

# Global day of protest Sept. 16: STOP RACIST EXECUTION OF TROY DAVIS

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

**"If I knew then what I know now,  
Troy Davis would not be on death row.  
The verdict would be 'not guilty.'"**

— Brenda Forest, juror in Davis' original trial

The State of Georgia has scheduled Troy Davis' execution for Sept. 21.

Millions of U.S. and global activists are engaged in a massive effort to stop this legal lynching. They are signing petitions, organizing rallies and meetings, and contacting elected officials and other influential individuals. A Twitter account at hash tag Too Much Doubt is rapidly informing millions more.

Every avenue is being pursued to mobilize public opinion to influence the Georgia Pardons and Parole Board — which meets on Sept. 19 — to grant Davis clemency.

The governor-appointed five-member board has the authority to stop the execution. Although the board has previously denied Davis clemency, three new members have not heard all the details of his case.

On Sept. 15, organizational representatives and community members will deliver hundreds of thousands of petitions to the board's offices.

Sept. 16 has been declared the International Day of Solidarity with Troy Davis. Protests will take place across the United States — in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Providence and elsewhere — and abroad.

In Atlanta, a march will assemble at Woodruff Park and proceed to Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue. There, Davis' family members, exonerated prisoners, and civil rights, community and religious leaders will give voice to the millions who call for clemency.

### Seven of nine witnesses recanted trial testimony

Davis has always maintained his innocence. His supporters assert that there is too much doubt to execute him.

When an off-duty police officer, Mark Allen MacPhail, was shot in a Burger King parking lot in Savannah, Ga., on Aug. 19, 1989, a massive manhunt was carried out in the city's African-American neighborhoods. MacPhail, on security duty, had checked out an altercation in the restaurant's dimly lit parking lot. The only evidence recovered at the murder scene was bullet casings from a .38 caliber gun.

Two days later, Sylvester Coles came to the police station with his lawyer. He claimed that he saw Davis with a gun. Coles had earlier been identified as creating the disturbance that drew MacPhail's attention. Coles acknowledged owning a .38 caliber gun, which was never recovered.

Nevertheless, police issued an all-points bulletin for the capture of 20-year-old Davis. They blockaded, surrounded and entered the Davis family home in Cloverdale without a warrant. Shortly after, Davis turned himself in and was charged with MacPhail's murder.

At the 1991 trial, Chatham County prosecutors didn't provide any physical or forensic evidence that tied Davis to the shooting. Their only "proof" was nine eyewitnesses' testimonies, including Coles'. The weapon was never found.

Davis insisted he was innocent and the victim of faulty identification. The jury deliberated for only two hours and found Davis guilty. He was sentenced to die.

As Davis' appeals wound through the court system, several trial witnesses recanted their testimonies and said that police pressured them to identify Davis as the shooter. Antoine Williams now says he doesn't know who shot MacPhail, and that because he is illiterate, he couldn't read the police statement he signed implicating Davis.

Kevin McQueen and Jeffrey Sapp now acknowledge that Davis never admitted to them that he killed the police officer, as they testified in court. Only two of the nine witnesses still hold to their testimony; one is Coles, who has been implicated in new affidavits.

### Case reveals 'systemic inequities in U.S. legal system'

Davis' sister, Martina Correia, who has battled cancer, and mother, Virginia Davis, who recently died, have passionately defended him, inspiring the massive movement

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**FREE TROY DAVIS NOW!**

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## NEW YORK CITY



PHOTO: JANET MAYES

9/11 unity march counters anti-Muslim, racist, pro-war patriotic rallies near World Trade Center site. Read article on page 3.

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# Want freedom of information? Abolish capitalism!

By Caleb T. Maupin

The profit-hungry, Wall Street billionaires love “private property.”

They love that while the majority of humanity has to sell their labor, renting out their ability to work to someone else in order to survive, they, the superrich, get to “own” the banks, factories, natural resources, and other “commanding heights” of the economy. They are happy that they can live off the work done by those who aren’t lucky enough to be among their small ruling segment of humanity.

Among the various types of private property that capitalists horde in order to keep their wealth and maintain their power, is one particularly valuable tool: information.

The billionaires and their governments want people to support and fight in their bloody imperialist wars. They also want people to happily accept their massive cutbacks and layoffs. If the people are to do this, the last thing they need to hear is the truth.

The ruling class has its own media, hired and paid to push its interpretation of world events, and often blatant falsehoods, on the people of the world.

So many working people are now excited by WikiLeaks, which let some of the hidden secrets of the ruling circles enter public knowledge. As the call to “Occupy Wall Street” on Sept. 17 went out, some of the forces involved are rallying around the call for “Freedom of Information” as a way to bring down the tyranny of those in power.

They are not alone in this call. It has long been a demand of socialists and revolutionaries that the people be allowed access to the secrets of the ruling class.

Militant unions in the 1930s screamed, “Open the books!” as a revolutionary demand. They called for bosses who said they couldn’t afford to pay decent wages to be required to prove this, by allowing the workers to inspect and see how much profits were being made from the work they did.

One of the greatest victories for freedom of information was the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

When the workers and oppressed people brought down the czar of Russia, and then the provisional government of capitalists, they revealed all the secrets hidden by the

former ruling elites as they built a socialist society.

Secret treaties and agreements never made public by the czar were published to show the true profiteering nature of the world’s capitalist governments, often lurking behind closed doors.

The archives of the czar’s secret police were also opened, and many learned exactly the techniques used to suppress revolutionary organizations through infiltration, deception, and outright terrorist violence.

When activists in the town of Media, Pa., broke into the FBI offices in 1971, they revealed that the FBI did the same things here in the U.S. to attack the anti-war movement along with the Black and other national liberation movements, by releasing numerous classified FBI documents to those who could make them public.

Unlike in capitalist countries, socialist Cuba is a society in which information is readily available to the people. In Cuba, the current economic changes are being enacted after literally millions of Cuban factory workers, students, women, farm laborers, and others were consulted in mass meetings, and given all the information as well as the ability to give input into how society is run.

Socialist societies arm their populations with education and literacy, as well as popular democratic control of the economy, so that no more are decisions and information only accessible to a small segment of society.

The capitalist bosses fear the free flow of information. When BART, the Bay Area Rapid Transit system cops shot down Charles Hill — the third BART shooting since African-American Oscar Grant’s killing sparked rebellions — Internet and cell phone access was turned off to prevent protests in another sign of the fear of the people’s righteous anger that exists within the halls of power.

The fact that Congress has discussed a “kill switch” for the Internet, also shows how afraid of the people those with the wealth actually are.

The struggle for freely accessible information, and a world where people are empowered to know the truth and use it to rule society, is not just a struggle against corruption, bad government officials or Wall Street’s “influence.”

It is a struggle against the capitalist system itself, which must be overthrown if a better world is to blossom. □

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# Rally counters anti-Muslim bigotry, pro-war chauvinism

By John Catalinotto  
New York

People from every sector of the regional New York City progressive movement, including representatives of various religious communities, gathered at City Hall Park near the World Trade Center site on Sept. 11 to show solidarity with the Muslim community. That group has focused over the past month on condemning the racism and bigotry whipped up by the ultra-right, which was holding what turned out to be a small anti-Muslim rally a few blocks to the west.

The progressive demonstration also countered the pervasive message from the corporate media and politicians from both parties who sought to revive a 9/11 climate of patriotism and U.S. chauvinism that justified the policy of expanding wars overseas and intensified repression at home.

The protest, called by the Emergency Mobilization Against Racism & Anti-Muslim Bigotry and organized by the International Action Center, made two other main points: The movement must resist Washington's drive to war, and working-class solidarity is necessary to fight for workers' rights, living standards and jobs.

The pro-unity rally in some ways replayed the political confrontation that took place last year, when an even larger demonstration of progressives greatly outnumbered a heavily publicized and financed Tea Party event protesting an Islamic community and prayer center.

## Political challenge to patriotic imperialist orgy

Reached by email, IAC Co-Director Sara Flounders, who chaired part of the Sept. 11 rally, compared the two confrontations. "Last year the major corporate media gave weeks of coverage to extreme right-wing groups and to the ugliest attacks on Islam and on Muslims in the U.S. The call to challenge this extreme racist

attack drew many thousands of non-Muslims to our rally to stand in solidarity with Muslims under attack.

"This year the right-wing rally got less publicity, appeared to be less of a threat and turned out to be really small. The racist rally with big-screen projection and a tractor trailer of staging and sound had a small flag-waving gathering.

"Our Unity Rally this year," contrasted Flounders, "drew many hundreds rather than the thousands of last year, but it had a crucial importance. It raised a political challenge to the entire corporate media and all the top political leaders of both capitalist parties who united to define 9/11 as a patriotic orgy glorifying U.S. imperialism."

It would be hard to imagine a more diverse and spirited Unity Rally and march. In addition to representatives from immigrant communities from every continent and Marxist groups there were more radical, struggle-ready labor unionists and activists from anti-war and civil rights organizations who joined in shouting slogans of solidarity for four hours with their Muslim sisters and brothers.

People from Boston, Washington and Philadelphia, from nearby New Jersey and the upstate Albany area, joined the anti-racist movement that embraced young and old, people of all the colors of the city and region, gay and straight.

The message from the nearly 50 community and religious leaders greeting the Emergency Mobilization rally was solidarity with the Muslim community and unity of all the forces in the struggle against racism, scapegoating and U.S. wars abroad.

Some of the Muslim speakers made the point that their communities identified as U.S. citizens, but they wanted the U.S. government to follow the Constitution, especially when it comes to protecting the rights of religious minorities.

## Confronting the official line

It was the racist offensive by anti-Muslim bloggers like Pam Geller and other



Above, Sept. 11 rally co-chairs, LeiLani Dowell from Fight Imperialism, Stand Together and Sara Flounders from International Action Center. Left, Cyrus McGoldrick, civil rights manager, Council of American Islamic Relations.

neo-fascist forces that initially spurred on the Emergency Mobilization. But it was impossible to ignore the overwhelming propaganda offensive by the imperialist U.S. ruling class. The fact that Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama were both at the official ceremony on the World Trade Center site showed the two parties were united on promoting patriotism as they have been on no other issue recently.

The attacks on the WTC 10 years ago, because they made the population feel more vulnerable, increased the ability of the most aggressive sectors of the U.S. ruling class to militarize the country. The Bush administration mobilized first the entire ruling class and then the population for wars of aggression against Afghanistan and later Iraq. Other countries were on their hit list, but the resistance movements in Iraq and later in Afghanistan showed that occupation was not so easy.

This year the anniversary commemoration allowed U.S. ruling circles to again exploit the widespread sympathy for the victims to carry out a broad and deep patriotic campaign.

"The memorial events," observed Flounders, "were a carefully choreo-

graphed effort to drape the government in an aura of mourning for the victims of the World Trade Center attack — and to hide its responsibility for the hundreds of thousands of totally innocent victims of U.S. wars of the past 10 years in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya and to intervene in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. Most ominously, it can be used to justify continued war and repression."

Thus the second message of the Emergency Mobilization was confronting the official line, repeated ad nauseam in the week leading up to Sept. 11, that the United States was an innocent victim of terrorism.

Some of the speakers at the rally congratulated those participating for having the political courage to confront the heavy propaganda campaign in the corporate media and from all levels of government.

The third message of the Emergency Mobilization was even more relevant this year after another 12 months of economic stagnation and signs of a new recession: Solidarity among all sectors of the working class and the oppressed is essential to beat back the relentless attack on benefits and to fight for jobs. □

## With message of peace

# Afghan war vet trades in weapon for bicycle

By John Catalinotto  
New York

Since May 2010 Jacob George and some friends have been on a bicycle trip through the United States. Equipped with banjo and bass fiddle, he and others have been singing and performing anti-war stories while bringing a message of peace for Afghanistan. They've traveled most often through areas of the U.S. South, where anti-war sentiment is probably as low as anywhere in the country. That in itself is impressive.

But what makes this campaign, which George calls "a ride till the end," even more striking is that George is a honorably discharged veteran of three tours in Afghanistan. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and as he said: "I was there in 2001 right after the U.S. forces landed in October. Then we went back once more in 2002. And then again at the end of 2003 and the beginning of 2004. No tour was for more than six months."

Workers World spoke with George on Sept. 9 near New York's City Hall. He had just participated in a news conference held by the Emergency Mobilization Against Racism, War and Anti-Muslim Bigotry to

publicize its Sept. 11 demonstration near City Hall to answer right-wing attacks on Muslims, including Muslims' right to build an Islamic prayer center.

Speaking at the news conference, George told of his "fourth tour in Afghanistan. This time, for a month this summer, I went not as a soldier but as a peace activist. I went not to shoot at the so-called enemy — we were trained to fire at targets wearing turbans — but to talk with the people. I learned to love my Muslim brothers and to appreciate their culture."

WW asked George how he got the idea of the bicycle tour.

"I've been a longtime cycling advocate," George answered. "After I got out of the military, I used to ride around in the mountains of Arkansas — I'm what some people would call a 'hillbilly.' But since I've been to the other side of the world I might be known as a 'rambler.'"

"It got so that if I was driving and stopped at a station to buy gas, I'd start feeling like I was encouraging a war for oil. I decided to ride bicycles everywhere. At my job, which was to enforce the parking laws on campus, I would ride my bicycle carrying the 'boot' to place on illegally parked cars.

"The job suited me. But it suited me

even more to actively combat the war and try to end the misery for the people of Afghanistan. I got some friends together and we started riding, almost exclusively in the South. We weren't visiting peace groups.

"Most of the people we met with were people who supported the troops and supported the war. But we sang their kinds of songs and we could talk their language. They listened. It was a challenge but we could relate to them and they could relate to what we said."

That seems like a general rule for good organizing. WW asked about the economic conditions George observed in the South these days.

"The South is falling apart," he answered. "Pine Bluff in Arkansas is half closed down. People are hurting. We see homeless people all over.

"Even worse was Mississippi. When we went through Jackson we saw a mall where even the Taco Bell and McDonald's were boarded up. We had never seen anything like that before in the South."

George and his bicycling team, who have performed at the Bluestockings bookstore and other places while in New York City, will be leaving Sept. 13 for a 250-mile ride to Washington, D.C., going through Philadelphia; Wilmington, Del.;



Afghanistan war veteran and anti-war cyclist Jacob George.

and Baltimore. Their plan is to get donations of 250 bicycles.

As he said: "As a community of Afghan war veterans, we feel a peace offering is needed as we approach 10 years of war in Afghanistan. Upon collecting the bicycles, we'll be attempting to send some to Afghanistan and others will be used to get more veterans on bicycles. We've asked Bikes Not Bombs to help us in this effort and we'll be pedaling together as reconciliation approaches."

For more information, see [operation-awareness.org](http://operation-awareness.org).

## Labor Day in Wisconsin



On Labor Day Sept. 5 in Milwaukee, thousands of multinational and intergenerational union and community members, youth and students marched from Zeidler Park (named after former socialist Milwaukee mayor, Frank Zeidler) down the city's main thoroughfare of Wisconsin Avenue to the Summerfest Grounds.

Members carried dozens of union banners from private and public sector unions along with a worker center banner from the immigrant rights organization, Voces de la Frontera. Cultural contingents and labor-themed floats, including a boister-

ous one from the musicians, actors and stagehands unions, joined in. Many other Labor Day marches and parades took place statewide in Madison, Wausau and other locations.

The poor and working people of Wisconsin yet again issued a clear message this Labor Day: despite the union-busting law attacking public sector workers and the austerity measures implemented in the state in the past year, the class struggle against the bosses and bankers isn't going away, it's increasing.

—Report and photo by Bryan G. Pfeifer

## Working people confront congressperson

MILWAUKEE

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Milwaukee

Dozens of poor and working people from Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine and other cities in Wisconsin came out to protest U.S. Congressperson Paul Ryan on Sept. 6 in Greenfield, a suburb of Milwaukee. For weeks Ryan has been ignoring his constituents who have been attempting to see him at his offices in Wisconsin. Poor and working people in his district and elsewhere are demanding he use his power in Congress to alleviate the jobs crisis and not dismantle Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. Unemployment is officially 9.1 percent in Wisconsin and much higher in cities such as Racine and Kenosha, where there have been numerous union manufacturing plant closings.

In Milwaukee, unemployment for African-American males is over 50 percent. Unemployed workers and their allies, such as union and community members, youth and students, have occupied all of Ryan's offices over the past few weeks, protested outside them, e-mailed and called Ryan. Despite this, Ryan refuses to meet with his constituents, many of whom are facing absolute destitution. Yet Ryan always finds the time to meet with his rich backers.



WW PHOTOS: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

Thus, when it was learned Ryan was to have a pay-per-view \$15 luncheon at a Rotary Club in Greenfield, the Service Employees union/community organization Wisconsin Jobs Now! immediately called a protest. At the supper club, those demanding jobs drowned out right-wing Ryan supporters, some of whom were also across the street from the supper club. Many youth, students and community members participated, including union members from the Service Employees, the Milwaukee Graduate Assistants Association, the Steelworkers and the Electrical Workers. Others participating included the secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, Stephanie Bloomingdale; members of the workers' center, Voces de la Frontera; the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement; Citizen Action; Workers World Party; and many more. During a speakout at the protest, many testified about how their lives are being destroyed by unemployment and about the refusal of states and the federal government to enact jobs programs, the refusal of corporations to hire despite sitting on trillions in cash and the banks being bailed out in the trillions, all while poor and working people are left to suffer, starve and die.

When Ryan arrived at the supper club, he was booed down. Some protesters who decided to pay the \$15 for the luncheon took their seats and then completely disrupted the event by confronting Ryan directly about his refusal to fight for state and federal jobs programs and his attacks on social safety net programs. When one protester was dragged from the room by police and security, another one would stand up and confront Ryan. Ryan's cold-bloodedness came out after a 70-year-old protester with medical challenges was tackled to the ground and handcuffed by security and police. Attempting to make a joke of the situation, Ryan said, "Hope he took his blood-pressure medication."

After the protesters were all removed by security and the police, they again joined with their sisters and brothers on the outside and vowed that their Jobs Now campaign has just begun.

For more information, updates, photos and videos of protest actions: <http://wisconsinjobsnow.org>

ed the original trial witnesses' recanted testimony, implying their statements under duress were more believable than voluntary affidavits. He ruled that the jury's original decision of conviction and the death sentence would not have been affected by altered eyewitness testimony.

In March 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court denied Davis' final appeal for a new trial,

Continued on page 5

## Police target undocumented youth

On Sept. 6, the North Carolina Dream Team, an immigrants rights group led by undocumented youth, held a rally and march on the campus of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, N.C., of more than 200 people.

The "Undocumented, Unafraid" action targeted the withholding of access to education for undocumented students and the Secure Communities program, and was timed to coincide with a pep rally being held by the Democratic National Committee, which will hold its convention in Charlotte next September.

The demonstration took over a major intersection in the downtown area, and 15 people, including 10 undocumented youth, were arrested. Workers World will carry more coverage on this important action in the next edition.

—Ben Carroll



CHARLOTTE, N.C.

PHOTO: SAMANTHA GALINDO

## Global day of protest Sept. 16:

# Stop racist execution of Troy Davis

Continued from page 1

on his behalf.

Local organizations, such as Georgians for an Alternative to the Death Penalty, and national groups, such as Amnesty International, the NAACP, Color of Change and the International Action Center, have organized in the campaign to save Davis' life.

The Congressional Black Caucus and public figures as varied as ex-FBI head Williams Sessions, former prosecutor Bob Barr, Bishop Desmond Tutu, past-President Jimmy Carter and the Pope have appealed for clemency.

Davis' case has aroused national and international attention about systemic inequities in the U.S. legal process. Racism is constantly at play, given the history of slavery, Jim Crow segregation and racial

discrimination in Georgia. Other factors include police misconduct, unskilled legal counsel and media bias. Complex appeals procedures place deadlines and technicalities over issues of innocence.

This case reveals injustices, which are rife throughout the U.S. legal system for those convicted of all crimes. The U.S. prison population is the largest in the world. More African-American men are incarcerated than attend college.

Since 1973, 138 death-row prisoners have been exonerated. Most of them were convicted based on faulty eyewitness testimony. Newly discovered DNA evidence has proven their innocence.

Davis has come within days and hours of being executed three times. Each time another avenue of legal appeal prevented it. With the pressure of millions mobilized

on his behalf, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a Savannah federal district judge in August 2009 to convene a hearing to examine the evidence. The burden of proof shifted to the defense, which had to prove that Davis was innocent beyond reasonable doubt, turning the standard of "innocent until proven guilty" on its head.

In June 2010, Troy's supporters filled the courtroom and the streets outside. The recanting witnesses told their stories, relating the police pressure put on them. New witnesses came forward. The prosecution offered the same evidence. Police and prosecutors denied any coercion.

Judge William Moore's decision admitted that the state's case was not "ironclad." It said that executing an innocent person would violate the Constitution's Eighth Amendment. However, he reject-

## Postal workers demand:

# 'Save the public Postal Service'

The following resolution was adopted by National Association of Letter Carriers, Golden Gate Branch 214, at its regular membership meeting on Sept. 7 in San Francisco, by unanimous vote.

Whereas, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution as a right of the people, the public Post Office has provided universal postal service over many generations, and is continuously rated as the most highly regarded government entity by the American people. Since the 1970 postal strike, which shut down mail service nationwide for four days, postal workers have had good, livable-wage jobs supporting their families in every community, and collective bargaining through their unions; and

Whereas, Postmaster General Donahue wants to eliminate Saturday delivery, shut 3,700 postal facilities, and fire 120,000 workers [220,000 by

2015], despite a no-layoff clause in union contracts. Rep. Issa, chair of the House Oversight Government Reform Committee, wants to void the postal union contracts altogether and open the door to privatization. Their proposals would sabotage and destroy our national treasure — the public Postal Service; and

Whereas, the scheduled service cutbacks will hit seniors, and poor and rural communities the hardest. For example, post offices are being tagged for closing based on the amount of "revenue" they generate, which means that low-income and rural areas, which need their neighborhood post office the most, will no longer have one. Also collection boxes with fewer letters are being removed, hurting service in low-income and rural areas; and

Whereas, just as Governor Scott Walker declared war on Wisconsin workers, what's coming is a war against the

574,000 unionized postal workers and their families — the next target of the big business class and their henchmen in Congress and the media. Like Reagan's attack on PATCO, this is an attack on all of Labor, and Labor needs to close ranks with every community now to defend the postal unions and save the public Postal Service.

Therefore be it Resolved, that Golden Gate Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, calls on the four postal unions and each of their locals and state associations — as well as central labor bodies and state labor federations in every part of the country, other national and local unions, the AFL-CIO and Change to Win federation, and community allies — to organize a coordinated national and local campaign including mass demonstrations to defend the postal workers, save Saturday delivery, stop the post office closings and layoffs, and save the public Postal Service. □



SAN DIEGO

## Workers demand:

# 'No more concessions!'

Over 200 union workers gathered on Sept. 5, Labor Day, in downtown San Diego to support United Food and Commercial Workers Local 135 in its efforts to defend its members' wages and health care benefits.

The workers marched through the large downtown Ralph's Supermarket chanting, "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Corporate Greed Has Got To Go!" and "Contract Now!" Workers throughout the

store stood and cheered. They are ready to strike if the CEOs don't sign off on a fair contract. Community members stand ready to boycott Ralph's, Von's, Albertson's and all affected stores by not crossing the picket lines if they go up until a fair contract agreement is reached.

The march moved out onto Broadway to join the Labor Day Workers' Rally to End Joblessness. Signs saying "We Are One!"

and "I Am a Man!" [a slogan used by striking Memphis Black sanitation workers in 1968—WW] decorated the diverse crowd. Demands were made by various union representatives and a spate of politicians to support workers, not CEO salaries, banks and shareholders. Retail and city workers thanked supporters for marching and "standing up to the boss."

—Report and photo by **Starr**

## LOW-WAGE CAPITALISM

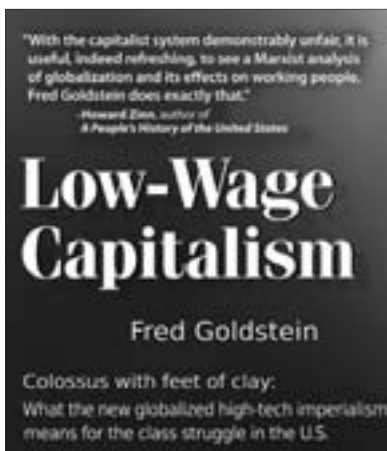
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setting the stage for issuance of the Sept. 21 execution date.

From his death-row cell in Jackson, Ga., Troy Anthony Davis takes strength from all those who write, march, speak, sing and act on his behalf. He always urges that this campaign for justice be extended to all those victimized by an inherently unfair system.

For more information, see [www.JusticeForTroy.org](http://www.JusticeForTroy.org) and [www.IACenter.org](http://www.IACenter.org). □

## ON THE PICKET LINE

By Sue Davis

### Hyatt Hotel workers strike in four cities

Hyatt Hotel workers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Chicago who have been working without a contract since August 2009, walked out Sept. 8 for a week-long strike to demand decent wages and healthy, safe working conditions. Studies conducted by their union, UNITE HERE, show that Hyatt room cleaners have the highest injury rate in the industry. No wonder. They're forced to lift very heavy beds while cleaning 30 rooms during an eight-hour shift.

Local 2 kicked off the protest in San Francisco by staging a march and rally in Union Square on Sept. 5, Labor Day. According to eyewitness Joan Marquardt, "More than 500 UNITE HERE and other union members and community supporters marched around the area, ending at the Grand Hyatt, where they held a picket and rally. We were able to get out Workers Worlds to the crowd."

### Victory for locked-out Honeywell workers

The 13-month struggle that ended Aug. 2 with a decent contract for Steelworkers Local 7-669 at the Honeywell International uranium processing plant in Metropolis, Ill., proved why it's critical to build solidarity internationally as well as nationally. The 230 highly skilled workers at the largest conversion plant in the world that produces nuclear fuel for commercial reactors were locked out in June 2010, when they refused to accept drastic cuts in pension, health care and overtime benefits as well as unfair changes in seniority rules. Not only did they rally wide support from the U.S. labor movement, but they credit "a global labor coalition of organized Honeywell workers in the U.S. and Europe," backed up by four European labor federations representing 16 million workers, with forcing Honeywell to drop its anti-worker demands. USW President Leo W. Gerard praised Local 7-669 members who "showed a commitment to fight an American multinational on principles that are rock solid about workplace safety, family health care, pensions and job fairness." ([jwblog.org](http://jwblog.org), Aug. 23)

### Int'l support for postal Verizon workers

When delegates to the Post Logistics Global Conference, called by a division of the UNI Global Union, representing 900 labor unions with 20 million members worldwide, met Sept. 5-9 in Washington, D.C., they showed solidarity with U.S. postal and communication workers. Coming to the aid of three U.S. affiliates — the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union — UNI PL delegates unanimously passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass H.R. 1351 to stabilize the post office's finances and give the unions a fair playing field in the current round of contract negotiations. ([www.UNIglobalunion.org](http://www.UNIglobalunion.org), Sept. 12) Delegates also took on Verizon when they joined a 500-strong demonstration Sept. 7 called by the Communication Workers at the L Street Verizon Wireless Store. The protesters' chant of, "Workers, united, will never be defeated!" needs to echo around the world. (Union City, newsletter of Metro D.C. AFL-CIO, Sept. 12)

### Nurses demand:

## 'Tax Wall Street to Heal America'

National Nurses United used creative tactics on Sept. 1 when mobilizing its members, labor activists and community supporters to lobby congressional legislators in 60 cities in 21 states. One of the largest, most eye-opening actions was the soup kitchen outside San Francisco's federal building. NNU's purpose: to get politicians to sign a pledge to "support a Wall Street transaction tax that will raise sufficient revenue to make Wall Street pay for the devastation it has caused on Main Street." They are calling for a 0.5 percent federal tax on big financial transactions to raise \$350 billion annually to fund jobs, health care and schools. The tax would apply to stocks, securities, debt purchases, options, credit swaps, foreign currency bets and derivatives. Why is this on NNU's agenda? According to an Aug. 26 article in the California Progress Report, "Every day nurses see broad declines in health and living standards that are a direct result of our patients and our own families struggling with lack of jobs, unpayable medical bills, hunger and homelessness, and they are not going to let people suffer in silence any more." To show NNU's determination, more than 23,000 NNU members in 34 north and central California hospitals will hold a one-day strike on Sept. 22 to protest cuts in services and unsafe patient-to-nurse ratios.

### LIU locks out striking faculty, cancels health coverage

When Long Island University faculty members at the Brooklyn campus went on strike the first day of classes on Sept. 7, the university immediately retaliated by locking them out and canceling health care coverage. Ralph Engelman, a delegate of the LIU Faculty Federation, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, denounced the cancellation as "an attempt to pressure us to accept their contract offer and go back to the classrooms." (The Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 9) But such strong-arm tactics aren't likely to make the teachers accept contract terms that will make them forgo raises for the next three years or link pay increases to tuition hikes. ([blog.villagevoice.com](http://blog.villagevoice.com), Sept. 9) □

## As poverty, unemployment increase

# Obama's 'job plan' offers nothing new

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

President Barack Obama, facing formidable challenges to his re-election bid in 2012 as well as the potential further erosion of the Democratic Party base in the Senate and House of Representatives, unveiled the American Jobs Act during a special address to a joint session of Congress on Sept. 8. On Sept. 12 he announced the submission of a \$447 billion proposal to Congress that is purportedly designed to create jobs amid the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Yet will this plan actually create jobs without any specific goals or timetables?

Can the U.S. capitalist system generate long-term employment without a fundamental restructuring of the priorities of the political economy, which are geared toward maintenance of the status quo and maximization of profits for those who control the means of production?

With African Americans and Latinos/as having unemployment rates far exceeding that of the white population, will this plan seriously address the inherent racism and national oppression that lie at the center of the disparate impact of capitalist economic policy in the current period? Or is this merely another campaign ploy to inspire and potentially galvanize the base of the Democratic Party electorate to turn out at the polls in November 2012?

In order to address these questions it is essential that workers and oppressed people inside the United States be organized independently in order to raise economic and social demands that speak directly to their needs. At present the crisis of unemployment must be viewed within the broader context of the character of the current phase of capitalist globalization.

### Unemployment highest among African Americans

Raising the issue of jobs must begin from the framework of guaranteeing full employment and the elimination of poverty. Neither of these issues was addressed by Obama in his speech before Congress or in his Labor Day talk in Detroit on Sept. 5.

The overall unemployment rate in the U.S. now stands officially at 9.1 percent. This means approximately 15 million to 16 million people are seeking work and cannot find employment.

Yet once the number of discouraged workers and part-time employees is taken into consideration, the number of people needing jobs is more than 30 million. At the same time within the Latino/a community, the official jobless rate is 11.3 percent.

Topping all other national groups are African Americans, whose unemployment rate is officially 16.7 percent, up from 15.9 percent in July.

For African-American males the rate of unemployment grew a full percentage point in August to 18 percent. For African-American youth between the ages of 16 and 19, the rate of joblessness was officially calculated at 46.5 percent, rising steeply from 39.2 percent in just one month.

Although 155,000 African Americans reportedly got hired in August, this was offset by the growing number of people seeking employment where none was available.

The head of the Congressional Black Caucus, Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri, said the CBC was going to "offer suggestions to President Obama before his address to the nation on jobs." Since the beginning of the 112th Congress, the African-American legislative group has already submitted 40 jobs proposals, none of which was taken up by the administration or the broader House of Representatives.

CBC member Maxine Waters of California, who has criticized the administration for not addressing the specific impact of the economic crisis on African Americans — although she is on record as supporting the American Jobs Act — noted that no specific mention was made of the disparate impact on this community, which has suffered the most under the era of low-wage capitalism.

### Structural inequality & growing poverty

Poverty has been increasing in the United States at an alarming rate, especially within African-American communities. A recent report by the Joint Center for Po-

litical and Economic Studies documents this fact with U.S. Census data from 2010.

Entitled "The Lost Decade," referring to the 2000s, the report says, "Concentrated poverty has risen substantially since 2000. About one in 11 residents of American metropolitan areas, or 22.3 million people, now live in a neighborhood where 30 percent or more live in poverty."

In addition, the report points out, "The number of people in high-poverty neighborhoods increased by nearly 5 million since 2000, when 18.4 million metropolitan residents (7.9 percent of the total) lived in high-poverty neighborhoods. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of people in poverty grew by 10 million, from 33 million to 43 million, raising the poverty rate from 11.3 percent to 14.3 percent."

With specific reference to the nationally oppressed in the U.S., the study reports, "African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians are substantially more likely to live in high-poverty neighborhoods than non-Hispanic whites. One in four African Americans (7.6 million people), one in six Hispanics (7.1 million people), and one in eight American Indians (150,000 people) in metropolitan America live in a Census tract in which 30 percent or more of the population is in poverty."

According to the report, it is important to acknowledge: "One out of nine foreign-born residents also lives in high-poverty neighborhoods. These ratios starkly contrast with the estimated one in 25 non-Hispanic whites (6.3 million people) who lives in one of these tracts. Like the general trends, these high numbers represent a substantial setback for African Americans and Latinos compared with progress in the 1990s for non-Hispanic whites, most of whom are native [U.S.] born."

### National question cannot be resolved under capitalism

These stark figures, provided by the U.S. government itself, illustrate that the current trend within the capitalist system will inevitably lead to greater impoverishment of working people, especially those from the oppressed nations. The American Jobs Act is not designed to address these disparities, and will perhaps

only serve as a campaign slogan for the Democratic Party.

Moreover, there have been two attempts by Congress to mandate full employment in the United States. The Full Employment Bill was watered down by the time it was enacted as the Employment Act of 1946. When unemployment began to rise in the 1970s, however, some of the provisions that had been deleted from the bill were restored in the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978.

The fact that there is no discussion by the administration or Congress on implementing the 1978 law, which requires the federal government to create employment when the jobless rate exceeds 4 percent, is indicative of the lack of political will on the part of politicians from both ruling class parties as well as the bourgeoisie to eliminate unemployment, let alone poverty.

Obama's plan to provide further tax incentives for businesses to hire is a proven failure. State policy since the Reagan era, this has been escalated since the beginning of the Bush administration in 2001.

The enormous growth of military spending since the Bush administration has run parallel with higher rates of unemployment and poverty. The same holds for the massive multi-trillion-dollar bailouts of financial institutions and transnational corporations since 2008.

It is only under a socialist system where a planned economy is instituted that the questions of national oppression, poverty and full employment can be adequately addressed. It is the goal of the capitalist system to maximize profit and further weaken the working class, not provide jobs and prosperity for the majority of the people in society.

Consequently, the workers and nationally oppressed must abandon the ruling-class parties in the U.S. and advance their own political program aimed at eliminating national oppression, poverty and joblessness. This can only be done with a conscious program of mass political education, organization and mobilization to not only defend the gains of the past but to fashion nonexploitative societies of the future. □

## Lucasville uprising prisoner dies in Ohio

By **Sharon Danann**  
Cleveland

Abdul-Muhaymin Nuruddin, a prisoner convicted as James Bell, died this past week of an apparent heart attack while in custody. His body has yet to be released so that his funeral can take place, in disregard of Muslim custom of burial within 24 hours.

Nuruddin was a negotiator on behalf of the prisoners during the 1993 rebellion in Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio. He was held in high esteem by his fellow prisoners for his work in SOCF's law library, where he prepared appeals, writs of habeas corpus and civil law suits.

Nuruddin was convicted of felonious assault following the Lucasville rebellion. The prosecution maintained he was the "right hand man" of Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan, another prisoner negotiator. Hasan received the death penalty for his alleged role in the uprising.

Nuruddin's longtime pen pal, Karen

Thimmes, states: "Before he came back to Ohio [in 2007], Nuruddin was housed in federal institutions, first in the Super-Max in Florence [Colo.], later at a federal medical facility due to his kidney problems. When the Feds suggested to Ohio DRC [Department of Rehabilitation and Correction] that they would do a kidney transplant on Nuruddin if Ohio would foot the bill, Ohio pulled him out of the federal system and brought him back to Ohio, allegedly claiming that lifetime dialysis was cheaper than a transplant." (prisonersolidarity Yahoo group)

Twice in the past four years, Nuruddin contracted serious MRSA [methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus] infections at



Abdul-Muhaymin Nuruddin

his dialysis port which he believed were the result of inadequate attention to hygienic procedures, according to Thimmes. She maintains he was also forced to choose between dialysis and Muslim prayers on Fridays. In 2008, the ODRC forcibly cut Nuruddin's beard in violation of his religious rights.

While at ODRC's Pickaway Correctional Institution, guards threatened Nuruddin's life. They also failed to intervene when his neck was cut near his jugular vein by another prisoner. They locked up a

prisoner who came to his defense. ODRC refused to take action on the complaints he filed about these and other incidents.

Brother Nuruddin will be remembered for his courageous participation in prisoner advocacy campaigns, including the ongoing struggle to overturn other wrongful convictions of Lucasville-uprising prisoners, five of whom received death sentences. Another of his lasting contributions was an Islamic newsletter called "Pristine Truths," which he published in the 1990s.

As the deaths and numerous disabling injuries of the then New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller-led massacre of prisoners in Attica Correctional Facility 40 years ago are memorialized, the lives saved by the prisoners in Lucasville who negotiated a settlement with ODRC should also be honored. Recalling that N.Y. Gov. Hugh Carey ordered all indictments from the Attica rebellion vacated, the struggle will continue until the Lucasville-uprising convictions are reversed and Nuruddin's former fellow inmates walk free.

Comments in memory of Nuruddin may be sent to [lucasvillefreedom@gmail.com](mailto:lucasvillefreedom@gmail.com).

## Amid global capitalist crisis

# Longshore workers call for anti-racist unity in their ranks

By Cheryl LaBash

Early on Sept. 8 hundreds of longshore workers charged through the gates of the new, contested grain export terminal at Longview, Wash., and dumped corn from a 107-car train attempting a first shipment. This struggle in the Pacific Northwest has brewed since the multinational conglomerate EGT began constructing the \$200 million facility two years ago. It only became “newsworthy” nationally when the corporate media could bash workers as “violent.”

The bosses’ challenge to the International Longshore Workers Union’s coast-wide agreement with the Port of Longview endangers the union itself. In January EGT sued the Port of Longview. Its suit charged that EGT is not bound by the port agreement in effect since 1934 recognizing the ILWU on port property.

The hearing on the suit is not scheduled until spring 2012. Nevertheless, EGT had the grain terminal and two facilities in Montana built to transport the 2011 fall harvest. EGT intends to use the port without waiting for the court’s judgment and, if it can, without the ILWU.

For months last spring the union held rallies and actions, which included 100 union civil-disobedience arrests inside the terminal on July 11. Negotiations with EGT failed. On July 14 longshore workers turned back a train. By massing on the tracks, hundreds of workers successfully rerouted the corn shipment to an ILWU-worked terminal in Vancouver, Wash.

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad company suspended further shipments until Sept. 7, citing safety reasons. Then longshore women and men again stood on the tracks blocking the train, first in downtown Vancouver and then on Longview port property.

This time, armed with a temporary restraining order against ILWU locals in Vancouver and Longview, the courts and police weighed in for EGT. A federal judge had issued the order the week before the corporate offensive to get the terminal operational. On Sept. 7 riot-gearred cops routed the workers, arresting 19, including at least three women, for trespass.

The Associated Press widely distributed an inflammatory photo of police roughly detaining ILWU International President Robert McIlrath, himself a veteran of the Pacific Northwest region. McIlrath was removed and released. The following day — Sept. 8 — rank-and-file longshore workers refused to stand back and say “please” when so much was at stake for their union and the entire working class. The corn was dumped, and ILWU members up and down the Washington state coast walked off the job, halting shipping for eight hours.

### What is the ILWU up against?

In a Sept. 1 letter to ILWU division locals McIlrath wrote, “EGT is in Longview

ILWU Local 10 banner at a rally protesting the killing of Oscar Grant.

PHOTO: ILWU.ORG

... to make as much money as possible for its foreign owners.”

Foreign owners? The ILWU’s work is international trade. For the union to succeed, two things are required: international working class solidarity with workers around the globe and not buying into anti-foreign, big-business propaganda. Capitalism is global.

The driving force behind EGT is a U.S.-based giant international corporation, Bunge Limited, that partnered with global specialists to create a profitable, direct, high-tech export line from the wheat fields of the upper Midwest through Longview and then by ship to India, China and the vast markets in Asia.

PRNewswire reports, “EGT’s partners are all leaders in the international grain trade and include Bunge; ... ITOCHU, which is the second largest marketer of grain and food products in Japan; and STX Pan Ocean, which is one of the world’s leading shipping companies of agricultural products.” (Dec. 10)

News media cite the St. Louis-based “majority partner” Bunge NA, the “North American Free Trade” subsidiary in Canada, U.S. and Mexico. But they don’t reveal that Bunge Limited “is a leading agribusiness and food company with integrated operations that circle the globe, stretching from the farm field to the retail shelf.” Bunge Limited reported \$2.4 billion in profits in 2010.

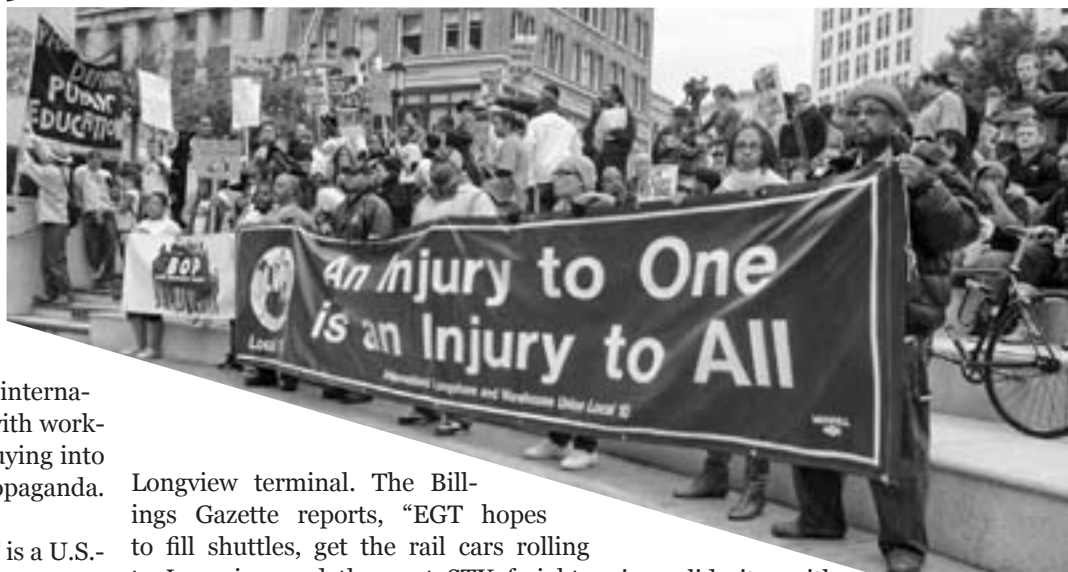
In 1999 Bunge moved its world headquarters to White Plains, N.Y., to be “closer to world financial centers” in Wall Street. ([www.bunge.com](http://www.bunge.com))

To supply the 8 million metric ton annual capacity of the Longview grain terminal, EGT simultaneously built two grain-loading facilities in Montana, all to be up and running in time for this fall’s harvest.

According to the PRNewswire release, “These state-of-the-art facilities will be built on the BNSF [train] mainline, ensuring efficient movement along the value chain from our farmer customers in Montana to vessels and finally to the end consumer.

“Each high-speed shuttle loader is capable of loading 110-car unit train in under ten hours. The facilities are also designed to provide farmers with fast weighing, grading and dumping, offering best-in-class cycle times. In addition, the facilities will be able to store about 800,000 bushels apiece.” Anticipated jobs: only four to six workers at each facility!

Rank-and-file ILWU sources estimate that a grain train that currently requires two and a half days to unload can be processed in less than half a day in the new



Longview terminal. The Billings Gazette reports, “EGT hopes to fill shuttles, get the rail cars rolling to Longview and then get STX freighters loaded and sailing, all in four days or less.” (Aug. 17)

EGT wants to eliminate much more than the 50 jobs at Longview. Its management yearns to make all port jobs high-tech, low-pay, non-union and completely under corporate control.

To sidestep charges of union-busting, EGT recently signed an operating agreement with a company that employs subcontracted workers represented by a smaller, different union.

Many small unions are not as strong as one big industrywide union, especially one like the ILWU, which has rank-and-file initiative.

If EGT successfully eliminates the ILWU from the 50 jobs at Longview, this will increase the pressure at other facilities and processes — automated or not — to bring in and exploit workers without union pay, benefits and protection. All the corporations will race to get that extra-profit edge over their competitors, just as other grain terminals are upgrading to compete with Longview or face losing market share if they don’t.

The International Longshoremen’s Association, which represents longshore workers on the East Coast, and the International Transportation Federation, a worldwide confederation of transport unions, have sent strong statements of support to the ILWU about the Longview struggle. Washington and Oregon State AFL-CIOs have sent resolutions supporting the ILWU in the jurisdictional dispute.

### ILWU in a ‘must-win battle’

The ILWU is uniquely positioned at this time to resist the assault because its members handle all the goods and materials shipped into or out of the West Coast of the U.S. The key to its strength is the ILWU’s history of internationalism and working-class solidarity based on its slogan: An injury to one is an injury to all.

The 1934 San Francisco general strike forged this coastwide union. At that time ILWU leader Harry Bridges personally promised the African-American community that in return for their support for the strike, Black workers would no longer be excluded and marginalized from work on the docks.

The union tradition is bottom-up leadership and initiative from the rank and file. Local 10 members exhibited this initiative by putting down their tools for 24 hours last April 4 to stand with public workers under attack in Wisconsin and other states as they remembered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King, an honorary member of Local 10, had been assassinated while standing

in solidarity with the striking Memphis sanitation workers on that date in 1968.

Unfortunately, Harry Bridges’ anti-racist example was not embraced in the Pacific Northwest. In Oregon a history of racism and exclusion laws not only discouraged Black workers from coming to the region, but tried to make sure those who toiled in the World War II shipyards didn’t stay.

Black workers came into the ILWU local in Portland under court order in 1964, 30 years after the ILWU won control of hiring and working conditions in the ports up and down the West Coast. Portland’s metropolitan area includes the port in Vancouver, Wash., only nine miles away, and even Longview, 50 miles away.

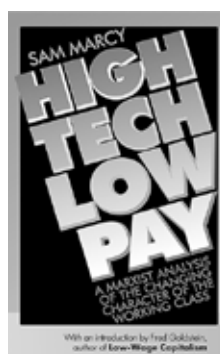
A rank-and-file Pacific Northwest ILWU member characterized the Longview struggle as a “major battle.” This worker told Workers World that in this industry, “We have no other choice than to fight together for our jobs. We are still left with the fact that we are fighting, but we still have issues we need to resolve in-house. ...

“It is a must-win battle for the ILWU, from my perspective. I think it must be a win-battle because, if not, it shows a sign of weakness in this area. I think that the ILWU leadership is not fighting as aggressively today as we need to. That is my point of view because right now the way things are going we should be more engaged in our fight and put more pressure. We should not wait until it gets worse to put pressure. We should put the pressure on right off the bat.

“When we look at history, the ILWU victory has always been possible once we have the community and other organizations involved. Then we have won the battle. Stick to the strategic system that has been victorious with the ILWU. Sometimes we forget that. We think we have it all and we don’t. So many unions are losing strength and membership because we get too relaxed and comfortable.

“In the Pacific Northwest [the union] needs some dialogue about opening opportunity for people in the community so we can get support from the community.”

As recently as 2006, the issues faced by African-American and women workers in the Pacific Northwest were so pressing that ILWU Local 10 — based in the Oakland-San Francisco area — withheld its pro-rata payment to the International Union in protest. This resulted in the establishment of Diversity Committees in all locals “to work on the issues of diversity, tolerance and solidarity across racial and gender lines and to make recommendations to the local officers, executive board and membership.” ([www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org), June 26, 2006) □



### HIGH TECH, LOW PAY

A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

Twenty years ago Sam Marcy wrote that the scientific-technological revolution is accelerating a shift to lower-paying jobs and to more women, Black and Latino/a workers. Using Marxism as a living tool, he analyzes the trends and offers strategies for labor including the occupation of plants.

A new introduction by Fred Goldstein explains the roots of the current economic crisis, with its disastrous unemployment, that has heightened the need for a working-class resurgence.

Available at Amazon

[www.workers.org/marcy/hightech](http://www.workers.org/marcy/hightech)

## Latest atrocity shows

# Why U.N./U.S. occupation of Haiti must end

By G. Dunkel

On Sept. 5, hundreds of militant protesters — facing off police and tear gas in Port-Salut, Haiti — called for justice and reparations for a Haitian youth who has charged Minustah marines with gang rape. They also called for the U.N. occupation forces to leave their country.

Outrage has been sparked throughout Haiti as a video — which was shot from a cell phone camera — has circulated which shows four Uruguayan U.N. sailors laughing as they assaulted 18-year-old Johnny Jean in Port-Salut.

Ansel Herz, an independent reporter who works with Haïti Liberté, broke the story in the international press. He says that the video of the assault was uncovered when one of Jean's cousins saw it on a cell phone belonging to one of the accused U.N. sailors. The video was transferred to another phone and spread further.

The Committee for Research in the Development and Organization of Port-Salut calls the sexual assault on July 28, which occurred on the Minustah naval base, "immoral, inhuman, sadistic, dishonest and criminal."

Jean says that the soldiers tried to talk his mother, Rose Marie Jean, out of reporting their crimes, but she insisted. She said: "My son has been raped. It is a crime that should be punished. So we are demanding justice and reparation." (Reuters, Sept. 5)

Uruguay's president, José Mujica, has apologized for the assault. The accused marines were detained and sent home. The Uruguayan Navy fired its naval commander in Haiti, yet the Uruguayan military is questioning if a rape really took place. The U.N. also questions whether a rape took place. Minustah spokesperson Eliane Nabaa apologized and said that they are carrying out an investigation.



Port-Salut protest Sept. 5 to demand justice for Haitian youth. PHOTO: ETANT GUEVARA/HAITI LIBERTE

Increasingly, Haitians are calling for the removal of Minustah's forces. There is a history of sexual abuse by these so-called "peacekeepers." There is outrage that these soldiers brought the deadly cholera epidemic, which has killed more than 6,000 Haitians and sickened hundreds of thousands. They also condemn Minustah's massacres of poor people in Cite Soleil in 2005 and elsewhere.

The CREDOP says that the U.N. troops are still discharging their wastewater onto the beaches that make Port-Salut a tourist destination. The same practice by Minustah introduced cholera last year.

Minustah is a "stabilization" force in name only. Its real purpose is to maintain domination of Haiti so that U.S. geostrategic and economic interests are maintained.

U.N. troops have occupied Haiti for seven years, taking over from the U.S. forces that kidnapped President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004. When the U.N.'s command structure in Haiti and many of its facilities were destroyed in the January 2010 earthquake, the U.S. rushed more than 20,000 troops

to the country to keep a tight lid on popular protests.

Radio Vizyon Plus FM's website says: "Minustah, which has 13,331 soldiers, has occupied Haiti since the first of June 2004, following a criminal coup d'état against a democratically elected president, Jean Bertrand Aristide. Since then billions of dollars have been wasted in the name of stability, but the country has been constantly plunged into chronic instability by cholera, misery, unemployment and the violation of human rights. The July 2010-June 2011 budget for Minustah is \$854 million."

### Bill Clinton's chief of staff proposed for prime minister

The U.S. doesn't just rely on Minustah to protect its interests. Michel Martelly would have never become Haiti's president if the U.S. hadn't stepped into the counting of the first round of ballots in the November elections.

On Jan. 30, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Haiti to get the vote count accepted which put Martelly into the election's second

round to be held in March.

Since he was inaugurated on May 14, Martelly has proposed two far-rightist politicians as candidates for prime minister, but the majority in Haiti's parliament rejected them.

In Haiti's political system, the prime minister is the government's main executive officer, so the absence of one for 100 days meant that a lot of policies and decisions weren't being made, as crises are growing.

Hundreds of thousands of families have been living in tents and shacks since the earthquake. Vast numbers have cholera. Unemployment is too high to measure. Tens of thousands of families can't afford tuition fees to educate their children.

Because of this, having a government that was avoiding decision making was dangerous to the Haitian ruling class and the U.S. They know that public indignation and anger could quickly move to mass protest, especially since opposition to Minustah's occupation is deepening.

In late August, six Haitian senators in the opposition were called to a meeting with U.S. diplomats in which Garry Conille was proposed for the prime minister post. He is the son of Serge Conille, a former minister under Duvalier, and a close associate of Roger LaFontant, the chief of the Tonton Macoute, Duvalier's hated henchmen.

Reportedly, he was a Duvalier spy in the 1960s student movement before he got his medical degree in Haiti. (Haïti-Progres, Sept. 7-13). After he got a public health policy degree in the U.S., he worked for the U.N. in Africa. He is now the chief of staff to Bill Clinton, the U.N. special envoy to Haiti.

All of this exposes U.S. and other imperialist intervention in Haiti. The people's struggle for sovereignty and for an end to occupation must be supported by progressives worldwide. □

## Interview with Mexican labor leader:

# 'Critical moment' in electrical workers' fight for jobs

On Aug. 25, while attending ESNA IV (Encuentro Sindical Nuestra América Union Meeting of Our America) in Managua, Nicaragua, Martha Grevatt and Ignacio Meneses of the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange interviewed Humberto Montes de Oca, secretary of external affairs of the Mexican Union of Electrical Workers/Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas, which for several years has been fighting privatization and the loss of their jobs. Since this interview was conducted, the SME has called for a week of solidarity with electrical workers and in support of SME's demands for recognition, rehiring of 16,000-plus workers who did not take cash settlements and give up their right to their jobs, and freeing of SME's members who are being held as political prisoners, Sept. 8-15.

IM/MG: Tell us about your struggle.

HMO: The government wanted to close the public electric utility and re-open it as a private company. On Oct. 10, 2009, 44,000 workers were fired without notice. The military forcibly removed them from their jobs.

On March 3, 2011, workers occupied the main plaza in Mexico City, Zocalo Square. We are still there. At this critical moment the government of Calderón is threatening violence. He has escalated

threats of violence. The media have criminalized our movement.

The government has ordered the arrest of SME Secretary General Martín Esparza Flores, Labor Secretary Eduardo Bobadilla and attorney Amalia Vargas Ríos. Thirteen of our leaders are in jail, 11 for 10 months and two since April 11.

Our communities in Juando, Hidalgo, Necaxa and Puebla have been militarized. The military patrols these communities, including with helicopters. The right wing that is in power is demanding our expulsion from the square. Their excuse is that they need the square cleared to celebrate Mexican independence on Sept. 16.

What is the union's response?

The General Assembly of SME decided to keep occupying until our demands are met. We want to return to work, our political prisoners freed, the return of our dues money that was frozen and the political recognition of our 26-member executive committee. For this reason we are calling on all Mexican workers and international organizations to reinforce the encampment in the Zocalo.

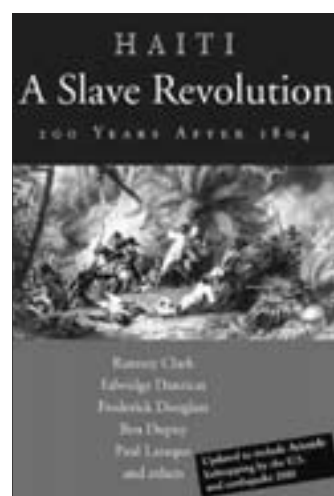
What are your goals here at ESNA IV?

We are participating to make contact with workers of Our America and to strengthen our unity with workers and

leaders of the unions of Latin America and the Caribbean, to give strength to our resistance and to find new alternatives for a new society.

Will you attend the Labor Conference in Tijuana scheduled for December 2-4? (Sponsored by the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, the International Action Center, the Union del Barrio, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five)

Yes, we will be there with our Mexican brothers and sisters from Mexico and the United States. □



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## As Egyptian masses occupy Israeli Embassy

# U.S. maneuvers to blunt support for Palestine

By Deirdre Griswold

U.S. imperialism is once again maneuvering to counter growing world support for the Palestinian struggle. Its primary motive is to protect the interests of U.S. capital in the Middle East, which center around, but are not restricted to, exploitation of the fabulous oil wealth in the area.

Its main military ally in the region is the small but highly armed state of Israel. The Tel Aviv regime has fought many wars against surrounding Arab countries since it seized control of most of Palestine in 1948 with the blessings of U.S. and European imperialism.

It was not a peaceful takeover. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were uprooted from their homes by a terror campaign in which armed Zionist groups like the Irgun massacred many civilians. Now, 63 years later, the struggle of the Palestinians for a homeland, including the right to return to the territory controlled by the Israeli state, is stronger than ever.

And so is support for their cause from the masses of people throughout the region. A dramatic example of this made the news on Sept. 9 when a huge crowd in Cairo, after a rally in Tahrir Square, marched to the Israeli Embassy, broke through its walls and pulled down the Israeli flag. The Israeli ambassador fled to the airport with his family and 70 employees, where they scrambled aboard a plane to Tel Aviv.

The angry but unarmed crowd got control of the building and almost reached trapped Israeli spies cowering in a bunker, according to a later British report. "Six intelligence officers, detailed to protect Israel's embassy in Cairo, had barricaded themselves in the building's strongroom. A mob of hammer-wielding Egyptians were closing in. The rioters had already broken down two of the strongroom's doors and were now hammering on the third. Three of the Israelis drew their guns, preparing for a last stand," wrote Adrian Blomfield in *The Telegraph* of Sept. 12.

Israeli officials were worried that the dirty secrets held by these men would be discovered, as had happened in Iran in 1979, when revolutionary students broke into and occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The young people spent months inside the embassy, laboriously taping back together secret documents that Washington's spies had shredded to keep the world from getting first-hand knowledge of the close relationship the U.S. had with the torture regime of the Shah and his hated secret police, the Savak.

What stopped that from happening to Israel this time? Israel, of course, had a close relationship with the now ousted Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. That was well known. Israel had publicly offered Mubarak a safe haven from the Egyptian masses, who want him tried and convicted for his multitude of crimes against the people. But what both Israel and the U.S. want to protect from public scrutiny is the ongoing relationship they still have with high Egyptian officials who talk in the language of revolution but do all they can to subvert it.

So, instead of these "intelligence officers" being captured by the crowd, reported in the *Telegraph*, "This time, the most feared outcome was averted thanks to the intervention of the White House. Facing



Egyptians attack Israeli Embassy and burn Israeli flag, Cairo, Sept. 9.

PHOTO: CRYPTOME.ORG

American threats of dire retribution if any of the Israelis was harmed, Egypt's military rulers dispatched a team of commandos to rescue the trapped men, a mission completed in the nick of time."

Other sources reported that the Egyptian police, who tried to disperse the crowd with teargas and rubber bullets, were later reinforced by soldiers with live ammunition. While no shooting deaths were reported, the Egyptian health ministry said 520 people were wounded in clashes around the embassy. (*Palestine Chronicle*, Sept. 12)

### Question of diplomatic recognition

In addition to shoring up Egyptian officials compromised by their relationships to Israel, the White House and State Department have been busy trying to limit any diplomatic recognition of the Palestinian Authority while using the issue as a wedge to divide the Palestinian movement.

Early in September the U.S. sent Special Envoy to the Middle East David Hale and State Department diplomat Dennis Ross to convince the Palestinians not to go to the United Nations for statehood. When this failed, the U.S. threatened to cut off all aid to the PA. (*Palestine News Network*, Sept. 8)

Some 130 member states of the U.N. General Assembly — an overwhelming majority — are reportedly ready to vote this month for a resolution recognizing a Palestinian state. Not all are progressive, by any means.

The rich, reactionary and repressive kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for example, has warned the U.S. of the problems it will encounter if it blocks such a resolution. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, a right-winger from the U.S. puppet state of south Korea, on Sept. 9 said that recognition of a Palestinian state is "long overdue."

That even these political forces have to speak out for Palestine shows that mass sentiment all over the world is with the Palestinians and against the racist Israeli settler state.

The U.S., however, has consistently voted in the General Assembly and the Security Council against even the mildest criticism of Israel. In the much smaller Security Council, which is dominated by the Western imperialists, it can block any recognition of a Palestinian state by using its veto.

Washington has no veto in the General Assembly, but any resolution that passed there would have far less strength, since the G.A. can only confer observer status, not full U.N. membership.

There are strong differences of opinion within the Palestinian movement on the resolution, the wording of which has not yet been revealed by its author, the Palestinian Authority, which is dominated by the Fatah Party.

It is believed that the resolution will in some way define the borders of a new Palestinian state as those territories governed by Palestinians before the 1967 war. They are scattered and separated, leading to comparison with the Bantustans set up for Africans by the apartheid regime in South Africa.

A cardinal point, raised especially by

Palestinians abroad, is the Right of Return to their homeland, which Israel denies them. These groups are asking if U.N. recognition of the 1967 boundaries will mean that Palestinians can only go to those areas and not to all of historic Palestine.

In a statement issued May 16, the Global Coalition for the Palestinian Right of Return warned: "Betting on recognition by the United Nations of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders without coupling it with a guarantee of the right of immediate return of the refugees to their original homes, merely paves the way for a new futile round of international and diplomatic deliberations which do not address the root of the conflict, and give the international community a new opportunity or rather excuse to shirk its responsibilities towards the rights of our people."

While progressives here certainly must oppose any machinations of the Obama administration to prevent a U.N. vote on the recognition of Palestine, it is up to the Palestinian people themselves to determine if such a resolution will forward or retard their struggle. □

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Joyce Chediak

## 'Red Notice'

Interpol is an "international" police organization headquartered in France. Its secretary general is a former U.S. government official, Ronald Noble. Noble comes from the administration of President George H.W. Bush, who made Noble his Undersecretary of the Treasury for Enforcement in 1993.

The U.S. and France are therefore big players in Interpol. They are also two of the leading imperialist powers behind NATO's military assault on the government of Libya.

Article 3 of Interpol's constitution forbids it from "intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character." Shouldn't this prevent it from aiding and abetting the imperialists in their efforts to destroy the government of Libya?

On Sept. 9 Interpol announced it was issuing a "Red Notice" to its 188-member countries telling them to arrest Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, his son Saif Al-Islam Gadhafi and former director of military intelligence Abdullah Al-Senussi. The move came after the International Criminal Court — based in The Hague — issued arrest warrants for the three on charges of "crimes against humanity."

The ICC has never even considered issuing warrants against George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld for their crimes against humanity — attacking and occupying Iraq on the completely bogus pretext that it possessed "weapons of mass destruction." An estimated 1 million Iraqis perished from war wounds and the massive destruction of that country's infrastructure. Isn't that a crime against humanity? Or doesn't the ICC consider the Iraqi people to be human?

In the modern world there are many so-called international agencies that claim to act in the interests of the world's people. The assumption is that there are universal standards that can be applied equally to people everywhere. The assumption is also that the richest, most powerful countries are in the best position to decide these standards and then enforce them.

All this runs counter to actual experience. The interests of all countries are not the same. And the interests of the social classes inside these countries are not the same, either.

A country like Libya broke away from the heritage of colonialism in 1969 through a revolution that nationalized its oil — the mainstay of its economy, which had been exploited by Italy, France, the U.S. and Britain. It does not share common interests with Italy, its former colonial overlord, or with Britain, France and the U.S.

No matter how much the politicians and press of these imperialist countries claim that Moammar Gadhafi, who led the Libyan revolution, is a monster who mistreats his own people and therefore should be arrested, they are only repeating the propaganda of the oil companies, which want a free rein to exploit Libya as they did in the past.

The ICC and Interpol don't just speak and act in the interests of the imperialist countries, all of them former colonial oppressors. These organizations are tools of the ruling capitalist classes in those countries. They do not in any way represent the interests of the workers in the U.S. or Europe, although they would like to be seen as fair, impartial, neutral, apolitical and all the rest. Doesn't Interpol's constitution say it can't be political or military? Yet what is more political and military than aiding in the physical destruction of a government?

Contemporary events cannot be understood without knowing that there is no such thing as "justice" in the abstract. Society is divided into classes, and nations are divided between oppressors and oppressed.

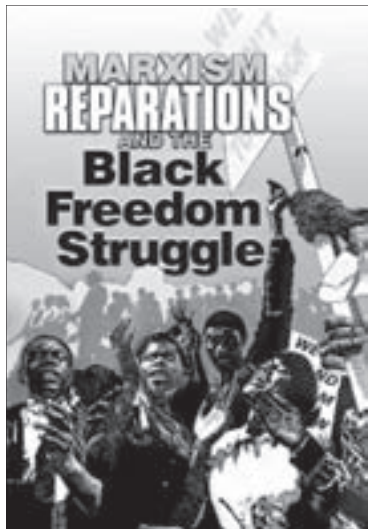
The "justice" meted out by these so-called international organizations is imperialist justice that puts the oppressed into the dock while allowing the oppressors to walk free.

What the people of the world need — those who toil every day or can't even find work in this bankrupt capitalist global economy — is to break free from the institutions dominated by finance capital so they can erect a society that metes out truly human justice — and puts above all by guaranteeing the human rights to food, health, shelter, work and education. These are the human rights that are being violated right now, in every capitalist country, on a massive scale, without a word of reproach from the "International" Criminal Court or the "International" Criminal Police Organization, Interpol. □

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## In Italy and Spain:

# Workers strike back against attacks

By Gene Clancy

Unions mounted a general strike in Italy in 100 cities and organized mass protests in Spain on Sept. 6 as they battled government efforts to solve Europe's debt crisis on the backs of the workers.

Parts of Italy's public transport network ground to a halt, and the strike closed major attractions such as the Colosseum in Rome as tens of thousands of workers took to the streets across the country.

"We are on the edge of the abyss, we need responsible government," said CGIL union leader Susanna Camusso.

"We are striking against measures that are irresponsible and which put all of the burden on public sector workers," she told strikers in Rome. (BBC, Sept. 6)

And in Spain, whose jobless rate is the highest in the industrialized world at nearly 21 percent, unions were also taking to the streets in a show of force against a constitutional amendment which would require that the government balance its budget. So intent is Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero on placating the international financial markets, that he is planning to ram through the measure without even giving the Spanish people a chance to vote on it.

"We [have planned] a demonstration joined by thousands of people," Labour Union spokesman Luis María González said of the Spanish protests. "More than anything it is to demand a referendum."

In a speech on the same day as the demonstrations, the head of the World Bank kept up the pressure on European governments to get their economies back on track, saying their patience was running out. "We're reaching a key decision point for European leaders," Robert Zoellick said. (AFP Journal, Sept. 6)

And Italy received a stern warning from the head of the European Central Bank to stick to its austerity plan after Prime Min-

ister Silvio Berlusconi, suffering from an all-time low approval rating, showed signs of compromising.

Jean-Claude Trichet told a forum in northern Italy that sticking to the plan was "absolutely decisive" to Italy's credit worthiness. Italy's austerity plan also calls for a balanced budget.

Apart from the protest in Rome, more than 10,000 were taking part in an anti-austerity demonstration in Florence, and marches were underway in Genoa and other towns and cities across Italy.

The eight-hour strike caused major disruptions to public transport, with airlines, trains, buses and ferries announcing cancellations and delays.

The strike was also affecting hospitals and postal services. Schools were unaffected, with classes yet to begin for the year.

Red balloons bearing the union logo floated above the march, which was awash with banners calling for rejection of the draft plan. "Change the austerity plan to give the country a future," read one. (New York Times, Sept. 7)

Berlusconi's government adopted the draft austerity plan on Aug. 12 in a bid to bring Italy's budget into balance in 2013 instead of 2014, as had been planned earlier.

As in Spain, these "balanced budget" measures are galling to workers, who have witnessed massive government bailouts for giant banks and massive unemployment. They are clearly an attempt to force poor and working people to pay for the current world economic crisis.

The governments of Spain and Italy showed which side they were on the day after the demonstrations. They both passed the repressive, undemocratic and economically crushing austerity measures. These steps have left the financial crisis unresolved while undercutting the workers, drawing larger sections of the working class into struggle. □

## Brussels, Paris demos hit NATO war on Libya

In an important political event condemning the NATO war on Libya and the role of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who initiated the bombing of Libya last March, some 300 people, including many youths, met at Republic Square in Paris on Sept. 3. Representing many political points of view, they created a space for friendly debate opposing the war. It was the first public protest in Paris on this issue and included people who had been to Libya and witnessed the truth of the war. Their reports were drastically different from the false picture presented by the Western corporate media, as reported to Workers World by members of France's communist committees.

A day earlier in Brussels, where the headquarters of NATO is located, more than 100 people gathered at the Central Railway Station to protest the war on Libya, called by the anti-imperialist movement Intal and Comac, the youth movement of the Workers Party of Belgium. The group set up a fake model of the bomb that the Belgian F-16s have been dropping on the Libyan people to draw attention of passersby, who were asked to sign a petition demanding the immediate withdrawal of Belgian bombers



PHOTO: MATHABA

Young people in Paris holding pictures of civilians killed by NATO bombings.

from NATO aggression. Speakers included Belgians active in the anti-imperialist movement and representatives of African and Middle Eastern countries.

Like Cynthia McKinney's tour in the United States, these actions are important as they publicly confront a wave of ruling-class propaganda that distorts the truth about the imperialist campaign to reconquer the African country.

— John Catalinotto

## As Pentagon confirms its role

# Libya intensifies resistance to occupation

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

Resistance by the loyalist forces in Libya has escalated with major clashes between supporters of the Gadhafi government and the U.S.-NATO financed rebel National Transitional Council. For over two weeks the Western-backed leadership along with the imperialists have been pressuring the people of Bani Walid to surrender and allow the seizure of their city of 100,000 people in the western region of this oil-producing North African state.

After failing to convince the city's leadership to give in to the neocolonial aims of the NTC and their backers, several attempts by the rebels and NATO to attack Bani Walid and its environs have been repelled by the armed organization of the people. In these recent skirmishes, it was revealed that the Libyan military still maintains the capability to engage in both offensive and defensive operations.

Prior to the attempt to enter Bani Walid, the armed forces of Libya shelled with grad rockets the positions of the NTC rebels outside the city. When rebel units approached the northern entrance of the town, they were hit by additional mortar rounds and sniper fire.

After the withdrawal from the areas approaching Bani Walid, the NTC rebels set out to reinforce their units in the approach to Sirte, the western coastal city that is a strong area of support to President Gadhafi. The effort to approach Sirte was also met with stiff resistance by the loyalist forces, prompting the rebels to retreat 125 kilometers from the city.

The prevention of the rebels from entering these areas exposes the falsehood that the Libyan government does not have continuing support inside the country. Prior to the invasion of Tripoli, demonstrations of millions of people came out in support of the government and in opposition to the U.S.-NATO war.

NATO escalated its bombing operations over both Bani Walid and Sirte in the days leading up to the expiration of the deadline given to the people to surrender. There were reports that NATO advised the rebels to withdraw pending additional air strikes against the loyalists in these cities still under government control.

Additional offensive operations by the loyalists against the U.S.-NATO war in the country included the Sept. 12 bold attack on the oil port at Ras Lanuf, a major focal point of the war over the last seven months. It was reported that 17 NTC rebels were killed in the attack that came after the workers set fire to sections of the refinery as an act of sabotage against the imperialist plan to steal vast amounts of oil from the state that prior to the war produced 1.5 million barrels per day of high grade crude.

On the same day, there were attacks against rebel NTC forces at the airport outside Tripoli where explosions were heard in the distance. During this same time period there was an escalation in sniper fire against NTC elements

throughout Tripoli.

Even the New York Times admitted that "Abdulrahman Busin, a spokesman for the council's military operations, said the attack on Ras Lanuf was apparently a response to news that the council had taken steps to restart oil production, which had been one of the country's major contributors of income before the conflict. He said that forces allied with the council were still fighting loyalists to bring an industrial area in Ras Lanuf back under control." (Sept. 12)

### U.S. admits greater role amid NATO continuation of war

As the war in Libya escalated following the beginning of the rebel attacks on Feb. 17 in Benghazi and other areas in the east of the country, it has been revealed that the U.S. and the NATO countries have organized, financed and coordinated the actions and movements of the rebel NTC. The White House dispatched Central Intelligence Agency operatives to Libya to provide assistance to the counterrevolution.

It was reported during this same period earlier on in the war that British MI-6 agents and Special Forces were involved in the fighting as well as Special Forces units from the U.S.-backed military in neighboring Egypt as well as Qatar in the Gulf. This direct ground intervention by the imperialist states and their allies illustrated the degree of importance that the ruling classes in these various Western countries placed on the efforts to seize control of Libya, its waterways, national treasury and natural resources.

Moreover, further claims gave additional proof of the deployment on the ground of U.S. military units. Despite consistent reports that U.S. forces had been spotted in the theater of war, the Pentagon has repeatedly denied these allegations.

However: "The Defense Department says it has four troops in Libya — only the second time since the U.S. became involved there that it has acknowledged having any military personnel on the ground. The first time was in March when Marines rescued an Air Force pilot who had ejected over eastern Libya." (Associated Press, Sept. 12)

Although Navy Capt. John Kirby, a spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, indicated that the military personnel were only in Libya to investigate the possibility of the reopening of the U.S. embassy in Tripoli, in all likelihood this is part of a much broader strategy for greater Pentagon deployment inside the country. Why should the Libyan people or the international community accept these denials by Washington when the Business Insider noted, "[This] admission contradicts the Obama administration's repeated assertions at the outset of the Libyan military intervention that no U.S. forces would be deployed to the North African nation?" (Sept. 12)

This same publication later commented, "American officials have previously acknowledged the presence of some CIA agents on the ground in Libya who were

reportedly helping coordinate NATO air strikes." The Pentagon and the CIA also supplied the predator drones which were utilized to identify targets and to hit Libyan positions on the ground.

At the same time, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has stressed that the military alliance will continue its operations in Libya for the foreseeable future. During the course of the war against Libya, there have been over 20,000 sorties and approximately 8,000 bombings.

In response to the increased resistance against the U.S.-NATO war policy in Libya, Rasmussen said: "We have seen also during this weekend that remnants of Gadhafi's regime still constitute a threat to the civilian population. We stand ready to continue our operations as long as necessary." (Xinhua, Sept. 12) The NATO countries and their allies have hosted several conferences aimed at expropriating the wealth of Libya, with over \$120 billion in foreign assets having been frozen over the last several months.

### Divisions among rebels and further revelations of atrocities

Already among the rebel forces there are deep divisions that may very well provide a false rationale for a large-scale military intervention by the imperialist states. There were reports that 12 rebels were killed by infighting among disparate units in two towns on the eastern edge of the Nafusa Mountains. (Tripoli Post, Sept. 9)

Other reports indicate fissures between the NTC rebel fighting units and the politicians that are invited to the conferences in Western capitals, where they are hailed as the new leadership of the country. Even among the NTC spokespersons, there are deep differences based on political outlook and distrust between the Islamists, monarchists, government defectors and the longtime CIA-trained groups that have opposed the Gadhafi government since the 1980s.

In addition, there are daily reports of atrocities being committed by the rebels against Black Libyans and Africans from other countries on the continent. Hundreds of Nigerians and Ghanaians are locked up in prisons inside Libya along with dark-skinned nationals who are perceived by the reactionaries and their NATO supporters as loyalists.

Some 20 Nigerian nationals were alleged to have been found executed outside the Gadhafi compound in Tripoli that was overrun by the NTC forces during the first week of the invasion of the capital. These acts of racism and genocide have played a significant part in preventing the African Union from recognizing the NTC as the legitimate government of Libya despite tremendous economic and political pressure from the imperialist states.

Perhaps one of the most shocking sto-

ries to come out of Libya was revealed by former U.S. Rep. Walter Fauntroy, a former civil rights activist and aide to the martyred Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fauntroy, who travelled to Libya during earlier days of the war seeking to mediate a peace agreement between the U.S.-NATO forces and the Gadhafi government, said that he witnessed the beheading of people by Special Forces units from the NATO countries. (mathaba.net, Sept. 9)

Even moderate states in Africa such as Kenya are demanding the withholding of recognition of the NTC by the international community. Kenya's Embassy was specifically targeted during the invasion of Tripoli and the foreign ministry has stressed that until there is a clear-cut plan for a transition to a representative government in Libya, the NTC should not be given diplomatic standing.

Meanwhile on Sept. 12, amid the escalation of resistance against the U.S.-NATO war against his country, leader Moammar Gadhafi issued a statement over Arrai TV based in Syria. Gadhafi called upon the Libyan people to resist the imposition of NTC rule over Libya and reiterated that the rebels were agents of imperialism.

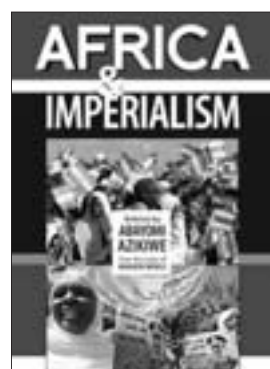
### Oppose war against Libya

It is essential that the anti-war and peace movements inside the U.S. and the other NATO countries openly oppose the imperialist plot to destroy and seize Libya. There is no such thing as a good war of neocolonization and occupation.

The lessons of Afghanistan and Iraq prove clearly that the conditions for the majority of people living under a U.S. occupation will inevitably worsen. The deterioration of the social conditions of people living under imperialist rule, either direct or indirect, will lead to greater military intervention and consequent mass deaths and destruction.

Anti-war forces must demand imperialist hands off the national wealth of the Libyan people. The war against Libya is the first full operational mission of the U.S. Africa Command (Africom), which was established by the Pentagon in 2008 to increase military intervention on the continent. With the reliance of the U.S. ruling class on the oil exports and mineral resources of the African continent, there will be greater calls from the bourgeoisie to engage in efforts aimed at further regime change following the same pattern set in Ivory Coast by France and in Libya by a collective of imperialist states led by the U.S.

Activists concerned with global peace and development should demand the dismantling of Africom and the withdrawal of all U.S. military involvement on the African continent. Africa's affairs must be the exclusive purview of the African people, bear the brunt of imperialist intervention and occupation. □



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## U.S. hands off Libya!

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## → ¡Cero empleos! La crisis de los/as trabajadores/as se agrava — Es hora de luchar

Por Fred Goldstein

La economía capitalista se encaminó hacia una crisis renovada cuando el gobierno estadounidense anunció que no se crearon nuevos empleos en el mes de agosto. Esta desastrosa noticia para los/as 30 millones de trabajadores/as desempleados/as y subempleados/as en los EE.UU. llega en el contexto de una amenazante desaceleración económica mundial.

Además de las cifras del cero crecimiento de empleos en agosto, la cantidad de puestos de trabajo creados para los meses de junio y julio fue revisada y rebajada por un total de 58.000. La cifra de cero empleos es parte de una tendencia de desaceleración.

Mientras que esto es una mala noticia para los/as desempleados/as, quienes están trabajando también recibieron un golpe en agosto. Cuanto mayor es el desempleo, mayor será la presión sobre los/as trabajadores/as que aún tienen empleo. Esta presión se manifiesta en las últimas estadísticas.

Las horas trabajadas semanalmente se redujeron de 34,3 a 34,2 horas, mientras que el salario por hora se redujo en un promedio de 3 centavos de dólar. Estas cifras parecen pequeñas, pero sumándose llegan a una disminución promedio de los salarios semanales de casi un 5 por ciento sobre una base anual.

Además, hubo un aumento de 430.000 trabajadores/as “involuntarios a tiempo parcial” — trabajadores/as que necesitan un empleo a tiempo completo pero tienen que trabajar a tiempo parcial, ya sea porque les pusieron pocas horas o porque era lo único que los empresarios estaban ofreciendo a los/as nuevos/as empleados/as.

Los patronos se alegran con el desempleo masivo debido a la competencia que genera entre los/as trabajadores/as, por lo que es más fácil recortar los salarios, acelerar el ritmo de trabajo, recortar los beneficios y por lo tanto exprimir más y más ganancias del sudor de los/as obreros/as. Y lo más importante, mientras más alto es el nivel de desempleo, mayor será la amenaza para los sindicatos, ya que tanto la compañía como el gobierno ponen en la mira los contratos sindicales, a sabiendas de que las huelgas son difíciles de llevar a cabo durante los períodos de alto desempleo.

Los efectos racistas del desempleo quedaron dramatizados de nuevo en agosto, cuando la tasa de desempleo para los/as afroamericanos/as oficialmente alcanzó el 16,7 por ciento, mientras que para los/as latinos/as fue del 11,3 por ciento. Cu-

ando nos fijamos en el número de trabajadores/as que han abandonado la fuerza de trabajo y no se cuentan en las estadísticas de desempleo, los porcentajes de trabajadores/as oprimidos/as sin trabajo son mucho mayores.

Dos años después de la recuperación sin empleo, una nueva crisis se está formando. Ya llevamos más de dos años en la llamada “recuperación”. El sistema de ganancias capitalista, el llamado “libre mercado”, ha dejado a decenas de millones de personas sin empleo a tiempo completo. La tasa de pobreza va en aumento, una sexta parte de la población sufre de hambre, incluyendo una cuarta parte de los/as niños/as; millones de personas enfrentan ejecuciones hipotecarias y desalojos.

Ahora, encima de esta recuperación sin empleos viene la amenaza de una nueva ola de despidos. El crecimiento de la economía de EE.UU. se redujo al 1 por ciento en el primer semestre de este año. De hecho, todo el capitalismo mundial está desacelerándose, ya sea en Europa, incluyendo Alemania, Francia e Inglaterra; en Asia, incluyendo Japón, Corea del Sur, India y China; o en América Latina, incluyendo su economía más grande, Brasil.

### El crecimiento económico y los/as trabajadores/as bajo el capitalismo

La cuestión del crecimiento económico es crucial para la condición de la clase trabajadora. Bajo el capitalismo, los/as obreros/as tienen sólo dos condiciones con respecto a los puestos de trabajo: el/la trabajador/a está explotado/a por un patrono capitalista o por algún estrato del gobierno y por lo tanto tiene un empleo, o el/la trabajador/a está desempleado/a. No hay término medio.

El crecimiento de la producción capitalista significa que se necesitan más obreros/as para ser explotados/as y los servicios tienen que expandirse. De esta forma los/as trabajadores/as tienen puestos de trabajo, aunque cada vez más estos trabajos son de bajos salarios, a tiempo parcial o temporeros.

La contracción del crecimiento capitalista significa que los/as trabajadores/as no son necesitados/as por los patronos y por lo tanto son despedidos/as. Los ingresos del gobierno disminuyen, pero los bancos continúan exigiendo a estos gobiernos sus intereses y su principal y los gastos militares continúan por millones de millones, por lo que los/as trabajadores/as gubernamentales son despedidos/as.

La amenaza más reciente y más amena-

zante para los/as trabajadores/as del gobierno viene del Servicio Postal de Estados Unidos que amenaza con despedir a 120.000 trabajadores/as, cerrar más de 3.000 oficinas de correos y deshacerse de otros/as 100.000 trabajadores/as al no reemplazar los/as que se jubilen o dejen el empleo por otras razones.

### Sobreproducción y desempleo

¿Por qué se está desacelerando el crecimiento del capitalismo en EE.UU.? Los patronos están sentados en 2 millones de millones de dólares en efectivo. ¿Por qué no están contratando sino despidiendo? No es por la incertidumbre, como afirman sus apologistas; tampoco por las regulaciones gubernamentales.

Es a causa de la contradicción fundamental del mismo capitalismo — la sobreproducción. La producción capitalista crece cada vez más rápido al los patronos utilizar más tecnología, aumentar el ritmo de producción de cada trabajador/a, subcontratar y producir en el exterior en búsqueda de más ganancias. Cada vez más trabajadores/as, no sólo en EE.UU. sino en el mundo entero, producen más y más en menos tiempo con salarios cada vez más bajos.

El salario que reciben los/as trabajadores/as no sólo no aumenta, sino que disminuye, mientras la producción de mercancías que deben ser vendidas obteniendo ganancias se expande a un ritmo galopante. El poder de consumo del pueblo se eleva a paso de tortuga o efectivamente disminuye.

Mientras más tecnología usen los patronos, menos trabajadores/as necesitan. Hay 131 millones de trabajadores/as en nómina actualmente, lo que es menos que el número de trabajadores/as en nómina en el año 2000. Hoy la economía estadounidense está al mismo nivel de producción que estuvo en 2007, antes de que explotara la burbuja inmobiliaria y la crisis económica golpeará al mundo.

Eso significa que los patronos necesitan al menos de 10 a 11 millones menos trabajadores hoy que hace cuatro años. Esto es debido a la tecnología capitalista eliminadora de empleos y a la globalización del sistema de explotación de bajos salarios.

### ¡Demandemos un programa gubernamental masivo de empleos!

El presidente Obama pronunció un discurso sobre empleos hace pocos días. Este discurso no propuso ningún programa que puede hacer retroceder el desastre del desempleo en este país. La única manera para comenzar a tratar el desempleo ma-

sivo, el cual empeorará si hay una nueva desaceleración, es lanzar un programa masivo de empleos por el gobierno.

Tiene que ser a escala de la Administración de Progreso de Obras (WPA por sus siglas en inglés) establecida bajo la administración de Roosevelt durante la Gran Depresión. Siete millones de trabajadores/as fueron empleados/as para construir desde diques hasta puentes, parques, escuelas y carreteras; crearon arte, escribieron obras de teatro, plantaron árboles y realizaron trabajos socialmente útiles.

En esos días, al igual que hoy, los patronos no empleaban a nadie porque en una depresión no podían aumentar sus ganancias vendiendo lo producido. La gente estaba sin dinero y no podía comprar nada. Pero bajo la presión de manifestaciones masivas sobre el desempleo, huelgas generales y tomas de fábricas, el gobierno federal fue forzado a convertirse en el empleador principal. Los edificios de los gobiernos estatales y las alcaldías se convirtieron en centros de trabajo. Las millones de personas que querían trabajar consiguieron trabajo.

Al amenazar una nueva crisis, la única posibilidad de mitigar una nueva ola de desempleos y revertir lo sucedido, es lanzando una lucha masiva por empleos o ingresos y servicios a todos los niveles del gobierno — federal, estatal y local. Los/as Republicanos/as están abiertamente contra una resolución de la crisis, mientras que el Partido Demócrata también está aliado al Wall Street y no ha propuesto nada para atacar la crisis.

Los dos partidos y el gobierno a todos los niveles están diciendo que no tienen dinero. Pero el debate sobre el llamado déficit es un debate falso. Los/as trabajadores/as, las comunidades, los/as jóvenes y los/as estudiantes deben venir primero.

El derecho de los/as trabajadores/as a un empleo, a la alimentación, a la vivienda y a la educación es un derecho fundamental, superior a los derechos de millonarios y multimillonarios; superior al derecho de los banqueros a vivir de los fondos públicos; superior al derecho del complejo militar-industrial a enriquecerse con ganancias de guerra mientras extienden guerras de conquista y ocupación.

Una lucha masiva por una clase trabajadora movilizadora en las calles y los lugares de empleo por doquier puede empezar a soltar el dinero de las bolsas de dinero de la clase dominante capitalista. Esta es la única manera de hacer retroceder esta crisis.

A largo plazo, aún un programa de empleos del gobierno bajo el capitalismo solamente puede ser una cura temporera. La WPA no superó la depresión; el desempleo masivo prevaleció hasta la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

La única solución permanente para la crisis de desempleo es eliminar totalmente el sistema de ganancias y hacer que la economía sirva para cubrir las necesidades humanas y no la avaricia humana. La distribución de la riqueza creada por la clase trabajadora debe hacerse en base a la necesidad social y económica. Eso se llama socialismo y funciona mejor donde el nivel de productividad es alto que es exactamente donde se descompone el capitalismo. □

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