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Indigenous women in Canada face high murder rate

By Andi Perkins

A new report exposes how indigenous women in Canada are being murdered and are disappearing at alarming rates. The document, entitled Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada, was issued Jan. 12 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In addition to stating the problem and identifying contributing factors, it criticizes the lack of action on the part of the Canadian government.

The report comes at a time when indigenous people, women in particular, continue to express little confidence that the government will act to protect them. The Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, himself did little to change that assessment when he responded to press questions last December about the murders and disappearances. He was reported at that time to have said: "Um it, it isn't really high on our radar, to be honest ... Our ministers will continue to dialogue with those who are concerned about this."

The study reveals, in stark language, the extent of the murders and disappearances of the women: "Indigenous women are going missing. Indigenous women and girls in Canada have been murdered or have gone missing at a rate four times higher than the rate of representation of indigenous women in the Canadian population which



is 4.3 percent."

The figures were collected by the non-profit organization Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) through an initiative financed by the governmental entity, Status of Women.

The report points out the failure of the Canadian police and government to seriously address the issue of missing and murdered women saying that most of the cases that the police have on file of the missing and murdered indigenous women go un-

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solved. In May 2014 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police released a report in which they documented that police-recorded incidents of homicides of indigenous females and unresolved missing indigenous females amounted to 1,181.

The report indicated that there are 181 missing

Indigenous women are murdered or missing at a rate four times the rate of representation which is 4.3 percent.

and murdered indigenous women in the Canadian police databases: 164 missing (dating back to 1952) and 1,017 murdered from 1980 to 2012. Of these, there are 225 unsolved cases of either missing or murdered Indigenous women.

The report also talks about violence and racism that indigenous people face.

This is an improvement over many previous reports that have overlooked some of the root causes underlying the high rates of murder and disappearance: “As a consequence of this historical discrimination, the IACHR understands that indigenous women and girls constitute one of the most disadvantaged groups in Canada. Poverty, inadequate housing, economic and social relegation, among other factors, contribute to their increased vulnerability to violence. In addition, prevalent attitudes of discrimination - mainly relating to gender and race - and the longstanding stereotypes to which they have been subjected, exacerbate their vulnerability....

“A comprehensive holistic approach applied to

violence against indigenous women means addressing the past and present institutional and structural inequalities confronted by these women. Elements that must be addressed include the dispossession of their land, as well as historical laws and policies that have negatively affected indigenous women, put them in an unequal situation, and prevented their full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights”

Even though this report was done in Canada, indigenous people and their advocates say that the same issues are affecting indigenous women all across the Americas.



Andi Perkins writes for Peoplesworld.

Chicago’s Garcia takes on banker-backed mayor

By Roberta Wood

Calling for the revitalization of Chicago’s neighborhoods, mayoral candidate Jesus “Chuy” Garcia pledged to halt the “hijacking” of the city by hedge fund operators and bankers at a campaign rally Saturday.

Vacant buildings in the city’s neighborhoods are signs of disinvestment and neglect, Garcia stated. “The bankers brought us the Great Recession,” he added. “The Recession put people out of work and that brought crime.”

Garcia pointed proudly to the diversity of the crowd, which was predominantly young adults in their 20s and 30s, many with children and babies in tow. The Grand Palace Ballroom on the city’s southside reverberated with the beat of an impressive display of the city’s musical talents from R&B to son jarocho.

Many had come to see CTU President Karen Lewis, a fierce opponent of incumbent Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who closed 50 Chicago schools in the wake of a bitterly fought teachers strike two years ago. Lewis, who had been planning a run

for Mayor herself before being sidelined by emergency surgery last fall, made it clear in one of her first public appearances that Chuy was the candidate to carry on the fight. “I hope I’ve taught you all here something,” said the former high school science teacher, “And I don’t mean just chemistry!” Lewis seconded Garcia’s call to stop the flow of Tax Increment Financing funds to corporate people connected to City Hall, which totaled \$1.7 billion under Emanuel.

Chicago’s “non-partisan” primary will take place February 24. Emanuel hopes to achieve a 50% plus vote in order to avoid a run off. He has amassed a \$12 million campaign chest, in large part from the same financial giants referred to by Garcia. Other candidates include Alderman Robert Fioretti and Willie Wilson, an African American supporter of Rep. Governor Bruce Rauner.

Garcia surprised many political observers by gathering over 60,000 signatures on his nominating petitions in just three weeks in November after Lewis dropped her candidacy.

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Greek workers defend their own paths

Communist Party USA



Voters in Greece issued a clear rebuff to the anti-worker policies of privatization and austerity that have left the country with a 25 percent unemployment rate and a shredded social safety net. The left wing SYRIZA party won 149 seats and has formed a government headed by Alexis Tsipras. The new government has moved fast to undo the damage that has been imposed on the country by the dictates of the “Troika” of the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission. The election result and the initial measures of the new government have sent a shock wave through the European ruling class and has given not only the Greek people but millions Europe-wide a new sense of hope. The people of Greece have shown that they are determined to chart their own future course. And immediately there was a tremendous echo of the Greek events in Spain, where hundreds of thousands marched in Madrid to denounce and reject the same policies of privatization and austerity that led to the Greek uprising. More manifestations of this fighting spirit are being seen all over Europe.

The ruling class in Greece, Europe and world-wide will not accept this without a fight. Already threats are being made, by the German government,

the bond rating agencies (Moody’s, Standard and Poors) and others, to punish the Greek people for their temerity in defending their country’s independence and their own economic interests through their vote. If Greece is able to defend itself against the backlash that is coming from Brussels, Berlin and Wall Street, it would be a tremendous victory for workers not only in Greece, but in all of Europe where similar anti-worker, anti-people measures have been imposed on Portugal, Spain, Italy, Ireland and other countries.

Although the word “austerity” is not very familiar to U.S. voters, the attack here, through budget cuts and privatization schemes, on Social Security, pensions, public schools, health care, environmental protections and the whole social safety net, as well as the relentless campaign against workers’ unionization rights, amounts to the same thing and is promoted by the same corporate elites and right wing political forces.

So, if Greece wins this one, working people in the United States will win too.

For this reason it is imperative that workers and all progressive people in the United States actively defend the Greek people’s right to choose against any and all who threaten it.

The left wing SYRIZA party won 149 seats and has moved fast to undo the damage caused by the country’s dictators.

Boston halts deportation of Salvadoran refugee

The Graphic Communicator

Demonstrating the importance of community outreach, Graphic Communications Conference/IBT Local 3-N in Boston has worked successfully with the local Jobs With Justice branch, elected officials and faith-based organizations to halt the threatened deportation of a Salvadoran GCC/IBT press operator.

The immigrant worker fled El Salvador in 1990 to avoid the right-wing violence then sweeping his country. He was granted employment authorization in the U.S. after applying for political asylum.

His petition was denied years later, but his former attorney failed to update paperwork intended to provide him temporary residency while appealing the ruling. Last year, immigration officials contacted the press operator and told to buy a plane ticket to El Salvador and leave by Aug.1, on less than a month's notice.

Sullivan was "shocked" when told that "one of our own" - an admirable employee who worked his way upwards through the ranks for more than 20 years to become a journeyman press operator - was in jeopardy.

"He played by the rules, had never been in trouble and felt he was contributing to America. "Facing insurmountable odds, I knew we needed to mobilize, educate and most importantly we needed action on his behalf," the union leader said.

At a hearing later last year, the federal government granted the press operator "temporary protective status." That lets him stay in the U.S. and at his newspaper job for another year.

It's also hopefully a step towards his citizenship, Sullivan said.

Manifestantes acusaron a Kissinger

El Ciudadano

El ex secretario de Estado norteamericano, Henry Kissinger, una de las figuras más influyente en la diplomacia de Estados Unidos en la década de 1970, fue recibido por manifestantes que pidieron lo detengan por crímenes de guerra en Chile, Vietnam y Camboya.

El exsecretario de Estado norteamericano, Henry Kissinger, una de las figuras más influyente en la diplomacia de Estados Unidos, acudió el pasado jueves al Congreso de EE.UU. para discutir los desafíos en seguridad global, pero fue recibido por manifestantes que pidieron lo detengan por crímenes de guerra en Chile, Vietnam y Camboya.

"Arresten a Kissinger por crímenes de guerra", señalaba una banderola colocada por manifestantes del grupo pacifista "Code Pink" (Código Rosa). Un puñado de integrantes de ese grupo corearon además esa misma consigna durante el comienzo de la audiencia de la Comisión de Servicios Armados del Senado, hostilizando a los senadores, a Kissinger, y a los otros dos exsecretarios de estado invitados a la sesión, Madeleine Albright y George Shultz.

La irrupción del grupo pacifista enojó al senador John McCain, presidente de la comisión de asuntos militares del Senado, quien intentó tomar el control de la situación y se refirió a uno de los manifestantes tildándolo de "escoria".

Después que se restableció el orden y cuando Kissinger comenzaba su intervención, una mujer demandó que el exfuncionario de Estados Unidos fuese arrestado porque él "coordinó

la masacre en Vietnam, Cambodia y Laos".

La mujer también afirmó que Kissinger fue el principal arquitecto del golpe de estado de 1973 en Chile.

"He sido miembro de este comité por muchos años, y nunca vi nada tan vergonzoso, irritante y despreciable como esta última manifestación que acaba de ocurrir", reaccionó McCain. Cuando uno de los manifestantes continuó, el senador se mostró aún más molesto. "Va a tener que callarse o haré que lo arresten", dijo, y replicó "sal de aquí, escoria".

McCain, quien fue prisionero de guerra en Vietnam, tiene estrechos nexos personales con Kissinger, y se disculpó "profusamente" por los ataques de los manifestantes.

ARRESTO CIUDADANO

Kissinger es un blanco frecuente de protestas, acusado de varios crímenes, incluyendo la participación en el bombardeo secreto de Camboya, mientras servía en la gestión del presidente de Estados Unidos, Richard Nixon.

En 2011 Kissinger afrontó protestas en un evento público en Nueva York, en la cual activistas pidieron su arresto por crímenes de guerra. Esa vez se hizo un arresto ciudadano "por el asesinato de civiles inocentes en Camboya, Vietnam, Chile, Irak, en el este de Pakistán, en Timor Oriental y la lista sigue"- contó un manifestante que fue apresado en la ocasión.

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