

WORKERS WORLD



Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

workers.org

Sept. 5, 2013

Vol. 55, No. 34

\$1

Coast-to-coast protests to say STOP U.S. war on SYRIA

By John Catalinotto

Aug. 27 — Without presenting even a hint of proof of Washington's allegations that Syria has used poison gas, Secretary of State John Kerry has announced that a rocket attack on the sovereign state of Syria from four U.S. destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean is imminent.

Each destroyer deploys 90 cruise missiles, so even a time-limited attack would cause enormous damage.

This blatant and illegal threat, supported only by Washington's co-criminals in London and Paris — the former colonial powers in the Middle East — drew an immediate angry reaction from anti-war organizations around the world and in the U.S. itself.

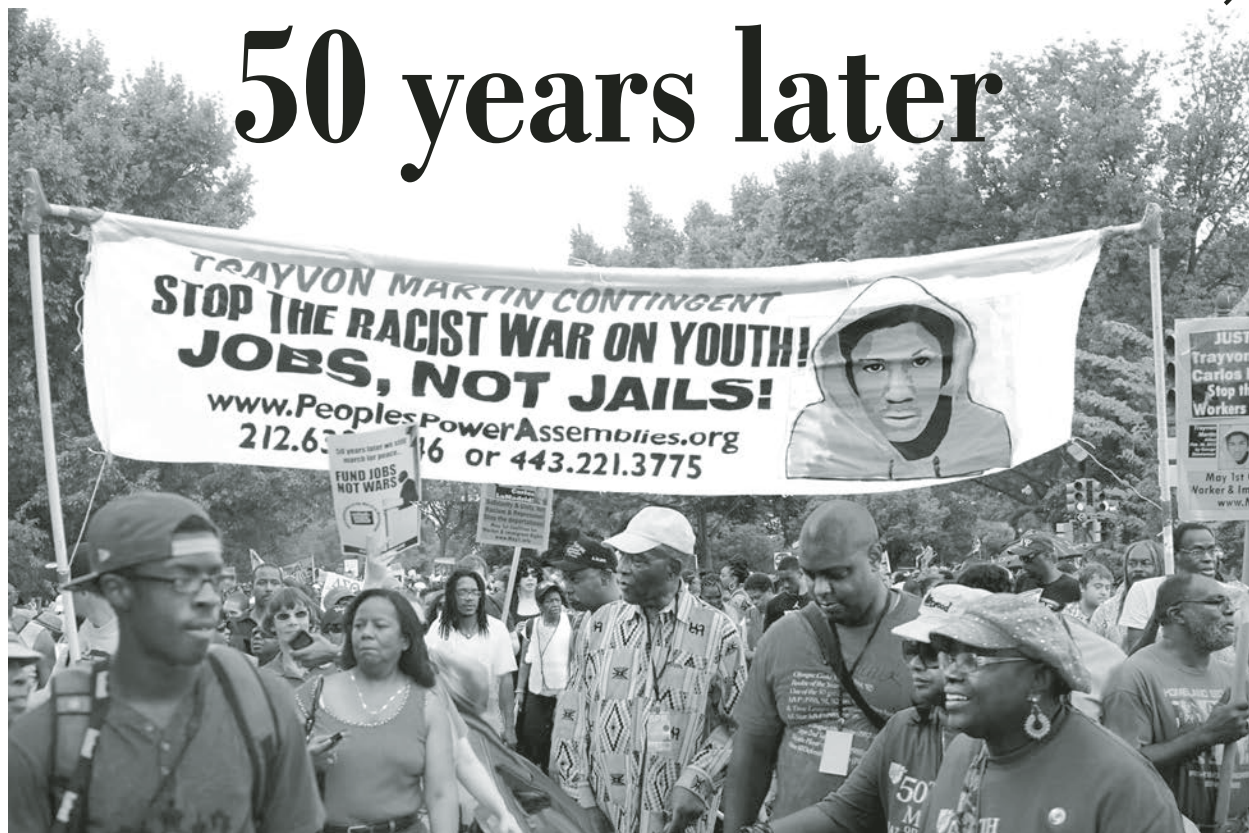
The International Action Center, the United National Antiwar Coalition and the Answer Coalition issued statements condemning U.S. war moves and calling for protest demonstrations to stop the missile attack, plus others to be held on the "day of" or "day after" the attack. The Antiwar Committee in Chicago, Arab Americans for Syria in LA, Syrian American Forum of New Jersey, Women Against Military Madness in Minneapolis, are moving.

Code Pink has called a protest during Obama's MLK Aug. 28 speech, gathering at 10 a.m. at 12th & Constitution. Protests have already been set for New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dearborn, Mich. and some Florida cities.

Kerry's announcement sounded like words of the Queen in "Alice in Wonderland": sentence first, verdict afterwards. He completely dismissed the Syrian government's cooperation with the United Nations investigation team on the ground there that was proceeding to examine the facts, saying it was "too little, too late."

To the anti-war forces in the U.S., Kerry's haste is just another sign that the imperialist powers had already decided to wage war on Syria. Last week's alleged "nerve gas" attack on the outskirts of Damascus gives every indication of being an operation by the imperialists and their agents in the Syrian opposition. President Barack Obama's statement a year ago that a nerve gas attack would be "a

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 50 years later



Trayvon Martin was on the minds of many in Washington, Aug. 24. See p. 5.

WWPHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

red line in the sand" for a U.S. intervention made it clear what those looking for a pretext for intervention had to do.

Few believe the imperialists

Despite the imperialist media's knee-jerk reaction of rallying around the flag, a majority of the U.S. population — 60 percent in a recent Reuters-Ipsos poll — opposes intervention in Syria and 89 percent opposes arming the "rebels." There is even some debate among imperialist analysts. In addition, Russia, Iran, China and other countries' governments have spoken out against a new aggressive attack. This one doesn't even have the ac-

quiescence of the United Nations Security Council.

The anti-war groups in the U.S. say they are certain that the imperialist establishment is again lying. Why? Because they have lied so often before — and have been caught at it. (See editorial, page 6.)

For the 1999 air war on Yugoslavia, the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the 2011 air war on Libya, wild charges of genocide and weapons of mass destruction — all later proved false — were raised as pretexts for imperialist intervention, say the war opponents.

Instead of quietly accepting yet another U.S. aggression in the interests of the

profit-hungry corporations and banks, the IAC-Solidarity Center in Baltimore has called a meeting to plan protest actions in Baltimore, Columbia and Frederick, Md., and a regional demonstration in Washington, D.C.

Follow developments in the D.C. region on Facebook at tinyurl.com/1876rel.

In New York, the IAC has called a demonstration for Times Square at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29.

Follow the IAC at iacenter.org.

Follow UNAC at unacpeace.org for a listing of all actions.

Subscribe to Workers World

4 weeks trial \$4 1 year subscription \$30

Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program. workers.org/supporters/donate

Name _____ Email _____

Street _____ Phone _____

City / State / Zip _____

WORKERS WORLD

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, New York, NY 10011

workers.org 212.627.2994

DETROIT:
Battle to keep
pensions 3

PHILADELPHIA:
Struggle to
save schools 4

EDITORIAL:
Fight to free
Chelsea
Manning 6

Workers strike in AFRICA 5

WWP visits PEOPLE'S KOREA 7

A brief history of 'marriage'

WORKERS WORLD
this week...

For women, agricultural revolution was counterrevolution

By Bob McCubbin

How, in the view of 19th-century anthropologist Lewis Henry Morgan, did early human society based on mother right, or matrilineality and matrilocality, become patrilineal and patriarchal?

For his explanation in "Ancient Society," Morgan drew on his knowledge of the evolution that resulted in Grecian and Latin patriarchal clans: "[Matrilineal clans] possessed the following among other characteristics: 1. Marriage in the gens [clan] was prohibited; thus placing children in a different gens from that of their reputed father. 2. Property and the office of chief were hereditary in the gens; thus excluding children from inheriting the property or succeeding to the office of their reputed father. This state of things would continue until a motive arose sufficiently general and commanding to establish the injustice of this exclusion in the face of their changed condition.

"The natural remedy was a change of descent from the female to the male. All that was needed to effect this change was an adequate motive. After domestic animals began to be reared in flocks and herds, becoming thereby a source of subsistence as well as objects of individual property, and after tillage had led to the ownership of houses and lands in severalty [property owned by individual right, not held in common], an antagonism would be certain to arise against the prevailing form of gentile inheritance, because it excluded the owner's children, whose paternity was becoming more assured, and gave his property to his gentile kindred.

"A contest for a new rule of inheritance, shared in by fathers and their children, would furnish a motive sufficiently powerful to effect the change. With property accumulating in masses and assuming permanent forms, and with an increased proportion of it held by individual ownership, descent in the female line was certain of overthrow, and the substitution of the male line assured." (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985 ["a direct photographic reproduction of the corrected 1878 edition"], pp. 345-46)

Monogamous marriage, material surplus & private property

Along with a change in the line of descent, a new form of marriage emerged in the realm of social/sexual relations. Frederick Engels writes in "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State": "[Monogamous marriage] is based on the supremacy of the man, the express purpose being to produce children of undisputed paternity; such paternity is demanded because these children are later to come into their father's property as his natural heirs. It is distinguished from pairing marriage by the much greater strength of the marriage tie, which can no longer be dissolved at either partner's wish. As a rule, it is now only the man who can dissolve it and put away his wife." (New York: International Publishers, 1972, p. 125)

Engels continues, "[Monogamous marriage] was not in any way the fruit of individual sex love, with which it had nothing whatever to do. ... It was the first form of the family to be based not on natural but on economic conditions — on the victory of private property over primitive, natural communal property. ... When monogamous marriage first makes its appearance in history, it is not as the

reconciliation of man and woman, still less as the highest form of such a reconciliation.

"Quite the contrary, monogamous marriage comes on the scene as the subjugation of the one sex by the other; it announces a struggle between the sexes unknown throughout the whole previous prehistoric period. In an old unpublished manuscript written by Marx and myself in 1846, I find the words: 'The first division of labor is that between man and woman for the propagation of children.' And today I can add: The first class opposition that appears in history coincides with the development of the antagonism between man and woman in monogamous marriage, and the first class oppression coincides with that of the female sex by the male." (pp. 128-29)

Further along in "Origins," Engels elaborates on the ramifications of the sexual division of labor following the introduction of material surplus: "The 'savage' warrior and hunter had been content to take second place in the house, after the woman; the 'gentler' shepherd, in the arrogance of his wealth, pushed himself forward into the first place and the woman down into the second. ... The division of labor within the family had regulated the division of property between the man and the woman. That division of labor had remained the same; and yet it now turned the previous domestic relation upside down simply because the division of labor outside the family had changed." (p. 221) Engels is referring, of course, to the man's effective possession and control of the agricultural surplus: the animal herds and stores of grain.

The sexual counterrevolution

Engels notes, "Together with slavery and private wealth, [monogamous marriage] opens the period that has lasted until today in which every step forward is also relatively a step backward, in which prosperity and development for some is won through the misery and frustration of others." (p. 129)

What was the nature of this "misery and frustration"? Engels discusses at length how the imposition of monogamy meant a serious restriction on women's sexual rights, but for men, he observes, it has been a frequently ignored or disregarded obstacle. But much more than women's sexual rights was lost: "The overthrow of mother right was the 'world historic defeat of the female sex.' The man took command in the home also; the woman was degraded and reduced to servitude; she became the slave of his lust and a mere instrument for the production of children." (pp. 120-21) The bitter truth described by these words has almost global confirmation in the recorded histories of women's lives on every populated continent.

In the book "Feminism and Marxism," Workers World Party founder and leader Dorothy Ballan provided important ideological outreach to the burgeoning U.S. women's movement of several decades ago when she wrote, "The origin of the word 'family' meant slave, and the family included a man, his wife, children and slaves. The women were acquired into this economic unit for the purpose of procreating heirs to whom to bequeath private property — and as such, the family served the interests of the possessing class.

"This was the real origin of the family. When social

Continued on page 3

★ In the U.S.

A brief history of marriage, part 14 2
 Detroit retirees fight pension theft 3
 Buffalo, N.Y.: War and fracking protested 3
 Ralph Poynter visits Mumia 3
 Philadelphia protesters fight for public schools' future 4
 Kelvin X. Morris: Justice delayed is justice denied 4
 50th anniversary rally renews
 call for jobs and freedom 5

★ Around the world

Stop U.S. war on Syria 1
 Workers' strikes span Africa 5
 What workers need to know about Korea 7
 Events to demand freedom for Cuban 5 7

★ Editorials

Stop U.S. aggression on Syria! 6
 Fight to free Chelsea Manning 6

★ Noticias en Español

Solidaridad con inmigrantes 8
 Editorial: Siria 8

Workers World
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
 New York, N.Y. 10011
 Phone: 212.627.2994
 E-mail: ww@workers.org
 Web: www.workers.org
 Vol. 55, No. 35 • Sept. 5, 2013
 Closing date: Aug. 27, 2013
 Editor: Deirdre Griswold
 Technical Editors: Lal Roohk, Andy Katz
 Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,
 Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead,
 Gary Wilson
 West Coast Editor: John Parker
 Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe,
 Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel,
 Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales,
 Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash,
 Milt Neidenberg, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt,
 Gloria Rubac
 Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Keith Fine, Bob McCubbin
 Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez,
 Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martínez,
 Carlos Vargas
 Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2013 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.
 Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.
 A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.
 Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
 Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
 New York, N.Y. 10011.

JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young & old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed, undocumented & students.
 If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
 New York, NY 10011
 212.627.2994
 ww@workers.org
Atlanta
 P.O. Box 5565
 Atlanta, GA 30307
 404.627.0185
 atlanta@workers.org
Baltimore
 c/o Solidarity Center
 2011 N. Charles St.
 Baltimore, MD 21218
 443.221.3775
 baltimore@workers.org
Bay Area
 1305 Franklin St. #411
 Oakland, CA 94612
 510.600.5800
 bayarea@workers.org

Boston
 284 Amory St.
 Boston, MA 02130
 617.286.6574
 boston@workers.org
Buffalo, N.Y.
 367 Delaware Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14202
 716.883.2534
 buffalo@workers.org
Chicago
 27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
 Chicago, IL 60606
 chicago@workers.org
 312.229.0161
Cleveland
 P.O. Box 5963
 Cleveland, OH 44101
 216.738.0320
 cleveland@workers.org
Denver
 denver@workers.org

Detroit
 5920 Second Ave.
 Detroit, MI 48202
 313.459.0777
 detroit@workers.org
Durham, N.C.
 804 Old Fayetteville St.
 Durham, NC 27701
 919.322.9970
 durham@workers.org
Houston
 P.O. Box 3454
 Houston, TX 77253-3454
 713.503.2633
 houston@workers.org
Los Angeles
 5278 W Pico Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90019
 la@workers.org
 323.306.6240
Milwaukee
 milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
 P.O. Box 34249
 Philadelphia, PA 19101
 610.931.2615
 phila@workers.org
Pittsburgh
 pittsburgh@workers.org
Rochester, N.Y.
 585.436.6458
 rochester@workers.org
Rockford, IL
 rockford@workers.org
San Diego
 P.O. Box 33447
 San Diego, CA 92163
 619.692.0355
 sandiego@workers.org
Tucson, Ariz.
 tucson@workers.org
Washington, D.C.
 P.O. Box 57300
 Washington, DC 20037
 dc@workers.org

Detroit retirees fight pension theft

Detroit Workers World Bureau

On Aug. 19, the largest turnout yet protested Detroit's bankruptcy proceedings. More than 200 retirees and their supporters protested outside the federal courthouse for hours while motions were being presented inside to Federal Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union—Council 25 called the demonstration and the rank-and-file group, Stop Theft of Our Pensions Committee (STOPC), gave it strong support. Retirees — some in wheelchairs or with walkers or canes — represented former bus drivers, clerks, police and water department employees, and other positions.

Signs and chants demanded, "Hands off our pensions! Make the banks pay!" and "Stop debt service to the banks that destroyed Detroit!" It was clear to all that the bankruptcy filing was designed to pay off the banks by gutting pensions, city jobs and city services. A giant banner proclaimed, "Cancel Detroit's debt — the banks owe us!"



Chicago unionists join Detroit activists to protest the banks.

WW PHOTO: ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

On Aug. 16, attorney Jerome Goldberg filed an objection — on behalf of David Sole, a STOPC organizer — to the city of Detroit's motion that would exempt a large part of Detroit's debt from the bankruptcy judge's scrutiny. Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr had entered into a "Forbearance Agreement" with some large banks on July 15.

The objection states: "The Interest Rate Swaps on Pension Obligation Certificates entered into by the City of Detroit with UBS and SBS/Bank of America constitute a drain of hundreds of millions of dollars to the banks from the City's budget with nothing positive for the City in return. Basically, the Interest Rate Swaps obligate the City of Detroit to pay UBS and Bank of America 6.323% interest on \$800 million in bonds, when the actual rate on the bonds is only 0.6056%."

The objection continues: "The banks, who ... presented this 'deal' as a beneficial one for the City, pocket the difference between the interest paid to them and the actual interest rate on the bonds, as clear profit, amounting to at least \$45.1 million a year [states] ... Orr's May 12, 2013 Financial and Operating Report or \$160 million since 2009."

Sole admits that no proof exists now of fraud or improper actions, but tells the judge: "It must be noted that recently executives from UBS's municipal bond division were sentenced to prison terms for their activities in connection with the municipal bond market. A former Bank of America executive was also indicted for participating in a conspiracy to defraud municipal bond investments.

"Both [BOA] and UBS have been implicated in the Libor scandal, which potentially affects the amounts the City of Detroit actually should have been paying on the bonds and swaps, as well as the 'ISDA fix' which potentially affects the calculations for termination fees associated with the Interest Rate Swaps. ... [B]oth [BOA] and UBS, as documented in

countless lawsuits and consent judgments with the federal government and state governments including Michigan, were major subprime lenders and participants in the illicit mortgage activity that precipitated a virtual financial collapse in 2008, and that especially implicated cities with large African-American populations like Detroit."

Furthermore, "The financial crisis that precipitated this Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing was [largely] a result of the effects of predatory lending by the banks against the residents of Detroit, which resulted in tens of thousands of foreclosures, ... a massive population decline and a precipitous decline in property values."

In a further attempt to expose big banks' criminality, STOPC retirees asked Michigan's Sen. Carl Levin to help get the Securities and Exchange Commission to intervene in the Detroit bankruptcy proceedings. Bankruptcy law gives the SEC authority to appear in any bankruptcy. Levin's U.S. Senate Investigations Subcommittee issued the Levin-Coburn Report on April 13, 2011, which was a scathing attack on banks for their criminal actions.

On Aug. 20, the bankruptcy court trustee reviewed 100 retirees' applications to participate in a court-authorized "Retirees Committee" to represent more than 20,000 retirees in these proceedings. This further eliminates the people of Michigan's democratic rights. The Emergency Manager was imposed immediately after voters overturned an Emergency Manager law in the November elections. Now a group of retirees, handpicked by the trustee, will be facing the banks and the court, which will pressure them to give up the workers' hard-won pensions.

STOPC has called for the "Retirees Committee" to regularly convene mass Retiree Assemblies to inform them of legal maneuvers and developments and allow them to discuss all proposals and instruct the "Retirees Committee" of their wishes.

Detroit's Moratorium NOW! Coalition's national call invites all banks' victims to come to Detroit on Oct. 5 and 6 for an International People's Assembly Against the Banks and Against Austerity. An Aug. 14 planning meeting attracted 50 groups and individuals. Organizers say the attack on Detroit — and especially on workers' pensions — is a test case and that if successful, will spread across the country. (moratorium-mi.org) □

War and fracking protested



A big, noisy demonstration met President Barack Obama when he visited the Buffalo campus of the State University of New York on Aug. 22. The crowd showed opposition to Obama's stand on fracking, the Keystone XL pipeline and U.S. intervention in the Middle East and North Af-

rica — and called for an end to drone attacks. Protesters also raised other critical issues, demanding rights for immigrants and Native Americans, freedom for Pvt. Chelsea Manning, full reproductive rights and health care for women, an end to executions, and more.

Report and photo by Ellie Dorritte

Continued from page 2

production became transformed into private production, the nature of the family changed from a socially cooperative foundation as it existed under the matriarchy to the private foundations of the patriarchy. ... The conversion of social property to private property eventually meant even the conversion of humans to private ownership.

"For primitive women, childbearing not only provided a greater impetus for her to participate in social production, but was virtually a form of social production itself. The husband had no authority over her, and she was never dependent upon him economically or materially.

"This became transformed into its opposite, with marriage and childbearing isolating and insulating women from social production, making her totally dependent on her husband, and reducing her to the role of procreation for inheri-

tance, and to the role of servant for [her] husband." (New York: World View Publishers, 1971, p. 16)

As we stressed at the beginning of Part 13 of this series, the so-called agricultural revolution, with the accompanying transition to patriarchal, class-divided society and "monogamous" marriage for the woman, was neither a quick nor a simple change. In the following several installments we will only be able to touch on some general aspects of this complex and prolonged counterrevolution of the social/sexual relations between men and women, a transformation based on the introduction of private property.

McCubbin is the author of "The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View," New York: World View Forum, 3rd ed., 1993. To order, send \$10 to World View Forum, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, N.Y., NY 10011 with name and address, or order from Amazon.com.

Ralph Poynter visits Mumia

By Dolores Cox

He's still glowing, days later. On Aug. 10, Ralph Poynter, spouse of "the people's lawyer," Lynne Stewart, visited Mumia Abu-Jamal in SCI Mahanoy Prison in Pennsylvania for the first time. Both Stewart and Abu-Jamal are political prisoners.

Lynne Stewart is dying in a Ft. Worth, Texas, federal prison. Her request for early "compassionate release" based on her stage-four cancer has been denied by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. And her request to have her ten-year barbaric sentence overturned due to her terminal illness was recently rejected by New York City Federal Judge John Koeltl, who imposed the sentence years ago.

Abu-Jamal is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for the murder of a Philadelphia cop, despite his innocence. He survived 30 years in solitary confinement and is currently in the general population.



WW PHOTO

Lynne Stewart with Ralph Poynter behind her at a Philadelphia rally in July 2002 when Mumia was on death row.

The people's long, protracted efforts helped win Mumia's release from death row. Any prison, however, is vicious and cruel. And inmates face conditions and repression that are deplorable. Restrictions and threats are meant to control and

Continued on page 6

Protesters fight for public schools' future

By Scott Williams
Philadelphia

Despite thunder and rain on Aug. 22, a flood of red T-shirt-wearing protesters overtook Philadelphia's Comcast Center, home to the world's 49th largest corporation and majority-owner of NBCUniversal. Nearly 3,000 city teachers, members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, supported by hundreds of students, parents and community members, descended on the corporate home of Philadelphia's elite. They demanded that a portion of Comcast's \$4 billion in profits go to the more than 130,000 children enrolled in the School District of Philadelphia.

School starts in two weeks, yet the District is still missing more than 3,500 employees, including all 127 assistant principals, 676 teachers, 283 counselors, 1,202 aides, 307 secretaries and 769 supportive service assistants. Twenty-four schools no longer exist. Even before the latest round of layoffs, budget cuts had devastated city schools. Eighty-six percent of nonteaching assistant positions were eliminated and 101 school nurses were laid off. There are now only 42 librarians for 249 schools, while only three out of four schools have a full-time music teacher.

The number of counselors, advisers and social service employees — before all were laid off this summer — had been cut in half in past years. Support services for children with disabilities and English language learners have also been faced with significant cutbacks and layoffs. (Fundphillyschools.org)

Yet on this day, marchers were hopeful. They left Comcast, passing City Hall and



PHOTO: PHILA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Youths join teachers to demand better schools.

ending up at School District headquarters, while chanting, "I believe that we will win!" PFT President Jerry Jordan defiantly said, "Now that our schools are officially in crisis mode, it's time for the city and state to meet their obligation to provide a quality public education for every child." (pa.aft.org) He maintained that he would not accept any concessions in current contract negotiations. School District leaders and Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Corbett expect the PFT to give up \$133 million in concessions.

Media escalate attacks on teachers' union

The media have been relentless in their attacks against the 15,000-member teachers' union and President Jordan. The Philadelphia Inquirer, the city's ruling-class paper, has published numerous attack pieces, such as the Aug. 25 editorial entitled "Crisis Requires Union

Action." Its premise is: "The teachers' union can't portray itself as just as victimized as students. The Philadelphia Federation of Teachers has consistently refused to indicate any willingness to make concessions. So it has no one to blame but itself for the School Reform Commission's decision to unilaterally take needed steps to address the crisis."

The School Reform Commission, the unelected group that makes all School District decisions, recently suspended laid-off teachers' seniority rights, as of Sept. 1, the day the union contract expires.

In a classic case of ruling class divide-and-conquer tactics, Philadelphia teachers have been portrayed as the problem, rather than Corbett, who has annually cut more than \$1 billion for education; this includes reductions of more than \$300 million from state contributions to Philadelphia schools.

Contract negotiations between the School District and the PFT are running out of time. The District is asking teachers to take a 15 percent pay cut with deep reductions in benefits and working conditions. The quality of education will undoubtedly suffer as teacher turnover jumps.

The attack on teachers is a coordinated assault on the country's second-most unionized job. Thirty-seven percent of teachers are union members, second to government workers. Corbett and all the politicians who zealously seek to demolish the public sector also aim to destroy the power of labor unions, the largest

and strongest organizations of the working class.

The state's Republicans, faced with Corbett's low approval rating, seek to stoke racist opposition to state support for Philadelphia's School District, which includes 83 percent students of color. Corbett is basing much of his re-election campaign on destroying the PFT.

With days left before the end of the teachers' contract, there has not even been a hint of a teachers' strike. Yet, with time running out and no extra state or federal aid coming, a strike might help to save Philadelphia public schools. The challenge will be to build support from students and community members and from the rest of Philadelphia's 150,000 union members.

The last major teacher's strike started on Sept. 8, 1981. It involved 13,000 PFT members in a 50-day strike. They walked out because the District, with a deficit of \$223 million, laid off 3,500 members and cancelled a scheduled 10 percent teachers' pay increase. These numbers sound nearly identical to today's situation.

What won the strike for the teachers was an act of solidarity by the other unions in the city, who — except for the police — threatened a general strike. The day of the general strike, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ordered the rehiring of all who had been laid off and a negotiated pay increase by a state mediator.

This history of fighting back, as well as the heroic actions by the Chicago Teachers Union, needs to be on the minds of everyone who cares about education and the working class's future. What happens in Philadelphia will set the standard for battling austerity across the country. □

Former death-row inmate Kelvin X. Morris

Justice delayed is justice denied

By Betsey Piette

According to the Pennsylvania Moratorium Coalition, a federal district court's vacating of Kelvin X. Morris's death sentence in July 2007 marked Pennsylvania's 200th reversal in a capital punishment case since its reinstatement in 1978. An American Civil Liberties Union press release noted this milestone.

Unfortunately for Morris, who was unjustly convicted of murder in 1983, his struggle to win freedom took until June 3, when he was released from prison after agreeing to a plea bargain for a reduced sentence. Morris told Workers World, "I figured that if I could not get a new trial after 30 years it was not going to happen."

The odds of finding justice in the state's injustice system are stacked against African-American prisoners like Morris, particularly when the lawyers, prosecutors or judges involved are politically connected.

Morris' ordeal started in October 1980. At age 20, he was charged with murdering a Philadelphia store owner. Police initially issued a warrant for his brother, Artie Morris, whom two eyewitnesses positively identified. After Artie's spouse provided an alibi, police put out a warrant for Kelvin.

Although four youth eyewitnesses told police it was Artie Morris, not Kelvin X. Morris whom they saw, police threatened to charge them as accessories to the crime to coerce them into changing their accounts, since they admitted breaking a store window that night.

When police issued Kelvin X. Morris' warrant, he was in Virginia working for an uncle. He was arrested and brought back to Philadelphia.

Morris' court-appointed lawyer, Leon Tucker, failed to call Joseph Flowers, one of the young witnesses who refused to buckle under to police coercion. He also neglected to call Kelvin X. Morris' alibi witnesses — his companion, Christina Clark, and her mother, Margaretta Wise Frazier.

The state's informant "witness," James Willie, claimed that Morris confessed to him in Virginia. Tucker neglected to investigate the allegation. Willie had been arrested for forging Morris' uncle's checks. A handwriting analyst could have refuted Willie's false accusation, yet none was called. During Morris' 2011 appeal process, Willie's lies were confirmed.

During the appeal process, a federal jury found that Tucker failed to present or even investigate mitigating circumstances that would have allowed a jury to consider a life sentence over death. After Morris' conviction, Tucker was appointed as a judge in Philadelphia.

Case rife with conflicts of interest

Morris learned after his 1983 conviction and death sentence that Tucker was simultaneously representing his brother, Artie Morris, on a civil case involving an eye injury that he allegedly suffered after the shooting. Years later, two of the young eyewitnesses stated in affidavits that police photos of Artie Morris shown to them immediately after the 1980 shooting re-

vealed an injured eye that distinguished him from Kelvin.

Artie Morris' lawsuit would have been dismissed if Tucker's representation of him had come to light. Kelvin X. Morris maintains that Tucker stood to gain financially from that case.

Following his 1983 trial, Morris spent years working his way through the state's appeals process. One support for his 2007 federal habeas corpus relief was Judge Alfred Sabo's improper jury instruction in his post-verdict sentencing — that their decision on a mitigating circumstance must be unanimous. The late, notorious Sabo sentenced world-renowned political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal to death in 1982, and Morris, in 1983.

In 1999, Gov. Tom Ridge first signed Morris' death warrant. In 2001, the Eastern District Court granted a stay. Judge Jan E. DuBois allowed Morris to file federal appeals. Litigation proceeded under DuBois (2003-2005), and awaited his ruling in 2006, when he stepped down. DuBois claimed that since Tucker's spouse, Petrese Brown-Tucker, had been appointed a federal judge in his district, he must transfer the case; he did to U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez. Brown-Tucker was also a Philadelphia assistant DA during Morris' 1983 trial.

Although Rodriguez vacated the death sentence in 2007 and Morris was granted a federal writ of habeas corpus in April 2008, the district attorney appealed. In 2008, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Rodriguez's ruling claiming

they needed to hear from Tucker, who alleged that Kelvin X. Morris told him that he (Kelvin) wanted to protect his brother.

After years of waiting and with new legal briefs filed, in 2012 Rodriguez finally granted Morris' request for a new evidentiary hearing set for December 2012. It was delayed until June. As the hearing date neared, the state proposed a plea bargain to third-degree murder, which carried a maximum sentence less than the time Morris had already served.

Morris explained that he accepted this deal knowing that the alternative could mean years more of appeals while he remained in prison. His brother had died and key witnesses were not accessible. "The state has all the money in the world. They could buy the experts who could have refuted Willie's claim but they kept denying my appeals. They wanted to legally lynch me."

As of Jan. 1, the U.S. prison system includes 3,125 prisoners on death row. Since 1976, a total of 1,343 executions have occurred. Up to half of death penalty appeals involve claims of ineffective assistance of counsel. In Pennsylvania, it's a main reason for overturning death sentences, as 90 percent of its death row inmates have been represented by public defenders or court-appointed counsel usually lacking adequate funding to support their defense.

Morris is a survivor of Pennsylvania's death row. He endured an injustice system where for more than 30 years all the odds were stacked against him, but now his story can be told. □

WASHINGTON, D.C.

50th anniversary rally renews call for jobs and freedom

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Washington, D.C.

Tens of thousands of people from all over the country traveled to Washington, D.C., Aug. 24 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

A myriad of movements, organizations and causes were represented in a crowd that was largely young. Broad cross-sections were present of the workers, along with African-American, Latino/a, Asian-American, Muslim, environmental, left, anti-war, peace, LGBTQ, women's and disabilities rights movements.

Labor representation was also substantial, with hundreds of buses bringing workers from the United Auto Work-

ers, UNITE HERE, Service Employees, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and other trade unions. A majority of political and community people wore shirts bearing the image of the murdered African-American youth, Trayvon Martin.

One young man told Workers World, "There are too many issues today. Fifty years ago the message was more focused against segregation and for voting rights."

In 1963, the Democratic Party was deeply divided over Civil Rights, with a strong Southern

bloc committed to maintaining legalized segregation. Today President Barack Obama is in the White House; yet African Americans remain in poverty and suffer unemployment rates twice that of whites.

Also 50 years ago the Vietnam War was escalating, with thousands of so-called "military advisers" in the country attempting to prevent the victory of the Vietnamese liberation forces, led by Ho Chi Minh.

In 2013, the Pentagon, the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency are still helping to destabilize much of the world and threatening war on Syria.

A dream unfulfilled

The Rev. Al Sharpton, head of the National Action Network, hosted the rally, held at the Lincoln Memorial. NAN issued the call for the event.

Martin Luther King III noted, "The task is not done; the journey is not complete. The vision preached by my father a half-century ago was that his four little children would no longer live in a nation where they would be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

"However, sadly, the tears of Trayvon Martin's mother and father remind us that, far too frequently, the color of one's skin remains a license to profile, to arrest and to even murder with no regard for the content of one's character." King called for "stand your ground" laws to be repealed in states where they have been enacted.

The spry 83-year-old Congressperson John Lewis (D-Ga.), who is the only surviving speaker from the 1963 rally, said, "Fifty years later, we cannot wait, we cannot be patient. We want our jobs and we want our freedom now ... we cannot give up. We cannot give out."

Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, told the crowd, "Trayvon Martin was my son, but he's not just my son; he's everybody's son, and we have to fight for our children."

Following the rally, a march proceeded from the Lincoln Memorial to the Martin Luther King Memorial. □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

WORKERS' STRIKES SPAN AFRICA

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

While developments in Egypt in the aftermath of the military coup and massacres of Muslim Brotherhood supporters have dominated the Western media, recent strikes have erupted there and elsewhere on the African continent.

Egyptian workers at Suez Steel have battled their bosses since July 23. The work stoppage prompted military forces to arrest union leaders on Aug. 12.

Their brief detention and a melee that injured two workers led owners to shut the plant until employees agreed unconditionally to return to the job. Reportedly, on Aug. 22 workers reached an agreement with the bosses to resume work if 15 fired employees were rehired.

Steelworker Walid Hassan told Ahram Online, "The Suez governor promised to release our colleagues on Friday. If not, workers might go on strike again. ... We didn't get a share of the company's profits since 2007. We only asked for the equivalent of six months of wages as profit for 2012; we reduced our demand by four months but still the administration refused." (Aug. 22)

At Mahalla City Weaving and Textile, one shift of 10,000 employees refused to work on Aug. 26. This action is part of a broader conflict involving all 24,000 factory employees who have not been paid full profit-sharing bonuses boss-

es promised. Workers want management fired and a more representative labor bargaining unit, not one that is pro-boss. Negotiations are underway between workers and the military-appointed governor.

Libyan oil worker strikes decrease production

For weeks, oil workers in Libya have blocked production, reducing the oil flow out of the country by more than 50 percent. Their demands relate to salaries and working conditions.

The Aug. 23 Platt's, a McGraw-Hill Financial publication, says, "For buyers of Libyan crude, the inability to load at three of the country's main export terminals — Es Sider, Ras Lanuf and Zueitina — for the past four weeks, because of ongoing strikes and protests, has become a major headache.

"Libya's Prime Minister Ali Zeidan has warned that the country could well lose some of its main lifters of crude, which have sought out alternatives during this period of disruption, while oil minister Abdel Bari al-Arousi has said state oil company NOC could face legal action from buyers for failing to deliver on its term contracts."

Libya's political, economic and security situation has deteriorated following the 2011 Pentagon-NATO counterrevolutionary war of regime change that resulted in former leader Col. Moammar

Gadhafi's overthrow and assassination. Rebel groups still remain outside the control of the U.S.-installed puppet government led by the General National Congress. Many people in Libya's eastern and southern regions seek to break away from Tripoli politicians' tenuous "authority."

Nigerian education, health workers demand higher pay

In the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the **Academic Staff Union of Universities** is striking for pay increases and massive investments in the higher educational system. Although Nigeria is the largest oil exporter to the U.S., this economic arrangement has not translated into higher salaries and quality educational facilities.

In the Aug. 26 Nigerian Observer, Patrick Eholor writes, "[O]ur leaders' children don't attend our universities. You will find them at Harvard, Cambridge or Stanford. That is why our leaders don't care whether our universities are providing quality education."

A strike by members of the **Medical and Health Workers' Union of Nigeria, National Association of Nurses and Midwives, and other unions** has paralyzed services in several areas. Since Aug. 21, in Ilorin, Kaduna, Sokoto, Lagos and Lokoja, public hospital health services have ground to a halt as workers demand better pay and working conditions.

South African strikes spread

Striking Toyota and Volkswagen workers in the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa are demanding a 10 percent wage increase. Gold mining, building, civil engineering and airline workers have joined the autoworkers and walked off their jobs to demand wage increases and improved working conditions.

South Africa has the largest economy and industrial working class in Africa. Since 2012, numerous strikes there have affected key sectors of the national and global economies.

During 2012, dozens of people were killed and injured in disputes in the mining and agricultural sectors. The rand, the national currency, has fallen in value next to the U.S. dollar, while mining bosses threaten to close platinum facilities due to work stoppages and other unrest.

All strikes on the continent reflect the world capitalist crisis, which originated in the United States and Western Europe. Labor militancy in Africa represents the profit system's inability to provide a decent standard of living for the majority within capitalist society.

These contradictions are also escalating in the Western industrialized states where wages are declining and poverty is growing. This must be met by greater determination to organize and win the just demands of the workers.

Moreover, workers living in the imperialist states must seek avenues of expressing solidarity with the African proletariat.



Stop U.S. aggression on Syria!

Aug. 25 — Before we discuss any of the details of the latest Big Lie, Workers World denounces any missile or air attack on Syria as an international war crime. We call upon all anti-war forces in the United States to stand up to say “No!” to this act of aggression.

U.S. imperialism is poised to open another war. This one, the latest in a long series of aggressive wars, would target Syria. As we write, four U.S. destroyers, each with 90 cruise missiles, are moving into place in the eastern Mediterranean to be able to launch these death-dealers at the Syrian people.

As with earlier major U.S. aggressions against Yugoslavia, Iraq and Libya, Washington has presented a Big Lie to try to justify an unwarranted and illegal assault on the Syrian people.

With Yugoslavia, the claim, shown later to be false, was that the Serbian government was committing “genocide” against Albanian-ethnic people in Kosovo. In Libya, Moammar Gadhafi’s government was alleged to be on the verge of committing a bloodbath in Benghazi — another Big Lie invented by U.S.-NATO forces. And we all know that no “weapons of mass destruction” were found in Iraq.

There is certainly a horrible war in Syria. But the forces engaged in armed struggle against the Syrian government have been armed and financed by Saudi Arabia, other gulf monarchies, Turkey and other NATO powers — all allied with U.S. imperialism. They are responsible for the 100,000 deaths and millions of refugees from this conflict.

The Syrian government has categorically denied using poison gas. We have no problem joining with the hundreds of millions, if not billions, of people around

the world who believe Damascus, rather than the incurable liars in the imperialist camp. U.S. imperialism has a track record of inventing any pretext to justify its own aggression. Its lies are meant to cover its track record of spending trillions of dollars on the most massive engine of destruction in history while failing to do anything helpful for the masses of people in the world.

Videos have been shown around the world that show many dead civilians. The imperialist media disseminate these with the hope of justifying an imperialist intervention on behalf of the criminal gangs fighting the Syrian government.

Do these videos really show victims of sarin nerve gas? No experts are confirming this charge. And if they do, does that prove the Syrian government is responsible? The Russian Foreign Ministry argues that the real source of these killings is the “rebels” themselves — ultra-reactionary, anti-government forces who have been known to murder Syrian civilians belonging to a different religion or sect. It charges they are the ones who have used sarin in an attempt to blame the Bashar al-Assad government and provoke direct imperialist intervention.

The timing of this crisis also makes it highly suspect. The “rebels” have had a string of military defeats and armed conflict among themselves. They have failed to create a central command. Moreover, a United Nations inspection team had just arrived in Damascus. Why would the Syrian government choose this time to do the very thing that the U.S. said would cause it to intervene?

Only the “rebels,” or as Damascus rightly calls them, the “terrorists,” could gain from this. □

Workers’ rights now! Build Workers World!

Our name says it all: Workers World. That’s what we’re fighting for: a world where workers come first, where no one is oppressed or exploited on the job or in any facet of life. Where workers’ rights are the law of the land, and everyone’s needs are met by sharing the plenty we create.

An impossible dream? No way!

Marx envisioned this dream about 150 years ago, when he observed that all things of value are created by workers’ labor. The major problem — the cause of oppression, poverty, want and wars — is capitalist ownership, which enables the 1% to skim off the cream (profits) from what the 99% create. Then, the bosses stir up divisions among us — racism, sexism, homophobia, class and cultural differences — forcing us to struggle for

basic human rights.

Now the tables are turning. Workers who don’t make a living wage are rising up and inspiring their sisters and brothers in the working class to unite with them for a better life.

But we have to trash capitalism. That’s the only way we can take ownership of what we create.

By now you’ve figured out that Workers World is as diametrically opposed to the big-business press propaganda as you can possibly get. That means we don’t solicit advertising with corporate strings or pander to the backward ideology of the 1%. We have been relying on support from our readers for 36 years to publish working-class truth and build many vital struggles.

Ralph Poynter visits Mumia

Continued from page 3

confine. Mumia can receive visits twice a week, has limited phone usage — though phone calls are very expensive and hard to get — and can now touch another human being. Abu-Jamal’s visitation list is very limited and there is a waiting list. Poynter says he was on the list for about a year.

In the visiting room, Poynter states he

recognized Mumia immediately. Abu-Jamal is a tall, impressive, dignified man with a big, warm smile and a sense of humor. Says Poynter, “He must be the most recognizable man on the planet.”

At the time, there were approximately 40 other people in the visiting room. All the inmates seemed to know who Mumia is and showed respect for him and what

Fight to free Manning

It was no surprise, but no less a crime of U.S. military injustice, that Pvt. Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison. And there is no reason that the movement that supports this young soldier, whose actions most of the world’s people consider heroic, should slow down its actions to win Manning’s freedom.

Thus, it is encouraging that her legal defense is already appealing for a presidential pardon, that the American Civil Liberties Union has denounced the sentence, that Amnesty International has called on President Barack Obama to commute it to time already served and that the Center for Constitutional Rights — which just won an important legal case against the racist “stop and frisk” police actions in New York City — has called for a full pardon.

Workers World calls on its readers and supporters to back all the efforts to stop punishing this exemplary soldier, who has shown the world that right in the belly of the beast, in the heart of the empire, in the very entrails of the Pentagon, the spark of solidarity with the world’s oppressed can light a fire.

It is a telling sign that even the editorial board of the New York Times found it necessary to distance itself from the harsh sentence, which it found overly punitive and based on the imperialist state apparatus’s perceived need to stop whistleblowers from exposing the crimes of the empire. It is certainly true that the sentence has nothing to do with law and justice as these ideas are taught in the universities or expounded in ruling-class propaganda, which tries to paint the United States as the pinnacle of freedom and justice. The sentence has

more to do with what those in power believe is necessary to stop others from reporting the lies, crimes and murders they witness as unwilling agents of the center of world oppression and exploitation.

From the point of view of the exploited workers of the world — and all workers are exploited — who want independence for their nations and want to fight for a decent life, it is important now to fight for Manning’s freedom exactly because it will encourage others to follow the private’s example.

How encouraging it is for all who love freedom, for all who identify with the most oppressed, that a private first class, the lowest rung in the U.S. military, was able to throw a wrench into the machinery of U.S. imperialism. May Manning’s splendid example spread to tens, hundreds and thousands of those in the U.S. military, to those civilian employees of the Pentagon, the National Security Agency and other instruments of oppression; and may they too identify with the workers and poor of the world.

In another sign of the courage Manning has displayed throughout the three years of incarceration, the private — the sentence removed the “first class” from the title — announced her wish to live her life as a woman and to be called Chelsea Manning. This adds another dimension to her struggle; we salute her determination to live a life where truth is more important than personal gain, and where the injustice of seeing civilians gunned down in an Iraqi city by U.S. gunships awakens a need to resist despite the risks.

Free Pvt. Manning! □



WWPHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Fast-food workers protest in Brooklyn, N.Y., July 29.

You can become a member of the Supporter Program by contributing a lump sum of \$75, \$100, \$300 or more. Or send a monthly donation starting with as little as \$6, \$10 or \$25.

Send your check made out to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011.

Include your address, email and phone number, and let us know if we can include you in our 2013 Supporter Program. □

he stands for, says Poynter.

Neither he nor Mumia wasted any time on introductions, and proceeded to discuss today’s national and international politics, Poynter stated. He was extremely impressed by Mumia’s wealth of knowledge about goings-on in the “outside world” and how well-read and informed Mumia was. One of the things they talked

about was the murder of teenager Trayvon Martin, and the “not guilty” verdict in Zimmerman’s trial.

Poynter watched the trial on TV while in Washington, D.C., holding months-long, daily vigils for Lynne Stewart in front of the White House. All the media he saw seemed to say the same thing, that it’s OK to kill a Black child with impunity.

What workers need to know about Korea

Larry Holmes, Workers World Party's first secretary, led a three-person, party delegation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the end of July. The DPRK was celebrating the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. This is an abridged version of a report he gave to WWP's New York branch on Aug. 15.

Our trip has a history to it. We have been developing a relationship with the DPRK for more than 40 years.

We were there to celebrate with people around the world the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice Agreement, which ended the hostilities but not the war. This is still a very big issue in lots of ways. Our comrades in the DPRK consider that they forced not only U.S. imperialism but all of its junior imperialist partners at that time, all far superior in terms of military and economic capabilities, to cease hostilities and sign at least a temporary armistice. They consider it a tremendous victory.

We were in Pyongyang, this beautiful city, the capital of the DPRK. It had been completely destroyed in the war. My goodness, if you could see it now.

We were there a full seven days. We had a few political meetings with leading members of the Workers' Party of Korea. Usually also attending those meetings were delegations of other countries, representing not governments but left parties.

The main activity was participating in parades, ceremonies, the opening of museums, a circus, recitals and many performances, with children doing unimaginable stuff to blow your mind.

A high point for me was walking on the Pueblo [a captured U.S. spy ship]. You saw all the confessions of the spies.

The purpose of our trip was simple — it was an important occasion for the DPRK and an opportune time to reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with them. We were not the only ones from the U.S. There was a delegation from the Socialist Workers Party. Progressive attorneys Ramsey Clark and Mara Verheyden-Hilliard were there, as was the Answer Coalition. To our knowledge, nobody else was there representing parties or organi-

zations from the U.S.

But there should have been hundreds of people from this country on the 60th anniversary of the ending of the war — from the peace movement, from the trade unions, from the oppressed communities. If things were really right, there should have been military veterans and — although we're familiar mostly with GIs radicalized by the Vietnam War and the wars in the Middle East — GIs radicalized by the Korean War. That would have been so tremendous. We should think in terms of that.

This is what should be the next time, given the necessary circumstances and conditions.

Of course, the DPRK comrades wanted to give all their guests a good time, but also show how united they are, that they have an unwavering level of solidarity at this time of pressure from imperialism, show how strong they are, how resolved they are to defend themselves, and their capability to resist imperialist aggression.

Koreans can't be pushed around

This was my first time in the DPRK. They make a big impression. That military parade on July 27th, wow. And we thousands of guests weren't the only ones from outside looking at it. There probably was a satellite up above from the Pentagon looking down at it. And the message from the Koreans was: Don't mess with us. We want to be able to develop in peace. We want a peace treaty. We want unity. But if you think you're going to push us around, it's not going to go down that way.

When imperialism is threatening to bomb them into oblivion, to starve them, of course they're going to be tough and show how disciplined they are.

People need to understand that and get beyond the propaganda, all the demonization and dehumanization. It would be such a great thing if more people from this country and from all around the world could actually visit the DPRK and talk to the people. That would be a weapon against the demonization. I wish that we could play a role in that.

The level of society, the cultural level, what they put into making sure that

everyone is healthy, that everybody is fed, that the children have schools, that every generation is taken care of, whether in Pyongyang or outside the city, is just incredible.

Pyongyang has got to be the most beautiful city on the planet. And it's not a small city. Some 3.5 million people — 14 percent of the total population — live there. It's about the size of Chicago, but with a skyline that is immaculate, majestic and never-ending. It's got parks for children and facilities for retired and elderly people. You walk around and you think of the U.S. propaganda — "It's terrible there, it's a slave state" — and you wish the people back home could see this.



WWP delegation, Deirdre Griswold, Larry Holmes, Elena Gilbert, at the Workers' Party of Korea monument.

Defense alongside development

Each day, we went to many different events. I couldn't help thinking, "Imagine if our Korean comrades didn't have to put so much into defending themselves against U.S. and Western imperialism and Japan and the puppet government in south Korea."

They've done it the best way you can, by incorporating the military with the people. They have a slogan, military first, but that also means that the military is involved in farming and construction. It is not only defending the country against outside aggression but is also helping to build and see to the everyday needs of the people. What if they could put all their resources into just building socialism? What they could do, based on what they've already done, is unimaginable.

But based on revolutionary Marxism, it shouldn't be on the backs of one relatively small country to fully build socialism and communism by itself. Marx would have considered that unscientific and impossible.

I was looking recently at one of [WWP founder] Sam Marcy's early documents, written at the beginning of the Korean War. The document was based on the worldwide significance of the war, which

he felt that the movement, even those claiming to be revolutionaries, were not recognizing and appreciating. Part of the title of that document was "The Destiny of the American Working Class." He argued against those who think that the struggle of the U.S. workers is separate from that of the workers around the world. He said the struggle of the people of Korea against imperialism and colonialism is deeply connected and intertwined with the struggle of the workers here, for higher wages and for unions.

This is one of the reasons our name is not just "the socialist party" or "the communist party" but Workers World Party. The founding comrades wanted to make a point about having to think about the whole world proletariat, the whole world capitalist system and the global class war.

A stronger movement here would take some of the burden off the shoulders of the people and party of the DPRK. Until that situation changes, they will be forced to go on with what they have. They will persevere. There is no doubt about that. They are tough and strong.

Long live the DPRK! □

On 15th anniversary of imprisonment

Events to demand freedom for Cuban 5



Left to right: Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, and, now free, René González.

By Cheryl LaBash

Fifteen years ago on Sept. 12, 1998, Miami FBI swat teams arrested five Cuban men in early morning raids. These unarmed Cuban undercover agents had infiltrated Florida-based paramilitary gangs to gather information aimed at preventing further bombings in Havana hotels and restaurants and other acts by the U.S.-based terrorist campaign against Cuba.

The Cuban 5 — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — are considered anti-terrorist heroes by the Cuban people and around the world. Yet four of them are still unjustly imprisoned in the U.S., a country which loudly claims to be prosecuting a "war against terror."

On Sept. 12, international actions will take place to mark the anniversary of their imprisonment and to demand immediate freedom for the remaining four men. René González completed his full prison sentence and has returned to his family in Cuba.

In Washington, D.C., the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 will bring that demand to President Barack Obama on the White House sidewalk at noon on Sept. 12. This action is part of an East Coast tour with journalist Stephen Kimber to present his new book, "What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five." (www.theCuban5.org)

The tour includes these events:

- Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.: Busboys & Poets. 2012-14th St. NW, Washington, D.C.
- Sept. 12, 12 noon: White House sidewalk. 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.
- Sept. 12, 7 p.m.: Owen Brown Community Assn. 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, Md.
- Sept. 13, 8 p.m.: Cultural evening with Kimber and special guest at Bolivarian Hall. 2443 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.
- Sept. 14, 4 p.m.: BookCourt. 263 Court St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Special guest: Cuban Ambassador to the U.N. Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez.
- Sept. 15, 5 p.m.: Center for Cuban Studies/Cuban Art Space. 231 W. 29th St., New York Special guest: attorney Martin Garbus. Opening exhibit: "I will die the way I lived," art exhibit created by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban 5, for the 15th anniversary.
- Sept. 16, 7 p.m.: AFSCME DC 37/Local 372 Meeting Room. 125 Barclay St., New York
- Sept. 17, 6 p.m.: MIT, Room 10-250. 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

Special guest: Noam Chomsky.

Additional U.S. events include:

On Sept. 12:

New York City, 5 p.m.: Rally and picket at 26 Federal Plaza.

Minneapolis, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave. S.

Opening reception of exhibit, "I will die the way I lived": 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero. "All these images have one thing in common: they were memories of the unjust and cruel treatment given to us since the very first day of our detention." See www.minnesotacubacommittee.org.

On Sept 13:

Washington, D.C., 6 p.m.: University of the District of Columbia Law School, Moot Court Room. A legal panel discusses "the Case of the Cuban Five: Justice or Injustice." See www.freethefive.org. □

¡Alto a la agresión EE.UU. contra Siria!

Antes de hablar de alguno de los detalles de la última gran mentira, WW-Mundo Obrero denuncia cualquier ataque aéreo o con misiles contra Siria como un crimen de guerra internacional. Hacemos un llamado a todas las fuerzas contra la guerra en los Estados Unidos para hacer frente y decir “no” a este acto de agresión.

El imperialismo estadounidense está a punto de lanzar una nueva guerra. Ésta, la última de una larga serie de guerras de agresión, se dirigirá a Siria. Mientras escribimos, cuatro destructores estadounidenses, cada uno con 90 misiles de crucero, se están moviendo al Mediterráneo oriental para poder lanzar estos cargamentos mortíferos contra el pueblo sirio.

Como con las anteriores agresiones de Estados Unidos contra Yugoslavia, Iraq y Libia, Washington ha presentado una gran mentira para tratar de justificar una agresión injustificada e ilegal contra el pueblo sirio.

En Yugoslavia, el pretexto, que se demostró más adelante ser falso, es que el gobierno serbio estaba cometiendo “genocidio” contra la etnia albanesa de Kosovo. En Libia, el gobierno de Moammar Gadhafi fue acusado de estar a punto de cometer una masacre en Bengasi – otra gran mentira inventada por las fuerzas de Estados Unidos y la OTAN. Y ya todos/as sabemos que no se encontraron “armas de destrucción masiva” en Irak.

Ciertamente, hay una terrible guerra en Siria. Pero las fuerzas que participan en la lucha armada contra el gobierno sirio han sido armadas y financiadas por Arabia Saudí, otras monarquías del Golfo, Turquía y otras potencias de la OTAN – todas aliadas con el imperialismo estadounidense. Son responsables de las 100.000 muertes y millones de refugiados/as de este conflicto.

El gobierno sirio ha negado categóricamente el uso de gas venenoso. No tenemos ningún problema uniéndonos a las cientos de millones, si no miles de millones de personas en todo el mundo que creen a Damasco, en lugar de a los incurables mentirosos en el campo imperialista. El imperialismo estadounidense tiene un historial de inventar cualquier pretexto para justificar su propia agresión. Sus mentiras están destinadas a cubrir su trayectoria de gastar billones de dólares en la maquinaria de destrucción más masiva de la historia mientras que no hace nada útil por las masas de personas en el mundo.

Se han mostrado videos en todo el mundo que muestran muchos civiles muertos. Los medios de comunicación imperialistas difunden éstos con la esperanza de justificar una intervención imperialista en nombre de las bandas criminales que luchan contra el gobierno sirio.

¿Muestran estos videos realmente a víctimas del gas enervante sarín? No hay expertos que confirmen esta acusación. Y si es cierto, ¿acaso prueban que el gobierno sirio es el responsable? El Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Rusia sostiene que la verdadera fuente de estos asesinatos son los mismos “rebeldes” – fuerzas ultra-reaccionarias en contra del gobierno que son conocidas por matar a civiles sirios que pertenecen a una religión o secta diferente. Atribuyen a los rebeldes el haber utilizado el gas sarín en un intento por culpar al gobierno de Bashar al-Assad y provocar la intervención directa del imperialismo.

El momento de esta crisis también hace que sea muy sospechoso. Los “rebeldes” han tenido una serie de derrotas militares y conflictos armados entre ellos. No han logrado crear un comando central. Además, un equipo de inspección de las Naciones Unidas acababa de llegar a Damasco. ¿Por qué el gobierno sirio hubiese elegido este momento para hacer la misma cosa que EE.UU. dijo que causaría una intervención?

Sólo los “rebeldes”, o como Damasco acertadamente los llama, los “terroristas”, podrían beneficiarse de esto.

El gobierno de Washington afirma que está “reacio” a intervenir directamente. Pero los hechos sobre el terreno – y en los mares cercanos – apuntan a la posibilidad de otra guerra de EE.UU. en la región. Cualquier persona que desee detener este asalto contra el pueblo sirio – y esto también es un asalto a las condiciones de vida de los/as trabajadores/as y todas las personas pobres en el propio EE.UU. – debe estar preparada para hacerle frente a cualquier agresión nueva.

Para quienes le interesen los argumentos en contra de la versión oficial EE.UU., dirigimos su atención a un video preparado por Press TV. Se puede encontrar en tinyurl.com/mfcdsgu. □

Solidaridad con trabajadores/as inmigrantes

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

Mientras que muchas cuestiones económicas y políticas poderosas actualmente conducen la política de inmigración en este país, una que sobresale es el racismo.

En el 2004, el historiador de Harvard Samuel Huntington escribió un llamado a las armas racista contra los/as inmigrantes en la revista Política del Exterior. Escribió que la inmigración latina “amenaza con dividir a Estados Unidos en dos pueblos, dos culturas y dos lenguas. A diferencia de grupos pasados de inmigrantes, los/as mexicanos/as y otros/as latinos/as no han asimilado la cultura dominante de Estados Unidos. ... Estados Unidos ignora este desafío a su propio riesgo”. (1 de marzo)

El desafío no fue ignorado.

Desde el 2005 ha habido una campaña vigorosa, fea y racista contra los/as trabajadores/as inmigrantes, especialmente los/as indocumentados/as. Impulsada por la actual crisis económica que ha reducido la demanda de mano de obra barata y vulnerable, esta campaña está dirigida a llevar a los/as inmigrantes a la clandestinidad, explotándoles aún más, encarcelándoles y deportando al resto.

También pretende dividir a la clase obrera en este país.

Así como la exoneración de George Zimmerman, el asesino de Trayvon Martin, por los poderes fácticos sirvió para incitar a la división y enviar el mensaje de que la vida de los/as jóvenes de color no significan nada en esta sociedad, la política de inmigración también pretende incitar divisiones así como deshumanizar y criminalizar a los/as trabajadores/as de color.

La actual campaña antiinmigrante está destinada a enfrentar a un sector de la clase obrera contra otro. Los/as trabajadores/as se supone que se culpen los/as unos/as a los/as otros/as por el desempleo y luchen entre sí en vez de luchar contra el verdadero enemigo: las corporaciones multinacionales, los multimillonarios y el gobierno que les sirve.

Este ataque comenzó en la zona cero para el racismo, el estado de Arizona. Al conmemorar la histórica marcha en Washington hace 50 años, es importante recordar que los racistas de Arizona hicieron todo a su alcance para evitar hacer del cumpleaños del Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. un día festivo. No prevalecieron, pero Arizona fue uno de los últimos estados en adoptar ese día como tal.

¡No a la militarización de la frontera!

La Ley de Seguridad Fronteriza, Oportunidades Económicas y Modernización de Inmigración, (SB 774), que fue aprobada por el Senado en junio y está pendiente de aprobación en la Cámara de Representantes, va en contra de

lo que los/as inmigrantes y sus defensores/as han estado luchando desde el 2006.

Muchos/as en el movimiento pro derechos de inmigrantes han señalado que la política exterior estadounidense es la principal fuerza que impulsa la migración. Ya sean las políticas comerciales con México como el TLC-NA o el secuestro del presidente haitiano Jean-Bertrand Aristide orquestado por EE.UU., la mayoría de los/as inmigrantes vienen a Estados Unidos debido a las condiciones insoportables en su país creadas principalmente por las políticas neocoloniales estadounidenses.

La actual ley de inmigración a punto de ser aprobada por el Congreso, ignora esto totalmente.

En cambio, gastará más dinero para la militarización de la frontera, más represión, más racismo y la violenta expulsión de trabajadores/as cuyo único delito es la supervivencia. Sólo un pequeño porcentaje de los/as más de 11 millones de indocumentados/as tienen la oportunidad de ser legalizado/a.

Casi 2 millones de trabajadores/as han sido deportados/as de EE.UU. desde las elecciones de 2008. Eso es como si la ciudad entera de Dallas hubiera desaparecido de un solo golpe.

La cifra sin precedente de 409.849 deportaciones ocurrió solo en 2012.

Detrás de estas deportaciones están los poderosos intereses de la élite gobernante racista y belicista. Poderosos cabilderos para contratos militares y contratistas privados racistas y anti-pobres como la Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) están detrás de esta política inmigratoria de represión.

La alternativa – la legalización de los/as más de 11 millones de indocumentados/as en EE.UU. – no sólo significaría una justicia merecida para los/as inmigrantes, sino que podría elevar las condiciones de vida para todos/as los/as trabajadores/as en este país.

Como explica la consigna de los sindicatos, “un golpe a uno/a es un golpe contra todos”; a su vez, una marea que sube, levanta todos los barcos.

Racismo e inmigrantes

Las fuerzas derechistas como el Partido del Té y prominentes republicanos han hecho de la inmigración un tema de controversia. A pesar de su postura liberal, poderosos demócratas como el senador Chuck Schumer de Nueva York no son muy diferentes. De hecho, activistas pro derechos de inmigrantes en abril se dirigieron al despacho de Schumer denunciando que consigue respaldo financiero de CCA y otras compañías que se benefician del complejo prisión-industrial. (politics365.com)

Desde 2005, una retórica racista e inflamatoria y legislaciones anti obreras y anti-pobre se han

extendido por el país.

Se ha producido todo tipo de atrocidades. A muchas mujeres inmigrantes se les han quitado a sus hijos y puestos en adopción para familias estadounidenses, nunca volviéndoles a ver. En 2011, “por lo menos, a 5.100 niños que están en programas de adopción temporal, les impidieron reunirse con sus padres deportados o detenidos”. (arc.org/shatteredfamilies)

Varios/as inmigrantes han muerto en centros de detención después de que sus crisis de salud fueran ignoradas.

Recientemente, el representante Steven King de Iowa, miembro del Subcomité de Inmigración y Seguridad Fronteriza del Congreso, dijo a un entrevistador, “por cada [inmigrante] que es un estudiante distinguido, hay otros 100 que pesan 60 kilos y tienen los músculos de las pantorrillas tamaño de melones porque están cargando 75 libras de marihuana a través del desierto”. (huffingtonpost.com, 23 de julio)

Los/as inmigrantes no fueron intimidados/as por esta atroz declaración. Protestaron diciendo: ¡“No tengo las pantorrillas del tamaño de melones, King”!

Otras atrocidades están ocultas a la opinión pública. Más de 13.000 menores mexicanos/as fueron deportados/as en 2012. Defensores/as de derechos inmigrantes informan que no es infrecuente en audiencias de deportación, que niños/as de 2 ó de seis años aparezcan delante de un juez sin un abogado. En 2012, agentes de inmigración detuvieron a 6.548 menores de edad acompañados y a 24.481 niños/as no acompañados/as. (alnet.net.org, 29 de julio)

En la unidad está la fuerza

La clase capitalista en este país ha creado condiciones extremas para los/as trabajadores/as hoy en día, con el persistente desempleo, falta de vivienda, e inadecuada educación y cuidado de la salud. ¿Cómo es que el país más rico del mundo con miles de millones de dólares a su disposición no puede proveer las necesidades básicas para el pueblo?

La agenda política está conducida por un sistema capitalista que requiere cada vez de más ganancias para los ricos y al infierno con el resto de nosotros/as.

La paz de clase para el 1% depende de las antiguas herramientas del miedo y la intolerancia. Imagínense si todas las familias y amistades de los/as encarcelados/as se unieran con todos/as aquellos/as que han experimentado las deportaciones masivas. ¡Qué poderosa herramienta sería!

El día vendrá cuando la gente de este país —de todas las nacionalidades, sin importar si nacieron en Brooklyn o Manila, Somalia o San Francisco, Manhattan o en la Ciudad de México— se una para luchar por los intereses de la clase obrera.