoyo de los/as progresistas por todas partes. □