

PEOPLE'S WORLD

www.peoplesworld.org

May 10, 2014

Most new jobs are low wage



By John Case

The National Employment Law Project recently issued an analysis of the economic recovery from the 2008 recession (more like a depression, now four years long, according to government economists) that shows a devastating loss of middle-income jobs and job “growth” almost entirely in low paying food and other service sectors.

According to NELP, employment losses occurred throughout the economy, “but were concentrated in mid-wage and higher-wage industries. By contrast, during the [so-called] recovery (measured from February 2010 to February 2014), employment gains have been concentrated in lower-wage industries. Lower-wage industries constituted 22 percent of recession losses, but 44 percent of recovery growth. Middle-wage industries constituted 37 percent of recession losses, but only 26 percent of recovery growth. Higher-wage industries constituted 41 percent of recession losses, and 30 percent of recovery growth.”

Today, there are nearly two million fewer jobs in mid- and higher-wage industries than there were before the recession took hold, while there are 1.85 million more jobs in lower-wage industries. Sectors such as food services, bars, and retail trade have led private sector job growth during the recovery. Many of these industries pay

poverty wages, and accounted for 39 percent of the private sector employment increase over the past four years.

The prevalence of low wage over middle and upper income jobs in this recovery contrasts sharply with the recovery character of the 2001 recession after the tech bubble burst. In the 2001 recession, lower- and higher-wage industries led the recovery, accounting for 39 and 40 percent of employment gains, respectively. Mid-wage indus-

T H I S W E E K :

- **Most new jobs are low wage**
- **We remember Rubin Hurricane Carter**
- **Forum on police crimes to be held in Chicago**
- **La OSHA citó a recicladora de Brooklyn**
- **Beverly Hills protests anti-gay laws**

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

tries added jobs at just over half the rate of lower- and higher-paying industries.

In the 2008 depression, employment growth is more concentrated in lower-wage industries where private sector employment grew by over 10 percent. Job growth in absolute numbers is

The prevalence of low wage jobs in this recovery contrasts sharply with the character of the 2001 recession.

slightly stronger in mid-wage industries relative to the earlier recovery; however, initial job losses were also much more severe this time. The share of net job growth accounted for by higher-wage industries declined from 40 percent following the 2001 recession to only 30 percent over the recent recovery. One year into the recovery, slow growth in higher-wage industries was likely the result of specific drivers of the Great Recession, such as the housing bubble and the financial crisis. In addition, however, the depression appears to have accelerated a continuation of the long-term decline in durable and nondurable manufacturing and telecommunications. Three years later, mid- and higher-wage industries are adding some jobs; but not at rate to fill the job deficits in these income brackets. Four years into the recovery, growth remains strongest in low-wage retail, restaurants, and temporary help. The only other relief comes from occupations and industries less affected by depression (e.g., health and education).

Over the past four years, even the low-wage weighted private sectors gains have been partially

negated by public sector job losses resulting from budget cuts at federal, state, and local levels. Net job losses totaled 627,000 across all levels of government during the recovery period. Employment declines were particularly severe at the local level, where education absorbed nearly three-quarters of the 378,000 net job losses over the past four years. What are the reasons for the trends toward low wage jobs? The number one reason is globalization. There is currently no international or governmental force that can regulate or compensate for the ability of transnational corporations to move jobs to the lowest acceptable labor market, whether it is in a depressed, income-starved state, or a newly industrializing country. Globalization has the same overall effect on corporate incentives to keep wages low, as the absence of wage and hour protection, safety, child labor prohibition, slave labor prohibition, or union protection have: Globally, nothing stops the intensification of labor exploitation.



John Case writes for Peoplesworld.org.

We remember Rubin Hurricane Carter

Frank Chapman

On April 20, boxer Rubin Hurricane Carter died at age 76 of prostate cancer. Various newspapers and other media outlets did commentaries on the unjust hardships visited upon this man by the racist criminal justice system that is the cancer of our society. To them it was just a news story, the personification of yet another racist persecution of an innocent Black person. Brother Carter's struggle was our struggle, what they did to him they did to us because racism is the common thread that twines our lives together and the struggle against it is what gives meaning, character and substance to our existence as a people. Also this is why we remember what we remember. We remember a racist cop who would go to any length, including lying and fabricating evidence to imprison Rubin Hurricane Carter. Our brother was a victim of a police crime; he was framed and railroaded by corrupt, criminal cops and prosecutors who advanced their political careers on the

backs of Black people. We remember a mass movement, which we were a part of, demanding brother Carter's freedom. We remember that day of jubilee when Rubin Hurricane Carter was finally set free after 22 years of imprisonment, torment and torture and how he continued with undaunted courage to fight for others who have been victims of racist frame-ups. On November 7, 1985, federal Judge Sarokin handed down his decision to free Rubin Hurricane Carter. The state continued to appeal Sarokin's decision—all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court - until February 1988, when a Passaic County New Jersey state judge formally dismissed the 1966 indictments of Carter and co-defendant John Artis and finally ended the 22-year long saga. And most tragically we remember the criminal cops, prosecutors and politicians responsible for our late brother Rubin spending most of his life in jail were never brought to justice for their crimes. Rubin sowed the wind so look for us in the whirlwind.

Rubin sowed the wind so look for us in the whirlwind.

Forum on police crimes to be held in Chicago

By Evlynn Wier

The “police are at the cutting edge of racist and political repression,” says the Chicago Alliance Against Racial and Political Repression (CAARPR). On May 16-17 at the University of Chicago International House, the group will hold a National Forum on Police Crimes.

The forum is devised to promote a “renewed effort to build a multi-racial, multi-national movement” against police crimes, government surveillance, mass incarceration, and the “systemic injustice institutionalizing present day penal slavery, now widely recognized as lying at the root of the “New Jim Crow.”

“New Jim Crow” refers to what many in social justice movements see as a new form of slavery happening within our justice system. Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” speaks of a “new system of racialized social control” that “creates and maintains racial hierarchy much as earlier systems of control did. Mass incarceration operates as a tightly networked system of laws, policies, customs and institutions that operate collectively to ensure the subordinate status of a group defined largely by race.”

The movement to Stop Police Crimes began in 2012 with the formation of the Organizing Committee To Stop Police Crimes. This committee was to organize a People’s Hearing on Police Crimes and to provide an organizing vehicle for the community. There have been two hearings organized by the Committee in close relation with affected communities and victims of police crimes. Both were well attended with testimony from victims and their families. A clear objective came from these hearings to pass legislation creating an elected Civilian Police Accountability Council for the historically corrupt Chicago police department. The National Forum will build on the momentum created from these hearings.

A University of Illinois Chicago study found



102 convictions since 2000, 47 of which were drug and gang related crimes. The study also found that both police authorities and public officials have up to now failed to provide adequate anti-corruption oversight and leadership.

It should be noted that the study only used the 295 convictions, not including non-criminal misconduct and unethical behavior. The study also acknowledges the issues of unreported crime and misconduct and the famed “blue wall of silence” cover-ups that make it difficult to find the true extent of police corruption.

Also tied in to this “blue wall of silence” are cases like the shooting death of Flint Farmer. Farmer, a 29-year-old African American man, was killed by police officer Gildardo Sierra, who fired 16 shots, one wounding Farmer in the thigh, and three in his back as he lay face down and injured. Farmer held only a cell phone, which Sierra says he mistook as a weapon.

Despite police squad car footage showing the incident and Sierra’s own admission that he had consumed “multiple beers” before the killing, Cook County state’s attorney Anita Alvarez declared the shooting justified. Alvarez has ruled that each of the 70 police killings of civilians since 2009 was justified.

The forum is devised to promote a renewed effort to build a movement against police crimes.

Beverly Hills protests anti-gay laws

By Eric A. Gordon

A law that allows killing of gays and flogging of women is under fire in Beverly Hills.

The law effective May 1, in the Southeast Asian country of Brunei, provides for fines and prison sentences for gay men and lesbians, and women who have abortions. Phase Two includes corporal punishment such as amputations and flogging women who have abortions. By Phase Three citizens of Brunei will see gay men and lesbians being half-buried, then publicly stoned to death.

Why the Beverly Hills protest? Simple, the Sultan of Brunei owns the Beverly Hills Hotel, along with the toney Hotel Bel-Air in neighboring Los Angeles, and eight other high-end "Dorchester Collection" properties in England, France, Switzerland, and Italy. Sultan is among the world's richest men, based on the oil and gas extraction industry. Shell has major investments in the country.

On Monday night the Feminist Majority Foundation had planned its annual Global Women's Rights awards dinner at the hotel, but upon news of the Sultan's new Taliban-like laws, they pulled their event and moved it elsewhere. One speaker after another promised to do all within their power to publicize the legal atrocity that now obtains in Brunei, and to give the Sultan unceasing bad publicity and reduced income until the law is rescinded.

Almost 100 protesters turned out.

La OSHA citó a recicladora de Brooklyn

Por OSHA

La Administración de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional del Departamento de Trabajo de EE. UU. citó a Cooper Tank & Welding Corp. por haber cometido ocho infracciones graves relacionadas con la salud y la seguridad luego de que se produjera la muerte relacionada con el calor de un trabajador de 64 años de edad en la instalación de reciclaje de Brooklyn ubicada.

"Este fue un fallecimiento injusto que pudo haberse evitado", afirmó Kay Gee, director del área de la OSHA para Brooklyn, Manhattan y Queens. "Este empleador no capacitó adecuadamente a sus trabajadores ni implementó las medidas preventivas que los podrían haber protegido de las condiciones de calor excesivo. Los trabajadores también quedaron expuestos a sufrir lesiones potencialmente mortales producto de caídas, electrocución y piezas de maquinaria en funcionamiento sin protección". El 19 de julio de 2013, el trabajador, que sufrió de una enfermedad relacionada con el calor y falleció, trabajó durante varias horas junto a una cinta transportadora, clasificando y reciclando desechos de construcciones y demoliciones. Los trabajadores estuvieron expuestos a un excesivo calor proveniente de fuentes medioambientales y del calor generado por la maquinaria de reciclaje. A raíz de la investigación llevada a cabo por la OSHA se descubrió que la empresa no informó ni capacitó a los trabajadores sobre el

reconocimiento, la prevención y el tratamiento de enfermedades relacionadas con el calor. Tampoco suministró controles de temperatura en el área de trabajo ni implementó un régimen de trabajo y descanso.

La OSHA descubrió que los trabajadores estaban expuestos a sufrir caídas desde 20 a 40 pies de altura debido a aperturas en las paredes sin protección, falta de barandas y falta de equipos de protección contra caídas; peligros por electrocución producto de salidas eléctricas y cables eléctricos sin conexión a tierra; y laceraciones y amputaciones por amoladoras sin protección. Como resultado, se emitieron ocho citaciones graves.

Una infracción grave se produce cuando existe una probabilidad sustancial de que ocurran lesiones graves o mortales como consecuencia de un peligro conocido por el empleador o del cual el empleador debería haber tenido conocimiento. La OSHA también cuenta con una aplicación gratuita para dispositivos móviles que les permite a los trabajadores y supervisores monitorear el índice de calor en sus lugares de trabajo.

La empresa, que enfrenta multas de \$40.500, tiene 15 días hábiles desde el momento de la recepción de las citaciones y las multas propuestas para cumplir con las disposiciones, solicitar una conferencia con el director del área de la OSHA o para impugnar los hallazgos ante la Comisión de Revisión de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional independiente.

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
3339 S. Halsted Chicago, IL 60625
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org