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DREAMers protest deportations, private prisons

By Saadia Behar

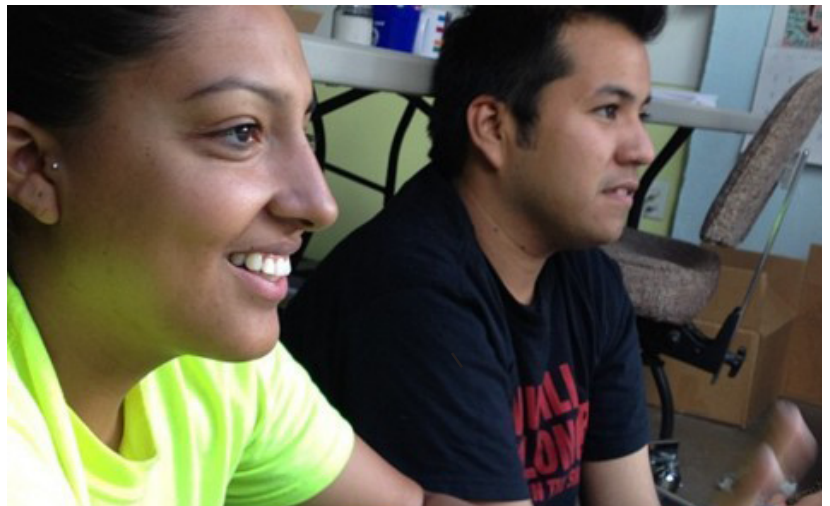
Undocumented youths from CAD, the Campaign for the American Dream, arrived here just a few days ago, and are already changing things.

Almost three months previously these DREAM Walkers began their 3,000 mile journey across the United States, from the Golden Gate Bridge in California on their way to the White House, to demand the Obama administration stop massive deportations and issue an executive order to bar deportations of DREAM Act-eligible youth.

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors or DREAM Act, sponsored by Democratic Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, would provide a path to legalization and citizenship for young people, brought here as children without any legal documents, if they have “demonstrated good moral character” and are either working toward completing a college degree or are serving in the armed forces.

Immediately after setting foot in Colorado in the last few days of May, these six courageous young people kept on walking-in the 3,000-person march on Wells Fargo bank’s Colorado headquarters, led by the Service Employees International Union during its quadrennial international convention here.

They joined the many other undocumented marchers in the union’s action to bring public attention to Wells Fargo’s involvement in payday lending, fraudulent foreclosure, and ridiculously low tax payments, as well as the bank’s private-prison profits from the incarceration of undocumented people.



On June 4, the DREAM team joined over 100 Coloradans in the spirited monthly march and rally against Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s immigrant detention center in Aurora, just east of Denver.

Though technically under the control of ICE, a part of Homeland Security, the notorious facility is actually run by the GEO Group, an international private-prison corporation. Friends and family members of undocumented people trapped inside recount the reports of humiliation, extortion, physical and sexual abuse within the prison walls at the protest each month.

The next day, the DREAM Walkers visited

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the Obama for America Denver campaign office- and stayed. Two of the group entered the office

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and soon began a sit-in and hunger strike. They repeated their call to President Barack Obama to put portions of the American DREAM Act into force by executive order.

Noting that the current administration has deported over one million people, more than any previous administration, they called on Obama to end massive deportations at once and to take action on the DREAM Act without further delay.

The two carrying out the current hunger strike are Veronica Gómez, 24, of California, and Javier Hernández, 23, of Denver. Gómez was brought to the U.S. when she was a little girl of three, Hernández when he was a six-month-old baby. Neither has ever visited Mexico since.

In the final week of May, "Secure Communities" was suddenly imposed on all 64 Colorado counties, and local law enforcement officials are now obligated to assist ICE in rounding up and detaining undocumented people.

Some of the six walkers are fighting their own deportation. At the next day's rally and press conference in front of the now-closed OFA office where Gómez and Hernández were still sitting in,

others in the CAD team officially "came out" as undocumented.

The two young people inside the building, at that time just 24 hours into their sit-in and hunger strike, smiled broadly and waved as they watched the enthusiasm of their colleagues and supporters just a few feet away outside the office's large windows.

Local groups in Colorado are voicing support for the hunger strikers and the other DREAM Walkers, and offering donations of supplies for the continuing march to Washington, D.C. Yet the campaign is being led by the Walkers and in Colorado assisted by local organizations of undocumented people.

Nico González, one of the Walkers, told peoplesworld.org that "we want this to be undocumented-led."

By June 7, with the hunger strikers nearing 48 hours inside the building, authorities finally allowed a nurse to enter to assess their physical condition.



Saadia Behar writes for the People's World.

Since their 2010 electoral victory, the Republicans have been cutting deep into public services and jobs.

Does it matter who wins the elections?

By PW Editorial Board

Does it really matter whether Republicans or Democrats are in charge after the November elections?

Taking a nearsighted view of the political landscape, some have concluded there is little or no difference between Republicans and Democrats.

A Republican takeover of both houses of Congress and the White House in November would mean the dramas in Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan would play out with a vengeance at the national level.

Since their 2010 electoral victory, the Republican-majority legislatures and governors of those three states have been cutting deep into public services and jobs.

Yes, there is still a need to struggle in states like California where Democrats control state government. But cuts to the public sector workforce and services there pale in comparison with those of Republican-controlled state governments. (And California's situation is complicated because Democrats lack the two-thirds legislative majority required to overcome the Republican pledge to block new revenues.)

Anyone who says there's no difference between a pay cut on the job and a permanent job loss has never been unemployed or lived on the

margins.

There is another critical reason why it matters who wins in November.

In Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan, the Republican-controlled governments are challenging the very right and ability of working people to fight.

When Republicans move to take away the hard-earned right of public employees to collective bargaining, and decimate union density through massive layoffs, it is that much harder for workers and their unions to fight for their rights and those of the poor.

The Republicans are out to paralyze workers' capacity to fight from a position of collective power through their freely chosen unions.

And that's exactly what we can expect from Republicans if they win the White House and both houses of Congress in November.

Reagan loosened up financial regulations and launched the assault on unions that continues to this day.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka set the record straight when he told *In These Times* in March, "Sometimes we have disagreed with the president on strategy, but I know one thing, he's a friend of the 99 percent."

Greek fascist assaults two women on television

By Teresa Albano

A male Greek fascist politician physically assaulted two left-wing women members of parliament during a television show June 8. There has been a warrant issued for his immediate arrest, although the man is in hiding currently.

Ilias Kasidiaris, the spokesman of the violent far-right extremist group Golden Dawn, got into a shouting match with the two women MPs, Liana Kanelli, a Communist from the KKE, and Rena Dourou, who's with the leftist SYRIZA Party.

Attempting to shout them down Kasidiaris took to violence and threw water in the face of Dourou. When Kanelli came to her aid, Kasidiaris smacked her three times in the face.

The Golden Dawn is a far-right extremist group linked to violent attacks against immigrants.

The assaults took place before a new round of elections June 17. SYRIZA and other left parties are favored to win.

In last month's elections, voters, angry over more than two years of austerity measures and the misery resulting from them, punished the two ruling parties associated with those measures, New Democracy and PASOK. The anti-bank bailout left-wing SYRIZA (Radical Coalition of the Left) won a large number of seats, but all parties failed to form a coalition government.

A reflection of Greek voters' anger and the inherent danger of the economic situation for the people, fascist Golden Dawn won seats in parliament in that election for the first time.

Greece was under Nazi occupation and fascist rule in the 1930s and 40s, and a military junta from 1967-1974. Golden Dawn associates itself with those rulers.

Greek journalist Joanna Kakissis, for National Public Radio, reported:

"Kasidiaris snapped. He threw a glass of water in Dourou's face. And then - to the horror of the host who kept screaming no, no, no - he stood up and hit Kanelli in the face three times.



"Nick Malkoutzis, an editor at the Greek newspaper Kathimerini, says Greeks are horrified at the act.

"Malkoutzis said, 'Greece is still a very sort of traditional male-dominated society, and punching a woman is completely unacceptable to most people, let alone if you're doing it on live TV.'

"Kanelli told reporters later that the attack shamed the entire country:

"It happened to be my face, she said, but there are many faces that get hit by these people - faces of weak and scared victims that we never see.

"Political science professor Kostas Ifantis says he hopes voters now see Golden Dawn for who they really are.

"These people are not just pro-violence. It's the definition of political violence. The hope is that at least some of those 440,000 people who voted for them will realize what their choice was,' he said.

"Golden Dawn leader Nikolas Michaloliakos blamed the two women for provoking his party's spokesman into losing his temper, Kakissis said."

On a historical note, U.S. Senator Charles Sumner was beaten on the Senate floor by a pro-slavery representative. The near-fatal beating came two days after Sumner's indictment of slavery speech, "Crime Against Kansas."

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Tulsa implements ALEC anti-public-school agenda

By J. Shepherd

In the last year, the city of Tulsa has consistently pushed to cut funding for projects that benefit the taxpayers. As reported by People's World public parks and recreation centers - specifically in working-class and minority areas - have been scheduled for demolition. Before that, the city closed 19 public schools, laying off hundreds of teachers and forcing students into conditions that are proven to reduce the quality of education. Right-wing proponents of this agenda claim that they are working to serve the taxpayers, but a closer examination of the funding for their agenda reveals that they are taking their campaign contributions and marching orders from more insidious forces.

Last year, Cliff Ogle, a long-time classroom teacher and active member of the American Federation of Teachers in Oklahoma, provided research showing a lobbyist organization known as the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, to be the driving force behind efforts to fight public education spending in Oklahoma and throughout the nation. According to Ogle, "Most of the Republican politicians across the country are courted by ALEC and given the legislation to write."

Ogle says internal documents reveal ALEC's plan to use Republican politicians to abolish public education. At a meeting with ALEC-supported lawmakers, some even openly referenced their plans. "We thought, surely they're joking that they're wanting to get rid of public education," Ogle said, "But then we realized, they're not laughing."

Ending public education in America is alarming not only to students and teachers, but to others who are not traditional union supporters. Even a local Oklahoma tea party leader told the People's World, "Public education is the foundation of this country.

"Yo Soy 132" movimiento y las elecciones de México

Por Hope Yen

Incluyendo a los adolescentes de 16 a 18 años, según el Censo de 2010 los jóvenes de México (16 a 29 años) totalizaron ese año 27.4 millones de personas (el 24.4% del total de la población), 14.0 millones de ellas mujeres y 13.4 millones hombres.

Representan el 30% de los votos posibles y 14 millones nunca han votado en unas elecciones presidenciales.

De pronto estos números han cobrado vida e irrumpido en la campaña electoral mexicana con una fuerza nunca vista.

Son los enojados, los engañados, los ignorados, los estudiantes, sobre todo, de las universidades privadas que, hartos de una democracia devaluada, se han echado a la calle para protestar contra la corrupción, los partidos políticos y la "manipulación" informativa de las grandes cadenas de televisión.

El detonante que ha puesto en marcha una cadena de manifestaciones estalló el día 11 de mayo, cuando el candidato presidencial del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Enrique Peña Nieto, acudió a un acto de campaña en la Universidad Iberoamericana. Los estudiantes pronto se cansaron de las vaguedades del político y comenzaron a reprocharle su gestión como gobernador del Estado de México. Recordándole la brutal represión que ejerció contra los campesinos y floristas que se movilizaron en San Salvador Atenco en 2006, uno de los episodios de violencia más fuertes durante su mandato que provocó el asesinato de dos jóvenes, la detención de 350 personas -entre ellas 10 menores de edad- y

violaciones sexuales a 26 mujeres.

Sin posibilidad de réplica, Peña Nieto acabó huyendo.

El PRI reaccionó acusando a los universitarios de dejarse manipular por un grupo de provocadores e infiltrados. Televisa, la cadena con mayor audiencia y a la que se acusa de apoyar al líder priísta, solo dio una versión de los hechos favorable al viejo partido hegemónico.

La chispa se convirtió en explosión cuando los estudiantes se movilizaron en las redes sociales. Grabaron un vídeo en el que 131 de ellos mostraban su carné universitario y desmentían las descalificaciones. El vídeo motivó la simpatía de muchos más jóvenes que crearon la página con el nombre de #YoSoy132, porque se unían, como uno más "en conjunto", a ellos.

A la velocidad de un clic, el enojo se convirtió en trending topic, revolucionando la campaña electoral y sorprendiendo a toda la clase política.

Miles de estudiantes de universidades públicas y privadas forman parte del movimiento #YoSoy132. No obstante la diversidad de su procedencia social y económica, de sus estilos de vida, de sus formas de ver el mundo, comparten una preocupación por el estado de las cosas y tienen un anhelo común: un mejor país para todos.

YoSoy132 se construye como un movimiento que busca hacer efectivos principios fundamentales de la vida democrática.

Se asumieron como un movimiento autónomo, independiente de cualquier partido político y antineoliberal.