ICE raids are union busting

Workers’ rights under attack

By Sharon Black

Aug. 8 — While the El Paso, Texas, community was still in mourning, deeply shaken and suffering from the racist mass murder, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched the largest single-state raid in U.S. history in Mississippi on seven poultry processing plants. Six hundred and eighty workers were rounded up and detained.

This raid was timed to come on the first day of the school year, so that many children had to walk home, only to find their mothers and fathers, missing.

What is key for all workers to understand is that this raid was calculated payback for workers organizing, and it was aimed at the heart of the movement to unionize the South, which has historically been a cheap source of labor.

Two of the chicken processing plants operated by Koch Foods are organized by United Food and Commercial Workers Union. This same company recently paid out a $3.75 million settlement as a result of a company-wide investigation and findings by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which determined that Koch Foods violated workplace safety rules at its plants operated by Koch Foods are organized by United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration charged Koch Foods $86,000 in penalties for safety violations that resulted in severe injuries at the Mississippi plant.

Koch Foods also exploited Black farmers in Mississippi. See the ProPublica article: The shadow of slavery, sharecropping and Jim Crow has left black farmers in an especially precarious position. Peco Foods is another company that runs five Mississippi plants. Three — in Canton, Bay Springs and Sebastopol — were targeted by ICE agents.

“Workers at the Peco Foods Sebastopol and Canton plants had filed safety complaints, which resulted in OSHA penalties. Peco settled a $9,550 penalty in 2015 and then was investigated five more times. Workers suffered amputations and fractures. Peco was also charged with violating the Fair Labor Standards Act by requiring workers to perform ‘off the clock’ work and denying overtime. It took unbelievable courage for workers to stand up to these brutal conditions and the ICE raid was aimed at breaking their will and determination.”

“Workers across this country are too scared to stand up for their rights and to report wage theft, dangerous work conditions, and other workplace issues. We must act now to end this dangerous climate of fear.”

Meatpacking still remains one of the most dangerous jobs, which has gotten worse with speedups introduced through increased automation. It’s hard to describe the work environment to anyone who has never worked inside a food processing plant. Temperatures are cold or freezing depending on what is being produced; water and animal fat can frequently make floors slippery and dangerous. Workers risk amputations and machine related injuries that leave lifetime scars.

Koch Foods hires about 13,000 workers in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee. The company headquarters is in Park Ridge, Ill. It supplies chicken to Walmart, Burger King, Kroger and Aldi markets.

The writer is a former UFCW food processing plant worker.

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Growing up as comrades and friends, I bring you solidarity and love from Mujeres en Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party in the USA.

“The status and condition of women workers in the capitalist United States continues to be highly exploitative and dismising. While 46.9 percent of the U.S. total workforce consists of women, we still remain in the lowest paid jobs such as food service, clerical, factory and health care. In 2019, women still earn 79 cents for every dollar that men make.

“Nevertheless, women workers recently led the most dynamic union struggles, including the teachers’ uprisings from West Virginia to Los Angeles. In this case, teachers, sometimes without traditional union backing, conducted strikes and refused to back down until they won.

“Fast food women workers at McDonald’s and other giant chains challenged common-on-the-job sexual harassment and assault by conducting a one-day strike in ten different cities. Most of the workers are poorly paid; they are primarily Black, Latina and immigrant workers.

“Migrant East African women played a key leadership role in the ugly strike of Amazon warehouse workers at the Shakopee, Minn., fulfillment center. Hibqab Mohamed, who is one of the leaders of the strike that took place during Amazon’s Prime Day, was one of those women who braved bosses, police and security guards to help lead a walkout over gruesome production levels. She is just 26 years old,” reports former Amazon worker Sharon.

“Many of our sisters are still facing oppression and are often ostracized by their family and community. Many workers—women, Latinx and immigrant workers—have been arrested in raids and immigration detentions.”

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New Cold War vs China

The conflict between imperialist capitalism, headed by Washington, Wall Street and the Pentagon, and the Chinese socialist economic system, which has state-owned industries at its core and planned economic guidance, is becoming much sharper, and imperialism is growing more openly hostile.

U.S. imperialism’s long-standing effort to overthrow socialism in China, Chinese capitalism not-withstanding, has been concealed beneath sugary bourgeois phrases about so-called “common interests” and “economic collaboration.” But this kind of talk is coming to an end.

Report by Fred Goldstein at https://tinyurl.com/NewColdWarAgainstChina

Behind the anti-China protests in Hong Kong

Class divisions have deepened dramatically in Hong Kong. Hong Kong’s geographic proximity to mainland China has enabled it as a center for finance capital and a leader in global shipping. Hong Kong has among the highest percentage of billionaires in the world. The working class has sunk deeper into poverty with the elderly and children enduring the worst poverty rates.

Separating Hong Kong from China has been a focus of an imperialist campaign since the 1997 repatriation. Report by Scott Scheaffer at https://tinyurl.com/anti-China-protests

Venceremos Brigade — 50 years of solidarity

The 50th Venceremos Brigade to Cuba departed from Bayamo, capital of Granma Province, Aug. 8, on a sunny, warm, humid morning. Thus began the final week of the three-week celebration of the first International Solidarity Brigade with the Cuban Revolution half a century ago.

Report by Cheryl La Bash at tinyurl.com/VB Brigade

Why Hiroshima and Nagasaki were incinerated

Was killing hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atom bombs a military necessity? Dwight Eisenhower didn’t think so. General Curtis LeMay told a Sept. 20, 1945, news conference, “The atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all.”

The real target was the Soviet Union and the Soviet Army and Mongolian, Korean and Chinese allies rolled through northeastern China and all of Korea.

“Protest in Hong Kong” at https://tinyurl.com/NagasakiHiroshima

Status of women in the USA

Greetings comrades and friends, I bring you solidarity and love from Mujeres en Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party in the USA.
Maryland says ICE and camps have got to go

By Andre Powell

On two consecutive weekends, Maryland residents came out to say “No!” to another U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center.

Members of Youth Against War and Racism, the Baltimore People’s Power Assembly, Migrante and many others held a news conference to announce the newly formed ICE Out Of Baltimore Campaign. They initiated the campaign after an article appeared in the Baltimore Sun papers revealing that ICE has advertised on a federal contracts forum for childhood arrivals and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) programs ended by Trump’s executive order. Individual cases were raised, as well as the plight of those caught up in the regulations of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) programs. The group of supporters, including a larger group of supporters, represented a well-rounded group of area activists from Youth Against War and Racism, the Baltimore Poor People’s Campaign, the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Assembly, Friends of Latin America, and many others held a news conference with a delegation into the headquarters.

Over a hundred people braved temperatures in the high 90s and represented folks from all over the central counties; as well as the Washington, D.C., suburbs of Takoma Park in Montgomery County, the Howard County Detention Center, in Frederick, Md., and on the eastern shore in Worcester County.

The Aug. 4 news conference was held on the grounds of the Howard County Sheriff’s Office in Ellicott City. Over a hundred people braved temperatures in the high 90s and represented folks from all over the central portion of the state, encompassing Baltimore City and county; Carroll, Howard and Prince George’s counties; as well as the Washington, D.C., suburbs of Takoma Park in Montgomery County. The Howard County Detention Center houses approximately 50 people in the section reserved for ICE detainees.

Leslie Salgado of Friends of Latin America presented an excellent statement outlining the years of U.S. foreign policy that have created the conditions that are now resulting in a tremendous influx of migrant refugees seeking to escape from the economic and political terror of some Latin American countries.

Echoing similar sentiments, a representative of Migrante Youth of Washington, D.C., gave an extreme-ly moving account of Filipinos who has a pad to the U.S. to flee repression of the Duterte dictatorship, only to end up being exploited and trafficked in standard jobs in the housing center.

Linking the struggles between ICE detention camps and prisons in the U.S., Marilyn Barnes and her lawyer, Ace Sumnerfield of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, spoke of the Truth and Justice for Marilyn Barnes campaign. They are fighting a battle against the Hartford County Maryland Sheriff’s Department to get the truth about her son’s death while in their custody.

The death of this African-American man in his early twenties has been labeled a suicide. The family disputes this since Barnes was due to be released in the morning. The Sheriff’s Department has put up every road-block and the Maryland State Medical Examiner’s Office will not release the autopsy report to the family.

The second activity was held a week later on Aug. 11, again at the Howard County Detention Center. The rally called by Jews United for Justice numbered over 250 people. Both Jewish and non-Jewish participants came together in one strong voice demanding the portion of the detention center used by ICE be shut down.

The talks were interspersed with songs, prayers, and readings in Hebrew and English, as well as chants in Spanish. The organizers targeted the newly elected Howard County executive, Calvin Ball, the first African-American person elected to this position, demanding he show ICE the door. ICE is paying Howard County over $144,000 a year to house the detainees.

Amid chants of “Shut down ICE!” and “Every deportation is family separation!” nearly 30 of those in attendance sat down to block the driveway that leads to the part of the building that houses ICE detainees. The Howard County Police, however, decided not to arrest any of them.

At both the press conference and the rally, speakers addressed the plight of those caught up in the regulations of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) programs ended by Trump’s executive order. Individual cases were raised, one of a cook at a local restaurant who was taken into ICE custody even though he has all his legal documents. Another youth spoke of his mother being taken into custody by ICE, in addition to how the new DACA regulations affect him and his brother differently with regards to potential deportations. Both adults are awaiting hearings at the Baltimore ICE Regional Office.

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Honoring our ‘Ancestors Sustaining Resistance from 1619 to 2019’

By Gloria Verdieu

The Black August Organizing Committee has sponsored a Black August program for the last three years at San Diego’s Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center. This year is of particular significance because this is the 400th year anniversary since the arrival of the first captive, enslaved, African laborers to the English colony of Jamestown, Va. Jamestown is where “a society with slaves was transformed into society,” noted in an article in Struggle-La Lucha newspaper written by professor Matsemela Odom of the San Diego Community College District, Black Studies Department.

Our theme for Black August 2019 was “Honoring our Ancestors Sustaining Resistance from 1619 to the Present.”

After welcoming everyone to the Malcolm X Library, the present reporter bore witness to the program with a slide presentation that chronicles the history of oppression, struggle and resistance of African Americans, highlighting events in August beginning with the assassination of George L. Jackson.

Black August is directly linked to the memory of George Jackson and his teenaged brother, Jonathan Jackson, who was convicted in 1969 that Black August was created by incarcerated Black people in order to commemorate the lives lost in the struggle for Black liberation.

The Performance Annex was decorated with posters honoring Black freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for freedom and justice for future generations: George Jackson, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, exiled political prisoner Assata Shakur, and photos of people killed by the police in San Diego. Books about Black liberation movements were available for sale. Our intent was to spark the interest of all who came to the library and encourage people to read more to learn more about the history of our ongoing struggle, especially in this current racist climate.

The first presenter was Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan of San Diego State University’s Department of African Studies. He spoke on 400 plus years of struggle from the first African to arrive in the Americas to the present. He began his talk asserting, “[The beginning] is not about 1619 or the arrival of the first enslaved.

Dr. Adisa asked if anyone had visited Ft. Mose, Fla. He explained that the first free African settlement to legally exist was at Ft. Mose. He pointed out that the first Africans who came to the New World did not come as slaves, as “Aryan Brotherhood,” but on ships with Spanish conquistadors and adelantados (governors) in the mid 1600s. Dr. Adisa had this to say about the first Africans to arrive in Jamestown: “The first Africans in Jamestown arrived as captives and later became indentured servants.”

After a powerful poem presented by Sylvia Telafaro entitled “Reparations,” the next speaker was Dr. Mychal Odom, who spoke about honoring our ancestors’ sustaining struggle. Dr. Odom explained that many Africans gained freedom, land and status in the early years of the Virginia Colony.

One prime example that has been cited by historians is the story of Anthony Johnson, a native of Ango-la, who had likely been previously enslaved in the Caribbean. His story exposed the contradictions of early colonial society. Johnson was eventually manumitted, and he then acquired land, wealth and owned an indentured labor force of his own. Johnson struggled against white power, including efforts by a white neighbor to use the courts to steal his property. By the end of his years, Johnson and his family had their “relative equality” revoked. Deemed foreigners and not citizens in Virginia, they were exiled to Maryland.

After Dr. Odom’s presentation, there was a short break to allow for everyone to help themselves to a spread of homemade food donated by community members who support the program. As we transitioned to the subject of political prisoners and our next group of speakers from the many grassroots.

First, there was a video clip of former political prisoner Sekou Odinga, who came to the Malcolm X Library in February of 2016 with a message: “Support political prisoners and free them all.” Next was a slide presentation on political prisoners, encouraging everyone to see the faces and names of those prisoners who have been in prison for 30, 40 or 50 years. The reader of this report can find out more about them by visiting thejerichomovement.com/prisoners.

The next set of presenters, all of whom work in local organizing, spoke on issues affecting our communities now. Laila Azz, a community activist, spoke about “participatory defense,” prison advocacy and the amazing work her group is doing, encouraging everyone to see the faces and names of those prisoners who have been in prison for 30, 40 or 50 years. The reader of this report can find out more about them by visiting thejerichomovement.com/prisoners.

But each attendee received a pamphlet containing several articles reprinted from an international socialist publication, Struggle-La Lucha, whose website can be found online. There was no charge for the pamphlet, only a request that people use it to help raise the political consciousness of family, friends and neighbors.

Black August 2019 was co-sponsored by The Black August Organizing Committee and the Committee Against Police Brutality. This program was supported by the Friends of the Malcolm X Library, who contributed to the delicious food and the Black August books, quotes and images in the display at the library’s entrance.

See “From the Terrible Transformation to the Creation of the Negro: A Black Socialist Analysis of the First Century of Slavery in North America” by Matsemela Odom at https://tinyurl.com/1619part2

George Jackson killed Aug. 21, 1971

George Jackson was killed by prison guards on August 21, 1971.

At age 18, Jackson was convicted on dubious evidence of a gas station robbery of $70. Based on prior arrests, Jackson was sentenced to between two years and life in prison and shipped off to California’s notorious San Quentin prison. He was never released from prison for the rest of his life.

During his first years at San Quentin State Prison, Jackson became involved in revolutionary activity. In 1966, Jackson met and befriended W.L. Nolen who introduced him to Marxian ideology. In speaking of his conversion, Jackson remarked “I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels, and Mao when I entered prison and they redeemed me.” Jackson was appointed “field marshal” by the Oakland chapter of the Black Panther Party.

On January 13, 1970, Nolen and two other Black prisoners were attacked by the “Aryan Brotherhood” and then killed by a corrections officer at Soledad prison. Three days after the killings were ruled justifiable homicide, a fellow named John V. Mills was killed. Despite a lack of evidence, Jackson and two other prisoners — Fleeta Drumgo and John Wesley Clutchette — were charged. Together, the three became known as the “Soledad Brothers.”

On August 21, 1971, Jackson was shot and killed by guards at San Quentin Prison.
Trump, racism and capitalism

By Fred Goldstein

Aug. 4 — Let there be no mistake about it. Donald Trump has the blood of all the killed and wounded in the mass shootings of the past week on his hands, from Gilroy, Calif., to El Paso, Texas, to Dayton, Ohio. And let there be no mistake about it that Trump speaks the mind of the ruling-class and that the U.S. has come to give him the role of a megalomaniacal powerhouse in one night at a gala celebration.

His racism, his misogyny, his big-ot, openly spouted from his gut-ternum, are part of a deliberate strategy to mobilize the like-minded racists, bigots and male chauvinists to come out and vote for him in 2020.

There is mounting mass anger and outrage at the killings which followed his attacks on Representa-tive Elijah Cummings of the majority of Baltimore, as well as his racist rants against four women-of-color representatives on Facebook, as well as references to a so-called “invasion” of immigrants seeking asylum from Washington’s right-wing regimes in Central America.

Trump’s racist language was clearly mimicked in the language of Washington’s right-wing regimes in the U.S., of immigrants seeking asylum from Malaysia in the 19th century, and then the English and Dutch in New England in the beginning of the 17th century, racism directed against the Indigenous population has justified the seizure of millions of acres of land and the murder and removal of millions of Native Americans.

At the same time, millions of peo-ple were kidnapped from Africa and imported to be enslaved on the plan-тations lands of the U.S., as well as in the Caribbean Islands and Central and South America. Anti-Black racism was just as real.

They hired Pinkerton thugs and oth-er labor spies to frame up workers and break unions. They tried to turn the bosses and landlords brought in millions from the bosses and landlords brought in more and more Europeans from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Holland.

By the beginning of the 20th century, millions of Italians, Poles, Hungarians and Czechs were also incorporated into the working class.

Before long, the U.S. was populat-ed with millions of oppressed Afri-can, Native, Latinx and Asian people alongside millions of poor workers and farmers from Europe. All were tolling on the lands, in the mines and the factories of the U.S. million-ire ruling class.

A society based on the exploita-tion of the vast majority by a tiny minority, every capitalist — large or small, corporate or political — constantly feels the need to divide and rule. It comes with the territory. The pressure to weaken the subject population through divisions is al-ways present.

Trump speaks out loud the mind of the capitalists

A long-suppressed tape record-ing of a phone conversation between former president Ronald Reagan and then-president Richard Nix-on was recently released by the U.S. National Archives. The conversation took place in August 1971, when Rea-gan was governor of California. They spoke on the occasion of the ad-ministration of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations after being kept out by Washington since the victori-ous Chinese revolution of 1949.

Reagan, referring to African mem-bers of the Security Council, said to Nixon: “Don’t let them have the keys? They’re not even comfortable wearing shoes.” Nixon gave a big laugh. Reagan knew enough not to say that out loud publicly. But Trump says it out loud, referring to African nations as “shithole coun-tries” or saying, “Go back when you came from.”

In general, few prominent mem-bers of the capitalist establishment, big bankers or corporate leaders have condemned Trump’s racist or misogynist rants. They probably think and say similar things in pri-vate conversations.

Chapters from the history of capitalist racism

It is not only Trump, Reagan and Nixon who have been racist. They are following in the footsteps of genera-tions of ruling-class political heroes.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the most liberal president of the 20th century, ordered the Ponce Massacre of Puerto Rican nationalists in 1937. In pursuit of imperial war with Japan, Roosevelt had over 120,000 Jap-anese people rounded up and sent to concentration camps and had their property seized.

Abraham Lincoln, the most pro-gressive president of the 19th century, ordered the attack on the Da-loka Indians of Minnesota in 1862 and oversaw the Dakota Removal Act even while pursuing the Civil War against the slavery.

Theodore Roosevelt was an arch-colonialist who oversaw the conquest of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the mas-sacre of their people during the seizure and annexation of the Philippines. Roosevelt considered people of color inferior.

Woodrow Wilson, another lion-ized hero of liberalism, showed the racist, pro-South, pro-Klan, pro-slavery movie “Birth of a Na-tion” in the White House in 1915.

The movie, based in part on a his-tory book written by Woodrow Wil-son’s brother-in-law, was titled praising the “great Ku Klux Klan.” Some say the movie fostered the rise of the Klan which followed.

Of course Trump is often seen on TV in front of a painting of Andrew Jackson. Using the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Jackson had the Chero-kees removed from east of the Mississipi and driven to Oklahoma in the “Trail of Tears.”

Reagan tried to cover up the movie in George Wash-ington, first U.S. president, who was the biggest owner of enslaved people in the U.S. colony.

In this list, we must not forget Bill Clinton, who destroyed welfare, pro-moted legislation leading to mass incarceration and declared that the “era of big government” is over.

Aspects of the subjugation of oppressed people in the U.S.

Capitalists and slave masters alike have used racism since the begin-nning of the country. The settlers who colonized the U.S., the Pilgrims and the 20,000 Puritans who pilled into New England, all carried out un-speakable atrocities to subdue the Native people while slandering them as “savages” and subhuman.

This was to justify the slaughter of New England tribes, the Wampa-noa, Narragansett and Algonquin, among others. Thousands of Native people in Massachusetts alone were killed.

The New England massacres were the beginning of a continent-wide offensive against spread from western Florida to the Midwest to Arizona to California and lasted until the 1890s. Millions of Native people were either killed or removed to reservations.

The number of African people enslaved in the U.S. grew from the 338,000 who survived the Middle Passage and were originally brought to the U.S. in chains, to 4.4 million at the outset of the Civil War. There are now over 45 million African American people in the U.S.

Asians were brought to Hawaii and the West Coast as laborers during the 19th century. After the Great Depres-sion of 1873, the racist Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 promoted anti-Chinese riots and lynchings on the West Coast.

The northern half of Mexico was annexed by Washington in 1848 by conquest. The Southwest Latinx people became a subject population.

Anti-working class strategy and tactic of capitalists

Students of working-class history are familiar with the divide-and-con-quer methods of the bosses. From the early 19th century, the law de-clared any gathering of three or more were fined and imprisoned.

When the workers defied this restric-tion and went on to organize, the bosses expanded their tactics. They hired Pinkerton thugs and oth-er labor spies to frame up workers and break unions. They tried to turn the unorganized against the orga-nized. They piped the higher paid against the lower paid. They set the skilled against the unskilled.

The racism of Trump and the ruling class must be put in the antago-nistic class setting in which it has been existent. It is the answer of a tiny minority of the rich, exploit-ing class to the fear of rebellion by the vast majority of the masses of people. Only class solidarity and in-ternational solidarity can overcome this poisonous racist division.
We should remind ourselves that white supremacist terror is not new to our time. Historically, it has been intertwined with the development of capitalism. First with the theft of Indigenous lands and later with the institution of chattel slavery. The stolen land of Indigenous peoples and the unpaid labor of enslaved African Americans were the raw materials for the expansion of capitalism on this continent, and, along with the Northern troops, it was the General Strike of Blacks and whites that played a pivotal role in bringing down the slavery system in the Civil War (1861-1865).

What was immediately ushered in after the defeat of the slavery system was one of the most thoroughly denounced, yet most thoroughly defended, periods of U.S. history: Reconstruction. Reconstruction not only brought change and power to Black workers, it also ushered in generations of lawless poor whites. All of this is brilliantly documented in W.E.B. Du Bois’ seminal book, Black Reconstruction in 1866–1880. It took the extraegal power of the murderous Ku Klux Klan to bury this revolution in blood through lynchings, torture, mutilations and terror. The Klan was a continuation of the pre-war slave patrols but on a much larger scale. In both cases, the purpose was essentially the same: protecting the slave owner class. The betrayal and defeat of Reconstruction was fueled by the fears of Wall Street and the Northern finance capitalists. The idea of dividing up the slave owners’ plantations was considered far too radical for the Northern bourgeoisie.

In the final analysis, it was the violence and terror of the Klan, which was led by former Confederate officers and run by former Confederate soldiers, that crushed that brief period of “people’s democracy.” The legacy of the defeat of Reconstruction continues today. In the end, the vast tracts of land were back in the hands of wealthy landowners and the idea of dividing up “slaves” and a “mule” was never fulfilled.

Galveston, Texas

There is nothing that illustrates this more graphically than the recent actions of the two Galveston, Texas, police on horseback leading a handcuffed Black man by a rope through the street. This disgusting image is painfully reminiscent of the slave hunters of another era. The police were not going to let our “master’s” two thousand dollars and the horse get away with it. The police, the sheriff’s departments, and all the racist state institutions that are armed, are a never ending spiral that produces poverty and alienation.

What is gun control the answer? Is the answer to turn back the gains of the working class and crush any incipient struggle for liberation? Is it not accidental that it is a result of capitalism, which is now an interconnected global system that resists change? Have we not become a global society with each other in a never ending spiral that produces poverty and alienation? Neo-fascism has failed, as attested by the “Yellow Vest” protest movement in France. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the possibility of planetary famine from unbridled climate change. It is not necessary for the different white supremacist, xenophobic and misogynist killers in El Paso, Texas, or Dayton, Ohio, or Gilroy, Calif., to have known each other. Their actions flow organically from the present social, political and economic conditions. This is, of course, not to say that there are not organized groups who do conspire.

One of the hallmarks of capitalism is the production of violence. In this and most other capitalist countries, youth is violence. The study found that Black men and women, immigrants from Latin America, and Latinx men have a higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than white civilians.

Are we to believe that these same agencies of the state, whether it’s the police or the Customs and Border Patrol agents, present and former, were part of a secret Facebook group that posted violent and racist material mocking migrant deaths and posting a racial meme of Congressperson Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who had visited and spoken out against the horrific conditions of those detained and beaten at the border?

Police killings of innocent Black and Brown people have been so frequent that it has been referred to as “modern day lynchings.” On Aug. 8, 2019, a study published by the National Academy of Sciences says that over the last 35 years, over 1,000 police killings of black youth is violence. The study found that Black men and women, immigrants from Latin America, and Latinx men have a higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than white civilians.

Are we to believe that these same agencies of the state, whether it’s the police or the Customs and Border Patrol, will disarm and disband the neo-Nazi, white supremacist movement? It is a lot like “asking the fox to guard the henhouse.”

The question now is this: What is the pressure to advance gun control, then the demand must be made to disarm the police, the sheriff’s departments, immigration enforcement, and all the racist state institutions that are armed. It means that we must also assert the right of the right of the people, of defense and community control.

M. Matsemela–Ali Odom exposes the connection of the police and the connection to colonial war in his article “Militarism leads to gun violence and the teaching of laziness.”

To build solidarity with people around the world who are suffering from war, or indirectly from sanctions, it is critical to call for disarm- ing and disbanding the CIA and the Pentagon, both of which act as global police.

Rooted in the failure of capitalism

The racist terror of the fascist El Paso killer, who stated that he was targeting Mexican people, whilerambling, is a classic fascist docu- ment.

Whether the recent mass shoot- ings are the acts of individuals or not, there is no doubt that they are all in- structed by a fascist movement that is global in scope: from the U.S. and Europe to Brazil and the streets of Venezuela, where “guarimbas” tar- get and burn to death Afro-Venezue- lans for allegedly being Chavistas.

These forces have one major in common: they use violence to turn back the gains of the work- ing class and crush any incipient struggle for liberation. Neo-fascism has failed, as attested by the “Yellow Vest” protest movement in France. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the possibility of planetary famine from unbridled climate change. It is not necessary for the different white supremacist, xenophobic and misogynist killers in El Paso, Tex- as, or Dayton, Ohio, or Gilroy, Calif., to have known each other. Their ac- tions flow organically from the present social, political and economic conditions. This is, of course, not to say that there are not organized groups who do conspire.

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These forces have one major in common: they use violence to turn back the gains of the work- ing class and crush any incipient struggle for liberation. Neo-fascism has failed, as attested by the “Yellow Vest” protest movement in France. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the possibility of planetary famine from unbridled climate change. It is not necessary for the different white supremacist, xenophobic and misogynist killers in El Paso, Tex- as, or Dayton, Ohio, or Gilroy, Calif., to have known each other. Their ac- tions flow organically from the present social, political and economic conditions. This is, of course, not to say that there are not organized groups who do conspire.

One of the hallmarks of capitalism is the production of violence. In this and most other capitalist countries, youth is violence. The study found that Black men and women, immigrants from Latin America, and Latinx men have a higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than white civilians.

Are we to believe that these same agencies of the state, whether it’s the police or the Customs and Border Patrol, will disarm and disband the neo-Nazi, white supremacist movement? It is a lot like “asking the fox to guard the henhouse.”

The question now is this: What is the pressure to advance gun control, then the demand must be made to disarm the police, the sheriff’s departments, immigration enforcement, and all the racist state institutions that are armed. It means that we must also assert the right of the people, of defense and community control.

M. Matsemela–Ali Odom exposes the connection of the police and the connection to colonial war in his article “Militarism leads to gun violence and the teaching of laziness.”

To build solidarity with people around the world who are suffering from war, or indirectly from sanctions, it is critical to call for disarm- ing and disbanding the CIA and the Pentagon, both of which act as global police.

Rooted in the failure of capitalism

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Tlaib and Omar

Watershed moment in the struggle against imperialism and racism

By Leon Koufax

On Aug. 17, 2019, Representative Rashida Tlaib stood in front of a crowd in her hometown of Detroit. The event was technically a public Shabbat called by the progressive Jewish community. However, a diverse and multinational crowd attended to show their support for the Tlaib.

The most powerful aspect about Representative Tlaib’s appearance was that she shouldn’t have been there at all. She should have been visiting her grandmother, Mufiya, who lives in a small village in the occupied territory of the West Bank.

Since 1967, the apartheid state of Israel has violently and illegally occupied the West Bank. For the past fifty-plus years, Palestinians in the West Bank have lived and struggled under the oppressive yoke of U.S. imperialism in the form of Israeli racism. Mufiya is one of such brave Palestinians.

So, why was Representative Tlaib not in the West Bank? Tlaib had originally planned to visit her grandmother after she completed a diplomatic mission to the region with her fellow progressive Representative Ilhan Omar. In recent weeks, both women have been under a vicious attack from the right for their alleged “anti-semitic” positions. As we have previously written, these attacks are no more than a smokescreen to silence critiques of Israel’s racist and genocidal policies. Conspicuously enough, these same voices crying anti-semitism at Omar and Tlaib were silent when a private prison correctional officer drove a truck through a crowd of Jewish people demonstrating against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement concentration camps.

As the right-wing war of words against Omar and Tlaib reached a fever pitch, the fascist leader of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, announced both elected representatives would be barred from entering Israel. Significantly, the Israeli government made this decision at the urging of the United States’ own demagogue, President Donald J. Trump.

After a public outcry against the decision, Israel rescinded its decision to bar Omar and Tlaib, but only under the condition that neither would express support for the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement colloquially known as “BDS.” The BDS movement has been a crucial force in bringing attention to Israeli apartheid.

Much to her credit, the Representative Tlaib rejected this insulting condition, stating, “Visiting my grandmother under these oppressive conditions meant to humiliate me would break my grandmother’s heart.” This statement is indicative of an important political moment in the progressive struggle in this country and around the globe. Representative Tlaib’s statement was an expression of nothing less than international working-class solidarity, and not just with her grand-mother, but with all people suffering under U.S. imperialism and, in particular, Israeli apartheid.

This development is a groundbreaking in terms of political discourse in the U.S. The rise of two Muslim progressive Congressional representatives who are willing to take on the issue of Israel and settler-colonialism in an honest and material way is unprecedented.

That is not to say that the Democratic Party transformed overnight into an anti-imperialist force. It is just to say that the contributions of Tlaib and Omar in the movement against U.S. imperialism and Israeli apartheid should not be ignored. Ultimately, their existence and rise to influence must be called what it is: a victory gained through the struggle of the working class against the wealthy at home and abroad.

Leon Koufax is a Jewish communist from Baltimore who participated in the Embassy Protection Collective’s defense of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Blockade Trump not Venezuela

By Stephen Millies

Big Oil and the big banks want to starve the people of Venezuela into submission. They want to return the independent Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the days when Nelson Rockefeller—the butcher of Attica’s prisoners—had a 100,000 acre ranch there.

That’s why Trump issued his Aug. 5 executive order forbidding anyone from doing business with Venezuela’s government. Neither the United Nations nor the U.S. Congress was consulted.

Among the Venezuelan governmental programs affected will be the Local Supply and Production Committees, known as CLAP, which provide food for 6 million families. Also hit will be imports of medicine for the public health system.

Two days after Trump’s announcement, a ship carrying 25,000 tons of soybeans destined for Venezuela was told not to deliver the foodstuff by its insurer because of the new sanctions. At the time, the vessel was going through the Panama Canal.

Venezuela’s Vice President Delcy Rodríguez denounced this action: “Venezuela calls on the U.S. to stop this serious aggression by Donald Trump’s government against our country, which constitutes a massive violation of the human rights of the entire Venezuelan people, by attempting to impede their right to food.”

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza warned that Trump will freeze all of Venezuela’s assets in other countries. The Bank of England earlier seized a billion dollars of Venezuelan gold on U.S. orders.

Despite these acts of economic warfare, the Bolivarian government declared that Venezuela will not be intimidated by the billionaire in the White House. “It takes much more than a magnate-president to violate the dignity of Venezuela,” said Arreaza.

Bolton cracks the whip in Lima

Trump’s imperial edict came just before an international conference opened in Lima, Peru, on Aug. 7, to supposedly “restore democracy” in Venezuela. Although the U.S. is ostensibly not a member of the Lima Group that called this circus, Washington is its ringmaster.

Of the 100 countries invited to Lima, 56 showed up. Among those that boycotted it were the People’s Republic of China, Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Uruguay, the Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey.

Who did attend was the death squad government of Colombian President Iván Duque Márquez. Fifty-nine community leaders and human rights defenders were assassinated in Colombia during the first four months of 2019. More have been killed since then. Brazil’s fascist President Jair Bolsonaro also sent a delegation.

Trump’s national security advisor, John Bolton, and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross came to the Lima conference to give marching orders. While Bolton has a worldwide reputation as a warmonger, Ross is a vulgar capitalist who stole health care benefits from thousands of Bethlehem Steel retirees.

Bolton declared that the U.S. government was “sounding a signal to third parties that want to do business with the Maduro regime: Proceed with extreme caution.” He added that those that continue to trade with Venezuela “risk (their) business interests with the United States.”

Bolton is threatening to cut off foreign companies and banks, including those belonging to imperialist rivals. Companies like Air France and the Spanish oil company Repsol could have their U.S. assets seized.

Washington can do this because the U.S. dollar is world money. The world’s most traded commodity—oil—is traded in dollars.

This is applying Trump’s rules to the most important of humanity who do not live in the U.S. It’s a complete violation of international law. As Thomas Walkom, a columnist for the Toronto Star newspaper, described it, “It is known as extraterritorial application of (U.S.) law and it drives the rest of the world nuts.”

Venezuela will never surrender

Across Venezuela on Aug. 10, Venezuelans demonstrated against Trump’s blockade. Venezuela’s elected President Nicolás Maduro invited people to come to public squares named after the Liberator, Simón Bolívar. As thousands gathered in Grand Central Terminal on Aug. 9 during the evening rush hour, they carried signs and distributed leaflets to commuters. The demonstration was called by the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Citizens Front of New York.

Among those interested were tourists visiting from the People’s Republic of China. They were glad to see people in the U.S. protest against Trump. Huu Chunming, a spokeswoman for China’s Foreign Ministry, noted that such protests “are a serious violation of the fundamental principles of international relations.”

Bolivar never surrendered and neither will the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
WASHINGTON'S LONG WAR IN THE 'MIDDLE EAST'  

It's not the oil; it's the money

By Bill Dores

Only Iran—U.S. tensions supporting crude oil prices; outlook bearish

Economic Times, July 23, 2019

U.S. warships are not prowling the coast of Iran to protect navigation and the free flow of oil. That's a lie. For decades, Washington has used wars and sanctions to stomp the flow. Any oil or gas not owned by U.S. corporations.

The name of the game is monopoly. It's a global version of what John D. Rockefeller did when he set up the Standard Oil trust—ancestor of ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco—in the 1870s. But much, much bloodier. Rockefeller's goons sometimes torched or dynamited competitors' drilling rigs and refineries. The Pentagon and its proxies have murdered hundreds of thousands of people in the past 30 years to keep the world's energy revenues flowing to U.S. banks and corporations.

The U.S.-Israel-Saudi axis

Who are those proxies? First and foremost, the racist state of Israel and the brutal House of Saud. Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, called Israel "the biggest U.S. aircraft carrier in the world and the only one that can't be sunk." The Zionist state has been in a state of war since it was created on the stolen land of Palestine. And every war it has waged has benefited U.S. corporate interests.

Saudi-occupied Arabia is a U.S. tribute state, a cash cow for U.S. banks, and oil and arms companies. So are the tiny but ever-finer lexicons on the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. For decades their ruling families have put their oil revenues and production policy at the service of Wall Street and Washington.

Saudi ARAMCO, the world's richest oil company, was originally the Arabian-American Oil Company. For the past four years the kingdom has used its U.S.-made weaponry to murder and starve the people of neighboring Yemen. The United Nations has described the situation in that impoverished land as "the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world." President Trump has vetoed two congressional resolutions to limit U.S. involvement in the war. The Senate upheld the vetoes.

The United Arab Emirates, also involved in the war in Yemen, is the world's third biggest purchaser of U.S. arms. General Dynamics keeps an F6 production line open to fill a contract from Bahrain. On July 27, Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifa family executed two young pro-democracy activists, Ahmad al Malali, 24, and Hakim Al Arab, also 24, who had been tortured and convicted with 56 others in a mass trial. Bahrain is under Saudi military occupation. It is also home to the U.S. Naval Central Command and the U.S. Fifth Fleet, whose ships are off the coast of Iran.

Why they hate Iran

Before the 1979 Revolution, the Shah of Iran was the U.S. arms industry's biggest customer. Payer. Customer and Chase Manhattan Bank's biggest overseas paying customer. Their "victory" only intensified the crisis unique to the capitalist system, what Karl Marx called "an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity — the epidemic of overproduction."

The 'end of history' and endless war

Let's go back 30 years, to the summer of 1989. The so-called Cold War, which was hot and bloody in most of the world, seemed to be ending. The Soviet Union was imploding under the impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika. Politicians promised a peace dividend as military budgets would supposedly be slashed. A State Department employee named Francis Fukuyama wrote an essay called "The End of History." Its theme was that "the triumph of the West," of capitalism, would usher in an epoch of global stability.

As the corporate media swooned and ached over Fukuyama's words, a Defense Department employee was engaged in a different task. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. Central Command, was drawing up plans to attack Iraq. The general was carrying on a family tradition. His father, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf Sr., first served in Iran in 1940. He organized the shah's brutal security forces and helped crush independent republics in Azerbaijan and Kurdistan. During the 1953 coup, he was liason between the CIA, the shah and Iranian security officials. After the coup, Schwarzkopf Sr. trained the shah's dreaded secret police, later known as SAVAK.

The CIA agent who ran the coup, became a vice president of Gulf Oil. The 1979 Revolution, which threw out the shah, ended Iran's subservi- ence to Washington and Wall Street. The country's oil revenues no longer went into U.S. bankers' pockets. The Islamic Republic has been on Wash- ington's enemy list ever since.

There are a lot of differences between Islamic Iran, Bolivarian Venezuela, Baathist Iraq, Jamahiriya Libya and Putin's Russia. But in the eyes of the U.S. ruling class they are all guilty of the same sin: using their oil revenues for their own interests and not those of Wall Street.

Something more urgent than greed for lost tribute drives the Trump regime's desperation to con- front Iran. It's the same thing that drove the U.S. to attack, sanction and invade Iraq, sanction Venezuela and Russia, bomb Libya and launch proxy wars in Syria and Ukraine. It's the desperate struggle of capital against that crisis unique to the capitalist system.

The tragedy in Iraq was indeed something more urgent than the oil. The Bush regime did not seize Iraq's oil fields. Nor did it allow Iraq's oil back on the world market. Instead it—and the Democratic and Republican administrations thereafter—bombed and sanctioned Iraq for 12 more years.

A December 1995 U.N. report found that sanctions had caused the death of 587,000 Iraqi children. Comment- ing on the deaths, Bill Clinton's secret- ry of state, Madeleine Albright, told CBS 60 Minutes, "We think the price is worth it."

The tragedy in Iraq was indeed worth it to the U.S. corporate ruling class, especially those most invested in oil. They had "won" the Cold War. But their victory only intensified the crisis of their system.

Big Oil desperately needed re- spite from the oil glut of the 1980s. The glut, aggravated by Saudi and Kuwaiti overproduction, seriously damaged the Soviet economy. But it also played havoc with oil profits.

The end of the Soviet bloc's planned economy and state-owned industries drove down the price of labor on a world scale. It opened up new mar- kets for the U.S. dollar and for capi- talist investment and exploitation.

It however caused a huge drop in global demand, threatened to drive energy prices lower still. And it left the U.S. military-industrial complex with no customers. The Bush regime needed an excuse to justify bloated budgets and new contracts. The children of Iraq were collateral damage in a desperate attempt by the wealthiest regime on earth to salvage their bottom line.
Situación de las mujeres en el trabajo

Saludos camaradas y amigas, trai-
gido solidaridad y amor de las Mujeres en Lucha y del Partido de Socialismo Unido en Estados Unidos.

La primera condenación de las mujeres trabajadoras en el capitalis-
ta EEUU continúa siendo miserable y de explotación. Aunque el 46,9% de la fuerza laboral son mujeres, los trabajadores en Estados Unidos,

nos mantenemos en los trabajos peor pagados como el servicio de comida, oficinas, fábricas y la atención médica. En el 2019, las mujeres todavía ganan 79 centavos por cada dólar que ganan los hombres.

“Sin embargo, mujeres trabajado-
ras recientemente dirigieron las lu-
chas sindicales más dinámicas, in-
cluyendo las revueltas de maestras/os
contra el paro de un día en 10
centros de distribución en Shakopee,

Mujeres indígenas están ganan-
to el derecho a un salario sano y
mexicanos y en la política de segur-
idades que luchan para establecer
procesos legales que impidan la
femicidio y el feminicidio. Las

Las mujeres y las niñas jóvenes es-
témporadas encuentran los obstácu-
los más difíciles para ser productivas bajo el capitalismo.

Estos obstáculos afectan espropor-
cionalmente a las mujeres de color,

asianas, y a las mujeres y niñas indígenas y a los jóvenes LGBTQ2S.

“Como sociales, es su deber luchar.

En el mundo, el 50% de la pobla-
al 50 aniversario del nacimiento del

El 50% de la población, el 50% de los

Sepan que no son las mujeres de la

las mañanas de trabajadores, las

Las mujeres y los trabajadores de la

Mujeres migrantes de África ori-

Las mujeres que enfrentan las

“Mujeres migrantes de África ori-

La educación y el trabajo de las

Las mujeres migrantes de África ori-

Infórmese de Liz Toldeo al comité directivo mundial de la FDMI/WIDF
(Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres / Women’s International Democratic Federation)