

**Read,
Write,
Distribute
Voice of
Revolution**

Workers of All Countries, UNITE!
VOICE OF REVOLUTION

Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

October 7, 2016

USMLO 3942 N. Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60634



usmlo.org



Organize for an Anti-War Government : 1-4

ELECTIONS DESIGNED TO DIVERT AND DIVIDE

Reject Campaign for a War President and Organize for an Anti-War Government

As the November elections draw closer, it is becoming more evident that it is a campaign for a war president, most likely Hillary Clinton. This is taking place despite the fact that the danger of more

U.S. wars, including world war, is not being discussed. Many consider the issue of war and peace the central issue of the day, with more wars broadly impacting the peoples

Organize for Anti-War Government • 3



Cancel Puerto Rico's Debt : 13-15

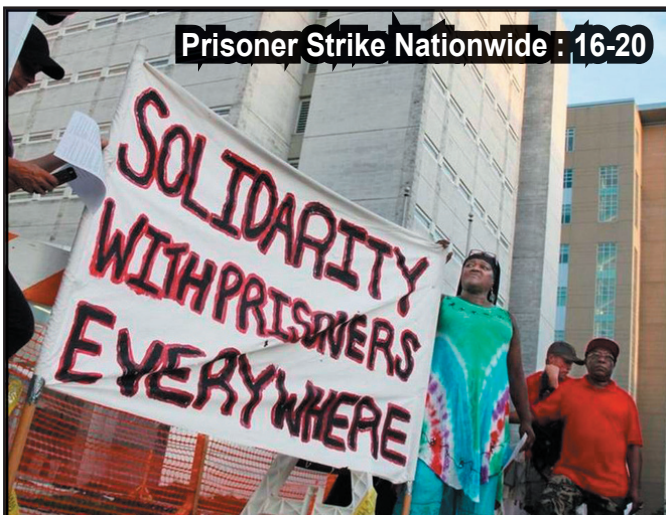
END U.S. COLONIALISM

Cancel Puerto Rico's Debt! Remove the Control Board

The U.S. has appointed an unelected Control Board to dictate to Puerto Rico, in the name of controlling her debt. The debt itself was created largely on the basis of high interest rates charged by Wall Street hedge fund financiers. The U.S. government, acting

to protect the financiers, have imposed a Control Board with sweeping powers to determine Puerto Rico's budget priorities, with paying the debt first and foremost. The Board can cut pensions even further, eliminate contracts of public

Cancel the Debt • 13



Prisoner Strike Nationwide : 16-20

PRISONER STRIKE NATIONWIDE

Defend the Rights of Prisoners and Support Their Resistance!

Prisoners across the country went on strike September 9, with many actions continuing more than two weeks. The prisoners are opposing slave labor, where they are forced to work for nothing, or almost nothing, manning call centers,

producing uniforms and other products, for monopolies and state governments. Many of the actions involved refusing to go to work on the 9th and for days after. Prisoners also opposed the torture of

Prisoner Strike Nationwide • 16

October edition of *Voice of Revolution*

Editorials & Statements

- *Reject Campaign for a War President and Organize for an Anti-War Government* 1
- *Cancel Puerto Rico's Debt! Remove the Control Board*..... 1
- *Defend the Rights of Prisoners and Support Their Resistance!* 1

Organize for an Anti-War Government

- *Justice Department Reducing Federal Observers at Polling Places* 3
- *US Elections: Neither Free nor Fair* 4

No to U.S. Wars

- *Condemn Crime of U.S. Bombing of Syria* 5
- *Hands off Syria! U.S. Out of the Middle East!* 6
- *Oppose the Use of Force, Provocation and State Terrorism* 7

Stop Funding Israel

- *War Criminal Portrayed As a Pacifist* 8
- *U.S. Admits Israel Is Building Permanent Apartheid Regime — Weeks After Giving It \$38 Billion* 11

Cancel Puerto Rico's Debt

- *Protests Against Colonial PROMESA and Control Board Rock Puerto Rico* 13
- *Hundreds Shut Down Puerto Rico's Largest WalMart, Reject Control Board*..... 14
- *Demonstrate in NYC Against the Control Board and U.S. Colonialism* .. 14
- *Control Board Composition Serves U.S. Financiers*..... 15

Support Prisoner Resistance

- *Action and Support After September 9 Prisoner Strike* 16
- *Prison Strike Organizer Condemns Retaliation For Speaking With Journalists* 18
- *Call to Action Against Slavery in America*..... 19

Border Convergence

- *Convergence at the U.S./Mexico Border in Arizona Defends Rights and Demands End to U.S. Militarization* 21
- *Schedule of Events* 22

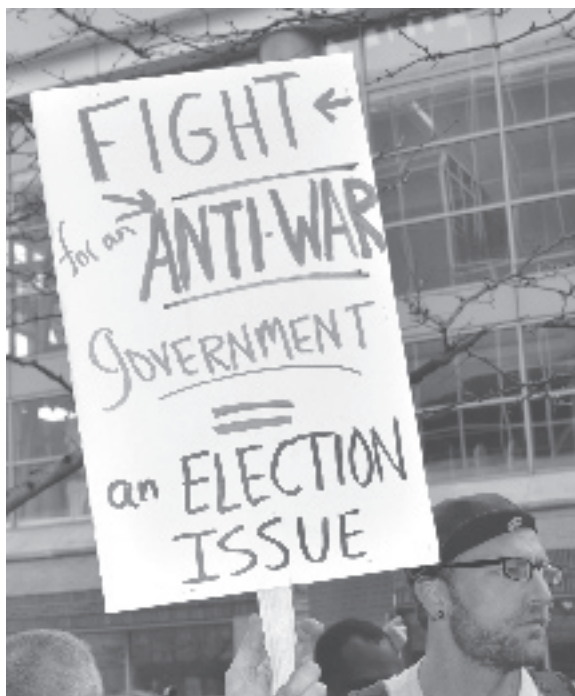
Send reports, letters and photos. Read, distribute and write for Voice of Revolution. Bulk rates available.

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

I • Organize for an Anti-War Government

and the environment, threatening unheard of destruction. Yet there is silence by Trump and Clinton on the necessity to end U.S. wars and *Bring All Troops Home Now*. The first debate barely mentioned the issue, the Commander-in-Chief forum did not address it and the upcoming debate October 9 likely will not either. October 7, 2001, the United States invaded Afghanistan in what is now the longest war in U.S. history. It has solved no problem, yet ending it is also not to be discussed. The presidential elections are designed to divert the broad anti-war sentiment of the people and their will to be a factor for peace in the world. Silence on the issue serves this purpose.

At the same time, there is promotion of more aggression. For example, while the recent U.S. bombing of Syria was not condemned by either candidate, both did say they support “safe-zones” inside Syria. Clinton also has called for “no-fly” zones to be imposed from the air. Both require a considerable expansion of U.S. war in Syria. Both are also threats against Russia, who is also engaged and has a naval base in Syria. This is all the more true in a situation where the U.S. has now said it will no longer work with Russia to find a political solution. Additionally there is the U.S. plan to put Lockheed Martin’s THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile system in south Korea, a provocation opposed by both Russia and China as well as Koreans north and south. Clinton supports it and Trump’s only reservation is that south Korea should contribute more toward the cost. By raising these issues in isolation from the overall issue of war and peace, people are



drawn into the idea of having a war president and away from serious discussion on ending U.S. wars.

It is also the case that the potential for a hot civil war exists. This is seen in the continuing open conflict between various military and intelligence forces as they line up behind Trump or Clinton (see September VOR, “Elections and the Danger of a Hot Civil War”). As well, Kentucky Governor, backing Trump, put it more directly. Speaking at a summit of Christian fundamentalists in Spetember, he said, “We’re going one way or we’re going the other way, politically, spiritually, morally, economically, from a liberty standpoint.” Asked about a possible Clinton victory, he added, “The roots of the tree of liberty are watered by what? The blood, of who? The tyrants to be sure, but who else? The

patriots.” He is openly talking about the possibility of bloodshed, representing the sharpness of the conflicts within the ruling class and their desperation to retain power. They are striving to divide the people along religious and racial lines.

War abroad and at home must be vigorously fought by organizing for an anti-war government. This is a vital task that requires serious discussion, among co-workers, students, neighbors, to reject the current campaign for a war president and build up the anti-war movement. Instead of being drawn into the diversions of the election campaign, organize surveys, house meetings, campus discussions, on the need for an anti-war government and additional steps to achieve it. It is by relying on and mobilizing the people, affirming their anti-war stand in words and deeds, that advances will be made.

Justice Department Reducing Federal Observers at Polling Places

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is significantly reducing the number of federal observers stationed inside polling places for the November election. This is taking place in conditions where yet more voters face laws designed to restrict — not increase — the right to vote. More than a dozen states have strict new election laws that will exclude voters, most using ID requirements to present at the polls, as well as registration requirements.

The U.S. from its origins has organized to reduce voter participation through various means. These include, today and in the past, voter registration requirements that are systematically

racist, geared toward keeping African Americans from participation in the political life of the country. Current laws also target students, the elderly and more generally, as in the past, those who are poor.

The new laws include requirements for presenting, at the polls, only government approved forms of photo identification. The requirements are expected to lead to disputes. As well, Donald Trump has called for his supporters to police the polls themselves and is specifically targeting Latinos. The Democrats also are expected to have observers. Both candidates and

parties can send observers inside polling stations. None of these volunteers have to be trained or knowledgeable about the laws. Many are expected to intimidate or otherwise disrupt voting by slowing the process and generating long lines by questioning each voter.

For the past five decades, the Justice Department has sent hundreds of observers and poll monitors across the country, particularly in mainly southern states that the DoJ was monitoring for discrimination against voters. The DoJ mandate stemmed from the *1965 Voting Rights Act*, itself a result of massive struggles in the south and across the country defending the right to vote. A 2013 Supreme Court ruling eliminated a key part of the act, removing the federal mandate to approve state changes to election laws.

There are 14 states where state poll workers are being asked to implement new laws, including voter ID requirements, for the first time in a presidential election. According to the DoJ federal observers will not be sent inside polling places in those states.

In the 2012 presidential election, the last before the court ruling, the Justice Department sent more than 780 specially trained observers and other personnel to polling places in 51 jurisdictions in 23 states to watch for unlawful activity and write up reports about possible civil rights violations. This year the DoJ is sending

observers to fewer than five states — and only because judges have ordered the oversight. While the DoJ states the Court ruling prevents them from sending observers, rights organizations state the ruling did not specifically mention observers. And they question why the DoJ announced and publicized the fact that they will not be sending observers.

Repeated experience indicates that even with the federal observers, serious attacks on the right to vote routinely occur on Election Day, much of it by the states themselves. State officials remove eligible voters from the rolls, polling places are moved or removed to favor one or the other party, African Americans are routinely targeted and challenged, and more. The entire set up for registration and strict requirements election day are designed not to defend the right to vote, but to block it. The current actions by the DoJ are in part a means to cause confusion and disruptions at the polls, while blaming the states for it. Is it a set-up to justify federal interference or objections to the results in particular states? Perhaps a federal takeover of elections afterwards? In a situation where the battle for the presidency is supreme among the rulers, and fighting among various factions is greatly intensifying, with states playing a role in them, its necessary to consider the actions of the DoJ and states in electoral matters.

U.S. Elections: Neither Free nor Fair

Alex Gorka

Media across the world are literally transfixed by the spectacle of U.S. elections. The Donald Trump-Hillary Clinton, Republicans vs. Democrats battle is captivating enough to distract public attention from other issues.

Democracy promotion has been a centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy for over half a century since the days when President Woodrow Wilson crafted a new foreign policy that involved active democracy promotion. The implementation of the “beacon on the hill” concept presupposes that the United States would act as a model of excellence for others to follow. It is analogous to contemporary soft-power democracy promotion efforts.

Lecturing on democracy is a distinctive feature of U.S. foreign policy. Does the U.S. really provide an influential role model for how elections should run in other countries? Is the U.S. really a shining example of real democracy?

Domestic and international experts rate U.S. elections overall as the worst among all Western democracies. According to Electoral Integrity Project, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are at the top of the ranking, while the U.S. scores 62. The 2014 U.S. congressional elections rank even worse, 65th out of 180 worldwide.

The report gathers assessments from more than 2,000 experts to evaluate the perceived integrity of all 180 national parliamentary and presidential contests held between July 1, 2012, and December 31, 2015, in 139 countries. In May, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) issued the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) Report to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the U.S. election on November 8.



It notes that in the U.S. election observation is regulated by state law, which does not explicitly provide for international observers, at odds with the 1990 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Copenhagen Document.

The report says some 4.1 million citizens that are residents of U.S. territories are not eligible and some 600,000 citizens that are residents of the District of Columbia can vote in presidential elections but do not have full representation in Congress. Some 5.8 million prisoners and ex-prisoners continue to be disenfranchised due to prohibitive and disproportionate legal regulations or burdensome procedures for reinstating voting rights in a number of states, particularly affecting minorities.

Women are generally underrepresented in public office, holding

some 20 per cent of seats in the outgoing Congress and some 25 per cent of seats in the state legislatures. Some ODIHR investigators noted concerns about negative stereotyping of women. They are also concerned over an increase in inflammatory speech targeting minorities.

The ODIHR /OSCE report also notes that there are no limits on campaign spending: no aggregate limit on how much an individual may contribute. Spending by independent groups can be exempt from disclosure requirements. Boundaries of the districts to elect representatives are redrawn in line with partisan interests, which may result in uncompetitive races.

The report adds to numerous publications devoted to irregularities of the U.S. voting system. Indeed, there has been a range of vulnerabilities in the conduct of U.S. elections made public in recent years, especially since the notoriously flawed ballot design in Florida in 2000.

There is a widespread suspicion of the role of money in politics. Regardless of their political affiliation, Americans agree that money has too much influence on the outcome of the vote, the wealthy have more influence on elections, and candidates who win office promote policies that help their donors.

The people think the country's campaign finance system needs significant changes. Americans do not think donating money to political candidates is a form of free speech.

Electoral laws are unfair to smaller parties like the Green Party, favor the governing party, or restrict voter's rights.

Gerrymandering of district boundaries to favor incumbents, waiting in line in excess of many hours, inaccurate state and local voter registers, insufficiently trained local poll workers, and the breakdown of voting machines are just a few examples in the list of noticeable shortfalls. In 2014 serious problems with electronic voting were reported. The polling machines recorded a vote for the Democratic candidate when the screen was touched to cast a vote for the Republican.

In Texas the statewide voter registration system crashed, forcing many to complete provisional ballots when poll workers were unable to confirm voter eligibility. [...]

In 2005, the Program on International Policy Attitudes did an extensive poll on what people thought the budget ought to be.

It turned out to be the inverse of the actual budget: where federal funding was going up, an overwhelming majority wanted it to go down. The public opposed increases in military spending overall and supplemental spending for Iraq and Afghanistan, which is going up even more now. Where the budget was going down — social expenditures, health, renewable energy, veterans' benefits, the United Nations — right across the board, the public wanted spending to increase. [...]

U.S. officials often recklessly accuse other countries of election tempering... Today the U.S. is definitely not in the position to lecture and teach others. It has a long way to go if it wants to become a real democracy.

(strategic-culture.org, September 27)

No to U.S. Wars

TROOPS HOME NOW!

Condemn Crime of U.S. Bombing of Syria

The U.S. bombed Syria September 18, killing at least 82 Syrian Arab Army (SAA) soldiers and wounding 100. The Syrians were battling ISIS near Deir Ezzor. The bombing did not kill any ISIS forces, but it did allow them to storm the SAA positions and take hilltops where the SAA was stationed. The bombing is a crime of aggression to be condemned by all. U.S. interference in Syria and its efforts to overthrow the elected government have resulted only in the death of hundreds of thousands, displacement of millions, and, with this bombing, further increasing tensions with Russia. A ceasefire had been worked out and joint actions with Russia were planned for September 20. Instead the U.S. launched this bombing raid. Now the U.S.-Russian joint efforts have been suspended, as the U.S. prepares to increase its criminal actions.

Russia called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC). Rather than join in the effort to work on a diplomatic solution, UN Ambassador Samantha Power ridiculed any effort to hold the U.S. responsible. She walked out when the Russian ambassador was speaking and spoke to the press, calling the meeting of the UNSC a "stunt." Given these actions, the U.S. expression of "regret" for the bombing carries

little weight. Why not correct the mistake through diplomacy and withdrawal of U.S. forces? That would actually contribute to ending the conflict and respecting the right of the Syrians to decide their government for themselves.

U.S. aggression against Syria, like that against Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, and its backing of Israeli aggression in the region have not in any way contributed to peace. It has not increased the security of Syrians. Conditions for the people in all these countries are far worse as a result of U.S. aggression.

There is a reason the world's people branded aggression a crime following the victory over fascism in World War II. It is because it serves war and destruction. Given the instability in the region caused largely by U.S. aggression, it can also contribute to increasing the potential for world war.

To contribute to peace it is necessary to demand *All U.S. Troops Home Now!* The Syrians are a highly cultured people with ancient traditions. They have the right to govern themselves and to do so free from U.S. interference. The demand to be made to Obama, and Clinton and Trump, is to end U.S. wars now and respect the rights of the peoples — defending the rights of all is the source of security at home and abroad.

OPPOSE U.S. BOMBING OF SYRIA

Hands off Syria! U.S. Out of the Middle East!

United National Anti-war Coalition (UNAC), September 20, 2016

The U.S.-Russian negotiated cessation of hostilities has collapsed in Syria. The United States has intervened directly in ways that undermine any possibility of the ceasefire succeeding. On September 18, U.S. forces — four Jets followed by a couple of helicopters — attacked a Syrian Arab Army (SAA) outpost near Deir Ezzor killing at least 82 soldiers and wounding 100 more and destroying their equipment. This was supposed to be a joint operation to go after ISIS, but under cover of this attack ISIS fighters stormed the SAA position and took the hilltops where they were stationed.

Just after this unprecedented attack on the Syrian Army by the United States, Israel launched an attack on SAA positions in the Golan Heights where the Syrians were fighting Al Nusra, killing and injuring several more Syrian soldiers.

The United States claimed that the attack was an accident. Even so, U.S. allies, Australia, Denmark and the Britain have confirmed that they too took part. All are assisting in imperialist murder.

U.S. bombing of Syrian Government's Army positions in the Eastern city of Deir ez-Zor is a very dangerous escalation in the 5 year U.S. effort of Regime Change or complete overturn of the legally elected and internationally recognized government of Syria.

Here are some of the facts on the bombing:

1. The attack killed at least 82 Syrian soldiers and wounded more than 100. This is larger than the number of casualties inflicted in any U.S. bombing on any terrorist target in Syria since the U.S. announced its "war on ISIS."

2. The bombing inflicted no known casualties on ISIS, which the U.S. says was its intended target.

3. The U.S. has produced no evidence that it notified its Russian counterparts, as required by agreement. In fact, joint action against ISIS was not expected for another two days. This leads to suspicions that the U.S. attack was intended to preempt the provisions of the agreement.

4. Syrian soldiers report seeing reconnaissance drones the previous day.

5. ISIS fighters were poised to begin fighting the Syrian army units as soon as the U.S. bombing raids ended. How did they know when the end of the bombing would be?

6. Although the Russian military presence in Syria is legal because it came at the invitation of the sovereign Syrian state, the U.S. presence is illegal and was never approved, either by the Syrian government or by the United Nations. All US military actions in Syria therefore constitute an illegal invasion of Syrian territory, and must end now

Following the U.S. bombing the Russians called a meeting of the United Nations (UN) Security Council to discuss the U.S. violation of both the current cessation of hostilities agreement and the Geneva agreement on Syria. U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power chose to boycott the meeting and instead held a press conference outside the door, which she opened by accusing the Russians of attacking civilians, schools and hospitals in Syria, before sarcastically

accusing them of hypocrisy and calling the meeting a "stunt." She dismissed the murder of nearly 100 Syrians without a pause. Power's indignation was clearly intended for her U.S. audience as few others in the world would find her sarcasm and her rejection of the international forum for dialogue acceptable.

One day later, on September 19th, a UN Aid Convoy was struck while passing through opposition held territories in Aleppo, and 18 workers were killed. A video of the wreckage was posted on the internet by the White Helmets, a U.S. supported NGO that operates only in ISIS and Al Qaeda territories. The U.S. immediately blamed the Syrian air force, then the Russian air force, and finally "the Russians," who, after a few hours of public silence, released drone footage showing a truck armed with mortars riding in the shadow of the convoy as it entered hostile territory. They said that neither they nor the Syrians were in the vicinity of the convoy and that a full investigation would be necessary.

The U.S. has moved from supporting proxies to direct intervention in Syria. It is the second time in as many months that they have killed nearly 100 Syrians in an air raid. They have betrayed a long negotiated treaty and when confronted, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power attacked the messenger.

It is clear that the United States remains committed to overthrowing the internationally recognized government of Syria. Pentagon planners have shown no respect whatsoever for international law or for the United States diplomatic commitments in Syria. They hope to prevent any resolution before a new president is inaugurated.

A few days before massacring the Syrian soldiers outside Deir Ezzor, the U.S. attempted to insert 300 Special Forces troops with Turkish backed Free Syrian Army factions in the town of Ra'i near the Turkish border. The Americans were driven out by an angry crowd of men. [...] Later in the day, U.S. bombers "accidentally" struck a nearby town where the organizations were billeted. Shortly thereafter, U.S. Special Forces returned to the town of Ra'i to join the remaining Free Syrian Army groups there.

The United States has been holding up the cessation of hostilities from reaching a full implementation and clearly has no intention of honoring it. The Syrian military has stood down in the vicinity of Aleppo, yet the U.S. has made only a halfhearted effort to separate their so called "moderates" from the mercenaries of Al Nusra/Al Qaeda.

The negotiation was a sham and now the U.S. continues to buy time to reinforce their proxies and put more U.S. soldiers on the ground. The Pentagon is sowing the seeds of open warfare against the legitimate government of Syria (and increasing the threat of war with Russia) while exacerbating the horrific humanitarian crisis of the Syrian people.

*The time to stop them is NOW!
Hands Off Syria!
U.S. Out of the Middle East!*

NO TO CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN U.S.-LED REGIME CHANGE IN SYRIA!

Oppose the Use of Force, Provocation and State Terrorism

Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

The Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) condemns the escalating use of force, provocation and state terrorism by U.S. imperialism and its agents in Syria aimed at sabotaging a political solution to the conflict. This includes the killing of more than 82 Syrian soldiers on September 17 by U.S. warplanes, attacks two days later on aid vehicles of the United Nations and Syrian Red Crescent killing 21 civilians and a similar provocation on September 20 killing relief workers from the International Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations.

CPC(M-L) further condemns the government of Canada's support for U.S. policy in Syria and its non-humanitarian spirit. While Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of International Development issued statements denouncing the September 19 and 20 killings whose culprits have not been identified, the government was silent on the killing of Syrian soldiers by the U.S. Among Canada's roles in Syria as part of the Liberals' "expanded mission against ISIS" is identifying targets for U.S. and other Coalition airstrikes. The Trudeau government has issued no statements in the wake of other admitted killings of civilians inside Syria by the U.S.-led coalition.

The callous disregard for human life on the part of the U.S. imperialists is also evident in the continued imposition of brutal sanctions on Syria and its people by the U.S., EU and Canada among others. An internal UN report obtained by *The Intercept* noted on September 28 that the sanctions "are exceptionally harsh 'regarding provision of humanitarian aid.'" They have made "the transfer of funds into the country nearly impossible" while "Items that contain 10 percent or more of U.S. content, including medical devices, are banned..." The UN finds the sanctions "contributed to a doubling in fuel prices in 18 months and a 40 percent drop in wheat production since 2010, causing the price of wheat flour to soar by 300 percent and rice by 650 percent" and are a "'principal factor' in the erosion of Syria's health care system." *The Intercept* notes that in 2013 sanctions were eased in rebel-held areas, at which time the CIA began shipping an annual \$1 billion worth of weapons to terrorist groups.

Alongside the claims of working for a cessation of hostilities in Syria the U.S. has not given up its aim for regime change in that country. It is increasingly resorting to provocations and state terrorism. The killing of Syrian soldiers in repeated bombings that lasted for more than one hour directly facilitated ISIS fighters capturing an important position. The attacks on aid convoys, which were supported by the Syrian government and were given



safe passage through its territory, have been cynically used as part of a desperate attempt by the U.S. to paint Syria's efforts to liberate the city of Aleppo and its inhabitants from terrorist groups as aggression. This is epitomized by the irresponsible comments of U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power pointing fingers at Russia and warning that the government of Syria intends to "conquer militarily every last square inch of Syria."

U.S. and other NATO soldiers and warplanes operate in Syria in open violation of its sovereignty and without permission of the Syrian Arab Republic. In recent months U.S. and British special forces have been photographed

inside Syria directly embedded with anti-government death squads they call "moderate rebels." The U.S. has begun a stealth "no-fly zone" in northern Syria demanding that Syrian planes steer clear or be downed. The Foreign Minister of Turkey, a NATO member, announced on September 24 that Turkish troops will move further into Syria and establish a "5,000 kilometer [3100 mile] de facto safe zone." News agencies report that the U.S. wants to prevent the liberation of Aleppo at all costs, and is preparing to "flood" rebel-held areas with anti-aircraft weaponry, despite acknowledging the danger of these weapons "falling into the wrong hands."

All of this shows that contradictions are escalating internationally and pose serious dangers to the people of Syria, the Middle East and the world. The desperation of the U.S. imperialists to prevent an end to the conflict in Syria which does not favor its geopolitical striving for domination is increasingly evident. With its corollary of stepped up state terrorism and provocation it is further evidence that the people cannot put their fate in the hands of the big powers or rely on them to secure the peace. Now is the time for Canadians to prepare the conditions for an anti-war government that can be a force for peace internationally.

CPC(M-L) calls on Canadians to demand the government of Canada oppose U.S. aggression in Syria and repudiate its interference in sovereign Syrian affairs including through its own support of anti-government groups and its military support for the U.S./NATO mission in Iraq and Syria. Canada must further lift all sanctions on Syria and restore diplomatic relations with its government. CPC(M-L) calls on everyone to oppose provocations, state terrorism and disinformation that aim to pave the way for war and regime change by going all out to defend Syria's sovereignty.

Uphold Syria's Sovereignty!

Hands Off Syria! U.S. Out of Syria!

No to Provocation and State Terrorism for Regime Change!

DEATH OF FORMER ISRAELI PRESIDENT SHIMON PERES

War Criminal Portrayed As a Pacifist

Tony Seed, TML Weekly

It is disgusting to see all the NATO heads in a seemingly coordinated maneuver portraying the seasoned war criminal Shimon Peres as a pacifist. U.S. president Barack Obama goes so far as to declare that Peres was one of those “few people who change the course of human history, not just through their role in human events, but because they expand our moral imagination and force us to expect more of ourselves.” It is disgusting to see all the major parties in Canada join this chorus. What is the essence of their mourning? Prime Minister Justin Trudeau betrayed the kind of ignorance of history and racist outlook, which are on display on this occasion. “Shimon Peres was, above all, a man of peace and a man dedicated to the well-being of the Jewish people,” he said. He went to Israel for the state funeral. Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion, Interim Conservative Party Leader and Opposition Leader Rona Ambrose and Governor General David Johnston all issued statements and the monopoly media is full of a uniform hagiography and the falsification of history.

It is not that Obama and the Trudeau Liberals and other NATO governments and the media who are ignoring the war crimes of Shimon Peres do not know about his war crimes. They know but their racist outlook and pursuit of empire-building prevent them from remembering the victims — for example, of the Qana massacre of 106 civilians, mainly women and children, in a UN shelter — and indicting war crimes. War criminals and those who collude in crimes against humanity and the peace do not indict themselves nor mourn the victims.

Peres spoke in the West about peace and “a New Middle East.” He was festooned with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 after back-room deals that became the infamous “Oslo Accords” (the two-state non-solution), while in 1996 he ordered the massacre of civilians in Qana in Operation Grapes of Wrath (the Israeli name for the assault) and in all the refugee camps and villages of Lebanon.

What the Israelis did at Qana under Peres’ orders, which the UN itself confirmed, and how they then lied and attempted to deceive the entire world, is a particularly gruesome example of how the Israelis have killed tens of thousands of civilians since the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, of its U.S. patron’s commitment to cause death and destruction, and the modus operandi of what we see being unleashed in Aleppo against the Syrian people and nation today.

Lebanese civilians were intentionally targeted and U.S. bombs were dropped on the innocent with absolute precision. According to the official Israeli Air Force website (in Hebrew, not English), the operation involved “massive bombing of the Shia villages in South Lebanon in order to cause a flow of civilians north, toward Beirut, thus applying pressure on Syria and Lebanon to restrain Hezbollah.” Nothing was left standing, not a single brick; let alone the UN flag that was supposedly protecting the unfortunate inhabitants of the shelter. UN officials and employees also died in the attack, and the UN uttered not a word of opposition because the U.S. veto blocked UN official condemnation of the barbaric act.

But Qana was not an exceptional crime overseen by Peres, nor can Hezbollah be cited as the justification. Peres was the Minister of Defense in Yitzhak Rabin’s first government in 1974. Under Peres, Israel shifted the alleged justification for mercilessly slaughtering Palestinian and Lebanese non-combatants from the air from “retaliation” to “prevention,” developing the theories of “pre-emptive” strikes against civilian Palestinian and Lebanese targets.[1] Under Peres, the air force began mercilessly bombing on a daily basis scores of villages in Southern Lebanon — as well as Syrian cities and ports (Latakiya, Tartus and Baniyssa) — before the region was occupied and annexed in 1978 by 30,000 troops, displacing over 250,000 people, in pursuit of the expansion of “Greater Israel.”[2]

The greatest expansion of illegal settlements in Occupied Palestine was under the “liberal” Peres and Rabin, not [current Prime Minister] Netanyahu. Following the 1967 war, Peres championed the settlement of the West Bank and Gaza, and used his role as defense minister in the 1970s to establish the first settlements in the northern West Bank. His slogan was: “Settlements everywhere” to “Judaize” the Galilee. Having played a key role in the early days of the settlement colonies, in more recent years, Peres then inter-vened to undermine any sort of measures, no matter how modest, at sanctioning the illegal colonies — always, of course, in the name of protecting “peace negotiations.”

U.S Empire Builders “Forget” Crimes

The racist outlook and pursuit of empire-building of Obama and Canadian Liberals prevents them from remembering the victims of massacres and crimes against the peace and humanity. Peres was a self-styled Liberal Zionist, a leader of the Labor Party, which unleashed the Haganah that was primarily responsible for over 40 documented massacres and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian villages in 1947-49, during the Nakba (Palestinian Catastrophe). Peres always insisted that Zionist forces “upheld the purity of arms” during the establishment of the State of Israel.[3] Indeed, he even claimed that before Israel existed, “there was nothing here.”[4]

President Obama and the Liberals eulogize Peres for opposing the nuclear weaponization of Iran, another fantasy conjured up in their minds, in which he championed the U.S. position, but they “forget” this same pacifist — as director general of Israel’s defense ministry and then as deputy defense minister between 1953 and 1965 — was “an architect of Israel’s nuclear weapons program” at Dimona which, to this day, “remains outside the scrutiny of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).”[5] Further, this dove organized the nuclear alliance with racist and fascist South Africa. On March 31, 1975, as secret minutes have since revealed, Peres met with South African Defense Minister PW Botha and “offered to sell nuclear warheads to the apartheid regime.” The London *Guardian* reported, “Some weeks before Peres made his offer, the two defense ministers signed a covert agreement governing the

military alliance known as Secment. It was so secret that it included a denial of its own existence: 'It is hereby expressly agreed that the very existence of this agreement... shall be secret and shall not be disclosed by either party.' The agreement also said that neither party could unilaterally renounce it." In 1986, Peres authorized the Mossad operation that saw nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu kidnapped in Rome.[6]

The promoter of "a new Middle East" was the one who plotted with the British and French colonial powers in the Tripartite Invasion to attack Egypt in 1956 that triggered the Suez Crisis. Israel invaded Sinai to create the pretext for an Anglo-French "intervention" and seizure of the Suez Canal. The imperialist division of the Arab peoples to protect the strategic shipping route to Asia was one of the primary *raison d'etres* for sponsoring the Zionist project in the first place.

Liberal-Fascist Alliance

The deeds and ideological tendency represented by the Israeli Labor Party Zionist leaders paved the way for Likud, Sharon and Netanyahu of the "radical" Revisionist Zionist and Irgun terrorist tendency of Jabotinsky: the liberal-fascist alliance. Today they are indistinguishable. After Peres lost to Netanyahu in the 1996 elections — Peres, in fact, never won a single election — he became the velvet glove for the mailed fist, providing a veneer of international respectability to right-wing Sharon governments through the Second Intifada as they crushed the Palestinian leadership and built a steel and concrete barrier [Apartheid Wall] through the West Bank. In 2005 this opportunist deserted the Labor party and joined Sharon's new center-right Kadima party. From 2007 to 2014 he was the ninth President of Israel. As Israel's global ambassador Peres consistently backed illegal collective punishment and military brutality and affirmed the natural superiority of the egocentric Zionist state as a given in the language of a medieval revenge-seeker:

- In January 2009, for example, despite calls by "Israeli human rights organizations...for 'Operation Cast Lead' to be halted," Peres described "national solidarity behind the military operation" as "Israel's finest hour." According to Peres, the aim of the assault "was to provide a strong blow to the people of Gaza so that they would lose their appetite for shooting at Israel."

- During "Operation Pillar of Defense" in November 2012, Peres "took on the job of helping the Israeli public relations effort, communicating the Israeli narrative to world leaders," in the words of Ynetnews. On the eve of Israel's offensive [of mass bombing of Gaza], "Peres warned Hamas that if it wants normal life for the people of Gaza, then it must stop firing rockets into Israel."

- In 2014, during an unprecedented bombardment of Gaza, Peres stepped up once again to whitewash war crimes. After Israeli forces killed four small children playing on a beach, Peres knew

**WHO WAS?
SHIMON PERES?**

- Was part of the militia responsible for the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian villages during the Nakba
- Described as an architect of Israel's nuclear weapons program, also offered to sell nuclear warheads to the apartheid regime of South Africa
- Played a key role in the military regime imposed on Palestinians, carried out mass land theft and displacement.
- Peres ordered and oversaw "Operation Grapes of Wrath" when Israeli forces killed over 150 and injured 350 civilians in Lebanon
- He consistently backed collective punishment and military brutality in Gaza

telesun SOURCE: MIDDLE EAST MONITOR

who to blame — the Palestinians: "It was an area that we warned would be bombed," he said. "And unfortunately they didn't take out the children."

- A few years ago, Peres described the Palestinians as "self-victimizing." He went on: "They victimize themselves. They are a victim of their own mistakes unnecessarily." Such cruel condescension was characteristic of a man for whom "peace" always meant colonial pacification or genocide.[7]

A "Friendship" Without Principle

Shimon Peres is being hailed by Obama and the Liberals and Conservatives in Canada as "a friend of Canada." Canadians and Americans reject and despise such "friends" with the contempt they deserve. This entire rendition must be questioned. Genuine friendship in international relations must be based on principle. Lack of modern principles and absence of an international rule of law serve wanton aggression, pre-emptive wars and empire-building. What are the examples of this sympathy being cited? According to the *Globe and Mail*, "Mr. Peres succeeded in negotiating the purchase of surplus cannons from Canada in 1951 (despite an international arms embargo against weapon sales to Israel or to its Arab enemies) and even found a supportive Jewish Canadian, Sam Bronfman, to pay for them." [8]

The historical context of this "friendship" is forgotten and unimportant, as only an anti-conscious validation of might makes right is sought. During this period, the Israeli Air Force consistently bombed defenseless refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, ranking among the most vicious of all Israeli war crimes, producing very few casualties among Palestinian freedom fighters, but inflicting massive casualties among non-combatants.[9]

Where did this "friendship" based on the dictum might makes

right lead? In the midst of the Suez Crisis, Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent announced on September 22, 1956 the sale of 24 Canadian Sabre jet fighter planes to Israel built under license from the U.S. — just five weeks before the Tripartite Invasion of Egypt on October 29. It culminated in the birth of the myth of Canada the “peacemaker” — the concoction which the Trudeau Liberals are desperately trying to revive and using Peres to this aim.[10] This history-as-such is to justify aggression today when the original reasons have been discredited. This “friendship” is to camouflage Canada’s direct participation and assistance in U.S. imperialist aggression, intervention and subversion and its participation in imperialist war.

On July 29, 2006, during the 4th Zionist war of aggression against Lebanon and ten years after that first horrible massacre, U.S. 500lb. precision guided bombs once again rained down over the town of Qana, launched from U.S. airplanes, flown by Israeli pilots and fired with absolute precision. Fifty-four villagers were killed in a single strike. Victims of the second massacre included a Canadian UN peacekeeper, Major Paeta Hess-von Kruedener, one of four unarmed UN military observers killed in the bunker of a UN building.[11] Two weeks before, several Canadians of Lebanese origin had been killed on July 16 in the indiscriminate bombardment.

But U.S. officials and then Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and others appeared before the cameras to hail the Israelis for their “measured,” “proportionate” and “defensive response.” One of the most revealing aspects of this stand, however, is that it was totally logical, considering the aircraft and the bombs came from the U.S. and the pilots had been trained in Canada.

In May-June 2005, Israeli pilots with ten F-16s were trained in a U.S. exercise hosted by the Canadian Department of Defense and the Liberal Defense Minister Bill Graham, Exercise Maple Flag 2005 in Cold Lake in northern Alberta, for the first time in 38 meetings of the Maple Flag war games. Not only was the Israeli Air Force (IAF) invited, but Canada asked (and Israel obliged) the IAF to stay an additional two weeks in Cold Lake. (Qatar and the United Arab Emirates also sent “observers.”)

The first target of the F-16s was the Al-Arqam elementary school in Gaza City in October, just five months later. In Gaza, an Israeli military spokesman justified to Canadian journalist Jon Elmer the massacre at the Al-Arqam elementary school because “it was bringing up the next generation of Hamas members.”

In southern Lebanon, the officials repeated, one after the other, there were Lebanese fighters resisting the Zionist occupation and aggression. Combatants whom Washington, Ottawa and its submissive “media” like to label as “terrorists” — a designation that gives them carte blanche to go in and bomb an entire population without the slightest deliberation.[12]

It brings the U.S. and Canadian governments no honor to portray a man such as Shimon Peres as someone to emulate or as a model of statecraft. The people of the world owe the people of Palestine and the Levant an enormous debt for their courage and determination to resist the most destructive empire the world has ever seen. An ancient people are bravely resisting annexation and defending their sovereign homeland against the U.S. and Zionist murderers. The

peoples’ guiding principle is sovereignty and the right to decide their own affairs free from military dictate and occupation of the U.S. Empire.

The Trudeau Liberals are mourning the loss of this velvet glove Peres who was, “above all, a man of peace,” because they too have donned the glove of “peacemaking” to camouflage and justify Canada’s unprecedented military expansion in the Middle East now underway. Trudeau serves as the velvet glove covering the iron fist of neo-liberalism and war of the U.S. imperialists headed by the intended war President Hillary Clinton.

Shame on the political parties that are in total denial of the ongoing racist killings of the Palestinians, the brutal denial of the right of return, the targeting and entrapment of Muslims, attacks on immigrant workers, pay-the-rich policies, massive war preparations and history itself.

Notes

1. Thus, “on December 2, 1975, 30 Israeli warplanes bombed and strafed Palestinian refugee camps and nearby villages in Lebanon, killing 92 people.” “Israeli officials stressed that the purpose of the action had been preventive, not punitive.” (New York Times, December 3, 1975, cited in Encyclopedia of Palestine, Chapter 31.)

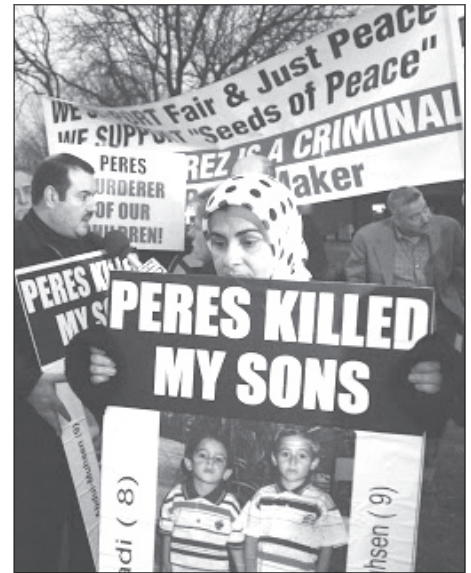
2. “Here to Stay: A Timeline of Palestine,” Dossier on Palestine, p. 55.

3. “Peres Extends Holiday Wishes to Nation as Israel Turns 65,” Haaretz, April 16, 2013.

4. In a regal interview he gave the Israeli press on the eve of the state’s “Independence Day,” Peres stated: “I remember how it all began. The whole state of Israel is a millimeter of the whole Middle East. A statistical error, barren and disappointing land, swamps in the north, desert in the south, two lakes, one dead and an overrated river. No natural resource apart from malaria. There was nothing here. And we now have the best agriculture in the world? This is a miracle: a land built by people.” (Maariv, April 14, 2013).

Cited by Ilan Pappé, “When Israeli denial of Palestinian existence becomes genocidal,” *Electronic Intifada*, April 20, 2013.

5. “Shimon Peres: Israeli war criminal whose victims the West ignored,” Middle East Monitor, September 28, 2016.



Chadia Bitar protesting a 2003 visit by Shimon Peres in Dearborn, Michigan. Bitar’s two young sons were among 106 civilians killed by Israeli bombs in Qana, Lebanon, in April 1996. Peres was Israel’s prime minister at the time of the bombing.

6. Chris McGreal, “Revealed: how Israel offered to sell South Africa nuclear weapons,” *The Guardian*, May 24, 2010.

7. Middle East Monitor.

8. Patrick Martin, “Shimon Peres, Israel’s hidden hawk, was the father of a nation’s military might,” *Globe and Mail*, September 28, 2016. In fact, Bronfman only put up \$1 million.

9. On April 5, 1951 Israeli Army spokesman Lt. Col. Moshe Pearlman announced that the Israeli Air Force had bombed positions within Syria as a “retaliatory action.” Many old people, women and children were wounded in the village of El Hamma. On April 9, the United States rebuked Israel for its aerial bombing of Syrian territory, saying that the bombing is “in no way justified.” The British Government joined the U.S. in representations to Israel. Further, Israel’s foreign minister, Moshe Sharett, had to fight tooth and nail to scotch a plan conceived by David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Dayan to “buy” a Christian Maronite officer who would then “invite” Israeli intervention in Lebanese affairs and enable Israel to establish

its control over Lebanon. The plan was implemented later. *The Middle East Journal*, 1951, volume 5, No. 3, cited in Encyclopedia of Palestine, Chapter 31.

10. “The Suez Crisis of 1956: Canada the peacemaker — A myth,” *Voice of the People*, National Newsmagazine of the People’s Front, Vol. 3, No. 4, July-August 1984, Pages 31-34.

11. “Harper decided to cover it up as it was too embarrassing; Israel would not cooperate with the investigation of why this happened.” “Israel IDF kills a Canadian peacekeeper, Harper makes DND hide the report,” Nadine Lumley, December 7, 2014.

12. “Lebanon terror hits home,” read a *Toronto Star* headline on the topic for July 17, 2006; “Canadians were killed in crossfire of fight with Hezbollah,” read another headline, this one from the July 18 issue of the *Globe and Mail*. In much of the coverage, it was as if Canadians of Lebanese origin were fleeing a natural disaster, not a campaign of collective punishment fully condoned by the Harper government.

U.S. Admits Israel Is Building Permanent Apartheid Regime — Weeks After Giving It \$38 Billion

Glenn Greenwald, October 6 2016

In 2010, Israel’s then-defense minister, Ehud Barak, explicitly warned that Israel would become a permanent “apartheid” state if it failed to reach a peace agreement with Palestinians that creates their own sovereign nation and vests them with full political rights. “As long as in this territory west of the Jordan River there is only one political entity called Israel, it is going to be either non-Jewish, or non-democratic,” Barak said. “If this bloc of millions of Palestinians cannot vote, that will be an apartheid state.”

Honest observers on both sides of the conflict have long acknowledged that the prospects for a two-state solution are virtually non-existent: another way of saying that Israel’s status as a permanent apartheid regime is inevitable. Indeed, U.S. intelligence agencies as early as 45 years ago explicitly warned that Israeli occupation would become permanent if it did not end quickly.

All relevant evidence makes clear this is what has happened. There has been no progress toward a two-state solution for many years. The composition of Israel’s Jewish population — which has become far more belligerent and right-wing than previous generations — has increasingly moved the country further away from that goal. There are key ministers in Israel’s government, including its genuinely extremist justice minister, who are openly and expressly opposed to a two-state solution. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has himself repeatedly made clear he opposes such an agreement, both in words and in deeds. In sum, Israel intends to continue to rule over and occupy Palestinians and deny them self-governance, political liberties, and voting rights indefinitely.

Whether despite this aggression and oppression, or because of it, the Obama administration has continually protected Israel

with unstinting loyalty and lavished it with arms and money. This rewarding of Israeli behavior culminated in the administration’s announcement just three weeks ago that it has signed a “memorandum of understanding” to significantly increase the amount of money the U.S. gives to Israel every year, even though Israel was already by far the biggest recipient of U.S. aid. Under this agreement, the U.S. will give Israel \$38 billion over 10 years, by far a new record for U.S. aid commitments, even though Israeli citizens enjoy all sorts of state benefits that Americans (whose money is being given to Israel) are told are too costly for them, including universal health care coverage. They also have superior life expectancy and infant mortality rates.

This week, with its fresh new \$38 billion commitment in hand, the Israeli government announced the approval of an all new settlement in the West Bank, one that is particularly hostile to ostensible U.S. policy, the international consensus, and any



prospects for an end to occupation. The new settlement, “one of a string of housing complexes that threaten to bisect the West Bank,” as the *New York Times* put it, “is designed to house settlers from a nearby illegal outpost, Amona, which an Israeli court has ordered demolished.” This new settlement extends far into the West Bank: closer to Jordan, in fact, than to Israel.

In response to this announcement, the U.S. State Department yesterday issued an unusually harsh denunciation of Israel’s actions. “We strongly condemn the Israeli government’s recent decision to advance a plan that would create a significant new settlement deep in the West Bank,” it began. It suggested Netanyahu has been publicly lying, noting that the “approval contradicts previous public statements by the government of Israel that it had no intention of creating new settlements.” The State Department invoked the aid package the U.S. just lavished to describe it as “deeply troubling, in the wake of Israel and the U.S. concluding an unprecedented agreement on military assistance designed to further strengthen Israel’s security, that Israel would take a decision so contrary to its long-term security interest in a peaceful resolution of its conflict with the Palestinians.”

Much of that, while a bit more rhetorically clear than usual, is par for the course: The U.S. — in vintage Obama fashion — issues pretty, pleasing statements claiming to be upset at Israel’s settlements while taking continuous actions to protect and enable the very policies Obama pretends to oppose. But the State Department denunciation yesterday was actually notable for what amounts to its stark and explicit acknowledgement — long overdue — that Israel is clearly and irreversibly committed to ruling over the Palestinians in perpetuity, becoming the exact “apartheid” state about which Barak warned:

“Israelis must ultimately decide between expanding settlements and preserving the possibility of a peaceful two state solution. Since the recent Quartet report called on both sides to take affirmative steps to reverse current trends and advance the two state solution on the ground, we have unfortunately seen just the opposite. Proceeding with this new settlement is another step towards cementing a one-state reality of perpetual occupation

that is fundamentally inconsistent with Israel’s future as a Jewish and democratic state. Such moves will only draw condemnation from the international community, distance Israel from many of its partners, and further call into question Israel’s commitment to achieving a negotiated peace.”

So Israel — in the words of its

most loyal benefactor — is moving inexorably “towards cementing a one-state reality of perpetual occupation” that is anti-democratic: i.e., the equivalent of apartheid. And the leading protector and enabler of this apartheid regime is the U.S. — just as was true of the apartheid regime of the 1980s in South Africa.

Worse still, the person highly likely to be the next U.S. president, Hillary Clinton, has not only vowed to continue all this but to increase U.S. protection of both Israel generally and Netanyahu specifically; indeed, her only critique of U.S. policy is that it has been insufficiently loyal to Israel. Her leading opponent, Donald Trump, early on spouted a bit of off-the-cuff dissent on Israel policy but since then has snapped fully into line. The utter lack of political dissent about all of this in the U.S. political elite is reflected by the fact that the only opposition to the \$38 billion aid package came from U.S. senators who — echoing Netanyahu — were angry that it was not even more generous to Israel on the backs of American citizens. In sum, unstinting support for an apartheid Israel is the virtually unbroken consensus among U.S. political elites.

Worst of all is that U.S. political orthodoxy has not only funded, fueled, and protected this apartheid state, but has attempted to render illegitimate all forms of resistance to it. Just as it did with the African National Congress and Nelson Mandela, the U.S. denounces as “terrorism” all groups and individuals that use force against Israel’s occupying armies. It has formally maligned non-violent programs against the occupation — such as the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement — as bigotry and anti-Semitism (a position Clinton has advocated with particular vehemence). The boycott movement has been increasingly targeted throughout the West with censorship and even criminalization. Under U.S. political orthodoxy, the only acceptable course for Palestinians and supporters of their right to be free of occupation is complete submission.

Even as Western consensus continues to reverne the most stalwart supporters of South Africa’s apartheid regime — Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Shimon Peres — it at least now regards apartheid in that country as a historic disgrace. History should regard those enabling Israel’s own march to permanent apartheid in exactly the same light. The most aggressive and consistent enablers of this apartheid are found at the top of the U.S. political elite.



I • Cancel Puerto Rico's Debt

workers, cut social services, lower the minimum wage for young workers to only \$4.25 an hour, and more wrecking. The make-up of the Control Board, of businessmen, including bankers, makes it clear that government is no longer to have any pretense of providing for the needs of society, but rather is to be run as a business solely serving the monopolies.

The source of Puerto Rico's problems is not the debt, is social services and pensions, is not the people of Puerto Rico. The source is U.S. colonialism, which has wrecked havoc on the country, its economy, its people and their rights since 1898. It is the U.S. that owes reparations to Puerto Rico for its robbery of her wealth and resources for more than 100 years. Using U.S. law to impose an unelected Control Board only further demonstrates the colonial nature of the relationship and its thoroughly undemocratic character. Including some Puerto Rican faces — bankers serving U.S. interests — on the Board does nothing to hide this fact. It does nothing to solve the problem



of colonialism. It only further entrenches U.S. dictate, now openly using an unelected body.

Voice of Revolution rejects the Control Board and calls for its immediate removal. The just steps to take are to *Cancel the Debt* and implement the UN's decolonization procedure immediately. This includes removing the military, removing U.S. economic and political influence and leaving Puerto Ricans free to determine their future by themselves, for themselves. Colonialism is a crime that also requires full repa-

rations now!

The U.S. refuses to leave in part because Puerto Rico is used as a major military fortress for repressing Puerto Ricans and attacking Latin America. The people of Puerto Rico have long objected and fought the U.S. military and continue to do so. Their islands belong to them and the U.S. must get out now.

End U.S. Colonialism of Puerto Rico!

Cancel the Debt! Remove the Control Board!

Protests Against Colonial PROMESA and Control Board Rock Puerto Rico

Telesurtv.net, September 4th, 2016

Obama's appointments to the unelected oversight panel includes Andrew Biggs, an architect of conservatives' efforts to privatize social security in the U.S.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets in San Juan August 30 to block the first scheduled meeting for the installation of a financial Control Board. The Board is supposed to remedy Puerto Rico's debt crisis but is vigorously opposed by Puerto Ricans as an anti-democratic, neo-colonial policy that will take wealth from the island nation and give it to Wall Street.

Demonstrators formed protest lines and blocked roads with rocks and bricks to disrupt the meeting at San Juan's Condado Plaza Hilton. They carried signs and shouted slogans against the Control Board, whose authority will supercede that of Puerto Rico's democratically-elected governor and legislature. It hands budgetary decision-making over to unelected appointees, many of them bankers.

The U.S. law creating the Control Board, known by its acronym PROMESA, grants the Board the power to cut pensions, eliminate labor contracts with civil servants, cut social services, reduce the minimum wage for young workers to \$4.25 and more.

Despite lines of riot police and use of pepper spray, the protests managed to block conference-goers on their way to the venue and forced organizers to re-arrange the meeting agenda, local media reported.

"The power of the people and their determination to have control of their own destiny was so apparent," Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi, a member of Defend Puerto Rico, told Remezcla Wednesday.

Meanwhile, just hours after demonstrators gathered early in the morning October 30 for the day of action, bringing together various organizations, President Obama announced his appointments to the seven-member control board. The group of experts, six men and one woman, includes Andrew Biggs, described by *The Intercept* as an "architect of conservative efforts to cut and privatize social security." [...]

PROMESA, the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act*, was rushed through Congress — where Puerto Rico does not have a vote — in late June, ahead of the island's July 1 debt payment default. It passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law by Obama. Critics have harshly condemned the PROMESA control board as a pretext to ramp up colonization and undercut labor rights and slash

public services.

Protests have been ongoing on the island. IN early September anti-PROMESA demonstrators attempted to shut down the local newspaper



El Nuevo Dia, accusing the outlet of promoting the control board with a pro-U.S. editorial view. A group of protesters have also maintained an occupation outside the U.S. federal court in San Juan's Hato

Rey area, launched at the end of June as a long-term encampment against the Control Board, termed the "junta," Spanish for

PROMESA has already brought changes to Puerto Rico, including slashing the minimum wage to just \$4.25 for people under 25 amid high levels of poverty and unemployment. Funding for pensions, education, and health care are also facing cuts, while basic services are at risk of privatization.

While Puerto Rico faces austerity and a financial control scheme reviled as colonial, bondholders are poised to reap massive profits. A recent report by the ReFund America Project found that nearly half of Puerto Rico's debt load is interest on loans underwritten by a slew of Wall Street firms through what the researchers of the report compared to a payday lending scheme.

In San Juan, demonstrators have pledged to continue protesting PROMESA.

Hundreds Shut Down Puerto Rico's Largest WalMart, Reject Control Board

Hundreds of people shut down the largest WalMart in Puerto Rico October 3, in protest against the ongoing attacks on Puerto Ricans and WalMarts refusal to pay increased corporate taxes. The attacks have already included mass layoffs and pension cuts and more devastating cuts will now be imposed by the U.S. imposed unelected Control Board. Protesters brought out that WalMart damages the local economy and only provides precarious jobs, often part-time. Last month, a U.S. appeals court ruled against Puerto Rico in its efforts to raise WalMart's corporate tax rate from 2 percent up to 6.5 percent. The action October 3 shut down the WalMart for the entire afternoon. This action follows the de-

termined demonstrations in San Juan outside a conference hosted by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce on the new PROMESA law, which was passed by the U.S. Congress in June, establishing a federally appointed Control Board with sweeping powers to run Puerto Rico's economy. As one of the protesters shutting down WalMart put it: "I am an active member and spokesperson of the Camp Against the Control Board. We closed Wal-Mart's operations for the day, and, in part, this is proof that when the people unite, we succeed. We need people to keep coming out to these protests, so that every multinational begins stepping back. While the Control Board remains, we're going to continue."

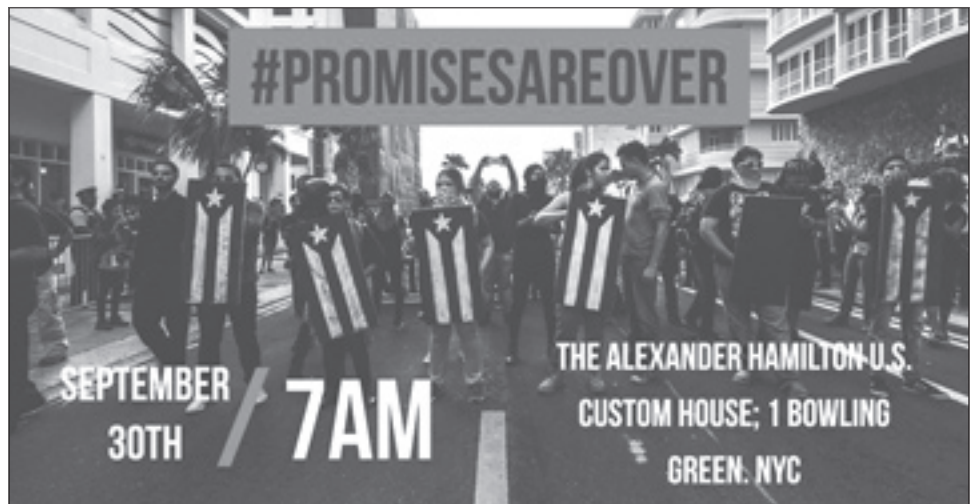
A CALL TO ACTION AND SOLIDARITY

Demonstrate in NYC Against the Control Board and U.S. Colonialism

Comité Boricua En La Diáspora

Where: The Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House; 1 Bowling Green
When: Friday, September 30, 2016
Time: 7:00am GATHER

Why: The United States Congress has imposed the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) on the Puerto Rican people, which only seeks to pay the millionaire vulture bond holders from Wall Street. Meanwhile, the people suffer through severe austerity measures, the imminent threat of the privatization of beaches and schools, biological and environmental experiments, pension cuts, threats of the decrease of the



minimum wage for people aged 25 and under to \$4.25 an hour, and the militarization of the police, among other things.

This is a call to action to other groups in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico. The time has come to establish a united front against our oppressors. The board has decided to “meet for the first time” in New York City, Friday September 30 at 8:30 am. The

members of the board have the audacity to propagate colonialism, not only in Puerto Rico, but here in the United States as well. *The people will not let this meeting happen.*

We seek to send a clear message to the board. You do not mess with the people! Bring Your Signs, Bring Your Voices, Bring Your Rage. Be in Solidarity with us.

Control Board Composition Serves U.S. Financiers

A study by investment firm Height Securities finds the PROMESA Control Board imposed on Puerto Rico is “a net positive for creditors.” Three of the seven members are central members of the Puerto Rican banking elite and the rest were considered by the study to be as “good as anyone in the creditor community could have expected.” The composition is designed to give the appearance that Puerto Ricans still have a say while in fact guaranteeing even more severe cuts to pensions, social programs, contracts and wages.

Two of the board members, Carlos Garcia and Jose Ramon Gonzalez, headed Santander Securities, an investment advisor, that was fined last year for selling risky Puerto Rican bonds. Both also served as president of the Government Development Bank, which issues Puerto Rico’s debt.

A third, Jose Carrion III, is an even bigger name in Puerto Rico’s “interconnected” and “insular” banking circle and hails from a banking dynasty that had vested interests in Puerto Rico’s debt. His sister was paid at least \$1 million to advise Och-Ziff Capital Management, one of the world’s biggest vulture funds, which heavily lobbied her husband, U.S. Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico Pedro Pierluisi, for preferential protections.

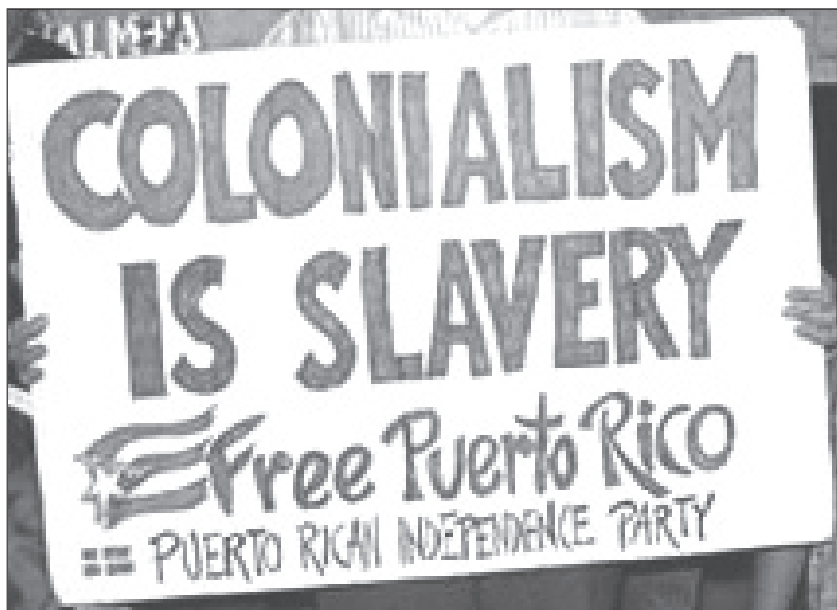
Andrew Biggs is tied to the U.S.’s leading neoconservative think tanks, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Cato Institute.

Control Board Members:

Andrew G. Biggs: Former Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (SSA) who supports privatization of Social Security.

Jose Carrion III: Insurance Broker, Carrion Laffitte Casellas, powerful banker, contributed to campaigns of George W. Bush and Rudolph W Giuliani for Mayor of New York

Carlos M García: Powerful banker in Puerto Rico, CEO of BayBoston Managers LLC, a private equity investment firm



and formerly with Santander Holdings USA, Inc. the holding company for Sovereign Bank

José Ramón González, CEO and President of Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, also with Santander Bancorp, OFG Bancorp, and Credit Suisse First Boston Private Equity

Arthur Gonzalez, former judge for U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and staff attorney for the IRS (Internal Revenue Service)

Ana Matosantos, Former deputy of finance under California Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown

David Skeel, professor at the University of Pennsylvania, considered an expert in bankruptcy law

In addition to the seven, **Richard Ravitch,** is an ex-officio member representing the Governor of Puerto Rico, Alejandro García Padilla. He is a former Lieutenant Governor of New York, former chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation and New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and principal owner of the Bowery Savings Bank

Visit our website: **usmlo.org**

I • Prisoner Strike Nationwide

solitary confinement, insufficient health care, rotten food, and denial of their right to pursue their education. More than 50,000 participated in the resistance and organizing efforts of various kinds, inside and outside of the prisons continue. *Voice of Revolution* salutes the prisoners and all those who joined in defending rights!

Leading up to the strike and on the 9th there were many actions all across the country in support of the strike. From Florida to Washington State to Texas and Massachusetts, people organized demonstrations, film showings, teach-ins, discussion groups, letter writing to prisoners and much more. Everywhere, efforts were made to build relationships with the prisoners and to ensure their voices were heard outside the prison walls. Banner-drops, rallies, postering, call-ins to officials and media, all served to let the public know that prisoners were organizing resistance and refusing to be silenced.

Organizing is continuing in various ways. Actions outside

various prisons are taking place, while people join efforts to make contact with those resisting and maintain relations with the prisoners. Prison officials are also retaliating against lead organizers, by moving them and/or putting them in solitary (see p. 18). As one organizer facing retaliation for doing a radio interview over the phone put it, “Despite the latest development to keep me off the airwaves, I am doing well and remain unbowed and unbroken. Needless to say, I will fight back.”

Mass incarceration in the U.S. is a form of mass control and genocide, directed especially against national minorities but impacting everyone. The large majority of prisoners are there for non-violent drug offenses. They are kept there and often forced into solitary for resisting and defending their rights. Their ability to organize such a widespread strike and support under such difficult conditions is a tribute to their determination and refusal to submit. It is a quality to be supported and defended by all.

Action and Support After September 9 Prisoner Strike

It's Going Down, September 21, 2016

One thing is not in question: September 9th is now officially the largest prison work strike ever to take place within the United States.

This strike against prison slavery that began on September 9th, the 45th anniversary of the Attica prison uprising has entered its third week. According to organizers with Support Prisoner Resistance:

As of September 21, we have tracked 46 prisons and jails that experienced some kind of disruption between September 8 and 21. This total includes both lockdowns reported by officials (some of whom deny that the lockdown was protest related) and reports of protests from prisoners and supporters (some of which did not lead to lockdowns or full strikes).

Of these, 31 facilities experienced a lock-down, suspension or full strike for at least 24 hours. Those 31 facilities house approximately 57,000 people. That is a guess at the minimum number of prisoners affected by the nationally coordinated strike.

There is likely much more going on behind the prison gates that we do not yet know about. We receive new information on a daily basis. In some places the strike lasted a day or a weekend, but in some, it seems to be going strong 12 days in.

The strike has also grown out of the original expectations of many organizers. For instance, the strike has spread into both men and women's prisons, into county jails, and has led to not only work strikes, but hunger strikes, organized marches and protests inside facilities, expanded communication of prisoners to the outside, and full fledged uprisings. Despite a media blackout that is fueled by the advertising of corporations that make billions from prison slavery while the mainstream press drones on about politicians which vow to only expand it – the strike is only continuing and bringing more people into our networks.

On the outside, thousands of people took to the streets. In

Durham, North Carolina and Brooklyn, NY, freeways were blocked. In Oakland, corporations profiting from prison labor were attacked. In Portland, streets and stores profiting from prison labor were occupied and shut down. In Austin, people shut down a facility showcasing products made by prisoners, and demonstrations, marches, and rallies were organized throughout the South. Across the U.S., noise demonstrations outside of prisons were organized, marches were held, and graffiti, banners, and posters were placed around the walls, freeways, and towns and cities of the U.S.

Across the world, people also took action in solidarity with the prison strike. From Serbia to Sweden, Greece to Australia, Mexico to Spain, people released statements of solidarity, held demonstrations outside of prisons, and took action against corporations that profit from prison slavery.

What September 9th Shows Us

September 9th did not come out of nowhere, but it is simply the latest and largest step forward in a long struggle against prison slavery that has already included riots at Holman prison, work strikes in Alabama and Texas, hunger strikes in Wisconsin and Ohio, and much more. The prison strike shows us the power of building relationships and organizing in a physical movement that pushes forward as well as grows and expands along with the changing terrain. In other words, we are not just waiting for something to pop off, but we also are not afraid to engage with eruptions of revolt when they come. Instead, getting organized, forming relationships, and building infrastructure now means that we are prepared for what comes ahead of us and whatever is sure to pop off in the future. This means letter writing nights and working with families of prisoners just as much as it does organizing noise demonstrations and attacking corporations involved in prison labor. [...]

END PRISON SLAVERY

Whether working with the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), ... in support roles of organizations such as the Free Alabama Movement (FAM) who are on the front lines, to a wide variety of prisoner support groups and projects, or even just as individuals, we all have to put in work in supporting those on the inside and this diversity has shown in the wide range of actions that have taken place both in the U.S. and across the world. Each and every wheat-pasted poster, dropped banner, letter writing night, statement of support, autonomous action, and conference organized helped push us to this moment. And we did it all without a massive budget, hardly any mainstream media attention, and with all our comrades locked down inside facing massive repression.

Let us remember what it took to get to this point; as prisoners have provoked a massive shock wave within this society that does not have an end point other than the destruction of all prisons. Moreover, this comes at a time when the elites in this country are attempting to force down our throats this latest election cycle and moreover bury autonomous social movements under the boot of the police. All of the struggles that appear before us now, from the riots on the freeways of Charlotte, to the prison uprisings in Alabama, to the ongoing defense of water in North Dakota... These are manifestations of popular anger, rage, and action that come from the grassroots and can only find their end in the overthrow and destruction of the present system of domination and control.

Building Defense of the Strike, Organizing Capacity

The strike is not over.

As we speak, actions are still being taken by prisoners. There are currently hunger strikes in Wisconsin, California, Ohio, and elsewhere. Prisoners are still on strike from work in various facilities in Alabama and South Carolina. Prison officials are working overtime to transfer prison rebels in Michigan and Florida to isolate “political” and “rebellious” people from the general population.

We now have three tasks ahead of us.

The first, to offer direct, material, and concrete solidarity to the prisoners that are taking action on the inside. That means holding demonstrations outside of their facilities if we are able. It means calling into the prison and demanding that demands are met. It means spreading the word about their struggles. It means holding benefits and raising money to support these comrades. It means making contact with these prison rebels and starting to form relationships. Toward this end, we call on all groups, crews, organizations, and individuals in solidarity with the strike to began to organize and continue to take action, in order to develop this solidarity and to foster relationships with those taking action on the inside.

The second, is to build up our organizations, whatever form those take, on both sides of the prison walls, in order to carry out this work and to get ready for the next wave of struggle. Whether you are involved in FAM, IWOC, The Jericho Movement, the black liberation struggle, a group of friends that meets at your house, or a prison support organization, now is the time to pull people into your organizing and grow your organization for the battles that lie in front of us and ahead.

The third is to keep the flame of prison revolt, on the inside and the outside alive. This means continuing to organize noise demon-

strations on the outside. It means continuing to take action against corporations that profit from prison slavery. It means connecting the ongoing prison strike with other movements for liberation, such as the struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline and the battle against police. [...]



Take Action, Get Organized

In order to proceed, people need to develop a strategy around supporting the strike. This means figuring out if and how you can support a facility near you taking action, how you can link up and build connections with prisoners, how you could build up your organization or crew to carry out this activity, and also how you could carry out actions which push forward the strike.

Towards this end, here are several resources:

To find a prison near you that has been on strike or is currently taking action, visit the strike tracker on our website and look for your state. If you can find a prison near you, consider forming a relationship with inmates there, mobilizing support on the outside, or finding a way to connect with prisoners through letters to build for the future. Some places, such as in Ohio and Alabama have organizations such as the Free Alabama Movement (FAM) and the Free Ohio Movement (FOM) which are in need of solidarity.

Write to prisoners that have been targeted for the strike.

1.) Support the Strikers:

Holding a demonstration outside of the facility.

Holding a demonstration outside of a corporation connected to prison labor in solidarity with the strike (especially if that is what the prisoners are working to create).

Hold a call-in campaign to the prison to demand that the prison meet the prisoners' demands and end repressive measures against them.

Hold a letter writing night to make contact with the prisoners.

Hold a fundraiser for established groups such as the Free Ohio Movement or the Free Alabama Movement. Remember prisoners are the front lines of this struggle. We must support them and their activity as well!

2.) Build your Squad:

Raising money so you can continue or begin to engage in prison support work.

Host a letter writing night to better connect with prisoners already engaged in action.

Host a call-in event with a prisoner who can discuss the conditions that exist where they are striking and how people on the outside can support them. Contact IWOC (iwoc.noblogs.org) for more details.

Host a speaker, Skype presenter, or open discussion on the strike to move people from passive support to active participation. Plug people into the organizing and get them involved.

Organize a BBQ or social event where people discuss the strike, update people on what is happening, and read off actions and communiqués.

3) Keep it Lit:

Organize a noise demonstration outside a facility taking action or one closest to you.

Organize and take action at a corporation profiting from prison slavery. Get creative!

Drop a banner in solidarity with the prison strike.

Organize a night of wheat-pasting flyers. Get people together and go out on the town and put up posters and flyers supporting the strike. Write graffiti and drop banners. Take pictures and send it to itsgoingdown.org.

Already, our comrades across the world are standing with us in solidarity. In a statement released by the ABC Solidarity Cell in Greece, they have called for international supporters to also take action in support of the ongoing strike on October 1.

Now is the time to build. Now is the time to grow. And it is definitely not the time to stop.

Prison Strike Organizer Condemns Retaliation For Speaking With Journalists

Alice Sperti, The Intercept, October 6, 2016

A prisoner at Ohio State Penitentiary is facing disciplinary action for participating in an NPR interview about the nationwide prison strike that started on September 9. Nearly a month after inmates embarked on the largest prison strike in the country's history, the media and the public continue to know little about where and how the action played out, and even less about officials' retaliation against striking prisoners. That is no coincidence. Prison officials regularly go to great lengths to control the information leaving their institutions, and this strike has proven no exception.

Undeterred by challenges, prison activists have succeeded in releasing sporadic updates on the strike as it spread across the country, and some of them have used a combination of contraband cell phones and their regularly allotted phone time to speak with media organizations.

In an incident suggesting just how difficult and risky it can be for prisoners to communicate with the outside, and with journalists in particular, Siddique Hasan, a prison activist sentenced to death for his role in a 1993 prison uprising, said he was "written up" by a prison investigator for his participation in a September 28 episode of the NPR show "On Point with Tom Ashbrook."

Hasan is expected to go before the prison's Rules Infraction Board, charged with "unauthorized use of telephone or violation of mail and visiting rules." He plans to plead guilty to the accusation because he contests its legitimacy.

The prison's warden and Michael Wylie, the prison investigator who first approached Hasan about the interview, did not respond to a request for comment, but Laura Gardner, the warden's assistant, wrote in an email that "per DRC's [Department of Rehabilitation and Correction] media policy, telephone media interviews are not permitted nor are media interview with Level 5 inmates."

Hasan said that Wylie warned him against presenting himself as an "organizer" and a member of the Free Ohio Movement — a prisoners' rights organization he helped found. Hasan also said Wylie told him that he was not allowed to speak on radio programs or do interviews with the media, even though that restriction was previously limited to media conducting on-camera

interviews on site or reporters bringing in recording equipment during visits. The department of corrections did not respond to a request for comment.

"Since I am not a coward or a passive 'nig---' that takes unconstitutional orders from my oppressive captors, I have no intention of passively submitting to such a threat," Hasan wrote in a message sent through a monitored prison communication service. "I expect to be put in isolation sometime soon, found guilty by their kangaroo court, and then given more phone restrictions in order to excommunicate me from the media and the outside world. If so, come what may, I will never capitulate to their unconstitutional demand and this new form of harassment."

A Pattern of Retaliation

It is hardly the first time Hasan has faced retaliation for his communications with the outside. But while he regularly speaks to supporters, reporters, and even conferences and college campuses — about anything from his faith to prison resistance and the movement for black lives — he has faced increased scrutiny in the weeks leading up to and following the September 9 prison strike.

Last August, an imam who leads religious services at the prison, that Hasan has had theological disagreements with in the past, accused him of making threats against the institution. Incidentally, he alleged that those comments dated to several days earlier, on July 22, the same day this reporter visited Hasan in prison. In the investigation that followed, Hasan was accused of "plotting to blow up buildings" on September 9 — the day of the planned prison strike — and sent to solitary confinement for more than a month.

But his battle for media access dates further back, to a 2013 lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Ohio on behalf of a handful of journalists, Hasan, and four other prisoners, accusing the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction of violating the prisoners' constitutionally protected right to media access.

That lawsuit itself — which remains pending — came in response to media interest in Hasan and the other prisoners on the

occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Lucasville revolt, which they were accused of leading. Nine prisoners and one guard were killed during the 11-day uprising. Hasan and the others cited in the ACLU lawsuit — known as the “Lucasville Five” — had spent much of the prior two decades in solitary confinement and were denied the face-to-face interviews normally granted to other death row inmates. (In 2011, Hasan and two other prisoners also went on a 13-day hunger strike protesting the fact that they were placed on the most restrictive level of isolation for 19 years. Hasan remains on “Level 5A,” an additional designation created by the penitentiary’s former warden in response to that protest. 5A is the most restrictive level of isolation, but after intense public pressure it was eased slightly to allow for some visits and limited recreational time.)

The Lucasville Five and their supporters have always stated they are innocent of the crimes for which they have been condemned to death, and that the censorship around them was a deliberate attempt to stonewall any public scrutiny of the 1993 uprising and the state’s alleged misconduct during the events

themselves and in the trials that followed.

“It’s not hard to see that their actions have very little to do with security and everything to do with silencing a conversation about the Lucasville uprising,” the ACLU of Ohio wrote in a statement about the lawsuit. “The Lucasville uprising is a complex story. Hiding these complexities behind a wall of censorship will not make them go away.”

Hasan is interested in amplifying the struggle of fellow prisoners, and he talks frequently about prison conditions, as well as the connections between life inside and whatever news he is able to get about the social justice movement he knows is growing outside. The nearly 50 prisoners that joined the September 9 strike at the Ohio State Penitentiary did so primarily to protest insufficient and “foul” food, and to demand slots in the Plexiglas windows that separate them from family during non-contact visits, so they may hold hands, Hasan said.

“Despite the latest development to keep me off the airwaves, I am doing well and remain unbowed, unbroken,” Hasan said. “Needless to say, I will fight back.”

PRISONERS STRIKE SEPTEMBER 9

Call to Action Against Slavery in America

Support Prisoner Resistance

Prisoners from across the United States released this call to action in April for a nationally coordinated prisoner work stoppage against prison slavery. The actions began September 9, 2016 with more than 50,000 prisoners participating (see p.16 for report)

* * *

In one voice, rising from the cells of long term solitary confinement, echoed in the dormitories and cell-blocks from Virginia to Oregon, we prisoners across the United States vow to finally end slavery in 2016.

On September 9, 1971 prisoners took over and shut down Attica, New York State’s most notorious prison. On September 9, 2016, we will begin an action to shut down prisons all across this country. We will not only demand the end to prison slavery, we will end it ourselves by ceasing to be slaves.

In the 1970’s the U’S’ prison system was crumbling. In Walpole, San Quentin, Soledad, Angola and many other prisons, people were standing up, fighting and taking ownership of their lives and bodies back from the plantation prisons. For the last six years we have remembered and renewed that struggle. In the interim, the prisoner population has ballooned and technologies of control and confinement have developed



into the most sophisticated and repressive in world history. The prisons have become more dependent on slavery and torture to maintain their stability.

Prisoners are forced to work for little or no pay. That is slavery. The 13th amendment to the U.S. constitution maintains a legal exception for continued slavery in U.S. prisons. It states “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States.” Overseers watch over our every move, and if we do not perform our appointed tasks to their liking, we are punished. They may have replaced the whip with pepper spray, but many of the

SUPPORT PRISONER RESISTANCE

other torments remain: isolation, restraint positions, stripping off our clothes and investigating our bodies as though we are animals.

Slavery is alive and well in the prison system, but by the end of this year, it will not be anymore. This is a call to end slavery in America. This call goes directly to the slaves themselves. We are not making demands or requests of our captors, we are calling ourselves to action. To every prisoner in every state and federal institution across this land, we call on you to stop being a slave, to let the crops rot in the plantation fields, to go on strike and cease reproducing the institutions of your confinement.

This is a call for a nation-wide prisoner work stoppage to end prison slavery, starting on September 9, 2016. They cannot run these facilities without us.

Non-violent protests, work stoppages, hunger strikes and other refusals to participate in prison routines and needs have increased in recent years. The 2010 Georgia prison strike, the massive rolling California hunger strikes, the Free Alabama Movement's 2014 work stoppage, have gathered the most attention, but they are far from the only demonstrations of prisoner power. Large, sometimes effective hunger strikes have broken out at Ohio State Penitentiary, at Menard Correctional in Illinois, at Red Onion in Virginia as well as many other prisons. The burgeoning resistance movement is diverse and interconnected, including immigrant detention centers, women's prisons and juvenile facilities. Last fall, women prisoners at Yuba County Jail in California joined a hunger strike initiated by women held in immigrant detention centers in California, Colorado and Texas.

Prisoners all across the country regularly engage in myriad demonstrations of power on the inside. They have most often done so with convict solidarity, building coalitions across race lines and gang lines to confront the common oppressor.

Forty-five years after Attica, the waves of change are returning to America's prisons. This September we hope to coordinate and generalize these protests, to build them into a single

tidal shift that the American prison system cannot ignore or withstand. We hope to end prison slavery by making it impossible, by refusing to be slaves any longer.

To achieve this goal, we need support from people on the outside.



A prison is an easy-lockdown environment, a place of control and confinement where repression is built into every stone wall and chain link, every gesture and routine. When we stand up to these authorities, they come down on us, and the only protection we have is solidarity from the outside.

Mass incarceration, whether in private or state-run facilities is a scheme where slave catchers patrol our neighborhoods and monitor our lives. It requires mass criminalization. Our tribulations on the inside are a tool used to control our families and communities on the outside. Certain Americans live every day under not only the threat of extra-judicial execution — as protests surrounding the deaths of Mike Brown, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland and so many others have drawn long overdue attention to — but also under the threat of capture, of being thrown into these plantations, shackled and forced to work.

Our protest against prison slavery is a protest against the school to prison pipeline, a protest against police terror, a protest against post-release controls. When we abolish slavery, they will lose much of their incentive to lock up our children, they will stop building traps to pull back those who they have released. When we remove the economic motive and grease of our forced labor from the U.S. prison system, the entire structure of courts and police, of control and slave-catching must shift to accommodate us as humans, rather than slaves.

Prison impacts everyone, when we stand up and refuse on September 9, 2016, we need to know our friends, families and allies on the outside will have our backs. This spring and summer will be seasons of organizing, of spreading the word, building the networks of solidarity and showing that we are serious and what we are capable of.

*Step up, stand up, and join us.
Against prison slavery.
For liberation of all.*

Find more information, updates and organizing materials at the following websites:

SupportPrisonerResistance.net
FreeAlabamaMovement.com
IWOC.noblogs.org



OCTOBER 7-10

Convergence at the U.S./Mexico Border in Arizona Defends Rights and Demands End to U.S. Militarization

School of the Americas Watch

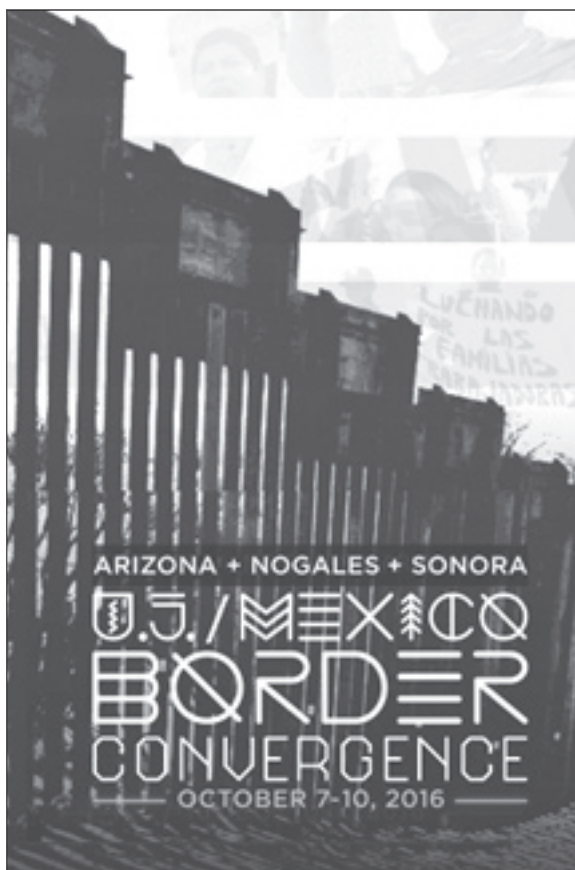
Human rights activists, migrants, religious communities, veterans, students and others from across the Americas are arriving in Arizona to highlight U.S. foreign policy as one of the root causes of migration, and to stage protests and nonviolent direct action against militarization. Rights activists are mobilizing their communities to take a stand for justice and against militarization from October 7-10, 2016 at the border wall in Nogales, Sonora / Arizona.

Photos and video footage will be made available to the media throughout the convergence at SOAW.org/media.

After holding an annual vigil at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, the human rights group School of the Americas (SOA) Watch is moving its convergence to the U.S./Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona/ Sonora, Mexico. Activists from throughout the U.S. and Mexico will gather on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border from October 7-10, 2016, in the lead-up to the November elections to protest against militarization, and to shine a spotlight on U.S. foreign policy as one of the root causes of migration.

The Convergence actions include a vigil and rally October 7 at the Eloy Immigrant Detention Center in Arizona. On October 8 there will be a march starting on both sides of the border in Nogales, with participants converging for a rally at the border wall. It includes speakers from various organizations fighting for immigrant rights. There will also be a cross-border concert at the wall. On Sunday October 9 there will be a vigil honoring those whose lives have been lost to state violence (see p. 22 for full schedule).

Communities are being targeted for assassination and state repression throughout the Americas by U.S. trained military and police forces. People from Latin America continue to be forced to flee from U.S. trained repressive security forces, only to be confronted with a militarized border, racist immigration laws, and xenophobic rhetoric in this election cycle. Black and



Brown bodies in the U.S. continue to be targeted and systematically imprisoned and killed in the same way. We can no longer separate the issues and today we say enough! We cannot look at immigration reform without looking at its root cause. We cannot discuss police brutality or the prison industrial complex in the U.S. without discussing its root purpose. *State violence is used to exert control and oppress our communities in order to maintain an exploitative racist system.*

The demands of the Convergence at the Border are:

- An end to the destructive U.S. military, economic, and political interventions in the Americas.
- De-militarization of the borders. We need to build bridges with our neighbors, not walls.
- The dismantling of the racist and sexist systems that steal from, criminalize, and kill migrants, refugees, natives, gender non-conforming people, communities of color, and others throughout the

hemisphere.

- Respect, dignity, justice and self-determination for all communities, especially the poor and most vulnerable
- No more profits over people! Private military, prison, oil, mining, and other corporations should not determine our future or that of the earth, the people should.

“We need to build broad-based grassroots power across borders, and push back against neoliberal politics of privatization of the commons, the militarization of our communities, and the upholding of profit interests over life, that permeate today’s political discourse.” said SOA Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois. “We will stand on the side of mutual aid and solidarity, and build power for a culture shift.”

To learn more about the SOA Watch Convergence at the Border, visit SOAW.org/border

Contact: Hendrik Voss, 202-425-5128 hvoss@soaw.org
Eduardo Garcia, 484-663-1163, eduardo@soaw.org

BORDER CONVERGENCE DEFENDS RIGHTS

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 7

9:15am: Exhibition of Twelve Quilts Memorialize Lives Lost by Migrants Crossing the Desert in the Tucson Sector. Since 2000, nearly 3,000 people have died attempting to cross the desert in the Tucson Sector. Using migrant clothing found in the desert, quilts are artistically crafted that list the names of those who perished since 2000. This event will take place in the Tucson and Catalina Rooms of the University of Arizona's Student Union

5pm – 7:30pm: Vigil and rally at the Eloy Immigrant Detention Center, and Opening of the Convergence Weekend, Welcome, and Know Your Rights Information (1705 E Hanna Rd, Eloy, AZ)

6:00pm-8pm: Welcome and Peña Celebration in Nogales, Mexico at the Art Museum (Av. Adolfo Lopez Mateos No. 120)

7pm – 11pm: Concert in Tucson, Arizona at Club Congress, a benefit for No More Deaths. For all that are interested, including those unable to travel past the Border Patrol checkpoint to Nogales (7pm-11pm, Club Congress, 311 E Congress St, Tucson, AZ)

Saturday, October 8

8:30am – 9:30am Veteran-led march in Nogales (Sonora/AZ)
kick off on the U.S. side: Hotel Americana, 639 N Grand Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621

kick off on the Mexico side: Plaza Ochoa, Nogales, Son., Mexico

9:45am – 11:45am: Rally at the border wall in Nogales, Sonora / Arizona

with speakers and musicians from across the Americas (~580 W International St, Nogales, AZ, 85621, US/Calle Internacional & Niños Heroes, El Greco, 84066 Nogales, Son., Mexico)

Featured speakers will include: Michael McPherson of Veterans for Peace; Hector Barajas, the founder of Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana, Mexico; Shena Gutierrez, from the Border Patrol Victims Network, Mexico; human rights activist and Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka; Isabel Garcia from the Coalicion de Derechos Humanos; Indigenous Community Defender Nestora Salgado; Maudí Tzy from the Alliance to Break the Silence and End Impunity from Guatemala; SOA Watch Field Organizer Maria Luisa Rosal; and Father Roy Bourgeois, SOA Watch founder

Live music performances by Pablo Peregrina, Emmas Revolution, Colleen Kattau, Olmeca, the Peace Poets, Natalia Serna La Muna, Son Jarocho musicians, and the SOA Watch Musicians Collective

TUCSON • 9 AM – 8 PM : People of Color Space & Youth of

Color Space Workshops, Break-Out Groups, and Plenary addressing mutual solidarity, racial and gender justice. (Dunbar African American Culture Center, 325 W 2nd St. Tucson, AZ 85705)

Workshops at Hotel Americana, Nogales, Arizona (639 N Grand Ave), 1:00pm-7:50pm

Workshops in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico (Escuela Primaria Abelardo L. Rodriguez, Fenochio 23, Fundó Legal), 1:00pm-7:50pm

4-5pm: Anniversary Vigil for José Antonio Elena Rodríguez in Nogales, Sonora: starting with a march at 4 pm from the Plaza de las Palomas in Nogales, Sonora to the site where Jose Antonio was killed and a 5 pm mass with the Nogales Bishop, inauguration of the installation of a painting of Jose Antonio, followed by a cultural/musical event

6:30pm-8:00pm Interfaith Ceremony at the border wall & candlelight vigil,

8:00pm-10:30pm Cross-border concert at the Mexico/U.S. border wall, with Charlie King, Colleen Kattau, the Peace Poets, emma's revolution, Natalia Serna La Muna, Olmeca, Pablo Peregrina, and Son Jarocho

Sunday, October 9

9am – 1:30pm – ¡No Más! No More! Musicians, protest, and art at the border wall (~580 W International St, Nogales, AZ; US/Calle Internacional & Niños Heroes, Nogales, Son., Mexico)

We will commemorate those whose lives were lost as a result of state violence.

Speakers will include Shannon Rivers, a member of the Akimel O'odham tribe; Padre Prisciliano Peraza, coordinator of CCAMYN in Altar, Sonora; Carlotta of People Helping People from Arivaca; Hector Aristizabal, Colombian human rights activist and torture survivor; Mariela Nájera Romero and Uriel Gamaliel Guzmán, Las Patronas; Marleny Reyes Castillo, Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), Maria Guadalupe Guereca Betancourt and Araceli; Carlos Garcia, Puente; H.I.J.O.S. Mexico; Frier Tomás González Castillo coordinator of La 72, Hogar Refugio para Personas migrantes y refugiadas, en Tenosique, Tabasco; George Paz Martin, peace and justice and climate activist and educator; and there will be musical performances by Francisco Herrera, Natalia Serna La Muna, Gabino Palomares and others

Monday, October 10

Vigil for José Antonio Elena Rodríguez

10am Block Party – Indigenous People Day 2016 at the Global Justice Center in Tucson, Arizona (225 E 25th St., Tucson, AZ 85713). Live art, dancers, and music in Resistance