By M. Tiahui

On July 3, more than a hundred Indigenous and allied land defenders stood for hours and blocked a South Dakota highway leading to Mount Rushmore in advance of a scheduled speech and rally by President Donald Trump at the U.S. national monument carved into stolen land. Led largely by Lakota and other Native youth, the heroic defenders faced off against police in riot gear in front of them.

The treaty defenders parked white vans across the road to ensure the road would stay blocked for some time even after they were arrested. They later removed the wheels, climbed on top of the vans, and shouted, “Land back!” Several were arrested. Through it all, they also ensured the road would stay blocked for some time even after police blocked highway to Mount Rushmore, July 3.

This country was founded on white supremacy,” including the genocide of Native people and slave labor of Black people. Trump’s rally in the Black Hills was a direct attack on Lakota and other Indigenous people who hold the area sacred and hold clear treaty rights to the area, just as his visit to Tulsa, Okla., near the Juneteenth holiday was a clear attack on Black people.

Mount Rushmore — known as the Six Grandfathers — is part of the sacred Black Hills.

The U.S. has refused to honor treaties for the area since gold was discovered there in 1874 by an Army expedition led by Gen. George Custer. Uranium was later discovered and mined by corporations.

In the 20th century, the Six Grandfathers were defaced when the Mount Rushmore monument to white supremacy was created by a Ku Klux Klan member. Two of the presidents carved into the mountain were slave owners (Jefferson and Washington), another (Lincoln) approved the hanging of 40 Native men in the largest mass execution in U.S. history, and the last (Theodore Roosevelt) was an imperialist and staunch believer in white racial superiority. All four presidents held anti-Native and other racist views.

The treaty defenders demanded that Mount Rushmore be removed and the Black Hills returned to the Lakota. In advance of Trump’s rally, Oglala Lakota tribal chair Bear Runner publicly said that the people did not give permission for Trump to enter into the Black Hills.

This article was published in Struggle-La-Lucha on July 20, 2020. It is reprinted with permission.
Border wall threatens Kumeyaay Nation burial sites

By Zola Fish

Members of the Kumeyaay Nation gathered in Boulevard, Calif., on June 30 to halt the building of Donald Trump’s border wall. The Army Corps of Engineers has been using dynamite to blast an existing wall which is located on sacred burial sites of the Kumeyaay ancestors. Indigenious artifacts and bones have been found at the blasting site.

Many of the hundreds of protesters were members of the Kumeyaay Original Peoples Alliance. Additionally, members of the American Indian Movement, Warriors of Awareness, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and Black Lives Matter were in attendance, along with allies from other organizations. Marchers chanted, “We didn’t cross the border! The border crossed us!”

According to the organizer, Cyn Parada from the La Posta band of Kumeyaay, “Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has not worked in good faith to permit monitors.”

The Kumeyaay are native to both San Diego County and Northern Baja California. The border wall divides their tribal lands. The Kumeyaay are now divided into bands all over the east and north county sections of San Diego.

The blasting was stopped for the day, but will continue. Cyn Parada explained that the demonstration was meant to draw attention to the scheduled construction, which she said is just one example of a project that did not do enough to safeguard the ancestral lands of local tribes.

Blue Eagle Vigil, a member of the Viejas band of Kumeyaay, said, “We’re sick and tired of not being at the table when our ancestors are being dug up.”

“Our ancestors fought for us and died for us,” Parada said. “It’s time for us to start saving that history and passing it on to our children, instead of just watching it get desecrated.”

Border Patrol officials said they are working to reschedule the blasting. The actions are continuing. Another protest was held at the blasting site on July 3, and a march was held in downtown San Diego on July 5.

This reporter has seen construction trucks still going up the road to the wall. The colonizers want their monument to racism, even if it means desecrating an ancient people’s culture.

Trump’s wall is a monument to white supremacy. It’s a monument to himself. Walls are about racism and xenophobia. The border wall is to remind Latinx people they are not welcomed in the U.S.

For Native Americans, the U.S./Mexico border is an imaginary line. The traditional homelands of 36 federally recognized tribes, including the Kumeyaay, Pai, Cocopah, O’odham, Yaqui, Apache and Kickapoo peoples, were split in two by the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the 1853 Gadsden Purchase, which carved modern day California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas out of northern Mexico.

Colonial powers claim Indigenous lands as their own. It takes a lot of arrogance for the colonizers to stand on stolen land and complain about immigration. This is Indigenous land and it’s time to take it back.

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Dismantle Now! Black & Indigenous solidarity march

By Struggle-La Lucha

On July 8, multiple Boston-area Indigenous, Black and Afro-Brazilian groups held a rally and march against police abolition, the immediate removal of symbols of white supremacy, and investment in the economic development and self-determination of BIPOC (Black, Indigenious and People Of Color).

Speakers called for the permanent removal of the hated Christopher Columbus statue at Boston’s waterfront and for the renaming of Faneuil Hall, to rename it after a slaveholder and slave trader. Many at the rally called for structural change in Boston and elsewhere to blast an existing wall and for and an end to police brutality and disproportionately high death rates in Black and Indigenous communities.

After marching to City Hall, speakers demanded that Boston’s mayor and City Council honor Indigenous Peoples’ Day instead of Columbus Day. Maltowin Munro, spokesperson for IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org and United American Indians of New England (UAINE), said: “It is time for everyone to acknowledge that this is a stolen land in a nation built by stolen peoples.

“We wish to express our solidarity with movements for Black Lives and against police violence. Our people have also been on the streets here and elsewhere to support those demands, because of our centuries of ties with our Black relations and because our Native communities also suffer a disproportionate impact from police violence,” Munro explained.

“Politicians and others who now say they want to work for racial justice need to ensure that Indigenous voices and perspectives are included in the work, not erased or silenced.”

A Palestinian speaker drew many parallels between what is happening in the U.S. and in Palestine, where Zionists continue to brutally oppress Palestinians and steal their land, with a recent annexation of a large portion of the West Bank and further incursions in East Jerusalem. Several speakers demanded an end to capitalism and colonialism.

In addition to speakers, there were Taíno and Afro-Brazilian ceremonial rites in Black and Indigenous communities.

ATLANTA COMMUNITY: ‘Return the Rayshard Brooks memorial’

Continued from page 1

surrounding area where Rayshard Brooks was murdered by the APD, as a healing and liberated zone.

Police hands off!

Sign the petition: tinyurl.com/y4bbc9u3

The PPA also urges people to call, email and fax these demands to: Councilwoman Joyce Shepheard: (404) 330-6033 Fax: (404) 739-9255 Email jmshpeherd@atlantaga.gov

Mayor Kiesha Lance Bottoms Mayor’s ofifice phone: (404) 330-6100 Office of Constituent Services Phone: (404) 330-6023

To get involved, you can connect with the Atlanta Peoples Power Assembly on Facebook, by phone at (678) 603-6959, or by email at atlantapeoplespowerassemblyb2@gmail.com
Black-Indigenous solidarity beats NFL ‘Slurkins’

By John Parker

Recent events expose that a qualitative change has occurred in this period of history. Marxists and Indigenous social science explains how real changes — those capable of empowering our entire working class and tipping the balance of power — come from the actions of our class.

To illustrate this, just consider the rapid changes that have occurred in the last two months, since the police murder of George Floyd — from cops being charged in Minneapolis, to the proposed dismantling of the city’s police force while other cities are considering the same; the toppling of racist statues, from Confederate and slave owners to genocidal colonialists and imperialists, from Gen. Lee to the horror of the Congo, King Leopold of Belgium.

The wheels of justice even spun up in the Supreme Court with victories regarding Indigenous sovereignty, by abolishing one type of discrimination against LGBTQ2S workers. IBM felt compelled to join in by ceasing the sale of its facial recognition software to police departments for mass surveillance and racial profiling.

And now, after decades of Indigenous protests, the National Football League team in Washington, D.C., announced July 13 that it would drop the name “Redskins” and all associated logos.

All of this is a result of the militancy and defiance that the Minneapols Black community inspired when they courageously took on a terrorist military force in their neighborhoods — the police — and even burned down a precinct.

The movement they inspired went around the world. The people’s willingness to defend themselves formed against the militarized defenders of the ruling class scared the hell out of the bosses — so now they are on the defensive and willing to grant some reforms, and their corporate entities and political puppets are responding in kind.

In fact, although Washington team owner Dan Snyder had vowed to never change the name, he reversed his position in mid-July when major corporate sponsors like FedEx and Amazon threatened to pull their association with the team.

Here’s what Snyder told USA Today back in 2013: “We’ll never change the name, it’s that simple. NEVER — you can’t change that.”

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan also reversed his longstanding support for the name and now suddenly sees the light, recognizing that, that the name is a racial slur that should be changed.

Capitalist collusion

There had been tremendous pressure from on high to keep the name, most recently coming from President Donald Trump, but also backed up by unscientific opinion polls conducted by the Washington Post. These polls were largely responded to by white fans of the Washington team, as Indigenous people pointed out repeatedly. The Washington Post conceded with Dan Snyder for years to make it appear that the team name was acceptable to Native people. However, recently, a more thorough, larger and more scientific survey was done by the University of California, Berkeley, and published in the Journal of Social Psychological and Personality Science. The survey of 1,000 Native Americans found 49 percent were offended by the name. However, for those who actively engaged in their Native or tribal cultures, the number rose to 67 percent.

And for young people it was 60 percent.

Arianne Eason, a UC Berkeley assistant professor of psychology, and Stephanie Fryberg, a University of Michigan psychologist, launched the study last fall. Eason said: “We keep seeing clear examples of Native people speaking up and protesting these problematic team names and mascots. Yet, public opinion polls, with little methodological transparency, say that Native people are not offended. Things just don’t add up.”

“You don’t build unity in our movement by denying the present and historic realities of racism that oppressed peoples are expressing opposition to."

Racist history of team name

A 2016 Washington Post article exposes the racist history of the 87-year-old team name, starting with the lyrics that then-owner George Marshall composed his wife to write in 1937, when the team moved to Washington. They are offensive and presented here to simply illustrate the racist beginnings that accompanied that name: “Hail to the Redskins Hail victory! Braves on the warpath Scalp ‘um, swamp ‘um — We will Take ‘um big score Read ‘um, weep ‘um, touchdown We want heap more Fight on, Fight on, ’til you have won, Sons of Wash-ing-ton. Rah! Rah! Rah! Hail to the Redskins. Hail victory! Braves on the warpath Fight for old D.C.”

It took 30 years for those lyrics to just be modified. It’s ironic that the racist use of “scalping” in the song implies the use of merciless violence by Indigenous peoples. It was, in fact, one of the methods of merciless genocide against Indigenous peoples used by the colonizers, with scalping widely used to verify kills.

Mahtowin Munro of United American Indians of New England told Struggle-La Lucha: “White settlers for centuries routinely put bounties on the heads of Indigenous people, although plenty of them did this for fun and sport. Those who scalped Native people were paid different rates depending on whether the person scalped was a man, woman or child.

“The scalps were often referred to as ‘red-skins’,” Munro explained. “This is why it is so despicable that the Washington team clung to that name for so long. We often call them the ‘Slurkins.’”

In 2015, Indian Country Today exposed a news story dated Oct. 9, 1885, that speaks to Munro’s points. The article reports: “The clip, published by the Atchison Daily Champion in Atchison, Kan., tells of settlers in Arizona fanning out across the state to hunt for redskins, with a view of obtaining their scalps. Scalps taken from the bodies of dead Indians were valued at $250, according to the report.”

It’s not surprising then that, according to the aforementioned Washington Post article, Marshall, under pressure from the Kennedy White House, became the last owner to integrate his team in 1961. The team’s new coach, a former African American Heisman Trophy recipient, in the NFL draft — but traded him just 10 days later.

This victory of the long-awaited name change was made possible by the relentless struggle waged by Indigenous activists, who met with team presidents, filed petitions and waged protests across the U.S. Those voices were amplified by the recent demonstrations protesting the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, which screamed from the streets that the oppressed will no longer tolerate racism and will fight it by any means. All of this also exposes the power coming from the solidarity of Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples fighting this system.
Black voter suppression near 1950s level

By Gary Wilson

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled July 6 that states can penalize members of the Electoral College who do not support the winner of their state’s popular vote in a presidential election.

The court’s ruling is in response to the 2016 presidential election, when 10 electors from seven states, including one from the state’s chosen candidate, highlighting how electors have the potential to swing an election. The ruling does not in any way change the Electoral College system.

The U.S. does not have direct elections for the president of the republic, though direct elections are considered to be the norm for a bourgeois democracy. The ability to vote directly is synonymous with democratic rights; the inability synonymous with denial of rights. The Electoral College system, borrowed from the Roman slave empire’s constitution some 2,000 years ago, gives only a semblance of voting rights, keeping real power in the hands of the wealthy few.

Indirect elections, through the Electoral College, increase the power of the wealthy.

In the 2000 election, George W. Bush lost the popular vote but won in the Electoral College. The same happened again with Donald Trump, who lost the popular vote in 2016 by almost 3 million votes — over 2 percent — but won the indirect Electoral College vote.

The 2020 election campaigns of the Democrats and Republicans have almost exclusively focused on winning the Electoral College vote, particularly in what are called “battleground states.”

Court gutted Voting Rights Act

The Supreme Court has already gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The court’s 2013 Shelby v. Holder ruling eliminated federal oversight of state election and voting laws.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice: “The decision in Shelby v. Holder ruled that the Voting Rights Act was no longer needed to prevent voting rights violations in the United States. The effects were immediate. Within 24 hours of the ruling, Texas announced that it would implement a strict photo ID law. Two other states, Mississippi and Alabama, also began to enforce photo ID laws that had previously been banned because of federal pre-clearance.”

In July 2017, in Georgia, 600,000 people, some 8 percent of the state’s registered voters, were purged from the rolls and required to re-register — an estimated 107,000 of them simply because they hadn’t voted in recent elections. In 2018, the state blocked the registration of 53,000 state residents, 70 percent of whom were African American.

Voter ID laws and other restrictions that fall most heavily on African American and Latinx people have been initiated in a number of other states, not all in the South. Polling locations have been closed, early voting restricted and registration rules made stricter.

Black voter suppression in this country has returned to near 1950s levels.

Constitution gave power to slaveholders

In 1787, the Constitution was adopted to ensure that the executive power was always held by the slave-holding class. Of the first 10 presidents of the U.S., only two, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, were not slave owners.

In writing on the Electoral College’s racist origins, Yale constitutional law professor Akhil Reed Amar says: “If the system’s pro-slavery tilt was not overwhelmingly obvious when the Constitution was ratified, it quickly became so. For 32 of the Constitution’s first 36 years, a white slaveholding Virginian occupied the presidency.

“Southerner Thomas Jefferson, for example, won the election of 1800-01 against Northerner John Adams in a race where the slavery-skew of the Electoral College was the decisive margin of victory: without the extra Electoral College votes generated by slavery, the mostly southern states that supported Jefferson would not have sufficed to give him a majority. As pointed observers noted at the time, Thomas Jefferson metaphorically rode into the executive mansion on the backs of slaves.” (“The Troubling Reason the Electoral College Exists,” by Akhil Reed Amar, Time, Nov. 8, 2016)

More than two centuries after it was designed to empower a slavocracy, the system continues to suppress the Black vote and empower the wealthy.

Voting in 1787 was restricted to white male adult property owners, about 6 percent of the population. In the early 1800s, the property requirement was gradually changed to paying taxes so that by 1857, all white male taxpayers were allowed to vote. Citizenship was not required until 1928, following an anti-socialist, anti-immigrant campaign that led to the illegal deportation of 1.8 million people.

The Reconstruction-era 15th Amendment states that voting rights cannot be denied or abridged based on “race, color or previous condition of servitude.” And briefly, voting rights were opened to African Americans. Disfranchisement came after the defeat of Reconstruction, with Jim Crow laws effectively keeping voting limited to white male taxpayers.

The segregation and disenfranchisement laws known as “Jim Crow” represented a formal, codified system of racial apartheid that dominated the U.S. in the North as well as the South for three quarters of a century beginning in the 1890s. Great struggles were waged in the following years and over time more democratic rights were won, particularly the right to vote. After a mass women’s movement for suffrage, women’s right to vote was won in 1920, with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment prohibited the requirement to pay poll taxes in order to vote. Not until the historic Civil Rights movement won the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a national de “one person, one vote” electoral system established in the U.S., with the exception of prisoners.

6 million denied right to vote

According to the Sentencing Project, as of 2010 an estimated 6 million people in this country were denied the right to vote because of a felony conviction, a number equivalent to 2.5 percent of the U.S. voting-age population. That number is certainly higher today. Given the racist justice system, these 6 million are predominantly from Black and Brown communities.

So the 1965 Voting Rights Act was functionally broken by the Supreme Court in 2013.

As the late Civil Rights leader Rep. John Lewis said this year on June 25, the anniversary day of the Supreme Court’s Shelby v. Holder decision: “The record is clear. A rampant war is being waged against minorities’ voting rights in my home state of Georgia and across the nation.”

Lewis has introduced a resolution for a Right to Vote Amendment to the Constitution, as the right to vote is still not guaranteed. The amendment includes a provision to stop any attempts to restrict voting rights.

This year’s elections have already seen widespread denial of voting rights. In fact, the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee have mounted an aggressive national effort to suppress voting rights, which they call “voter fraud.” It’s an in-your-face racist maneuver. Without a fight, the Black vote will be suppressed.

The Black Lives Matter movement has put a spotlight on the institutionalized racism governing this country. The electoral system is part of that. There’s more than statutes that need to be toppled.
By Stephen Millies

Alvin Kinnard was jailed for nearly 36 years in Alabama for allegedly stealing $50,795 from a bakery. His real crime was being Black and poor.

Kinnard was 22 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. This was done under the state’s “three strikes and out” law. He was 58 when he was released on Aug. 30, 2019, after that fascist act had been slightly modified.

Kinnard's release comes amid a growing acknowledgement that America's criminal justice system periodically and systematically locks up Black people in far greater numbers than that of the general population.

The power structure said they were Black and poor. They are never released. But, as Pam Africa said, “We made liars of them.”

Philadelphia protest: Free Mumia! Free them all!

By Stephen Millies

Over 500 people came to Philadelphia's City Hall on July 4 to demand that Mumia Abu-Jamal be freed. It was the largest action inside Philadelphia for the imprisoned revolutionary Black writer in years.

This money could be used to hire lawyers and that the “biggest banks” will donate their profits. Maybe the tooth fairy also exists. Meanwhile, nearly seven million families could face eviction across the U.S. Many state moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs are scheduled to expire at the end of July. With-out it, many families won’t be able to pay their rent or mortgage.

Becky, 58, was released on Aug. 30, 2019, after that fascist act had been slightly modified.

Mumia speaks

Then Mumia Abu-Jamal called in from prison and spoke to the rally. He quoted Frederick Douglass: “Power concedes nothing without a demand.”

“That is a special time,” said Mumia, referring to the millions of people in the streets demanding that Black lives matter. “I love you all.

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All the political prisoners, like Leonard Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement who has been imprisoned for over 40 years, and Black liberation fighter Mutu Shakur have come home. So do hundreds of thousands of other prisoners whose real crime was being poor.

Mumia Abu-Jamal

The Wall Street Journal claims that administering these small business loans is really expensive and that the “biggest banks” will donate their profits. Maybe the tooth fairy also exists. Meanwhile, nearly seven million families could face eviction across the U.S. Many state moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs are scheduled to expire at the end of July. With-out it, many families won’t be able to pay their rent or mortgage.

Andy Puzder, the former CEO of CKE Restaurants, doesn’t want the $600 supplemental benefit to be renewed. Puzder exploited tens of thousands of low-paid workers at his Carl’s Jr. and Hardee’s fast food chains. Both youths and seniors were his biggest victims.

Puzder actually wrote that people aren’t applying for jobs because the $600 benefit was too high. He’s really confusing that wages are too low.

Trump nominated Puzder to be U.S. labor secretary, but even the Senate balked at the hamburger mogul. This creep who thinks unemployed workers are lazy is also a union-hating sexist pig whose specialty is contracts featuring scantily clad women.

“I like our ads,” Puzder told Entrepreneur magazine. “I like beautiful women eating burgers in bikinis. I think it’s very American.”

Abolish rents and jails!

Jean Valjean — the fictional hero of Victor Hugo’s novel “Les Misérables” — was sent to jail for stealing bread to feed his sister’s starving family. But he spent much less time in jail than Alvin Kinnard did.

The biggest crimes are committed not in the streets but in the business suites. Donald Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is a billionaire slumlord who terrorizes tenants at his Baltimore–area properties.

People are fighting evictions across the U.S. Car caravans have been organized coast to coast, often linking the demands of abolishing rents along with freeing prisoners.

The jails are COVID-19 death traps.

The Black Lives Matter movement has energized millions. Only by continuing to struggle will supplemental unemployment benefits be renewed and evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs be stopped.

Philadelphia on July 4.

“I think I will be with you. We will meet in the whirlwind,” said Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Pam Africa, who is also the minister of confrontation of the MOVE organization, wound up the rally. She said in the times of the MOVE 9 political prisoners got out of jail.

“The power structure said they weren’t powerful. But, as Pam Africa said, “We made liars of them.”

The power of the people that toppled magazine’s status will free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners.

Millions face eviction while banks grab billions

By Stephen Millies

Over 500 people came to Philadelphia’s City Hall on July 4 to demand that Mumia Abu-Jamal be freed. It was the largest action inside Philadelphia for the imprisoned revolutionary Black writer in years.

This money could be used to hire lawyers and that the “biggest banks” will donate their profits. Maybe the tooth fairy also exists. Meanwhile, nearly seven million families could face eviction across the U.S. Many state moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs are scheduled to expire at the end of July. With-out it, many families won’t be able to pay their rent or mortgage.

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The power of the people that toppled magazine’s status will free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners.
Baltimore residents spoke out against mass incarceration on July 4. Baltimore was one of many cities responding to the call of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NARRP) to use the holiday to raise the issue of mass incarceration across this country.

The march was the latest in a series sponsored by the Baltimore People's Power Assembly since the police murder of George Floyd. The march and car caravan gathered at the Harriet Tubman State Office Building in the West Baltimore neighborhood of Sandtown-Winchester, east of downtown. As in previous weeks, the route of the caravan took participants through some of the poorest neighborhoods, where the police occupation is heaviest.

Before the march stepped off, the crowd listened to a recording of noted actor James Earl Jones reading a portion of Frederick Douglass' speech given on July 5, 1852, titled “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” The march then proceeded through East Baltimore as it headed toward the prison complex which sits between a public housing development and a major highway and serves as a barrier between poor neighborhoods and the wealthier residential area.

Upon reaching the prison complex, protesters stopped to give a solidarity message to those behind the walls. These solidarity speeches are done every time a march goes through the complex to let the inmates know they are not forgotten. The inmates can always be heard responding to the chants and the speeches, shouting back, “Thank you!” During earlier marches calling for their protection from COVID-19, many inmates were heard pleading, “Help us!”

The protesters then marched through the prison complex, surrounding it on all sides. When they reached the exit of the Central Booking building, where arrestees are held before seeing a commissioner who sets bail or releases them to await trial, the crowd chanted, “Release them!”

Day of Rage demands:
No annexation of Palestinian land!

July 1 was declared an International Day of Rage against Israel’s latest attempt to annex Palestinian land. The Israeli apartheid regime, backed by the US administration in the US, plans to annex its illegal settlements in the West Bank and Jordan Valley — land that rightfully belongs to Palestinians. Not only is this decision illegal under international law, but it will displace thousands more Palestinians from their homes.

In Los Angeles, more than 200 cars formed a caravan of banners and Palestinian flags drove slowly from the Westwood Federal Building to the Israeli Consulate. There, activists held a loud rally. They chanted and shouted down a small group of Zionist supporters who gathered nearby.

Drivers continued to circle the block around the consulate, honking their horns and slowing down traffic on one of the busiest boulevards in LA.

The action was called by Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition and co-hosted by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Code Pink, LA Jews for Palestine, and the Answer Coalition, the Palestinian Youth Movement and others.

A rally was called by the Herbert R. O’Conor State Office Building in Baltimore demanded “No Israeli annexation! Free Palestine! End the deadly occupation!” The large demand referred to the way that US police agencies use the Israeli military to train cops in the brutal techniques used to suppress Palestinians fighting for their rights and self-determination. U.S. police come back and use these same tactics against Black and Brown people and protesters here.

“We’re here today, without apology, to demand an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine,” said Andre Powell of the Peoples Power Assembly. “The U.S. government gives billions of dollars each year to prop up the racist regime in Israel, while, in this country, people go without schools, hospitals, medical care and food.”

“The Baltimore police train directly with the Israeli Defense Forces,” said Miranda Ezel, a young Jewish activist and a leader of Young Against War and Racism. “So are thousands of cops from across the U.S. We hear reports of Palestinian kids being repressed with the knee on the neck, the way George Floyd was killed by police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis.”

Along with YAWR and the PPA, the Malaya Movement DMV/Baltimore and the Socialist Unity Party co-sponsored the action.

One struggle for liberation!
Brooklyn, N.Y.’s Bay Ridge neighborhood saw one of the largest Day of Rage actions. Thousands flooded the streets in an area that is home to many Palestinians and other Arab people.

The protest was led by Within Our Lifetime–United For Palestine and organized by the NY4Palestine Coalition, which also includes Samidoun, Al-Awda, American Muslims for Palestine and several chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine. It explicitly linked the defense of Palestinian lives and land with the Black uprising against police terror here.

“There can be no Palestinian liberation without Black liberation” declared Nereen Kissawi of WOLF- UFP, who chaired the opening rally.

Speakers included Nehrefi Larkin of the December 12 Movement, long-time prisoner rights activist Dequi Kioni Sadiki of the Jericho Movement, representatives of the Filipino movement BAYAN-USA; the Red Nation, an organization of Indigenous revol- utionaries; New York Boricua Resis- tance, representing the Puerto Rican independence struggle; Nodocotl, a Korean American organization fighting for reunification of the Korean peninsula; Bill Dore of Struggle–La Lucha; Suzanne Ross of the Interna- tionally Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and many more.

Recorded remarks by U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal gave the signal to march.

The lead banner declared: “NYPD = KKK = IDF, One Struggle for Lib- eration.” Palestinians and support- ers chanted, “Not just annexation, not just occupation, we want libera- tion, bring the whole thing down!” A small group of bigots from the racist “Jewish Defense League” fled the area as the crowd took over Brook- lyn’s Fifth Avenue.

The protest marched across Brook- lyn for four hours, gathering support and cheers in that borough’s di- verse, multicultural neighborhoods. Marchers chanted, “From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have got to go!” and “No justice, no peace, no Israeli, no police!” before ending at Barclays Center with a Dabke, the traditional Palestinian foils dance.

Two days later, on July 3, another large march was held across the riv- er in North Bergen, NJ, organized by American Muslims for Palestine–NJ. Greg Batterfield, Bill Dore and Scott Scheffler contributed to this report.
Global protests erupt in response to Philippines ‘terror law’

By Bayani

On July 3, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law what he calls the “Anti-Terrorism Act,” now known as the Anti-Terrorism Law. Despite international criticism from human-rights watchdogs, legal professionals and grassroots organizations, the Anti-Terrorism Law will go into effect on July 18.

The Anti-Terrorism Law creates a Duterte-appointed council that subserves the powers of the Philippines courts to designate who or what can be considered a “terrorist” or “terrorism.” It also allows for people suspected of “terrorism” to be wiretapped and surveilled for 90 days, arrested without a warrant and imprisoned for 24 days. Punishments for those convicted include life imprisonment without parole.

Duterte and his government mouthpieces claim that the bill is necessary to stamp down “terrorism” influenced by the Islamic State. But the facts don’t lie: Duterte has utilized the full force of the Philippines National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines, under the guise of his “War on Drugs,” to gun down anyone he deems a dissenter.

To date, extrajudicial killings have claimed over 30,000 lives, an overwhelming number of them farm-workers, Indigenous people, unionists, legal professionals — the list goes on. This Anti-Terrorism Law is simply Duterte’s way to make legal his fascist reign of terror.

But the broad masses of the Philippines and their allies around the world will not be cowed. Wednesday, July 8 was declared a Global Day of Protest against the Anti-Terror Law. In the U.S., demonstrators hit the streets in New York, Baltimore, Washington, D.C.; Boston, Chicago; Portland, Ore.; Austin, Houston and Dallas, Texas; San Diego; Los Angeles; and San Francisco.

Baltimore’s demonstration on July 8 was the very first street action called by Malaya Movement Baltimore. Speakers from Malaya Movement Singapore, the Baltimore Teachers Union, the Peoples Power Assembly, Youth Against War and Racism and the Socialist Unity Party broadly condemned Philippines President Duterte and his reign of terror and declared unwavering solidarity with the Filipino people.

On behalf of the Peoples Power Assembly, Andre Powell said, after reminding the crowd of martial law in the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos, “History in the Philippines is repeating itself over and over again, and it could not do so without the money poured into it that the U.S. Congress passes and designates to go to the Philippines dictators.”

Alec Summerfield, representing the Socialist Unity Party, made clear that no one is fooled by Duterte’s latest move: “This is not an anti-terror law, as we all know. This is an anti-worker law, anti-farmer law, anti-union law, anti-student law and anti-legal activist law. ... This is just another way for the U.S. to assert its agenda through its puppet fascist dictatorship in the Philippines.”

Even before the official passage of the law, the Duterte government in the Philippines has already cracked down on dissent. On June 26, the day the Anti-Terror bill passed through the Philippines House of Representatives, 20 activists of the LGBTQ organization Bahaghari were arrested for their protest in Metro Manila. They were released four days later.

Philippines solidarity organizations like the International Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines and the Malaya Movement have reached out to U.S. congressional representatives, asking them to condemn the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Law. Illinois Rep. Jan Schakowsky spearheaded a letter of condemnation alongside California Rep. Judy Chu, which was signed by over 50 other congressional representatives and sent to Jose Manuel Romualdez, the Philippines ambassador to the U.S. In response, ironically, Duterte supporters have called on the U.S. to “stop meddling” in Philippines affairs.
Terrorism against Cuba is U.S. state policy

By Raúl Antonio Capote

The United States government has been the main organizer and sponsor of terrorism in the world since the country’s emergence as a power with aspirations of universal hegemony.

Over the course of contemporary history, this country has created, structured and provided support to all kinds of self-proclaimed paramilitary and terrorist groups around the world, while providing assistance to dictatorial governments that used terror as a tool of repression against their people.

The terrorist war unleashed against Cuba was conceived as U.S. state policy. The countless military, economic, diplomatic, psychological, propagandistic and espionage attacks, the sabotage and attempts to physically eliminate leaders of the revolutionary process, are part of an official strategy developed and implemented by the White House to defeat the Cuban Revolution and end the construction of socialism on the island.

The overwhelming evidence has been reviewed so many times. The hijacking of airplanes, which before 1959 had no precedent in the world, was a method devised and used precisely by the CIA in its programs of terrorist actions that began with the hijacking of United Airlines Flight 007, on April 5 the Henry Reeve Brigade of emergency doctors and nurses, who have arrived at the U.S. and Cuba.

Cleveland City Council says: End U.S. blockade of Cuba

Continued from page 7

darity brigades, but also the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America’s cooperative relationship with Venezuela.

Now Cuba and Venezuela have been included on a new list of “foreig
despite the US Department of Energy and just published in the Federal Register, according to the Miami Herald.

The hostility from Washington and a few elected officials in Florida doesn’t represent the will of the people in the U.S. or around the world.

The blossoming of creative campaigns like the municipal resolutions noted in this article; the nomination of Cuba’s Henry Reeve Brigade of doctors for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize; a two-day International Concert for Cuba to be broadcast live on July 18-19 reflect the desire for peace, friendship and cooperation between people in the U.S. and Cuba.

Los agujeros de bala empalan la columna y la estatua de José Martí fuera de la Embajada de Cuba en Washington, D.C.