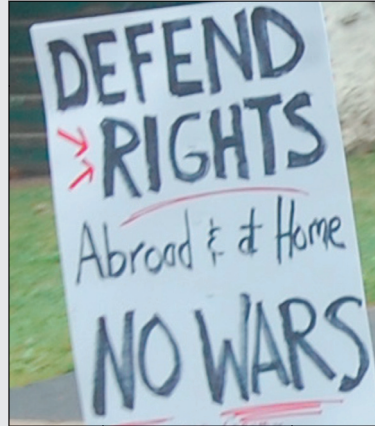




Unite and Fight for an Anti-War Government p.3



Dismantle NATO! Stop US/NATO Wars and War Games p.5

IMPUNITY THE CRIME, RESISTANCE THE SOLUTION

Racist U.S. State Cannot Solve the Problem of Police Killings

Demonstrations took place in dozens of cities across the country demanding government accountability for two more racist police killings of African American men. Many

denounced the police and state and federal governments for the military-like actions of police, where African Americans and Puerto Ricans are treated

Racist U.S. State • 17

Take Action at the RNC and DNC to Oppose War and Defend Rights

Voice of Revolution salutes all those participating in the actions at the Republican National Convention (RNC) and the Democratic National Convention (DNC) and taking their stands against war

and for rights. Conferences addressing concerns of the people are taking place at both conventions, to counter the anti-people quality of the RNC and DNC. Numerous

Take Action at RNC & DNC • 11



IN THIS ISSUE

- **FIGHT FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT:** Dismantle NATO, Oppose Drones, Women's Draft: **3-10**
- **TAKE ACTION AT RNC AND DNC:** Join Protests, Fund the Process, Schedule of Events: **11-16**
- **RACIST U.S. STATE CANNOT SOLVE PROBLEM OF POLICE KILLINGS:** System Cannot be Reformed, Silent War Against African Americans: **17-20**

July edition of **Voice of Revolution**

Editorials & Statements

- *Take Action at the RNC and DNC to Oppose War and Defend Rights* 1
- *Racist U.S. State Cannot Solve the Problem of Police Killings* 1
- *British Vote to Leave EU Favors the People*..... 1
- *Unite and Fight for an Anti-War Government* 3
- *Dismantle NATO! Stop U.S./NATO Wars and War Games* 5

Fight for an Anti-War Government

- *No to War, No to NATO!*
Stop NATO's Aggressive Expansion Toward Russia!..... 6
- *Twenty-Six Nations to Participate in World's Largest Maritime Exercise*.... 7
- *Decision to Deploy THAAD in Korea Triggers Regional Tension,*
Concerns About Dangers to the Peoples 7
- *Drone Death Numbers: Has My Family Been Counted?* 9
- *Women's Draft? Sign Me Up To Abolish War* 10

Oppose War and Defend Rights at RNC & DNC

- *Fund the Process Not the Candidates and Parties* 11
- *Protest Events at the Republican National Convention*..... 12
- *Join the Protests at the DNC*..... 13

Racist U.S. State Cannot Solve Problem of Police Killings

- *The System That Killed Alton Sterling and Philando Castile*
Cannot Be Reformed 17
- *Organize and Rally to Challenge the System* 19
- *"It's A Silent War Against African American People"* 19
- *In Alton Sterling's Baton Rouge, "Blue Lives Matter"* 20
- *One Simple Change to the Law Could Make Prosecuting Killer Cops Easier* 20

Send reports, letters and photos. Read, distribute and write for Voice of Revolution. Bulk rates available.

Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization
www.usmlo.org • office@usmlo.org • 716-602-8077
3942 N. Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60634

TO BLOCK U.S. WAR PLANS

Unite and Fight for An Anti-War Government

A main feature of the presidential elections this year is the almost complete silence on the issue of aggressive U.S. wars and U.S. plans for more war. There is a big effort, by candidates, the monopoly media, and various “experts” to divert attention from the critical issue of U.S. wars and ending them. Focus instead is on blocking the strong antiwar sentiment of the people and dividing those fighting for rights on the basis of who to vote for. And this is taking place in



the context of serious U.S. efforts to position and train military forces and develop stronger command and control over the militaries of other countries, all as part of plans for broader U.S. war for empire. The many conferences and actions being organized at the Republican National Convention (RNC) and Democratic National Convention (DNC) can counter this pro-war pressure by bringing the issue of U.S. wars to the fore and discussing the alternative of uniting to *Fight for an Anti-War Government*.

Here are some of the facts indicating more criminal U.S. aggression is underway:

- President Obama, in releasing a report on deaths of civilians from his drone warfare, did not call for an end to these war crimes. On the contrary, he wants the reports to be done yearly, thus institutionalizing drone warfare and the many civilian deaths, terrorism and crimes it embodies.

- The Senate funding bill for the Pentagon for more than \$600 billion, includes an amendment requiring women to register with the military and it criminalizes any who refuse or encourage others to refuse with a \$250,000 fine and 5 years in jail.

- The U.S.-led NATO Summit is addressing expanding war preparations, especially to Eastern Europe. This includes the recently activated missile defense system in Romania, and U.S. efforts to incorporate Ukraine and Georgia into NATO. The U.S. has already begun rotating an armored brigade through Eastern Europe — in addition to extra NATO forces to be deployed to Poland and the Baltics. NATO has also launched the largest war games in decades — involving 31,000 troops (14,000 from the U.S.).

- On the eve of the NATO summit the U.S. and south Korea announced that the THAAD missile defense system will be placed in south Korea, under U.S. command. This was a direct

provocation against Russia and China, who both strongly objected.

- The biggest ever U.S.-South Korea war games were conducted in March and April, targeting the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and including “special operations forces being deployed to border areas adjacent to China and Russia.” The “largest ever military exercises” led by the U.S. Navy were also conducted in the Middle East in April.

- One of the largest

maritime exercises, RIMPAC is currently underway, involving 26 countries, under U.S. command, in military war games around Hawai’i and southern California, including “complex war-fighting.”

An Anti-War Government is a Pro-Social Aim

Despite these many indications of the growing threat of increased war by the U.S., Trump and Clinton, for the most part, are silent, or in support. The entire presidential campaign is being used to divert and further undermine the demands of the people to end U.S. wars and *Bring All U.S. Troops Home Now!* Far from submitting to the pro-war demands of the rich, let us join in discussing the alternative to *Unite and Fight for an Anti-War Government*. An Anti-War government is a clear aim that can be promoted, developed and fought for. It is a pro-people and pro-social aim that provides a direction forward.

Working on the basis of a definite aim and debate on elaborating the content of such an Anti-War government also provides focus. *Voice of Revolution* puts forward the following content for discussion:

- 1) *Bring All U.S. Troops Home* as a contribution to peace and security in the world and an action that unites people in the U.S. with all those fighting abroad. Closing U.S. bases worldwide and removing all the battleships and fleets is a major demand of the world’s peoples as it contributes to ending U.S. aggression, defending sovereignty and upholding the rights of the peoples to determine their own affairs free from U.S. interference;

- 2) Outlaw any and all U.S. involvement in wars of aggression and U.S. use of force in settling conflicts between nations and peoples and end all U.S. interference in the affairs of other countries. This also includes demilitarizing police at home and making the killing of civilians — by drones, by the military and by

police — crimes to be punished from the top down;

3) Cancel the Debts of Puerto Rico and all the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America;

4) Pay Reparations Now for all the crimes of slavery and all crimes of the U.S. government, present and past;

5) Dismantle NATO and all military alliances and develop relations of mutual respect and benefit;

6) Stop funding war and increase funding for social programs and defending the rights of the people, abroad and at home;

7) End all support for Israel and act to end the occupation of Palestine now, beginning with withdrawal to the 1967 borders;

8) Stop the Raids and Deportations. Legalization for all now;

9) Defend and facilitate the right of the people themselves to govern and decide.

Fight for an Anti-War Government is a Unifying Force

The Fight for an Anti-War Government is a unifying force as it provides a common aim and addresses the many concerns of the people. The Pentagon is the largest single polluter in the world and stopping all its flights and bombings and troop transports, etc. is the single largest means to protect the environment worldwide. Ending the war economy and directing the economy in a new direction to defend the rights of the peoples, abroad and at home, also addresses the problems of poverty, unemployment and the right to a livelihood.

An anti-war government serves as a block to U.S. chauvinism and racism, using war and political and economic interference to impose U.S.-style democracy worldwide while maintaining a racist state and inequality at home. Taking a stand against use of force in settling conflicts abroad and at home is a means to counter the racist police violence and provide alternative means to address social problems.

Working together on a common aim also opens space for common activity irrespective of party affiliations or ideological viewpoints.

Steps to Take Now

How then to elect an Anti-War Government? Discussing and promoting the Fight for an Anti-War government as a main aim of the people is one important step that can be taken at the various conference and actions taking place at the RNC, DNC and beyond.

Such a fight is also connected with organizing for a new direction in political affairs, one that empowers the people to decide. It is broadly felt across the country that the existing political set-up is dysfunctional. The electoral set-up in particular is designed to keep working people out of power and the rich in. It is designed to encourage massive spending on negative and divisive ads and media coverage.

What is needed instead is an electoral set-up that guarantees every eligible voter is automatically registered to vote, with no party affiliation required. A set-up where the people set the agenda and require candidates and political parties to present their solutions to the problems identified, such as war and peace, protecting the environment, ending poverty, racism and inequality.

More concretely, funding of the process, not the candidates is



needed. And ensuring it is a process that serves the public good by serving to inform, mobilize and unite the public, rather than dividing and disinforming the public. This includes providing equal access for all candidates to debates, to the media, etc. It must also be a process where the people themselves set the agenda and select the candidates.

Simply capping funding, or preventing monopolies or PACS from spending so much does nothing to change the character of the existing process, which is anti-people and anti-democratic. Even before *Citizens United*, the elections served to keep the people out of governance and the rich in. We need a modern process that puts the people in power and the rich out!

Steps to take now include:

1) Discussing and promoting the Fight for an Anti-War government as a main aim of the people;

2) Discussing and demanding changes to the electoral process to *Fund the Process, Not the Candidates and Parties* and to *Selection of Candidates and Setting of the Agenda* by the people themselves;

3) Organizing to run Worker Politicians on this platform, selected by the people at their workplaces, schools, seniors' homes, etc.

We urge all concerned to join in this discussion and elaborate the *Fight for an Anti-War Government!*

YES TO PEACE, NO TO NATO

U.S. Out of NATO and Stop U.S./NATO Wars and War Games! Dismantle NATO!

Anti-war activists are converging on Warsaw, Poland to vehemently denounce the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) 2016 Summit taking place July 8-9 and all the moves to embroil the peoples of Europe and the world in U.S.-led imperialist war preparations. NATO is particularly taking actions aimed at Russia, including positioning its so-called anti-missile bases in Poland and more recently Romania. Given that the U.S. also announced on July 5, placement of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile defense in south Korea, directly against objections by Russia and China, is a further indication that the U.S. is preparing for broader war. NATO is part of its war machine for empire building, including control of Europe.

Around the world, including in the U.S., activists are holding events as part of a Global Day of Action Against NATO. In New York City an action is taking place at the Army Recruiting Center in Times Square July 9. Demonstrations are also taking place in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and elsewhere.

Voice of Revolution salutes the actions here and worldwide and joins in demanding *Dismantle NATO Now!* The U.S. is leading these war preparations and calling for even more funds to be directed to war, death and destruction worldwide. The Pentagon will quadruple military spending in Europe to \$3.4 billion. The U.S. is also demanding that NATO members increase their military spending. Both Clinton and Trump are making such demands and calling for increased U.S./NATO intervention in Libya and Syria — intervention that has created the refugee crisis and further decimated the peoples.

We say NO! All U.S. Troops Home Now! Dismantle NATO! Stop Funding War and Fund Our Rights! These U.S.-led war preparations also bring to the fore that an urgent battle for the elections and beyond is to **Unite and Fight for an Anti-War Government** that begins by withdrawing from NATO, bringing all troops home, and taking the stand that *Our Security Lies in Our Fight for Rights* and orienting funding and programs accordingly.

NATO Expansion Denounced as Threat to Global Peace
In its April 3 call to action against the Summit, the World Peace Council (WPC) points out:

“Since the 1990s, NATO has expanded its membership and theatre of operations. NATO currently has 28 member states



“NATO Legal Terrorism”: Protest in downtown Krakow, Poland

across North America and Europe. Another 22 countries are engaged in the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). A further 19 countries are partnered with NATO through programs such as the so called ‘Partnership for Peace,’ ‘Mediterranean Dialogue,’ the ‘Istanbul Cooperation Initiative’ or the ‘Partners Across the Globe Initiative.’

“This expansion alone reveals NATO’s fundamental purpose: to be a key tool of imperialist domination of the globe.

“Over the past two decades NATO and its affiliates have attacked Yugoslavia (and its province Kosovo), Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria with the obvious goal of overthrowing these countries’ governments. In most of these cases, the government was targeted by NATO because it refused to accept the dictates of U.S. or EU foreign and economic policy. In none of these cases has the goal or result been democracy and peace — the only legacy is death for the people, destruction and displacement — with increased power control of resources and profits for NATO states.”

The WPC also points out how the U.S.-EU carried out regime change in Ukraine to use it against Russia and provide a pretext for NATO intervention, which has come in the form of the largest build-up of hostile military forces on Russia’s western border since World War Two.

“NATO’s actions, as the favored military tool of U.S. and EU imperialism, have led to an ongoing climate of confrontation between the major nuclear-armed states. Such provocations lead inevitably to escalating tensions and the real threat of a nuclear confrontation and a generalized war that unavoidably would destroy all civilization across the planet,” the WPC states.

Anti-war activists converging in Warsaw particularly denounced the ways in which the Polish people’s security is being threatened by Poland’s increasing involvement in NATO aggression. They point out in a recent statement:

“The proposals of the present Polish government to station permanent NATO bases in Poland and build a new Missile

Defense Shield in the country would not guarantee the country's safety but rather place it on the frontline of these new hostilities [against Russia]. NATO is urging all member states to increase their military spending to at least 2 per cent of GDP. Not only will this intensify the arms race in the world, but it will mean that during a time of economic austerity more funds will move from welfare to war. When the governments and Generals meet in Warsaw in July an alternative voice must be heard."

Actions to Oppose NATO

The WPC has undertaken a campaign with numerous European and North American peace forces who also oppose NATO's aggressions and existence. The *Yes to Peace! No to NATO!* Campaign calls for the dissolution of NATO at a global level, supports the struggle against NATO in each of its member states, and promotes the right of the people in each country to unilaterally withdraw from the NATO military alliance. In particular the WPC has been working with its member organizations to mobilize the anti-war forces against the Warsaw

Summit.

From July 8 to 10 in Warsaw, anti-war activists from Europe and beyond will carry out the following:

- "On Friday 8 July we shall hold a conference bringing together the organizations and activists of the peace and anti-war movements. This will be an opportunity to discuss and debate alternatives to the policies of militarization and war being proposed by NATO. In the evening we shall hold a large public meeting. We already have a number of prominent speakers (both international and from Poland) confirmed, including former Colonel Ann Wright, Maite Mola, and Tarja Cronberg.

- "On Saturday we will take our protest to the streets of Warsaw to express our opposition to the NATO summit.

- "On Saturday evening a cultural/social event will be held. [...]

"Our goal is a world without war and nuclear weapons. We are fighting to overcome NATO through the politics of common security and disarmament and solidarity with global peace, anti-war and anti-militaristic movements."

JOIN HANDS WITH THOUSANDS AROUND THE WORLD

No to War, No to NATO! Stop NATO's Aggressive Expansion Toward Russia!

An Urgent Appeal for a Joint Action

by the Peace and Antiwar Movement in the New York City Metro Area

The drive by a nuclear-armed NATO to the borders of Russia — a nuclear-armed state — poses at the very least the risk of accidental nuclear war, and at worst the possibility of military confrontation between two nuclear powers.

On July 8-9 in Warsaw, Poland a NATO Summit will be held. Many fear it goes beyond saber-rattling to active war preparation. Its agenda is alarming. For example, the US wishes to incorporate Ukraine and Georgia into NATO. Next year, the Pentagon plans to quadruple military spending in Europe to \$3.4 billion and begin rotating an armored brigade through Eastern Europe — in addition to extra NATO forces to be deployed to Poland and the Baltics. The U.S., the main force behind NATO, is also already in a deadly proxy war in eastern Ukraine.

NATO has already launched the largest war games in decades — involving 31,000 troops (14,000 from the U.S.) and thousands of vehicles from 24 countries. The war games in Poland include air-ground assaults and electronic warfare scenarios. Airborne units, infantrymen, medics, military police and aviation units will operate jointly throughout the exercise, which culminates in a massive live-fire event led by the U.S. A naval exercise involving NATO forces has just begun in Finland.

A few weeks ago the United States activated the first of two missile-defense installations in Eastern Europe. The new missile defense site in Romania is a direct threat to regional security and inaugurates a new arms race. Earlier this year, it was disclosed that the U.S. was ramping up the deployment of heavy weapons and armored vehicles to NATO member countries in Central and

Eastern Europe.

A separate missile defense base in Poland — a country with a new far-right government — is turning that country, according to one expert, into a U.S. bastion and potential launch platform against Russia in possible violation of existing agreements governing intermediate-range nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, there is the ongoing "Saber Strike" operation in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Given the serious escalation of the danger of a disastrous confrontation between the United States and Russia, we must make our alarm at the upcoming NATO Summit known in a more public way.

To this end, we have organized a demonstration for Saturday July 9th to coincide with the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Poland. Other actions are planned around the U.S. and the world, particularly in Warsaw. We think it is important for the New York region to make its voice heard.

We consider the following general slogans to be a basis for unity:

- No to NATO; No to War!
- Yes to Peace; No to NATO!
- Abolish NATO, Do Not Expand It!
- Money for Jobs, Not for NATO!
- No More War Games!
- End NATO Provocations Against Russia!
- NATO Provocations Threaten Nuclear War!
- No to A New Cold War!

U.S. COMMANDED RIMPAC

Twenty-Six Nations to Participate in World's Largest Maritime Exercise

As part of its increased war preparations, the U.S. is leading the world's largest maritime exercise from June 30-August 4. Twenty-six nations, 45 ships, five submarines, more than 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) war games, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and southern California. It is taking place at the same time as the NATO Summit in Poland, July 7-8. It follows the largest war games in Asia, surrounding the Korean peninsula, which included training for pre-emptive nuclear strikes, as well as U.S. war games in the Philippines and the Middle East, all embroiling other nations in these war preparations. RIMPAC includes Japan, which has a constitution that does not permit troops abroad. Yet Japan is participating, as it did in the war games involving the U.S. and south Korea. Three nations, Denmark, Germany, and Italy will participate in RIMPAC for the first time.

RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise. It is used by the U.S. to integrate command and control with other countries and as a show of force. As the military states, RIMPAC "provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans."

RIMPAC is hosted by U.S. Pacific Fleet and led by U.S. Vice Admiral Nora Tyson, commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet (C3F), who will serve as the Combined Task Force (CTF) commander. Royal Australian Navy Rear Admiral Scott Bishop will serve as deputy commander of the CTF, and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Rear Admiral Koji Manabe as the vice commander. Other key leaders of the multinational force will include Commodore Malcolm Wise of the Royal Australian Navy, who will command

the maritime component; Brigadier General Blaise Frawley of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who will command the air component; and Royal New Zealand Navy Commodore James Gilmour, who will lead the amphibious task force.

This year the Trident Warrior experimentation series, will highlight fleet innovation during the sea amphibious operations in the Southern California operating area, and feature a harpoon missile shoot from a Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), the U.S. Navy's newest surface platform. The LCS is a lighter, more agile ship for close to shore actions, in this case off the coast of California.

According to the military, "The theme of RIMPAC 2016 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners." The participating nations and forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. These capabilities range from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex war-fighting. The relevant, realistic training program includes amphibious operations, gunnery, missile, anti-submarine, and air defense exercises as well as counter-piracy, mine clearance operations, explosive ordnance disposal, and diving and salvage operations." This indicates that these are war exercises and efforts by the U.S. to increasingly command and control the military forces of many of the countries involved.

This year's exercise includes forces from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People's Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of Korea (south Korea), the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Decision to Deploy THAAD in Korea Triggers Regional Tension, Concerns About Dangers to the Peoples

Yoo Seungki, Xinhua, China News Agency

The decision between South Korea and the United States to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) on Friday triggered various controversies as it causes regional tensions and strong oppositions from people living in candidate sites amid remaining doubts about its military effectiveness.

Military authorities of the two allies jointly made an official announcement earlier in the day to deploy the U.S. missile defense system in the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), some two years after the USFK commander took issue with the need for

the THAAD deployment on the Korean peninsula.

The two allies claimed that the U.S. interceptors will target the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s nuclear and missile threats alone, not any other third country, but it caused strong backlashes from neighboring countries and deepened worries among politicians about regional tensions.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement Friday that the Chinese side is "strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes" the THAAD deployment in South Korea as the deployment is

not conducive to achieving denuclearization on the peninsula and maintaining its peace and stability.

Russia has repeatedly expressed opposition to the deployment, with Alexander Timonin, Russian Ambassador to South Korea, saying in February that the U.S. missile defense system would neither lend any support to peace and stability in Northeast Asia, nor any benefit to resolving nuclear issues on the peninsula.

South Korean politicians said the THAAD deployment will heighten regional tensions, rather than helping resolve the peninsula's nuclear issue. The minor opposition Justice Party said the decision will certainly cause a more dangerous security crisis in the region than the DPRK's missile crisis, as it came amid strong opposition from China and Russia, both calling for the withdrawal of the decision.

People's Party, which plays a casting vote between ruling Saenuri Party and main opposition Minju Party, expressed its clear opposition to the THAAD deployment, saying the South Korean government too easily dismissed China's opposition. It noted Seoul should have considered more deeply the possible economic effects from the worsening relations with China.

Following the THAAD announcement, shares of South Korean companies that depend heavily on Chinese consumers and travelers for revenue, fell sharply. LG Household & Health Care tumbled 4.5 percent, with leading cosmetics maker Amore Pacific plunging 4.7 percent. Travel agency shares, including Hanatour Service and Modetour Network, also lost ground.

The governing party expressed support for the THAAD deployment, saying it would tackle the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats, including the recent test-launches of Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

Pyongyang said last month that it had succeeded in test-firing the missile for the first time, threatening U.S. military bases in Guam and Japan as well as in South Korea. The missile, known to be capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, is fired from a mobile launcher, making it hard to detect and track in times of emergency.

Controversy Over Effectiveness, Operability Beyond Peninsula

China and Russia have opposed the THAAD deployment in South Korea as the U.S. missile defense system far exceeds the country's actual defense needs and directly threatens the strategic security interests of the two neighboring countries.

The THAAD's radar can locate missiles far beyond the DPRK territory. The X-band radar can spot missiles as far as 2,000 km with forward-based mode and 600 km with terminal mode. As the two have the same hardware, the terminal mode, which South Korea allegedly plans to adopt, can be transformed into the radar with a much longer detectable range.

Military effectiveness of the THAAD operation in the South Korean soil has been in doubt as the advanced U.S. missile defense system is designed to track and destroy missiles at a high altitude of 40-150 kilometers (25-90 miles). Hundreds of DPRK missiles targeting South Korea will fly at a much lower altitude of less than 20 kilometers (about 12 miles).

One THAAD battery would be deployed in U.S. Forces Korea



(USFK) stationed in South Korea by the end of next year, after designating the deployment site within weeks. A battery is composed of six mobile launchers, 48 interceptors, airborne radar and fire control system.

The main opposition Minju Party said the deployment would not be in the national interests of South Korea, citing lack of sufficient preparations for diplomatic frictions with China and Russia, and the ensuing economic losses. China is South Korea's largest trading partner.

The opposition party also worried about anti-American sentiment heightening among South Korean people living in candidate sites. Social conflicts are expected at home as the THAAD's radar emits super-strong microwave detrimental to humans and electronic devices.

If the radar is deployed northward, it will inevitably face a densely populated region. Forced deployment will cause harsh backlashes from people living in candidate cities and may kindle anti-U.S. sentiment. Among potential sites are Pyeongtaek in Gyeonggi province, Wonju in Gangwon province, Eumseong in South Chungcheong province, Gunsan in North Jeolla province and Chilgok in North Gyeongsang province.

The governor of North Gyeongsang province, one of the candidate sites and the traditional home turf for the ruling party, said that if the site is decided upon without fair and transparent procedures, he and his provincial people will not sit idle with it. He expressed deep concerns about his province having been repeatedly cited as a candidate site.

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), a local activist group, said in a statement that the THAAD deployment decision represents an official announcement to speed up the arms race in East Asia, and that possibility is a high risk and the deployment could cost South Korea the peninsula's peace and people's security as well as economic losses.

The PSPD said the effectiveness of the still unverified THAAD should be discussed, calling for making public the standards on which Seoul and Washington will choose an optimal site for the THAAD deployment in terms of environment, the health and safety of people as well as the military effectiveness.

Drone Death Numbers: Has My Family Been Counted?

Faisal bin ali Jaber, Yemen, July 05, 2016

On Friday, July 1, President Obama announced the number of civilians he believes he has killed with drones over the past seven years. The number is between 64 and 116. These were ordinary people killed in countries where the U.S. is not at war; in places like my village, Khashamir, in Yemen.

Like many grieving families who have lost loved ones to the U.S. drones, I do not know whether my nephew Waleed and my brother-in-law Salem, both innocents, were included in the President's number.

Mr. Obama did not provide names. He did not say in which years the civilians were killed, nor in which country. He did not explain how the CIA decided who counted as wrongfully killed, and who did not. [U.S. military officials have acknowledged that any male 18 and older is counted as an "enemy," not a civilian, and some indicate that those 15 and older are also counted as such. It is in part for this reason that various human rights organizations put the number of civilian deaths at least 8 times higher than Obama's count. It should also be noted that with his executive order to have reports on the numbers of deaths, Obama is also institutionalizing drone warfare, a war crime — *VOR* Ed. Note]

The President's version of transparency — a bare number — does not help the families of the dead. It also does not help us achieve peace in Yemen. I am older and educated, but my worry is for our younger generation. How can Yemen's young people make peace with the world when their first experience of the U.S. is hovering drones killing innocents, where no one will admit responsibility?

Instead of killing my brother-in-law Salem, the U.S. should have supported him. Salem was an Imam who preached against al-Qaeda only days before he was killed. His speech was so strong and inspiring, I worried al-Qaeda would kill him. I spoke to Salem about my fears. He said "If I don't use my position to make it clear to my congregation that this ideology is wrong, who will? I will die anyway, and I would rather die saying what I believe than die silent."

It never occurred to me that it would be the U.S., not al-Qaeda, who would kill Salem. But that is what happened.

A few days after Salem delivered his sermon, three youth entered the village looking for him. We did not know who they were at the time, but it seems they were suspected al-Qaeda members. They found Salem at the mosque, and sat in their car in a dark corner. They sent a messenger, saying Salem must come and talk to them. Salem was worried they meant him harm. Waleed, my 21-year-old nephew was there. He was a policeman. He reassured Salem he would go to the car with him for protection. He could not protect



him from the drone hovering overhead. In less than three minutes, three missiles were fired. A fourth came later. They were all killed.

Instead of celebrating my son's wedding, as planned, I spent that evening trying to recover Salem and Waleed. There were so many body parts, they were scattered everywhere.

It would have been easy to arrest the three suspected men, rather than use a drone strike. They could have been stopped at any checkpoint — the closest checkpoint is only 1

kilometer away. The nearest army base is just 3 kilometers away.

This killing is simply not acceptable. We Yemenis understand the need for counter-terrorism; it is as important to us as it is to Americans. What we cannot understand is why the U.S. had to assassinate two innocents and terrorize a whole village to deal with the three suspects. No matter what these men had supposedly done, surely they deserved a trial? Had the U.S. government reached out to us seeking assistance in their arrest, we would have certainly helped. Salem was already trying to help.

President Obama says he wants to be transparent, but his efforts have ignored the Yemeni victims of strikes and their families. Since Salem and Waleed were killed, I have done everything I can think of to try to get answers. I traveled all the way to Washington, D.C. in 2013 to speak to the government about my case. I received no answers during my visit, but nine months later, the Yemeni intelligence services delivered me secret bags of cash — cash that came without an acknowledgement of the mistake. I refused.

Bags of cash cannot solve this problem. Only real transparency will restore America's good reputation in Yemen. We simply want the same respect that the President gave to families of an American and Italian hostage killed in a strike. The public recognition that my family members were innocent. That the U.S. killed them by mistake.

For Americans, drone killing may seem to be an easy solution. And the President seems to prefer to keep the drone errors a secret, even where innocents have died. This is a mistake. Drone killing is not the solution to the problems that we face in Yemen. The American drones simply create more problems, ensuring the next generation of Yemenis grow up feeling worthless, angry and fearful.

Salem's voice was so powerful, and he used it to make peace. He always said he did not want to "die silent." Today I am trying to speak on his behalf and on behalf of all the other victim's families. What President Obama announced on Friday is not transparency. A mere body count is not the end of the story. It is where the story begins.

Women's Draft? Sign Me Up To Abolish War

Rivera Sun, PeaceVoice



For too long...our brothers, sons, husbands, and fathers are sent to kill, maim, brutalize, destroy and even die in defense of our alleged liberty.

But now, the Senate has passed a \$602 billion defense bill that includes an amendment for drafting women. If this bill were in effect today, I would be fined a quarter of a million dollars and face five years in prison for writing these words:

Women: do not register for the draft.

No one — man or woman — should register, or be required to register, for the draft. The draft should be completely eliminated. The military should be dismantled. War should be abolished. The bloated war budget should be returned to our children and students. The military industrial complex should be evicted from our politics and war profiteering should be completely and utterly outlawed.

According to the new bill, saying this and telling other women not to register for the draft is against the law, but I'll say these words as long as I live in every way I can . . . and I'll tell it to men, too. For too long, this nation has sat idle as horrific wars are waged in our names. Now, a Congress of the same predominantly rich, white, old men who send our brothers off to war would like the women of this country to pick up the weapons in our very own hands.

I refuse.

More than refuse, I will organize, not just to stop the Women's Draft, but to abolish war in its entirety. Did Congress think that "women's equality" meant sending us off to war? Women's equality is peace, democracy, economic justice, racial justice, environmental sustainability, restorative justice, ending mass incarceration, providing for all children of this country, caring for our elders, affordable healthcare and housing, and debt-free student education.

Women's equality does not - and never will - include forcing us to kill our fellow human beings in order to protect the patriarchal, oligarchic, racist, imperialistic interests of the greedy, war-profiteering few.

There is something ludicrous about the very notion of

drafting me into the military. I imagine what Helen Keller (a notorious anti-war activist) might have told me: sit-down, strike, and refuse to die in the rich men's wars. Kathy Kelly and Medea Benjamin might smile on my first day of boot camp as I engage in total non-cooperation with the training and speak to my fellow women about the injustice and horror of war. What will the officers do then? Throw me in prison, where, like peace activists and all organizers, I might organize work strikes and refuse to build the infrastructure of war? Would they put me in solitary confinement like Chelsea Manning for speaking truth to power? Would they torture me as they do to the illegally and unfairly held men at Guantánamo? Would they rape me like they already do to one third of my sisters in the military?

Undoubtedly, our congresspersons were not thinking of me when they introduced the women's draft bill. Perhaps they were thinking of my blonde cousins — some of whom are military wives — marching teary-eyed as they go off to kill children that do not look so different than the ones they leave behind. Perhaps they imagined black and brown bodies dying to protect a racist nation that incarcerates, murders, and impoverishes them. Perhaps they imagined my veteran friends, and thought that women, too, should join the ranks of those haunted by the horrors of war, suffering from PTSD. Perhaps they thought of us smiling and waving as we're trotted out for Memorial Day parades and shows of patriotism.

Certainly, they did not have Rivera Sun in mind, a five-foot-five, redheaded, nonviolent strategist with a pen sharper than a hellfire missile. If so, they would have quietly killed the women's draft bill . . . because there is only one place the U.S. military is drafting Rivera Sun — and that is straight into the peace movement.

Women: do not register for the draft. Let us do what we should have done long ago. For too long . . .our sons, brothers, husbands, and fathers were sent off to war. No more. The sleeping giant of American womankind has awakened . . . and she wants the total Abolition of War.

I • Take Action at RNC and DNC

demonstrations are also planned.

The conventions are both major live exercises for the highly militarized police of both cities. The Secret Service imposes a “hard perimeter” around the convention site where no protest is permitted and only those approved by the Secret Service can enter. The FBI is also involved, often for surveillance and infiltration of those organizing resistance. Then there are thousands of state police from surrounding states and local and county police, including special teams trained for mass arrest and control of demonstrations.

The city government commonly imposes a “soft perimeter,” which also serves to block protesters from directly addressing convention participants and often even just seeing them. An atmosphere is created that politicians and presidential candidates cannot be in public without massive military-level protection and peaceful protest

cannot occur without a massive police presence. All of this serves to prevent serious political debate and make acceptable militarization of political affairs in the country.

Voice of Revolution urges all to join in raising the level of political discussion with a focus on the need for an anti-war government and building a political movement that can bring it about. While the two parties are no longer political and no longer function as parties, the people of necessity must be political — must act to defend their interests, as individuals and collectives. This can be done by working together to elaborate how to accomplish the aim of electing an anti-war government. The rich have no politics and seek to deny the working class and people of their independent politics. Let all reject this effort and instead join in debating and developing an anti-war government (see p.3).

MODERNIZE AND DEMOCRATIZE ELECTIONS

Fund the Process Not the Candidates and Parties

The presidential election process is showing itself to be divisive and dysfunctional. Trump and Clinton are widely disliked and not candidates of the majority. The process is being used to foment racism and chauvinism, while the critical issue of U.S. wars and criminal aggression is ignored. It is also clearly one where at least \$10 billion will be spent mainly to divide and divert the public and further lower, even eliminate serious political discussion. It is an undemocratic process that blocks many from voting, that blocks working people from running and winning, especially at the federal level. This is done, now and in the past, through numerous laws for simply registering to vote. It is also outdated, as it still reflects a process serving white men of property, as embodied in the constitution. This is blocks serious discussion on the social problems faced by the people and solutions for them, while promoting the pro-war demands of the rich. A modern process that informs and empowers the people is needed.

Many consider that the main issue in the current process is too much money, through corporations, SuperPACs, etc. and thus various proposals focus on limiting campaign financing. This has been a main aspect of electoral reform in the past, such the McCain-Feingold 2002 *Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act*. This law restricted campaign funding to the parties and candidates and required donations be public. However, it left open and thus encouraged what is termed “soft” funding, from outside groups, which have ballooned and expanded ever since.

There is no question that the massive amounts of funds pumped into elections by the vying interests among the rulers is a problem. But limiting funding alone does nothing to address the anti-democratic character of the election process itself. An entirely different process is needed, one that empowers the people themselves, to select and be the candidates, to decide the agenda, to win election. Discussing the character of the process needed is of assistance to all those concerned about

democratizing the existing set-up.

Among the key changes needed, that can be fought for and debated are:

- 1) Public funding of the process not the candidates and parties and outlawing campaign financing outside that process;
- 2) All candidates selected by the people themselves, at their workplaces, schools, seniors’ homes, etc.
- 3) All candidates are provided equal ability to run and be elected, so that working people themselves to be our politicians and win office
- 4) All negative campaigning is banned and all candidates must address the agenda, set by the people themselves. There is little doubt the people would demand solutions to key social problems, like war, the environment, poverty, racism and inequality.
- 5) All candidates have equal access to the media and the media, which uses the public airwaves, is required to provide equal time to all candidates, including in their news coverage. The current election showed that Trump was given far more coverage than any other candidate, as part of efforts to foment racism and divisions among the people.
- 6) Debates, hosted by local organizers, are organized in all major cities, for the presidency, across the country, for other offices statewide as appropriate, with all candidates present and given equal time and the public given time to ask questions, call for solutions, etc.
- 7) All candidates and parties required to provide information that provides the context for the given issue, facts about the problem and its relation to other issues and concrete solutions. Campaign materials and presentations must serve to raise the level of political discussion and serve the public interest.
- 8) An independent national elections commission also provides information as needed, and takes responsibility for ensuring every eligible voter is registered, and that the process is adhered to.

Protest Events at the Republican National Convention

Thursday July 14 – Sun. July 17

National Convention of the Oppressed

When: July 14-17

Where: 1881 E. 71st

Contact: www.conventionoftheoppressed.org/
www.blfjustice.org

Saturday, July 16 - Sunday, July 17

People's Justice & Peace Convention

When: July 15, 7:00pm

July 16, 9:00am – 5:00pm;

July 17, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Where: July 15-16: Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave.

July 17: Masonic Auditorium, 3615 Euclid Ave.

Local, state and national representatives of justice, peace, environmental and democracy groups will come together at a “People’s Convention” the weekend before the Republican National Convention.

Contact: peoplesconvention2016@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pjpc2016>

Saturday, July 16

National March and Rally against Racism, Injustice and White Supremacy

When: 10am: Gather at 71st and Chester

12:00pm: Rally E. 4th St. and Prospect, Quicken Loans Arena (site of the RNC)

Stop Trump Pre-RNC Convention - Interfaith Prayer, Picnic, Drum Circle, Protest Planning Meeting

When: July 16, 2:00–11:00 pm

Where: Edgewater Park, 6500 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway

Sunday, July 17

Keep the Promise Cleveland March & Rally

When: 11:20am-5pm

Where: E. 22 St. and Prospect Ave.

March for healthcare access, Medicaid expansion, LGBT equality, immigration, women’s rights, racial justice, income equality, criminal justice system reform, an end to homelessness, and more! *We say: Fund Community Needs, Not Warfare!*

Contact: Jacqueline Burbank: jacqueline.burbank@aidshhealth.org

Sunday July 17:

Shut Down Trump & The RNC

When: Rally 4pm, and March

Where: E. 36 St. and Euclid Ave.; March to City Hall and the RNC Convention Center

March Against Racism, Islamophobia, Attacks on Immigrants and on LGBTQ people and Endless War!

Co-sponsored by: Solidarity Center NYC, Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement, Peoples Power Assemblies NYC, Peoples Power Assembly Balt, Moratorium NOW! Coalition, International Action Center

Contact: notrump@gmail.com (216) 452-847-8473

CODEPINK Orientation Party at the RNC

When: July 17, 7pm

Where: RSVP for info

Join the CODEPINK staff and friends to kick off an exciting week of actions at the RNC! There will be a short orientation for the CODEPINK team and light refreshments will be served. RSVP is required to receive location information.

Monday, July 18

Rally and March / Cleveland Public Square

When: 12:00 noon

Where: Cleveland Public Square

March on the RNC: Dump Trump; Say No to the Republican Agenda; Stand Against Racist, Anti-Immigrant, and Anti-Muslim Attacks, We Demand Peace, Justice and Equality.

Contact: Coalition to Dump Trump and March on the RNC
• facebook.com/events/574059672757617

End Poverty Now! Rally and March for Economic Justice

When: July 18, 2pm

Where: E. 46 St. and Superior Ave.

We will march on Quicken Loans Arena, the convention center, on July 18 and make it loud and clear: No more complicity with the crime of poverty! No more building your political career on the backs of the poor! No more silence from those you have been stepping on! We demand an end to poverty NOW!

Co-Sponsors: Cleveland Peace Action, AFSC, Jobs with Justice, Poor People’s Economic Justice Campaign and more

Contact: <http://endpovertynow2016.org/index.html> FB: End Poverty NOW 2016

Don't Let the Racist Right Wing Lead the Struggle Against Capitalist Globalization

When: July 18, 6:00pm

Where: Black on Black Inc. Cleveland Center, 15415 Kipling Ave.

Hear revolutionary socialist presidential candidate for Workers

DEFEND RIGHTS AND OPPOSE WAR AT RNC & DNC

World,, Monica Moorehead and vice-presidential candidate Lamont Lilly
Contact: (216) 452-8473 FB: Monica Moorehead & Lamont Lilly 2016

Tuesday, July 19

Screening of The Brainwashing of My Dad, with Q & A session with film executive producer and CODE-PINK co-founder Jodie Evans!

When: July 19, 7 pm

Where: West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River, Ohio

Thursday, July 21

Stand Together Against Trump

When: July 21, 4:00-11pm

Where: Starting location TBA

More info: www.standtogetheragainstrump.com

A broad coalition of people and organizations protesting Donald Trump's racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

Join the Protests at the Democratic National Convention

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Main events website: <http://philly.fyi/>
- Ridesharing: <https://ridewithbernie.com/> and <http://ralibus.net/>
- Housing: <http://berniebnb.com/>, <http://airbnb.com/>, and <http://vrbo.com/>

Saturday, July 23

Summit for a Clean Energy Revolution

When: 9am-6:30pm

Where: Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street

Who: Americans Against Fracking, Food and Water Watch; 350.org and many others

Be a part of this gathering of people working to ban fracking, keep fossil fuels in the ground, stop dirty energy infrastructure and justly transition to 100% renewable energy. The day will have a mix of educational workshops, organizing skills trainings, and strategy development sessions.

Contact: lchamberlain@fwwlocal.org

Power Shift Northeast (for youth)

When: July 23-24 • 9:00 AM

Where: Temple University • 1837 N Broad St, Philadelphia

Join young climate and social justice leaders from all over the Northeast for a weekend of workshops, trainings, speakers, and movement-building.

Tickets Required: Student/Youth Registration(24 or younger) — \$60.00 per ticket

Adult/Nonprofit Employee Registration — \$160.00 per ticket

The People's Convention

When: July 23, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Arch Street Meeting House, 320 Arch Street,

Organized by: The People's Revolution,
www.thepeoplesrevolution.org

The 2016 election cycle has revealed a deficit of democracy in our country and a failure of our major institutions to respond to the needs of the American public. As a solution to this dilemma,



a grassroots coalition of organizers is sponsoring an inclusive gathering named The People's Convention. Since our government should speak for all of us regardless of party affiliation, the event is based upon a platform of issues, not a particular party or personality. Our plan is the ratification of a collectively written People's Platform. This platform will consist of the issues which are most pressing to our country's civic health.

We will also create a space for grassroots organizers and organizations to network and build relationships. This networking should establish the foundation of an ongoing movement intended to transform American politics for the better.

Endorsed by:

Philly Coalition for REAL Justice

People of Color for Bernie Sanders

Occupy Wall St. NYC

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

Popular Resistance

DNC Action Committee

Contact: facebook.com/events/1005112132871397

Sunday, July 24

March for a Clean Energy Revolution

When: Sunday, July 24, 12:00-4:00pm

Where: Philadelphia City Hall

Who: Americans Against Fracking

On the eve of the Democratic National Convention, thousands

ORGANIZE TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION

will march for action to prevent climate catastrophe and present these demands directly to current and future policy makers:

Ban Fracking Now
Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground
Stop Dirty Energy
Environmental Justice For All
Quickly and Justly Transition to 100% Renewable Energy

March4Bernie in Philly Against The DNC

When: Sunday, July 24 at 12:00pm-3:00pm
Where: City Hall Municipal Service Building, 1401 John F Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia
Who: Billy Taylor, Black Men for Bernie

This broken two-party system and the elite class who run it do not represent us or our interests, and it is our natural right as American citizens to stand up to this elite political class and take back our democracy.

That is why this year, we are calling on Bernie Sanders supporters to gather in Philadelphia. The DNC represents everything that is corrupt and unjust in our society. We see this as a special opportunity to elevate both the campaign of Bernie Sanders and the revolution that he's calling for. Our march for Bernie is an opportunity for those of us who have been inspired by the campaign to stand and represent that movement. Before the Convention kicks off, we are gathering together to make sure the political establishment (and Bernie Sanders) know that we are here! That we are not discouraged, that we are demanding justice and accountability.

Engage the DNC National Convention

When: July 24 at 9:00pm to July 29 at 3:00 am
Where: Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S Broad St.
Who: Bryan Carpenter, Bernie organizer
We need to organize a 9.9 million person march on Philly in July for the convention... If all of us can get Bernie close to nomination and then walk and occupy the convention, it would mean a shutdown of the city for 2 days and the most massive protest since the revolutionary war but with no violence.

Democracy Spring at the DNC

When: July 24 at 5:00pm - July 28 at 5:00pm
Where: Democratic National Convention
Who: Democracy Spring, www.democracyspring.org
We demand that the Democratic Party implement the political revolution that millions of its voters are calling for and pledge to pass reforms to make this the last corrupt, billionaire-dominated, voter suppression-marred election in our nation. Unless the Democrat's presidential nominee and Congressional leaders publicly commit to pass sweeping democracy reforms to overturn Citizens United, establish publicly funded elections, and ensure comprehensive voting rights protections for all Americans within the first 100 days of a new administration and abolish superdelegates now, we will engage in mass civil disobedience to disrupt the DNC.

CODEPINK Orientation Party at the DNC

When: Sunday, July 24, 7pm
Where: RSVP for info; Alli McCracken · alli@codepink.org · 860-575-5692

Monday, July 25

March on the DNC

When: Rally at 11:00am, March at 1
Where: Philadelphia City Hall, 1401 John F Kennedy Blvd on the north end of City Hall
Who: Organized by left-leaning folks disenfranchised by the political process, we'll join to call for an end to endless war perpetuated by both political parties! (facebook.com/events/248664418802949)

This march is in protest to the highly biased and unfair treatment, demonstrated by the DNC, towards presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders. We have to make our voices heard. The superdelegate system must be abolished completely.

If you need a ride, check out our rideshare program:

<http://bit.ly/1SDYz2k>

We also have a RALLYBUS program (Bernie Buses):

<http://rallybus.net/march-on-the-democratic-national-convention/?ur=fe3022f6-bf2e-41aa-9ec8-0c4ca54fca55>

If you need a place to stay, check these out:

www.BernieBnB.com www.couchsurfing.com
www.airBnB.com www.VRBO.com

March for Our Lives

When: July 25, 3:00-5:00pm
Where: Philadelphia City Hall on the north end of City Hall, 1401 John F Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia
Who: Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign economichumanrights.org

Join the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign in the fight for economic justice by protesting the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia! Join Us in Demanding an End to Unemployment, Hunger and Homelessness, Money for Education, Single Payer Health Care, Affordable, Accessible Housing, Living Wages, and an End to the Prison Industrial Complex.

Money for the poor not for WAR!

Calling on the DNC to End the Drug War and Legalize Cannabis

When: July 25, 4:00pm
Where: Dilworth Park, Philadelphia
Who: East Coast Cannabis Coalition

We demand that the war on drugs and mass incarceration must end. We must also end cannabis prohibition and legalize cannabis and hemp. It is clear the DNC has played a key role in orchestrating and carrying out the war on drugs. Additionally, they continue to fund the war on drugs with every federal budget they pass. They are responsible for funding private and federal prisons as well as allowing lawful slave labor in prisons.

DEFEND RIGHTS AND OPPOSE WAR AT RNC & DNC



Green Party of Pennsylvania
International Socialist Organization
Kentucky Workers League
Left Elect Coalition
Move To Amend
Party for Socialism and Liberation - PSL
Philly Coalition for REAL Justice
Philly DSA
Philly Socialists
Socialist Action
Socialist Alternative
Socialist Worker

Solidarity: a socialist, feminist, anti-racist organization
The People's Revolution
For more information visit facebook.com/events/1531565457152888/

Progressive Central — Progressive Democrats Of America

When: Monday, July 25-Thursday, July 27
Where: William Way Center, 1315 Spruce St.

“Progressive Democrats of America will host Progressive Central in Philadelphia coinciding with the Democratic National Convention, July 25-27. Special Guest Speakers: U.S. Representatives Tulsi Gabbard, Raul Grijalva, Donna Edwards, and Keith Ellison; PDA Advisory Board members: Michael Lighty, Thom Hartmann, Medea Benjamin, Jim Hightower, and Mark Dudzic; moderator John Nichols, and Andrea Miller.

Jill Stein Power to the People Rally

When: Monday, July 25 at 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Where: FDR Park (cross-section of Broad and Patterson)
Who: Green Party

At the conclusion of the March for Our Lives protest for economic justice on July 25, the Jill Stein for President campaign is hosting a Power to the People rally at FDR park to demand an end to unemployment, hunger and homelessness; money for education; affordable, accessible housing; living wages; and an end to the prison industrial complex. Speakers and musicians will include 2016 Presidential candidate Dr. Jill Stein, Ernie Perez, Immortal Technique, Mic Crenshaw, Ernie Perez, Actor Mark Webber, Actor Terese Palmer, and many more!

Contact: Galen Tyler (galenkwr@gmail.com) (215-883-9771)

Monday, July 25-Thursday, July 28

Socialist Convergence — Carrying Forward the Political Revolution

When: Jul 25 at 5:00 PM to Jul 28 at 11:00 PM
Where: Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street and FDR Park
Who: Organized by various organizations

“What’s next for the movement? How do we make a political revolution in this country?” These and many other questions are likely to become even more pressing this July. A number of socialist organizations are planning a series of “Socialist Convergence” assemblies: meetings, panels, and workshops. The convergence will include panel discussions on questions of strategy and what’s next for the movement, workshops on the nuts-and-bolts of how to build socialist organization in your hometown, and space for collective deliberation on how / if to relate to each other’s work after July.

Panel discussions will be held evenings at Friends Center (1501 Cherry Street) throughout the week of the DNC (July 25th through July 28th).

How-to-organize workshops will be scheduled for the mornings of the DNC at FDR Park.

Co-sponsors include:

Equality Coalition for Bernie Sanders
Green Party of New York State

Tuesday, July 26

Bernie Or Bust Rally

When: July 26, noon-3pm
Where: Thomas Paine Plaza, 1401 JFK Blvd.

This group stands behind Bernie Sanders either as president or the most powerful Senator in United States history with millions of supporters nationwide. This revolution is about creating drastic change within our political and economic systems and Bernie Sanders is the leader of this revolution

Black DNC Resistance March Against Police Terrorism & State Repression

When: Tuesday July 26 at 2:00 PM - July 28 at 6:00 PM
Where: Broad & Diamond St

Who: Philly for REAL Justice, phillyrealjustice.com

The Democratic Party has consistently betrayed their promises to the Black community and the 2016 presidential election is not going to be any different. Black communities are under siege with militarized police terrorism, assault and murder; public schools are underfunded and do not properly educate our children; economic development means black displacement through gentrification; prison privatization and the school to prison pipeline. Raising the minimum wage to a living standard; the right to proper access of quality healthcare, food, shelter and the essential means of life; protection and

ORGANIZE TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION

inclusion of the LGBTQ community, as well, the releasing of all political prisoners and the right to self-determination and control of our communities. This can only come from the unification of our voices, understanding the intersectional connections, education and support of one another and not the democratic process.

Contact:

phillyrealjustice@gmail.com

dncphillyorganize@gmail.com

com

***SHUT DOWN the DNC!
Build the Movement to
Smash Capitalism &
Racism***

When: 4:00 pm

Where: Philadelphia City Hall, 1401 JFK Blvd.

Who: Worker's World Party

Progressives, socialists, peace activists, feminists, environmentalists: Let's build a united front to take on the racist, capitalist Democratic war machine!

The Presidential elections that take place every four years bring about only cosmetic changes: different faces running the government while the same billionaire masters still call all the shots. Whether it's Clinton or Trump, Democrat or Republican, police will still terrorize us and low wages will keep us in or near poverty. That is, unless we fight back!

Endorsed by:

The MOVE Organization

Philly Coalition for REAL (Racial, Economic, and Legal) Justice

International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Black and Brown Workers Collective

People's Power Assemblies

Penn SDS

Philly Food Not Bombs- Affinity

International Action Center

Workers World Party

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

Move to Amend

Comité Boricua Filadelfia-Camden (Phila-Camden Boricua Committee)

Contact: facebook.com/events/1637521486470450/
shutdownDNC@gmail.com



Wednesday July 27

Protest For Palestinian Rights At The DNC!

When: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St.

Who: Join CODEPINK and allies to support Palestinian human rights and the right to boycott Israel until it ends its brutal occupation of Palestine!

The 2016 Democratic National Committee platform includes anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) language but does not include the word OCCUPATION in relation to Palestine. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unconditionally supports Israel. Bring your signs and help us tell the DNC that *Boycott Is Justified While Palestine Is Occupied! Free, free Palestine!*

Thursday July 28

Black Men For Bernie, Day 2

When: July 28, 12-6pm

Where: Thomas Paine Plaza, 1401 JFK Blvd

Kshama Sawant Speaks

When: July 28, 5:30-11pm

Where: Socialist Convergence, Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street

I • Racist U.S. State Cannot Solve Problem of Police Killings

as enemies to be executed, with no charges or trial. And police, and those in government responsible for promotion of militarism and militarization of police, act with impunity. Whether it is use of drones abroad to indiscriminately kill civilians, without charges or trial, or police here at home, it is the racist impunity of the state that is the crime, and resistance the solution. Demonstrations are continuing and people are increasingly firm that the government at all levels must be held accountable.

The federal government has acted quickly to say the Justice Department will investigate. But many are already rejecting this as a sham. There have been numerous Justice Department investigations that end with no indictments, no convictions, no accountability. In general the Justice Department does not even conduct a criminal investigation, as that jurisdiction resides at the local or state level, but rather a civil rights investigation.

The laws are written to protect the police, not the civilians. The government has to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the officer acted with willful intent to deny the person of his civil rights. This is extremely difficult to prove, especially given how quickly the police often act, as was the case in these killings. At the local and state level, where criminal charges can be brought, they often include language allowing the police to say they felt their life was threatened and use of deadly force is then considered reasonable. In this manner the impunity to execute civilians is made “legal,” and racist state violence against the people sanctioned.

Alton Sterling, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Philando Castile, near St. Paul Minnesota, were both gunned down for no reason, as evident from video of the incidents. Philando Castile, in the car with his girlfriend and young child, was pulled over for a broken taillight. As is common practice, he was asked to get his license and registration and was killed while attempting to do so. That no regard was shown for him, the women and child in the car, that he



posed no threat, all were evident. The same can be said for Alton Sterling, who was well known and respected in his community, yet brutally killed by police. And many, many, many others. Racist police killings are a systematic and systemic problem that the racist U.S. state cannot solve. It is continued, organized resistance for rights and for a government that defends rights that provides a way forward.

Government at all levels, from top to bottom, must be held to account and cannot be relied on to provide justice. The problem is not, as Clinton put forward, yet more training. It is known that officers who do the “sensitivity” training have been among those doing the killings. It is not more Justice Department investigations. It is not more militarization of police and special

“Emergency Response Teams,” geared specifically to repress protest. These ERT squads are trained by the federal Department of Homeland Security, often use police with military backgrounds, and have equipment, including armor, that resembles combat troops. They are specifically trained in conducting mass arrests and blocking and moving demonstrations.

The killing of five police in Dallas and injuring seven more will likely be used as justification for yet more arming and militarization of police. This is particularly likely for the upcoming Republican and Democratic Conventions, where Secret Service, FBI and thousands of state and local police are present and numerous other security measures, like giant fences and perimeters, are imposed.

The militarization of police and impunity for racist killings and attacks are part of U.S. war plans. They reflect a ruling class that can provide no solutions to problems and one that blocks the drive of the people for solutions that favor them. Their only recourse is greater use of police powers, abroad and at home.

The rulers are showing themselves unfit to rule. Strengthening the organized fight for rights and rejecting the racist U.S. state is needed.

The System That Killed Alton Sterling and Philando Castile Cannot Be Reformed

Aislinn Pulley, We Charge Genocide, Chicago

There are moments when atrocities are so horrendous that they paralyze. I am feeling that sense of immobility now.

I already knew that on average, a Black person is extra-judicially killed by the police or a vigilante every 28 hours in the United States, thanks to a study by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement. I had yet, however, to witness this fact in real time, until yesterday.

Yesterday, the world watched the horrendous police murder of Philando Castile take place mere hours after the videotaped murder of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, became public. For

the first time, a police murder was livestreamed on Facebook. That reality is simultaneously astonishing and sickening.

President Obama responded to both killings with a statement that included mention of his task force on policing. He said:

“... two years ago, I set up a Task Force on 21st Century Policing that convened police officers, community leaders and activists. Together, they came up with detailed recommendations on how to improve community policing. So even as officials continue to look into this week’s tragic shootings, we also need communities

BLAME THE STATE FOR RACIST POLICE KILLINGS

to address the underlying fissures that lead to these incidents, and to implement those ideas that can make a difference.”

This statement exemplifies how incapable the government is of ending police killings. It problematically tasks communities with finding the solutions to a state-created problem, while tacitly implying that the issue of racist police violence is rooted within our communities themselves. The culminating assertion is that it is the community’s responsibility to implement answers to these “underlying fissures” in order to “make a difference.” While this is true, it is true for reasons not intended by the president. It is always our duty to free ourselves. Our freedom will not be willingly granted by the state. Freedom is always forced. It is always asserted and taken. However, the president’s statement tacitly implies that communities experience this level of police violence due to conditions for which they are at fault, thus criminalizing and blaming victimized communities.

The government’s response to this crisis of public disapproval at police violence and killing is to convene a study/task force/benign body of appointed persons, release findings and then assert that change has occurred. This method of performance is used to ease mass anxiety because it appears to be “doing something.” But we must ask, what is the government doing? What have such appointed bodies accomplished? Have they ended police killings? Have police been held accountable for murder?

We can look to Rekia Boyd, Justus Howell, Ronald Johnson, Freddie Gray and Mike Brown for those answers. No. The killings have not ended. Police have not been held accountable for murder.

Violent Policing a Necessary Part of U.S. State

Why is violent policing a seemingly necessary component of the functioning of the United States?

We must face these hard truths if we are serious about ending this misery. If we understand that the U.S. police evolved from slave patrols, then we can understand how police became the violent state units they are today. The police were formerly the protectors of the slave system, and they are now the protectors of the ruling powers. Their main societal role is to keep order against the reactions that inequalities produce within our society. What this means is that poor communities that are disenfranchised by high unemployment, lack of access to quality education, health care and affordable housing are violently patrolled because these conditions produce social unease. The police’s role is to contain this unease. This unease will increase where the gap between the haves and have-nots is widest. The question then becomes not how do you reform a system that is meant to suppress, but rather, can it be reformed at all?

Proposed solutions that exclude envisioning a world without police and their accompanying violence, terror and murder must be challenged. What sense would it make to ask for a kinder slave

patroller when the problem is slavery itself? The same is true of U.S. policing now. U.S. policing has always included the violent suppression of poor people, Black people and those most marginalized as part of its inherent functioning.

We must challenge ourselves to imagine a society in which this is no longer true. We must challenge ourselves to connect the role of police in society to the system in which they are called to operate and then ask why this system requires such violence in order to exist. Why is violent policing a seemingly necessary component of the functioning of the United States? We must remove the masks, the distractions, and we must get to the root. Our blood will continue to be shed until we are able to answer these questions collectively.

What societal changes are needed in order for Black people to be free from state violence in any capacity, be it slavery, prisons, police or any other apparatus, in the United States? Having a Black president is not enough; we can see that now. What is needed is not merely an increase in Black politicians; we now have the most Black representation in power in U.S. history. It is not Black cops; we can look to Freddie Grey’s death. It is not body cameras; we can see how the use of body cameras did not save the life of Alton Sterling.

It is a question of power and who has that power. Police kill because they are being allowed to kill. Police kill us disproportionately because Black life is disposable.

Can we challenge our imaginations to picture a country that does not require our blood and our death as an inherent part of its structure? Can we organize to end the systems that work against our lives? Can we create a new society?

We must move forward with an honest assessment of why this country requires Black death as a part of its functioning. We must be courageous enough to question the roots of U.S. capitalism, which for 400 years has used Black subjugation to build and maintain its wealth, even with a Black president in power. [...]

Our goal needs to be ending the structures and systems that are producing more needless death, misery and pain — from cash bail, to prisons, to global warming and pollution, to high-priced health care. Police violence and mass shootings are symptoms of a sick society. We need courage to imagine justice beyond the confines of what currently exists. The justice we call for must not only free ourselves but create a new world in which the full human potential of us all can be nurtured and realized and where the violence that inhabits our planet is eradicated. This requires, at minimum, livable wage jobs, full education and a society free from violence and senseless killings — a society not organized around greed and profit, but around caring for the people and the Earth as a whole. We get there by remaining steadfast in our conviction that justice is on the side of the oppressed, and it is through our fight that we make it possible to create a society that enables liberation for all. [...]

Visit our website: usmlo.org

FOR PHILANDO CASTILE AND ALTON STERLING

Organize and Rally to Challenge the System

Critical Resistance

Along with millions, we mourn the loss of two Black people whose murder at the hands of police have ignited the hearts and filled the minds of many this week. Philando Castile and Alton Sterling join the long list of names that are engrained in us as we confront power and continue organizing and fighting for a world without policing.

The police killing of working class and people of color, particularly in Black communities, is tragically a routine occurrence in the US, and is increasingly being seen as such. When compounded with the lower profile, yet even more routine daily oppressive practices that policing imposes on communities – stops, searches, house raids, arrests – we understand the fundamentally violent role that policing plays. It is not a failed system, but one that is carrying out its goal of social control as designed.

What has become equally as routine, to our inspiration, is community resistance in the face of state violence. In cities across the country this week, people responded, organized, and rallied to make their voices heard, and are continuing to do so as we write. Whether by taking the streets or building on the longstanding work that challenges these systems of oppression, this struggle ensures that Alton Sterling and Philando Castile are remembered with power. Communities are continuing to organize, and not simply as a response to police killings, but doing the persistent work of building the futures that we need, the futures that we dream of.

With all those we have lost in our thoughts, we carry onward, working to resist policing, stop new jails, close prisons, and abolish the prison industrial complex. We do so in joint struggle with Black resistance and all those fighting for liberation.

PHILANDO CASTILE'S FAMILY SPEAKS OUT

“It’s A Silent War Against African American People”

Carimah Townes, Think Progress

Hours after he was fatally shot by an officer in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, the family of Philando Castile told CNN that he was always worried about carrying his handgun. And from very early on, Valerie Castile told her son what to do and say if he ever came in contact with an officer — a talk that black families know all too well. So when Philando was pulled over by St. Anthony police on Wednesday, he was prepared to follow all of the orders directed at him.

“That was something we always discussed. Comply,” Philando’s mother said on Thursday morning. “That’s the key thing, in order to try to survive being stopped by police. Whatever they ask you to do, don’t say nothing. Just do whatever they want you to do.”

Philando also made sure to act within the law by acquiring a permit to carry and completing the required concealed carry training, she said. But on the same day he was killed, Philando and his sister discussed the dangers of owning guns.

“They had a conversation about the concealed carry permits that they both have. And they were saying that, you know, to be cautious. My daughter said, ‘You know what? I really don’t even want to carry my gun, because I’m afraid that they’ll shoot me first and then ask questions later.’”

Castile was shot during a traffic stop, shortly after he was pulled over for a broken tail light. When he was instructed to hand over his license and registration, he informed the shooting officer that he had a gun and a concealed carry permit. Nevertheless, Castile was shot while reaching for his wallet.

And instead of administering first aid to Castile as he bled out in the passenger seat, the shooting officer kept his gun pointed inside the car.

Castile’s mother learned about the shooting from her daughter, who was screaming about the Facebook live video broadcast by Philando’s fiancée, Diamond Reynolds, in the aftermath of the shooting. When they drove to the scene, Reynolds was sitting in the back of a police car. They weren’t allowed to talk to her at the time, but Valerie credits Reynolds for filming the deadly encounter.

In a separate Facebook live video posted Thursday morning, Reynolds explained to the press why she broadcast the incident live.

“I wanted everyone in the world to know that, no matter how much the police tamper with evidence, how much they stick together, they manipulate our minds to believe what they want, I wanted to put it on Facebook and go viral so that the people could see,” she said. “I didn’t do it for pity. I didn’t do it for fame. I did it so that the world knows that these police are not here to protect and serve us. They are here to assassinate us.”

Castile’s mother echoed that claim.

“Every day you hear of another black person being shot down, gunned down by the people that’s supposed to protect us,” Valerie said. “We’re being hunted, every day. It’s a silent war against African American people as a whole. We’re never free.”

In Alton Sterling's Baton Rouge, "Blue Lives Matter"

Naomi LaChance, theintercept.com

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards called for a federal civil rights investigation on Tuesday into what was at that point the latest fatal police shooting of a black man in the United States.

But in May, Edwards signed a bill into law that makes targeting a police officer a hate crime. Passage of such bills at the state level is a top priority for a national organization called Blue Lives Matter, formed in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Alton Sterling, 37, was shot in the chest at point-blank range by Baton Rouge police early Tuesday morning; witnesses captured the event on video. Philando Castile, 32, was shot after police stopped his car outside St. Paul, Minnesota; his girlfriend livestreamed his death on Facebook.

But it is the civil rights of police officers that Edwards was concerned about in May, as if theirs were being routinely violated.

"I'm not aware of any evidence that police officers have been victimized that would justify them giving special protection," Marjorie R. Esman, executive director of the ACLU of Louisiana, told *The Intercept*.

Under the law, a defendant convicted of a misdemeanor could face an extra six months in prison and a \$500 fine. A defendant convicted of a felony could get an extra five years in prison with hard labor and a \$5,000 fine.

The new law places police officers, firefighters, and EMTs under protection from hate crimes — an umbrella term that spans beyond

direct assault. Aviva Shen writes at *ThinkProgress*:

Now that police are a protected class, this language [meant to enhance penalties for attacks against houses of worship] could be used to target any damage done to squad cars or protests on police property, like the sit-in at the Minneapolis Police Department over the death of Jamar Clark, or the Black Lives Matter blockade of the Oakland Police headquarters in California.

Laws similar to the one in Louisiana have been proposed in Kentucky, Tennessee and Chicago. Last year in Coon Rapids, Minnesota — just north of Minneapolis, where Castile was killed Wednesday — hundreds of supporters held a Police Lives Matter rally.

In Washington, lawmakers in the House and the Senate have both introduced a "Thin Blue Line Act," which would strengthen penalties for attacks on law enforcement.

Lamar Advertising, based in Baton Rouge, donated more than 300 billboards that appeared across the country bearing the slogans #BlueLivesMatter and #thankublu.

"We wanted to recognize the local police departments and men and women that put their lives on the line every day," Stephen Hebert of Lamar Advertising told *WVIT-TV*.

The ACLU's Esman said police are not the group of people who need attention: "Right now, here in Louisiana, we are dealing with the fact that the police have killed a black man who was minding his own business."

One Simple Change to the Law Could Make Prosecuting Killer Cops Easier

Zaid Jilani, theintercept.com, July 7 2016

Graphic video illustrating gruesome police killings of African-American men in Louisiana and Minnesota has set off promises of a federal investigation, at least in the former case, but many are skeptical that it will lead to any prosecutions.

Police involved in even these high-profile cases of abuse have rarely faced successful indictments, let alone prosecutions.

However, at the federal level, a simple change to the law would make it more likely that abusive cops face punishment for their behavior.

Currently, police abuse is subject largely to one federal statute enacted in 1866: Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 242, which punishes anyone who "willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States."

The problem is that the statute "has nothing to do on its face with police officers or police violence," said former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights William Yeomans. "It's about deprivation of rights. So what you're actually proving in these cases is that the officer acted with the intent to [deny the victim rights.]"

This willfulness standard makes it difficult to prosecute police officers. "The government has to show beyond a reasonable doubt the officer acted with willful attempt to deny the victim a right," he said.

"The officer had to intend to use more force than was reasonably necessary," he noted. "Most of these cases are situations where officers are reacting quickly to something, so it can be very difficult to sort out what appeared to be reasonable to the officer at the time."

In other words, you'd have to prove to a jury what was going on inside of a police officer's mind at the time — a high bar.

He suggested a solution. Congress could lower the intent standard to "something like if the officer acted with reckless disregard." That way, "you don't have to actually show that the officer intended to use more force than was necessary if the officer recklessly used more force than was necessary, he could then be prosecuted."

Many in Congress have expressed their regret over cases of police abuse and police killings, but this simple change from willfulness to recklessness would make it easier for the federal government to actually prosecute it.