Unite against racist police terror!

Embracing the authentic meaning of “the spirit of Stonewall,” last year in New York City, the Reclaim Pride Coalition organized a huge, militant, multinational, multigender, multigenerational, youth-led march proclaiming the rebellious essence of the 1969 uprising outside the Stonewall Inn in the city’s Greenwich Village.

Demonstrating the high level of political consciousness that exists within the LGBTQ2S communities and their organizations, the Reclaim Pride marchers’ demands reflected not only issues of immediate concern to the communities themselves — in particular, the ongoing violence against trans people, especially trans women of color — but also the militaristic imperialist policies of the U.S., like the ongoing attempts to overthrow the democratically elected pro-socialist government of Venezuela.

And now, a year later, that same high level of consciousness is visible in the magnificent mass mobilizations of anti-racist youth and their allies in every nook and cranny of this big country and, in dramatic shows of international solidarity, all across the globe.

LGBTQ2S activists are hard at work in organizing many of these anti-racist, anti-police actions. Adjustments made necessary by the coronavirus pandemic have made Pride organizing more challenging, but the movement is not deterred. In San Diego, for example, which has a huge Pride march each July, the march itself has been cancelled in the interests of protecting the community from contagion. But, in a significant act of solidarity with the Black-led uprising against police violence, the local Pride organizers have announced a ban on the participation by “law enforcement agencies” in all Pride activities.

Solidarity! As it should be right now, the focus of decent revolutionary people all around the world is on stopping the racist killer police of the U.S. from murdering people of color. But that struggle also raises basic issues of racial and class injustice: the need for free education through college for all; free quality health care, the lack of which has been exposed by the high level of deaths from COVID-19 among Black and Brown people; decent, affordable housing; and the right to good paying jobs for all.

Deserving the special attention of all who seek a just world are the calls for reparations for slavery and recognition of the settler-colonial status of the United States entity on Indigenous land.

The LGBTQ2S liberation movement and the Black liberation movement are natural allies. They both began as rebellions against continuous police brutality on an oppressed community. In a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court has just ruled that LGBTQ2S folk are covered under Civil Rights protections with no fighting back. This is what true community means. People are not going to stand idly by and allow cops or white supremacists to shoot us down without fighting back. This is what true community-controlled public safety looks like!

Witnesses at the scene stated that the exact same thing happened last night, when shots from a grey car with a white man and a white woman inside were fired into the crowd, injuring one. Several shootings have occurred in Atlanta throughout the week of struggle for Black Lives, a struggle that has captured the hearts of the working-class and oppressed people worldwide.

Black young men, armed and protecting their community, was an awe-inspiring sight to see! It was truly electrifying! These young people are not going to stand idly by and allow cops or white supremacists to shoot us down without fighting back. This is what true community-controlled public safety looks like!
Port of Oakland shutdown commemorates Juneteenth

All 29 ports on the West Coast were shut down on June 19 as dockworkers stopped processing cargo and rallied to mark Juneteenth by calling for an end to police terror and to honor the lives of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor and all the others killed by racist cops.

The Juneteenth rally was at the Port of Oakland, Calif., where the strike had been initiated by International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10.

Ten thousand workers and supporters rallied to hear labor leaders like Willie Adams, the first Black president of the ILWU, who said: "We’re not working today. We’re standing in solidarity." He said dockworkers in Seattle had also stopped work in solidarity.

"You represent the potential and the power of the labor movement," Angela Davis, a longtime activist and former political prisoner, said at the rally. She said she hopes that other labor unions will join in the effort of "abolishing the police as we know them" and "re-imagining public safety."

Other speakers included actor Danny Glover, who called in to voice support, and Michael Brown Sr., father of Michael Brown Jr, the 18-year-old Black man who was killed in 2014, by Ferguson, Mo., police officer Darren Wilson.

The protests drove in a caravan and marched from the Port to the Oakland Police Department headquarters and on to Oakland City Hall to rally again. The marchers wore masks and volunteered handed out water and hand sanitizer.

The mood in downtown Oakland was exuberant as cars honked, music by James Brown played and over 100 bikers sped up and down Broadway with raised fists. A troupe of drummers performed in front of City Hall starting around 1 p.m. as the crowd swelled to thousands more around nearby Oscar Grant Plaza, named for the Black man killed by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police officer Johannes Mehserle on New Year’s Eve 2009.

Rapper and film director Boots Riley said in front of Oakland City Hall that the port work stoppage and other labor efforts would maintain pressure for meaningful change. "We don’t want to just ask for things to get better. We’re going to say, ‘it’s going to get better or else,’" he said.

Gwendoline Pochoulin displayed homemade signs that said "All Black Lives Matter" and a quote from author Alice Walker: "The most common way people give up power is by thinking they don’t have any."

"I think if there’s a moment to show up, it’s now," she said. -Lallon Schoenein

ILWU urges labor action to fight police terror

By Lallon Schoenein

On Juneteenth, an estimated 10,000 people flocked to the Port of Oakland in California’s Bay Area to participate in the “West Coast Port Shutdown.” The Juneteenth rally started with longshore workers at the Port of Oakland holding a work stoppage. The massive group then marched to Oakland City Hall to hear from labor leaders. Watch the video at https://tinyurl.com/ydbghnoa.

"The International Longshore and Warehouse Union called the strike for June 19 to shut down all 29 ports on the West Coast for eight hours. They demanded an end to white supremacy, police terror and plans to privatize the Port of Oakland, which would take away essential jobs for working-class African Americans in the Bay Area. They called for unions across the country to join them to take the lead in the fight against racist police terror.

Juneteenth commemorates the day that news finally reached Texas that the Confederacy had been defeated and that slavery had been abolished more than two years earlier in 1865.

Calling for labor to take action, Willie Adams, the first Black president of the ILWU, said: “Our union has a history of confronting racism on the job, in our community and around the world.”

Trent Willis, president of ILWU Local 10, said: “The wealth gap for Black and Brown sisters and brothers is larger than ever in history. It’s time to push back!”

The Juneteenth action was initiated by ILWU Locals 10 and 34.

Clarence Thomas, a retired ILWU official and an initiator of the Mil- lion Worker March Movement, said: "Part of a commemorative poster commissioned by Clarence Thomas, a retired, 3rd generation longshore worker, past secretary-treasurer of ILWU Local 10, and co-founder of the Million Worker March Movement, for the historic West Coast Port Shutdown on Juneteenth 2020.

The United Auto Workers said that its members and allies across the globe paused work for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to honor George Floyd on Juneteenth. According to United Domestic Workers, AFSCME Local 3930, San Diego labor union members joined in a Juneteenth Black Lives Matter caravan that took them from San Diego to the La Mesa Police Department headquarters.

Boots Riley tweeted that some Tesla workers in the Bay Area were doing a direct action at the Tesla factories on Juneteenth. Organizers of the Atlanta protests against the death of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks called for a general strike of Black workers on that day, #StrikeForBlackLives.

"You represent the potential and the power of the labor movement," said Angela Davis.

"You can’t stop the struggle for freedom. It is a continuous battle for the liberation of the working class for radical change." - Clarence Thomas

June 19, 2020 @ 10 am
WEST COAST PORT SHUTDOWN JUNETEENTH

The Committee to Stop Police Terror & End Systemic Racism called in solidarity with the ILWU Locals 10 & 34. We are a committee of workers, labor and the members, allies who #BlackLivesMatter, and we demand an end to racist terror and the end to racist policing and systems racism.

Part of a commemorative poster commissioned by Clarence Thomas, a retired, 3rd generation longshore worker, past secretary-treasurer of ILWU Local 10, and co-founder of the Million Worker March Movement, for the historic West Coast Port Shutdown on Juneteenth 2020.

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Coast-to-coast walkouts

The Juneteenth strike took place after three weeks of walkouts and wildcats that spread coast to coast. A rank-and-file strike wave against deteriorating conditions and an economic slowdown began early in the pandemic. Black and Brown workers, who were already struggling against the impact of racism, were even more devastated than anyone. The police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor happened at a catastrophic time. The national revolt against racist policing was ignited.

Payday Report says the protests against police terror have more than doubled the number of strikes reported. They have counted more than 500 labor actions since the protests began. Payday says many strikes aren’t reported and that the numbers are higher than they can track. “If the size of these strikes last week is any indication, Juneteenth is likely to be the largest day of strikes.”

When protests erupted in late May against the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 refused to help the police transport protesters in jail. Local 1005 issued a statement in solidarity with the protests on May 28. “This system has failed all of us in the working class from the coronavirus to the economic crisis we are facing. This system has failed people of color and Black Americans more than anyone else.”

Ryan Timlin, president of ATU Local 1005, explained: “The union gives you protection to exert your rights.”

As they drove with support of transit unionists in cities like Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, Philadelphia and New York, labor unions told police to protest or to allow police to use their buses to take arrested demonstrators away from the communities where many of these drivers live. They say this is a misuse of public transit.

On June 9, work on U.S. ports ground to a halt. On the West Coast, the ILWU and on the East Coast members of the International Longshoremen’s Association stopped work to mourn George Floyd for the amount of time that killer cop Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck.

Hospital workers and rehabilitation and nursing center workers took similar actions. Members of 1199SEIU, the country’s largest health care workers’ union, knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds during a vigil. They networked through #BlackLivesMatter and #ShutDownAcademia and #ShutDownSTEM strike. In the state...
ILWU urges labor action to fight police terror

Members of the D.C. National Guard "dominate" the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on June 2, 2020.

Socialism & Dignity

We don’t need their cops

By Stephen Millies

When the Pilgrims invaded the Wampanoag nation in the 1620s, they didn’t find any police or jails. Such cruelty wasn’t necessary.

That’s because there were no rich or poor in Wampanoag society. A community of equals didn’t need armed thugs with badges. Billionaires and banksters didn’t require protection since these parasites didn’t exist.

Three people are killed by police on every average day in the United States. Almost 5 million people are arrested every year, many of whom cannot afford bail.

More than 10 million people are arrested annually by police armed with guns, clubs and mace. Almost any of these arrests can result in death or serious injury. Many do.

The capitalist U.S. is a violent police state. The wealthy and powerful spend around $200 billion a year, to have over 800,000 on the city street and keep 2.3 million people in prisons. Every cent of this money is used to fund the prisons.

The Reagan administration created the crack epidemic to fund the CIA connection that flooded New York City with heroin was a CIA connection. Drug-dealing gangsters who beat up striking French workers and communists worked in tandem with U.S. spy agencies.

Corrupt cops were also essential. Nearly 100 pounds of "French Connection" heroin were checked out of the New York Police Department's evidence locker on Jan. 4, 1972, never to be found again.

Drugs help suppress communities from organizing for jobs, housing and health care. That’s why CIA-owned Air America, with 20,000 em- ployees, delivered the U.S. with dope during the Vietnam War.

"The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia" by Alfred McCoy exposed these crimes. The CIA tried to stop the book from being published.

One of the reasons the ruling class sought to destroy the Black Panther Party, assassinating dozens of its members, was because the Panthers fought against drugs.

The Reagan administration created the crack epidemic to fund the contra terrorists who were trying to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Corruption served as an excuse to incarcerate hundreds of thousands of more people. Joe Biden was responsible for many of the laws that filled the prisons.

Banks make vast profits by laundering drug and crime money that's estimated by the United Nations to be as much as $2 trillion a year.

 Tear down the walls!

Poor people in Paris started the French Revolution by tearing down a hated prison called the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

The U.S. has thousands of bastilles. Everyone of them should be torn down, including the immigration camps where children are kept in cages.

Many of these U.S. bastilles are labeled "correctional institutions." "Correction" was invented by the slave masters to describe their torture of enslaved Africans.

Louisiana’s Angola State Prison is one of the bastilles that had the same name. It was called Angola because that’s where many of its enslaved African workers came from.

Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3 en- Continued on page 4

Dictatorship of capitalism

Because the U.S. state is based on armed bodies — the army and police — and its auxiliaries, the prisons, courts and so on, even the most democratic bourgeois government has a hidden dictatorship of capitalism. This is not necessarily a military dictatorship. But military dictatorship is sometimes brought in to rescue a capitalist government in crisis, especially when there is a popular uprising.

Karl Marx wrote on bourgeois military dictatorships and the 1851 coup by Louis Bonaparte in France. Bonapartism, as the term was used for this regime, by Marx, refers to a situation in which the military seizes control in a country sharply divided, with the military introducing selective reforms to co-opt the radicalism of the working class and peasant farmers. In the process, Marx said, Bonapartists preserve and mask the power of the bourgeois ruling class.

Mattis said of Trump that “he does not even try to unite the American people.” He then compared Trump to the Nazis, sowing divisions.

A military dictatorship, even one led by Donald Trump, is not fascism. Mattis invoking Nazis was a blur, not meant to be clarifying.

Fascism is characterized as opposed to a military dictatorship, is the complete destruction of the community of equals doesn’t need protection since these parasites didn’t exist.

Thousand and thousands of heavily armed soldiers

Suddenly, the whole nation witnessed the aggressive and violent action by 5,000 National Guard troops and federal agents, decked out in full body armor, to move the protesters out of the way just before the president came out to speak about dominating the streets, saying, in battle fatigues, “I am a president of thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers.”

Shortly after that, Trump led Barr, Milley, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and others over to a church where he famously held up a Bible.

A white National Guard command- er called the standoff in Lafayette Square “the Alamo,” implying that the White House was under siege. The Alamo was a fort in the colonial territory of Texas, then a part of Mexico, where a small white slave-rebell- ion against the U.S. fought the Mexican government for the right to own slaves. Mexico had abolished slavery.

The U.S. has thousands of bastilles. Everyone of them should be torn down, including the immigration camps where children are kept in cages.

The capitalista U.S. is a violent po- lice state. The wealthy and powerful spend around $200 billion a year, to have over 800,000 on the city street and keep 2.3 million people in prisons. Every cent of this money is stolen from the working class, both employed and unemployed.

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Banks make vast profits by laundering drug and crime money that’s estimated by the United Nations to be as much as $2 trillion a year.

By Gary Wilson

On Monday, June 1, Donald Trump called Attorney General William Barr, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley to the White House, where he got on the phone with the country’s governors and proceeded to demand that they “dominate” the streets, saying, “Most of you are weak.” He told them that he was put- ting Gen. Milley in charge.

Trump said: “We’re going to take care of it. And we’ve got a number of people here that you’ll be seeing. Gen. Milley is here, who’s head of Joint Chiefs of Staff. A fighter, a warrior, had a lot of victories and no losses. And he hates to see the way it’s being handled in the various states. And I just put him in charge,” according to a transcript of the recorded talk.

The White House announced that Trump would give a speech later in the day. Although he didn’t mention this on the call, there were numerous reports that the president intended to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 — used by President Andrew Jackson to deploy federal troops to literally nearly a major slave revolt in the state called the Nat Turner in Virgin- ia’s Southampton County.

The Insurrection Act gives the president the authority to use the military to put down protests.

The afternoon of June 1 saw the unprecedented sight of Gen. Milley in battle fatigues, dressed for battle. The White House announced that Attorney General Barr, on the White House grounds in advance of Trump’s speech in the Rose Garden. They appeared to be reviewing the troops which were lined up facing the protests in Lafayette Park across the street.

Thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers

Said Barr to Democracy Now: “One of the reasons the ruling class absolutely spent around $200 billion a year, to have over 800,000 on the city street and keep 2.3 million people in prisons. Every cent of this money is stolen from the working class, both employed and unemployed.

correctional institutions.” “Correction” was invented by the slave masters to describe their torture of enslaved Africans.

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Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3 en-

Continued on page 4

La Lucha
Trump’s June 1 coup attempt

Trump could order U.S. troops to occupy U.S. cities to put down the uprising. But what he didn’t consider was that those troops could say no. In fact, most of the soldiers probably support the uprising. Many of the soldiers come from the Black and Brown communities that are leading the protests. More than 55 percent of the whole population of the country say that the burning of the Minneapolis police station was justified. General Mattis made a veiled reference to the problem of the troops. The soldiers could refuse to follow orders if they believed those orders were illegal.

The Pentagon has plans in place for a military occupation of U.S. cities. And a little more than a year ago they did a practice run. A Pentagon war game called the 2018 Joint Land, Air and Sea Strategic Special Program, or JASSP, offered a scenario in which members of Generation Z, “anti-capitalist extremists,” launch a “Zbellion” in the U.S. in the mid-2020s.

The JASSP war game was recently revealed because the Pentagon played a visible role in Trump’s move for military occupation of major U.S. cities. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said on June 1, “I think the sooner that you mass and dominate the battlespace, the quicker this today.

Community control now! Every real revolution frees prisoners and fires the police of the old regime. Karl Marx gave this description of the world’s first working-class government, the 1871 Paris Commune:

“No more corpses at the morgue, no nocturnal bargains, scarcely any robberies; in fact, for the first time since the days of the revolution of 1826, the streets of Paris were safe that without any police of any kind.”

There are calls across the country to fund the police. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is suggesting a mere $500 million to $150 million cut in the city’s $1.86 billion police budget. New York City’s mayor, Bill de Blasio, is proposing an even smaller percentage cut to the $6 billion it police department spends. These street games won’t stop killings by police. A genuine demand for defunding the police is offered by the December 12th Movement in New York City.

D12 member Iman Essiet stated, “It is time to redirect the millions of dollars budgeted to the police to community-based organizations and social agencies which are equipped to address issues such as poverty, mental illness, children’s behavior in schools, mental health, homelessness, unemployment and poverty.”

The police have to be disarmed. Their guns, clubs, mace, rubber bullets, tear gas and pepper spray have to be outlawed. So do their patrol wagons in which Freddie Gray was killed via a “rough ride” by Baltimore cops. Almost none of the police in the socialist People’s Republic of China have guns. The Black Panther Party raised the demand for community control of the police. The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and its executive director, Frank Freeman—Freeman Jr., are demanding this today.

The NAAARP wants an “elect the Civilian Police Accountability Council that holds police officers accountable for crimes such as assault, murder, torture and racial profiling.”

The struggle for community control is a stepping stone to abolishing the police. If the streets can stop the killer cops, it is almost certain that the workers will demand the same thing from the state.
Defend Seattle CHAZ/CHOP — No police-military intervention!

By Greg Butterfield

In a month of extraordinary rebellions following the police execution of George Floyd, one of the most significant is the takeover of a six-block area around the Seattle Police Department’s East Precinct, where the local community and activists have established a police-free Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ), also called Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP).

“Hundreds of protesters have taken over several blocks of Seattle and transformed into the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone … helping to amplify nationwide protests while offering a real-world example of what a community can look like without police,” the Guardian reported.

“Protesters have filled several blocks of Seattle’s artsy Capitol Hill neighborhood, setting up tents, playing music and playing games. They are using the artsy Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle, after police abandoned their east precinct, following dangerous clashes between protesters and law enforcement.”

The people’s takeover of a small area of Seattle has sent panic through the halls of power, starting with the White House. President Donald Trump has made several threats to “retake” the city from the community, whom he labels “domestic terrorists.” Trump implied he will use military force if Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee and Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan don’t move swiftly to crush the CHAZ.

Trump’s threats have been echoed by right-wing media slandering Seattle Black activists with racist terms like “warlords” and warning about imaginary “antifa” violence. Fox News was exposed for using doctored photos in its rabidly hostile coverage of CHAZ.

In light of Trump’s attempted military coup in Washington, D.C., on June 1, when the president ordered the clearing of protesters from Lafayette Park across from the White House and appeared publicly with Pentagon brass to threaten using the U.S. military to put down anti-police terror protests, the movement must take their threats seriously and not dismiss them as Trump’s usual empty boasts.

Demands of Black collective

A statement of demands from Black leadership in the CHAZ, “Collective Black Voices at Free Capitol Hill,” explains, “This is no simple request to end police brutality. We demand that the City Council and the Mayor, who proudly implement these policy changes for the cultural and historic advancement of the City of Seattle, and to ease the struggles of its people. This document is to represent the Black voices who spoke in victory at the top of 12th & Pine after 9 days of peaceful protest while under constant nightly attack from the Seattle Police Department.

“The Seattle Police Department and attached court system are beyond reform. We do not request reform, we demand abolition. We demand that the Seattle Council and the Mayor stop using police, abolish the Seattle Police Department and the attached Criminal Justice Apparatus. This means 100% of funding, including existing pensions for Seattle Police. At an equal level of priority we also demand that the city dissolve the operations of ICE in the city of Seattle.”

The collective’s demands are broken into four categories: the justice system, health and human services, economies and education. They call for de-gentrification of the city and black and Indigenous history to be elevated in the state’s education curriculum; and many other urgent needs of the city’s workers and oppressed.

Self-organization against system

Earlier this year, Seattle was the site of one of the first major COVID-19 outbreaks in the U.S., devastating poor and oppressed communities and the health care system. But the city also has a history of militant struggles, from the 1999 General Strike inspired by the Bolivarian Revolution to the 1999 Battle of Seattle during the meeting of the World Trade Organization.

There are many examples in history of the people setting up their own governing bodies and defenses, free of the police and other capitalist institutions — from Nat Turner’s Rebellion to the Paris Commune to the Russian Revolution and every revolutionary manifestation since. When the people rise, and begin to understand that the whole system is their enemy, they naturally seek to create and defend these forms of self-organization, which have been called communes, soviets, people’s assemblies, etc.

Trump’s threats to unleash the military to “retake” Seattle reflects the fear in the ruling class that this modest expression of people’s power will inspire workers and youth to take similar moves elsewhere, especially coming on the heels of the burning down of the 3rd Police Precinct in Minneapolis.

The rulers are right to worry. An attempt was made to establish an autonomous zone in Asheville, N.C., though it was subsequently crushed by the police; while the governor of neighboring Tennessee issued a panicky warning against similar efforts in Nashville.

From Atlanta to Minneapolis to Oakland, and all over the world, people are watching, learning and drawing lessons from the Seattle experience as they have from Minneapolis and all the historic events of recent weeks.

The urgent need now is for solidarity to defend the CHAZ from attack, whether by Trump and the Pentagon or the “Libertarian” authorities in Washington State.

One, two, three, many Seattle!

Justice for Rayshard Brooks protest blocks Atlanta mayor

By Lizz Toledo

June 15 — Today, protesters shouting “No justice, no peace, no racist police!” surrounded and blocked Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms from leaving City Hall. This came after a weekend of rebellion in response to the murder of Rayshard Brooks by two white police officers in the city’s southwest, a poor working-class community.

The community’s militant response has already forced the resignation of Police Chief Erika Shields and the firing of the cop who fired the killing shot at Brooks. Like the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Rayshard Brooks’ death was captured on video which went viral. Brooks fell as police drove-through on Friday night, June 12. After being given a field sobriety test, a scuffle ensued when police tried to arrest him for allegedly driving under the influence — a law disproportionately enforced against Black and Latinx people in Atlanta.

The cops used a taser on Brooks and put him in a chokehold, similar to the one that killed George Floyd and sparked nationwide resistance. In fear of his life, Brooks grabbed the taser, broke out of the chokehold, and ran.

As Brooks ran, he was shot three times. Two of the shots went into his back and killed him. This has forced Atlanta mayor Bottoms to declare his death a homicide.

Even if Brooks was aiming the taser at the cops, as they claim, police in Georgia often testify in court to the fact that a taser is not a lethal weapon. They can’t now claim that Brooks was allegedly pointing a taser at them, while he was running away and at a long distance from them, justified his murder.

Abolishing this institutionalized racist police system is the rallying cry of the most oppressed. It has never been about our safety, but instead about protecting the property and capital of the ruling class. It must be replaced with community-controlled public safety departments, specifically in the Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. Abolish the police, prisons and ICE!
Caravan against police terror draws community support

By Dulce Garcia

Los Angeles — The recent death of George Floyd due to police brutality has caused a lot of people to unite through this very heartbreaking and difficult situation. It’s not the first time this has happened, and the people want change. People want justice — not only for Floyd, but also for the many others who have lost their lives due to inhumane police officers.

On Sunday, June 7, a “Community Caravan Against Police Terrorism” was held. The caravan was hosted by Unión del Barrio and co-hosted by Struggle-La Lucha, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Witness for Peace Southwest, the Social Unity Party, the Human Rights Alliance for Child Refugees and Families, and Frente Indígena de Organizaciones. In addition, over 40 organizations endorsed.

Hundreds of vehicles joined the historic protest caravan.

Honoring Bunchy Carter

We started at Woodlawn Cemetery in Compton, where Black Panther Party leader Bunchy Carter, a victim of the U.S. government’s Cointelpro program, is buried. Former Black Panther Harold Welton gave a speech. There were new reporters and other people recorded and shared the commemoration on social media. The commemoration began with remarks from Celestina Bishop, who leads volunteer efforts at the cemetery to clean a peoples’ landmark where Black slaves were also buried. Her grandmother, grandfather and other close relatives were buried in the cemetery.

She spoke about how she and her family have been affected by police terror. Her son, who has disabilities, saw the latest videos on police brutality and now has a fear of cops, whom he thought were heroes at first. Bishop also stated, “If we were to cut each other, we all would bleed the same.”

Before the caravan left the cemetery, I interviewed another of the volunteers who participated in the caravan. She said: “I want to support the community. To live with respect from the people who should be protecting us. I am indignant seeing these things happen to people from our communities. I came today to support this caravan because I don’t want this to keep happening to our future generations.”

“I want this to change people’s views,” she continued, “and this time change the world and have a peaceful life,” referring to the chant she would like to see happen in the communities. She also expressed that she would like more respect from those who called “hero cops.” She doesn’t want her grandkids to grow up with the fear she grew up with.

‘The problem is the system’

The caravan started moving around 12:30 p.m., driving through Compton up to Watts. Moving through these neighborhoods, we saw many people outside their homes supporting the caravan. Some held posters while others just watched and recorded from a distance.

From Watts, the caravan moved all the way through Los Angeles along Central Avenue to the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters. We got to City Hall around 3:40 p.m., where another protest was already going on.

There, one of the hosts of the protest said, “We speak the power, we are here today protesting because you all want the power to speak,” referring to how the people want to be heard, especially with injustice that happens on a daily basis.

“The problem isn’t our skin color. The problem is how the system has created stereotypes for people of color. This, today, is how the U.S. should be: people being united.”

The U.S. has never been great. It has always had wars, racism, stereotypes, violence and corruption among the people. The people should be united, but for too long the system has put fear into people to unite when it comes to any type of situation. Now things are starting to change.

Dulce Garcia (writer) and Benie Ramos (photographer) are journalists, high school students and activists who helped organize the caravan.

Black-Puerto Rican solidarity on the march

By Greg Butterfly

New York — Thousands of people filled the streets of Washington Heights, Harlem and El Barrio (East Harlem) on June 14 for a militant demonstration of Black-Latina solidarity against racist police terror.

Puerto Rican and Black Liberation flags waved side-by-side as people in these two proud neighborhoods, historically plagued by police brutality, economic neglect and racist gentrification, once again expressed their unity with demands for community control and an end to police terror.

At the march, the demand: “Black Panthers and the demand: “Black Liberation Now!”

The march started at the intersection of 125th Street and Africa Square. Malcolm X was assassinated. It gathered force as it wound through Washington Heights and Harlem. As the roar of chanting marchers filled 125th Street, hundreds of people greeted them with a rally at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building. Speakers included members of the Jericho Movement for political prisoners. A banner hung at the base of the Adam Clayton Powell statue bore the logo of the Black Panthers and the demand: “Black community control of police.”

After a long standoff with police at the intersection of 125th Street and Africa Square, the march continued on to the People’s Church in East Harlem. Supporters of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and Struggle-La Lucha carried signs in the march calling for community control and an end to cop crimes.

NEW YORK

PHOTOS: REVO GRAFIA

SLL PHOTO: BENIE RAMOS

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PHOTOS: DULCE GARCIA

PHOTOS: DULCE GARCIA
Thousands march against racist police system

By Lev Koufax

On Saturday, June 6, the Peoples Power Assembly led a demonstration in Baltimore demanding justice for George Floyd and the abolition of the Baltimore Police Department. Other demands included not one more dollar for the police and complete community control.

Approximately 8,000 people marched through the city, followed by over 200 cars. Marchers started outside the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center on North Charles Street.

The demonstration’s first stop was the Baltimore City jail complex. As marchers chanting “Free them all!” approached, hundreds of prisoners could be heard chanting back “Black lives matter!” and “Thank you.” This demonstration is one of several to visit the jail complex in the last two months as local organizers have demanded universal testing and full personal protective equipment (PPE) for all prisoners.

From the jail complex, the march traveled east to the Douglas Homes public housing development. The Rev. Annie Chambers, a PPA organizer and former Black Panther, has been holding free food giveaways to the residents there since the beginning of the pandemic. Demonstrators wanted to show solidarity with the residents of Douglas Homes, who find their homes a target for sale to redevelopment by wealthy Johns Hopkins University.

Next, the march traveled to the Baltimore City Police Headquarters. Marchers shouted “No justice, no peace! No racist police!” and “Money for jobs and education, not for police occupation.”

The march culminated at the Maryland National Guard 5th Regiment Armory. Marchers chose this location to conclude because of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s plans to send the Maryland National Guard to illegally occupy Washington, D.C.

Speakers from the Ujima People’s Progress Party and the Socialist Unity Party gave talks denouncing imperialism. This included a powerful message from UPP organizer Brandon Walker, who argued that one cannot be anti-racist without being anti-imperialist.

Protesters take to streets in solidarity with Minneapolis

By Kevin Niemann

In late May and early June, over 30,000 protesters from the greater Denver metropolitan area descended upon the Colorado State Capitol, Civic Center Park and the surrounding streets to demand accountability for killer cops and vigilantes in light of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

The mostly young, diverse and Black-led crowds surrounded the State Capitol building starting May 28. Chants of “Say their names!” and “No justice, no peace! No racist police!” filled the Capitol Hill neighborhood as several different groups of protesters marched to block I-25 near Colfax Avenue.

The protesters faced violence and threats from both fascist cops and white supremacists. On May 29, a woman managed to creep between peaceful protesters and fled from the scene, while the Denver police began tear gassing and shooting pepper balls in an attempt to disperse the protesters. They also gassed several residential neighborhoods.

The protests caused fear to the Colorado State Assembly, still in session at the Capitol building, which announced that it would not be in session through the weekend.

Following another day of peaceful protests, police-protecting Denver Mayor Michael Hancock launched a curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., affecting residents’ ability to get food, shelter or medical supplies.

On Saturday, May 30, despite the incoming curfew and several nights of unprovoked police attacks against civilians, 10,000 Coloradans took to the streets demanding justice. Signs reading “I Can’t Breathe,” the last words of George Floyd, and “Solidarity with Minneapolis, Louisville and Georgia” could be seen for blocks as a march went through the downtown area.

At the State Capitol, several thousand people laid on the ground for nine minutes, echoing the time during which police choked George Floyd. At the nearby amphitheater in Civic Center Park, speeches by several Black community leaders demanded a stop to the racist police killings of people of color.

“Say his name!” yelled a chant leader at the end of the speeches, followed by the crowd’s fervent response of “George Floyd!” Then, “Say her name!” “Breonna Taylor!” “Say his name!” “Ahmaud Arbery!” The curfew was eventually extended to last the entire week, and the National Guard was deployed.

However, angered protesters continued to occupy Civic Center Park and march nightly. This comes despite the continued insistence of the police on attacking the crowd unprovoked with tear gas and pepper bullets, causing several severe injuries and hospitalizations.

Similar gassings of peaceful protesters also happened in nearby Colorado Springs.

The people of Denver have had enough of killer cops and are demanding justice be brought to the murderers of Black lives. The Colorado Calvary statue in front of the Capitol, dedicated to the soldiers who committed the genocidal Sand Creek Massacre against innocent Arapaho and Cheyenne Indigenous people during the Civil War, has been removed with paint saying “ACAB” (“All Cops Are Bastards”), “F*ck racists” and “Stop Killing Us” on the pedestal and statue itself.

Denver stands in solidarity with other cities that believe the system does not work for us and must be thrown out completely. Black Lives Matter! 
I’m a tenth grade student from Brooklyn. I have been living in a system much less violent than dark-skinned Black people who are not of mixed descent. I also need to listen to Black people and to other people of color for my privilege as a cis person. Admitting this isn’t enough: what do these actions entail for me? How do I constantly ensure I am centering the people in my community who are the least privileged? These lessons fueled my devotion to fight the racism that permeates the United States.

Of course, COVID-19 has smothered my opportunities to attend physical protests, but I spent a good chunk of time in "quarantine" thinking about all the demonstrations I'd attend once it was all over. So I thought to myself, the video of George Floyd’s murder exploded onto the internet.

I felt strongly that I should participate in my city’s protests. On Saturday, May 30, I went to two: first, a rally in Harlem. The initial gathering, which happened on 125th Street, was kind of odd. I went to no others, and eventually I was more passionate about my right to refuse to participate in protests than any sort of activism. Do I care about色 kare about social issues, rather I felt disconnected from them. I think, weirdly enough, it felt like "rebellion" to not fight injustice and oppression, having been raised by a parent who always encouraged me to do so. Thankfully, my thinking has changed a lot since middle school.

In the past year or so, I've started reading revolutionary works on my own as an extension of the discussions that public education teaches us to accept. I went to the highly publicized climate march in September 2019, along with many other high schoolers. Although I didn't complete my best to chant along with the crowd. Although I didn't complete my best to chant along with the crowd. Although I didn't complete my best to chant along with the crowd. Although I didn't complete my best to chant along with the crowd. Although I didn't complete my best to chant along with the crowd.

The speakers were all wonderful and dressed the thousands of protestors coming on a makeshift podium and ad-libbing. Some were able statements echoed across the street towards liberation. Others had great speeches too: one highlighted the need to center and protect Black women and LGBTQ+ identifying Black people. A group of three young Black women led the crowd in chanting a quote from Assata Shakur. "It is our duty to fight for our freedom! It is our duty to win! We must love each other and support each other! We have nothing to lose but our chains." and so on. We repeated this again and again, louder and stronger each time.

In the crowd with my sign, I was determined to make a difference. We were chanting the names of police brutality victims. A helicopter lowered itself onto Parkside Avenue: Flatbush, Church and Bedford avenues are just a few streets in addition to Parkside Avenue. Flatbush, Church and Bedford avenues are just a few.

The police started to move along, local residents of Flatbush were against the police. Police were not and so on. We repeated this again and again, louder and stronger each time.

**NYDP surveillance**

While standing on that street corner, I could see a group of police officers standing on top of a building opposite me. This was no shock. However, someone near me mentioned to the crowd to look up — the cop was flying a drone just above our heads. It shouldn’t have been so startling considering the amount of surveillance the NYPD conducts on a day-to-day basis in New York, when protests aren’t even occurring. I still felt deeply unsettled knowing I was being watched so closely.

As we started to march down Parkside Avenue, thousands chanted: "No justice, no peace! Fueled my devotion to fight the racism that permeates the United States."

The young woman declared in no uncertain terms the only way to achieve universal justice is to liberate the oppressed and unite for the struggles of the working class. I was hanging lip a little bit when she announced that a communist society was necessary, because many white protestors in attendance appeared to be of a certain liberal-hipster-gen type. I was afraid that this person, who I identified with and admired so strongly, would be met with angry letters. Instead, there was immense support amongst the protestors. I felt, in that moment, so much hope for the broader movement towards liberation. Others had great speeches too: one highlighted the need to center and protect Black women and LGBTQ+ identifying Black people. A group of three young Black women led the crowd in chanting a quote from Assata Shakur. "It is our duty to fight for our freedom! It is our duty to win! We must love each other and support each other! We have nothing to lose but our chains!" and so on. We repeated this again and again, louder and stronger each time.

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Black socialist leader: ‘Demands must clarify our reality’

By John Parker

These words are inspired by Joe Biden telling us what it is to be Black. You see, not all Black folk look or think alike. Joe Biden will have the political will to make sure that the so-called logic is created by conditions that these youth did not create. See, the rebellion that oppressors create to justify the notion of taking the lead — but there are more than a few, and just like we don’t look alike, neither do our organizations. In regards to unity, we must get creative. As a member of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. You’d be surprised at how many Black socialists and communists there are, like George Jackson, a Black Panther and political prisoner who was assassinated by the pigs. I mention George Jackson because we have to begin to truly honor our ancestors by studying them and the people they studied. In regards to unity, we must get serious and, like Jackson, study Amilcar Cabral, the African communist revolutionary liberator of Guinea-Bissau and his skillful guidance for building the unity of the entire working class. Now, some organizations or church leaders (not all church leaders, mind you) are afraid of a revolution or strongly condemn our youth if, in the course of their displays of anger, they happen to vandalize or take back the wealth that is stolen from them by the capitalist system and the corporations that exploit them.

I and the Black folks I associate with don’t want demands that give Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti — who praises the attack dogs in blue he sits on us — too much wiggle room. Because when the politicians have too much wiggle room, they use it to wiggle a noose around our necks. There’s a shell game going on right now to confuse us and divert the police — will never be negotiated or justified. See, he knows in this moment he’ll need to give an appearance of compromise, and among the small pittance he’ll give away that still allows business as usual. A couple hundred million dollars from a $2 billion or more budget is nothing, because it leaves plenty of money for the purchase of the bullet that is aimed at my son’s head, or your daughter’s.

This is an existential threat — this is life and death and the only way to stop that bullet from killing my son or your daughter is to take their damn guns away. Now, let me say “Defund the police.” We must include the demand to disarm the police immediately. Maybe there needs to be more emphasis on the gun because, yes, we should also defend the police, but that demand alone leaves them holding guns. Too much wiggle room for me.

Study like George Jackson did

We have to get serious and study like George Jackson did. Know who else George Jackson studied when he wanted to understand the nature of the police in this country? He studied Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution. Lenin understood capitalism and its-superrich monopolies that run things cannot survive without the police protecting the wealth they stole from you and me. To keep us from protesting that theft against us, police are used to keep us in fear as they push us further into poverty. That right arm of capitalism — the police — will never be negotiated or voted away as long as capitalism exists, unless the ruling class is forced to disarm them by a mightier force than their cops and military. We have the potential to become that force. Not by begging or playing within their rules, but by building the understanding of what’s needed and doing the things that make their system come to a halt.

We study history and social science in a serious way. As George Jackson did, we’ll understand that demands must clarify what is actually needed to the people. We also need to understand that our Black, Brown and Indigenous communities must have the right to dispose of these pigs from our neighborhoods and have the right to the resources to train and develop our own community emergency safety and protection. We are in a war — a war from an oppressor that is attempting genocide against us. And when you are fighting genocide, you can’t play nice. You gotta scrap, you gotta bite, you gotta do whatever is necessary and use any means to get that knife off your neck. That’s the kind of Black revolutionary I am. What kind of revolutionary are you?

But with your help, we can build that mighty force whose aim is to build a better world and take down this genocidal system.
Marines retool for war on China

By Scott Scheffer

As the COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. approaches 120,000, the Trump administration is relying heavily on anti-China propaganda — including wild accusations, right-wing conspiracy theories and racist anti-Asian rhetoric that greenlight physical attacks and racist assaults against Asian Americans.

Trump and his ilk need to distract from their own disastrous response to the coronavirus pandemic, the deep capitalist recessions, the epidemic of violent police racism and murder, and the brutality against protesters demarcated by Justice for George Floyd. Slanderng and attacking China became their chosen distraction.

But the animosity toward China isn’t limited to mere rhetoric. There are calls to make China pay reparations, lawsuits against China by several U.S. states, investigations of the origins of the virus by intelligence agencies in Australia, Europe and the U.S., and the Trump administration to forge an international alliance to further sabotage China, and a cutoff of funds to the World Health Organization.

The heightened animosity from the White House has prompted established media references to the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the 1979 Sino-Soviet hostility meant the USSR, China, Cuba and other socialist countries were under constant threat of nuclear attack. And, in fact, the Pentagon is preparing for a war against China. The possibility of a military confrontation can’t be ignored by anti-war forces in the U.S.

Pentagon pivot to Asia long planned

The shift in U.S. military strategy toward targeting China precedes the pandemic and the Trump administration’s reorientation began when the Obama administration embroiled then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s “pivot to Asia,” which called for a stronger military presence in the South China Sea to challenge China and gain access to Asian markets. But the right-wing countries in Ukraine and Crimea’s refusal to be part of the U.S. orbit, along with the war on Syria, ended up taking precedence.

Pentagon war planners are now going full-throttle to make up for lost time. As generals and admirals came to Congress in March to demand more money for war in the 2021 budget, it came to light that they were already thoroughly invested in preparations for all-out war against China. On March 5, Gen. David Berger, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, demanded for the Separate Armed Services Committee a two-year transition for the Marines that is already underway.

The Marine Corps is retooling for war against the People’s Republic of China. For decades, the Marines have provided ground troops in the longest-running imperialist death and destruction in U.S. history, in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now the plan is to have the U.S. Army, and for the Marines to become a high-tech maritime force to operate more vigorously in the South China Sea and to augment the U.S. Navy. The Intermediate–Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) ended in August 2019, and the U.S. shunned efforts to replace it. Without that treaty in place, the Pentagon is preparing the first phase of the Marine’s transition — stockpiling up on previously prohibited, land-based cruise missiles.

A May 6 Reuters article reports that “having shed the constraints of a Cold War era arms control treaty, the Trump administration is planning to deploy long-range, ground-launched cruise missiles in the Asia-Pacific region. ... The Marines will join forces with the U.S. Navy, using small mobile units armed with anti-ship missiles dispersed along the so-called first island chain — the string of islands that runs from Japan, through Taiwan, the Philippines and on to Borneo, enclosing China’s coastal seas.”

The transition means tanks and heavy weaponry are being dispensed with, and fewer F-35 aircraft for the smaller mobile Marine units. V-22 tiltrotor aircraft, helicopter units and shore-assaulting amphibious vehicles will be cut. According to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the radical reshaping of the Marine Corps will transform it into a naval expeditionary force.

The Marine Corps will be redesigned to fight “within an adversary’s (read China’s) ‘bubble of air, missile and naval power,’ according to Gen. Bergen. It will require small groups of less visible, newly designed warships, armed with drones currently in development and essentially jet-powered unmanned fighter jets — to function in small units with the ability to move independently and deploy in and around the South China Sea.

U.S. military commanders have simulated amphibious assault against China.

Basque political prisoner on hunger strike for prisoners’ health

By Iña Martinez

“The Basque Country? How come I’ve never heard of it?”

Someone in this country asked me that question several years ago after she detected my foreign accent and I told her where I came from.

I answered, “Maybe because we don’t have oil.” It was 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq.

The Basque Country (“Euskal Herria” in the Basque language) is a land occupied by two colonialist states: France and Spain. Geographically, the Basque Country is where the Pyrenees mountain range meets the Bay of Biscay.

We have many political prisoners as a consequence of a long struggle for self-determination. Our political prisoners are sent by the Spanish and French prison systems as part of the “jurisdictional” system to the Basque Country, to the farthest corners of Spain and France. Since the coronavirus hit Europe, our prisoners, like all prisoners in Europe, have been mistreated. The Spanish prison system made it an objective to punish them even further.

In the case of Basque political prisoner Patxi Ruiz, there were some alterations and threats to his life from the guards. He is the director of the prison in Murcia, where he is incarcerated. This was because he asked for the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep the prisoners and guards safe from COVID-19. Not only did they not listen to him, but they continued to threaten his life.

So a month ago he started a hunger and thirst strike. After the first 12 days, he is continuing only the hunger strike. His health is deteriorating rapidly. And, of course, Spain and its prison system could not care less if he dies.

Nevertheless, there is a strong feeling of solidarity with Patxi Ruiz among other Basque political prisoners who have been on hunger strikes and outside the prison, in the Basque Country, where people are on hunger strikes in solidarity. On August 24, the Basque Communist Party said: “You can see some of the actions in solidarity with Patxi Ruiz.

Justice for George Floyd and Elhadji Ndiaye

People in the Basque city of Iruña (also known by the Spanish name Pamplona) have been holding solidarity actions with George Floyd and Elhadji Ndiaye, who was killed by Spanish occupation forces in October 2016 in a very similar manner. Iruña is the capital city of Nafarroa, also the birthplace of Patxi Ruiz.

The Spanish police never answered the popular demand to explain why the young Senegalese Elhadji Ndiaye was first arrested for no reason and then, a few days later, was found dead in police custody in Iruña. To this day, nobody knows the true facts and people are demanding answers. As Basque activist Ainhoa Urrutia said: “We are prepared to defend these prisoners (political pris- oners) and fight for them against the oligarchical powers that pull the strings of fascism to perpetuate their privilege at the expense of our lives.” And the truth is that Spain remains a fascist state under a mon- archy that signed the principles of a fascist constitution in 1977.

From the Basque Country, we have always demonstrated our solidarity with the Black community in the U.S., the Palestinian people, the Saharawis and people all world- wide living under occupation. And that solidarity is stronger than ever these days.

I happened to hear comedian and activist Lee Camp say something about the Black community in the U.S. “As a Muslim, I see other people and other countries, you are distracted from placing your anger where it belongs — on what your government is doing to you.” That is how governments use racism to divide people. We need to do the opposite and show solidarity with each other. We are many. They are few.

Free Patxi Ruiz and all political prisoners!

Free them all! Put killer cops in prison!
Puerto Rican organizations: Decolonization can’t wait!

Message to the U.N. from Puerto Rican Independence Organizations

Honorable Keisha Aniya McGuire
President, U.N. Decolonization Committee
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador Permanent Mission of Grenada to the U.N.

Today, June 14, 2020, on behalf of the organizations of the National Liberation Movement of Puerto Rico and signatories of this declaration, we respectfully communicate to the honorable members of the U.N. Decolonization Committee the urgency with which the colonial case of Puerto Rico must be addressed as Puerto Rico remains under the imperialist rule of the United States.

Ever since the military invasion of Puerto Rico on July 25, 1898, the strategies of colonial rule have been implemented in accordance with the political–economic–strategic needs of the imperial power elite in Washington and to the detriment of the collective social welfare of the Puerto Rican nation. Our country has historically been subjected to the most repressive strategies and techniques of manipulation and social control, among which include:

a) A direct military government.
b) Imposition of the English language in the education system.
c) Persecution, jail and murders of men and women who confront and resist colonialism.
d) Imposition of an economic model akin to loot ing by the imperial power in Washington.
e) Compulsory military service so that our young people die in unjust U.S. wars.
f) Imposition of massive sterilization of Puerto Rican women.
g) Promotion of the mass exodus of our people.
h) Abuse and plunder of our natural resources.
i) Militarization of our national territory.
j) Exploitation of our land and seas by using radioactive uranium dumps that have claimed the lives of hundreds of Puerto Ricans because of their carcinogenic effects.
k) Imposition of a dictatorial board (called the fiscal control board) which imposes measures contrary to the will–being of our people and de cerebrates rights achieved by our working class.

In this historic moment, the collapse of the imperialist colonial economic model is self–evident—a failure caused by excessive public indebtedness benefitting the interests of financial vultures—leading to disastrous economic outcomes and without a national economic development plan for production, an economy based mainly on the importation of goods from the imperialist power, tax exemptions for large foreign corporations and capital, and the promotion of mass emigration of our population, dismantling of the country’s public educational system, privatization of the health care system and the dismantling of civil and labor rights, all causing both impoverishment and hunger in the population.

Against all that abuse and domination, our people have heroically struggled and resisted for the past 122 years. In confronting and fighting colonialism, we see its impact on the lives of our people, which is exponentially worsened when we confront frequent attacks by hurricanes, earthquakes and pandemics, while lacking the political and sovereign power to open our borders to international solidarity for effective disaster response.

Additionally, the parasitic and corrupt elite in control of the colonial government apparatus dedicates themselves to the looting of public funds and the material infrastructure of the country. Furthermore, our people have been subjected to the designs of a dictatorial junta that constitutes the de facto government serving financial capital and imposed by forces of the imperial power stemming from Washington.

Against all this repression, the Puerto Rican people continue to fight and resist. In the summer of 2019, we wrote a glorious page in both national and international history, shaking off a puppet and corrupt governor who was forced to resign through the actions of a militant and dignified people. However, the unfinished agenda that raises the need to break the empire–colony relationship remains. The time has come to allow space for that new Puerto Rico, bidding to be seen, the light and to flourish.

In the process of struggle and resistance, our people are discovering their capacity to bring about change, their right to have control over their own destiny, their possibilities of building the foundations of a diversified national economy, their proper and most efficient use of our land, their collective intellect, their human capital potential, and all with a wise policy of respect for the environment and its natural limits.

The organizations of the Puerto Rican National Liberation movement work from different theaters to establish a new country—we know how to create a representative power block that arises from all the collective outrage, and we will mobilize the forces of the people to confront and defeat the oppressor by all necessary means. An important component in our process of decol onization and national liberation is the support from the international community. It is important that this Decolonization Committee and the U.N. General Assembly remain vigilant, listening to our complaints and enforcing the statutes that declare the colonized an international crime and a crime against humanity.

Due to the aforementioned, we request that the U.N. Decolonization Committee conduct its 2020 hearing on the colonial case of Puerto Rico in whatever manner is deemed appropriate so that our claims are heard on behalf of our Nation.

Signatory Organizations in Puerto Rico

· Comité de Solidaridad con Cuba de Puerto Rico
· Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico
· Jornada Se Acabarán las Promesas
· Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño
· Partido Revolucionario de ig’s Trabajador@s Puertoriqueño@es – PRTP–Macheteros
· Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano
· Movimiento Nín Negrón.

Signatory organizations in the diaspora

Frente Independentista Boricua and it’s members:

· Comités de la Resistencia Boricua
· Friends of Puerto Rico Initiative
· Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño de N.Y.
· Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico (Juntas NY y NJ)
· PRTP–Macheteros
· Puerto Ricans in Minnesota
· Puerto Rico Me Llama
· Unión Patriótica Boricua (Florida Central)
· Virtual Boricua

Source: ElFrentePR.org

Organizaciones puertorriqueñas: ¡La descolonización no puede esperar!

Por Frente Independentista Puertoquinque

Continúa de página 12

Para decidir quienes entran y salen de nuestro territorio, sin control político–jurídico–económico efectivo. Las elites parasitarias y corruptas en control del gobierno colonial se dedicarán al saqueo de fondos públicos y la infraestructura material del país. Sometido nuestro pueblo, además, a los designios de una junta dictatorial que será el nuevo centro de control del capital financiero, impuesto por fuerza del poder imperial de Washington.

El pueblo boricúa está en pie de lucha y resiste. En el año de 2019 escribimos una gloriosa página en la historia nacional, al acudirse de un gobernador falso y corrupto, obligado a renunciar por medio de la acción del pueblo militante y indignado. Quedando sin embargo la idea inconclusa que plantea la necesidad de romper la relación imperial–colonial, para dar espacio a que ese nue vo Puerto Rico, que paja por nacer, sea la luz.

En el proceso de lucha y resistencia nuestro pueblo se va encontrando con su propia capacidad de producir cambios, de su derecho a tener control sobre su destino, de sus posibilidades de construir las bases de una economía nacional diversificada, uso adecuado de sus tierras, la inteligencia colectiva, el potencial de sus recursos humanos y naturales, con una sabia política de respeto a los límites ambientales y naturales.

Las organizaciones del movimiento de Liberación Nacional Puertoquinque que trabajamos desde diferentes frentes para construir un nuevo país, sabemos articular un bloque de poder que surja de toda la indignación colectiva y las fuerzas del pueblo para enfrentarlos y derrotarlos en todos los terrenos, por todos los medios necesarios.

Un componente importante en nuestro proceso de descolonización y liberación nacional es el apoyo de la comunidad internacional. Es importante que este Comité de Descolonización y la Asamblea General de la ONU se mantengan vigilantes, escuchando nuestras denuncias de pueblo, expresándose, haciendo valer los estatutos que declaran el colonialismo como delito internacional y crimen contra la humanidad.

Por lo antes expresado le solicitamos al Comité de Descolonización de la ONU que a este año 2020, continúen efectuando las vistas sobre el caso colonial de Puerto Rico, sean estas virtuales, presenciales o de la manera que estimen pertinente, para que se escuchen los reclamos libertarios de nuestra Nación.

Organizaciones firmantes en Puerto Rico

· Comité de Solidaridad con Cuba de Puerto Rico
· Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico
· Jornada Se Acabarán las Promesas
· Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano
· Movimiento Nín Negrón.
· Partido Independentista Puertoquinque
· Partido Revolucionario de ig’s Trabajador@s Puertoriqueño@es – PRTP–Macheteros

Organizaciones firmantes en la Diáspora

Frente Independentista Boricua y sus miembros:

Comités de la Resistencia Boricua
· El Grito
· Friends of Puerto Rico Initiative
· Partido Independentista Puertoquinque de N.Y.
· Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico (Juntas NY y NJ)
· PRTP–Macheteros
· Puerto Ricans in Minnesota
· Puerto Rico Me Llama
· Unión Patriótica Boricua (Florida Central)
· Virtual Boricua

Fuente: ElFrentePR.org
RECORDANDO A STONEWALL,
¡Unámonos contra el terror policial!

Mensage del Partido de Socialismo Unido

Abrazando el significado auténtico del “espíritu de Stonewall”, el año pasado en la ciudad de Nueva York, la Coalición ‘Reclaim Pride’ (Reconociendo el Orgullo Gay) organizó una enorme marcha, multitudinaria, multirracial, multigénero y multigenacional dirigida por jóvenes que reclamaban la esencia rebelde del levantamiento de 1969 fuera del Stonewall Inn en el vecindario de Greenwich Village.

Al demostrar el alto nivel de conciencia política que existe dentro de las comunidades LGTBIQ+ y sus organizaciones, las demandas de las manifestantes de Reclaim Pride reflejaron no sólo cuestiones de preocupación inmediata para esas mismas comunidades, en particular, la violencia contra las personas trans, especialmente las mujeres trans de color, sino también la de las políticas imperialistas militaristas de los Estados Unidos, como los intentos en curso de derrocar al gobierno pro-socialista democráticamente elegido de Venezuela.

Y ahora, un año después, ese mismo alto nivel de conciencia es visible en las magníficas movilizaciones masivas de jóvenes contra el racismo y sus aliados en todos los rincones de este país y, en manifestaciones dramáticas de solidaridad internacional en todo el mundo.

Los activistas LGTBIQ+ están trabajando fuertemente para organizar muchas de estas acciones antirracistas y anti polícia. Los ajustes necesarios por la pandemia de coronavirus han hecho que la organización del Orgullo Gay sea más difícil, pero el movimiento no se desalienta. En San Diego, por ejemplo, que tiene una gran marcha del Orgullo Gay cada mes de julio, el marcha misma ha sido cancelada para proteger a la comunidad del contagio. Pero, en un acto significativo de solidaridad con el levantamiento liderado por el pueblo negro contra la violencia policial, los organizadores locales del Orgullo han anunciado la prohibición de la participación de “fuerzas de seguridad del estado” en todas las actividades del Orgullo.

¡Solidaridad! Como debería ser ahora, el enfoque de las personas revolucionarias decentes en todo el mundo es evitar que la policía asesina racista de los Estados Unidos asesine a personas de color. Pero esa lucha también plantea cuestiones básicas de injusticia racial y de clase: la necesidad de educación gratuita de grados primarios a universitarios para todos; atención médica de calidad gratuita, cuya falta ha expuesto por el alto nivel de muertes por COVID-19 entre las personas negras y marrones; vivienda digna y el derecho a trabajos bien remunerados para todos. Merecen la atención especial de todos los que buscan un mundo justo el llamado a la compensación por la esclavitud y el reconocimiento del estatus colonial “settlers” de los Estados Unidos en tierras indígenas.

El movimiento de liberación LGTBIQ+ y el movimiento de liberación Negra son aliados naturales. Ambos nacieron de la misma furia. Ambos comenzaron como una rebelión contra la brutalidad policial continua en una comunidad oprimida.

En un voto de 6-3, la Corte Suprema acaba de dictaminar que las personas LGTBIQ+ están cubiertas por las protecciones de los Derechos Civiles contra el despido. Esta es una gran victoria y no es casualidad que dos jueces de derecha rompieran con Trump sobre este tema en este momento. Es por la rebelión liderada por el pueblo negro. ¡La lucha de los más oprimidos eleva las luchas de toda la clase trabajadora!

El Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido saluda la creciente unidad entre las comunidades LGTBIQ+ y el movimiento Black Lives Matter. El objetivo de abolir las injusticias económicas, políticas y sociales que afectan al mundo capitalista sólo puede superarse si se continúan construyendo estos puentes inspiradores de solidaridad y lucha.

Organizaciones puertorriqueñas: Por Frente Independentista Puertorriqueño

Mensage a la ONU de Organizaciones Independientes Puertorriqueñas

Presidenta, Comité de Descolonización de la ONU
Embajadora Extraordinaria y Plenipotenciaria

Hoy 14 de junio del 2020, a nombre de las organizaiones del Movimiento de Liberación Nacional de Puerto Rico, firmantes de esta declaración, le comunicamos respetuosamente al honorable Presidente, Comité de Descolonización de la ONU, que es urgente que se atienda el caso colonial de Puerto Rico, que permanece bajo el dominio imperialista del poder imperial en Washington, en perjuicio politico-económicas-estratégicas de las elites puertorriqueñas.

A partir de la invasión militar del 25 de julio de 1898, las estrategias de dominio colonial se han articulado de acuerdo con las necesidades políticas-militaristas-estratégicas de las elites de los poderes imperial en Washington, en perjuicio del bienestar social colectivo de nuestra nación puertorriqueña.

Nuestro país, históricamente ha sido sometido a las más diversas estrategias y técnicas de manipulación y control social, entre las cuales podemos mencionar:

a) Gobierno militar directo.

b) Imposición del idioma inglés en el sistema educativo del país.

c) Persecución, cárcel y asesinatos de hombres y mujeres que se enfrentan y resisten al colonialismo.

d) Imposición de un modelo económico de mercado capitalista.

e) Servicio militar obligatorio para que nuestros jóvenes mueran en guerras ajenas.

f) Imposición de esterilización masiva de mujeres puertorriqueñas.

g) Fomento del éxodo masivo de nuestra gente.

h) Abuso y saqueo de nuestros recursos naturales.

i) Militarización de nuestro territorio nacional.

j) Uso de nuestros suelos y mares para practicas con artefactos y bombas de uranio radiactivos que cobro la vida de cientos de puertorriqueños/as por sus efectos cancerígenos.

k) Imposición de una junta dictatorial (llamada da de control fiscal) la cual impone medidas contrarias al bienestar de nuestro pueblo y deroga derechos alcanzados por nuestra clase trabajadora.

En el presente momento histórico se hace evidente el colapso del modelo económico colonial, sustentado en el endeudamiento público desmedido, sometido a los intereses del capital financiero; sin un plan de desarrollo económico nacional de producción, basado principalmente en la importación de bienes, exenciones contributivas al gran capital extranjero, fomento de la emigración masiva de la población, así como el desmantelamiento acelerado del sistema educativo del país, la privatización del sistema de salud, el desmantelamiento de derechos civiles y laborales, generando un empobrecimiento acelerado y hambre en la población.

Contra todo ese andamiaje de abuso y dominación, nuestro pueblo ha luchado heroicamente durante los pasados 122 años. Al enfrentar y luchar contra el colonialismo vemos su impacto en la vida de nuestra gente, que se dramatiza exponencialmente cuando confrontamos fuerzas de la naturaleza como huracanes, terremotos y pandemias, sin poderes políticos para abrir nuestras fronteras a la solidaridad internacional, sin poder...