

Buffalo Forum



Local Publication of the
U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

Workers of all countries, unite!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Oppose War Crimes Against Yemen 1
- Defend Human Rights of Refugees 3-8
- Applaud New Relations Between DPRK and U.S. 9-12
- Who Decides Buffalo Billion 13-14
- Juneteenth (photos) 15-16

June-July 20, 2018

Vol. 22 #6-7

NIAGARA AIR BASE INVOLVED

Oppose U.S. War Crimes Against Yemen

The U.S. backed and funded coalition of forces launched a brutal attack against the main port city of Yemen, Hodeida June 13. It included an estimated 30 airstrikes within the first half hour, all guided by U.S. intelligence. The bombers themselves are refueled by U.S. planes,

reportedly including those from the Niagara Air base.

The bombings and military assaults have continued non-stop. The port provides the large majority of humanitarian aid for the country. It is also a main port
U.S. War Crimes Against Yemen • 2

FEDERAL CONTROL OF MILITARY AND POLICING AGENCIES ALSO A FACTOR

Broad Resistance to Trump's Wholesale Attack on Human Rights of Refugees and Immigrants

Across the country numerous demonstrations, petitions, and meetings are taking place rejecting President Trump's wholesale attack on the human rights of immigrants and refugees. A national Day of Action is planned for June 30, with

actions at the White House and dozens of cities and towns across the country. The breadth of resistance can be seen in the fact that nurses, youth, women, workers for the Office of Refugee Resettlement which
Attack on Human Rights • 3

HISTORIC FIRST DPRK-U.S. SUMMIT HELD IN SINGAPORE

Applaud Establishment of New DPRK-U.S. Relations

The peoples in the U.S., Korea and worldwide applaud the new relations established with the DPRK-U.S. Summit in Singapore on June 12. For the first time in the histories of the two countries, their respective leaders met and discussed steps to resolve problems through negotiations

and without hostility. The Summit between Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and President Donald Trump, provides a
DPRK-U.S. Summit • 9



CIMINELLI TRIAL

Is the Bigger Scandal Corruption, or Who Decides the Buffalo Billion?

On June 18, the federal trial for Buffalo developer Louis Ciminelli began in Manhattan. Ciminelli is only being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Bribery charges were dropped. The case revolves around a scheme between Ciminelli and Governor Cuomo to secure the large majority of the Buffalo Billion — \$750 million in public funds — for construction

work on the huge factory for SolarCity. A portion of that, \$20 million, went to Ciminelli in fees to manage the project. The corruption scandal also involves Cuomo's "economic development czar," State University of New York (SUNY) Polytechnic President Alain Kaloyeros, responsible for distributing the Buffalo Billion.

Who Decides Buffalo Billion • 13

Hunting for the Buffalo Billion — In the Community

On June 21 Green Party candidates Howie Hawkins, for governor, and Mark Dunlea, for comptroller, toured the eastside, hunting for the Buffalo Billion. The aim was to hear from those in the community about their concerns, if the Buffalo Billion had

impacted their community as well as their views as to how to spend the Buffalo Billion. The tour took place as the trial on corruption charges of Buffalo developer Louis Ciminelli was underway in Manhattan (see p.1). Ciminelli got the \$750

Hunting for Buffalo Billion • 14

DEMONSTRATE JUNE 30

Kids Are Still In Cages!

National Domestic Workers Alliance

Do not let Trump's latest move fool you: Children are still being jailed, and they're still being separated from their families — both at the border and at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities across the country. Demand the Trump Administration stop caging children and jailing their parents *immediately* — and reunite jailed children with their families.

Families belong together, and free!

President Trump created a humanitarian crisis by separating thousands of children from their families and jailing them. But Trump's Executive Order signed on June 20th is not the solution; it simply jails whole families indefinitely and does nothing to reunite families that have already been torn apart. Children belong with their families and in communities, not in cages or behind bars in even worse conditions.

The Trump administration is causing lifelong trauma to children — whether taken by Border Patrol, jailed alongside their parents after seeking safety, or snatched from their school

by ICE. Their claims of compassion are false — this crisis is proof that this administration does not care about the well-being of children or families. Families deserve to seek asylum without fear of jail or family separation.

Our demand is clear and not negotiable: Trump's policies of caging children and jailing their parents must be stopped immediately — and families must be reunited!

Join demonstrations in Washington DC and across the country on June 30 to demand that the Trump administration stop caging children and jailing their families *immediately* — and reunite children in immigration custody with their families at once!

DEMONSTRATE IN BUFFALO TO DEFEND REFUGEE RIGHTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 30 AT 10 A.M.

***U.S. District Court for the
Western District of New York
Niagara Square***

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I • U.S. WAR CRIMES AGAINST YEMEN

for all goods. Hodeida is also home to about 600,000 people, many of them now killed or displaced. Yemen's whole population of about eight million has been deeply impacted by the war, with the U.S. using the Saudis and United Arab Emirates to wage the war.

The attack on Hodeida is an open and brutal war crime against a civilian target, one designed to impose genocide. Organizations on the ground, like Doctors Without Border, have emphasized that attacking the port will likely cause a full-blown famine endangering millions of lives.

The U.S. provides military support, including weapons and plane sales, top-level intelligence for the bombings, refueling of the Saudi jets. It also provides political backing, blocking UN efforts, for example, to stop the assault on Hodeida. Like the U.S./Israeli attacks on Palestine, without U.S. political and military backing and support, the Saudi/UAE attacks on Yemen could not take place. The U.S. could stop the attacks and instead has fully backed it, making it the main

party guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Yemen.

For Buffalonians there is also the serious issue that the Niagara Air Base attack squadron is directly involved in refueling the Saudi bombers, ensuring they can continue non-stop. Given the large Yemeni population in Lackawanna, this participation is also a direct attack on all of us living in this area. The Yemenis are our neighbors and have already had FBI surveillance and brutal raids imposed on them. The U.S.-backed war means their families in Yemen are under attack and that they cannot travel back and forth as was customary before.

It is vital for all to stand with the people of Yemen and Lackawanna and reject these U.S. war crimes. Demand the immediate end to any involvement by any New York troops. Refuse to have war crimes committed in our name! As a contribution to peace, let the Niagara Air Base be closed as a military base and instead turned into a solar farm, providing jobs and renewable energy and ending participation in wars of aggression.

I • ATTACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

is responsible for the families and children, mayors, clergy, as well as people from all walks of life, are taking their stand. The issue is one of rights and many see that by defending the rights of all problems can be solved.

Both in separating children from their parents and now in calling for indefinite detention of families, Trump is acting to eliminate human rights law, especially as it concerns refugees. The large majority of those being detained are refugees from countries like El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, where U.S. political and military interference has created conditions of anarchy, violence and terror for many. Refugees have the right to enter the country, turn themselves over to Border Patrol Agents and ask for asylum as most families are doing. Trump is instead criminalizing and terrorizing them. He is using his police powers to ensure no discretion is used in terms of dealing with each case, the legitimacy of the asylum cases, the conditions the families have faced, the traumas they have already endured, and so forth. That is what is actually required by law and what the executive actions are eliminating. There is to be only the dictate of the executive, not the upholding of rights and laws concerning them.

This is further evidenced by actions by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who proclaimed that the U.S. will reject asylum claims based on gang violence or domestic abuse. The gangs, many of them instigated and armed by the U.S., are inflicting violence, against trade unionists, human rights organizers and many families. Yet now the U.S. is arbitrarily deciding, again with no concern for the facts, that such claims are not valid. It is interesting that Trump is using the excuse of gang-violence of MS-13 to target young people in the U.S. for deportation, yet people in El Salvador cannot use the violence of this same gang as a basis for asylum.

The police powers being imposed by the executive are arbitrary and a means for the government to broadly and openly act with impunity, all in the name of upholding the law. As well, Trump had no need to issue an executive order, as whether and how to deal with immigrants and refugees is at the

discretion of the executive, in accordance with human rights and refugee law. He did so in part to target Congress, and quell resistance by giving the appearance that he is taking action.

The executive order (see p. 4) serves primarily to try and impose and justify indefinite detention of families and to do so on the basis of a misdemeanor infraction. This sets the stage for targeting and detaining far more people, such as striking teachers or demonstrators, also using misdemeanor infractions.

Civil War Scenario

One of the serious issues being ignored with the Trump actions is the need for the federal government to control all military and policing agencies. Trump is using the current situation in part to test the loyalty, to the president, of Border Patrol, ICE, and the military, especially the National Guard. A key problem is resistance among the states and their striving for control, as conflicts within and between the military, president and state forces increase. This is evident, for example, in New York Governor Cuomo filing a lawsuit against the federal government concerning due process for the refugee children. As well many states are withdrawing or refusing to send their National Guard troops to the border, as Trump is requesting.

The National Guard is state-based and can only be federalized by the executive with the consent of the state governor. Trump is in part testing the loyalty of the governors, as their control of large numbers of troops is a serious concern. This is particularly true given that fear is growing among all these contending factions that the festering civil war — which always exists behind the scenes based on their contending for power — will break out into open violence.

The intensifying clashes within the governing factions of the ruling elite were not sorted out by Trump's victory in the presidential election. And Trump's efforts to



use immigration to unite the various forces have so far failed. Instead we continue to witness conflicts within the presidency and between the executive and the intelligence agencies, military and various state officials all becoming sharper with increasing tempo and instability. The refusal of states like New York to send National Guard and the withdrawal of the Guard by many states, are examples of this. So too is resistance by mayors. Many, like New York City's and Los Angeles', control huge, highly armed police forces.

Trump is trying to secure federal control of all military and policing agencies, including those at the state and local level — so far, with only limited success. Texas and Arizona are providing large numbers of troops, but many other states are not. Mayors are sending a delegation to Texas rejecting Trump's executive order as not solving the problems at hand.

Striving to Impose Acceptance of Military and Inhuman Actions

Both in law and tradition, the U.S. military cannot be used for law enforcement inside the country. Yet by organizing to send 4,000 National Guard troops to the southern border, Trump is setting up conditions for just that. At the very least it is a means to get people in the border areas used to having military forces in their towns and communities. At the moment, the troops are not to be armed, but just as Trump arbitrarily changed the policy concerning family separation, he can also order the military

Attack on Human Rights • 4

EXECUTIVE ORDER ON FAMILY SEPARATION

Trump Calls for Indefinite Detention of Families

On June 20 President Donald Trump issued an executive order concerning detention of immigrants. It followed widespread actions and anger across the country and worldwide opposing the brutal attacks on young children and families at the southern border. More than 2400 children, including infants and toddlers, have been separated from their families and then imprisoned or sent to shelters far from their parents and with parents often not knowing where they are. While the large majority are refugees seeking asylum, the order specifically refers only to immigrants.

Trump, like Obama, has long been im-

plementing a policy to criminalize people, especially refugees seeking asylum in the U.S. Refugees have the right to enter the country and present themselves to Border Patrol agents, which is what the majority of those crossing are doing. However, Trump has now decided to criminalize all of those seeking entry, with no discretion as to the legitimacy of their asylum case and with many being women with children.

In his executive order, titled "Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation," Trump emphasizes that, "It is the policy of this Administration to rigorously enforce our immigration laws." He refer-

ences section 1325(a) of title 8. But he leaves out that the crime referred to is a class B

misdemeanor and that the executive has complete discretion in how and whether to charge individuals. Commonly no action is taken for a misdemeanor or a fine is given, but certainly it is not the basis for removing children.

Further, the parents are generally not being charged with this crime but rather detained for deportation. There is also nothing requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or Department of Justice (DOJ) to separate families in order to enforce the law. Indeed the laws, both U.S. and international human rights law concerning refugees, are that they are to be turned over to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHH) within 72 hours and provide support and assistance in pursuing their asylum claims. It is also against the law to imprison the children involved.

Trump, like Obama before him, has been
Trump Executive Order • 8



3 • ATTACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

to be armed. Already there has been an increase in the numbers of Border Patrol Agents and the militarization of the border using drones, fencing and spy towers with cameras directed both sides of the border.

In addition, Trump's actions are a means to train border agents and the military to conduct inhuman activity, like tearing children from the arms of their parents and putting them in concentration camps. Or overseeing arbitrary actions against refugees who they readily know have already suffered tremendously. As one border agent put it these families "have risked rape, robbery, assault, murder, have spent their life savings and given it to a criminal cartel to get them to the United States." Nothing in Trump's actions or executive order are directed to these cartels. Rather, the agents, including those with refugee resettlement, are being trained to take inhuman actions against their fellow human beings, treating them as if they have no rights.

Nurses in El Paso are showing the way, refusing to submit. They say, "Not in Our Name," and stand with the refugees and immigrants refusing to treat them as

criminals.

The Organized People Can Defeat the Civil War Scenario by Demanding a New Direction

These efforts to condition people to accept and even implement what is unacceptable are an indication that all the warring factions of the ruling elite are greatly worried about what could be described as the largest and potentially most powerful faction, which is the people and their drive for a new direction for the country.

In this respect, the broad and persistent resistance is showing that this greatest of factions demands its rights and stands for the rights of all. The claims of all on society, like women, children and refugees, must be respected and recognized as inviolable. Given this is also an election year where people are supposed to line up behind one or the other of these ruling factions, the issue of changing the electoral setup so as to empower the people is also on the minds of many. The U.S. has a long history of separating children from their families, as occurred with Native

Americans and enslaved Africans. The demand today is for all such brutality here and abroad to stop. The rights of all are being defended. Developing a system of governing that is of, by and for the people in the modern conditions, where the people decide, in opposition to the present unrepresentative governments of the warring factions of the ruling elite, is being taken up for solution.

As the many collectives of the people — youth, women, immigrants, workers — strengthen their organized resistance and many others come forward to defend rights, this battle to win political power for the people is advancing. The necessity now is to stand with the peoples in opposition to the ruling elite, and to look at the social and political conditions from the people's own vantage point, one that favors their interests and the finding of a new direction. Political power belongs in the hands of the people themselves to govern and decide. By addressing this problem of political power and working to obtain it, the faction of the large majority, the people, will prevail.

EL PASO NURSES TO TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ABOUT BORDER POLICY:

Do Not Do This In Our Name

The following statement is from registered nurses who work in hospitals across El Paso, Texas. The nurses are members of National Nurses Organizing Committee-Texas, an affiliate of National Nurses United.

* * *

As the nurses of El Paso who care for the border community in the middle of Chihuahuan desert we wish to express our outrage and horror that the U.S. government is preparing for children to be separated from their parents and housed in tents in the middle of Fort Bliss.

Fort Bliss is a desert military base that is larger than the state of Rhode Island and inaccessible to the general public and to local services including healthcare, education and community. In the summer temperatures routinely exceed 108 degrees. There is no water in this harsh arid landscape; there are not even trees for shade.

On a regular basis, we see the effects of the heat, dryness, lack of shade and lack of water on our patients who present in local hospitals, even without being detained in tents in the desert. This is not a forgiving environment, and not one in which children thrive without support.

Children, and all people, require more than simply a mat to sleep on and basic food rations in order to thrive. Children require love, family, safety, education, community, play, and physical and mental healthcare in order to grow to be healthy, well-adjusted adults. The proposed program does not appear to allow for these conditions; indeed, proposed as tents behind razor wire guarded by personnel with military weapons, it replicates the conditions of prisons.

Children who are presenting themselves to apply for asylum are not here in violation of immigration law. They are likely traumatized as a result of the conditions that led them to flee with their parents from their home countries and seek asylum in the United States. They have fled across harsh terrain, likely from places where they didn't have access to medical care, and their medical needs are likely overwhelming.

As nurses, we demand that these children have access to appropriate pediatric care and that their needs are met. Fort Bliss has a limited capacity to treat

children, and this concerns us.

People in El Paso have a long and proud history of housing immigrants and asylum seekers. Many here in our city, including some of us, have already indicated that we would take a child into our homes in lieu of this proposed human rights atrocity which threatens to take place on the outskirts of our community.

As a border community, we have seen many immigrants and asylum seekers arrive in our city, and we as a community are proud of our welcoming, inclusive, compassionate, and nonviolent response to people seeking a better life. We have numerous programs and churches that have welcomed these populations for decades.

Do not do this in our name, and do not do this in our community.



AN OPEN LETTER FROM A COUNSELOR AT THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT:

Family Separation Is A Form Of Child Abuse

I work for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) with children who are coming to live here in the United States. The process goes like this: when a child comes to the United States by crossing the border and gets apprehended by immigration officers, he or she eventually comes to live in one of the many shelters across the United States funded by ORR.

ORR is responsible for providing basic care to the child, such as food, clothes, caretaker supervision, shelter, school, medical care and love/care/respect. At the same time, ORR undergoes a process of finding a sponsor with whom the child wishes to live in the United States. This

sponsor is usually a family member, and ORR is responsible to verify that the sponsor's home is a safe place for the child to live. For instance, the sponsor should be able to provide adequate supervision, access to a nearby school, parenting capability, as well as any basic care needs for the child.

ORR is a good organization doing good work, even though it resides in the midst of a broken and inhumane system. Despite all the hardships within the immigration process, I have witnessed incredible care and support shown to children within the ORR system. I have been proud to play a supportive role in the children's lives as

they continue on their journey to live in the United States.

However, things are changing. The Office of Refugee Resettlement is turning its back on the children for whom they are responsible.

Right now, ORR is working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, which oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE) in a way that will very likely lead to an increase in deportations and more children being stuck in government programs. ORR signed an agreement with DHS to provide them with the personal information of

Family Separation Child Abuse • 6

Governors Refusing to Send National Guard to Border

Governors from eleven states have cancelled agreements to send members of their National Guard to the U.S.-Mexico Border, as Trump has requested. Trump has to have the consent of the Governor of each state to federalize the Guard. Some, like New York, Massachusetts and Colorado, refused to deploy their troops, while others are recalling them. The rest of the states so far are: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

Massachusetts, Maryland and North Carolina had already sent troops to the border but are recalling them. In some cases, like Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, only a few troops and a helicopter are involved. Nonetheless, the actions indicate that Trump's effort to secure the loyalty of the governors is

facing opposition.

In other instances, Governors are not only refusing to have troops involved, but are also issuing orders forbidding any state agency or resources to be used for separating families. These include Colorado, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Others, like governors for Delaware and Massachusetts, have said that if the Trump border policy changes, then they would send troops.

Illinois Governor Rauner said he opposes Trump's policy at the border but did not comment on sending troops. Nebraska Governor Ricketts said "While there seems to be a lot of misinformation and propaganda regarding the situation on our border, one thing is clear: Children should not be separated from their families."

Some states, mainly border states, are

sending troops, with Arizona and Texas sending the largest delegations. Arizona already has more than 300 at the border and is expected to deploy about 600 by September. Texas has pledged 1,000 and has already sent more than 300. California has agreed to send 400. According to Governor Brown, though, the California Guardsmen "cannot handle custody duties for anyone accused of immigration violations, build border barriers or have anything to do with immigration enforcement." New Mexico has pledged 250 troops and the governor has expressed support for Trump's border actions. Recently however, New Mexico State Senator Linda Lopez called on Governor Susana Martinez to withdraw the state's National Guard troops from the U.S.-Mexico border. Mississippi and South Carolina are also sending troops.

6 • FAMILY SEPARATION CHILD ABUSE

potential sponsors for the children with whom I work. These sponsors are often undocumented themselves. The children they hope to sponsor are often their biological children, nieces, nephews or family friends.

Now our case managers are obligated to inform the sponsors that by sponsoring a child, they have to give their personal information and location to DHS, and therefore, to ICE as well. If they surrender their personal information to ICE, they could potentially get deported.

Personally, I believe that the deportation of sponsors is a very possible outcome. I cannot understand why else DHS would be asking for their information. According to DHS, the purpose is to safeguard against the children being sent to would-be human traffickers, but that's surely a lie. We already do a very large amount of checks, including background checks, fingerprints, and continual case management services. This is all done in order to prevent a situation such as human trafficking from occurring, and the involvement of ICE does not appear to add any extra protections to the process.

This situation provides a moral conundrum for the sponsors: either they abandon

a child who is placing their hope in them, or they put themselves at a high risk for deportation, in which case the child would be left alone in the United States without their family, unless they are deported as well.

There's more: sponsors will inevitably be far less likely to sponsor children with this new policy in place, and foster programs usually have a long waiting list. This means that there will not be any open beds in the ORR-run shelters because kids won't be leaving. Meanwhile, children continue to cross the border every day.

The border is already filled with children waiting to get moved into a shelter. Do you know what's happened in the past when ORR shelters have been full? Children get sent to military bases which have been opened up as emergency "shelters." This practice, which began during the Obama administration, has been rekindled under the Trump administration. Sleeping on cement floors, aluminum foil for blankets and very minimal food for the children...

Is this really what the United States stands for?

My coworkers and I want to fight back, but as employees of ORR, our hands are tied. That's why I'm reaching out to the

community. I view it as my moral responsibility as a citizen, but more simply, as somebody who cares about children.

Family separation is a form of child abuse. While this may or may not be true in the legal sense, research shows (and every counselor agrees) that the separation of children from their parents has a devastating emotional and developmental impact on a child. This practice is a new form of family separation which we will now be witnessing, in addition to the well-publicized family separations which have been happening at the border.

Please share this letter with your community, or post articles yourself, or if you can think of any other way to help, please do it. Call your representatives. Make sure the Attorney General for your state is aware that this is happening, and aware of your strong opposition. Talk to your friends and family and spread the word, because we are grasping at straws. We need media attention and massive pushback.

(The author wishes to remain anonymous for protection. This letter was obtained and edited by William Lopez, Ph.D., University of Michigan School of Public Health and National Center for Institutional Diversity.)

JUNE 21, 2018

U.S. Conference of Mayors Sends Bipartisan Delegation to Texas to Demand Immediate Reunification of Families

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Under the leadership of U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) President and Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin, a bipartisan delegation of mayors from across the country will travel to Tornillo, Texas on Thursday, June 21, 2018 to respond to President Trump's Executive Order on the Administration's family separation policy and call for the immediate reunification of separated families.

Last week during its 86th Annual Meeting, USCM unanimously passed a resolution registering its strong opposition to separating children from their families at the border. It calls on the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice to immediately reverse these destructive policies and allow families apprehended to remain together to the extent possible, to help avoid the heartbreak and irreversible trauma of forced separation. Additionally, the resolution urges Congress to take action immediately to ensure that the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security are prohibited from this wholesale separation of children from their families at the border.

USCM President Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin issued a statement responding to President Trump's Executive Order on the Administration's family separation policy:

"President Trump signed an executive order that will put an end to the separation of families at the border. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, we must be clear that it is merely one small step that still leaves many questions unanswered. There are more than 2,300 children — some as young as 8 months old — who are frightfully alone and must be reunited with their parents as soon as possible, and there is no clear answer as to how this will be done and how quickly. The President's

indecision and erratic policymaking has impacted and, frankly, traumatized thousands of lives. The nation's mayors will proceed with their mission to Tornillo, Texas to ensure that these families are reunited and that such shameful policies are never implemented in our nation again."

The delegation includes:

Columbia (SC) Mayor Steve Benjamin, USCM President

Rochester Hills (MI) Mayor Bryan Barnett, USCM Vice President

Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Eric Garcetti, Chair, USCM Latino Alliance

Anaheim (CA) Mayor Tom Tait, Co-Chair, USCM Immigration Task Force

New York (NY) Mayor Bill de Blasio, USCM Trustee

Austin (TX) Mayor Steve Adler, USCM Trustee

Seattle (WA) Mayor Jenny Durkan, USCM Vice Chair, Technology and Innovation

Gary (IN) Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chair, USCM Criminal and Social Justice Committee

West Sacramento (CA) Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, Chair, USCM Jobs, Education and the Workforce Committee

Findlay (OH) Mayor Lydia Mihalik,



Demonstration in Delano, Kansas defending refugee families

Chair, USCM Children, Health and Human Services Committee

Miami (FL) Mayor Francis Suarez, USCM Advisory Board Member

Augusta (GA) Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr., USCM Advisory Board Member

El Paso (TX) Mayor Dee Margo, Host Mayor

Santa Fe (NM) Mayor Alan Webber
Albuquerque (NM) Mayor Tim Keller

Central Falls (RI) Mayor James A. Diosa

Las Cruces (NM) Mayor Ken Miyagishima, USCM Advisory Board Member

Bridgeport (CT) Mayor Joe Ganim, USCM Advisory Board Member

Novato (CA) Mayor Josh Fryday

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Lawsuit Opposes Immigrant Children Being Forcibly Injected With Drugs

The U.S. is well-known for using prisoners, soldiers, those held at Guantánamo and others under their control as guinea-pigs for experimentation with various drugs and using drugs as a means to control and incapacitate people. Sometimes it is done using blackmail, sometimes in secret, but always in violation of basic human rights and for the benefit of the government and military. Now the targets are the refugee children being separated from their parents.

A recent lawsuit and investigations now provide hundreds of pages of medical records detailing how the government is creating a zombie army of children forcibly injected with medications that make them dizzy, listless, and even incapacitated.

Children held at Shiloh Treatment Center, a government contractor south of Houston that houses immigrant minors,

described being held down and injected, according to the federal court filings. The lawsuit states that children were told they would not be released or see their parents unless they took medication and that they were only receiving vitamins.

Parents and the children themselves told attorneys the drugs rendered them unable to walk, afraid of people and wanting to sleep constantly, according to affidavits filed April 23 in U.S. District Court in California.

One mother said her child fell repeatedly, hitting her head, and ended up in a wheelchair. A child described trying to open a window and being hurled against a door by a Shiloh supervisor, who then choked her until she fainted. One child was prescribed 10 different shots and pills, including the antipsychotic drugs Latuda, Geodon and Olanzapine, the Parkinson's medication

Benzotropine, the seizure medications Clonazepam and Divaproex, the nerve pain medication and antidepressant Duloxetine, and the cognition enhancer Guanfacine.

Shiloh is among 71 companies that receive funds from the federal government to house and supervise immigrant children deemed unaccompanied minors.

A recent investigation found that nearly half of the \$3.4 billion paid by the government to those companies in the last four years went to homes with serious allegations of mistreating children. In nearly all cases, the federal government continued contracts with the companies after serious allegations were raised.

The records were filed in connection with an ongoing class-action status lawsuit opposing poor treatment of immigrant children in U.S. custody.

4 • TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER

acting against the law and court rulings by detaining the parents and families in detention camps, often for years. The main difference now is the open and brutal manner in which he is separating the families and the wholesale attack on all.

The order says "The Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, maintain custody of alien families during the pendency of any criminal improper entry or immigration proceedings involving their members." As indicated such proceedings can take many months and even years. The order, far from solving the problem of family detention provides the basis for indefinite detention.

Further, there is a qualifier, whereby the Secretary "Shall not, however, detain an alien family together when there is a concern that detention of an alien child with the child's alien parent would pose a risk to the child's welfare." In this manner the president is setting up a situation where the government can claim the parents or guardian are gang members and still remove the children. Already, false branding as gang members is used in prisons to justify solitary confinement, especially for those who resist.

As well, government actions on Long Island falsely branding youth from El Salvador as MS-13 members subject to deportation are also occurring. So this qualifier is a means not to protect the children, but target them and their parents.

Expanding, Not Eliminating Family Detention

The reality that Trump will continue wholesale attacks on the human rights of parents and children alike is further indicated with the calls for expanding detention facilities, using military bases. The order states "The Secretary of Defense shall take all legally available measures to provide to the Secretary, upon request, any existing facilities available for the housing and care of alien families, and shall construct such facilities if necessary and consistent with law." It also calls on heads of executive departments and agencies to "make available to the Secretary, for the housing and care of alien families pending court proceedings for improper entry, any facilities that are appropriate for such purposes." The DoJ and DHS will also no doubt contract out to private agencies, as is already occurring. Many of these agencies, housing thousands, are guilty of serious violations, including death and

forced use of powerful psychopathic drugs on the children.

Trump also asks the DoJ to intervene to change a court ruling that specifically limits detention of children to twenty days. The executive has long violated this and the order does not call for this law to be enforced. Rather, Trump wants the requirement waived, even though all refugee families are supposed to be removed from the policing agencies, like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol and turned over to Health and Human Services, one of the few agencies without an armed police force.

It is also significant that in the order, Trump makes no mention at all of refugees, but only to immigrants. This is a means to hide the specific laws and norms governing refugees, such as their right to enter the country to seek asylum. The large majority of the refugee families turn themselves over to Border Patrol on entering and ask for asylum. This is not a crime. Yet Trump is striving to make it one and divert from the fact that the government is the criminal acting against refugee and human rights law and using police powers to eliminate rule of law.

I • DPRK-U.S. SUMMIT

positive basis for now going forward.

The Summit affirmed that the hostile relations between the DPRK and the U.S. are ended and to be a thing of the past. As Trump said, “We’re prepared to start a new history and we’re ready to write a new chapter between our nations.” Steps announced, such as the ending of the war games on and around the Korean Peninsula, organized and led by the U.S. are vital. The war games have been an on-going threat and block to peace and normalization of relations. *Buffalo Forum* calls on all to urge Trump to follow through and issue orders to the military for all war games to end, starting with the next one planned for August.

There is also hope that a peace treaty, ending the Korean War, which started on July 25, 1950 and has been subject to an Armistice Agreement since July 27, 1953, may soon become a reality. Trump indicated this would be the case: “Nearly 70 years ago, think of that, 70 years ago, an extremely bloody conflict ravaged the Korean Peninsula. Countless people died in the conflict. Including tens of thousands of brave Americans. Yet while the armistice was agreed the war never ended to this day. Now we can have hope it will soon end and it soon will. The past does not have to define the future.” Ending the war games and signing a peace treaty are two important actions the U.S. can immediately take that would contribute to peace and be welcomed worldwide.

Ending the games, signing a peace treaty and putting the confrontation politics of the past to rest opens prospects that the problem of ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the region can be resolved on the basis of negotiations and reaching mutual understanding and agreements based on mutual benefit. The Summit showed that such new prospects for the future open up when talks can be carried out in a manner that favors the people of Korea and the peoples of the world. This is especially important given that the U.S. commonly uses force and violence against the peoples as they strive for world domination. In this instance, the strength of the Koreans themselves, working together towards reunification has shown the way forward. Using their own summits, taking concrete steps and refusing to submit to the many U.S. provocations leading up to the U.S.-DPRK Summit was a main force for the success of the Singapore Summit. The Koreans are to be congratulated for their persistent efforts and example of statesmanship and negotiations for mutual benefit.

In the U.S. various elected officials, the monopoly media and numerous commentators did everything to try to dismiss the Summit and its significance. They attempted to divert everyone from the actual accomplishments of the Summit by trying to force everyone to remain stuck



in the past. Claims about human rights violations and dictators are all part of the anti-communist dogmas of the Cold War. These served then and now to undermine the struggles of the peoples for democracy and rights. And certainly the comments ring hollow for many today given Trump’s current attacks on human rights of children and parents at the border and the dictate he is using to impose these actions. Cold War dogmas serve only to embroil people in the past and to block the thinking and outlook needed for the present, an outlook that favors the people and enables them to look at the world from their own vantage point — a vantage point to their advantage.

Such a vantage point today recognizes the positive developments in the new relations between the DPRK and U.S. and the important responsibility of people in the U.S. to join in calling for an end to the war games, the signing of the peace treaty, and full support for the ardent desire of all Koreans for reunification.

Joint DPRK-U.S. Statement

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and Donald J. Trump, president of the United States of America, held the first historic Summit in Singapore on June 12, 2018.

Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Trump conducted a comprehensive, in-depth and sincere exchange of opinions on the issues related to the establishment of new DPRK-U.S. relations and the building of a lasting and robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK and

Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Convinced that the establishment of new DPRK-U.S. relations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and of the world, and recognizing that mutual confidence building can promote the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Trump state the following:

1. The DPRK and the United States commit to establish new DPRK-U.S. relations in accordance with the desire of the peoples of the two countries for peace and

prosperity.

2. The DPRK and the United States will join their efforts to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

3. Reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the DPRK commits to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

4. The DPRK and the United States commit to recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified.

Having acknowledged that the DPRK-U.S. Summit, the first in history, was an

Joint DPRK-U.S. Statement • 13

DPRK-U.S. SUMMIT IN SINGAPORE**Report on the Summit**

A historic breakthrough in U.S.-DPRK relations was achieved on June 12 when U.S. President Donald Trump and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Un held a summit in Singapore, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island. At least 5,000 journalists were present and large numbers of people came to witness this long-awaited moment in history. The following report is primarily based on accounts published by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and supplemented by reports from the *Hankyoreh* and other sources.

The first meeting between President Trump and Chairman Kim began with an extended handshake and a brief exchange before they walked to the meeting room and sat down in front of journalists, where President Trump was the first to speak. "I feel really great. We're going to have a great discussion and will be tremendously successful," Trump said. "And it's my honor. And we will have a terrific relationship, I have no doubt." Chairman Kim responded, "We have a past that shackles us, and mistaken preconceptions and practices have sometimes covered our eyes and ears. Yet we have overcome all of that to arrive here." The two leaders then proceeded to a one-on-one meeting, accompanied by interpreters only.

Expanded Summit

Following the one-on-one meeting was an expanded Summit with officials and aides from both sides in attendance. Present at the Summit from the DPRK side were Kim Yong Chol and Ri Su Yong, vice-chairmen of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho. Present from the U.S. side were Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly. At the start of this session, President Trump remarked, "Working together, we will get it taken care of," forecasting that he and Kim will solve "a big problem and a big dilemma." Kim expressed the aim to work together with President Trump "to resolve

the challenges ahead" and to overcome the skepticism and speculations about their summit.

Chairman Kim expressed his pleasure with meeting President Trump face-to-face and praised the U.S. side's willingness and enthusiasm to resolve matters in a realistic way through dialogue and negotiations, away from the past filled with hostility.

President Trump further remarked that the Summit would lead to an improvement in DPRK-U.S. relations. He expressed his appreciation that despite the extreme danger of armed conflict in the region only a few months ago, an atmosphere of peace and stability had been created on the Korean Peninsula and in the region thanks to the proactive measures taken by Chairman Kim from the outset of this year.

Noting that many problems have occurred due to deep-rooted distrust and hostility between the two countries, Chairman Kim said that to achieve the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and realize its denuclearization, the two countries should build mutual understanding and commit to refraining from antagonizing each other and taking legal and institutional steps to guarantee this is the case.

He also underlined the need for the DPRK and the U.S. to actively take practical measures to carry out the issues discussed at the talks and the joint statement at an early date.

Chairman Kim immediately agreed with President Trump's proposal for the recovery of the remains of U.S. soldiers who died in the Korean War and repatriating those already identified, giving the instruction to the DPRK side that it should be carried out as soon as possible. Noting that the building of a lasting peace-keeping mechanism on the Korean Peninsula is of great significance to ensure peace and security in the region and the rest of the world, he said that it is urgent for both sides to take a bold decision to halt the hostile military actions against each other.

Discussion between the two leaders affirmed the shared recognition of the importance of abiding by the principle of step-by-step and simultaneous action in



Celebrations in south Korea applauding summit and supporting reunification

achieving peace, stability and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. President Trump expressed his intention to halt the U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises, acknowledging the provocative nature of these activities, over a period of good-will dialogue between the DPRK and the U.S. Also on the table are further security guarantees to the DPRK and the lifting of sanctions against it along with further improving the U.S.-DPRK relationship through dialogue and negotiation. Chairman Kim stated that if the U.S. side takes genuine measures to build trust to improve the DPRK-U.S. relationship, the DPRK can also continue to take additional goodwill measures commensurate with them.

Chairman Kim invited President Trump to visit Pyongyang at a convenient time and President Trump similarly invited Chairman Kim to visit the U.S.; they accepted each other's invitation on the basis that it would serve as another important occasion for improved DPRK-U.S. relations.

The expanded session gave way to a luncheon in honor of the occasion of the Summit, where views were exchanged on developing communication, contact and visits between both sides to cement the achievements made at the Summit and to develop DPRK-U.S. relations.

The luncheon was followed by the signing of a joint statement by President Trump and Chairman Kim.

Possible Halting of U.S. War Games

The U.S. Defense Department announced that U.S. President Trump's remarks at the DPRK-U.S. Summit about halting the joint military exercises between the U.S. and south Korea had been coordinated in advance, with Reuters reporting that Trump had discussed his planned remarks with U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis.

South Korean newspaper the *Hankyoreh* writes, "The large-scale south Korea-U.S. military exercises that are currently held on a yearly basis are Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulchi-Freedom Guardian. If the exercises are actually halted, the first to be affected will likely be the Ulchi-Freedom Guardian exercises, which are scheduled for August. The Team Spirit exercises were not held in 1992 in order to set the mood for dialogue at the time. Trump did place a condition on halting the exercises -- the negotiations must be ongoing -- suggesting that he intends to use the possibility of holding the exercises as leverage during ongoing

negotiations with the north."

On June 14, the Pentagon issued a statement saying that the U.S. and south Korea have agreed to work together to fulfill Trump's "guidance" on the joint military exercises. It said Secretary of Defense James Mattis spoke over the phone with his south Korean counterpart Song Young-moo that day to discuss the results of the U.S.-DPRK summit and "their mutual support to ongoing diplomatic efforts, [including] how we are working together to fulfill the President's guidance on U.S.-ROK combined military exercises."

The south Korean military is under U.S. command during times of war, which remains at this time as the U.S. has refused to sign a peace treaty. The new developments point in that direction but at present the U.S. military retains command of south Korean troops. The presidential Blue



House said on June 15 that whether to halt the south Korea-U.S. war games would be announced soon.

It is also the case however, given ongoing conflicts within the military and between the military and the president, that the military may well be reluctant to give up the war games, despite demands from the Koreans and potentially even from Trump.

(With files from TML Weekly, *Hankyoreh*, AP, Xinhua)

The Elephant in the Room

Pauline Easton, TML Weekly

There is no doubt that the establishment of new relations between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are a most welcome development. Everything must be done going forward to make sure that practical solutions which benefit the Korean people and the peoples of the world be found based on dialogue and not confrontation. Nonetheless, the elephant in the room remains why the U.S. president is being so cooperative on the question of relations with the DPRK and so bellicose on matters related to Iran, or Syria, or Venezuela, or, for that matter, so uncooperative with Canada and the European Union?

The answer may lie in how Donald Trump, who favors a tri-polar division of the world between the U.S., China and Russia, thinks he can establish U.S. domination over Asia by keeping China and Russia in check. The Panmunjom Declaration reached by President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Chairman Kim of the DPRK at the historic April 27 Summit held in Panmunjom, Korea said they would "actively pursue trilateral meetings [...] or

quadrilateral meetings involving the two Koreas, the United States and China with a view to declaring an end to the war and establishing a permanent and solid peace regime" within the year. President Moon in a press conference following a second inter-Korean summit on May 26 also made remarks about pursuing a "declaration of the war's end through a trilateral summit."

Speaking at a news conference shortly after the Summit, Trump clearly stated that a declaration of the war's end would be coming "soon." President Moon declared in a position statement on the Summit that the parties would "put the dark times of war and conflict behind us and write a new history of peace and cooperation." The south Korean newspaper *Hankyoreh* wrote: "With Trump making references to discussing an end to the war ahead of the Summit and speaking about a declaration at his news conference afterwards, he may be waiting for the right moment to pursue the issue. On his flight back to the U.S. that day, Trump called President Moon from Air Force One to personally share details about the Summit's

outcome. With President Moon also scheduled to meet directly with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on June 14, the question of whether to pursue a trilateral declaration may also be discussed there."

Meanwhile, following the Singapore Summit, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reminded the world that China and Russia have direct interests in resolving the problems on the Korean Peninsula. He stated that the direct contact between the U.S. and north Korean leaders is "worth support," the TASS news agency reported. The "Russian-Chinese roadmap that was proposed less than a year ago stipulated the rejection of a hostile rhetoric and provocative actions by both sides at the first stage and the establishment of direct contact and the start of discussions on all problems of both sides at the second stage," Lavrov said. After addressing the need for the DPRK to "receive security guarantees as a result of this process" of denuclearization, Lavrov raised the need for multilateral participation. "Regarding all the importance

Elephant in the Room • 12

II • ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

of the solution of the problems between the United States and North Korea, including the peninsula denuclearization stages and security guarantees, it is clear that it will hardly be possible to solve these problems in the bilateral format,” Lavrov stressed. “All the participants of the Six-Party talks have always proceeded from the fact that this process has to result in the creation of a system of peace, security and stability across Northeast Asia.”

Other signs that matters on the Korean Peninsula are proceeding in a manner which is not controlled by the United States followed the April 27 Panmunjom Summit between the ROK and the DPRK which must have prompted the U.S. to take a new approach.

On May 26, President Moon of the ROK, met with Chairman Kim of the DPRK, just north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divides the Korean Peninsula at the 38th parallel. The meeting was proposed by Chairman Kim and was convened within a day. It was an important meeting coming so quickly after U.S. President Donald Trump created a provocation against the DPRK on May 24 by unilaterally canceling the planned DPRK-U.S. Summit in Singapore. This second meeting between President Moon and Chairman Kim was an affirmation in front of the whole world, and the U.S. in particular, that the Korean people, north and south, are determined to march forward on the road to peace and reunification independent of the U.S. It was an affirmation of the sovereignty of the Korean people in setting their own agenda in their own interests.

Four days before the meeting, President Moon had traveled to Washington to hold his fourth face-to-face meeting with President Trump, where reports indicate he urged the U.S. president to do all he can to ensure that the scheduled DPRK-U.S. Summit would be a success, carrying with it the hopes of the entire Korean nation to move forward the aspiration of the Korean people for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and peace. President Moon pledged that he would do everything he could to achieve this end.

On May 24, two days after this meeting,

without even formally informing President Moon, Trump sent a terse and vulgar letter to Chairman Kim Jong Un, unilaterally canceling the Singapore Summit. He gave the bogus excuse of the DPRK’s alleged “tremendous anger and open hostility” because the DPRK, rightly, denounced the Max Thunder Air Exercises begun on May 11 where the U.S. deployed 100 warplanes, escalating the scale of the deployment from previous years, including F-22 stealth fighters and B-52 bombers designed to drop nuclear bombs. The DPRK had also denounced earlier remarks made by U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton on April 29, that the “Libya model” is the U.S.’s plan for denuclearizing the DPRK.

At the May 26 meeting of President Moon and Chairman Kim that lasted for more than two hours, the two leaders reaffirmed the principles of the historic Panmunjom Declaration and pledged to move with dispatch to actualize the decisions. Moon himself briefed his staff on May 28 that there will be more meetings between north and south to discuss “urgent matters, while omitting all the fussy formality and protocol.”

“Holding regular and formal inter-Korean meetings like the previous summit in Panmunjom or the summit in Pyongyang scheduled for this fall is very important for developing inter-Korean relations. If technical meetings can be held frequently between these regular meetings when the urgent need arises, alternating between the south and north Korean sides of Panmunjom, it will help us develop inter-Korean relations even more quickly,” President Moon said.

For his part, at the May 26 Summit, Chairman Kim said, “Meeting frequently and sitting down together to talk is very important for keeping our promises.” President Moon responded to this by saying, “The ease with which we can contact each other and meet when necessary is a sign of a new era in inter-Korean relations.”

To their credit, based on their motivation to reunify the Korean nation and achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people have seized the initiative presented by the historic Panmunjom Summit and the resulting Panmunjom Declaration, which

has created a new page in modern Korean history. They are laying the foundations for the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea.

In the face of this reality, the Trump administration changed tack and said it was open to having the DPRK-U.S. Summit once more. A high level delegation from the DPRK traveled to the U.S. on May 31 for talks with the Trump administration, to prepare the Summit in Singapore.

But how all this will play out is yet to be seen. One thing is clear which is that the stand taken by Trump at the Singapore Summit to end hostile war exercises on the Korean Peninsula is clearly intended to knock all other interested parties out of the water. A U.S. General is the Commander of the United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea and, of course, Donald Trump is Commander-in-Chief of all U.S. forces which, through Cold War alliances, treaties and outlooks, puts him in command of all decision-making according to U.S. interests and striving for world domination. This is why he can make statements about what all armed forces stationed in and round the Korean Peninsula will or will not do.

But the position of the DPRK is motivated by the aim of achieving the reunification of the Korean nation and peace on the Korean Peninsula, not these geo-political considerations. Sorting out these problems on the new historical basis, not dogmas and arrangements from the Cold War era, is key to securing a bright future.

In this regard, of key importance is the stand of the DPRK and President Moon that inter-Korean relations are first and foremost a matter for the Korean nation to settle without outside meddling. Their unrelenting stand to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula is just and merits the support of all Canadians.



I • WHO DECIDES BUFFALO BILLION

While the monopoly media has focused on the corruption, which no doubt exists, a more significant issue being ignored is that of *Who Decides* how the Buffalo Billion is spent? Why should that be in the hands of the Governor and his aides, also known for corruption and handing over billions to the monopolies? Joe Percoco, for example, a Cuomo aide, was convicted of taking more than \$300,000 in bribes from two clients of another Cuomo aide and lobbyist Todd Howe, who himself was later convicted of fraud. Howe is also the one who was working for both IBM and SUNY Poly to secure \$55 million in public funds from SUNY Poly for IBM's Buffalo research facility. Clearly the public good is not part of their considerations.

As another example, SolarCity, now owned by the Tesla monopoly, is supposed to provide 5,000 jobs. To date there are only 600. Even if the project reaches the goal of 5,000 jobs that still means taxpayers are providing about *\$115,000 in subsidies per job*. At this point, with 600 jobs, the subsidies come to *\$1.25 million per job*. The Buffalo Billion and another \$36 billion in public funds in upstate New York are not used to guarantee jobs but rather for pay the rich schemes.

There is no doubt that corruption is integral to the existing political setup and getting worse all the time. The bigger scandal though is that this same political setup blocks the people themselves from decision making power. Buffalonians, for example, would certainly make different decisions for the Buffalo Billion than have occurred. No ordinary person would fork over \$1.25 million to provide one job! Buffalonians would also ensure that the funding went not to the



monopolies, but to the people themselves and their communities — to fund the rights of the people to jobs, housing, healthcare, education, art and music and would do so based on need. People on both the east and west sides have long demanded programs to rehab vacant homes and provide training for youth in the process. Various contractors have volunteered for such training, including African American contractors who are consistently blocked from the major construction jobs. Together the community could no doubt provide far more jobs, job training, housing, and meet other public needs. *The scandal is — the people do not decide.*

Cuomo Left Untouched

So far, federal prosecutors have left Cuomo untouched, despite his aides being deeply involved. Few believe that Cuomo had no knowledge of what was occurring. Prosecutors say developer Ciminelli and other

executives worked with Cuomo czar Kaloyeros to secretly tailor the bid specifications for SolarCity so their company would get the contract, which they did. Kaloyeros, who is also facing corruption charges, presided over a system of non-profit organizations that were exempt from the usual state oversight, even as they handed out contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Another Cuomo aide Joe Percoco was convicted of taking more than \$300,000 in bribes from two clients of lobbyist Todd Howe. In the Kaloyeros case, prosecutors say Howe was getting \$25,000 a month from Kaloyeros as a SUNY consultant, while also earning six-figure sums from both the Buffalo and Syracuse developers. Howe allegedly persuaded the developers to donate to Cuomo and Kaloyeros to favor them. Howe himself admitted to multiple frauds and was jailed. Despite Howe's direct connection to Cuomo, and that of Kaloyeros, his czar, and Ciminelli, a long-time donor to Cuomo campaigns, prosecutors are not charging Cuomo.

To both eliminate corruption and stop these pay the rich schemes, a new direction for political affairs is needed. Government at this time no longer even pretends to provide for the public good. Rather it is completely controlled by private interests — like Tesla or military monopoly Raytheon that recently got \$30 million for a drone corridor — that grab public funds for their private interests.

The people themselves need to be empowered to govern and decide. They are far more capable and start from the perspective of providing for the public good and ensuring the equal rights of all. Taking steps in this new direction is an important part of developing the struggles for rights.

9 • JOINT DPRK-U.S. STATEMENT

epochal event of great significance in overcoming decades of tensions and hostilities between the two countries and for opening of a new future, Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Trump commit to implement the stipulations in this joint statement fully and expeditiously.

The DPRK and the United States commit to hold follow-on negotiations led by the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

and a relevant high-level DPRK official, at the earliest possible date, to implement the outcomes of the DPRK-U.S. Summit.

Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America have committed to cooperate for the development of new DPRK-U.S. relations and for the promotion of peace,

prosperity, and security of the Korean Peninsula and of the world.

June 12, 2018

Sentosa Island of Singapore

Kim Jong Un

Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Donald J. Trump, President, United States

I • HUNTING FOR BUFFALO BILLION

million contract from the Buffalo Billion for construction of SolarCity at the former Republic Steel plant. The tour made clear that very little of the remaining \$250 million can be found on the eastside — and most certainly how to spend it is not being decided by the community.

The tour began at the Freedom Wall at Ferry and Michigan, where 28 portraits of African Americans who fought for equal rights are located. Those pictured all demanded more from society and themselves fought for change in various ways. Hawkins, whose campaign slogan is *Demand More*, applauded their contributions to the struggle for change and urged people to further advance the fight for rights. *Demanding More* includes demanding government guarantees for the equal right to housing, education, health-care and jobs. He spoke about the fact that New York State is one of the wealthiest in the country, yet places like Buffalo and his hometown of Syracuse contend with poverty and inequality. Funding must go to meeting the needs of the people, not to the rich, like Ciminelli and IBM.

Mark Dunlea is running a campaign focused on contending with climate change and specifically to divest New York pension funds from the oil and war monopolies, like Exxon. He also calls for creating a public bank and stopping the rebate to Wall Street of the \$16 billion secured from the Stock Transfer Tax.

As *Buffalo Forum* has brought out, there is a direct relationship between war and climate change. The big push for fracking, pipelines and infrastructure for natural gas, another major polluter of the human and natural environment, serves war. The Pentagon is the single largest polluter in the world, including its massive war games and bombing runs worldwide. Bombing also poisons and destroys the human and natural environment of the many countries impacted. More specifically, the Niagara Air base now has an attack squadron that reportedly serves to refuel the U.S.-provided Saudi bombers now carrying out war crimes in Yemen. Both the country and our neighbors in Lackawanna are being devastated.

Issues of war and peace relate directly

to defending the rights of the peoples and of Mother Nature. They are election issues, especially when addressing devastation of the natural and human environment.

Another candidate running on the Green Party line has a platform for an Anti-War Government and Peace Economy. In doing door-to-door work he has had positive response to this alternative. People quickly join in having political discussion and appreciate having attention directed to problems like war and peace. There is also interest in having community and house meetings to further develop discussion. People are being called on to join in shaping the platform and bringing forward their own concerns. It is likely that platform hearings for just this purpose will be part of the campaign.

East Siders Demand That Public Funding Serves Their Needs

The hunt for the Buffalo Billion focused on the eastside, as one of the areas most in need and most neglected. One stop was at the Dorothy Collier Community Center, which remains empty much of the time because it does not have the funding it needs. The tour also included stops at the Central Terminal, Broadway Market, Colored Musicians Club, Locust Street Art in the Fruit Belt, and Delavan Grider Community Center. At most the Eastside is getting token amounts from the Buffalo Billion and much of that is going to developers, not serving the interests of the people.

Many people called for the Central Terminal to be chosen for the new Amtrak station, with actions including demonstrations and demands to elected officials. Instead a Canalside location was chosen. The Terminal remains a beautiful building in need of repair and the community surrounding it is much in need of jobs and revitalization. But the state has refused the funding required. Hawkins condemned this choice and called for full funding from the Buffalo Billion and to revoke the decision to put the station downtown.

Similarly the nearby Broadway Market and area surrounding it used to be thriving. Now the market is often largely empty as

are many buildings in the area. Speaking to a long-time vendor at the market, Hawkins and Dunlea heard about his desire for improvements to the sidewalks and streets; for rehabbing or tearing down vacant buildings that are rat-infested; and for contending with the impoverishment of the people in the area. A lively exchange took place about the need for public funds to be used for the public, and that hoping the existing politicians will solve problems will not bring change. Voting Green is one means to give expression to the demands of the people and their dissatisfaction with the existing political setup where they are excluded.

Colored Musicians Club and Fruit Belt

Next on the tour was the Colored Musicians Club, a major contributor to the arts and culture of the city, especially for jazz. Historically the Club provided space for African American musicians, local and those on tour — like Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday — to jam together at a time when segregation blocked them, though they were the main force for the development of jazz. It also was home to the Colored Musicians Union, Buffalo Local 533, at a time the unions were also segregated. It is today known for its Sunday night jam sessions and its jazz festival, this year from July 23-28. A brief tour of the club provided insight into the contributions of many of the musicians in the struggle for change.

The Club, like the rest of the Michigan Street African American Historical Corridor requires far more funding to fully meet the needs of the city, including longer hours, more events, tours for children, upgrades to buildings and more. The massive government funding for the medical corridor, with its new buildings going up not far up Michigan Avenue, served as a sharp contrast to the lack of funding for the Corridor. Hawkins and Dunlea also stopped across the street at the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, a main stop on the underground railway and home to the Niagara Movement and other struggles for equal rights.

The tour proceeded to the Fruit Belt
Hunting for Buffalo Billion • 15



14 • HUNTING FOR BUFFALO BILLION

area, which is also being negatively impacted by the huge public funding for expansion of the medical corridor while funding for housing and jobs remain absent. Discussion brought out that the Fruit Belt was specifically targeted by the City, in service to the medical and pharmaceutical monopolies benefiting from the medical corridor expansion. In 2005 the City instituted a policy to foreclose on homes where owners were behind in their garbage and water fees. The Fruit Belt was a main target, an area with a high concentration of African American homeowners. Homes worth tens of thousands were confiscated for the few thousand or less owed in fees. This theft continues today. It is also the case that the City then sells the homes at auction, often below market value, with those developers connected with the medical corridor often purchasing them. Then when they are sold, the City fails to pay the former homeowners, as they are required to do, and instead keeps these funds.

Dunlea brought out that as comptroller he would address this issue, both the fees and foreclosures and help ensure the rights of homeowners in the area are respected. Both candidates spoke to the need for far more funding for the Fruit Belt to meet the rights of the people for housing, for recreation, for fresh produce and supermarkets. Apart from the Tops on Jefferson, the Fruit Belt is largely considered a food

desert.

Speaking with organizers at Locust Street Art, the candidates learned that it has served the community for almost sixty years and many of the children now attending had their parents and grandparents also attend. It is a cultural fixture in the Fruit Belt, yet constantly in need of funding. A great effort is made to provide a variety of classes for all ages, including painting, animation, photography and ceramics, free or at low cost. The organizers spoke to families being forced out because the medical corridor is serving to drive up property taxes. Locust Street Art is also in need of far more funding, to expand its work with the community and in the public schools.

The last stop was at the Delavan Grider Center, where the candidates were able to speak to seniors and those running the center. Like the Dorothy Collier Center it too has not seen the Buffalo Billion and needs more funding so as to better serve the needs of the people. Discussion was also had about the corruption of the existing political setup and the need for the public to play a greater role.



Talking with residents at Broadway Market

The Importance of Aims for Electoral Campaigns

After the tour a community meeting was held at the Merriweather Library, with various issues discussed. These included strengthening organizing efforts in the city, what is needed for a new direction for the economy and political affairs, the possibility of having platform hearings and positive experience with that in Syracuse, and issues of war and peace. The need for aims for electoral campaigns that are focused on advancing the struggle for rights and strengthening the organized resistance of the people was spoken to. This included the need to advance the aim of an *Anti-War Government and Peace Economy!*

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

