

Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

**VOLUME 2 OF EXHIBITS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF 2016 REQUEST BY THE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, THE SOCIALIST WORKERS NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEES SUPPORTING CANDIDATES OF
THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION**

October 31, 2016

Michael Krinsky, Esq.
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EXHIBIT 1

DECLARATION

I, Jacob Perasso, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

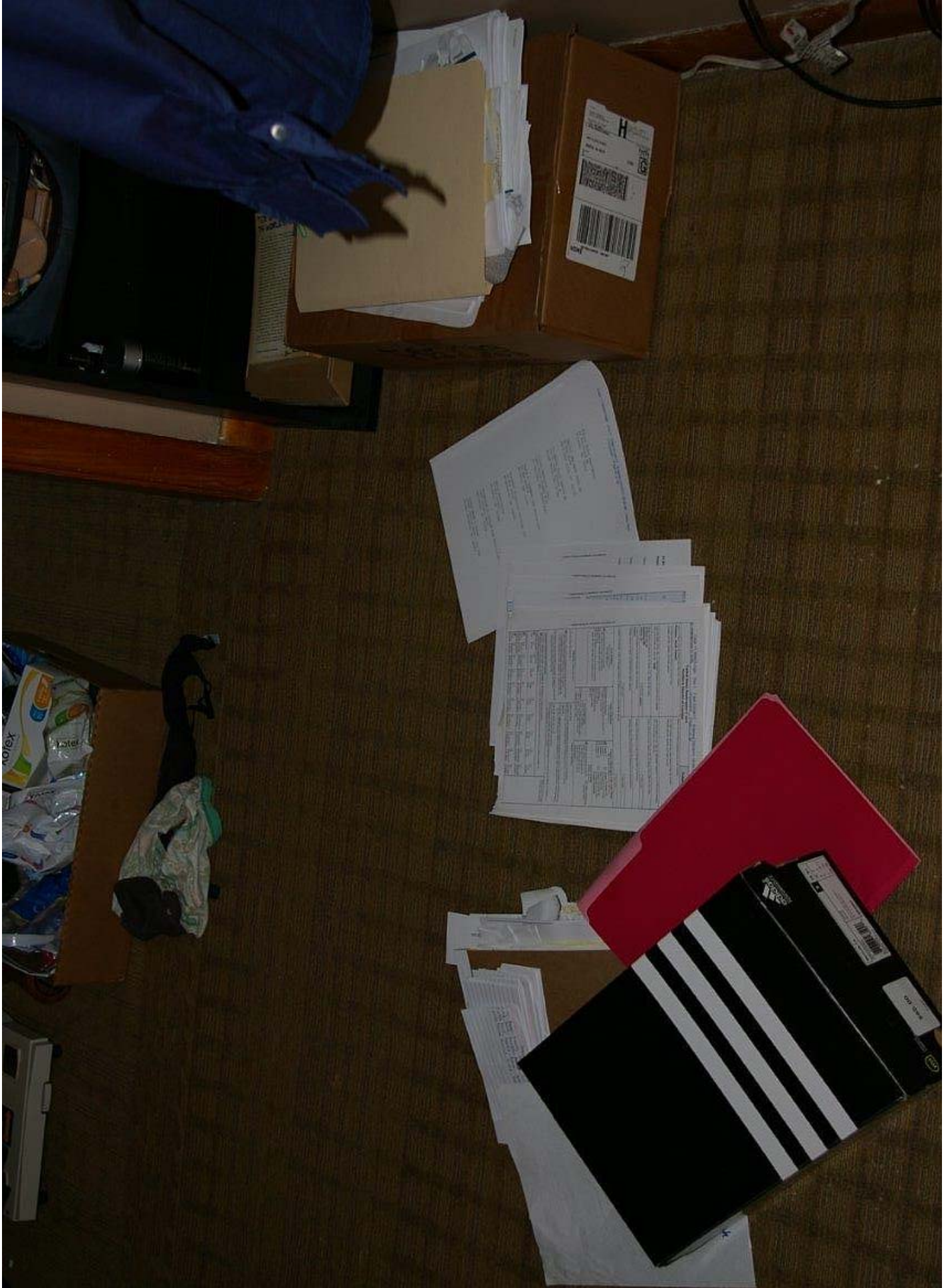
1. I was an outspoken and well-known Socialist Workers Party member in the Omaha community in 2013 and was the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for Omaha City Council in the 4th District that year.
2. On July 16, 2013, after the campaign, my participation as a public SWP spokesperson in and promotion of protests against the beating of two black members of our community by Omaha police and my recent my hosting, just two days earlier, of a publicized social event to discuss my participation as a representative of the SWP in an upcoming conference in Venezuela in solidarity with the Cuban revolution, my home was broken into in South Omaha. It was not an ordinary robbery, but had the hallmark of an attempt at political intimidation and harassment.
3. This was no ordinary robbery because, while in my home, the burglar did not steal items such as a laptop, an e-reader and a tablet computer that were all out in plain sight. The culprit left clear evidence, however, that he went through the whole house, looking through drawers, files, and leaving things strewn about. *See* attached photos. The only thing taken was a smart phone. The phone contained my political contact list and records of people I called and emailed while I was part of a fight earlier this year against police brutality.
4. Earlier in the year, while I and other SWP supporters were collecting signatures to put me on the ballot, we encountered threats. One campaign supporter was accosted in February by a man who told him, "You deserve to die, you commie bastard" and asking a friend to, "Come down right away. We need to beat the shit out of him."

5. Other political activists in the area came forward to tell me they had faced harassment because of their activity (see story in *Militant*, August, 12, 2013, attached).
6. As I told *The Militant*, “this is what’s done when the authorities or their vigilante friends want to send you a message”; “Those behind this are challenging our right to be politically active.” See article in *The Militant* (August 12, 2013) (attached).
7. I filed a report with the Omaha police (their notice that the phone was taken is attached). I also gave them a copy of a surveillance video a neighbor gave me showing a man casing the house, breaking in and later scurrying out from behind the house.
8. I also won support from supporters of political rights who joined me in circulating an open letter to Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, demanding that “the Omaha Police Department carry out a thorough investigation of this break-in and arrest and prosecute those who carried it out and those who organized it.”
9. The police never apprehended anyone or gave me any further information when I contacted them to ask for updates.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 28, 2016.



Jacob Perasso
New York
October 28, 2016





AOR574

FOR POLICE USE ONLY

Data Control

RR Number

90968-0

PLEASE USE BALL-POINT PEN

Victim's Name PERASSO, Jacob.
Address Loss Occurred 6001 S. 37th.
Date Reported 15 July 13.
Res. Phone 404-242-5244 Bus. Phone _____

MAIL TO:
OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU
505 SOUTH 15TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

FAX TO: (402) 444-4990
402-444-5818 (FRONT
DESK)

ADDITIONAL LOSS

Number of Items	Brand Description	Model Number	Serial Number	Present Value
1	HTC Incredible Phone	Droid Device ID#	A1000017ABF7E1	\$ 80

OPD Form 125 (05/2009)



Vol. 77/No. 7 February 25, 2013

Socialist Workers go over top in drive to collect signatures for Omaha ballot

(front page)

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OMAHA, Neb.—“We went over the top today,” Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Omaha, told the *Militant* Feb. 13. “We’ve collected more than two times the required number of signatures to put me and my running mate, Jacob Perasso, on the ballot.”

One thousand signatures of registered voters are required for mayoral contenders, and 100 for those running for city council.

“We got a great political response. Now we’re doing the paperwork and will hold a press conference and file early next week,” DeLuca said. “We want to thank everyone who helped in this effort, from Omaha, across the Midwest, and from Los Angeles and Seattle to Boston and New York.”

“We found many workers who wanted to help. We sold hundreds of copies of the *Militant*, 16 subscriptions and were handed over \$100 in donations on the street and on people’s doorsteps,” Perasso, SWP candidate for city council in District 4, said. “We’re planning to hold a party this weekend to celebrate.

“We’ll spread out and campaign door to door across the city this weekend,” Perasso added, “and win new readers for the *Militant*. We extend an open invitation to anyone we met to join in.”

The high unemployment, competition for jobs and falling wages that mark the deepening crisis of capitalism were concerns raised by workers.

“I’m working two jobs now to make ends meet—17 hours a day,” Toni Goodwill, a house cleaner and bartender told DeLuca as she signed the petition. “My kids both work in grocery stores and they had to move back in with me because they can’t make it on their own.”

“I’m 53 but I made more money when I was 21, working the same number of hours as a waitress,” Bernice Dentler, who signed the petition and subscribed to the *Militant*, told DeLuca.

The candidates say workers need to fight for a government-funded jobs program to put millions to work building schools, medical centers, child care centers and other things workers need.

“Coming from liberal Seattle the stereotype is that people in Nebraska would be violently opposed to a socialist candidate or merely the word socialism,” Bryce Phillips Horvath, 21, told the *Militant* from Seattle after returning from petitioning Feb. 9-10. “This experience confirmed for me just how untrue that stereotype is.

“Most were excited to hear that DeLuca is a worker, she supports unions and creating more jobs, and perhaps most of all that she is neither a Democrat or Republican,” he added. “More than once I had someone say, ‘Wait a minute, is she a Republican or Democrat? No? Neither? OK good, I’ll definitely sign then.’

“I informed them that the candidate cannot promise anything but to be part of building a movement with you,” Horvath said. “Of course some people were busy or otherwise not interested, they were mostly, however, very polite and upfront. Standing in front of No Frills, a local chain of stores, I realized the name of this store really describes well the city of Omaha and why I like it.

“Not everything glitters and must be ultramodern, trendy and bourgeois like in Seattle these days. Omaha is one of those often overlooked places in America where the land and farmers and working people are exploited to produce the industrialized foods we rely on to survive every day,” he said.

Kevin Cole, 57, a postal worker from Los Angeles who supports the SWP campaign of Norton Sandler for mayor and Eleanor García for school board there, came to Omaha for three days to aid in the ballot drive. He was the top petitioner over the weekend, collecting 97 signatures for DeLuca.

“Many workers told me an industrial worker like Maura DeLuca should be able to run for mayor,” Cole said. “I was also pleasantly surprised when a guy saw a copy of the *Militant* under the petition and said he likes the paper and wanted to buy the latest copy.”

One objective of the SWP campaign and the ballot drive is to get the revolutionary working-class perspective of the party, the *Militant* and Pathfinder books better known by workers thinking about how to confront the capitalist crisis.

Campaigners and others attended a dinner and forum Feb. 9 at the South Omaha YMCA. Speaking at the forum were DeLuca, Perasso, and David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for city council in Des Moines, Iowa.

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Vol. 77/No. 30 August 19, 2013

Supporters of rights respond to political attack in Omaha

(front page)

BY LAURA GARZA

OMAHA, Neb. — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and other defenders of political rights and free speech are campaigning here to respond to a July 16 political break-in at the home of Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for Omaha City Council District 4 in the May elections.

“The authorities or their vigilante friends hope to intimidate us and deal a blow to the rights of all working people in Omaha,” Perasso told the *Militant*. “That’s what we explained to everyone we met going door to door Aug. 4 in south Omaha, where I live. We showed them the Aug. 12 *Militant* with its front-page coverage of the attacks and the socialists’ response.”

“Your campaign is necessary,” Lorenzo Quijano, 37, a worker at the Old Chicago restaurant, told Perasso. “This kind of harassment shouldn’t be carried out against a person because they are fighting for a better system for workers.”

Supporters of political rights and free speech are circulating an open letter to Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, demanding that she put an end to the harassment of Perasso and other supporters of the Socialist Workers Party.

Signers of the letter join Perasso in demanding “the Omaha Police Department carry out a thorough investigation of this break-in and arrest and prosecute those who carried it out and those who organized it.”

The July 16 break-in “had all the classic earmarks not of a typical burglary but of an attempt at political intimidation and harassment,” the letter explains. “The culprit left clear evidence that he went through the whole house, looking through drawers, files, and leaving things strewn about. Valuable items including electronic devices were in the house, but the only thing stolen was a wireless phone that contained call records, showing who Perasso called while the phone was active earlier this year during his activity with others against police brutality in Omaha.”

Opponents of cop brutality demanded the city press charges against the cops who on March 21 beat and framed up three brothers — Octavious, Juaquez and Demetrius

Johnson — in the Black community of north Omaha.

Among those who have already signed the open letter are August Hogan Sr., former president of the Omaha NAACP and former human relations director, city of Omaha; Ethel Landrum-Shobe, former chair of the Nebraska Board of Parole; Charles Jones, professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati; Tariq Al-Amin, president of Nebraskans for Justice; and Carlos Carr Sr., Malcolm X Memorial Foundation.

All five participated in the Black August Weekend Human Rights-Political Prisoner Commemorative Festival, Aug. 2-3 at the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation Center here, the city of Malcolm X's birth.

The conference was held to build support for the Omaha Two, Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice) and Ed Poindexter, who were framed up and railroaded to jail 43 years ago as young members of the Black Panther Party. They had been organizing protests against police brutality and working on community programs for youth in the Black community.

Perasso spoke at the event about the case of the Cuban Five, five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. since 1998 for gathering information on rightist paramilitary groups in southern Florida who had a record of carrying out murderous attacks on supporters of the Cuban Revolution in Cuba, the U.S., Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

Hank and Barbara van den Berg, political activists in Lincoln, Neb., also added their names to the open letter.

The Omaha Police Department told Perasso Aug. 1 that the cop assigned to investigate the break-in was "not available" the week of July 29-Aug. 2 and that fingerprints taken at the scene of the black-bag job still had not been processed.

"We will continue to bring this case to the attention not only of working people and supporters of political rights here, but around the country and internationally," Perasso said. "We aim to put as much pressure as possible on city officials and the cops to identify and prosecute those who organized and carried out this break-in."

To find out how you can get involved in the free speech fight in Omaha, contact the SWP, P.O. Box 7908, Omaha, NE 68107. Telephone: (402) 779-7697; Email: swpomaha@fastmail.net.

Related article:

[Defend political rights in Omaha!](#)

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THE MILITANT

Vol. 77/No. 29 AUGUST 12, 2013

(lead article)

Socialist Workers in Omaha respond to political break-in

Organize campaign to defend workers rights



Militant photos: above, Alex Huinil; inset, Jacob Perasso

July 16 break-in at house of Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Omaha City Council in May elections, was clear act of political intimidation, right. Above, Perasso addresses March 24 picket of postal workers against proposed cuts in Saturday delivery, one of many fights the party has and will continue to join with other working people in region.

**BY LAURA GARZA
AND JOE SWANSON**

OMAHA, Neb. — “I knew this was no ordinary robbery. This is what’s done when the authorities or their vigilante friends want to send you a message,” Jacob Perasso told the *Militant*, in an interview following a July 16 break-in at his house. Perasso was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council District 4 in the May elections here and is active in support of workers’ struggles, fights against police brutality and other

social protests in the interests of working people.

“They are trying to intimidate us, but we are going to fight back,” Perasso said, announcing plans to organize a broad international defense campaign.

“They have picked on the wrong guy,” Carl Tyler, 74, a longtime resident of north Omaha who knows Perasso from common political work, told the *Militant*. “Jacob is an open book, he doesn’t have anything to hide. He looks out for the working people and I stand with people like that.”

“Those behind this are challenging our right to be politically active,” Perasso said. “In response, we will step up our political activity in Omaha and the region. We’ll continue to run for political office, advancing demands in the interests of workers, taking our campaign door to door to introduce the *Militant* newspaper in working-class neighborhoods and asking workers we meet to join in the defense effort. We’re also going to open a public campaign headquarters.

“Driven by the deepening crisis in their capitalist economic system, the bosses are speeding up production and pushing to drive wages, working conditions and workers’ very dignity down,” Perasso said. “One of the things the campaign talks with workers about, and gets a good response on, is the need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work to build hospitals, schools, child care centers — things workers need.

“We call for a big increase in the minimum wage. Under capitalism, wages are set from the bottom up,” Perasso said. “Forcing the government to raise the minimum wage will push wages up for all workers. Fighting for these immediate measures would reduce divisions between us and boost our confidence, making the working class stronger to fight against the attacks.

“We also introduce workers to the international campaign to win freedom for the Cuban Five,” Perasso said. “These revolutionaries were framed and imprisoned here for their efforts to defend the Cuban Revolution from attacks and provocations by paramilitary groups that operate from U.S. soil with the tacit backing of Washington. Workers in this country who have relatives and friends caught up by the cops, courts and prisons can identify with their frame-up and treatment under U.S. ‘justice.’

“The fight we are involved in here is an opportunity to defend the political rights of the entire working class,” Perasso said.

Those who organized the break-in did not steal valuable items out in plain sight — a laptop, an e-reader and a tablet computer, Perasso said. And rather than conceal their intent, the culprit left clear evidence of a political purpose, pulling out drawers and files and leaving them strewn about the house.

“The only thing taken was a cellphone that contained phone records of people I called and emailed while I was part of a fight earlier this year against police brutality in Omaha. The phone would provide information for anyone looking to harass political

activists,” said Perasso.

Appeal for solidarity

“Our response is to appeal for solidarity — an injury to one is an injury to all. When anyone’s rights are challenged, we all need to speak out to defend everyone’s rights to free speech and association,” said Perasso. The Socialist Workers Party in Omaha is asking all supporters of political rights, wherever they may be, to join in calling on the mayor and other city officials to press the police to find and prosecute those who organized the break-in.

A neighbor’s surveillance video captured images of a man casing the house, breaking in, and later scurrying out from behind the house. Omaha police were given a copy of the video.

In getting the defense campaign off the ground, supporters of the SWP have learned about harassment of others who are politically active in the area.

James Dugan, a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and an activist with Perasso in the fight against police brutality, said that his car tires were slashed a month ago. Despite repeated calls to the Omaha police, no cop has ever come to investigate.

Perasso has been working with Dugan and others since the spring to demand action against police caught on video beating and attempting to frame up Octavious, Juaquez and Demetrius Johnson, three brothers in the Black community of north Omaha. Four cops were eventually fired as a result of community protest. Several of those organizing the protests have been followed and stopped by the police repeatedly.

Perasso, 36, who lived in Omaha a decade ago, returned in 2012 to help reestablish the party here. He worked as a meat packer at the ConAgra cut and kill plant here in 2002 and joined with fellow workers in the United Food and Commercial Workers to defend workers who were targeted by the bosses for their union activity, fight for union recognition and in defense of the rights of immigrant workers.

A major manufacturing center in the Midwest, Omaha has been the site of bloody labor battles over decades between the bosses and railroad and packinghouse workers.

The Omaha area was a battleground in the Teamsters’ efforts to organize over-the-road truckers in the 1930s and the union remains one of the region’s largest.

Omaha is home to the national headquarters of the Union Pacific Railroad, ConAgra, and Mutual of Omaha, in addition to Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway. In May SWP campaign supporters joined a United Mine Workers action in Omaha at the annual stockholders meeting of Berkshire Hathaway as well as in Des Moines, Iowa, outside the offices of Buffett’s company, to protest moves to slash the UMWA’s contract at a subsidiary in Utah.

Large banks, including the First National, have tentacles throughout the state, tying farmers into debt as they seek to finance seed and fertilizer as well as farm equipment.

In recent decades packinghouse workers have fought the bosses to organize the slaughterhouses and defend themselves from dangerous conditions, speedup and efforts to divide them by race or immigration status.

In the course of these struggles, workers and political militants have faced frame-ups, company thugs and cop violence and provocations.

Earlier threats

When Perasso and his supporters collected signatures to put him on the ballot earlier this year, they found a receptive ear from working people. But they also ran into threats from political enemies of the working class.

Campaign supporter Frank Forrestal was accosted in February by a thug who told him, "You deserve to die, you commie bastard."

In front of Forrestal, the goon called a friend saying, "Come down right away. We need to beat the s--t out of him." In order to avoid confrontation, Forrestal left.

"It is precisely to put pressure against those who would take such measures that we need to respond publicly with a fight for our right to speak out," Perasso told the *Militant*.

Documentation on the incident was filed along with dozens of other reports of harassment sent by workers to support the party's application to have the Federal Election Commission continue its exemption from having to file the names of contributors to its election campaigns, opening them to potential harassment from government spy agencies, bosses and rightists.

The SWP won an important victory for its campaign supporters and for the working class as a whole in April, when the FEC, which had threatened to weaken or eliminate the protections the party had won against persecution in the past, had to admit the evidence of past and present harassment was more than enough to grant the extension.

Perasso will be bringing the new defense campaign to the Aug. 2-3 Black August Weekend Human Rights-Political Prisoners Commemorative Festival at the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation Center in north Omaha. The event is organized to win support for the fight to free Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa, two Black Panther Party members who were framed up and have been incarcerated for more than 40 years.

Perasso will speak at the event on the case of the Cuban Five. He will have just returned from participating in the Seventh Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba held in Venezuela July 24-27.

To find out how you can get involved in the free speech fight in Omaha, contact the SWP, P.O. Box 7908, Omaha, NE 68107. [Email: swpomaha@fastmail.com](mailto:swpomaha@fastmail.com); telephone: (402) 779-7696.

Related articles:

[Thousands sign to put socialist candidates on New York ballot](#)
[US socialist candidates talk with fellow workers in Egypt](#)
[Help put the socialist candidates on the ballot in Des Moines](#)

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EXHIBIT 2

Declaration

I, Bill Arth, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On October 4, 2014, the SWP campaign headquarters in Los Angeles was attacked. After a public Militant Labor Forum opposing Washington's war in Iraq and Syria that attracted 29 people concluded, and 15 people were still in the meeting room discussing the issues informally, the plate glass window at the front of the office shattered. This event was publicly advertised, including a notice posted in the window. Everyone at the meeting was taken aback by the attack.

2. I ran out to see if we could find who had attacked us, but no one was in sight on the block. I went to the nearest corner, but didn't see anyone down the block either.

3. The plate glass window was largely shattered into small pieces. One section had a hole about one inch in diameter. We could not find a bullet or other hole inside the headquarters, so we do not know what was used to shatter the window. There was no rock, BB or other object on the ground.

4. I filed a police report and was interviewed by police officers. I never heard anything back from the police concerning the attack.

5. There is a history over decades of violent attacks against the Socialist Workers Party offices in Los Angeles, including firebombings, physical assaults and vandalism. For example, in 2005 the campaign headquarters had the front window attacked, sending shattered glass flying 30 feet inside. This followed reports by a U.S. postal inspector that "hate mail" had been sent to the SWP office in L.A.

6. We had the window replaced with one composed of a stronger safety glass at the cost of \$450.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Los Angeles, on October 7, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Arth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Arth
Los Angeles, Calif.

EXHIBIT 3

Declaration

I, James Harris, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On October 9, 2016, I was part of a SWP campaign team and set up a table at 16th and H Streets across the street from Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. where a rally and concert for the freedom of Oscar Lopez, a Puerto Rican independence fighter who has been imprisoned for 45 years was taking place. The party table was staffed by Ved Dookhun, Anthony Dutrow, Arlene Rubinstein and Sergio Zambrana. Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president was at the rally and stopped by the table over the course of the afternoon.

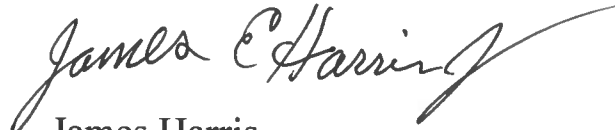
2. A man came to the SWP table when we were packing SWP campaign literature in boxes and taking down the table. He pushed me as he verbally insulted Ved Dookhun, saying that socialists were child molesters, and he would protect people from the socialist dictators.

3. Previously, the same man had approached the table four different times and becoming more aggressive and provocative, calling Ved Dookhun a "boy" and a "fag." He came very close to each one of us physically, leering at us. We asked him to cease his disrespectful abusive behavior, and leave.

4. When we were preparing to leave, packing up the SWP literature and statements and putting them in car, he became more agitated and kicked the car door on the rear driver side. He gestured as if he would throw a punch

through the window. He ran after us down the street screaming and yelling for three blocks through traffic. He caught up with us at a traffic light and continued until we drove away.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Washington, D.C., on October 11, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Harris". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

James Harris
October 11, 2016

EXHIBIT 4

DECLARATION

I, Seth Galinsky, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

- I. On Oct. 15, 2016, I answered the phone at the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in New York City. It was about 11 p.m. and I was helping to clean up the campaign headquarters after a well-attended form where Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, spoke along with other guest speakers from the Puerto Rican community, and Jacob Perasso, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York. Lea Sherman, was also in the headquarters at the time.
- II. The caller asked if Alyson Kennedy and the other candidates support the preamble to the Constitution that speaks about the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." In particular he said he wanted to know if they defended the "right to life."
- III. I replied that all the SWP candidates defend a women's right to choose abortion, that it's the women's body and she's the only one who can decide.
- IV. He said that while he might agree with other things the SWP candidates say, the most important thing in the constitution is the "right to life." He said, "I am willing to die for the right to life." Given the long history in the U.S. of opponents of a women's right to choose using violence to prevent the exercise of that right and his earlier refusal to give his name, I viewed his statement as a threat.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in New York, New York, Oct. 17, 2016.


Seth Galinsky

EXHIBIT 5

DECLARATION

I, Naomi Craine, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I serve as the Managing Editor of the *Militant* newspaper, a paper that has editorially supported the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party since its first presidential campaign in 1948 and continues to do so today.
2. Over the last couple years the *Militant* has faced continuous harassment from prison administrations in both Federal and State penitentiaries. On numerous occasions, inmates who subscribe to our newspaper have had issues denied to them. This violated both the *Militant's* freedom of speech and the rights of the prisoners.
3. I have attached articles from the *Militant* over the last three years documenting impoundment of the paper by authorities in state prisons in Florida, New York and Washington state and at a federal prison in Colorado.

The instances include:

- a. September 2013 – The *Militant* was informed that a prisoner in the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla was not receiving his subscription. The inmate received a notice that they were rejected as a “threat to the safty (sic) and security of the institution.” The Washington ACLU represented the *Militant* and the authorities reversed their ban.
- b. January 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscribers at Blackwater River Correctional Facility in Milton, Fl., on basis “the entire publication is viewed as a threat to security.” After being contacted by the Florida ACLU, authorities said it was a “clerical error” and delivered to the subscriber. In the course of this, it came up that four subscribers at the institution had been denied from three to five recent issues and told that all issues of the *Militant*

would be banned in the future. After protest, the institution reversed the ban, blaming it on “miscommunication.”

- c. March 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscriber at Taylor Correctional Institution in Florida. The Jan. 19 issue was impounded for an article “‘Militant’ beats back censorship at Fla. Prison.” When the papers’ counsel told authorities it would challenge the ban, they said they had reversed their decision.
- d. July 2014 – The *Militant* was impounded by the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, who informed the paper “this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to the Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system.” The attorney for the *Militant* filed an appeal with the regional director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Kansas. He received notice July 7 and the issue was admitted.
- e. July 2016 – *Militant* impounded in Florida at Northwest Florida Reception Center, and, in keeping with state prison regulations, then also impounded at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution. Prison officials said the paper was “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system” for an article titled, “Prisoners strike to protest abuse and little or no pay in Alabama,” a news article. Authorities at Santa Rosa also impounded the June 13 issue, pointing to an article reporting on a protest in Puerto Rico demanding release of *independista* Oscar López, who is in prison in the U.S. The reason given for this ban was the claim that the photo with the article contained “hang/gang signs.” After protest by the paper’s attorney, prison officials said the impoundments were “done in error” and these bans were all rescinded.
- f. October 2016 – Authorities at Attica Correctional Facility in New York impounded the October 3 issue of the *Militant* with an article “Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, ‘We are men, not beasts.’” Dozens of daily newspapers and magazines had run news stories on this anniversary, including the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Ebony* and the *Wall*

Street Journal. The paper and its attorney are in the process of appealing the confiscation.

4. The *Militant* has challenged and fought every one of these bans. We have been successful in every instance. We have been joined by support statements from other publications that have faced prison censorship as well as civil liberties groups that have supported the Constitutional rights of the paper and our subscribers. We have been represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida and Washington state, and by our own council in Florida, Colorado and New York.
5. At issue have been articles reporting on events that have been covered widely by media across the country, including *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, and daily papers from the *New York Times* to the *Miami Herald*. The stories included reporting on the hunger strike carried out by tens of thousands of inmates held in solidarity confinement in California and the 45th anniversary of the prison confrontation at Attica in New York. These other media had no difficulty getting to subscribers in prison.
6. The *Militant* was singled out by prison authorities because of its political views. This is confirmed by the fact that after our challenge, in each instance prison authorities relented and released the issues to our inmate subscribers.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 24, 2016.



Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016

RECEIVED MAY 19 2014

BF-A0958
OCT 11

Notification to Inmate and Publisher/Sender of
Rejected Publication (DFRM)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

(TO BE USED WHEN REJECTING A PUBLICATION UNDER SECTION 2.a.-e. OF PS 5266.11)

Inmate [REDACTED]

Register Number: [REDACTED]

Institution: United States Penitentiary Florence, CO "High"

RE: The MILITANT Issue: Vol. 77 No. 47

The above-named publication/material from A Socialist Newsweekly
has been rejected in accordance with the Bureau's Program Statement **Incoming Publications**, which provides in part:

A publication may be rejected only if it is determined detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution or if it might facilitate criminal activity.

The above-named publication has been rejected because:
This publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system.

A copy of this notification has been sent to the publisher/sender, who may obtain an independent review of this rejection by writing to the Regional Director.
Paul M. Laird Gateway Complex Tower II, 8th Floor, 400 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101-2492

Inmates may seek review of this determination through the Administrative Remedy Program within twenty (20) days of receipt of that copy.

J. P. Cole
Warden

2/7/14
Date

cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

PDF

Prescribed by PS 5266

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Women trade unionists back fight to free Cuban Five

— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 47 DECEMBER 30, 2013

Nearly 3,000 sign up for working-class newsweekly!

BY EMMA JOHNSON

"We're going out tonight to get a couple more, we want to keep going to the end," Maggie Trowe said over the phone from Des Moines, Iowa, five hours before the final midnight deadline in the international subscription and books campaign Dec. 17.

Supporters around the world are celebrating a resounding victory in the drive. Many areas did like Des Moines and kept going until the last hours taking us 475 subscriptions over our goal of 2,500.

Andrew Pulley, a *Militant* supporter and cab driver, had a group of seven Angolan oil workers as passengers for four days last week," Trowe said. "They are mechanics taking training classes at a local compression company here. Pulley brought them to the book center. One of them got a subscription and three bought *Cuba and*

Continued on page 3

Fall 'Militant' subscription campaign				
Oct. 12 - Dec. 17 (final)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,500 Goal
UNITED STATES				
Seattle	160	185	116%	
Atlanta	160	179	112%	
Miami	95	105	111%	
Lincoln	22	24	109%	
San Francisco	180	195	108%	
Philadelphia*	135	146	108%	
New York*	420	447	106%	
Los Angeles	160	170	106%	
Boston	65	68	105%	
Twin Cities*	145	151	104%	
Des Moines	160	166	104%	
Chicago	180	186	103%	
Washington	90	91	101%	
Houston	110	110	100%	
Omaha	220	150	68%	
Total U.S.	2302	2373	103%	
PRISONERS	15	25	167%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	150	161	107%	
Manchester	100	118	118%	
UK Total	250	279	112%	
CANADA	110	116	105%	
NEW ZEALAND	80	94	118%	
AUSTRALIA	75	88	117%	
Total	2832	2975	119%	
Should be	2500	2500	100%	

*Raised goal

Ukraine crisis grows as Putin, imperialists vie for influence

Moscow tightens grip with carrot and stick



Reuters photos-Gleb Garanich

Divisions in Ukraine over whether country's rulers will shift toward trade and political alliance with imperialist powers of Europe and U.S. or remain in clutches of rising capitalist layers in Russia were reflected in opposing demonstrations in Kiev over Dec. 14-15 weekend.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Sustained demonstrations in the Ukraine against Kiev's pro-Russia foreign policy are manifestations of a growing political crisis, marked by factional struggles between rival privileged social layers based in the eastern and western halves of the country. The catalyst is the contest for influence between the imperialist rulers of the U.S. and Europe on one hand and the secret-police regime representing the interests of a layer of rising capitalists in Russia.

Moscow won the last round when Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich signed a deal with Russia Dec. 17 lowering prices for gas imports from \$400 to \$268.50 per 1,000 cubic meters and a \$15-billion bailout to stave off a

government default. Tens of thousands gathered in Kiev, accusing Yanukovich of selling Ukraine out to the highest bidder.

Protests in Kiev's Independence Square began in response to Yanukovich's Nov. 21 announcement that he would not sign agreements to move toward integration into the European Union trade bloc and instead maintain

Continued on page 6

Does election of Seattle socialist, unionists in Ohio strengthen labor?

BY JOHN STUDER

A number of newspapers and on-line publications of various middle-class radicals and socialists on the U.S. left have extolled the recent electoral

COMMENTARY

wins by Kshama Sawant, Socialist Alternative candidate for Seattle City Council, and two dozen City Councilors in Lorain County, Ohio, who ran on a ticket under the auspices of the local union federation. For some, the election of left Democrat Bill de Blasio as mayor of New York is included.

The question is, do any of these electoral victories represent an advance for

Continued on page 7

Assad regime retakes parts of Syria in brutal war

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As the nearly three-year civil war grinds on in Syria, the Bashar al-Assad regime has been consolidating its military control over key parts of the country. Millions have been driven from their homes. In recent months, conditions for working people in the country have worsened.

The relationship of forces shifted in favor of the Assad government after a deal was reached between Moscow and Washington to work with Damascus to dismantle its stockpile of chemical weapons, after the regime was accused of carrying out an Aug. 21 sarin gas attack that killed hundreds of civilians.

Since then, pro-Assad forces, including the recently formed paramilitary National Defense Force, Hezbollah soldiers sent from Lebanon, irregular fighters drawn from Shiite groups in Iraq and Revolutionary Guard troops from Iran, have made some significant gains.

Since mid-October these forces have captured Safira and Tel Aran, two towns southeast of Aleppo, and

Continued on page 6

Standing up has made us stronger, say workers locked out by Kellogg



Locked-out workers picket Kellogg plant in Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 13. From left, Scott Harmon, Sandra Henderson, Jeanette McGraw, Scott Cargile, Andre Matthews and Michael Plasky.

BY DAVE FERGUSON AND SUSAN LAMONT

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — "The lockout has brought us closer as a body. It's made us stronger," Rob Eafen, 42, a mechanic at Kellogg Company's cereal plant here, said during a Dec. 14 visit to the picket line. Eafen is one of 226 members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 252G who joined round-the-clock picketing at the plant after the company locked them out Oct. 22.

The central issue is Kellogg's drive

Continued on page 4

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- 'Militant' scores another win in prison censorship fight 4
- Striking SKorea rail workers win international solidarity 5
- Gerardo Hernández salutes Mandela, SAfrica revolution 7

New Zealand taxi drivers strike, make gains at Auckland airport

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — After one week striking, marching and picketing against the Auckland Airport Company here, some 180 taxi drivers won a “definite victory,” Manmohan Singh, spokesperson for the Auckland Taxi Association, told the *Militant* Dec. 13.

The agreement was concluded in talks the previous day between company officials and ATA representatives. Some 70 drivers waited outside on the spot where they had picketed all week. They held placards that described the airport company as “bloodsuckers” and explained, “We are working below \$4 an hour” (US\$3.32).

The airport is a publicly listed company nearly a quarter owned by the Auckland City Council.

Singh explained that the dispute stemmed from changes made by the airport in March — especially shifting the “designated rank” to a more visible spot. This area is used by drivers who work for three large companies. They get fares from business travelers and other frequent flyers that can be charged to their employers. In contrast, the striking drivers are restricted to the “main rank,” where they depend on casual fares from arriving travelers. Competition for those fares has increased since the designated rank moved much closer to the main rank.

Main rank drivers saw their fares drop by as much as 50 percent, Singh said. “You have to wait four to five

hours for a fare,” he explained. With a 70-hour workweek, drivers typically take home less than \$4 an hour, after forking out money for their license, airport tariffs, car payments, fuel costs and insurance.

Airport officials have agreed to post signs inside the terminal that direct people wanting taxis to a door that opens onto the main rank. “It’s a victory over a bully corporation,” said Singh.

The drivers had also demanded an end to “summary justice” from airport security. While on the main rank, Singh said, “You can’t eat in the cab; you can’t go to the toilet.”

The ATA was formed in October to discuss these grievances with the Auckland Airport Company, Singh said. After a one-day strike in November — triggered by the action of a security guard in sending home a driver who had used an airport toilet — the company agreed to provide drivers with more facilities. These points are included in the new agreement.

In addition to wide coverage in the media, the picketing drivers won backing from the First Union, and toots of approval from many travelers and workers in the area. Drivers for the three larger designated rank companies were guarded in their comments to the *Militant* during the stoppage.

One striker, who declined to be named, said several such drivers had told him they sympathized with the action.



Taxi drivers picket Auckland Airport Company Dec. 10. Some 180 workers struck for one week over rule changes by airport administration that resulted in decline of pay to \$4 an hour.

‘Happy to give bosses’ holiday bribe to communist movement’

“Blood money” contributions to the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund totaled \$917 in November. The ongoing fund helps finance the long-range work of the party.

“Workers have been complaining that the company does less for Thanksgiving,” Tom Baumann, who works in a warehouse in Miami, wrote with a note he sent with a \$20 contribution. “This year they excluded temporary workers, like myself, from participating in the hourly raffle, previously open to all workers. Most co-workers disagreed with this. ‘You guys do the same work as us. It’s not fair,’ one of them said to me.”

After workers protested, the temps were included in the \$20 turkey gift card “bonus” the same day.

“I was happy to get it so I could turn it over to put it to use building the communist movement,” Baumann wrote.

Blood money is a term used to describe bosses’ bribes intended to convince workers to accept speedup, wage cuts, concession contracts and dangerous working conditions. They take various forms: safety, attendance, production and “profit-sharing” bonuses; contract-signing incentives; and holiday “gifts.”

Maggie Trowe and Ellen Brickley also donated their Thanksgiving gifts of \$25 each from a plastics factory in Des Moines, Iowa.

“With the blood money gift we got a letter from the company president about how great ‘our team’ is and how she likes Thanksgiving because it is a ‘noncommercial’ holiday about family,” Trowe wrote. “With pleasure we put this blood money toward building the revolutionary party.”

Carole Lesnick and Eric Simpson contributed September and October “on-time” bonuses for the sum of \$240. They work at United Airlines in San Francisco.

“The company briefings motivate the bonus by saying that we contribute with hard work,” Simpson wrote. “Because of bad weather next month, there will be no bonus. But we’ll still work just as hard.”

To make a contribution to the Capital Fund, write or call a *Militant* distributor listed on page 8.

— EMMA JOHNSON

THE MILITANT

Back struggles by garment workers from Cambodia to US

The expansion of capitalist production in Asia has increased the size of the working class and the fights these workers are waging against the bosses from Cambodia to Bangladesh for unions, safety and a big raise in the minimum wage. The ‘Militant’ covers these struggles.

Phnom Penh Post/Hong Menta
Garment workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, celebrate winning back pay Dec. 3.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, €10 • France, 12 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own."

This book is one of nine on special offer with a subscription. Hundreds of the books have been sold since the beginning of the drive. (See ad below.)

"We were working right through Tuesday night. It was a big boost to have comrades join us from Twin Cities, Chicago and Des Moines on Saturday," reported Jacquie Henderson from Omaha, Neb. "We also had a great dinner and social that raised contributions for the SWP Party-Building Fund."

"Workers in the U.S. are so busy working, so they hardly have time to read and think. How can we help them understand what is happening in the world?" Antonio Jimenez in Columbus, Neb., asked Henderson when he renewed his subscription and contributed to the fund. "I am a welder and I work six days a week, every week. But I know I can't be without this paper."

Henderson invited him to join them in winning more readers. Jimenez took them to some apartment houses in this small industrial city surrounded by rich farmland and jumped into the discussions at workers' doors. One restaurant worker got excited about a *Militant* article on the victory of striking garment workers in Cambodia and signed up for a six-month subscription.

"There was slavery in the U.S.," Jimenez said. "It took the Civil War and more to get rid of it. But now we have a new kind of slavery, wage slavery. And it will take another revolution to end that. That is what we need."

Jimenez asked the *Militant* supporters to come back so they could knock

on some more doors together.

On Dec. 13 and 14, Susan LaMont and Dave Ferguson from Atlanta drove to Memphis, Tenn., to visit the picket line of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 252G members locked out by Kellogg.

"Nine workers subscribed to the *Militant*," LaMont wrote. "This means 17 union members are now getting the paper."

"One worker, Marvin Rush, said he wants to buy *Teamster Rebellion*," LaMont said. "He was fascinated by the story of how members of Teamsters Local 574 organized the unemployed, a women's auxiliary and got help from farmers in their battle in the 1930s to make Minneapolis a union town."

Erendira Valadez renewed her subscription during the drive after several years of not getting the paper. Arlene Rubinstein wrote from Los Angeles. Since then, the garment worker has attended two *Militant* Labor Forums, including this past week on the political legacy of Nelson Mandela.

"I see the forums as a time and a place where I transform my understanding of politics, and where I can feel comfortable to discuss my situation as a worker," Valadez said. Supporters of the *Militant* there are meeting with a number of new readers to discuss their ideas on topics for upcoming forum programs.

Seth Galinsky reported that in New York door-to-door teams signed up eight new readers in the evening of Dec. 17, bringing the total to 447. *Militant* supporters there sold 69 over the final week.

Peter Thierjung and Deborah Lia-



Milaura/Arlene Rubinstein
Public health worker Jennifer Ponce, right, signs up for *Militant* when Barbara Bowman and Kevin Cole visit her home in Long Beach, Calif., Dec. 14. Ponce also got *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own* and two copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

tos met a postal worker going door to door two weeks ago. They pointed to the article about how Metro-North's disdain for safety in order to maximize profits had led to the commuter train derailment Dec. 1 that caused four deaths and over 60 injuries. "Come in here!" she said. "I'm getting that paper." She had been injured on the job and the company fought all the way against her disability claim. She lost and was forced into retirement.

"Then her niece walked in," Thierjung said. "She used to be a teacher. Tell them why you are not a teacher any more," her aunt said. So the niece tells us she doesn't want to 'turn out any more worker-bees,' she's fed up with teaching. She grabbed *The Working Class and the Transformation of*

Learning booklet out of our hands."

"Come back next week. We'll do a coffee and sit down and talk," the postal worker said. "And be sure to bring the books."

Thierjung and Liatos went back last Sunday. After talking politics for an hour, she decided to get *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and asked them to come back with more books.

Supporters in New York have sold 166 books on special offer so far and are still counting. Topping the list are *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* with 38 copies, *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* with 34 and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* with 31.

"I enjoy receiving the paper," wrote a worker behind bars in Virginia with his renewal slip. "When I get my conviction overturned, I look forward to having my case on the front page."

Subscriptions to prisoners are at the very top of the scoreboard. Fourteen new inmates have subscribed and 11 have renewed. This is the highest number in years.

Special offers with 'Militant' subscription



The Cuban Five

Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free
from pages of the 'Militant'
\$3 with subscription (regular \$5)

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes
\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions

Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87
\$5 with subscription (regular \$10)

Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

See distributors on page 8



Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Cuba and Angola

Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez
\$6 with subscription (regular \$12)

Women in Cuba

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

FLORIDA

Miami
The Citizen's Revolution in Ecuador, Peace Talks in Colombia and Cuba's Proletarian Revolution: The Class Struggle in Latin America Today. Panel of participants in anti-imperialist youth festival Sat. Dec. 28. Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Tel.: 305-757-8869.

NEW YORK

Manhattan
Conflict in the Ukraine As Moscow Vies for Influence with U.S. and Europe. Fri., Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36 St., 10th Floor (north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

CANADA

Montreal
United States, China, Japan Tensions Increase in the Pacific. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

'Militant' scores another win against censorship in prisons

BY JOHN STUDER

"Yes, I received copies of the *Militant* you sent fairly soon after you sent them," Patrick Drum wrote to the paper Dec. 9. "Thank you."

Drum, a prisoner being held in solitary confinement at Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, was one of a number of subscribers behind bars in three U.S. prisons who reported that prison officials withheld or confiscated their copies of the *Militant*. Some of the issues featured coverage of a hunger strike by inmates in California earlier this year to protest solitary confinement and other abusive treatment.

In its campaign for the right of prisoners to receive their subscriptions, the *Militant* got help from the American Civil Liberties Union. It also received support from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and a number of publications that report on struggles by workers behind bars, including the *San Francisco Bay View*, *Prison Legal News* and several websites. In face of growing publicity and support, authorities in two Florida prisons delivered issues they had withheld to subscribers there.

After Drum contacted the *Militant* to report his copies had been taken away by prison authorities, the Washington ACLU agreed to work with the *Militant* to press the state Attorney General's Office to intervene.

"Publishers who wish to communicate with those who, through subscription, willingly seek their point of view have a legitimate First Amendment interest in access to prisoners," Washington ACLU attorney La Rond Baker wrote to John Dittman, Assistant Attorney General in Washington state, Nov. 25, quoting from a 1989 Supreme Court decision.

The only grounds prison officials could have had for seizing the *Militant* issues, Baker wrote, would be objection to "The *Militant's* socialist editorial policy."

Five days before the letter to Dittman, the *Militant* sent Drum copies of the four issues that had been taken from him in September.

Baker spoke to Drum on the phone Dec. 13. Drum confirmed he had received the issues and has continued to receive his subscription since.

In the course of the campaign, the *Militant* learned about censorship imposed on other publications that report on conditions and struggles of prisoners. *Prison Focus*, a quarterly "that works with and on behalf of prisoners in California's control units and other institutions," has been censored at Pelican Bay State Prison, where prisoners have led the round of three hunger strikes over the past two years.

"The censorship lawsuit against Pelican Bay prison officials has been drafted, sent inside for corrections, and rewritten again," editor Ed Mead wrote in the paper's most recent issue. "Prisoner victims of the banning of last issue of *Prison Focus* at the PBSF SHU [Pelican Bay State Prison Security Housing Units] have filed their 602s, appealed them all the way to the third and final level, thus exhausting all available administrative remedies."

"602s" are grievance forms inmates can file with California Department of Corrections against prison actions or policies.

Victory against the prison censors, Mead says, is not mainly a legal question. "The courts act as a sort of social pressure relief valve; when there is an active movement making demands on the state, rights are handed down by

Thousands attend World Youth Festival in Ecuador



QUITO, Ecuador — Delegates from 88 countries gathered here Dec. 7-13 to take part in the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students. The event, which brought together various political forces under the banner of the struggle against imperialism, had some 8,000 registered participants, 3,500 from the host country.

Some 800 delegates were from Colombia, where after five decades of guerrilla insurgency peace negotiations are taking place between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The negotiations, brokered by the Cuban government, were a topic of discussion and debate at the festival.

Shown above is the Cuban delegation marching in the opening ceremony Dec. 7. Among the 250 Cuban delegates were Irma González and Ailí Labañino, daughters of René González and Ramón Labañino, two of the Cuban Five. Ramón Labañino is among four of the framed-up revolutionaries who remain in U.S. prison. In May, René González returned to Cuba where he has been active in the political fight to free his comrades.

Some 250 came from Namibia. Sizable delegations also came from Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. The opening ceremony marked the passing of Nelson Mandela, who led the democratic revolution against white-supremacist rule in South Africa and was honored here for his contribution to the struggle against imperialism.

— ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

Socialist Workers Party fund drive set to exceed \$100,000 in final week

BY TONY LANE

With one more week to go in the Socialist Workers Party \$100,000 Party-Building Fund, local areas are focused on getting the final payments

in. Just over \$17,100 came in this week, bringing the total to \$96,123.

Three areas, Lincoln, Philadelphia and Seattle, have already met their quotas for the fund, and many others areas are closing in fast.

As well as organizing to collect on pledges, many areas have been working to expand the number of contributors as they take steps to meet their goal.

Dean Hazlewood reports from Miami that "we got the pledges to make our quota of \$3,000 by reaching out broadly. We went over our goal of involving 15 first-time contributors. At least eight longshore workers made contributions when we set up tables with the *Militant* and Pathfinder books at roll call outside union halls in Fort Lauderdale and Miami. This brought in over \$200. We also gained another \$40 from workers who kicked in an extra dollar or two as we were selling the *Militant* door to door."

A final chart will be run in the next issue. Send contributions to the fund to the SWP office nearest you (see directory on page 8) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

the courts in an effort to defuse the potential threat," he writes. "When the movement dies down, however, the rights are then taken away." "It is only the existence of an ac-

tive movement for change that will ensure enforcement of the rights of prisoners," Mead says. "Not the mere promises of prisoncrats nor the mood of the courts."

Workers locked out by Kellogg

Continued from front page
to hire temporary, part-time workers at the plant, at \$6 less per hour and with fewer benefits and rights than current workers.

"We've had many people from other unions, retirees from our local and others in the community bring food and fuel to show their support for us," Local 252G member Jim Archie said. Passing motorists frequently waved and honked their horns in solidarity.

Kellogg, a food-processing giant with operations in 18 countries, announced in November that it plans to cut its global workforce by 7 percent. On Dec. 10 it said it will close its cereal plant in London, Ontario, laying off 500 workers by the end of 2014.

"The Ontario shutdown is aimed at getting rid of the union," Michael Plasky said on the picket line. "Kellogg opened a non-union plant in 2008 not far from the union plant they are shutting down."

Kellogg is using scabs to run the Memphis plant.

"I never thought this would happen. And I sure didn't think it would last this long," said Tim Riggs, who has worked at the plant for 12 years. "I've got a lot of new friends now, co-workers I didn't really know before. And we've gotten closer to the other Kellogg locals and to other union members in Memphis."

Kellogg spokesperson Kris Charles told the *Militant* that the company will

end the lockout when "we agree to a fair and competitive contract."

"This is the same thing the company has been saying all along," Local 252G President Kevin Bradshaw said by phone Dec. 17. "The company wants to create a two-tier setup, with new hires getting lower wages and less benefits."

Contributions to a fund for the locked-out unionists can be made payable to "Local 252G Hardship" at BCTGM Local 252G, 3035 Directors Row, Building A #1310, Memphis, TN 38131-0417.

Party-Building Fund Week 8 of 9			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Seattle	\$8,800	\$9,220	105%
Lincoln	\$200	\$209	105%
Philadelphia	\$4,200	\$4,304	102%
Twin Cities	\$5,750	\$5,657	98%
San Francisco*	\$14,000	\$13,764	98%
Atlanta	\$6,800	\$6,591	97%
Chicago*	\$10,400	\$10,074	97%
Washington, DC	\$7,500	\$6,910	92%
New York	\$20,000	\$17,664	88%
Boston	\$3,500	\$3,000	86%
Des Moines*	\$3,000	\$2,411	80%
Los Angeles	\$8,200	\$6,573	80%
Houston	\$3,000	\$2,365	79%
Miami	\$3,000	\$2,319	77%
Omaha	\$2,500	\$1,715	69%
Other		\$1,350	
Total	\$102,850	\$96,123	96%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$88,888	89%

* Raised goal

Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.

First in a four-volume series. The other books are: *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *Teamster Bureaucracy*. Also available in Spanish, Swedish, Sarsi. PathfinderPress.com



— ON THE PICKET LINE —

SKorea rail workers strike, win international solidarity

The South Korean government is trying to break a strike by workers at the state-owned rail company.

Some 150 cops raided the offices of the Korean Railway Workers' Union in Seoul Dec. 17, seizing computers and documents. The government has issued arrest warrants for 10 union officials, on the grounds that the strike is illegal. And the company has suspended more than 7,600 workers.

The strike began Dec. 9 after KORAIL refused to negotiate over plans to set up a subsidiary to run a planned high-speed passenger train between Seoul and Busan. The Railway Workers' Union sees this as a step toward privatization, cutting jobs and wages.

KORAIL denies this is privatization, stating that shares in the new company would be government owned. The *Korea Herald* — which says the government "is right to play hardball with the union" — reports that the move is designed "to make the rail operator more efficient through competition ... and reduce KORAIL's snowballing debt, which reached 17.6 trillion won [\$952 million] in June."

"In most countries rail privatization begins this same way," Wol-san Liem, international affairs director for the Korean Federation of Public Services and Transportation Workers' Union, said by phone from Seoul Dec. 17. "Then they will slash costs wherever they can and this will have an impact on safety, on repairs and maintenance."

By the third day of the strike almost two-thirds of freight train traffic was shut down as well as many passenger and subway lines.

"KORAIL has brought in students, retired workers, managers and some soldiers to work as scabs," Liem said. "Many are not adequately trained."

On Dec. 15 an 84-year-old subway passenger died after she was caught in subway doors, operated by a strike-breaker.

The attack on rail workers is one of a series of attacks on unions and political rights since President Park Geun-hye

was elected last year.

Four Unified Progressive Party officials were charged in recent months with violating the National Security Law, for supposedly acting as agents of North Korea.

"They've made similar charges against some rail workers who are accused of being members of a secret organization," Liem said.

Rail unions affiliated with the International Transport Workers' Federation in at least 15 countries, from Australia to Bulgaria, protested at South Korean embassies Dec. 9 and 10 in solidarity with the strike.

More than 10,000 rail workers and supporters protested in Seoul Dec. 14.

"Privatization is going on around the world, especially in Europe where workers are trying to protect public rail," Liem said. "We hope our struggle will contribute to building the global effort."

Information on the strike and how to send messages of solidarity is available at http://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=2072.

Seth Galmisky

Greece: Workers in Athens strike university over job cuts

ATHENS, Greece — Clerical, administrative and technical support workers at the University of Athens have entered their 15th week on strike against layoffs that are part of government plans to cut some 25,000 public employees.

The layoffs are part of conditions for loans to the indebted Greek government Athens agreed to with the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, and the European Commission.

Workers at the National Technical University here ended a 13-week strike over the same issue Dec. 6.

"Out of 1,300 employees at these two campuses in Athens, 500 are to be laid off by decision of the ministry of education. Similar cuts are planned at the other six campuses in the national public university system," said Christina Demiri, a member of the strike committee.

"The government wants to eliminate job security in the public sector and promote private contractors," said Demiri.



South Korean rail workers rally in Seoul Dec. 14 against government-owned KORAIL's moves to privatize company. Workers have been on strike against rail bosses since Dec. 9.

"It also aims to introduce tuition for undergraduates."

"Preventing public higher education from being dismantled is one of the main aims of the strike," said Stavroula Vezirtzoglou, an official of the Federation of Higher Education Administrative Personnel.

"With the government proposal, nearly half the personnel would get 350-400 euros (\$480-\$550) a month for eight months and then be fired," said Vezirtzoglou. "With unemployment over 27 percent, being fired can mean you'll never work again."

"The strike committee has organized regular picketing and assemblies to speak with students and win their support," said Demiri. The strike suspended classes for some 100,000 students.

"The government tried hard to get students and parents to oppose the strike," Vezirtzoglou said. But many support the fight "because everyone is faced with the same difficulties to get by."

In response to government pressure, union officials from the Association of Administrative Employees of the University of Athens declared the strike over Dec. 12. But strikers did not abide by the announcement, which was made after the membership general assembly voted to continue the strike.

On Dec. 13 union members voted again to continue the strike, but to remove picket lines and allow students to

resume class. On Dec. 16 "the university will open its doors, but our strike continues," says Dimitris Antoniou, another strike committee member. "We have not stopped the government's course, but we have shaken them up."

Georges Mehrabian and Natasha Terlexis

Amazon workers in Germany strike for higher pay, respect

Workers at three Amazon distribution centers in Germany began a three-day strike Dec. 16. Germany is Amazon's second-largest market after the U.S.

More than 1,500 workers joined the strike in three cities the first day. Heiner Reimann, a spokesperson for the Verdi union, which is leading the organizing drive among Amazon's 9,000 warehouse workers, said in a phone interview from Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

The union is demanding that Amazon, the largest Internet-only retailer in the world, classify its workers as retail employees instead of logistics employees. The latter get paid about 10 euros an hour (\$13.80), Reimann said, while those classified as retail get 12 euros (\$16.50).

"We have to react to Amazon now," he added, "because we don't want the future for workers here to be like in America where everybody has to fight the bosses every day."

In Germany about 60 percent of workers are covered by union contracts, down from 70 percent 10 years ago, compared to less than 12 percent in the U.S. Both temporary work and so-called minijobs — tax-free part-time jobs with relatively low pay — have been rapidly growing in Germany over the last decade. Today these minijobs account for more than 20 percent of employment.

"The most important issue has to do with dignity," Amazon worker Christian Kraehling said by phone. "We didn't have any raises from 2005 to 2011. There was no air conditioning in the warehouses and it got so hot in the summer that a lot of people passed out. The company keeps raising the bar for how much we have to do, and there are problems with the behavior of many managers."

Once workers started organizing the union, Amazon installed air conditioning, he said, and raised wages a little. But the company still refuses to negotiate with the union.

Some 60 people demonstrated outside Amazon's Seattle headquarters Dec. 16 to back the strike in Germany. AFL-CIO Field Representative Marcus Courtney told the *Militant*. "This is about international solidarity," he said. "This is a fight we have in common."

Seth Galmisky

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



December 30, 1988

NEW YORK — Thousands of marchers took to the streets here to demand decent housing for all New Yorkers, braving a bitter cold that earlier in the day claimed its sixth homeless victim in a week.

The December 19 "March and Rally for Housing Justice," organized by a coalition of 175 organizations throughout the city, capped a week of meetings, picket lines, and educational events that highlighted the plight of nearly 100,000 New Yorkers — including 5,000 children under five — who are homeless.

The crowd of some 10,000 was overwhelmingly young, drawing thousands of high school and college students and Central America solidarity, peace, disarmament, and women's rights activists.

Scores of churches endorsed the event along with Teamster, city employee, hospital, telephone, United Auto Worker locals as well as the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.



December 31, 1938

Recent reports from northern Angola describe the increasing influx of arms and trained men across the border from the Congo as part of the first major drive against the Portuguese colonialists by the Angolan Liberation Army. The build-up is supported by war materiel mostly from Algeria, which is carried into Angola on the heads of bearers over narrow paths and is manned by 7,500 disciplined troops.

The Angolan liberation fight has been going on for over two and a half years now. Flaring into the open with a mass uprising in Luanda, the capital, in February 1961, the pent-up wrath of the Angolan people was countered by wholesale slaughter.

The Liberation Forces live off the land and thus subsist mainly on their dedication to their cause. Officers and men dress alike and call each other "comrade," a designation borrowed from the Algerians.



December 31, 1938

That the Jews, if they are to survive, can do so only by linking their fate to that of the labor movement, is the inescapable logical conclusion to which all our analysis points. This conclusion has driven itself home to the minds and hearts of many a leader of the Jewish community. The debacle of assimilationism, the blind alley into which Zionism has led, the sharp fact that only where the labor movement still stands strong can Jews lift their heads — all this leads them to agree that Jewry must cast in its lot with the working class and with labor's allies, the colonial peoples oppressed by the great powers.

Time presses upon all of us the *real*, inescapable alternatives: either down in the dark with fascism or up into the kingdom of freedom with the socialist revolution. For the Jews the question is posed even more sharply: either *physical extermination* or a new social order.

Assad gains ground in Syria

Continued from front page
retaken a military base near Aleppo's airport. In the suburbs south of Damascus, the capital city, another five towns are back under government control.

Government forces continue to bombard towns under siege, targeting civilian areas sympathetic to the opposition. Syrian government aircraft pounded areas near the southern border with Jordan and in Aleppo Dec. 16. Barrel bombs — steel barrels packed with explosives — dropped on several Aleppo neighborhoods killed at least 76, including 28 children, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. A similar attack in the northern town of Al-Bab Nov 31-Dec. 1 killed 46 people.

In face of these gains, Syrian government officials have made clear that Assad has no intention of surrendering power as part of any deals reached at a Jan. 22 "peace" conference set for Geneva, Switzerland, and that he may run again in elections scheduled for mid-2014.

"Assad's survival may not be the worst scenario for Syria," is how a Nov. 19 *Wall Street Journal* editorial described the view of the Barack Obama administration.

"Washington and Russia appeared to be working in tandem on a transitional framework," Reuters reported Dec. 17, in which Assad's military and intelligence apparatus would "rally a united fight against al-Qaeda with moderate rebel brigades, who would be invited to join a restructured military."

War grew out of protest movement

The struggle began in 2011, with large protests demanding political rights and an end to dictatorial rule. Assad replied with bombings, arrests and killings.

Opposition forces rallied under the banner of the Free Syrian Army, which took control of parts of northern Syria, including areas around Aleppo, the country's largest city, and some suburbs of Damascus.

Well-armed groups allied with al-Qaeda have entered the country, seeking to wrest territory amid the fighting. They have increasingly clashed with the Free Syrian Army.

The Syrian Observatory puts the total death toll in the war at almost 126,000. On average more than 5,000 have been killed per month since July 2012. Nearly 7 million people — one-third of the country's population — are in urgent need of food and medical assistance. Parts of the country have recently been hit by a polio outbreak.

The U.N. estimates there are 6.5 million people in the country who have been driven from their homes. Another

2.3 million Syrian refugees have fled to nearby countries — 131,000 to Egypt, 207,000 to Iraq, 540,000 to Turkey, 567,000 to Jordan and 842,000 to Lebanon. They face limited resources, stiff competition for jobs and are often scapegoated for deteriorating economic and social conditions in those countries.

In Lebanon, Syrians now comprise 20 percent or more of the country's population, and the government in Beirut is seeking to halt any further immigration. It has decided not to house refugees in formal camps, fearing they will stay, and tented settlements, like those in Bekaa Valley, are being pressured to close.

Nearly 6,500 refugees have crossed over the Turkish border to Bulgaria, the poorest nation in the European Union, mostly hoping to make it to Germany or Sweden. In Bulgaria, one of the entry points to Europe, they have been targeted by the ultrarightist Ataka party, which seeks to grow by demanding the Syrians be driven out, saying "Bulgaria for the Bulgarians."

Splintering of opposition forces

Free Syrian Army forces have suffered setbacks while Islamist rebel groups have been gaining strength. In November a coalition of seven Islamist groups, whose fighters are estimated to number 45,000, according to the *Economist*, split from the FSA and formed the Islamic Front. The front excludes the main al-Qaeda-linked groups in Syria — the Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The one exception to this overall trend is in the northeast, where Kurdish militias have pushed both Assad and the al-Qaedaists out, extending their control over most of Hasakah province. These gains are part of a broader rise in the struggle of the Kurdish people, an oppressed nationality of some 30 million concentrated in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Over the Dec. 7-8 weekend the Islamist Front took over key Free Syrian Army warehouses, near the Turkish border. Among the items seized were aircraft and anti-tank weapons, 50,000 military rations, pickup trucks and communications equipment, according to a U.S. State Department official and the Syrian Observatory.

Conflicting accounts about the incident were reported in the media, but each pointed to the declining power and influence of the FSA. One said FSA Gen. Salim Idris was forced to flee the site. Another that the FSA had asked the Islamic Front to defend the premises against fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

In response, Washington and London suspended delivery of nonlethal aid to



The Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad targets civilian areas sympathetic to the opposition with military sieges and aerial bombardments. Top, residents view damage from barrel bombs dropped on areas of Aleppo Dec. 17, killing at least 76 people. Bottom, tent encampment in Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, where 842,000 Syrian refugees have fled.

north Syria and have opened talks with the Islamic Front.

"The shift in Western priorities, particularly the United States and Britain, from removing Assad toward combating Islamist militants is causing divisions within international powers," Reuters reported Dec. 17.

The strengthening of the Assad government has been a gain for Moscow, which along with the Iranian government has been the main ally of the Syrian regime. The same development has angered Washington's allies in the region, particularly the monarchy in Saudi Arabia, which has supplied the FSA with \$400 million in arms and equipment. The Saudi kingdom has

also expressed outrage at the Barack Obama administration's recent overtures toward negotiations with Tehran, which has helped stabilize the regime there.

"We've seen several red lines put forward by the president, which went along and became pinkish as time grew, and eventually ended up completely white," Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal, the country's former intelligence chief, said Dec. 15, speaking at a World Policy Conference.

With the emergence of the Islamic Front, Saudi Arabia now seeks to arm one of its wings called Jaish al-Islam, or Army of Islam, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Crisis, divisions grow in Ukraine

Continued from front page
its close economic and political relationship with Russia. After a police attack on a small group of students Dec. 1, the anti-government rallies swelled to tens of thousands and over the weekends to hundreds of thousands. Participants are mainly young and come from the western part of the country.

Over the past few weeks, thousands have camped in the square, fortifying their positions with barricades and roadblocks. On Dec. 14, the government organized a one-time counterrally to support Yanukovich, numbering in the tens of thousands.

The unfolding events in Ukraine have historical roots in the anti-working-class course of the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc governments following the usurpation of political power by privileged bureaucratic social layers in the 1920s — a course which led to their collapse in the early 1990s. Since then, the remnants of the ruling bureaucracies in Ukraine and the rest of the Soviet bloc have moved

to reimpose capitalist exploitation on the working class. The social crisis resulting from this course is today exacerbated by the deepening crisis of capitalism on a world scale.

With roots in different industries and other sources of capital, some emerging capitalists have gravitated toward traditional ties with Moscow, while others look to new opportunities in closer economic integration with western Europe.

Conflicts between different factions of the new capitalist forces exploded around the 2004 presidential election. Yanukovich, who emerged from the government-run eastern coal industry and had strong ties to Russia, claimed victory. His opponent, Viktor Yushchenko, came out of the state banking apparatus and oriented towards Washington and capitalist governments in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, backing Yushchenko and a break with Russia. But his rule ended six years later amid growing

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"Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers."

—Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, "springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes."

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Women trade unionists back fight to free the Cuban Five

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Coalition of Labor Union Women approved a resolution at its Nov. 13-16 convention backing the fight to free the Cuban Five.

"CLUW members join with our founding member Dolores Huerta, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and eight Nobel Prize winners in calling for the Cuban 5 to be released and returned to their families," the resolution states.

"We must do all we can to win the release of these five innocent men," said Huerta, who is also a founding member of the United Farm Workers, in a YouTube video referred to in the resolution.

The resolution calls on "the U.S. State Department to grant a visa to Adriana Pérez in order that she may visit with her husband, Gerardo Hernández," one of the Five. During 15 years of imprisonment, Washington has repeatedly denied visa requests for Pérez to come to the U.S. to see Hernández, who was sentenced to two life terms plus 15 years on trumped-up conspiracy charges. "According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, denial of the right of a spouse to visit their incarcerated husband or wife is a violation of human rights," the resolution says.

While the case of the Five "has re-

ceived very little attention in the U.S. press," the resolution states, "it is widely known around the world because the activities for which they were convicted posed no threat to the American people (they were monitoring the activities of anti-Cuba terrorist groups based in Miami which had planned and carried out deadly bombings in Cuba.)"

More than 400 delegates from 40 unions attended the CLUW convention in Reno, Nevada. The AFL-CIO-backed coalition, founded in 1974, has chapters around the country.

The resolution, which was approved unanimously, was submitted by Katie Jordan, president of the Chicago chapter of CLUW. She is a retired garment worker and leader of the Workers United labor union.

"This is a good time for us to be more vocal on this issue," Jordan said in a phone interview Dec. 13. Jordan said she sees the fight to free the Five as part of the fights for justice in the U.S. "You can be doing something worthwhile here that someone else doesn't like and wind up being detained."

"This resolution is part of the priorities of what we will be working on and we hope other unions will do the same," she said.

Did elections strengthen labor?

Continued from front page

the working class and its allies? Do they strengthen workers capacity to fight the bosses? Do they further the self-confidence, class consciousness and organization of labor? Do they move toward independent working-class political action?

In the absence of working-class struggles strong enough to transform our labor unions and lay the basis for a social movement that can challenge the bosses political power, the answer is no. Without this, and lacking a revolutionary program, these elections only nurture workers' illusions in democratic forms of capitalist rule and provide them with left cover.

Kshama Sawant, an economics professor, ran for the nonpartisan Seattle City Council position No. 2, winning with 50.67 percent in a two-candidate race, with no Republican running. With a "practical" focus on getting elected, she campaigned around three central demands: "\$15-an-hour minimum wage, a rent control ordinance to make housing affordable, and a tax on millionaires to fund transit, education and other public services."

Sawant's campaign flyers bore the headline "Make Seattle affordable for all" and featured an endorsement calling her a "rarity — a progressive candidate who is principled, articulate, competent, smart, and fearless." She presented herself as an "activist," highlighting her involvement in the Occupy Wall Street movement. She said she was speaking for the 99 percent against the 1 percent, running "so that working people finally have real representation."

Constrained to the narrow boundaries that typify capitalist election contests for local offices, her literature avoided important political issues that affect all

workers, such as high unemployment and a woman's right to choose abortion. It made no mention of key international issues, Syria, the place of the Cuban Revolution, the common interests of working people worldwide against the bosses or the global crisis of capitalism that is driving their attacks against us.

"Sawant pushed the discussion in all races to the left — just as the Tea Party has pushed rightward elsewhere," noted the Freedom Socialist Party.

The observation is accurate. In a similar fashion, de Blasio's campaign helped carve out space for a growing socialist wing of the Democratic Party.

But a shift in bourgeois electoral politics to the left does nothing to advance political action on the part of the working class — which takes place in the streets, not at the ballot box. Electoral politics is not the arena for the working class — it's the arena for the bosses and the labor officialdom. Getting workers to orient in that direction is the employing classes' strongest weapon.

A major aspect of liberal and bourgeois-socialist politics is geared toward promoting the notion that the capitalist government can play a benevolent role with the right people in office pushing the right policies — a perspective that fosters attitudes of dependency.

Some middle-class socialist groups have in recent years pulled back from running for office themselves, burned out from previous exertions that didn't produce the quick gains they were looking for. In 2013, the Freedom Socialist Party did not run in Seattle, their base. The Party for Socialism and Liberation did not run for mayor in New York.

Today, a number of the same socialist groups are united in pointing to elections as a key arena where workers and

Continued on page 9

Who are the Cuban Five?



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

The frame-up and long sentences meted out to the Five is part of Washington's decades-long campaign to overturn the political power held by the working class of Cuba and to punish the toilers of that nation for making and defending a socialist revolution 90 miles from U.S. shores.

All but René González, who returned to Cuba in May 2013, remain in prison.

Gerardo Hernández salutes Nelson Mandela, South African revolution

Below is a message sent by Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five, following the death of Nelson Mandela, leader of the democratic revolution in South Africa. Three of the Five — Hernández, René González and Fernando González — served as volunteer combatants in Angola. More than 375,000 Cubans volunteered between 1975 and 1991 to help defeat the invading armies of the white supremacist apartheid regime in South Africa.

"I was in prison when I first heard of the massive assistance that the Cuban internationalist forces provided to the people of Angola, on such a scale that one hesitated to believe," Nelson Mandela said in Matanzas, Cuba, on July 26, 1991. The military defeat of South African forces at Cuito Cuanavale in March 1988 "was a victory for the whole of Africa," he said, led to the unbanning of the African National Congress, "and made it possible for me to be here today." Mandela was released in February 1990 after more than 27 years in prison.

Governments around the world that backed the apartheid regime branded the African National Congress and Mandela as "terrorists." Chief among them was Washington, which maintained that designation until 2008. Mandela visited eight U.S. cities on a 12-day tour in June 1990. In Miami, city officials refused to welcome him and denounced Mandela for his friendship with Cuba and the Cuban Revolution.

Those who dedicate unlimited resources to erase and rewrite the history of Nelson Mandela, and who had him on their list of "dangerous terrorists," today will suffer from collective amnesia.

Those in the city of Miami who insulted him by denying him homage because he embraced Fidel and thanked Cuba for its aid to Africa, today will have to sit in embarrassed silence.

The Cuban Five will continue facing every day our unjust imprisonment, until the end, inspired by his example of unwavering loyalty and resistance.

Eternal Glory to the great Nelson Mandela!
Gerardo Hernández Nordelo
United States Penitentiary, Victorville, California
Dec. 5, 2013



Three of Cuban Five were among the more than 375,000 Cuban volunteer combatants who helped defeat invasion of Angola by South African apartheid army. Above, Lieutenant Gerardo Hernández, on tank at far right, with scouting platoon he led in Cabinda, Angola, in 1980s. Inset, Hernández in U.S. prison.

Revolutionary potential of working class in the US

Below is an excerpt from *The Struggle for Socialism in the "American Century,"* one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for December. The book contains writings and speeches, from 1945-47, of James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the communist movement in the U.S. and then national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The selection is from "Theses on the American revolution," adopted by the 12th National Convention of the SWP in November 1946. Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The American workers are accustomed to the highest living and working standards. The widely held view that high wages are a conservatizing factor tending to make workers immune to revolutionary ideas and actions is one-sided and false. This holds true only under conditions of capitalist stability where the relatively high standard of living can be maintained and even improved. This is excluded for the future, as our whole analysis has shown. On the other hand, the workers react most sensitively and violently to any infringement upon their living standards. This has already been demonstrated by the strike waves in which great masses of "conservative" workers have resorted to the most militant and radical course of action. In the given situation, there-



Inset, locked-out longshore workers, March 8, 2013, Vancouver, Wash.

fore, the relatively high living standard of the American workers is a revolutionary and not, as is commonly believed, a conservatizing factor.

The revolutionary potential of the class is further strengthened by their traditional militancy coupled with the ability to react almost spontaneously in defense of their vital interests, and their singular resourcefulness and ingenuity (the sit-down strikes!).

Another highly important factor in raising the revolutionary potential of the American working class is its greatly increased cohesiveness and homogeneity — a transformation accomplished in the last quarter of a century. Previously, large and decisive sections of the proletariat in the basic industries were recruited by immigration. These foreign-born workers were handicapped and divided by language barriers, treated as social pariahs, and deprived of citizenship and the most elementary civil rights. All these circumstances appeared to be insuperable barriers in the way of their organization and functioning as a united labor force. In the intervening years, however, these foreign-born workers have been assimilated and "Americanized." They and their sons today constitute a powerful, militant, and articulate detachment of the organized labor movement.

"The relatively high living standards of the American workers is a revolutionary and not, as is commonly believed, a conservatizing factor," said 1946 Socialist Workers Party theses. Disinclination toward revolutionary ideas and action "holds true only under conditions of capitalist stability." Above, strike by 120,000 East Coast shipyard workers, spring 1947. Inset, locked-out longshore workers, March 8, 2013, Vancouver, Wash.

An equally significant and profound development is represented by the transformation that has taken place in the position occupied by the Negroes. Formerly barred and deprived of the rights and benefits of organization by the dominant reactionary craft unions and, on the other hand, regarded and sometimes utilized by the employers as a reserve for strikebreaking purposes, masses of Negroes have since the twenties penetrated into the basic industries and into the unions. Not less than two million Negroes are members of the CIO, AFL, and independent unions. They have demonstrated in the great strike struggles that they stand in the front lines of progressiveness and militancy.

The American workers have the advantage of being comparatively free, especially among the younger and most militant layers, from reformist prejudices. The class as a whole has not been infected with the debilitating poison of reformism, either of the classic "Socialist" variety or the latter-day Stalinist brand. As a consequence, once they proceed to action, they more readily accept the most radical solutions. No important section of the class, let alone the class as a whole, has been demoralized by defeats. Finally, this young and mighty

power is being drawn into the decisive phases of the class struggle at a tempo that creates unparalleled premises for mass radicalization.

Much has been said about the "backwardness" of the American working class as a justification for a pessimistic outlook, the postponement of the socialist revolution to a remote future, and withdrawal from the struggle. This is a very superficial view of the American workers and their prospects.

It is true that this class, in many respects the most advanced and progressive in the world, has not yet taken the road of independent political action on a mass scale. But this weakness can be swiftly overcome. Under the compulsion of objective necessity not only backward peoples but backward classes in advanced countries find themselves driven to clear great distances in single leaps. As a matter of fact, the American working class has already made one such leap which has advanced it far ahead of its old positions. ...

[T]he 1929 crisis found the working class helpless and impotent. For three years the masses remained stunned and disoriented by the disaster. Their resistance was extremely limited and sporadic. But their anger and resentment accumulated. The next five years (1933-37), coincident with a partial revival of industry, witnessed a series of gigantic clashes, street fights, and sit-down strikes — an embryonic civil war — the end result of which was a leap, a giant leap, for millions of workers from nonexistence as an organized force to trade union consciousness and organization. ...

In one leap — in a brief decade — the American workers attained trade union consciousness on a higher plane and with mightier organizations than in any other advanced country. In the study and analysis of this great transformation, rather than in rapid ruminations over the "backwardness" of the American workers, one can find the key to prospective future developments. Under the impact of great events and pressing necessities the American workers will advance beyond the limits of trade unionism and acquire political class consciousness and organization in a similar sweeping movement.

December BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

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Did Seattle, Ohio elections strengthen labor?

Continued from page 7

"activists" should focus attention. "On election night Sawant's supporters, including this writer, gathered to watch returns," the ESP's Linda Averill wrote. There were "socialists of all stripes: independents, the ESP, SA, and International Socialist Organization (ISO). In the electoral arena, such collaboration is historic in recent times."

This attempt to reap gains through a "practical" electoral focus is an attempt to look to something other than real politics — the actions of the working class and the hard road of struggle ahead. These groups, with their attraction to Occupy, no longer look to the working class as the engine of revolutionary change. They lack confidence that through experiences in class combat working people will forge a leadership of their own, gain political clarity and transform themselves into the kind of men and women capable of fighting to end the dictatorship of capital and replace it, from the ground up, with the political power of the toiling majority.

The electoral farce, in contrast, drags workers deeper into the trap of seeing their involvement in politics as a matter of choosing among a list of candidates who they hope will make things better for them.

Much of the left acts on the conviction that the heterogeneous and diffuse Occupy protests, which began and peaked in 2011, represented the growth of a new social movement for progressive change. The idea led to disillusionment in face of Occupy's inevitable evaporation and cooption by the left of the Democratic Party. But today such hopes have been rekindled in growing excitement about new possibilities in electoral politics.

"It has been said that what happened in Seattle was that Occupy went to the polls," Jason Netek wrote in the ISO's *Socialist Worker*.

"Working people and the poor and all those fighting oppression need to start running pro-worker, anti-corporate independent candidates as part of forming a new, genuine party of the left, which will represent the interests of the 99%," Socialist Alternative wrote.

In some cases this perspective has been marked by critical attraction to the de Blasio campaign. "He talked explicitly about the vast inequality between rich and poor in the city," Socialist Alternative said. "In a distorted way, he has articulated the anger of the working class against Bloomberg and the rich elite."

Ohio labor ticket

"Union-dense Lorain County, Ohio, is now home to an independent labor slate of two dozen newly

elected city councilors recruited and run by the central labor council," Bruce Bostick, a long-time leader of the Communist Party USA, wrote in the Dec. 4 *Labor Notes*.

The ticket was launched in response to an effort to break city unions by Democratic Mayor Chase Ritenauer and a number of incumbent Democrat city councilors. Its purpose was to mount left pressure on the Democratic Party. "Running independent wasn't our first choice, but hopefully this can help bring the Democratic leaders to their senses," Bostick quotes Machinist Art Thomas as saying. The meeting of the Lorain Central Labor Council after the election voted to buy a table at the upcoming Democratic Party dinner and to donate to the campaign of Matt Lundy, the party's candidate for county commissioner.

What made possible the elections of Sawant and the Lorain labor ticket was a shift in workers' thinking today under the impact of the bosses' drive to foist the crisis of capitalism on our backs. What workers need is a clear class explanation of the roots of the crisis in the dictatorship of capital and a discussion on how to build a movement to overthrow it.

To advance this discussion, The Socialist Workers Party selectively runs candidates in U.S. elections today, with a focus on the highest offices to better engage in a discussion on the biggest political questions facing workers and their allies.

The party uses its election campaigns as a subordinate component of broader propaganda work, taking the *Militant* newspaper door to door in working-class neighborhoods in cities and rural areas. It uses them with a cold eye to the fact that the central political prop of the capitalist rulers is the idea that their ballot box gives us a choice in how we are ruled.

In a time of rising class struggle, one expression of independent labor action that could arise would be a labor party based in the street battles and combat organizations of the working class. Its purpose would be to mobilize the broadest involvement of workers and their allies in the struggles of the day, seeking to forge solidarity among combatants and advance the fight for workers' power.

It would not be an electoral party whose goal was to hold posts in the capitalist government. History is full of such examples that in the end served to buttress capitalist rule.

The mighty revolutions of our epoch — in Russia in 1917 and Cuba in 1959 — weren't won through elections, but by the actions of millions in the streets.

LETTERS

Prisoners strike in Canada

Readers of the *Militant*, in particular those behind bars, will be interested to know about a three-week strike by inmates in Canadian prisons in October. Inmates who work in federal prison factories in Ontario — making chairs, cabinets and other products or working as cooks and cleaners — went on strike against a 30 percent "cost-saving" wage cut. The strike quickly spread to federal prisons across the country.

The average wage for prisoners is \$3 a day, a rate the government set in 1981. Inmates now have to pay for necessities like shampoo, soap, deodorant, stamps and stationery, which used to be provided by the prison. Government officials condemned the strike as an "offensive to hard-working law-abiding Canadians."

"We're working citizens as well," a prisoner at the Donnacona Penitentiary near Quebec City said in a radio interview. "We're all human beings."

Prisoners suspended the strike at the end of October as a gesture of good faith to encourage talks be-

tween their representatives and prison and government officials.

Like the 30,000 prisoners in California who carried out a hunger strike during the summer against the brutality of solitary confinement, the fighting workers behind bars in Canada deserve the support and solidarity of working people everywhere.

John Steele
Montreal, Quebec

Experiences on railroad

My dad was a railroad electrician. The railroads have had the alerter/acknowledgement system capability going back to the 1950s when he was working there. In fact, the railroads were allowed by the Federal

Railroad Administration to remove the system in some instances because the railroad companies argued it was needlessly slowing down operations.

Also, Metro-North is operated like other mass transportation systems, where tax dollars are funneled into the system because of the "inability" to make profits directly off the system. Officially the rolling stock belongs to the State of Connecticut.

However, just like hospitals and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, managers and professionals make big salaries so as to be competitive with the "private" sector and money is pumped into the "private" sector through lucrative contracts, rents and equipment purchases.

Kim O'Brien
Willimantic, Conn.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you want your initials used rather than your full name.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund
The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Divisions in Ukraine

Continued from page 6

disdain for the thievery and corruption of his government, laying the basis for Yanukovich and his clique to take the elections.

The forces leading the opposition are capitalist parties with seats in Ukraine's parliament. One of the main groups organizing the protests is the Fatherland party of jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, prime minister in Yushchenko's cabinet, representing oligarchs on the outs.

UDAR — punch in Ukrainian — is led by Vitali Klitschko, a former heavyweight world boxing champion who gained his wealth outside of any ties to Ukrainian politics and presents himself as a savior, a fighter against corruption.

The third party in Independence Square is Svoboda. The party was founded in the early 1990s, but traces its roots to the Ukrainian partisan army in World War II, which was loosely allied with Nazi Germany. Party leader Oleg Tyagnibok says "Nationalism is love of the land" and has come out against a supposed "Jewish-Russian mafia" running Ukraine. Members of Svoboda make up a large part of the muscle defending the square against the cops.

The oligarchs competing allegiances with either side are based on pragmatic interests, not ideological views on "democracy," as is often presented in the big-business press of Europe and the U.S.

The Eastern Partnership, which Yanukovich said no to Nov. 21, was set up in 2007, aiming to integrate Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine into the EU with removal of tariffs on imports and exports.

Yanukovich said he couldn't sign the deal because of steep cuts to government expenditures and state enterprises demanded by the International Monetary Fund to grant a loan on one hand and threats of trade sanctions from Moscow on the other. On Dec. 15, the European Union suspended talks with Ukraine, saying that Yanukovich's words and deeds were increasingly diverging.

Ukraine, like many other countries in the region, is going through an acute economic and financial crisis. The government needs \$18 billion by March 2014 to roll over debt and pay Russia for outstanding bills of oil and gas. In addition to the bailout and lower gas prices, Moscow has also pledged to resume oil supplies to a refinery after a three-year break.

Ukraine relies on Russia for about 60 percent of its gas consumption and the Russian government has turned the gas off twice in the last seven years. Since July Moscow had imposed trade restrictions that cost Ukraine \$2 billion.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the deal "is not tied to any conditions" and the issue of Ukraine joining the 2010 customs and trade agreement between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan "was not discussed."

Ukraine is Russia's traditional breadbasket and a key source of steel, coal and access to warm-water ports on the Black Sea.

The entire eastern industrialized part of the country — Yanukovich's traditional support base — has seen very little participation in the demonstrations. The eastern Donbass region accounts for one-fifth of Ukraine's industrial production and export revenues. Russia imports machinery and manufactured goods. EU imports metals and light industrial products.

The cultural ties are also stronger. Speakers of the Russian language make up 17 percent of Ukraine's population, in Donbass it's nearly 40 percent.

Local industries are hugely dependent on Russian supplies and markets. The prospect of joining the EU is not very popular here. "Before joining any international organizations, Ukraine should first develop our own economy," a housewife in Donetsk told BBC Dec. 3. "Look at our poor pensioners surviving on the breadline. I am against joining the EU."

Correction

Last week's article "What Apartheid Defeat Opened for Workers in SAfrica, World" implied that Nelson Mandela's call for an intensification of the struggle against the apartheid regime was put forward contrary to proposals for negotiations by Communist Party leader Joe Slovo in 1992. While Mandela called for intensification of the struggle in 1990, he says in his autobiography that he agreed with Slovo's 1992 stance on negotiations



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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Office of the Warden

5880 State Highway 67 South
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Florence, CO 81226

June 25, 2014

David B. Goldstein, Attorney
Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky &
Lieberman, P.C.
45 Broadway, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10006-3791

Re: Rejection of *The Militant*, Vol. 77, No. 47

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

This letter is in response to your e-mail correspondence, dated June 17, 2014, addressed to Chris Synsvoll, Supervisory Attorney, and forwarded to my attention. You appeal USP Florence's rejection of "*The Militant*," Vol. 77, No. 47, which had been sent to a USP Florence inmate. You enclosed a copy of the publication with your appeal.

Under Program Statement 5266.10, *incoming Publications*, the Warden may reject a publication if it is determined to be detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution or if it might facilitate criminal activity. Rejection criteria include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The publication depicts or describes procedures for the construction or use of weapons, ammunition, bombs or incendiary devices;
- (2) It depicts, encourages, or describes methods of escape from correctional facilities, or contains blueprints, drawings or similar descriptions of Bureau of Prisons institutions;
- (3) It depicts or describes procedures for the brewing of alcoholic beverages, or the manufacture of drugs;
- (4) It is written in code;

- (5) It depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption;
- (6) It encourages or instructs in the commission of criminal activity;
- (7) It is sexually explicit material which by its nature or content poses a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution, or facilitates criminal activity.

The Warden may not reject a publication solely because its content is religious, philosophical, political, social or sexual, or because its content is unpopular or repugnant.

USP Florence has reconsidered the prior rejection of "The Militant," Vol. 77, No. 47, and will permit the inmate to receive this issue of "The Militant." The publisher may resend "The Militant," Vol. 77, No. 47, to the inmate.

Sincerely,


J. Oliver
Warden



Vol. 78/No. 27 July 28, 2014

'Militant' wins victory against federal prison censorship

(front page)

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a victory for workers rights, authorities at the high security U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, have reversed their decision to censor an issue of the *Militant*.

The fight began May 19 when the *Militant* received a notification from the warden dated Feb. 7, along with the rejected Dec. 30 issue that had been mailed to a subscriber in the prison. The notice said "this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system."

On June 12, David Goldstein, of the firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, filed an administrative appeal with Paul Laird, regional director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Kansas City, Kansas, demanding the ban be reversed on the basis that it violated the First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and freedom of press of prisoners and the *Militant*. The ban also contravened Bureau of Prisons' regulations, the appeal pointed out.

Those rules state the warden "may not reject a publication solely because its content is religious, philosophical, political, social or sexual, or because its content is unpopular or repugnant." Among the other provisions violated was that rejection notices "must contain reference to the specific article(s) or material(s) considered objectionable."

On July 7, Goldstein received notification that prison authorities had reversed their ruling. "We have reviewed your request along with a copy of the publication," wrote Laird in a letter dated June 27 to Goldstein. "I understand this matter has been reevaluated at the institution-level."

"USP Florence has reconsidered the prior rejection of 'The Militant' Vol. 77, No. 47," John Oliver, warden of the high-security prison, wrote to Goldstein June 25. "The publisher may resend."

"This is the latest of several recent victories against attempts to censor the paper in prison," said *Militant* editor Doug Nelson in a July 12 interview. "This was the first time in at least half a century that a federal institution had interfered with delivery of the

paper.” Over the past year the *Militant* has won administrative appeals against prison censorship in state penal facilities in Washington state and Florida.

“This has to do with defending workers’ rights — in and out of prison — against efforts by the rulers’ politicians, courts and jailers to chip away at constitutional protections won in past struggle,” Nelson said. “This is also about the right of prisoners to be political, to read what they want and discuss politics, and to resist prison abuses.”

The *Militant* has no affiliation to the Revolutionary Communist Party or its paper *Revolution*. Nor was there any mention of either in the issue rejected by the warden at Florence. “But if there were, on what basis can prison authorities ban a paper because it reports on some organization?” Nelson said in an interview after the appeal was filed. “We defend other papers like *Prison Legal News*, *San Francisco Bay View*, *Legal Focus* and *Revolution* in their battles against prison censorship.”

“I thank you for taking a stand in this matter along with us. And look forward to the victory that we will have!” the prisoner wrote to the *Militant* in early July, prior to knowing the case had been won.

“That’s great news,” said Paul Wright, editor of *Prison Legal News*, upon hearing of the latest victory, noting that the monthly magazine also continues to face censorship.

“We get a lot of rejection letters from the maximum security prison at Florence where we have a number of subscribers,” said Mary Ratcliff, editor of *Bay View* in a July 12 phone interview. “We need to challenge these rejections” so that authorities know “there will be a reaction other than just from the prisoners.”

Among those imprisoned on frame-up charges at the Florence supermax prison is H. Rap Brown, a former leader of the Black Panthers, currently known as Imam Jamil Al-Amin, Ratcliff pointed out. “The notorious indifference at Florence to prisoners’ health concerns is being exposed now that we learn he has cancer of the plasma cells after reporting incapacitating symptoms for over a year and getting no attention at all,” she wrote in a July 14 email to the *Militant*.

The *Bay View* and the *Militant* are part of an ongoing fight in California against attempts by state prison authorities to approve a rule that would ban publications that “indicate an association with groups that are oppositional to authority and society.”

Contribute to the 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

Help workers behind bars get reduced rate subscriptions and connect their struggles for dignity with the struggles of other workers around the world. Send a check or money order to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Related articles:

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Vol. 78/No. 23 June 16, 2014

‘Militant’ wages battle against censorship at federal prison

(front page)

BY JOHN STUDER

On May 19, the *Militant* received a notice from the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary at Florence, Colorado, saying the paper’s Dec. 30 issue was barred from the high security prison. Over the last year the *Militant* has fought — and won — several battles with prison authorities from Florida to Washington state over the paper’s right to deliver to subscribers behind bars and the right of prisoners to read what they want.

The reason given for censorship of the *Militant* in the notification dated Feb. 7 was that “this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system.” Included with the notice was the issue, apparently confiscated from inmate Jeremy Valerio, 43, a long-term subscriber and one of three subscribers in the prison.

In mid-December, before the issue in question was printed, the *Militant* received a letter from Valerio saying he had filed administrative appeals against prison authorities’ refusal to deliver a previous issue of the *Militant* and other political publications. “I’m aware of your ongoing fight [against prison censorship] and wish to inform you that I’m now in it with you all,” he wrote. “In solidarity we stand!!”

“This is the first time we’ve been notified that the *Militant* has been rejected by a federal prison,” said Doug Nelson, editor of the paper. “We intend to fight this, as we have with other attempts to censor the paper in prisons. Meanwhile, our subscriber base among prisoners continues to grow. More than 20 have signed up over the last two months.

“There is a possibility that prison authorities in Florence have confused the *Militant* with *Revolution*, the paper of the Revolutionary Communist Party, which itself has had to fight against prison censorship,” Nelson said. “All working people, whether inside or outside prison walls, have a stake in preventing thought police from denying us the right to read and discuss politics.”

According to U.S. prison regulations, wardens can’t “establish an excluded list of publications.” To impound any specific issue, authorities must state their reasons why it is “detrimental to the security, discipline, or good order of the institution or ... might

facilitate criminal activity.” And it can’t be based on authorities’ disagreement with a publication’s political views. The regulations specify that a rejection notice “must contain reference to the specific article(s) or material(s) considered objectionable.”

But the stated reason for the most recent effort to ban the *Militant* reads like the 1940 thought-control Smith Act used to frame up worker militants and others in the 1940s and '50s, including members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party.

The Dec. 30 issue features front-page coverage on efforts of working people in Ukraine to defend their national sovereignty, the war being waged against the toilers of Syria by the government of Bashar al-Assad, the fight of workers against a lockout by the Kellogg Company in Memphis, Tenn., commentary on the election of socialists in Seattle and a report on the paper’s successful fall subscription drive. Among the articles inside is a report on decisions by the Coalition of Labor Union Women to back the campaign to free the Cuban Five from U.S. prisons. Antonio Guerrero, one of the Five, was imprisoned for years at the medium-security prison in Florence where he received a *Militant* subscription every week. Another article is headlined, “‘Militant’ Scores Another Win Against Censorship in Prisons.”

Related articles:

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EXHIBIT 6

DECLARATION

I, Naomi Craine, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I serve as the Managing Editor of the *Militant* newspaper, a paper that has editorially supported the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party since its first presidential campaign in 1948 and continues to do so today.
2. Over the last couple years the *Militant* has faced continuous harassment from prison administrations in both Federal and State penitentiaries. On numerous occasions, inmates who subscribe to our newspaper have had issues denied to them. This violated both the *Militant's* freedom of speech and the rights of the prisoners.
3. I have attached articles from the *Militant* over the last three years documenting impoundment of the paper by authorities in state prisons in Florida, New York and Washington state and at a federal prison in Colorado.

The instances include:

- a. September 2013 – The *Militant* was informed that a prisoner in the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla was not receiving his subscription. The inmate received a notice that they were rejected as a “threat to the safty (sic) and security of the institution.” The Washington ACLU represented the *Militant* and the authorities reversed their ban.
- b. January 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscribers at Blackwater River Correctional Facility in Milton, Fl., on basis “the entire publication is viewed as a threat to security.” After being contacted by the Florida ACLU, authorities said it was a “clerical error” and delivered to the subscriber. In the course of this, it came up that four subscribers at the institution had been denied from three to five recent issues and told that all issues of the *Militant*

would be banned in the future. After protest, the institution reversed the ban, blaming it on “miscommunication.”

- c. March 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscriber at Taylor Correctional Institution in Florida. The Jan. 19 issue was impounded for an article “‘Militant’ beats back censorship at Fla. Prison.” When the papers’ counsel told authorities it would challenge the ban, they said they had reversed their decision.
- d. July 2014 – The *Militant* was impounded by the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, who informed the paper “this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to the Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system.” The attorney for the *Militant* filed an appeal with the regional director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Kansas. He received notice July 7 and the issue was admitted.
- e. July 2016 – *Militant* impounded in Florida at Northwest Florida Reception Center, and, in keeping with state prison regulations, then also impounded at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution. Prison officials said the paper was “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system” for an article titled, “Prisoners strike to protest abuse and little or no pay in Alabama,” a news article. Authorities at Santa Rosa also impounded the June 13 issue, pointing to an article reporting on a protest in Puerto Rico demanding release of *independista* Oscar López, who is in prison in the U.S. The reason given for this ban was the claim that the photo with the article contained “hang/gang signs.” After protest by the paper’s attorney, prison officials said the impoundments were “done in error” and these bans were all rescinded.
- f. October 2016 – Authorities at Attica Correctional Facility in New York impounded the October 3 issue of the *Militant* with an article “Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, ‘We are men, not beasts.’” Dozens of daily newspapers and magazines had run news stories on this anniversary, including the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Ebony* and the *Wall*

Street Journal. The paper and its attorney are in the process of appealing the confiscation.

4. The *Militant* has challenged and fought every one of these bans. We have been successful in every instance. We have been joined by support statements from other publications that have faced prison censorship as well as civil liberties groups that have supported the Constitutional rights of the paper and our subscribers. We have been represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida and Washington state, and by our own council in Florida, Colorado and New York.
5. At issue have been articles reporting on events that have been covered widely by media across the country, including *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, and daily papers from the *New York Times* to the *Miami Herald*. The stories included reporting on the hunger strike carried out by tens of thousands of inmates held in solidarity confinement in California and the 45th anniversary of the prison confrontation at Attica in New York. These other media had no difficulty getting to subscribers in prison.
6. The *Militant* was singled out by prison authorities because of its political views. This is confirmed by the fact that after our challenge, in each instance prison authorities relented and released the issues to our inmate subscribers.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 24, 2016.



Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016

NOTICE OF REJECTION OR IMPOUNDMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Date: 6/15/16

Dorm

RECEIVED JUN 24 2016

Inmate:

DC#

Institution: N W Florida Reception Center

This letter is notice that the following publication:

Title: The Militant

Volume/Issue/Edition: Vol. 80 No. 21 5/30/16

Which was received on the following date: 6/13/16

From: The Militant, 306 W 37th St., New York, NY 10018

Has been reviewed by an authorized employee, and:

- IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, because another institution believes that the publication may contain subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C.
- IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, because the Warden or designee believes that the publication may contain subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C.
- IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, per Section (10) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C. The Warden believes that this inmate's prior criminal history or disciplinary record indicates that giving him or her access to subject matter in this publication would constitute a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person. (Specify):

- IS REJECTED and may not be received by inmates. The Department's Literature Review Committee has reviewed the publication and determined that it contains subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C., Admissible Reading Material;
- IS REJECTED for reasons not related to subject matter. (Specify):

Criteria in Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C., Admissible Reading Material, that authorizes IMPOUNDMENT or REJECTION of the publication due to subject matter:

- (3)(a) It depicts or describes procedures for the construction of or use of weapons, ammunitions, bombs, chemical agents, or incendiary devices;
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- (3)(m) It otherwise presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.

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Page 4 - encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption (inmate strike).

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THE MILITANT

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Washington uses crisis to push for pro-US gov't in Venezuela
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 21 MAY 30, 2016

Join Socialist Workers Party campaigning coast to coast

BY MAGGIE TROWE

“The Socialist Workers Party’s experience in campaigning from Philadelphia to New Jersey to Washington state is that when we go to workers on their doorsteps, they want to discuss what is the way forward,” Mary Martin, SWP candidate for governor in Washington, reported May 17. “They give a hearing to our party’s perspectives and program. Many want to try out our newspaper, the *Militant*, pick up a book on revolutionary politics from Pathfinder Press, and help us get our party on the ballot.”

Martin filed to be on the ballot in Olympia, the state capitol, the same day.

Workers reject President Barack Obama’s claim that the U.S. “right now has the strongest, most durable economy in the world.” They are looking for a way forward out of the grinding depression conditions they face in today’s feeble economic recovery — including low pay, unsafe working conditions and degrading treatment.

The government’s list of what they
Continued on page 3

A month into strike, Verizon workers reach for solidarity

BY CANDACE WAGNER

NEW YORK — Unionists at Verizon entered the second month of their strike standing strong and reaching out for solidarity.

Some 39,000 members of the Communication Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers walked off the job April 13 in nine states and the District of Columbia. Among the issues the unionists are fighting are Verizon’s plans to close call centers and increase outsourcing, raise health insurance costs and cut pensions.

U.S. District Court Judge Ann Donnelly issued a temporary restraining order May 10 ordering strikers to cease picketing hotels where Verizon houses strikebreakers. A series of actions by strikers employing whistles, air horns, noisemakers and a trombone, along with pressure from unionized hotel workers, have convinced a number of hotel managers to ask the scabs to leave. The petition to block the hotel actions was filed by National Labor Relations Board Regional Director James Paulsen, underlining the

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US gov’t seeks stability for imperialist order in Mideast

Tries for Moscow deal while sending more troops



Department of Defense/Dominique A. Pineiro

Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joe Dunford, center left, speaks with Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland April 21 during visit to Iraq to discuss U.S. campaign against Islamic State.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

As he approaches the end of his second and final term, Barack Obama — who ran for president in 2008 pledging to phase out U.S. military involvement in the Mideast — has continuously carried out U.S. imperialist interventions abroad and is now increasing Washington’s combat role.

Obama drew down Washington’s troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan from 200,000 when he succeeded George W. Bush to nearly

5,000 in Iraq and 9,800 in Afghanistan today. But his administration is increasing the U.S. combat presence in those countries, as well as in Syria, and has authorized airstrikes and covert operations in Libya, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen.

Washington just inaugurated its first European ground-based anti-missile system in Romania. And the Obama administration has stepped up naval operations in the South China

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Indiana aerospace workers reject cuts, fight lockout at Honeywell



Militant/Betsy Farley

Locked-out members of UAW Local 9 picket Honeywell in South Bend, Indiana, May 15.

BY BETSY FARLEY

SOUTH BEND, Indiana — Production workers at the Honeywell International plant here are picketing around the clock after the company locked out 317 members of United Auto Workers Local 9 on May 9. The local voted 270 to 30 to reject Honeywell’s “Las best, and final of-

fer,” which drastically increases health care costs, tears up work schedules and allows the company to ignore job classifications.

The plant makes airplane brakes and wheels for Boeing, Airbus and other aerospace giants. Honeywell also locked out 41 Auto Workers at its

Continued on page 2

Washington launches anti-missile system on Russian ‘periphery’

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington inaugurated its first ground-based anti-missile system in Europe May 11 in Romania, and broke ground on a second site in Poland the next day. Russian President Vladimir Putin scoffed at U.S. claims the program is defensive and aimed at Iran, not Russia.

“They aren’t defensive systems,

they are part of the U.S. strategic nuclear potential deployed on the periphery, in Eastern Europe,” Putin said May 13. “We will have to think about how we can fend off the threats to the Russian Federation’s security.”

The anti-missile site, which will be run by NATO, is housed at a U.S. naval facility located at a Romanian

Continued on page 2

Prisoners strike to protest abuse and little or no pay in Alabama

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — A work stoppage by hundreds of inmates in several Alabama prisons brought national attention to the conditions faced by the 29,000 men and women incarcerated in the state’s penal system, especially the use of unpaid or poorly paid labor. The strike, which began on May

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Quebec senior care workers hold day-long strike for \$15 an hour

Australia truck drivers discuss fight for safety, unions

US anti-missile system

Continued from front page
military base in Deveselu. U.S. Navy Lt. Shawn Eklund told CNN the new facility is capable of firing SM-3 missiles that can intercept “short and medium range enemy missiles.”

The Polish site is scheduled to be up and running in 2018.

The anti-missile system, officially called the European Phased Adaptive Approach, was initiated by President George W. Bush and so far also includes a radar system in Turkey, a command and control center in Germany and four naval destroyers with Aegis ballistic missiles that operate in the Mediterranean Sea from a base in Spain.

Tensions between the U.S. and Russian governments have been increasing over the last several years, alongside collaboration between the two in trying to stabilize the situation in Syria and President Barack Obama’s talk of a “reset” in their relations.

Putin boycotted the fourth and final high-level Nuclear Security Summit that Obama hosted in Washington, D.C., March 31 to April 1. The summits ostensibly advance Obama’s goal of “a world without nuclear weapons.” In fact, they have been cover for Washington and Moscow to continue to possess more than 90 percent of the world’s nuclear arsenal, while trying to prevent more nations from acquiring them.

In 2011 Obama signed the New Start treaty with Moscow, which allowed the Russian government to scrap many of its older silo-based nuclear missiles with upgraded mobile ones. According to *Time* magazine, Russian delegates told U.S. representatives during an informal discussion that “of course you guys want a nuclear-free world, because then you

would dominate the world with your conventional weapons. Why would we ever want to do that?”

Despite portraying himself as an opponent of nuclear weapons, Obama has been stepping up the modernization of the U.S. arsenal. The Pentagon is planning five new types of nuclear warheads that are part of an atomic revitalization over the next three decades. Last year the U.S. military flight-tested the B61 Model 12 in Nevada. Moscow called the tests “openly provocative.”

According to *Popular Mechanics* the B61 has an internal guidance system and a “dial-a-yield,” meaning that the explosive power of each warhead can be set by the ground crew. The yield could range from 2 percent of the explosive power of the bomb Washington dropped on Hiroshima during World War II up to three times the power of that blast.

The escalation of development of nuclear weapons, whether “tactical” or otherwise, and Washington’s provocative anti-missile shield and other moves increase the risk of a world-threatening conflagration.

In April the Pentagon reported that there have been repeated incidents of Russian aircraft buzzing U.S. planes and ships in the Baltic Sea, Black Sea and other areas around the former Soviet Union.

After one incident in April, Secretary of State John Kerry said “under the rules of engagement, that could have been a shoot-down.”

In another move aimed at Moscow, next month in Poland some 25,000 troops from U.S. Army Europe, Polish forces and other NATO nations will hold Anakonda 16, one of the largest war exercises in Europe in years.



Above, Missile Defense Agency/US Navy
Above, July 30, 2009, Aegis missile test launch from the USS Hopper. With activation of land-based site in Romania, Obama administration is driving ahead with anti-missile system viewed by Moscow as a provocation. Right, sketch of new U.S. nuclear weapon, with dial for four levels of explosive power, up to three times the strength of bomb that leveled Hiroshima.



Honeywell workers fight lockout

Continued from front page
Green Island, New York, brake pad plant.

“We couldn’t accept going from \$68 a week to \$114 a week for family medical and a deductible increase from \$3,400 to \$8,000,” said Local 9 President Adam Stevenson.

“We’ve always had set work schedules, start times of 7:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.,” said Ivan Donaldson, an electrician with 19 years in the plant. “Honeywell wants to eliminate that so you start whenever they want and work as long as they want, just like what they do to workers at Walmart.” Forced overtime would also increase.

Honeywell brought in at least 200 people from Strom Engineering, a strikebreaking outfit, two months before the lockout began. “They were on the floor trying to learn our jobs even before we took a strike vote,” Stevenson said. “But that also helped people who were wavering to see what the company was up to. It brought us together.”

Honeywell boasted a 6.3 percent profit increase for the first quarter of

2016, a net income increase of \$1.19 billion, and a 3 percent sales increase in its aerospace division, its biggest by revenue. In a statement it said that the concessions it is demanding are “consistent with the economic realities facing the industry,” pointing to “thousands of job cuts announced by our largest customer in March.”

“They treat us like we’re a commodity, like corn or soybeans,” said John Billington, a substation electrician.

“The unions are in trouble,” said William Bolen, a CNC machinist with eight years seniority. “If we don’t stop it here it will spread. And the government is on the same side as corporate America. That’s who runs the government — why else don’t we have at least a \$15 minimum wage?”

Honeywell’s lock-out tactic is nothing new. In 2010 and 2014 the company locked out workers at its uranium conversion plant in Metropolis, Illinois, after members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669 refused to accept major concessions. Both times workers beat back some of the company’s demands.

THE MILITANT

Workers fight for moral high ground!

The ‘Militant’ highlights the need for workers to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us. It covers struggles like successful 27-year fight in UK to hold cops responsible and end their slanders of victims in the deaths of 96 soccer fans in 1989 Hillsborough stadium disaster.



Militant/Dag Tirsén
Rally in Liverpool, England, April 27 after Hillsborough inquest held cops responsible.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Join SWP campaigning

Continued from front page

call NILF — people Not In the Labor Force, workers 16 or older who are not employed or actively looking for work — increased by over half a million last month to bring the total to 94 million, the highest number ever recorded.

It's in this context that members and supporters of the SWP are taking their revolutionary working-class perspective to workers at their doorsteps and in struggles against the bosses' attacks — from East Coast Verizon strikers to locked-out aerospace workers in Indiana to warehouse workers fighting firings in Los Angeles — and as they put the party's presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart on the ballot.

The SWP is also running candidates for Senate and Congress in California, Minnesota, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Georgia, Florida and the District of Columbia.

Communists find many people who want to join in discussing how the working class can unite and build a powerful movement to organize unions, fight police brutality, defend women's rights and transform ourselves to become capable of displacing the dictatorship of capital and building a new society based on human solidarity.

SWP campaigners have put Kennedy and Hart on the ballot in Colorado, and are prepared to file in Louisiana in July. Ballot drives to get the party out to workers in small towns and big cities are underway in Washington and New Jersey, and begin in Tennessee and Minnesota May 20.

Betsy Farley, a union steelworker and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Chicago, joined

pickets May 15 in South Bend, Indiana, where aerospace workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 9, have been locked out by Honeywell because they refused to sign a concessions contract. "They treat us like we're a commodity, like corn or soybeans," electrician John Billington told Farley. Four locked-out workers subscribed to the *Militant*.

SWP branches are organizing meetings with workers and young people interested in going to the June 16-18 SWP Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio (see article this page).

"I'm looking forward to going to the SWP conference because I enjoyed the party forums I went to in Omaha," Chris Steffen, who works in a plastic fabrication plant in Lincoln, Nebraska, told the *Militant* May 18. "As some of us were organizing a demonstration in defense of a woman's right to choose abortion at the state capitol here in April, we had a forum where Alexandria Smith, one of the organizers of the protest, and I spoke, and a dozen people took part in the discussion."

Steffen and SWP member Joe Swanson went to a May Day meeting on the fight to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. "We raised the need to organize unions as part of winning \$15," he said.

Workers fund the 'Militant'

At a May 14-16 meeting to prepare the conference, the SWP National Committee decided to extend the deadline for the party's drive to win readers and contributors to the *Militant* to May 24 to help branches of the SWP and Communist League sister parties around the world go over the top.

To date 1,435 subscriptions and \$90,588 have come in toward the quota of 1,550 subscriptions and \$110,000 for the *Militant* Fighting Fund. The cost of the paper's production is sustained by



Militant/Janet Post

John Staggs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania, right, joins Moorestown, New Jersey, picket line of outdoor line technicians, members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 827, on strike against Verizon April 27.

hundreds of contributions every spring.

"Twelve readers of the *Militant* here contributed \$621 to the *Militant* Fighting Fund," Nat London writes from Paris. "Five workers on the SNCM ferry boat line in Marseille and a group of 'temporary' workers joined workers at the Peugeot auto plant in Poissy near here to put us over our goal of \$450." The workers read French translations of *Militant* articles sent out each week by supporters in Paris.

Twenty-one prisoners have subscribed during the drive. "I feel privi-

leged that the *Militant* has opened my eyes and educated me to social issues that affect all working classes and struggles that unite us all," a prisoner in New Zealand writes. He said he appreciates books he has gotten from Pathfinder, especially *It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System: The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*.

To join with the Socialist Workers Party in winning workers to a revolutionary perspective, contact a party branch listed in the directory on page 8.

Spring subscription drive			
April 2 - May 24 (week 6)			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Lincoln*	17	20	118%
Seattle	100	110	110%
Atlanta	100	104	104%
Oakland	110	111	101%
Philadelphia	90	85	94%
Miami	50	47	94%
Chicago	125	114	91%
New York	220	187	85%
Twin Cities	80	64	80%
Los Angeles	200	141	71%
Washington	115	76	66%
Total U.S.	1207	1059	88%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Manchester	60	67	112%
London	75	77	103%
Total U.K.	135	144	107%
CANADA			
Montreal	55	57	104%
Calgary	45	45	100%
Total Canada	100	102	102%
AUSTRALIA	60	55	92%
NEW ZEALAND	50	54	108%
PRISONERS	15	21	140%
Total	1567	1435	93%
Should be	1550	1329	86%
*Raised goal			

Militant Fighting Fund			
April 2- May 24 (week 6)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Lincoln*	\$240	\$321	134%
Twin Cities	\$3,500	\$3,835	110%
Philadelphia	\$3,200	\$3,235	101%
Seattle	\$7,500	\$6,980	93%
Washington	\$7,700	\$6,589	86%
Atlanta	\$10,000	\$8,420	84%
Oakland	\$14,500	\$10,775	74%
Chicago	\$11,500	\$8,451	73%
New York	\$21,000	\$15,405	73%
Miami	\$3,000	\$2,090	70%
Los Angeles	\$8,600	\$5,105	59%
U.S. Total	\$90,740	\$71,206	78%
CANADA			
Montreal	\$4,000	\$5,000	125%
Calgary	\$3,200	\$3,109	97%
Canada Total	\$7,200	\$8,109	113%
NEW ZEALAND			
	\$4,000	\$4,556	114%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$2,690	135%
Manchester	\$700	\$931	133%
U.K. Total	\$2,700	\$3,621	134%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,100	\$1,275	116%
FRANCE	\$450	\$621	138%
Other	\$1,200	\$1,200	
Total	\$107,390	\$90,588	82%
Should be	\$110,000	\$94,286	86%
*Raised goal			

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Meet the candidates



Alyson Kennedy for president
 May 20-24 Twin Cities
 May 26-30 Montreal
 June 4-5 Seattle
 June 7-8 Miami
 June 10-11 Atlanta



Osborne Hart for vice president
 May 20-24 Seattle
 May 26-27 New York
 May 29-June 2 Tenn.
 June 4-5 Philadelphia
 June 7-11 Minneapolis

The campaign needs funds — contribute now!

Contact an SWP branch near you (see list on page 8) to get involved in the campaign. Send a check to Socialist Workers Party National Campaign
 227 W. 29th St., 6th Fl., New York NY 10001.
 Tel.: (646) 922-8186. Email: swp2016campaign@gmail.com

Socialist Workers Party conference to discuss capitalist crisis, what to do

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The three-day Active Workers Conference sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party June 16-18 in Oberlin, Ohio, will bring workers and young people active in political struggles together to learn from talks, classes and informal discussion and debate.

Several hundred participants are expected from across the U.S. and around the world. The gathering is held on the Oberlin College campus.

Talks by Socialist Workers Party leaders Jack Barnes and Mary-Alice Waters, as well as classes and displays, will address the economic, political and moral crisis of the capitalist rulers that the 2016 election campaign reflects, the growing receptivity among workers to a revolutionary perspective and openings to build the revolutionary party.

Six classes will be presented.

Martín Koppel and Alyson Kennedy will present a class on "Puerto Rico Is

a U.S. Colony: the SWP's Communist Continuity in the Fight for Independence."

"The Coming Apart of Imperialism's Post-'U.S. Lost the Cold War' Order in the Middle East," will be given by John Studer and Colleen Torberg.

Norton Sandler and Omari Musa will give a class on "Colonization, 'Trade Union-ification,' and the Struggle for a Proletarian Party."

"No Nukes!" — Our Call for U.S. Nuclear Disarmament and Why Nuclear Weapons Weaken Proletarian Power" is the title of a class by Dave Prince and Naomi Craine.

"The World Capitalist Economic Crisis: Why the Revolutionary Conquest of Power Is Necessary" will be given by Steve Clark and Mark Thomas.

Gerald Smith and Emma Johnson will present a class titled, "Capitalist Nation States and Fracturing of the European Union: Damned If They Do, Damned If

Continued on page 4

Gary Tyler, framed up in 1974, walks free from Louisiana prison

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

Gary Tyler, 57, walked free April 29 after almost 42 years locked up in Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. He had spent his first nine years in solitary confinement, initially on death row.

At age 16, Tyler was framed up on charges of killing a Caucasian youth during a racist attack on a busload of Black high school students who were part of a desegregation program in Destrehan, Louisiana.

As the bus carrying Tyler and other Black students attempted to leave school on Oct. 7, 1974, it was surrounded by a brick-and-bottle throwing mob. A shot rang out. Timothy Weber, 13, standing across the schoolyard with his mother, was fatally shot.

The police searched the students and the bus for more than three hours. When Tyler protested the cop harassment, he was arrested for “disturbing the peace.” When he refused to confess to killing Weber, he was beaten by the cops.

The police coerced testimony against Tyler from fellow students, who later recanted. Police eventually located a gun in Tyler’s seat, despite having found nothing during the first

search. The gun had been stolen from a police firing range used by the very cops who arrested Tyler and were investigating the case. No fingerprints were found on it, nor was any testing done on the bullet.

Tyler was convicted of murder by an all-white jury in 1975 and sentenced to death. At 17, he was the youngest person on death row in the United States. Over decades, Tyler unequivocally maintained his innocence. His mother, Juanita Tyler, helped lead campaigns for his freedom that won support around the world, up to her death in 2012.

“There’s a lot of space in between when Gary Tyler went to prison and his release. What didn’t change was his ability to see an injustice,” Norris Henderson, executive director of Voice for the Ex-Offender in New Orleans, told the *Militant* in a phone interview May 16. Henderson is also founder of a program to help former inmates once they leave prison.

“Gary was exposed to the Angola Three,” Henderson said, referring to Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox and Robert King, who were held in

solitary confinement in Angola prison for decades after organizing prisoners to fight against dehumanizing conditions. The last of the three, Woodfox, was finally released in February.

“Death row and solitary were on the same tier of the prison,” Henderson said. The Angola Three “looked out for Gary, helped him navigate his situation. They helped him to become the individual he is today — just as they have educated all of us.”

“We thank the people whose work has helped us to be able to witness this,” he added.

No pardon, no new trial

In 1976, Tyler’s sentence was commuted to life in prison. Under Louisiana law, a pardon is required in order to get paroled from a life sentence. Three times the parole board recommended his release, but the governor refused. In 1990 Gov. Charles Roemer cited Tyler’s failure to complete his high school equivalency test as a reason, but Tyler had repeatedly requested entrance into Angola’s educational programs and was told they were full. The same year, the state attorney general argued against a pardon on grounds that Tyler had “demanded he be allowed to correspond with socialist and communist publications such as *Socialist Worker*.”

Tyler never got a new trial. In 1980, the U.S. Court of Appeals vacated his conviction and ordered a retrial on the grounds that the judge’s instruction to the jury to find that Tyler had “intended the natural and probable consequences



Joan Griswold/Handout via Reuters

Gary Tyler, framed up at age 16 for the death of a Caucasian student during a desegregation fight, shown here before his release from prison in Angola, Louisiana.

of his act,” made the trial unfair. When the state appealed, the same court reversed its order for a new trial, but maintained that the judge’s instructions were unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case on appeal.

In 2012, the Supreme Court struck down mandatory life terms without parole for juveniles. The decision said that they should have the right to argue for parole or to be resentenced. Authorities in Louisiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania said the ruling was not retroactive, and refused to apply it to Tyler and 1,100 other workers behind bars. In January this year the Supreme Court ruled that the decision was retroactive.

This led to an April 29 resentencing hearing where Tyler accepted a plea bargain of 21 years for manslaughter, having already served twice that time, walking out of court free at last.

Socialist Workers Party conference

Continued from page 3

They Don’t.”

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Education Under Capitalism, a new Pathfinder book by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, will be for sale at the conference, and participants can browse tables loaded with hundreds of Pathfinder titles and buy them at special prices.

Near the book tables there will be displays using photos, maps and text to expand on themes of classes and talks.

There will be plenty of time for informal discussion, recreation and relaxation between talks and classes, during buffet-style meals at the college cafeteria and at evening socials.

Conference summaries on Saturday will draw together the three days of discussions. A panel that evening will feature remarks from party candidates and participants involved in party-building activities worldwide and will project activities to win workers and youth to communism, including sending out

teams to campaign for the SWP straight from the conference. It will be followed by a party and dance.

SWP supporters, who volunteer to help produce Pathfinder books and raise monthly financial contributions for the SWP, will meet with party leaders June 19 to discuss their work.

It’s not too late to register and organize to drive or fly to the conference with others. To learn more, contact SWP members near you (see list on page 8).

Prisoners strike to protest abuse, little or no pay

Continued from front page

Day, also underscored how prisoners are organizing themselves to fight for dignity and against systematic abuse.

“Conditions continue to get worse here,” Melvin Ray, 45, told the *Militant* May 15 in a phone interview from one of Alabama’s state prisons. In addition to overcrowding and the unpaid labor prisoners are forced to perform, “the courts are not impartial, prisoners are brutalized, there’s a lack of funds for education and other programs, and the food is often not fit for human consumption,” said Ray, a founder of the Free Alabama Movement, which initiated the protest. Prisoners formed the group in January 2014, when they organized their first strike.

Beginning May 1 prisoners at Holman, Staton and Elmore Correctional Facilities refused to leave their cells to work, from unpaid jobs serving food to “industry” jobs that pay from \$.17 to \$.30 an hour — the only paid jobs in the state’s prisons. Prisoners at St. Clair joined the action May 9.

At Holman, industry jobs include making Alabama state license plates and bedding for the prisons in the sewing factory. Elmore has a canning and recycling plant and St. Clair has a vehicle restoration and chemical plant.

The Alabama government legalized

the use of prison labor by private, for-profit companies in 2012. “We are going to put our prisoners to work. They are going to be paid a reasonable wage,” said state representative Jim McClenon, the bill’s sponsor, at the time. Since then, 17 different prison labor industries have been set up across the state.

Prisoners also routinely face fines and fees. “Our mass incarceration is a form of slavery, because we’re not being paid for our work, but we’re being charged outrageous fines,” one prisoner told Solitary Watch, a website that publishes information about solitary confinement and its impact. Prisoners are charged \$4 for armbands and identification cards, \$31.50 for a urinalysis test and \$200 to petition a court, the only way a prisoner can file a complaint.

Prisoners also are charged \$25 for being caught with a cell phone the first time, with fines rising \$25 for each further violation. Prison guards sell the phones to prisoners, who use them primarily to call their families, according to Solitary Watch. Its report also cited prisoners’ complaints about the water, which “looks like fog. You cannot drink it,” one said.

The prisons where the strike occurred were put on lockdown after it started. Authorities also retaliated by cutting the size of meals, a practice inmates call

“bird-feeding.” “For the last 10 days we have been receiving well below a thousand calories per meal,” prisoner Kinetik Justice, who is in solitary confinement in Holman Correctional Facility, told the radio program “Democracy Now.”

Alabama spends only \$26 a day per prisoner. The national average is \$62, according to the Equal Justice Initiative. “It spends the least of any state on medical care for inmates,” states an EJI fact sheet. “Unsafe prison conditions have given rise to lawsuits in which courts have found that crowding in state and local facilities is ‘barbaric.’”

“We have contact with women in Tutwiler women’s prison,” Ray said. “They are subject to very harsh conditions. Many are supporting our protests, even though they didn’t participate directly.”

“We have support from family members and some other groups in the community,” Ray added. On May 7, a protest to support the strikers was held outside Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, sponsored by the Free Alabama Movement and The Ordinary People Society, which backs the prisoners’ fight. The support group Mothers and Families is planning a June 22 protest at Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham to back the prisoners’ ongoing struggle.

The prisoners ended their strike May 13.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CANADA

Montreal

US Elections: The Working Class Alternative to the Brutality of Capitalism. Speaker: Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sat., May 28, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Agricultural Workers and Working Farmers Bear the Brunt of Collapsing Dairy Prices. Speakers: Gina Greenwood, Farmers United # Pro Dairy; Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., May 27, 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including striking Verizon workers, Steelworkers opposing concessions, construction workers demanding safe conditions and workers fighting for \$15 and a union. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

Quebec seniors' care workers hold day-long strike for \$15 an hour

MONTREAL — In their first strike ever, some 3,000 nurses, nurses' aides and other care workers walked out for a day May 11 at 42 private seniors' residences throughout Quebec in their fight for a 15 Canadian dollars an hour minimum wage (CA\$1 = US\$0.78). The contract of the members of Service Employees International Union Local 298 expired in February.

"This is a historic strike," nurses' aide Emmanuel Saladin told the *Militant* at a press conference across from L'Image d'Outremont residence here. Saladin is president of the union committee at the residence. "The nurses' aides start at CA\$11.80 an hour and the average wage

is CA\$12.50. It is not enough."

"We do the same hard work as seniors' care workers in the public sector, but get paid less," said Immeagyde Rejouis, a worker and vice president of the union committee. "We love our work, but it needs to be valued. The residents support what we are doing."

L'Image d'Outremont is owned by Le Groupe Maurice, which owns 20 residences in the province.

While the big companies are refusing to meet the union's demands, some small independent residences have reached agreements, including one with an immediate raise to CA\$15 an hour and further increases to CA\$16.87, a union press release said.

"We have a big job ahead of us," Lo-



Militant/John Steele

Members of Service Employees International Union Local 298 picket during one-day strike by seniors' residence workers across Quebec demanding CA\$15 an hour minimum wage.

cal 298 President Richard Belhumeur said. "About 225 residences are organized out of 1,700 in the province."

— John Steele

Thousands of Greek workers, farmers protest attack on pensions

ATHENS, Greece — Several thousand workers, students and others

marched to the parliament here May 8, part of three days of strikes and street protests May 6-8 called by the country's three main union federations.

Hundreds of farmers joined the May 7 action in Athens. Public transport workers, civil servants, sailors, rail workers and others struck for the three days.

The protests were called in response to proposed legislation to cut 5.4 billion euros (\$6.2 billion) from social security pensions and hike taxes. The Greek parliament approved the bill May 8, hoping to meet demands by creditors before they will release more loans as part of the 86 billion euro "bailout" the Syriza Party government agreed to last year.

This is the latest round of attacks on working people over the last six years of economic depression. Household income has plunged by one-third and official unemployment stands at nearly 25 percent. Greece's national debt is 180 percent of gross domestic product.

"These measures are aimed at the working class, to take back social benefits that working people have," public school teacher Aggeliki Katsamani, 34, said at the May 8 rally. "I came here today because if there are no protests there will be many more such measures."

— Georges Mehrabian

Australia truck drivers discuss fight for safety, unions

BY LINDA HARRIS
AND MANUELE LASALO

SYDNEY — Recent counterposed actions by unionized fleet truck drivers and independent owner-drivers highlight the way the capitalist rulers try to pit working people against each other. They pose the challenge to the labor movement to win owner-drivers to the union and to rely on our own power and mobilization — not regulation by the bosses' government — to unite and fight for better conditions.

Some 200 members of the Transport

ten don't have a full load on the return trip. The tribunal order forced them to charge full rates both ways, leaving some stranded while awaiting full loads.

Dave West, a Transport Workers driver who took part in the union protest, told the *Militant* he thinks truck drivers need the tribunal to regulate safety, but acknowledged its ruling had hit some owner-drivers hard. "The way forward," West said, is for workers "in all different parts of the industry to come together."

That gets at the heart of the challenge. Big freight companies and supermarket chains dictate conditions for thousands of drivers, cutting corners on maintenance and pressing them to cut delivery times. They use competition among workers and the attitude of many union officials — who view independent owner-drivers as the problem, not as fellow workers — to divide truckers and drive down conditions for all workers.

There are different economic lay-

ers among owner-drivers. Many are workers who own or are paying off one truck. Others have expanded to manage a small fleet. Capitalists foster illusions that the dream of "becoming your own boss" is open to everyone, so as to trick owner-drivers into identifying with management rather than fellow drivers.

An example of how class-conscious workers drew drivers owning their own trucks into an alliance with fleet drivers was set in the 1930s by the leadership of the Minnesota Teamsters. In *Teamster Politics*, Farrell Dobbs, one of the union leaders, describes how they were convinced that "those owning one truck, who did their own driving, should be approached by the union as fellow workers." So they set out to organize as many of them as possible. Then "the union as a whole followed through by backing them in [their] struggles." Dobbs concludes that this course "checked the divisive schemes of the bosses."

COMMENTARY

Workers Union blocked traffic here April 28, calling for the reinstatement of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal.

The Liberal-National coalition government of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull abolished the tribunal April 18, the day after hundreds of owner-drivers from across the country demonstrated outside federal parliament in Canberra. They were protesting a tribunal order mandating minimum rates to be charged by some 35,000 owner-drivers, which took effect April 7.

The tribunal was set up in 2012 by the Labor government with the backing of union officials, to "regulate on safety" in the trucking industry. Transport Workers national secretary Tony Sheldon had argued that the higher rates would improve safety by addressing "pressure drivers are under to speed, drive long hours, skip mandatory rest breaks and skip maintenance on their vehicles."

Owner-drivers at the Canberra protest saw the mandate not as a measure to advance safety, but as something that would price them out of business. "Safety is paramount for us," Alina Hawkins told the *Militant*. She has driven cattle trucks in rural New South Wales for 10 years.

Many said they are already over-regulated. Some drivers, especially those who carry bulk loads from farms, of-

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 31, 1991

ST. LOUIS — In the last year, officials of the United Auto Workers union have been crying crocodile tears over the conditions of workers in the auto industry in Mexico. Their tears are becoming a flood as the U.S. government moves toward an agreement with Mexico that would break down many trade barriers between the two countries.

According to mouthpieces of the capitalists of both countries, the agreement would spur the Mexican economy, which is in deep crisis. Economic growth has declined; the minimum wage has dropped 50%; and unemployment has skyrocketed. One of the main culprits of the economic disaster is Mexico's debt to the imperialist banks and governments. It rose to \$107 billion in 1989.



May 30, 1966

An unidentified U.S. government "reliable source" admitted May 24 that a Cuban soldier had been killed at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay. However, he asserted the soldier had been inside the base.

Cuba charged the soldier, a sentry at the perimeter of the base, had been killed by gunfire from the base. At first there was a flat U.S. denial that any incident had occurred. Then there was a statement that an investigation was underway. The unnamed Washington source said the incident is still being investigated.

Following the shooting, angry citizens of Santiago and other Cuban cities organized demonstrations demanding the U.S. get out of Guantánamo.



May 31, 1941

San Francisco, May 26 — Striking AFL and CIO Bay Area shipyard machinists are still standing firmly on their feet despite the foul blows thrown at them by the phoniest collection of pie-cards, government strikebreakers and chairwarming admirals ever joined together to break a strike.

Every conceivable effort, from pleading and browbeating to open scab-herding and picket-line crashing has been used in the past week.

Nation's No. 1 Fink, John Frey, backed by a small army of cops, marched a few score workers through the picket line. Most of them marched right out again. The first American convoys in the war were used not against Hitler and the Nazis but against striking shipyard workers.

Relatives of victims of US cop brutality visit Cuba

Exchange experiences with leaders of Federation of Cuban Women in Havana

A delegation of relatives of victims of police killings and others involved in fights against cop brutality in the United States visited Cuba to share their experiences and learn about the Cuban Revolution. Their week-long visit was hosted by the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). The article below is from the May 5 on-line edition of *Mujeres*, the FMC's publication. Translation is by the Militant.

BY MARIELA PÉREZ VALENZUELA

On Tuesday [May 3], mothers and other relatives of victims of police brutality in the United States visited the national headquarters of the Federation of Cuban Women. There they shared their experiences with Teresa Amarelle Boué, general secretary of this nongovernmental organization, and others who explained the social and political perspectives that guide the organization, which has four million members over the age of 14.

At the meeting, which lasted a little more than two hours, the visitors spoke about the abuses suffered by their sons and brothers who had been killed by police forces, and in many cases, justice was never served. They also discussed the situation of the working class in the world's leading economy.

Juanita Young told how in March 2000 her son Malcolm Ferguson was killed by Louis Rivera, a New York policeman. Malcolm, a 23-year-old Black man, was shot in the head at point blank range a week after participating in a protest against the acquittal of four police officers, who killed an immigrant from Guinea.

Young, a founder of Mothers Cry for Justice, told how the authorities offered her money to forget what happened to her son, an offer she rejected immediately. She added that even though a jury ruled in 2007 in favor of the lawsuit she filed against the city for wrongful death, and held Rivera responsible for the killing of her son, the officer (who admitted his guilt) has not served a sentence.

It has been 22 years since a New York



Militant/Róger Calero

Clockwise from left: Arnetta Grable, Iris Baez, Alyson Kennedy and Juanita Young, part of U.S. delegation; Yanira Kuper, Arelys Santana and Teresa Amarelle Boué from the Federation of Cuban Women; a translator; and Andree Smith, from U.S. at federation's offices in Havana May 3.

policeman killed Anthony Baez, who was playing football in the street with three of his brothers and friends.

His mother, Iris Baez, said that the ball hit a police car and that when the officer arrested one of his brothers and Anthony protested, they killed him.

Iris Baez, mother of 12 children, six of them adopted, recalled the big protests when Officer Francis Livoti was acquitted by the State of New York in 1996.

Her face marked by continuing sorrow for her murdered son, she said that two years later Livoti was convicted on federal charges of violating Anthony Baez's civil rights, but not for his murder. Livoti went to prison for seven and a half years.

In 1998, Baez created the Anthony Baez Community and Parents Against Police Brutality Foundation, which provides support and solidarity to families affected by police violence in the United States.

Among the other visitors are Arnetta Grable and her son Aaron. They traveled to Cuba together. Aaron is the brother of Lamar Wayne Grable, killed by Detroit Police Officer Eugene Brown in 1996 while returning home from a party.

Arnetta said that the police officer said he thought Lamar was a suspect who had escaped. She recalled how

the mayor of Detroit offered her a million dollars if she would stop protesting this vile crime, which she refused. This gave her more strength to continue fighting.

A judge even claimed she had mental problems and was unfit to care for her children, she said, which was totally false.

Grable, who along with her family, has been harassed by the Detroit police department, noted that Brown has never gone to prison, even though a judge found him guilty in 2003 in a lawsuit she filed. Brown was later fired from the police force after having shot nine people.

Amarelle Boué, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, told the U.S. delegation in another moment of fraternal exchange with the national leadership of the FMC that defense of the Cuban Revolution and efforts to achieve full gender equality are priorities of the organization.

That's why, she said, Cubans found it difficult to listen respectfully when U.S. president Barack Obama said during his recent official visit to Havana on our own soil that the people of this island should forget history.

Amarelle Boué said that the revolution's demand for equality is one of the

reasons why it is impossible to set history aside. Before the victory of the revolution in January 1959, she said, women were the lowest paid and most discriminated against.

The delegation from the north listened with astonishment to the FMC leader as she explained how the situation had gradually changed. Today women in Cuba make up 66.6 percent of the technical and professional workforce, 60.2 percent of physicians, and more than 80 percent of nurses, alongside other gains achieved by women.

Problems in the capitalist system

Alyson Kennedy, a union militant for more than four decades, speaking separately with *Mujeres*, said the problems workers face in the United States are the result of the capitalist system. She said that this made the fight to confront the high cost of living a priority.

Kennedy said that millions of workers face increasing difficulties, with no immediate solution.

A member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, Kennedy is right in the middle of the long battle by employees of restaurants and stores to win a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, a small amount compared with the cost of living today in the strongest capitalist power on the planet.

It's impossible to survive if you earn less than \$15 an hour, because you can't afford the high rents; people in this situation have to apply for subsidies through food stamps; and some women put off having children because of the huge cost of childcare. In face of this picture, she emphasized, the government, far from helping, has cut social welfare payments.

During their stay in Cuba the U.S. delegation will visit sites of historical and cultural interest.

On Tuesday they visited the Orlando Pantoja Elementary School in the Plaza of the Revolution district, where they met with school officials and students and learned about the work being carried out in an Educational Center for Women and the Family.

According to the delegation's itinerary, a meeting is planned with the five antiterrorist fighters [the Cuban Five], who served long prison terms in the capitalist nation. On May Day they joined the historic march marking International Workers Day in the Plaza of the Revolution.

SPECIAL BOOK OFFERS FOR MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS



The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

"It's the poor who face the savagery of the US 'justice' system"

GERARDO HERNÁNDEZ, RAMÓN LABAÑINO, ANTONIO GUERRERO, RENÉ GONZÁLEZ, FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

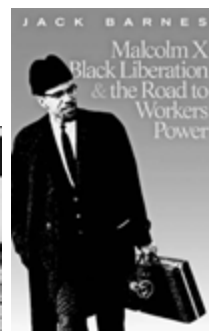
Five Cuban revolutionaries, framed up by the U.S. government, spent up to 16 years as part of the U.S. working class behind bars. In this 2015 interview they talk about U.S. capitalist society and its "justice" system, and about the future of the Cuban Revolution.

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MARY-ALICE WATERS

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Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

JACK BARNES

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Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

VILMA ESPÍN, ASELE DE LOS SANTOS, YOLANDA FERRER

\$15 (regular \$20) Also in Spanish

Teamster Politics

FARRELL DOBBS

\$14 (regular \$19) Also in Spanish

IF YOU SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW, THESE SPECIAL OFFERS ARE FOR YOU. CONTACT THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY OR COMMUNIST LEAGUE BRANCHES LISTED ON PAGE 8.

Washington uses crisis to push for pro-US gov't in Venezuela

BY SETH GALINSKY

Growing shortages of basic goods and medicines, a drop in factory production, out-of-control inflation and severe electrical shortages are fueling a deepening social and political crisis in Venezuela. Meanwhile Washington is tightening the screws, hoping to get a government there more to the liking of U.S. imperialism.

In March President Barack Obama renewed an executive order declaring the government of President Nicolás Maduro “an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.” On April 28 the U.S. Senate approved a three-year extension of sanctions against Venezuelan officials alleged to have violated “human rights.”

These measures “go against the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and the sovereign equality of states,” the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) declared May 5. The alliance, initiated by the governments of Cuba and Venezuela, includes 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

“The Socialist Workers Party stands in solidarity with the working people of Venezuela,” SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy told the *Militant* May 18. “We demand Washington end its sanctions and oppose any interference against Venezuelan sovereignty.”

The pro-imperialist opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable — which won the majority of seats in Venezuela’s legislature in January — turned in more than a million signatures May 2 in favor of a recall of Maduro to the National Electoral Board. The board has not yet ruled on their validity, and Vice President Aristóbulo Istúriz said there won’t be a recall vote, accusing the opposition of “fraud.”

Maduro extended a “state of exception and economic emergency” May 13, charging that opposition groups were promoting hoarding, boycott, usury, shortages and inflation to destabilize the government. He said the armed forces would be deployed to guarantee distribution of food and other necessities. Maduro cited Obama’s executive order as an example of imperialist intervention aiding the opposition.

Henrique Capriles, who lost the last presidential election, on May 17 called on the armed forces “to decide whether you are with the constitution or with Maduro.”

Since 1998, when Hugo Chávez was elected president, the government has said that it was implementing a Bolivarian Revolution and 21st century socialism. The U.S. government — which was never happy about close ties between Chávez and the revolutionary government of Cuba nor Chávez’s refusal to bow to U.S. demands — backed more than one attempt to overthrow Chávez, including a 2002 coup that was reversed after thousands of working people took to the streets.

But instead of mobilizing working people to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class and organizing workers to control conditions on the job — as Cuban revolutionaries did — Chávez put forward a course of trying to man-

age the capitalist market in favor of the working classes. Maduro has continued that course.

Cubans aid social programs

Chávez and Maduro used the nation’s oil profits — Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world — to subsidize housing, food, health care and social programs. Many of the social programs have been carried out with the help of revolutionary Cuba, which has tens of thousands of health-care workers, teachers and other volunteers who go to some of the most impoverished and least accessible areas of the country.

The Venezuelan government in return has provided cheap oil to Cuba.

The world capitalist economic crisis has had a devastating affect on Venezuela. A precipitous drop in the price of oil — which accounts for 95 percent of the country’s export earnings — was countered by printing money. Policies aimed at managing the crisis, such as price controls and a special exchange rate for dollars for companies that import and export, fueled inflation and shortages of goods, as many capitalists found it more profitable to speculate on the exchange rates instead of manufacturing.

The country’s oil exports fell 49 percent in 2015, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. A drought made matters worse, bringing

Cuban farmers: US gov’t aims to break our unity

As part of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments, U.S. President Barack Obama has stated that the economic embargo of Cuba should end. Nonetheless, the embargo — imposed more than 55 years ago in a failed attempt to bring the Cuban people to their knees — remains in place. While its tactics are changing, U.S. imperialism’s goal remains the same: the overturning of the 1959 revolution that removed a U.S.-backed dictatorship and brought working people to power.

Among the shifts Washington is implementing is trying to use U.S. policy, money and other enticements to increase the size and weight of privately owned businesses on the island. The U.S. government aims to increase pressure from below to expand the influence of the capitalist market there; undermine social solidarity and foster a dog-eat-dog mentality; and weaken workers’ control of conditions on the job as well as economic planning that promotes decisions based on the needs of working people, not on the profit motive.

Reprinted below is a statement by the National Bureau of the National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba printed May 5 in *Granma*, the daily paper of the Communist Party of Cuba, answering Washington’s latest moves in that direction. Translation is by the *Militant*.



On April 22, the State Department announced the decision to include coffee on the list of Cuban products produced by the non-state sector that may be imported into the United States. This



Reuters/Carlos García Rawlins

Line for toilet paper and diapers in Caracas, May 16. With skyrocketing inflation, people wait in line for basic necessities at subsidized prices, often only to leave empty-handed due to shortages. Drop in oil prices, drought have accelerated impact of capitalist economic crisis.

the water level at the Guri hydroelectric dam, which generates 75 percent of the country’s electricity, to a record low.

Venezuela’s currency, the bolivar, has tumbled in relation to the dollar by 99.1 percent since 2012. Imports of basic foodstuffs, including sugar, flour and eggs have declined. People have to stand in line for hours hoping to buy products, often to find empty shelves. The inflation rate is estimated at 720 percent — likely the highest in the world — up from 180 percent in 2015.

Starting April 26, Maduro placed most government employees, more than 30 percent of the workforce, on a two-day workweek to conserve energy. Public hospitals are exempt. The gov-

ernment has also initiated rolling four-hour blackouts throughout the country, and pushed the clocks forward 30 minutes to increase daylight hours.

Brewery shuts its doors

Polar, Venezuela’s largest food and beverage conglomerate, announced the closure of four plants April 29, claiming it could no longer afford to import barley, eliminating 10,000 jobs.

In response Maduro threatened to nationalize any company that does not produce. A handful of companies have been nationalized previously, carried out by the government without participation from workers. At the same time

Continued on page 9

is a continuation of a measure adopted by the U.S. government in February 2015 — authorizing very limited exports from Cuba — which excluded all goods and services produced by state enterprises.

It is striking that in announcing the decision, the State Department clarifies that to qualify, Cuban entrepreneurs have to prove that their business “is not owned or controlled” by the Cuban government and noted that this is another measure whose purpose is to “support the ability of the Cuban people to gain greater control over their own lives and determine their country’s future.”

What the State Department didn’t mention is the fact that Cuba was unilaterally stripped of its most-favored nation status after the blockade was decreed — a status that was our right as a founding member state [in 1948] of the International Trade Organization — and that in order to export any Cuban product to the United States, the highest customs duties had to be paid, making exports to the United States virtually impossible.

The State Department also ignores the fact that the Agrarian Reform Law, enacted after the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, made more than 200,000 peasant families owners of the land, and that since then the Cuban state has implemented a program for the social, economic and productive development of the peasantry of our country and has guaranteed production assistance, access to credit, a secure market for their produce and other social benefits.

No one should think that a Cuban small farm producer can export directly to the United States. For this to be pos-

sible, Cuban foreign trade enterprises must participate and financial transactions need to be in U.S. dollars, issues that so far have not been settled.

We are conscious that the objective of these measures is to influence Cuban farmers and separate them from our state.

Cuban small farmers do not fear changes, provided they are of our own making. This is the powerful reason why the permanent aim of the government of the United States to shatter the unity of the people of Cuba can not be permitted as this would destroy a revolutionary process that has provided us with a participatory democracy, freedom, sovereignty and independence.

Cuban peasants are members of socialist civil society and we are part of the state, which represents the power of the people, and not in opposition to it. Together with the workers and all our people, we face the imperialist policy of promoting the division and disintegration of Cuban society, which is what is intended with a measure such as the recently announced one.

If the government of the United States really wants to contribute to the welfare of Cubans, what it must do is definitively lift the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed for more than 50 years, which is the main obstacle to the development of Cuba.

Cuban peasants reaffirm our loyalty to our revolutionary state against all risks and challenges. We will continue to build a prosperous and sustainable socialism, with all and for the good of all, with the patriotic commitment to continue producing for the people.

The rich want working people to like being poor

The Spanish-language edition of *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* is a *May Book of the Month*. In this excerpt, Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, responds to a question about *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life* by Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray. The exchange will be included in the soon-to-be released book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Education Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

Let me read you the first few sentences from the second to the last chapter of *The Bell Curve*, chapter 21, entitled "The Way We Are Headed."

"In this penultimate chapter"—Herrnstein and Murray could have written "second-to-last" chapter, but they had to justify their parents having spent \$42,000, or whatever, to send them to Harvard or Yale — "In this penultimate chapter we speculate about the impact of cognitive stratification on American life and government. Predicting the course of society is chancy, but certain tendencies seem strong enough to worry about."

"Worry about" — that's interesting



Militant/Sara Lobman

Union protest in Charleston, West Virginia, against so-called right-to-work bill March 7, 2015. "Working people strengthen bonds of human solidarity in the process of building fighting social movements and disciplined proletarian organizations," said Jack Barnes.

language in what is supposed to be a scientific study. Then they go on to list these "worrying" tendencies:

■ An increasingly isolated cognitive elite.

■ A merging of the cognitive elite with the affluent.

■ A deteriorating quality of life for people at the bottom end of the cognitive ability distribution."

So, that is the opening paragraph of the penultimate chapter. Now let's say it another way:

We're rich. We're rich because we're smart. You can tell we're smart because we're rich. Because we're smart and rich, our kids are smart, and are going to be rich too. But there are a lot of people who aren't getting rich, and they can't seem to accept the fact that this is simply because their forebears were dumb. The liberals — those who are rich and those who aren't — know this and live by it, but are embarrassed to say so. Most people, however, mistakenly think there is some connection between what we're doing to get rich and their own deteriorating quality of life. We're getting more isolated in that sense, and a little nervous about anyone wanting to take our privileges away. But we want to enjoy being rich. There is nothing to feel guilty about. We're rich because we're smart.

That is about the long and the short of it.

Then the book ends up with some proposals about what to do with all of us "at the bottom end of the cognitive ability distribution" — orphanages and so on, some of the things we have dis-

cussed already. If we can "face reality about the underclass," the book says, then we can provide "the opportunity for everyone, not just the lucky ones, to live a satisfying life." That is, you can learn to like being poor (or be made to pretend to like it).

But this is only possible, the book says, if we get rid of all the social programs and legislation that fly in the face of accepting this reality, such as the minimum wage; affirmative action; more money for public education ("For many people, there is nothing they can learn that will repay the cost of the teaching" — my favorite sentence in the book); the extension of Social Security protections; welfare payments; and so on. ...

According to Murray and Herrnstein, capitalism achieved a wonderful thing by the opening years of the twentieth century. In the United States it happened even a bit earlier, they say. Before then wealth and social position had for centuries been passed on from one generation to the next through a rigid class structure — through aristocratic elites. Those in the ruling classes — from the kings and queens right on down — were often not very smart, notoriously slothful, and morally dissolute.

With capitalism, however, came "the career open to talent." Anyone, they say, from any class background or of any nationality or skin color, could now rise to positions of political power and material comfort — on the basis of merit, intelligence, hard work, and moral virtue.

But today something further is happening, as the level of capitalist technol-

ogy and computerization advances, they add. The intelligence and competence required to keep modern society up and running is inevitably concentrating wealth and power more and more in the hands of a relatively small layer of middle-class professionals, technocrats, managers, and academics — people, coincidentally, much like themselves. They call this "the cognitive elite." There is nothing that can, or should, be done about this. That is just the way it is, and has to be, due to modern technology. ...

Human beings, of course, have a genetic structure. But we are not computers. It is not just our hardware that changes. Our software changes, too, as soon as we start doing things with our hands and eyes when we are still just tiny infants. Social practice and experience make us what we are. There are also some things about human beings, of course, that do not change, no matter what happens to us socially. We come in two different sexes. We have different skin pigmentation. And there are many other examples. The world would be awfully boring if this were not true.

But none of this is reducible to some built-in limit to the potential of human beings, or of any socially defined group of human beings. Because that is what both classes and races are — they are historically determined social constructs, the product of the rise of class-divided society. The concept of race, in its virulent and pseudoscientific forms, in fact, is the product of only the most recent stage in class society — the rise and consolidation of capitalism.

All the great Marxists have gloried in how the building of socialism will enable working people to transform ourselves — to transform who we are and what we are capable of. ...

It is labor that makes possible all civilization and the advance of culture. Working people begin to transform ourselves and strengthen bonds of human solidarity in the very process of building the fighting social movements and disciplined proletarian organizations without which the capitalist rulers will plunge the world into fascism and war.

The transition to socialism is not possible without the organization of working people to begin transforming ourselves and our attitudes toward life and work and each other as we fundamentally transform the social relations of production.

May BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Wildfire disaster a product of capitalism

The following statement was issued May 17 by Joseph Young, chairperson of the Communist League in Calgary, Alberta.

A massive and still-burning wild fire has destroyed a major part of Fort McMurray, Alberta, and forced the emergency evacuation of the entire population. While there are hundreds of fires in the region every year, the social catastrophe in Fort McMurray today is not caused by nature, but is a product of the profit-driven capitalist system. Some 2,400 homes and other buildings were destroyed, more than 10 percent of the total. And 8,000 more workers were ordered out of the area May 16 when the fire threatened 19 oil work camps north of the city.

In recent years Fort McMurray's population mushroomed as bosses seeking to profit from exploitation of the oil sands brought in thousands of workers. Despite the well-known fire danger, the bosses' government paid little attention to the safety of the city's residents.

As the spreading fire threatened the city May 1, authorities did nothing. They waited two more days before ordering an evacuation, giving residents only minutes' notice. The only highway out of the city rapidly became gridlocked. While the need for a second highway had been discussed for a decade, it never fit into the profit-driven priorities of the rulers.

Workers in Fort McMurray had already been hard hit by layoffs with the worldwide downturn in the oil industry. Almost 10 percent of workers in Fort McMurray were already unemployed, and home foreclosures were on the rise.

As workers flocked to the area, developers built

houses right up against the tree line or even into the forest. Fire breaks to protect the city were never built.

The financial press cheered the resulting rise of oil prices, ignoring the human toll. "Oil price rises as Canada wildfire disrupts supply," the May 5 *Financial Times* said.

In a massive outpouring of solidarity, working people lined the 270-mile highway to Edmonton to offer gas canisters, food, water, diapers and other necessities to evacuees. In sharp contrast to the bosses' indifference, this shows how our class is capable of organizing to defend workers' safety and well-being.

The provincial government made a one-time payment of \$1,250 to adults and \$500 for children, an amount utterly inadequate to meet people's needs. At the same time, the government is rushing to help the oil bosses restore production.

Many evacuees are eager to clean up and rebuild. Tens of thousands of workers with all kinds of skills are unemployed. The Communist League in Canada calls on our unions to demand the government organize and fund a massive public works program at union rates of pay to rebuild Fort McMurray.

When Santiago de Cuba, Cuba's second largest city, was hit by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the revolutionary government organized an orderly evacuation of those at risk and volunteers were mobilized to begin rebuilding immediately. The difference between Alberta and Cuba? Cuban working people made a socialist revolution in 1959. They took political power and the self-confidence and self-worth they have conquered through their revolution gives them the capacity to run Cuba based on human needs, not profit.

US gov't seeks stability for imperialist order

Continued from front page

Sea to defend its interests against Beijing, including stationing warplanes in the Philippines under a new agreement with Manila.

In an announcement pointing to a bigger military presence in Libya, where recent U.S. airstrikes have targeted Islamic State, Pentagon officials acknowledged that Special Operations soldiers have been stationed at two outposts there since late last year. Their task is to "identify potential allies among local armed factions and gather intelligence on threats," the *Washington Post* reported May 12.

While Obama often says he favors drone strikes and the use of "Special Ops" over "boots on the ground," Washington's growing presence in Iraq and Syria is resulting in deaths and injuries in combat, which the administration tries to cover up or play down.

Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Charles Keating IV was killed by Islamic State forces near Mosul, Iraq, May 3. U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin was killed by IS March 19 in northern Iraq, and eight of his fellow Marines were wounded. And Special Forces Master Sgt. Joshua Wheeler was killed there last October.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, in a classic example of doublespeak, said Keating was not on a "combat mission" but "was in a combat situation."

"It's a Combat Mission, Mr. President," was the title of a May 5 *Military Times* editorial condemning "the sort of condescending semantics Washington plays to deny the obvious."

U.S. imperialism is increasing its military footprint in Libya as Islamic State, which is losing ground in Syria and Iraq, has deployed troops there and captured territory. The reactionary group's advances are only possible because of the absence of a central government and fracturing of the country into warring factions' after Washington and its allies unleashed widespread airstrikes on the country that aided the overthrow of the regime of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Social catastrophe in Syria

At the same time Washington increases its troop presence in Syria, it is collaborating with Moscow in an effort to reach a truce and protect its economic and political interests in the region.

The partial cease-fire currently in place threatens to come apart as competing ruling classes from Saudi

Arabia to Turkey and Iran to Israel all maneuver for their own interests.

The social catastrophe working people face keeps getting worse.

Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, who launched a brutal war five years ago seeking to put down mass demonstrations against his rule, is losing support from his base in the western part of the country as cumulative effects of that war cripple the economy.

Rampant inflation is hammering working people. The exchange rate for the Syrian pound has gone from 47 to the dollar in 2011 to 620 per dollar May 10.

Assad has relied on support from the 2.7 million workers in the bloated state sector, more than 10 percent of the pre-war population. Their wages have dropped to \$20-\$30 a month. More than 80 percent of Syrians live below poverty level.

A Damascus teacher spends her monthly pay right away, a May 11 *Financial Times* article reported. "Prices are changing every hour, not every day or month," she said. Traders close to Assad "may be speeding up the currency's deterioration by converting their profits back into dollars and moving them abroad," the article added.

Angry over high prices and the traders' actions, Syrians in areas under government control planned a three-day boycott of non-essential goods in mid-May.

Syria's foreign reserves have fallen from \$20 billion before the war to \$700 million, the World Bank reports, and its gross domestic product has been dropping by more than 15 percent a year. The Islamic State takeover of Syria's eastern oilfields in 2014 cut export revenues from \$4.7 billion to below \$200 million.

Despite an air and ground assault, Iranian forces, Hezbollah troops and Assad loyalists have been unable to recapture Aleppo in northern Syria, formerly the country's largest city and a stronghold of opposition forces from Islamist groups to the Kurdish People's Protection Units, which are also battling each other.

In an apparent act of revenge over the Syrian government attacks on Aleppo, the Islamist groups Ahrar al-Sham and al-Qaeda affiliate Nusra Front killed at least 19 civilians May 12, including women and children, in the mostly Alawite Muslim village of al-Zara. The dead are thought to be family members of troops loyal to Assad, whose base is heavily Alawite.

Verizon strike

Continued from front page

non-neutral character of the NLRB.

The Obama administration is intervening in the dispute to press for a settlement. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez convened negotiations between the CWA President Chris Shelton, IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson and Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam in Washington May 15.

Protests at Verizon stores across the country in solidarity with the strikers continue. Most workers at the stores and in Verizon's wireless division are not unionized; the strike involves workers in the company's landline, internet and television services.

The CWA is asking other unions to adopt a Verizon store to picket. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is encouraging affiliates to adopt a store and contribute to the strike fund. The Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO lists Verizon picket lines across the area to attend. And the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO is encouraging unionists to leaflet at three downtown stores.

The Hotel Trades Council here, whose members have joined strikers' marches, adopted the picket line at 43rd St. and Lexington Ave, where unionists were loudly urging passersby to boycott Verizon when this reporter joined them May 16. "Our members picket every day from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and we'll be there until the strike is won," John Turchiano, who edits the hotel workers' online magazine, said in a phone interview.

"We are one with the 39,000 strong striking workers who walked off their jobs to fight for their rights for decent jobs and benefits," reads a statement by BIEN Philippines, an organization of call center, payroll and other office workers for companies based outside the Philippines.

BIEN invited a delegation from the CWA, including three strikers, to the Philippines for a four-day solidarity tour. They learned that workers in the call centers there are being forced to work overtime answering calls from Verizon customers that are usually answered by workers who are currently on strike. For the same work done by union members in the U.S., the Philippine workers are paid \$1.78 an hour. A promise from a Verizon representative for an overtime premium of \$1.07 an hour hasn't showed up in their pay.

During the trip the CWA members were joined by BIEN, the May First Movement Labor Center (KMU), and other local labor groups May 11 in picketing a Teletech call center where Verizon calls are answered. Later that day when the group attempted to meet with Verizon officials at their corporate office, they were told to leave and then followed by a private security group, which called a police SWAT team.

Crisis in Venezuela

Continued from page 7

Maduro said he would ease price controls on some industries to encourage production and would eliminate middlemen in the sale of some subsidized products.

According to the *Washington Post*, in recent weeks there have been incidents of looting during electrical blackouts. AFP news agency reported May 11 that hundreds of people broke into a market in Maracay when they were told there were no subsidized products for sale, carrying off boxes of corn, pasta and oil. The market was guarded by soldiers, after authorities charged that products were being hoarded to sell later at higher prices.

"You can hear the ice cracking," an unidentified U.S. official told the *Washington Post* at a May 13 "briefing" for selected journalists.

But the pro-imperialist opposition is itself riven by factional disputes and Washington has little confidence in the opposition's ability to stabilize the political situation, much less find a way out of the hole in the midst of the capitalist economic crisis. And while workers' support for the Maduro government has eroded, the parties that make up the Roundtable are discredited. Workers know from experience that their talk of democracy and promises to improve the economy are a cover for defending the wealthy capitalists.

In an indication of the U.S. government's hopes, Reuters reported after the official briefing, that "one 'plausible' scenario would be that Maduro's own party or powerful political figures would force him out and would not rule out the possibility of a military coup."

De costa a costa haga campaña con el PST

POR MAGGIE TROWE

“La experiencia que ha tenido el Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores cuando llevamos nuestra campaña a las puertas de las casas de los trabajadores, es que quieren hablar sobre cual es el camino que debemos seguir”, dijo Mary Martin, candidata del PST para gobernadora de Washington, el 17 de mayo. “Escuchan con atención lo que les decimos sobre las perspectivas y el programa de nuestro partido. Muchos quieren leer nuestro periódico, el *Militante*, comprar un libro sobre la política revolucionaria de la editorial Pathfinder y ayudarnos a asegurar que nuestro partido aparezca en la boleta electoral”.

Martin aplicó para estar en la boleta electoral ese mismo día.

Los trabajadores rechazaron la afirmación del presidente Barack Obama de que Estados Unidos “en este momento tiene la economía más fuerte, más duradera del mundo”. Ellos están buscando una vía para salir de las condiciones de absoluta depresión que enfrentan en la débil recuperación económica actual.

La lista que mantiene el gobierno de los trabajadores mayores de 16 años que no están empleados o que no están buscando trabajo activamente

Sigue en la página 10

Trabajadores de Honeywell luchan contra cierre patronal

POR BETSY FARLEY

SOUTH BEND, Indiana—Los trabajadores de producción de la planta de la Honeywell International en esta ciudad están manteniendo sus líneas de piquetes las 24 horas tras el cierre patronal impuesto el 9 de mayo contra 317 miembros del Local 9 del sindicato automotriz UAW. El local rechazó con un voto de 270 contra 30 “la última, mejor y final oferta” de la Honeywell, que aumentaría drásticamente los costos de atención médica, anularía los horarios de trabajo y le permitiría a la empresa hacer caso omiso de las clasificaciones de puestos de trabajo.

La planta produce frenos y ruedas de aviones para la Boeing, Airbus y otras gigantes empresas aeroespaciales. La Honeywell también impuso un cierre contra 41 miembros del sindicato automotriz en su fábrica de pastillas de freno en Green Island, Nueva York.

“No podemos aceptar un alza de 68 a 114 dólares por semana en el costo del seguro médico familiar y de 3 400 a 8 000 dólares en el deducible”, dijo Adam Stevenson, el presidente del Local 9.

“Siempre hemos tenido horarios de trabajo fijos”, dijo Ivan Donaldson, un electricista con 19 años en la planta. “Honeywell quiere eliminar eso para que empecemos cuando ellos quieran

Sigue en la página 10

Estabilidad, fin imperialista de EEUU en Medio Oriente

Intenta pacto con Moscú, envía más tropas



Departamento de Defensa/Dominique A. Pineiro
Jefe de estado mayor conjunto, Gral. Joe Dunford (centro, izq.) habla con Tte. Gral. Sean MacFarland el 21 de abril durante visita a Iraq para discutir campaña contra Estado Islámico.

POR MAGGIE TROWE

Al acercarse el final de su segundo mandato, Barack Obama — quien se postuló en 2008 comprometiéndose a eliminar gradualmente la participación militar estadounidense en el Medio Oriente — ha estado realizando continuamente intervenciones militares en el extranjero, y actualmente está aumentando la participación de Washington en operaciones de combate.

Cuando Obama tomó posesión después de George W. Bush, las tropas estadounidenses en Iraq y Afganistán fueron reducidas de 200 mil a cerca de 5 mil en Iraq y 9 800 en Afganistán en la actualidad. Pero su administración está

incrementando la presencia de tropas de combate en estos países, y en Siria, y ha autorizado bombardeos y operaciones clandestinas en Libia, Pakistán, Somalia y Yemen.

Washington acaba de inaugurar su primer sistema terrestre antibalístico europeo en Rumania. Y la administración de Obama ha aumentado sus operaciones navales en el Mar del Sur de China para defender sus intereses contra los de Beijing, incluyendo estacionar aviones de combate en las Filipinas bajo un nuevo acuerdo con Manila.

En un anuncio sobre su creciente presencia en Libia, donde fuerzas del

Sigue en la página 10

Reino Unido: Lo que está en juego en el debate sobre el odio antijudío

POR JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDRES—El alza en el odio antijudío a medida que se profundiza la crisis capitalista, y las calumnias antisemitas repetidas por la izquierda durante años —frecuentemente bajo el pretexto

COMENTARIO

de brindar apoyo a la lucha palestina— está provocando disturbios en el seno del Partido Laborista británico.

Ken Livingstone —miembro del ejecutivo del partido y el ex alcalde de Londres— fue suspendido del partido el 28 de abril por “desacreditar al partido” usando declaraciones antisemitas. También fue suspendido el diputado laborista Naz Shah. Alrededor de 50 miembros del Partido Laborista han sido disciplinados.

El dirigente laborista Jeremy Corbyn declaró que su partido se opone a “tolerar el antisemitismo en cualquiera de sus formas”. Ha puesto en marcha una investigación, pero afirma que no hay un problema de antisemitismo en el partido.

Len McCluskey, dirigente del sindicato Unite, acordó, atacando lo que llamó un “cínico intento de manipular el antisemitismo con fines políticos”. Los periódicos de izquierda, entre ellos *Morning Star*, *Socialist Worker* y *Socialist*, se han unido a aquellos que niegan que existe un problema de antisemitismo.

“Desde que Jeremy Corbyn fue elegido”, dijo Livingstone el 28 de abril, “la prensa alborota todas estas cuestiones, que son cuestiones secundarias”.

Opositores políticos de Corbyn, tanto dentro del Partido Laborista como en otros partidos burgueses, han aprovechado esta oportunidad para atacarlo. Y el odio antijudío dentro de la clase gobernante en el Reino Unido no se limita al Partido Laborista.

Pero el antisemitismo no es “asunto secundario”. Y los disturbios en el seno del Partido Laborista no son producto de una campaña difamatoria en su contra, sino de su tolerancia durante años de las calumnias antisemitas y la promoción de antisemitas declarados, además de la demonización de Israel y las campañas

Sigue en la página 11

La prohibición del consejo tártaro de Crimea es ‘declaración de guerra’

POR ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

El 26 de abril la Corte Suprema de Crimea prohibió el Mejlis, el consejo electo del pueblo tártaro de Crimea. La decisión sucedió tras una acción similar la semana anterior del ministerio de justicia ruso y afecta el funcionamiento del Mejlis, desde poder realizar reuniones y protestas hasta publicar sus opiniones en la prensa y utilizar cuentas bancarias.

La medida es la más seria en una ofensiva para intimidar y silenciar la oposición de los tártaros a la ocupación de Crimea por Moscú y su lucha por derechos políticos. Es “una declaración de guerra contra los tártaros de Crimea”, dijo Mustafa Dzhemilev, dirigente de la lucha por los derechos nacionales y ex presidente del Mejlis.

Los tártaros, un pueblo túrquico, fueron unos de los primeros habitantes de Crimea. Hoy comprenden alrededor del 12 por ciento de la población de la península. El 18 de mayo se cumple el 72 aniversario de la deportación

de los tártaros de Crimea bajo órdenes del entonces primer ministro soviético José Stalin, quien los acusó en masa de ser agentes de Adolf Hitler durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Casi la mitad de la población de 200 mil personas murió durante el viaje forzoso a Uzbekistán y otras partes de la Unión Soviética en 1944. Los tártaros comenzaron a regresar a Crimea durante los años 90.

Los tártaros en su gran mayoría apoyan una Ucrania unida y soberana, y se opusieron a la toma de Crimea en marzo de 2014 por tropas rusas después que protestas populares expulsaran al presidente ucraniano Victor Yanukóvich, un aliado de Moscú. En ese entonces, bajo acuerdos que se remontan a la época de la Unión Soviética, Moscú mantenía alrededor de 26 mil soldados en Crimea, los cuales fueron utilizados para imponer un referéndum a favor de la “independencia” para justificar la anexión de la península.

Sigue en la página 11

Debate sobre odio antijudío

Viene de la portada

a favor de la destrucción de Israel.

En su página de Facebook Shah dijo en 2014: “La solución para el conflicto Israel-Palestina: trasladar Israel a Estados Unidos”. El post de Facebook decía que el “costo del transporte” sería menos que el costo de tres años de asistencia financiera de Washington para los gastos de defensa de Israel.

Shah fue víctima de una “campaña bien orquestada por el lobby israelí”, afirmó Livingstone. Aunque dijo que el mensaje de Facebook era “demasiado”, agregó que “un verdadero antisemita no solo odia a los judíos en Israel, sino que también odia a sus vecinos judíos” en Londres.

La calumnia del ‘dinero judío’

El pasado octubre, el diputado laborista Gerald Kaufman dijo que “el dinero judío, las donaciones judías” eran responsables de la política del gobierno del Reino Unido hacia Israel. Y el prominente diputado laborista de izquierda Tam Dalyell afirmó en 2003 que el papel central del Reino Unido en la guerra de Iraq se debió a la influencia de una “cabalá judía” sobre el gobierno.

El asociar a los judíos y el dinero con las supuestas conspiraciones judías son las calumnias clásicas de los antisemitas.

Hoy en día, la campaña Boicot antisraelí, Desinversión y Sanciones refuerza esa mentira —independientemente de cuales sean las intenciones de los que participan en ella— a través de sus protestas contra tiendas de propietarios judíos, supuestamente por su apoyo a Israel. Para cubrir su antisemitismo a menudo dicen “sionista” y “sio”, cuando lo que realmente quieren decir es “judío”.

Dirigentes del Partido Laborista como Corbyn a menudo han acogido a dirigentes de Hamas, quienes dicen hablar en nombre del pueblo palestino. El gobierno de Hamas de Gaza llama a la destrucción de Israel, una postura compartida por gran parte de la izquierda.

“Cualquier persona que tenga un cuchillo, una porra, un arma, o un coche, y que no lo utiliza para atacar a un judío o colono, y no lo utiliza para matar a decenas de sionistas, no pertenece a Palestina”, declaró el portavoz de Hamas, Fawzi Barhoum, en agosto de 2014.

El antisemitismo bajo el pretexto del apoyo a la lucha palestina socava la lucha palestina por derechos nacionales, incluyendo la lucha por una Palestina viable y contigua.

‘Antisionista’: código para antijudío

Livingstone dice que el no es antisemita, sino “antisionista”. Le dijo a la BBC que el antisionismo no es antisemita porque Hitler “apoyaba al sionismo ... antes de que se volviera loco y terminara asesinando a 6 millones de judíos”.

El Holocausto no fue el resultado de que Hitler se volviera loco, sino de medidas calculadas para hacer de los judíos chivos expiatorios para la crisis del capitalismo y para destruir al movimiento obrero en Alemania.

Igualar a los “sionistas” con los nazis ha sido característico de la política de Livingstone. Cuando era el alcalde de Londres, le dijo a un reportero judío que estaba actuando como un “guardia de un campo de concentración”. Cuando era dirigente del Consejo de Gran Londres

en 1981 y editor del *Labour Herald*, el periódico publicó una caricatura que representaba al primer ministro israelí Menachem Begin como un nazi.

El odio antijudío es producto del capitalismo en decadencia. Su objetivo ulterior es desviar a los trabajadores de una lucha militante unida mediante la promoción de la mentira venenosa de que el problema no es el capitalismo, sino los malvados capitalistas judíos. Y va de la mano con el fascismo, que proclama de que la solución no es el internacionalismo y la toma del poder por los trabajadores y el reemplazamiento de la dictadura del capital a través de la lucha revolucionaria, sino el “socialismo nacional”, la antítesis de la trayectoria defendida por los comunistas desde los tiempos de Marx y Engels.

A medida que se profundiza la crisis capitalista mundial, seguirá estallando el odio antijudío. Trabajadores con conciencia de clase deben oponerse al odio antijudío dondequiera que asome la cabeza.

Fallo sobre la censura en las prisiones socava derechos

POR LEA SHERMAN

Joseph Murchison, quien ha tenido una suscripción por mucho tiempo a la revista *Newsweek* nunca recibió la edición del 11 de octubre de 2010. No se perdió en el correo. No llegó a una dirección equivocada.

Funcionarios del Centro Correccional del Sur Central de Missouri censuraron esa edición alegando que “promueve la violencia, el desorden, o la violación de la ley estatal o federal que incluye material inflamatorio”. Se referían a un artículo acompañado con fotos titulado “Ocultos detrás de la Web”, que describe ataques de los carteles de drogas contra el gobierno y el ejército mexicano.

Murchison, representándose a sí mismo entabló una demanda en el tribunal federal de distrito, diciendo que esto constituía una violación de sus derechos bajo la primera enmienda a la constitución.

El 1 de abril de 2013, el tribunal de distrito falló que la censura de la edi-

Consejo tártaro de Crimea

Viene de la portada

La gran mayoría de los tártaros se negaron a participar en el referéndum. Moscú respondió prohibiendo la entrada a su patria a Dzhemilev, a quien 5 mil tártaros fueron a darle la bienvenida. Dzhemilev intentó entrar a Crimea en mayo de 2014 pero fue bloqueado por policías.

La criminalización del Mejlis se basa en la ley rusa para ‘Contrarrestar la Actividad Extremista’. Natalya Poklonskaya, el fiscal de Crimea designado por Rusia, acusó al Mejlis de recibir apoyo de organizaciones terroristas internacionales y de tratar de destruir la integridad territorial de Rusia.

En octubre, Ruslan Balbek, viceprimer ministro de Crimea, dijo que Dzhemilev estaba reclutando combatientes para el Estado Islámico para “posteriormente utilizar su experiencia militar para actividades subversivas en Crimea”. Dzhemilev, quien ha apoyado la resistencia no violenta contra Moscú por décadas, dijo que esto “era falso”.

La prohibición se añade a los asedios

Gary Tyler preso por cargos falsos por 42 años sale libre finalmente



Joan Griswold/ via Reuters

totalidad de blancos convirtiéndose en el reo más joven en el pabellón de la muerte en Estados Unidos. Durante décadas Tyler mantuvo su inocencia y luchó por su libertad ganando apoyo alrededor del mundo. Amparado por una decisión de la Corte Suprema que en 2012 anuló las sentencias capitales sin derecho a libertad condicional para menores, Tyler aceptó una sentencia negociada de 21 años por homicidio involuntario, una pena dos veces más larga que el tiempo que ya había cumplido, y salió libre finalmente.

—POR ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

ción de *Newsweek* no violó los derechos de Murchison bajo la primera enmienda. Murchison apeló la decisión, y un jurado de tres jueces del octavo circuito del tribunal de apelaciones reafirmó la decisión del tribunal del 11 de marzo de 2015, declarando que “los tribunales deben ser respetuosos con las opiniones de los funcionarios de las prisiones sobre lo que puede ser inflamatorio”.

Aunque el artículo de *Newsweek* no abogaba por la violencia y no violaba ninguna ley, el tribunal dijo que los funcionarios de la prisión pueden decidir arbitrariamente censurar materiales que consideren que “refuerza el comportamiento socialmente irresponsable dentro de las prisiones”.

Cuando Murchison señaló que había otros materiales con contenido similar en la biblioteca de la prisión, el tribunal de apelaciones dijo que esto demuestra que él puede ejercer sus derechos bajo la primera enmienda, ya que no hay una prohibición total de la revista y “Murchison tiene me-

dios alternativos para ejercer sus derechos”.

Emily Scheer, directora de relaciones públicas de *Newsweek*, dijo al *Militante* que la revista no tiene ningún comentario sobre el caso.

“La decisión judicial de reafirmar la censura de *Newsweek* continúa una tradición vergonzosa de los tribunales de abdicar su función de proteger los derechos constitucionales de todos los ciudadanos, inclusive los presos y los editores, y continúa la infantilización de los presos”, dijo al *Militante* Paul Wright, director de *Prison Legal News*.

“Siempre hay que tomar la censura en serio, y apelarla si se puede”, dijo Alex Friedmann, subdirector del periódico. “Si no se desafía, nadie en la cárcel recibirá sus publicaciones”. Más de dos tercios de los 9 mil suscriptores de *Prison Legal News* están tras las rejas y la publicación ha librado numerosas luchas contra los esfuerzos de los funcionarios de prisiones de censurarla, dijo.

En años recientes, el *Militante* ha hecho retroceder con éxito los intentos de las autoridades carcelarias tanto estatales como federales de impedir que suscriptores reciban sus periódicos. “Defendemos los derechos de los trabajadores, dentro y fuera de la prisión, ante los esfuerzos de los políticos gobernantes, los tribunales y los carceleros de socavar los derechos constitucionales que fueron ganados con luchas”, dijo John Studer, director del *Militante*, condenando el fallo del tribunal. “Esto es un ataque contra el derecho de los reos de leer lo que quieran, hablar de política y resistir los abusos en las prisiones”.

Participe con el Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores

Para ayudar a asegurar un lugar en la boleta electoral para los candidatos del PST, ganar lectores al *Militante* o acompañarnos a actos de solidaridad con huelga de Verizon u otras luchas sociales contacte a ramas del partido (vea el directorio en la página 8).

Campaña con el PST

Viene de la portada

te aumentó por más de medio millón de personas el mes pasado, alcanzando una cifra de 94 millones, la más alta jamás registrada.

Es en este contexto que miembros y partidarios del PST están llevando su perspectiva revolucionaria proletaria a los trabajadores en las puertas de sus casas y en las luchas contra los ataques de los patrones, a la vez que coleccionan firmas para asegurar que los candidatos del partido para presidente y vicepresidente, Alyson Kennedy y Osborne Hart, aparezcan en la boleta electoral.

El PST también está postulando candidatos para el senado y el congreso en California, Minnesota, Illinois, Pensilvania, Nueva York, Georgia, Florida y Washington.

Los partidarios del PST han logrado un puesto para Kennedy y Hart en la boleta electoral de Colorado. El partido presentará las firmas en Louisiana la próxima semana. Actualmente se están realizando campañas de colección de firmas y para llevar el partido a trabajadores en pequeños pueblos y grandes ciudades de Washington y Nueva

Honeywell

Viene de la portada

y trabajemos tantas horas como ellos quieran, igual a lo que hacen con los trabajadores de Walmart". También aumentarían las horas extras obligatorias.

La Honeywell contrató a por lo menos 200 personas de la Strom Engineering, una agencia rompehuelgas, dos meses antes del comienzo del cierre patronal. "Estaban en la planta tratando de aprender nuestros trabajos incluso antes de que votáramos si nos declararíamos en huelga", dijo Stevenson. "Pero eso también ayudó a que los que vacilaban vieran las verdaderas intenciones de la compañía. Nos unió más".

Honeywell se jactó de haber aumentado sus ganancias en un 6.3 por ciento en el primer trimestre de 2016, un aumento de ingresos netos de 1.19 mil millones de dólares, y un aumento de 3 por ciento en las ventas de su división aeroespacial, donde obtiene sus mayores ingresos. La empresa dice que las concesiones exigidas son "consecuentes con las realidades económicas que enfrenta la industria", señalando los "miles de empleos eliminados en marzo por nuestro mayor cliente".

"Nos tratan como si fuéramos una mercancía, como si fuéramos maíz o soja", dijo John Billington, un electricista.

"Los sindicatos tienen problemas", dijo William Bolen, un operador de máquinas con 8 años de antigüedad. "Si no lo paramos aquí, se extenderá. Y el gobierno está con las corporaciones estadounidenses. Son las que controlan el gobierno, ¿por qué no tenemos por lo menos un salario mínimo de 15 dólares la hora?"

El uso de un cierre patronal por la Honeywell no es nada nuevo. En 2010 y 2014 la compañía impuso un cierre en su planta de conversión de uranio en Metropolis, Illinois, después de que los miembros del Local 7-669 del sindicato de obreros del acero USW rechazaron grandes demandas de concesiones. En ambas ocasiones los trabajadores lograron rechazar algunas de las demandas de la empresa.

Jersey, y comienzan en Tennessee y Minnesota el 20 de mayo.

Betsy Farley, trabajadora del acero sindicalizada, y a candidata del PST para el congreso en Chicago, se unió a líneas de piquetes en South Bend, Indiana, el 9 de mayo. Trabajadores de la industria aeroespacial, miembros del Local 9 del UAW, han sido despedidos en un cierre patronal de la Honeywell por negarse a aceptar un contrato lleno de concesiones. "Nos tratan como si fuéramos una mercancía, como el maíz o la soja", dijo el electricista John Billington a Farley. Cuatro de los trabajadores despedidos se suscribieron al *Militante*.

Cada rama del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores está organizando reuniones con trabajadores y jóvenes que estén interesados en asistir a la Conferencia de Trabajadores Activos del PST que tendrá lugar del 16 al 18 de junio en Oberlin, Ohio.

"Estoy entusiasmado de participar en la conferencia del PST porque disfruté los foros del partido a los que asistí en Omaha", dijo al *Militante* Chris Steffen, quien trabaja en una planta que hace tanques químicos de plástico en Lincoln, Nebraska el 18 de mayo.

Steffen y el miembro del PST Joe Swanson fueron a un acto del Primero de Mayo sobre la lucha para aumentar el salario mínimo a 15 dólares la hora. "Planteamos la necesidad de organizar sindicatos como parte de la lucha para ganar los 15 dólares. Un sindicato es necesario

Fines EUA en Medio Oriente

Viene de la portada

Estado Islámico han sido blancos de bombardeos estadounidenses, funcionarios del Pentágono reconocieron que tropas de operaciones especiales han sido estacionadas en dos puestos de avanzada ahí desde el año pasado.

Aunque Obama dice favorecer los bombardeos con "drones" y el uso de "operativos especiales" en vez de tropas en el terreno, la creciente presencia de Washington en Iraq y Siria ha producido muertos y heridos en combate, que la administración trata de encubrir o minimizar.

El soldado de operaciones especiales Charles Keating IV fue abatido por las fuerzas del Estado Islámico cerca de Mosul, Iraq, el 3 de mayo. Es por lo menos el tercer soldado estadounidense muerto en Iraq desde octubre.

El secretario de prensa de la Casa Blanca Josh Earnest, en un clásico ejemplo de doble discurso, dijo que Keating "no estaba en una misión de combate" sino que "estaba en una situación de combate".

"Es una misión de combate, Sr. Presidente", fue el titular de un editorial en el *Army Times* el 16 de mayo, que denuncia "el tipo de semántica condescendiente que usa Washington para negar lo obvio".

El imperialismo norteamericano está aumentando su presencia militar en Libia donde el Estado Islámico, el cual está perdiendo terreno en Siria e Iraq, ha desplegado tropas y capturado territorio. Los avances del grupo reaccionario han sido posibles debido a la ausencia de un gobierno central y la fracturación del país entre facciones beligerantes después que Washington y sus aliados desataran los masivos bombardeos que ayudaron a



Militante/Janet Post

John Staggs, candidato del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores para el senado de Estados Unidos en Pensilvania (derecha), con miembros del Local 827 del sindicato de electricistas IBEW en huelga contra la empresa Verizon en Moorestown, Nueva Jersey, el 27 de abril.

para llevar a cabo la lucha", dijo.

En una reunión que tuvo lugar del 14 al 16 de mayo para preparar la conferencia, el Comité Nacional del PST decidió extender la campaña del partido para ganar lectores y contribuyentes al *Militante* hasta el 24 de mayo para ayudar a que las ramas del PST y de los partidos hermanos de la Liga Comunista en todo el mundo superen la meta.

Hasta la fecha se han vendido 1 435 suscripciones y han llegado 90 588 dólares de la cuota de 1 550 suscripciones y 110 mil dólares para el Fondo de Lucha del Militante. El costo de producción del periódico es sostenido por cientos de contribuciones de trabajadores cada primavera, lo

que hace posible mantener el precio del periódico y las suscripciones a precios asequibles.

Veintiún presos se han suscrito durante la campaña. "Me siento privilegiado que el *Militante* me ha abierto los ojos y me ha educado acerca de los problemas sociales que afectan a todas las clases trabajadoras y las luchas que nos unen a todos", escribió un preso de Nueva Zelanda. Dijo que también aprecia los libros que ha recibido de Pathfinder. "Me gustó especialmente '*Son los pobres quienes enfrentan el salvajismo del sistema de "justicia" en EE.UU.: Los Cinco Cubanos hablan sobre sus vidas en la clase trabajadora en EE.UU.*'".

Para participar con el Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores para ganar trabajadores a una perspectiva revolucionaria, póngase en contacto con una de las ramas del partido listadas en el directorio de la página 8.

derrocar el régimen de Muamar Gadafi en 2011.

Al mismo tiempo que Washington aumenta la presencia de sus tropas en Siria, está colaborando con Moscú con el fin de lograr una tregua y proteger sus intereses económicos y políticos en la región.

El dictador Bashar al-Assad, que dio inicio hace cinco años a una guerra brutal con el fin de aplastar las masivas manifestaciones populares en contra de su gobierno, está perdiendo apoyo entre sus partidarios en la parte occidental del país a medida que los efectos acumulativos de esa guerra paralizan la economía.

Una inflación galopante está azotando al pueblo trabajador. La tasa de cambio por la libra siria ha aumentado de 47 por un dólar en 2011 a 620 el 10 de mayo. Assad ha dependido del apoyo de los 2.7 millones de trabajadores en el sector estatal, más del 10 por ciento de la población antes de la guerra. Los salarios han bajado a 20-30 dólares por mes y más del 80 por ciento de sirios viven debajo del nivel de pobreza.

Un artículo del *Financial Times* el 11 de mayo ilustró como una maestra de Damasco gasta su salario mensual inmediatamente después de recibirlo porque "los precios cambian cada hora, no cada día o mes", dijo ella.

Las reservas de divisas de Siria han caído de 20 mil millones de dólares antes de la guerra a 700 millones, según el Banco Mundial, y su producto interno bruto ha caído por más del 15 por ciento por año. La toma de control por el Estado Islámico de los campos petrolíferos en el este de Siria en 2014 disminuyó los ingresos de las exportaciones de 4.7 mil millones de dólares a menos de 200 millones.

Campaña de suscripciones abril 2 a mayo 24 (semana 6)

País	Cuota	Venta	%
ESTADOS UNIDOS			
Lincoln*	17	20	118%
Seattle	100	110	110%
Atlanta	100	104	104%
Oakland	110	111	101%
Filadelfia	90	85	94%
Miami	50	47	94%
Chicago	125	114	91%
Nueva York	220	187	85%
Minneapolis	80	64	80%
Los Angeles	200	141	71%
Washington	115	76	66%
Total EE.UU.	1207	1059	88%
REINO UNIDO			
Manchester	60	67	112%
Londres	75	77	103%
Total Reino Unido	135	144	107%
CANADÁ			
Montreal	55	57	104%
Calgary	45	45	100%
Total Canadá	100	102	102%
AUSTRALIA			
	60	55	92%
NUEVA ZELANDA			
	50	54	108%
PRESOS			
	15	21	140%
Total	1567	1435	93%
Debe ser	1550	1329	86%

*Aumentó cuota

EXHIBIT 7

DECLARATION

I, Naomi Craine, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I serve as the Managing Editor of the *Militant* newspaper, a paper that has editorially supported the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party since its first presidential campaign in 1948 and continues to do so today.
2. Over the last couple years the *Militant* has faced continuous harassment from prison administrations in both Federal and State penitentiaries. On numerous occasions, inmates who subscribe to our newspaper have had issues denied to them. This violated both the *Militant's* freedom of speech and the rights of the prisoners.
3. I have attached articles from the *Militant* over the last three years documenting impoundment of the paper by authorities in state prisons in Florida, New York and Washington state and at a federal prison in Colorado.

The instances include:

- a. September 2013 – The *Militant* was informed that a prisoner in the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla was not receiving his subscription. The inmate received a notice that they were rejected as a “threat to the safty (sic) and security of the institution.” The Washington ACLU represented the *Militant* and the authorities reversed their ban.
- b. January 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscribers at Blackwater River Correctional Facility in Milton, Fl., on basis “the entire publication is viewed as a threat to security.” After being contacted by the Florida ACLU, authorities said it was a “clerical error” and delivered to the subscriber. In the course of this, it came up that four subscribers at the institution had been denied from three to five recent issues and told that all issues of the *Militant*

would be banned in the future. After protest, the institution reversed the ban, blaming it on “miscommunication.”

- c. March 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscriber at Taylor Correctional Institution in Florida. The Jan. 19 issue was impounded for an article “‘Militant’ beats back censorship at Fla. Prison.” When the papers’ counsel told authorities it would challenge the ban, they said they had reversed their decision.
- d. July 2014 – The *Militant* was impounded by the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, who informed the paper “this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to the Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system.” The attorney for the *Militant* filed an appeal with the regional director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Kansas. He received notice July 7 and the issue was admitted.
- e. July 2016 – *Militant* impounded in Florida at Northwest Florida Reception Center, and, in keeping with state prison regulations, then also impounded at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution. Prison officials said the paper was “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system” for an article titled, “Prisoners strike to protest abuse and little or no pay in Alabama,” a news article. Authorities at Santa Rosa also impounded the June 13 issue, pointing to an article reporting on a protest in Puerto Rico demanding release of *independista* Oscar López, who is in prison in the U.S. The reason given for this ban was the claim that the photo with the article contained “hang/gang signs.” After protest by the paper’s attorney, prison officials said the impoundments were “done in error” and these bans were all rescinded.
- f. October 2016 – Authorities at Attica Correctional Facility in New York impounded the October 3 issue of the *Militant* with an article “Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, ‘We are men, not beasts.’” Dozens of daily newspapers and magazines had run news stories on this anniversary, including the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Ebony* and the *Wall*

Street Journal. The paper and its attorney are in the process of appealing the confiscation.

4. The *Militant* has challenged and fought every one of these bans. We have been successful in every instance. We have been joined by support statements from other publications that have faced prison censorship as well as civil liberties groups that have supported the Constitutional rights of the paper and our subscribers. We have been represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida and Washington state, and by our own council in Florida, Colorado and New York.
5. At issue have been articles reporting on events that have been covered widely by media across the country, including *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, and daily papers from the *New York Times* to the *Miami Herald*. The stories included reporting on the hunger strike carried out by tens of thousands of inmates held in solidarity confinement in California and the 45th anniversary of the prison confrontation at Attica in New York. These other media had no difficulty getting to subscribers in prison.
6. The *Militant* was singled out by prison authorities because of its political views. This is confirmed by the fact that after our challenge, in each instance prison authorities relented and released the issues to our inmate subscribers.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 24, 2016.



Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016

RECEIVED JUL 01 2016

NOTICE OF REJECTION OR **IMPOUNDMENT** OF PUBLICATIONS

Date: JUNE 27, 2016

Inmate: _____

Institution: SANTA ROSA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

This letter is notice that the following publication:

Title: THE MILITANT

Volume/Issue/Edition: VOL. 80/NO. 23, JUNE 13, 2016

Which was received on the following date: JUNE 17, 2016

From: THE MILITANT, 306 W 37th St., NEW YORK, NY 10018

Has been reviewed by an authorized employee, and:

- IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, because another institution believes that the publication may contain subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C.
- IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, because the Warden or designee believes that the publication may contain subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C.
- IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, per Section (10) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C. The Warden believes that this inmate's prior criminal history or disciplinary record indicates that giving him or her access to subject matter in this publication would constitute a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person. (Specify): _____
- IS REJECTED and may not be received by inmates. The Department's Literature Review Committee has reviewed the publication and determined that it contains subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C., Admissible Reading Material;
- IS REJECTED for reasons not related to subject matter. (Specify): _____

Criteria in Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C., Admissible Reading Material, that authorizes **IMPOUNDMENT** or REJECTION of the publication due to subject matter:

- (3)(a) It depicts or describes procedures for the construction of or use of weapons, ammunitions, bombs, chemical agents, or incendiary devices;
- (3)(b) It depicts, encourages, or describes methods of escape from correctional facilities or contains blueprints, drawings or similar descriptions of Department of Corrections facilities or institutions, or includes road maps that can facilitate escape from correctional facilities;
- (3)(c) It depicts or describes procedures for the brewing of alcoholic beverages, or the manufacture of drugs or other intoxicants;
- (3)(d) It is written in code or is otherwise written in a manner that is not reasonably subject to interpretation by staff as to meaning or intent;
- (3)(e) It depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption;
- (3)(f) It encourages or instructs in the commission of criminal activity;
- (3)(g) It is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, disruption of the institution, violation of department or institution rules;
- (3)(h) It threatens physical harm, blackmail or extortion;
- (3)(i) It depicts sexual conduct as follows: (1.) Actual or simulated sexual intercourse; (2.) Sexual bestiality; (3.) Masturbation; (4.) Sadomasochistic abuse; (5.) Actual lewd exhibition of the genitals; (6.) Actual physical contact with a person's unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or, if such person is a female, breast with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of either party; (7.) Any act or conduct which constitutes sexual battery or simulates that sexual battery is being or will be committed.
- (3)(j) It depicts nudity in such a way as to create the appearance that sexual conduct is imminent, i.e., display of contact or intended contact with a person's unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks or female breasts orally, digitally or by foreign object, or display of sexual organs in an aroused state.
- (3)(k) It contains criminal history, offender registration, or other personal information about another inmate or offender, which, in the hands of an inmate, presents a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or to the safety of any person;
- (3)(l) It contains an advertisement promoting any of the following where the advertisement is the focus of, rather than being incidental to, the publication or the advertising is prominent or prevalent throughout the publication: (1.) Three-way calling services; (2.) Pen pal services; (3.) The purchase of products or services with postage stamps; or (4.) Conducting a business or profession while incarcerated.
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THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuban paper interviews Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 23 JUNE 13, 2016

Debate on UK vote highlights EU rivalries, workers anger

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON — Growing competition between capitalist countries worldwide is tearing at the fabric of the European Union. The EU is a protectionist trading bloc and would-be political union whose member countries have rival national ruling classes with dif-

'VOTE LEAVE, OPPOSE UK IMPERIALISM'
— Communist League, p. 7

ferent and often opposing interests.

Economic stagnation and sharpening competition, as well as the refugee crisis and its roots in the Middle East conflicts, are at the center of divisions within the EU today. A June 23 referendum on whether to continue the United Kingdom's EU membership is marked by these tensions and by the growing discontent of millions of working people.

The "Remain" campaign, headed by the Conservative Party government, is supported by the dominant sections of the capitalist class for whom the economic benefits of EU membership appear overwhelming.

Continued on page 7

Join SWP in campaigning for working-class program

Discuss what our class is capable of fighting for



Militant/Jacob Perasso
Diana Newberry, left, discusses Socialist Workers Party and its program with Patty Gonzalez in Owatonna, Minnesota, May 29. Ballot efforts are also underway in Washington, Tennessee.

BY JOHN STUDER

SEATTLE — The Socialist Workers Party is campaigning for a revolutionary, working-class perspective across the country and to put the party's ticket — Alyson Kennedy for U.S. president and Osborne Hart for vice-president — on the ballot, including in Washington, Minnesota and Tennessee.

Party campaigners are joining

union picket lines, defending government frame-up victims and discussing questions confronting working people — from whether coal should be used to provide electrification in Asia to the need for unionization and how workers can fight against unemployment and low wages.

They find serious receptivity among workers who are looking at presidential candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, and others who don't support any candidate. The Socialist Workers Party presents what none of the capitalist candidates do — what the working class itself is capable of and must do to fight independently of the bosses and their political representatives.

The next two weeks will be a pe-
Continued on page 3

Obama uses Asia trip to push alliances against China

BY SETH GALINSKY

Underneath hollow platitudes about wanting a "nuclear free world," the aim of Barack Obama's May 27 visit to Hiroshima, Japan, and to Vietnam earlier in the week, was to strengthen alliances Washington can use in its economic, political and military rivalry with Beijing.

Washington is especially wor-

DEMAND US GOV'T DESTROY ITS NUKES!

— Editorial, page 9

ried about the Chinese government's growing naval power, which challenges U.S. imperialism's domination of the Pacific, a spoil of the U.S. defeat of Japan in World War II.

In the last two years Beijing has been building on reefs, shoals and islets in the South China Sea — through which a third of world maritime traffic passes — to create airfields and in at least one instance, place surface-to-air missiles. At least three times in the past seven months, U.S. warships have deliberately sailed close to these man-made islands. Just a few days before Obama's trip to Asia, two Chinese fighter jets flew within 50 feet of a U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane near the islands.

On the first day of Obama's May 23-25 visit to Vietnam, he announced he was lifting a decades-long ban on U.S. arms sales to Hanoi. Limited military collaboration between the two governments began in 2003.

Obama attempted to rewrite history
Continued on page 4

Seven-week Verizon strike won solidarity, tentative deal is set



Militant/Willie Cotton
Strikers rally in Brooklyn April 14 on second day of walkout against telecommunications giant.

BY CANDACE WAGNER

After 48 days on the picket line, 39,000 strikers returned to work May 31 and June 1 after officials of the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers reached a tentative contract agreement with Verizon Communications Inc.

Verizon bosses were surprised by the widespread sympathy the strike won among working people, despite the bosses' attempt to paint the strikers as greedy, labor aristocrats who should be happy with their "generous" wages and benefits.

Among the central issues were pro-
Continued on page 9

Fear of world recession overshadows meeting of G-7 imperialist leaders

BY MARK THOMPSON

Fears of a new world recession overshadowed the annual meeting of Group of Seven leaders in Japan May 26-27. "The most worrisome risk is a contraction" with "the risk of the global economy falling into crisis," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a news conference after chairing the summit. But the heads of state couldn't agree on the extent of the risk or how to respond.

The G-7 is comprised of the world's foremost imperialist powers — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together they account for around half of the world's economic
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Framed Ukraine pilot Savchenko freed from Russian jail 2

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Thousands in Puerto Rico say 'Free Oscar López' 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Minnesota nurses rally to defend their health care, work conditions

Montreal Old Port workers launch strike for CA\$15 an hour

'Intercontinental Press' now available online

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

The weekly news magazine *Intercontinental Press* will be available online starting June 5. This sister publication to the *Militant* and the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, published from 1963 to 1986, provides first-hand reports, news and analysis, and documents from discussions and debates on revolutionary strategy and the forging of an international revolutionary leadership of the working class. Much of this material is not available anywhere else.

The issues covered and debated in *Intercontinental Press* go to the heart of questions facing workers and young people today: What road forward in face of the deepening social and economic crisis of capitalism? How do we organize a revolutionary leadership? What type of organization is needed? What should be the goals of the struggle?

Intercontinental Press publicized and built the massive protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam. It championed the struggles of miners in the United States and the United Kingdom, shipyard workers in Poland and gold miners in South Africa. Correspondents reported on workers' struggles and national liberation movements from every continent.

Staff writers reported firsthand on the massive student and worker uprising in France in 1968, the revolutions in Nicaragua and Grenada, and the popular insurrection that toppled the Shah of Iran in 1979, as well as the revolutionary government that came

to power in Burkina Faso in 1983.

Intercontinental Press campaigned to free class struggle fighters imprisoned from the United States to the Soviet Union, Ireland to Peru, Czechoslovakia to South Africa.

The magazine began as the weekly international labor press service *World Outlook* and was published in Paris as a joint effort by a staff of revolutionary leaders and journalists from several countries. It was launched in response to big world events — the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 and the Algerian Revolution in 1962 — and the beginning of the international youth radicalization in the 1960s.

The editorial office later moved to New York and in 1968 the name changed to *Intercontinental Press*. Socialist Workers Party leader Joseph

Framed Ukraine pilot Savchenko freed from Russian jail

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko was granted clemency by Russian President Vladimir Putin and released May 25 after nearly two years in a Russian prison. She returned to a hero's welcome in Ukraine.

Savchenko, now 35, took part in the mass mobilizations in early 2014 that forced out the pro-Moscow regime of Viktor Yanukovich. After Moscow annexed Crimea and backed armed separatists who seized sections of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine, Savchenko joined the

The screenshot shows the 'Intercontinental Press Subject Index' website. It features a navigation bar with 'En Español 1974', 'Subjects', 'Authors', 'Issue-by-Issue', and 'Search'. Below the navigation bar is a table with columns for 'Issue', 'Page', and 'Click title below to view article on line'. The table lists several articles, including 'Invasion of Puerto Rico', 'University of Puerto Rico Students Stage Protest', and 'Puerto Rican Independence Leader is Target of Bomb Attack'. To the right of the table are two magazine covers. The top cover is titled 'Revolt in France Deepens' and features a portrait of a woman. The bottom cover is titled '1,000,000 Antiwar Marchers' and shows a large crowd of people.

Intercontinental Press, which published from 1963 to 1986, will be available online June 5. Much of the material in this weekly magazine is not available anywhere else. Above, sample subject index and covers.

Hansen was the editor of the magazine from 1963 until his death in 1979.

As of June 5, a complete index for all 24 years of *Intercontinental Press* will be up and running, with links to all the issues of the first 12 years,

1963–74. A team of volunteers is scanning the remaining years, which will be added in the coming months. To access it, follow the link on the home page at www.themilitant.com or www.pathfinderpress.com.

volunteer Aidar battalion to fight the separatists. She was captured June 17, 2014, and taken to Russia.

Savchenko denied Moscow's shifting charges against her, including the claim that she was responsible for directing mortar fire that killed two Russian journalists. After a show trial earlier this year, she was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

She refused to cooperate with Russian authorities and carried out several hunger strikes protesting her conditions. Demonstrations demanding her freedom took place in Ukraine, Russia, across Europe and in U.S. cities March 6-9.

Savchenko was released in exchange for two Russian soldiers convicted in Ukraine for fighting with separatist forces. Moscow denied they had been on active duty in Ukraine, and they returned to Russia without fanfare.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, a capitalist billionaire whose regime has attacked the working class and restricted democratic rights, de-

monstratively welcomed Savchenko and basked in the glow of celebration of her release. His government has been in turmoil amid corruption scandals and a deepening economic crisis.

Ukraine's economy shrank last year, a result of the worldwide economic contraction, the impact of the separatist war and Moscow's seizure of Crimea. A "rescue plan" proffered by the International Monetary Fund, which represents Washington's interests, demanded Kiev reduce social spending, raise taxes and privatize state-owned enterprises, cutting thousands of jobs.

While in prison, Savchenko was elected to parliament on the ticket of the Fatherland Party headed by Yulia Tymoshenko, a former prime minister and rival of Poroshenko. Savchenko took her distance from Tymoshenko's effusive airport greeting.

Savchenko is widely discussed as a possible candidate for president. "Ukrainians, if you need me to be president, I'll be president," she told reporters in Kiev.

THE MILITANT

Farmworkers strike for wages, union

At the height of the season, some 400 berry pickers struck for higher wages and better conditions. A few days later they voted in the United Farm Workers.

The 'Militant' covers the fights of agricultural workers for better conditions, safety and to unionize.

United Farm Workers
California berry pickers strike May 16-18; workers voted in UFW union May 21.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Working-class program

Continued from front page

riod of concentrated campaigning for the party, leading up to a June 16-18 Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio.

The Socialist Workers Party got a good response in Murfreesboro and Smyrna, Tennessee, where Nissan's non-union assembly plant employs more than 8,000 workers.

"All the companies say we make too much, but it's not easy for a single mother to support four kids on \$10.50 an hour," Allyson Gainor, who works at a Nissan parts plant, told Sam Manuel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia, as she signed to put Kennedy and Hart on the ballot.

The number of nonunion auto plants has increased and the auto bosses have pressed concessions on workers in union-organized plants.

"The more working-class people can come together, get rid of divisions among us, the more we gain power," Chris Daniels, an assembler at Hennessey Industries and member of United Auto Workers Local 2303, told SWP campaigner Joanne Murphy. "There's a lot more of us than them."

In the first two days of Tennessee campaigning 90 people signed petitions, out of the goal of 500, to put the party on the ballot, and nine subscribed to the *Militant*.

Party campaigners spoke with unionists and others on their doorsteps in Longview, Washington, May 28. Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers there have fought bitter battles against company lockouts and concession demands. Many homes display the unions' signs.

Shelly Porter, a leader of Longshore Local 21's fight against EGT Develop-

ment in 2011-12, hugged Mary Martin, the SWP's candidate for governor of Washington, when she and this correspondent arrived at her house. "These are the people that write in their *Militant* newspaper about the issues and questions that are important to working people," she told a friend she was preparing to go fishing with. "It's the only paper I trust."

One debate in Washington is over Millennium Bulk Terminals' plan to set up a terminal in Longview to ship coal from Wyoming and Montana to Japan, South Korea and other parts of Asia. Hearings on the proposal attracted thousands of proponents and environmentalist opponents in Longview and Spokane over the last two weeks.

John Doyle had two signs at his house, one saying "stop coal" and another backing the Longshore union. "People need jobs here and times are tough, but I'm concerned the damage to the environment would be too great to let the terminal go through," he said as he signed the petition.

"People in Asia, Africa and elsewhere need electrification, it's a precondition for the development of literacy, culture and politics," Martin said. "If that means coal right now, we should support it. And we should demand that it be processed cleanly and the workers themselves — from the coal mines to the power plants — should control safety and fight for anti-pollution controls on the job."

"Miners themselves can lead the fight to transition to safer energy production, nuclear power and other methods as they become practical, as we all fight for jobs, union-scale wages and workers' control over production," she said.

"Well, I agree with you that people around the world need the energy," Doyle said.

Martin and other SWP campaigners are headed to Spokane to support members of the International Association of Machinists on strike against Triumph Composite Systems since May 11.

More than 1,280 people have signed to get the SWP on the ballot in Washington, over the 1,000 required. Party supporters are going to get more than 1,600 to show the working-class support for the party.

David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Minnesota, campaigning in the largely Somali Cedar-Riverside community May 29, discussed the government's frame-up prosecution in Minneapolis charging some youth with conspiring to join Islamic State.

Militant fund over the top!

Congratulations and thanks to all our contributors!

The Militant Fighting Fund has gone over the top, receiving contributions of \$113,173 — well over our goal of \$110,000.

The fund was raised as part of a seven-week effort by partisans of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues around the world that also won 1,686 new and renewing readers to the *Militant*, overwhelmingly by going door to door in working-class neighborhoods. And the party-building efforts continue (see above).

Keeping the *Militant*, the voice of the SWP, in print and affordable is made possible by your generous contributions. If you have not had a chance to contribute, it's not too late. Send your check or money order payable to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, New York 10018.

— LEA SHERMAN

Socialist Workers Party files for ballot in New Jersey



Militant/Janet Post

TRENTON, New Jersey — Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president of the U.S., right, with attorney Lawrence Otter, center, and campaign supporter Richard Ariza, file petitions May 26 to put Hart and SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy on the ballot in New Jersey. At back, elections department staff count the 1,450 signatures, well above the state requirement of 800.

They were acquired as campaigners knocked on doors in cities up and down the state introducing workers to the Socialist Workers Party, the party's paper the *Militant* — selling 140 subscriptions to it — and books and pamphlets containing the program of the SWP. Some additional signatures were collected at picket lines of workers on strike against Verizon in Trenton, Jersey City, Newark, Hamilton and Nutley.

"My campaign supporters took advantage of this opportunity over the past month to discuss with workers across New Jersey the economic and political crisis that we are living through. It grinds on, with no end in sight," Hart told the *Militant* after the filing.

Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, and campaign supporters Janet Post and Cecilie Brown, who work together at a Philadelphia Walmart, also accompanied Hart in Trenton. "I feel that Alyson and Osborne are for the workers and for everything we need — and so we should support the campaign," said Brown.

— NORTON SANDLER

"The FBI paid an informer to try and entrap them and then charged them with 'conspiracy,' not with *doing* anything illegal," Rosenfeld said. "They have used similar charges to try and attack our party and other working-class and Black rights' organizations."

The party has signed up close to a thousand working people as it campaigns, toward a goal of 2,400 by June 12. Scores of workers have picked up copies of the *Militant*, more than 30 have gotten subscriptions and a number of Pathfinder titles.

Is Donald Trump a fascist?

SWP campaigners going door to door often run into Trump supporters, many of whom sign their petitions to get on the ballot and pick up a copy of the *Militant*, as do many Sanders supporters and workers who say they don't like any of the candidates.

The liberal and conservative bosses' press gives the impression that Trump and his supporters are reactionary and fascist-minded. A May 30 opinion piece in the *Washington Post* by columnist Richard Cohen was titled, "Trump has taught me to fear my fellow Americans."

"Maybe the talking heads on TV would draw the line at some mild version of fascism, but would the American people do the same?" he wrote, talking about working people. "The easy yes of yesteryear has given way to awful doubt."

The bosses don't really fear Trump or think he's

Adolph Hitler reincarnate. He's a businessman like them, seeking to maximize profits, while trying to sell the idea to workers that "we" have the same interests to keep us from organizing independent of their parties. On many issues, from health care to U.S. military intervention abroad he's to the left of Hillary Clinton.

But the employing class is afraid of the many workers who have attended his meetings, a reflection of the discontent, anger and disgust working people have for "politics as usual."

This is the same crisis and looking for answers that provides opportunities for the Socialist Workers Party unprecedented in decades.

All the bourgeois candidates present themselves as the great hope to solve the crisis. The Socialist Workers Party explains the opposite: that workers in the U.S. have common interests with working people around the world and that working people are capable, if they see their self-worth, of wresting power out of the hands of the capitalist class and organizing a society based on human solidarity.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2016!

To sign up for campaigning teams, for information, or to make a contribution, contact SWP units listed below or:

SWP 2016 Campaign
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swp2016campaign@gmail.com

Militant Fighting Fund			
April 2- May 24 (Final)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	\$10,000	\$10,730	107%
Chicago	\$11,500	\$10,146	88%
Lincoln*	\$240	\$321	134%
Los Angeles	\$8,600	\$8,720	101%
Miami	\$3,000	\$3,270	109%
New York	\$21,000	\$21,622	103%
Oakland	\$14,500	\$14,777	102%
Philadelphia	\$3,200	\$3,473	109%
Seattle	\$7,500	\$7,525	100%
Twin Cities	\$3,500	\$3,915	112%
Washington	\$7,700	\$7,884	102%
U.S. Total	\$90,740	\$92,383	102%
CANADA			
Calgary	\$3,200	\$3,290	103%
Montreal	\$4,000	\$5,600	140%
Canada Total	\$7,200	\$8,890	123%
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,000	\$5,012	125%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$2,690	135%
Manchester	\$700	\$1,002	143%
U.K. Total	\$2,700	\$3,692	137%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,100	\$1,275	116%
FRANCE	\$450	\$621	138%
Other	\$1,200	\$1,300	
Total	\$107,390	\$113,173	103%
Should be	\$110,000	\$110,000	100%
*Raised goal			

Obama visit to Asia

Continued from front page
in his May 24 speech at the National Convention Center in Hanoi, making it sound as if the U.S. war in Vietnam was the result of a misunderstanding.

“Cold War rivalries and fears of communism pulled us into conflict,” Obama said, leaving 3 million Vietnamese dead, as well as 58,315 U.S. soldiers.

He didn't mention that first Paris and then Washington sent hundreds of thousands of troops to crush the Vietnamese revolutionary fight for independence and a unified nation. Washington was finally forced to pull out in 1975 due to the resistance of Vietnamese freedom fighters, as well as millions of people who took to the streets in the United States and beyond demanding, “U.S. out now!”

Over the last 20 years, as Hanoi welcomed expanded capitalist investment, annual U.S.-Vietnam trade has grown from \$450 million to \$45 billion, just a little behind China.

The Vietnamese government cautiously sees increased military collaboration with Washington as a protection against the growing economic and military weight of Beijing, which borders Vietnam.

While the Vietnamese government has not forgotten the long war against U.S. imperialism, it has also faced military intervention by the Chinese government. After Vietnamese troops toppled the murderous Chinese-backed Pol Pot regime in Cambodia in 1979, they had to repel an invasion by Beijing in which some 10,000 Vietnamese soldiers and civilians were killed. In 1988 more than 60 Vietnamese sailors died during a clash with Chinese forces over control of part of the Spratly Islands.

As part of the informal agreement between Hanoi and Washington, Vietnam will likely be provided U.S. radars, sensors, surveillance planes, drones and refurbished U.S. Coast Guard patrol ships. The *New York Times* reports that the U.S. Navy expects to be given increased use of Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay, a recently modernized deep-sea port on the South China Sea.

Visit to Hiroshima

From Vietnam Obama flew to Japan for the Group of Seven summit. On May 27, he gave a speech in Hiroshima, the first time a sitting U.S. president has visited the city, which Washington wiped out with an atom bomb on Aug. 6, 1945.

“Death fell from the sky and the world was changed,” Obama said in the opening of his speech at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, referring to the first use of a nuclear weapon in war as if it was a natural disaster.

But the atom bomb did not just fall from the sky — it was a deliberate decision by President Harry Truman to destroy a mostly civilian city. As many as 80,000 people died instantly; the final death toll is estimated at more than 135,000.

And Obama said not a word about the second, more powerful bomb that the U.S. military dropped three days later on Nagasaki that killed between 50,000 and 73,000. More than 20,000 of those killed in the two cities were Korean laborers who had been forcibly conscripted by the Japanese military.

The goal is to “ultimately eliminate the existence of nuclear weapons,” Obama claimed. He made no mention

that his administration has begun a \$1 trillion “modernization” of the U.S. stockpile of some 4,500 nuclear weapons. According to the *New York Times*, the Obama administration has dismantled fewer nukes than any U.S. president since the end of the Cold War.

Obama's speech in Hiroshima, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his side, also bolstered the militarization drive of Japanese imperialism.

Since coming to office in 2012 Abe has increased military spending to \$41.8 billion, Japan's largest ever; lifted a decades-long ban on weapons exports; and passed laws that for the first time since World War II allow its military to undertake overseas combat missions.

While these moves have been welcomed by the Obama administration, they have increased unease in China, Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines, the targets of the brutal Japanese imperialist conquests and colonizations leading up to and during the second World War.

There are more U.S. troops based in Japan than anywhere else outside the United States: 39,000 on Okinawa and other U.S. bases and 14,000 on nearby ships.

Mali workers in Paris help win release of jailed leader



Militant/Claude Bleton

BAGNOLET, France—Hundreds of workers from Mali held a sit-in outside the Malian consulate in this suburb of Paris May 6-11, to demand the release of Bakary Diambou, the spokesperson for the Association of the Circle of Yélimané Dagakané. Yélimané is a village in western Mali.

Diambou was imprisoned in Mali April 18 for “opposition to legitimate authority and inciting the population to non-payment of tax.” He was released on parole May 11 in response to protests there, in France and elsewhere. House arrest was also lifted for some 50 supporters of the group. The banner (above) reads, “No to injustice, no to insecurity, no to corruption.” Protesters said the association here helps raise medical and school supplies for Yélimané.

—CLAUDE BLETON AND DEREK JEFFERS

Strikes in France protest labor ‘reform’ law

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Labor strikes and protests are taking place in several key industries across France in response to government plans to push ahead with anti-union “reforms.” As of May 27, work stoppages were affecting production at the country's eight oil refineries, while roadblocks by drivers and actions by rail and port workers have reduced the transport of goods.

The Socialist Party government claims its draft law will give bosses more “flexibility” and reduce unemployment. For years, workers here have faced high unemployment — currently over 10 percent — as well as increased use of “temporary” contracts that the bosses use to divide workers and push down wages and working conditions. The proposed revision to the labor code would allow companies to impose changes in working hours and overtime pay, lengthen the 35-hour workweek and secure local agreements inferior to

those set by industry-wide agreements that are supposed to apply to all workplaces, with or without a union presence.

The proposal sparked large protests this spring. As it became clear the bill was headed for defeat in the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament, President Francois Hollande decided May 10 to use a provision in the 1958 constitution to push it through without a vote.

In response, both the CGT and FO unions called for protest strikes. The leadership of the other major union, the CFDT, is supporting the government's measures. Within days barricades set up by unionists, young people, truck drivers and others blocked access to oil storage depots. Workers struck at all eight oil refineries. The government said May 25 it was using supplies from its strategic reserves to restock gas stations that were running dry.

Port workers are blocking some of the largest ports, including Le Havre

and Marseille. Workers at all 19 of the country's nuclear power plants began a partial strike May 26. Airport and airline worker unions have called for a strike, as have the public transportation unions in Paris.

A public survey by the IFOP polling company May 26 reported 60 percent support for the strikes.

A May 26 national day of protest against the labor bill drew tens of thousands in Paris and other cities.

Marc Kinzel in Marseille and Jean Vilaca in Paris contributed to this article.

in New International #12

Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun

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— Jack Barnes

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including unionists striking US Foods, construction workers demanding safe conditions and workers fighting for \$15 an hour and a union. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Maggie Trowe

Minnesota nurses rally to defend their health care, work conditions

MINNEAPOLIS — More than 200 members of the Minnesota Nurses Association and supporters rallied outside the Allina Commons here May 18. The informational picket was organized to publicize the fight of 5,000 nurses at five Allina Health hospitals and facilities to defend their health benefits.

The nurses are currently covered under the union-sponsored insurance plan. "It is an excellent plan," MNA Executive Director Rose Roach told the *Militant*. "But now Allina wants to dump that and force everyone to take one of their plans."

"Everybody in the Twin Cities knows how bad the Allina plans are and how you get left with the large deductibles," added Amy Kieffer, a nurse at Allina's United Hospital in St. Paul.

Union president Mary Turner said other issues in contract talks include "nurses having a say in the care of the patients. Allina wants to be able to determine that only this many minutes can

be spent with a patient, as determined by a computer program."

—Jacquie Henderson

Food workers strike in England, say 'enough is enough' of cuts

SHEFFIELD, England — "Finally we said to the company, 'You are not going to treat us like dirt anymore, enough is enough,'" said Aaron Bonsell, 28, during a 48-hour strike by Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union members at Pennine Foods here May 19-20. It's the first strike since the site opened in 1986, added Andrew Harris, another striker.

About 900 people work at the plant, which produces ready meals for Marks and Spencer stores. "There were 500 union members before the strike, and 50 more joined up and came out on strike with us," said Carole Duncan while picketing May 20.

The factory is owned by 2 Sisters Food Group, which has launched a series of attacks on contract terms, including ending premium pay for weekend work and time-off days for working on



Militant/Bernie Senter

United Airlines flight attendants and supporters demonstrate in Los Angeles May 19 during day of actions at 14 airports worldwide. They are paid less than workers at American or Delta.

holidays and weekends.

Roughly 80 percent of the workers are now on 12-hour shifts. "They bullied us to sign the contracts," said Harris. "But I didn't. The company sent out a letter saying that those who don't sign the new contract by July 14 will be laid off." Workers on both "new" and "old" contract terms were on the picket line.

Union organizer Haroon Rashid said a delegation of workers from Gunstones Bakery in nearby Dronfield, also owned by 2 Sisters Food, visited the Pennine picket line. They had a strike last year.

Three further 48-hour strikes are planned, the next on June 5-6.

—Tony Hunt and Dag Tirsén

United Airlines flight attendants march for unified contract

LOS ANGELES — More than 300 United Airlines flight attendants and their supporters marched through the United terminal at Los Angeles International Airport May 19, part of a day of action at 14 airports worldwide.

After Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia and United Airlines merged in 2010, the merged company kept the United name. The members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA are negotiating to replace the three different contracts they have been working under with one unified agreement. "The proposals we're seeing continue to try pitting one group of flight attendants

against another instead of working to build a contract that includes all of us," states a May 1 update from the union negotiating committee.

"We want to maintain our health plan. They want to increase costs, deductibles and co-pays substantially," said Lynn Statham, vice president of AFA-CWA Council 12. She had worked at Eastern Airlines for four years and left before the 1989 strike, but walked the picket line with the Eastern workers.

The flight attendants are also fighting company demands for fewer fixed days off and maintaining wage rates below what they are at American and Delta airlines.

Members of other unions joined the action, including mechanics, members of Teamsters Local 986, who are in their own contract fight with United.

"We're here to support as part of the labor movement," said AT&T worker Jason James, who came with other members of Communication Workers of America Local 9400. "We are joining the fight to let them know they're not alone."

—Deborah Liatos

Montreal Old Port workers launch strike for CA\$15 an hour

MONTREAL — Unionized workers at Montreal's Old Port tourist complex began a three-day strike May 27 demanding a \$15 an hour minimum wage. The members of the Union of Montreal Old Port Workers voted by 80 percent May 19 to reject the employer's final offer and authorize a strike.

"About 200 of our members are on strike today," union President Konrad Lamour told a rally and press conference of strikers and supporters kicking off the action. "Our fight is not just for ourselves but for all those who can't survive on what they are earning."

The Old Port contract with the union expired in March. Previous negotiations have always ended with the impoverishment of the workers, Lamour told the *Militant* before the strike. More than half are paid less than CA\$15 an hour (about US\$11.50). "We are demanding a catch-up," he said.

Since they work under the federal labor code, the workers are not protected by a Quebec law restricting the use of strikebreakers.

Bosses have divided the workers into classes of permanent, regular and temporary employment. Only the 100 or so permanent workers have any sort of job security and their working conditions are "a little less bad," said Lamour.

—Guillaume Imbeault and John Steele

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—25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO—



June 14, 1991

Columns of troops from rebel organizations entered the capital city of Addis Ababa May 28, putting an end to the government that had ruled Ethiopia since the 1974 overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie.

Earlier in the week, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front won control of all of Eritrea, the first time since their guerilla struggle for independence began in the 1960s. The Oromo Liberation Front, which is demanding a referendum on independence for the southern part of the country, also participated in the overthrow.

Recognizing that the army had disintegrated under the impact of the insurgents' advance, Washington shifted its earlier call for a cease-fire and instead tried to maintain some credibility by "inviting" the rebel forces to take control.



June 13, 1966

NEW YORK — Juan Mari Bras, leader of the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence, and a lawyer, was in the city recently to represent a group of Puerto Rican workers. While here, he spoke about the struggle in Puerto Rico against the war in Vietnam.

Mari Bras described the growing sentiment against the war among pro-independence youth. Recently, they held a seminar attended by over 100 delegates to learn more about the origins of the war and about Vietnam. The youth intend to use such information in their island-wide campaign to inform the people of Puerto Rico about the true nature of the war.

The seminar also discussed the draft law which obliges Puerto Rican youth to serve in the army of the colonial power which refuses them independence.



June 14, 1941

Local 302, Cafeteria Employees Union of New York, the second largest local of the Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders International Union, prepared to use its manpower of 10,000 workers this week for a general strike in the industry. Monday night, June 9, at a membership meeting of over 4,000, the workers threw back insultingly meager offers of the employers with a ringing challenge.

The reasonable demands of the union had been stalled off by the bosses since the expiration of contracts on April 30, and the membership was determined not to repeat another half year stalling, as happened in 1939. A minimum two dollar general wage increase would still not allow the workers to meet the tremendous rise in rents, food and clothing.

'A voice for the excluded'

Cuban youth paper interviews Socialist Workers Party candidate

The following interview appeared in the May 8 issue of *Juventud Rebelde*, the newspaper of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, under the headline, "Alyson Kennedy: A Voice for the Excluded." Translation is by the Militant.



Most people think that only two parties participate in the U.S. presidential elections, the Democrats and Republicans. But others persist in raising a different class viewpoint, despite the system rendering them invisible.

BY JUANA CARRASCO MARTÍN

The U.S. election campaign is reaching its climax with the two major parties selecting their candidates. Hidden behind this show is a system that defends a single set of interests — those of big capital, the world of finance, the arms industry, the polluters of the earth's climate, the exploiters of workers in [their] backyard and of the wealth and goods produced by professionals, workers, and peasants in much of the world, where the imperialist multinationals plunder and intervene.

However, though buried by the media, which has its own part to play in this show, there are small parties — often persecuted, sidelined, and excluded — that bring to the streets and, when possible, into the election booths, the real interests of working people.

A small woman with an easy smile, plainspoken, convincing, and firm, she presents the other side, though not of the same coin. On the contrary, she exposes and condemns what is actually taking place across the United States in 2016.

Alyson Kennedy is the Socialist

Workers Party candidate for president. She is joined by Osborne Hart on the SWP's presidential ticket, which was announced February 12.

On May 1, Kennedy marched with the Cuban people in the International Workers Day Parade along Havana's Avenida Paseo. She participated as part of a delegation of mothers and relatives of victims of police violence in the United States. She took advantage of an exchange with *Juventud Rebelde* to speak about what's taking place in her country and her impressions of her first trip to Cuba.

You are the Socialist Workers Party candidate in the November 8 general elections, but all we hear about are the Republican and Democratic Party campaigns.

"The main thing the U.S. elections are revealing is the deep crisis within the bourgeois Republican and Democratic political parties. We have seen how candidates Donald Trump (Republican) and Bernie Sanders (Democrat) are receiving substantial support because they present themselves as being different from the other politicians. They portray themselves as if they aren't part of the political machine. That's why they are getting a lot of support, including from many workers who take part in their rallies.

"There are reasons for this. We must remember the deep worldwide economic crisis and how it is felt in the United States as well. The government says there is an economic recovery, but unemployment remains high. It's higher than we've seen in years, because there are workers who aren't included in the statistics.

"While campaigning I've met workers who've told me they haven't found jobs since the 2008 economic downturn," says Alyson, who has supported the strike this year by 40,000 workers at Verizon, the telecommunications company, the largest work stoppage in the United States in many years. The workers have had no contract since August, while Verizon is seeking to cut pensions and to allow the outsourcing of work. Verizon says it has trained thousands of nonunion employees to replace striking workers.

Kennedy says that for all U.S. workers, "wages continue to stagnate. Forty percent of the U.S. workforce earn less than \$15 an hour, which is not enough for a family to live on. This has led many workers to begin to question what is happening in the United States and to have less confidence in what the Democratic and Republican parties are doing in relation to this crisis."

But these candidates talk about change.

"That is what's behind the support Trump and Sanders are receiving. But no matter who is elected, there will be no changes that improve the situation of working people.

"All significant change in the United States — such as the fight against racial segregation, the struggle for unionization in the 1930s, the anti-Vietnam War struggle, the struggles of women for the right to abortion — has been won through demonstrations in the streets. That's also true for the struggles we've seen recently, like the fight for unions, to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and against police violence."

This resolute statement by the political activist is based on her long personal experience as a worker and union organizer. Alyson Kennedy, who joined the socialist movement in 1973, was a coal miner in Alabama, Colorado, Utah, and West Virginia. She joined the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in 1981 and was one of the leaders of a strike in Utah in 2004.

She was part of the first wave of women who entered the mines in the United States in order to break down divisions based on sex and to strengthen working-class solidarity. She joined the Coal Employment Project, an organization that defended the right of women to work in the mines and fought against workplace harassment.

She's familiar with the struggles carried out by the UMWA in the 1960s and 1970s for job safety. Those strikes, which shook the country, won the right to refuse to work under unsafe conditions. She recognizes, however, that the movement has been eroded and that today the majority of U.S. mines don't have unions. This is what Alyson talks to U.S. workers about.

She doesn't do so from the outside or from a theoretical view of the class struggle. Today Alyson Kennedy works in Chicago at a Walmart, the largest



Orlando Perera/ICAP

Alyson Kennedy speaks to press in Havana May 5.

chain of retail stores in the world, condemned in many countries for the exploitative conditions it imposes on its workers and employees.

"That's why I, as a candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, and my running mate Osborne Hart, as well as our other candidates for Senate and other offices, get a good reception from workers, because they are open to discussing a revolutionary perspective," she says.

"Workers know they're being exploited, they know what's happening in the country and in the world," says Alyson Kennedy, who emphasizes that one of the issues that this campaign addresses is opposition to U.S. involvement in the Mideast. "And many workers are also willing to hear about the Cuban revolution," she adds.

You mentioned Cuba. What brings you to our country, at the time of the May Day celebration?

"I've come to Cuba as part of a delegation of working-class women who are fighting against police brutality, of which there are many victims in the city where I live, Chicago.

"This is my first visit to Cuba, although I know a good deal about the island. Through the party's activity we educate about Cuba and worked for years for the release of the Cuban Five, and we educate about the need to end the embargo (blockade).

"In spite of the short time I've been here, I've been able to see the country first hand, and this will greatly help me explain to workers there why Cuba is an example for us. If Cuba was able to make a revolution and create a society that addresses workers' needs, we can do it in the United States, too," the socialist leader emphasizes.

She explains why she thinks this is clearly and certainly possible: "We have a long history of struggle in the United States, as well. Workers in the United States must become aware of what they've won through struggle. We have to realize the power we have and our own worth."

She concludes her words for the readers of *Juventud Rebelde* with a pledge:

"I want you to know that when we return we'll redouble our efforts in the fight against the blockade and for the return of the territory occupied in Guantánamo, which belongs to Cuba. Having been here helps us realize why it's important to continue to fight for our rights."

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"It's the poor who face the savagery of the US 'justice' system"

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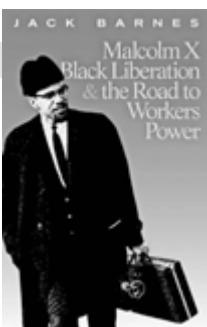
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Debate on UK referendum

Continued from front page

especially given their precarious prospects for profitable production and trade. Industrial output in the U.K. is in recession and labor productivity lags behind its competitors.

The capitalist magnates point out that the EU is the biggest trading area in the world. Through membership, British companies can sell goods across the continent paying fewer tariffs, and the U.K. serves as a platform for companies from the United States and elsewhere seeking to trade within the EU. As a result, the U.K. now has one of the highest levels of foreign direct investment in the world. EU membership, the bosses argue, offsets Britain's decline as a world power, allowing London to "punch above its weight."

London has already secured an opt-out from the "ever closer union" in the EU's founding charter, and from a number of other EU regulations, and the British rulers have maintained their own currency, the pound, instead of joining the EU's eurozone. The government-led Remain campaign argues this means the U.K. has the best of both worlds.

The Remain campaign has the backing of the Labour Party, Scottish National Party and Liberal Democrats, as well as most of the trade union officialdom, the Confederation of British Industry, Washington, the main EU governments and international financial institutions.

Workers face growing social crisis

Despite this lineup of bourgeois political forces and the pro-capitalist union officialdom, the outcome of the vote hangs in the balance.

Millions of workers will vote to leave, frustrated with years of declining living standards and growing social crisis, angered by the bloated EU bureaucracy and distrustful of the traditional parties of government. This distrust is rein-

forced by events such as U.S. President Barack Obama's April visit to Britain, during which he declared that if London leaves the EU, the "U.K. is going to be in the back of the queue" on trade deals with Washington.

The "Brexit" debate is driving a political crisis within the Conservative Party. Nearly 40 percent of Tory members of Parliament have declared support for the "Leave" campaign. Some are calling for the resignation of the party leader, Prime Minister David Cameron, whatever the outcome of the referendum.

The other major party campaigning for a British exit is the populist UK Independence Party, which argues that London needs to defend "British sovereignty," including imposing greater restrictions on immigration from other European countries. They say further expansion of the EU will lead to increased immigration, especially from Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has sought to take advantage of the surge of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa to press Ankara's long-held objective of EU membership. For more than two decades, member governments across the continent have found one excuse after another to block entry of the EU's first "non-European" member. In return for visa free travel into the EU for Turkish citizens, the Turkish government is now taking measures to slow down Europe-bound refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

Remain and Leave campaigners have traded exaggerated threats of the dangers of their opponents' stand. Cameron claims that leaving the EU will result in imminent economic crisis and war. Fellow Tory MP Boris Johnson argues that the EU "is an attempt to do ... by different methods" what Napoleon and Hitler had attempted, to "recreate the dream of

Thousands in Puerto Rico say 'Free Oscar López'



Militant/Ron Richards

Thousands marched in San Juan, Puerto Rico, above, May 29 to demand the release of Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera. The action marked the 35th anniversary of his imprisonment in the U.S.

López "has become a symbol of resistance and decolonization," said Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, spokesperson for the Human Rights Committee of Puerto Rico, one of the organizers. López was framed up on charges of "seditious conspiracy" for his activities in support of independence for Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony.

"We don't want this board, we want to be free," was one of the chants during the march, a reference to a plan by Washington to impose an appointed board to take control of the country's financial decisions.

In New York, the group 35 Women for Oscar held a spirited action the same day. A national action will take place there June 20 outside the United Nations during its annual hearings on the decolonization of Puerto Rico. Protests will also be held at U.S. embassies in at least 35 countries that day to demand freedom for López.

—MARK THOMPSON

the Roman Empire."

But support for leaving has little to do with these arguments. "I'll be voting leave," Kevin Gallagher, a factory worker from Dagenham in East London, told the *Militant*. "The money that is spent on the EU should be spent on things we need like hospitals. Whatever the outcome of the vote the government

will still be going after workers rights," he added. Other workers told this reporter they would vote to stay in, despite disliking the EU, because they are uncertain what a British exit would mean for living standards.

The referendum debate is sharpening factional tension within the Labour Party. The party's recently elected London mayor Sadiq Khan has joined with Cameron to campaign for Remain. While party leader Jeremy Corbyn has demurred sharing a platform with the Conservative leader, he argues that EU regulations protect workers and are the road to "a real social Europe."

Leaving would lead to a "bonfire of rights," says Corbyn. This rings hollow in light of the assault on workers underway in France today led by the Socialist Party government of Francois Hollande (see article on page 4).

Similar developments are fueling political crisis across the continent. The two dominant capitalist powers, the rulers in Germany and France, push for greater European political integration as they squeeze weaker countries such as Greece, with devastating consequences for working people and much of the middle classes. Meanwhile from Germany to France to Italy to Austria, anti-EU parties and movements are growing. Attitudes to the EU differ between and within the traditional capitalist and bourgeois labor parties.

Despite "stimulus" measures, growth remains sluggish across the eurozone. While unemployment averages over 10 percent, there are vast regional differences. Germany's official unemployment rate is 4.5 percent; Greece's stands at a quarter of the population.

Whatever the outcome of the UK referendum, further fracturing pressures will dominate the EU.

Communist League: Vote Leave, oppose UK imperialism

The following statement was issued by Jonathan Silberman for the Communist League in the United Kingdom.

The Communist League in the U.K. is calling for a vote against EU membership, while opposing the British nationalist demagoguery of both the Remain and Leave campaigns.

Britain's capitalist rulers have used membership in the European Union and its predecessors from the outset to strengthen their hand in pressing down wages and job conditions of the working class at home and weakening our unions. They rely on the EU to bolster their imperialist interests against oppressed peoples of the semicolonial world, and to boost British capital's position in fighting for profitable markets against imperialist rivals in Europe, North America, and the Pacific.

Working people in other EU member states — our brothers and sisters — from Germany to Greece, face the same types of attacks from the exploiting classes and governments in those countries.

In opposing the capitalist rulers in the U.K. and voting to leave the EU, the Communist League rejects the reactionary "British sovereignty" banner of the Leave campaigns of Boris Johnson and



Militant/Paul Davies

Jonathan Silberman, at right, on London tube (subway) drivers picket March 23. Independent working-class political action is needed against UK capitalist rulers, says Communist League.

UKIP, which appeal to working people to subordinate ourselves to the rule of British capitalists.

Workers have no interest in supporting Cameron's deal, which serves the interests of the U.K.'s ruling families. Backing pro-EU campaigners such as Corbyn, who falsely claim that a "social Europe" benefits workers, deals a blow to the working class and unions.

Independent working-class political action means organizing solidarity with union and other workers' struggles here

and around the world. It means fighting for immediate demands to unite and defend workers from efforts by the employers and government to make workers pay for the devastating impact of today's global capitalist depression and serve as cannon fodder in London's wars and military interventions.

Join the Communist League in advancing a course to forge a party that will mobilize working people in revolutionary struggle for a workers and farmers government.

Trotsky's 1939 call for 'united, independent Soviet Ukraine'

Writings of Leon Trotsky (1938-1939) is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. This excerpt is from "The Ukrainian Question," written April 22, 1939, as World War II was approaching. At that time, Ukraine was divided between the Soviet Union and Poland. Trotsky, a leader of the Bolshevik-led 1917 Russian Revolution, championed V.I. Lenin's communist course, including on the national question, against the counterrevolution by the privileged bureaucracy in the Soviet Union headed by Joseph Stalin. The Stalinist regime's "massacre of national hopes" in Soviet Ukraine that Trotsky refers to includes the creation of an artificial famine in 1932-33 in which millions perished. Copyright © 1974 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Ukrainian writers, painters and composers, 1923 in Kiev. Art and culture flourished in Ukraine after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, under the leadership of Lenin, who backed self-determination for nations oppressed under Czarist rule. Stalinist bureaucracy reversed this course.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

The Bolshevik Party, not without difficulty and only gradually under the constant pressure of Lenin, was able to acquire a correct approach to the Ukrainian question. The right to self-determination, that is, to separation, was extended by Lenin equally to the Poles and to the Ukrainians. He did not recognize aristocratic nations. Every inclination to evade or

postpone the problem of an oppressed nationality he regarded as a manifestation of Great Russian chauvinism.

After the conquest of power, a serious struggle took place in the party over the solving of the numerous national problems inherited from old czarist Russia. In his capacity as people's commissar of nationalities, Stalin invariably represented the most centralist and bureaucratic tendency. This evinced itself especially on the question of Georgia and on the question of the Ukraine. The correspondence dealing with these matters has remained unpublished to this day. We hope to publish a section of it — the very small section which is at our disposal. Every line of Lenin's letters and proposals vibrates with an urge to accede as far as possible to those nationalities that have been oppressed in the past. In the proposals and declarations of Stalin, on the contrary, the tendency toward bureaucratic centralism was invariably pronounced. In order to guarantee "administrative needs," i.e., the interests of the bureaucracy, the most legitimate claims of the oppressed nationalities were declared a manifestation of petty-bourgeois nationalism. All these symptoms could be observed as early as 1922-23. Since that time they have developed monstrously and have led to outright strangulation of any kind of independent national development of the peoples of the USSR.

In the conception of the old Bol-

shevik Party, Soviet Ukraine was destined to become a powerful axis around which the other sections of the Ukrainian people would unite. It is indisputable that in the first period of its existence Soviet Ukraine exerted a mighty attractive force, in national respects as well, and aroused to struggle the workers, peasants, and revolutionary intelligentsia of Western Ukraine enslaved by Poland. But during the years of Thermidorean reaction, the position of Soviet Ukraine and together with it the posing of the Ukrainian question as a whole changed sharply. The more profound the hopes aroused, the keener was the disillusionment.

The bureaucracy strangled and plundered the people within Great Russia, too. But in the Ukraine matters were further complicated by the massacre of national hopes. Nowhere did restrictions, purges, repressions, and in general all forms of bureaucratic hooliganism assume such murderous sweep as they did in the Ukraine in the struggle against the powerful, deeply rooted longings of the Ukrainian masses for greater freedom and independence. To the totalitarian bureaucracy, Soviet Ukraine became an administrative division of an economic unit and a military base of the USSR. To be sure, the Stalin bureaucracy erects statues to [Ukrainian poet Taras] Shevchenko but only in order more thoroughly to crush the Ukrainian people under their weight and to force it to chant paeans in the

language of the Kobzar [the Bard, a nickname for Shevchenko] to the rapist clique in the Kremlin. ...

The Fourth International must clearly understand the enormous importance of the Ukrainian question in the fate not only of Southeastern and Eastern Europe but also of Europe as a whole. We are dealing with a people that has proved its viability, that is numerically equal to the population of France and occupies an exceptionally rich territory, which, moreover, is of the highest strategical importance. The question of the fate of the Ukraine has been posed in its full scope. A clear and definite slogan is necessary that corresponds to the new situation. In my opinion there can be at the present time only one such slogan: *A united, free, and independent workers' and peasants' Soviet Ukraine.* ...

Insofar as the issue depends upon the military strength of the imperialist states, the victory of one grouping or another can signify only a new dismemberment and a still more brutal subjugation of the Ukrainian people. The program of independence for the Ukraine in the epoch of imperialism is directly and indissolubly bound up with the program of the proletarian revolution. It would be criminal to entertain any illusions on this score.

But the independence of a United Ukraine would mean the separation of Soviet Ukraine from the USSR, the "friends" of the Kremlin will exclaim in chorus. What is so terrible about that? — we reply. The fervid worship of state boundaries is alien to us. We do not hold the position of a "united and indivisible" whole. After all, even the constitution of the USSR acknowledges the right of its component federated peoples to self-determination, that is, to separation. Thus, not even the incumbent Kremlin oligarchy dares to deny this principle. To be sure it remains only on paper. The slightest attempt to raise the question of an independent Ukraine openly would mean immediate execution on the charge of treason. But it is precisely this despicable equivocation, it is precisely this ruthless hounding of all free national thought, that has led the toiling masses of the Ukraine, to an even greater degree than the masses of Great Russia, to look upon the rule of the Kremlin as monstrously oppressive.

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Demand US gov't destroy its nukes!

President Barack Obama spoke in Hiroshima last week, where Washington first unleashed the atomic bomb in August 1945. That destruction should spark a "moral revolution," he intoned, with the goal, one day, to "eliminate the existence of nuclear weapons." His actions as chief executive officer of U.S. imperialism, however, expose the hollowness of his words.

It is in the interests of the working class to eliminate all nukes. For workers in the United States, that starts with demanding the capitalist rulers in Washington unilaterally dismantle their deadly arsenal!

Together Washington and Moscow hold 90 percent of the world's thousands of nuclear weapons, enough to destroy humanity many times over, and both are modernizing their arsenals. Under the Obama administration, the U.S. government has reduced the size of its nuclear stockpile at a slower pace than under any of his three predecessors. And Washington is pushing ahead with the deployment of an anti-missile system along the periphery of the former Soviet Union, aimed at giving the U.S. rulers a strategic advantage against Moscow. It is also advancing its "pivot" to Asia, aimed at holding back Beijing's challenge to U.S. supremacy.

The likelihood is growing, not diminishing, that nuclear weapons will be used in conflicts around the world as rival governments compete for markets in the midst of the deepening worldwide capitalist economic crisis. When the Stalinist regime imploded in the Soviet Union at the start of the 1990s, the U.S. rulers thought they had won the Cold War, and would dominate the world unopposed. Today that illusion is crumbling, from the coming apart of the imperialist order in the Middle East to Washington's growing economic and military rivalry with Beijing in the Pacific.

A speech by Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro in November 2005 gives the communist position. "We have never considered producing nuclear weapons because we don't need them," Castro said. "It would mean joining the game of nuclear confrontation.

"We have a different type of nuclear weapon: it's our ideas," he said. "Our nuclear weapon is the invincible power of moral weapons."

The capitalist rulers won't get rid of nuclear weapons, even though they risk their own destruction. That alone is a powerful reason why working people need to organize to take power out of their hands on the road to building a socialist world.

Verizon strike won solidarity, tentative deal set

Continued from front page

posals by Verizon to contract out more work; shut down call centers, moving them to other countries with substantially lower wages; cut pensions and increase health care costs.

On April 28, Verizon issued a "last, best, and final" offer and sent it to every striker, urging them to cross the picket lines. But the overwhelming majority of union members stayed strong. Verizon Chief Financial Officer Fran Shammo told stockholders April 21 that the strike was putting "pressure on earnings." The Obama administration stepped in to press for a settlement.

According to a Communications Workers union summary, workers will get a 10.9 percent wage increase over the four-year contract. Current employees will keep their pensions. And the company will

hire 1,300 new call center workers during the contract term. The summary says that union officials agreed to "new health care costs for members." For the first time some 70 retail workers at Verizon Wireless stores will be covered by the contract.

The union officials agreed to lift the contractual cap on overtime work for two weeks to deal with the backlog from the strike.

Many workers who spoke to the *Militant* said they are waiting to read the full agreement before deciding what they think. Workers will vote on the contract by June 17.

In a related development, negotiations continue for 15,000 AT&T West workers in California and Nevada. Their contract expired April 10. Some 1,700 members of CWA Local 9509 in San Diego ended a nearly one-week grievance strike May 26.

LETTERS

Free Oscar López

I have been transferred to a new prison and would like to start getting the *Militant* again. Keep up with your excellent work. Hopefully Mr. Oscar López will be free this year.

A prisoner
Indiantown, Florida

Easter Uprising

April 24 of this year was the 100th anniversary of the launching of the Easter Uprising in Ireland against British rule. It was launched in the middle of World War I and crushed only after five days of fighting.

In *New International* No. 1, available on the *Militant* website, in an article by Lenin titled *The Irish Rebellion of 1916*, he writes, "It is the misfortune of the Irish that they rose prematurely, before the European revolt of the proletariat had had time to mature. Capitalism is not so harmoniously built that the various sources of rebellion can immediately merge of their own accord, without reverse and defeats. On the other hand, the very fact that revolts do break out at different times, in different places, and are of different kinds, guarantees wide scope and depth to the general movement; but it is only in

premature, individual, sporadic and therefore unsuccessful, revolutionary movements that the masses gain experience, acquire knowledge, gather strength, and get to know their leaders."

I recommend this article and the counterposed article by Trotsky in the same issue of the magazine.

Candace Wagner
New York City

Nuclear disarmament

Thank you for saying that the USA should unilaterally disarm its nuclear weapons. I have been in agreement with that idea for a while. ICBMs and SSBNs do not keep our country safe, and the USA is not at war with Russia. The idea that the Russians are harboring some kind of unfulfilled desire to incinerate the USA is just silly. The Russians are just as afraid of

the USA as we are of them, and a nuclear war will start out of fear and not out of a latent desire to kill.

Could you please emphasize Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament?

Jeffrey Erwin
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Books for prisoners

I was informed by a fellow prisoner that you distribute communist literature. I would be interested in any reading material you could provide me. I do not have a copy of the *Communist Manifesto* or *Capital*, two books basic to any communist's library.

A prisoner
Monroe, Washington

Editor's note: Pathfinder Press offers books and pamphlets to prisoners at a 50 percent discount. For information, visit www.pathfinderpress.com or write Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 162767, Atlanta, GA 30321-2767.

The letters column is open for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Fear of recession

Continued from front page
output.

Declining industrial production and falling commodity prices are creating depression conditions worldwide that wreak havoc on the lives of workers and farmers. This is despite an official recovery since the 2008 financial crash in the U.S. that triggered the last global recession, the worst downturn since the 1930s Great Depression. The length of the economic slowdown since then is unprecedented.

In the U.S., where participation in the labor force has declined by 4 percent since 2008, layoffs are at their highest levels in seven years. Real median household income has fallen by 4 percent since 2007, while the number dependent on food stamps is the highest ever. For the first time since the mid-1980s, life expectancy has stalled for three consecutive years, while the gap in life expectancy between those on the highest incomes and those on the lowest has more than doubled to a difference of 14 years for men and 13 for women. Suicides have reached their highest peak in 30 years.

The G-7 leaders agreed that each would pursue existing policies to promote "global growth." Abe had urged the adoption of stronger "fiscal stimulus" measures. But such policies, pursued by governments over recent years, have failed to spur economic revival. Japan itself has experienced stagnation for more than two decades.

Central banks, such as the U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank (ECB), and the Bank of Japan have kept interest rates at historically low levels, near zero. This has been accompanied by "quantitative easing" programs to purchase bonds and securities in order to pump money into the economy. The aim was to encourage spending and investment in production and hiring.

Negative interest rates depress economy

As growth failed to materialize, in 2014 the ECB and several central banks in Europe set negative interest rates. They were joined by the Bank of Japan in January. Under this policy, instead of paying interest on commercial bank reserves, the central bank charges for deposits. Because this is a tax, not easy credit, negative interest rates not only fail to stimulate production but have a depressive impact on the economy.

Taxing bank deposits could also lead to the hoarding of cash, one reason officials in the U.S. and Europe are moving to limit its use. The European Central Bank announced May 4 it will no longer print 500-euro notes, though the existing ones remain legal tender. In February former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers floated the idea of eliminating the \$100 bill.

The bosses don't invest in expanding productive capacity and hire workers unless it is profitable to do so. But average industrial profit rates have been declining worldwide for decades.

Without a profitable expansion to invest in, the big capitalists sit on cash or speculate on stocks, bonds and derivatives where the rate of return is higher. This leads to mushrooming paper values that eventually burst — like that in the U.S. housing market, whose collapse helped trigger the 2008 crash.

For example, U.S. companies are taking on debt at record levels today, not to fund expansion, but to bolster shareholder returns and to fund takeover activity and speculation. According to Bank of America Merrill Lynch, companies have added nearly \$4 trillion of debt to their balance sheets since the start of 2008.

Total global debt — including governments, businesses and households — is rising and has already topped 2008 levels. U.S. credit card debt is on track to hit \$1 trillion, close to the all-time peak in 2008.

A deep-going recession could trim fictitious paper values, reduce inventories and remove unprofitable businesses — opening the way to a new cycle of growth. But the capitalists fear the consequences, which would be devastating for working people worldwide and risk unpredictable instability.

As the rulers seek to stave off a recession, and paper values and debt balloon with no corresponding growth in industrial capacity, the conditions are being prepared for a more catastrophic crisis. At the same time, the bosses continue their grinding offensive against workers' jobs, wages, social benefits and rights.

¡No al dominio colonial de EEUU en Puerto Rico!

La propuesta de imponer un consejo fiscal en Puerto Rico desenmascara el simple hecho de que la isla nación es una colonia de Estados Unidos.

Todos los miembros del consejo serían nombrados por el presidente de Estados Unidos. Tendrá el poder de vetar cualquier ley aprobada por la asamblea

EDITORIAL

legislativa de Puerto Rico, ordenar cesantías de empleados públicos, vender bienes del gobierno puertorriqueño e imponer sanciones penales a quienes desobedezcan sus edictos. Hasta aquí el Estado Libre Asociado “autónomo”.

La prensa y los políticos capitalistas frecuentemente calumnian a los puertorriqueños de ser una chusma ociosa que vive de las prestaciones sociales —del *welfare*— y de las estampillas de alimentos, con un gobierno corrupto que no toma las decisiones difíciles para pagar a sus acreedores.

En el mejor de los casos dicen que parte de la culpa recae en los fondos “buitre”, que compraron una buena parte de los bonos de la isla a tan solo 30 centavos de dólar, pero que exigen el pago total.

Pero el problema no es el capitalismo
Sigue en la página 10

Se llega a acuerdo en huelga de Verizon

POR CANDACE WAGNER

Tras 48 días en las líneas de piquetes, 39 mil huelguistas de Verizon regresaron a trabajar el 31 de mayo después que funcionarios del sindicato de telecomunicaciones CWA y de electricistas IBEW llegaron a un acuerdo provisional con la empresa.

Los patrones de la Verizon quedaron sorprendidos por la amplia simpatía que recibió la huelga entre los trabajadores, a pesar de los esfuerzos de pintar a los huelguistas como aristócratas obreros codiciosos que deberían estar contentos con sus salarios y beneficios “generosos”.

Entre los problemas centrales se encuentran las propuestas de la Verizon de subcontratar más trabajos; cerrar centros de atención telefónica y trasladarlos a países con salarios substancialmente más bajos; reducir las pensiones y aumentar los costos del seguro médico.

Según el CWA, los trabajadores recibirán un aumento del 10.9 por ciento durante los cuatro años del contrato. Los empleados actuales mantendrán sus pensiones. El comunicado dice que los funcionarios sindicales aceptaron “nuevos costos del seguro médico”.

Muchos trabajadores dijeron que querían leer el acuerdo antes de decidir lo que piensan. Los trabajadores votarán sobre el contrato el 17 de junio.

Haga campaña con el PST por un programa obrero

Lo que nuestra clase puede lograr luchando



Militante/Jacob Perasso

Diana Newberry (izq.), habla sobre el Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores y su programa con Patty Gonzalez en Owatonna, Minnesota, el 29 de mayo. Partidarios también están colectando firmas para que el PST aparezca en la boleta electoral en Washington y Tennessee.

POR JOHN STUDER

SEATTLE — El Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores está haciendo campaña por todo el país por una perspectiva obrera y revolucionaria y para asegurar que aparezcan en la boleta electoral de varios estados, incluyendo Washington, Minnesota y Tennessee, los candida-

tos del partido para presidente y vicepresidente de Estados Unidos, Alyson Kennedy y Osborne Hart.

Los partidarios del PST se están sumando a las líneas de piquetes sindicales, están defendiendo a víctimas de casos amañados del gobierno y partici-

Sigue en la página 10

Luchadores contra brutalidad policial en EEUU visitan Cuba revolucionaria

POR RÓGER CALERO Y JACOB PERASSO

LA HABANA — “Si viviéramos en Cuba mi hijo aun estaría vivo”, dijo Andree Penix-Smith a dirigentes de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC) aquí el 3 de mayo. La policía en Tulsa, Oklahoma, mató a su hijo, Justin Smith Jr., en 1998. Ella y otros familiares de personas muertas por la policía en Estados Unidos visitaron Cuba para aprender de primera mano sobre los logros alcanzados por los trabajadores en este país mediante su revolución socialista, y para hablar sobre la continua lucha contra la brutalidad policial en Estados Unidos.

La Federación de Mujeres Cubanas y el Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP) fueron los anfitriones de la gira de una semana, en la que participaron luchadores contra los abusos de la policía de Nueva York, Detroit, Chicago y Oakland, California.

La Secretaria General de la FMC Teresa Amarelle Boué recibió a la delegación en la sede de la organización. Ella describió la desigualdad social y económica que existía en Cuba antes del derrocamiento revolucionario en enero de 1959 de una dictadura que contaba con

el respaldo de Washington, y los logros que han alcanzado las mujeres, los negros y los trabajadores con la revolución. Durante el intercambio de dos horas, miembros de la delegación de Estados Unidos describieron las circunstancias en que sus seres queridos fueron muertos y sus esfuerzos de muchos años para exigir que se enjuicié, condene y encarcele a los policías responsables por estas y otras muertes.

Su lucha conmovió a muchas de las personas con las que hablaron. La valentía de las madres cubanas cuyos hijos fueron asesinados bajo el régimen militar de Fulgencio Batista antes de 1959 forma parte de su herencia revolucionaria. Muchos cubanos conocen de la brutalidad policial en Estados Unidos a través de las noticias y por las experiencias de sus familiares que viven allá.

La visita comenzó con la participación de la delegación en el desfile en La Habana de centenares de miles de trabajadores y estudiantes cubanos para celebrar el Primero de Mayo, el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, una movilización anual en apoyo de la revolución. Centenares de contingentes desfilaron por la Plaza de la Revolución

Sigue en la página 11

Exigen libertad para Oscar López Rivera



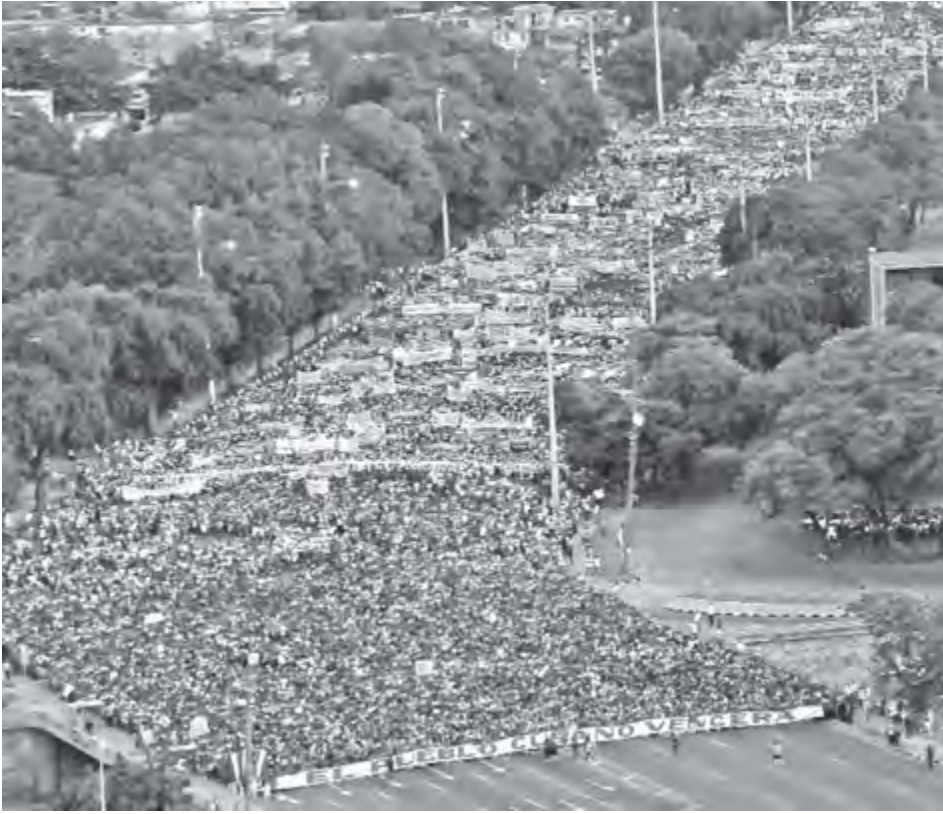
Militante/Ron Richards

Miles de personas marcharon el 29 de mayo en San Juan, Puerto Rico (arriba), para exigir la excarcelación del independentista puertorriqueño Oscar López Rivera. El acto marcó el 35 aniversario de su encarcelamiento en Estados Unidos. López “se ha convertido en un símbolo de resistencia y descolonización”, dijo Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, portavoz del Comité de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico. López fue acusado bajo cargos amañados de “conspiración sediciosa” por sus actividades a favor de la independencia de Puerto Rico, una colonia de Estados Unidos.

En Nueva York, el grupo 35 Mujeres para Oscar celebró una animada actividad el mismo día. El 20 de junio habrá un acto frente a Naciones Unidas durante la audiencia anual sobre la descolonización de Puerto Rico. Ese día también habrá protestas frente a las embajadas de Estados Unidos en por lo menos 35 países para exigir la libertad de López.

—MARK THOMPSON

Luchadores visitan Cuba



Viene de la portada

con carteles coloridos hechos a mano que identificaban su sindicato y centro de trabajo coreando consignas, cantando y bailando.

“¡Nunca he visto algo como esto! Trabajadores marchando sin ser rodeados por policías”, dijo Juanita Young al final de la masiva celebración. A su hijo, Malcolm Ferguson, lo mató la policía de Nueva York en el 2000. Durante la marcha, muchos cubanos se acercaron a la delegación para preguntar sobre sus luchas, darles la mano y tomarse fotos.

Miembros de la delegación hablaron en una conferencia internacional de solidaridad con Cuba el día siguiente, y desplegaron pancartas que habían traído consigo que decían “Mothers Cry for Justice” (Grito de Madres por Justicia), y “Familias contra la Brutalidad Policial en EE.UU. en Solidaridad con Cuba: Cese el bloqueo de EE.UU. contra Cuba”. Recibieron una ovación de los más de 1 600 delegados presentes de una veintena de países.

Felicitando al pueblo cubano por construir una sociedad en la que los trabajadores son lo más importante, Iris Báez dijo a la concurrencia que “las muertes de nuestros hijos en Estados Unidos” deben parar y “el capitalismo no está a favor de los trabajadores”. Su hijo Anthony Báez fue muerto por un policía de Nueva York, Francis Livoti, en 1994. Otros tres miembros de la delegación —Juanita Young, Anita Wills y Nellie Bailey— también se dirigieron al encuentro.

Valores diferentes

La gira incluyó una visita a la Escuela Primaria Orlando Pantoja, un centro de orientación comunitario dirigido por la FMC y proyectos comunitarios que organizan actividades y trabajan estrechamente con los residentes, especialmente los adolescentes y ancianos. También visitaron el Museo de la Alfabetización y tuvieron un encuentro con estudiantes estadounidenses en la Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina, donde se han preparado más de 23 mil estudiantes de todas partes del mundo, incluyendo de Estados Unidos, sin costo alguno.

Los dirigentes de los programas comunitarios describieron la atención que prestan las organizaciones de masas como la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas y los comités de barrios a cuestiones sociales como la violencia doméstica, el cuidado prenatal, la atención a los niños

que se retrasan en la escuela y la prevención del crimen. “En Cuba socialista nuestra prioridad es el ser humano”, dijo la directora del Centro Comunitario Pogolotti, ubicado en uno de los más antiguos barrios obreros de La Habana, fundado en 1911 para obreros del tabaco y portuarios. “Desde muy pequeños se nos enseña a respetar, compartir y cuidar a los demás”.

Víctor Dreke, un dirigente de la Revolución Cubana durante más de 50 años que luchó en el Ejército Rebelde y al lado de Che Guevara en el Congo en 1965, se reunió con varios de los delegados. Dreke describió cómo en su adolescencia se integró al movimiento revolucionario que derrocó un régimen caracterizado por su brutalidad, corrupción y servilismo a los intereses del imperialismo norteamericano y de los capitalistas y terratenientes cubanos.

“Muchos dirigentes sindicales y jóvenes fueron asesinados por la dictadura de Batista”, dijo Dreke. “El presidente Barack Obama nos pidió durante su reciente visita que olvidáramos el pasado, pero ¿cómo podemos olvidar? Sería como pedirle a ustedes que olviden a sus hijos”.

En el Museo de la Alfabetización la delegación vio exposiciones de fotos y otros objetos de la campaña de 1961 en la que más de cien mil voluntarios, principalmente adolescentes, fueron al campo a alfabetizar. En aquel entonces, el analfabetismo, especialmente entre las mujeres, frecuentemente estaba por encima del 50 por ciento. En un año los voluntarios redujeron el analfabetismo a nivel nacional de un 30 por ciento al 4 por ciento. “¿Qué inspira a personas tan jóvenes a salir de su casa y participar en algo con un carácter moral tan alto y que requería tanta disciplina?”, preguntó Young.

“La revolución nos transformó”, respondió Olga Santos, quien participó en la campaña de alfabetización cuando tenía 13 años. “La gente estaba inspirada a participar, era una forma de contribuir a la revolución.

“La disciplina vino del compromiso de cumplir con la tarea encomendada”, agregó Santos.

Apoyo a los Cinco Cubanos

Un momento destacado de la visita fue el encuentro con Fernando González, uno de los cinco revolucionarios cubanos encarcelados por Washington bajo un caso amañado en 1998 por su



Izquierda, Granma, Arriba, Militante/Jacob Perasso

Parientes de personas muertas por la policía y otros luchadores contra la violencia policial en Estados Unidos (arriba) en desfile del Primero de Mayo, Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, en La Habana (izquierda). Con manta desde la izquierda: Aaron Grable, Andree Penix-Smith, Juanita Young y Alyson Kennedy. Muchos en el desfile se acercaron para saludarlos. “Nunca he visto algo como esto”, dijo Young. “Trabajadores marchando sin ser rodeados por policías”.



Militante/Róger Calero

Fernando González, uno de los Cinco Cubanos, revolucionarios que pasaron década y media tras las rejas en Estados Unidos, firma la camisa de Iris Báez. “Me he unido a otras madres en Estados Unidos para poner fin a la brutalidad policial”, dijo Arnetta Grable (izq.) a González.

trabajo para monitorear a los grupos contrarrevolucionarios cubano-americanos en Florida para prevenir ataques violentos contra Cuba. Actualmente González es el vicepresidente del ICAP.

“He seguido su caso durante años”, dijo Young. “Perdí a mi hijo asesinado por la policía, y no podía dejar de pensar en lo que estaban pasando las madres de los Cinco Cubanos”.

La idea de que familiares de víctimas de la brutalidad policial visitaran Cuba nació en octubre de 2014 cuando Báez y Young hablaron en un evento en Nueva York para extender su apoyo a la lucha por la liberación de los Cinco. Young dijo en esa ocasión que ella y otras madres deberían visitar Cuba y conocer a las madres de los Cinco Cubanos. El año siguiente, Báez auspició un acto en su iglesia en el Bronx, donde parientes de personas muertas por la policía en Nueva York, Nueva Jersey y Pennsylvania participaron en un panel con Maritzel González de la FMC.

Además de los siete familiares, participaron en el viaje Jacob Perasso y Róger Calero del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores, quienes trabajaron con las organizaciones anfitrionas en Cuba y con Mothers Cry for Justice en Nueva York para coordinar aspectos de la gira; Alyson Kennedy, quien ha participado en luchas contra las muertes y tortura a manos de la policía de Chicago y es la candidata para presidente de Estados Unidos del PST; y Nellie Bailey de la

Coalición 26 de Julio, y del Consejo de Inquilinos de Harlem en Nueva York. La gira fue un proyecto de la Coalición 26 de Julio de Nueva York, y recibió el apoyo de grupos de solidaridad con Cuba de varias ciudades, así como de participantes en la lucha contra los abusos policiales.

“He estado luchando contra el gobierno en Estados Unidos por 20 años para obtener justicia para mi hijo, y todavía no he visto el fin de la brutalidad policial en nuestro país”, dijo Arnetta Grable a González. “Me he unido a muchas otras madres por todo el país para que podamos, en solidaridad, poner fin a esta terrible brutalidad que sufren nuestros jóvenes”. A uno de sus hijos, Lamar Wayne Grable, lo mató la policía de Detroit en 1996 cuando iba a su casa después de una fiesta en una iglesia local. Su otro hijo, Aaron, ha estado activo en la lucha contra la brutalidad policial y también participó en la visita a Cuba.

Muchos de los miembros de la delegación participan en el National Stolen Lives Families Tour (Gira nacional de familias por las vidas arrebatadas)—un proyecto conjunto de Mothers Cry for Justice y The Adam Project, Inc. dirigido por el reverendo Jerome McCorry con sede en Dayton, Ohio— a través del cual ofrecen solidaridad a familias que han perdido a seres queridos a manos de la policía por todo el país. Báez es también fundadora de la Fundación

Sigue en la página 10

Campaña del PST

Viene de la portada

pando en discusiones sobre lo que enfrenta el pueblo trabajador, desde el uso del carbón para producir energía en Asia hasta la necesidad de sindicalizarse y sobre cómo los trabajadores pueden luchar contra el desempleo y los bajos salarios.

Encuentran una recepción tremenda entre los trabajadores que se ven atraídos a los candidatos presidenciales Donald Trump y Bernie Sanders, y entre los que no apoyan a ningún candidato. El Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores presenta lo que ninguno de los candidatos capitalistas hace: lo que la propia clase trabajadora puede y debe hacer para luchar independientemente de los patrones y sus representantes políticos.

En las próximas dos semanas se reanudarán esfuerzos concentrados antes de la Conferencia de Trabajadores Activos que se celebrará en Oberlin, Ohio, del 16 al 18 de junio.

“Todas las compañías dicen que ganamos demasiado, pero no es fácil para una madre soltera mantener a cuatro hijos ganando 10.50 dólares por hora”, dijo Allyson Gainor, una obrera en la plan-

ta de piezas de la Nissan en Tennessee, cuando hablaba con Sam Manuel, el candidato del PST para el senado en Georgia. Gainor firmó la petición para colocar a Kennedy y a Hart en la boleta electoral.

En los dos primeros días de la campaña en Tennessee, 90 personas firmaron peticiones hacia la meta de 500 firmas. En los tres estados donde se están recolectando firmas ahora, muchos trabajadores han comprado ejemplares del *Militante* y más de 40 han comprado suscripciones y libros de Pathfinder. El 28 de mayo, partidarios del PST en Longview, Washington, hablaron con sindicalistas que han participado en duras batallas contra cierres patronales y demandas de concesiones.

Shelly Porter, una dirigente de la lucha librada por el Local 21 del sindicato de trabajadores portuarios contra la EGT Development en 2011-12, abrazó a Mary Martin, la candidata del PST para gobernadora del estado de Washington, al llegar a su casa. “Estos son los que escriben en su periódico el *Militante* sobre las cuestiones que son importantes para los trabajadores”, dijo Porter a un amigo. “Es el único periódico en el que confío”.

Uno de los temas que está siendo debatido en el estado de Washington son los planes para establecer una terminal en Longview para enviar carbón procedente de Wyoming y Montana hacia Asia.

John Doyle tenía dos letreros frente a su casa, uno decía “Alto al carbón” y el otro en apoyo al sindicato portuario. “La gente necesita empleos, pero estoy preocupado que los daños al medio ambiente sean demasiados para permitir la terminal”, dijo al firmar la petición.

“La gente en Asia, África y en otras partes necesitan electricidad, es una condición para el desarrollo de la alfabetización, la cultura y la política”, dijo Martin. “Si por ahora eso significa el uso del carbón, debemos apoyarlo. Y debemos exigir que se procese limpiamente y que los trabajadores tengan control de la seguridad y luchen por medidas contra la contaminación en las minas de carbón y las centrales eléctricas”.

Luchadores visitan Cuba

Viene de la página 11

Anthony Báez, que igualmente extiende apoyo a víctimas de la brutalidad policial y sus familias.

Stolen Lives Families Tour recientemente organizó visitas a Cleveland y Chicago donde participaron en protestas con los parientes de Tamir Rice, de 12 años, muerto por la policía de Cleveland en 2014; Justus Howell, muerto por la policía de Zion, Illinois en 2015; y otros.

“Nos enfocamos en la policía, pero estamos conscientes de que detrás de la policía hay todo un sistema”, dijo Wills, señalando cómo el gobierno, los tribunales y el sistema penitenciario funcionan contra el pueblo trabajador, de manera desproporcionada contra los que son negros, latinos e indígenas americanos. Wills, quien tiene un hijo en la cárcel, participa en la lucha en California en contra del confinamiento solitario en las cárceles estadounidenses.

“Los años que pasé en la cárcel me dieron la oportunidad de estar con afroamericanos encarcelados injustamente en Estados Unidos”, dijo González. “Aprendí sobre la realidad de sus comunidades, la realidad de Estados Unidos, la cual no es la misma que ve-

Auxiliares de vuelo de United exigen convenio



Militante/Bernie Senter

Auxiliares de vuelo de la aerolínea United, la cual se fusionó con la Continental Airlines y Continental Micronesia en 2010, marchan en el aeropuerto de Los Angeles el 19 de mayo para exigir un convenio laboral único que cubra a los sobrecargos independientemente de la aerolínea en que trabajaban antes de la fusión.

“Los mineros pueden liderar la lucha para que haya una transición hacia la producción de energía más segura, nuclear y de otras fuentes, a medida que sean prácticas, mientras luchamos por empleos, salarios a escala sindical y el control obrero sobre la producción”, dijo Martin.

Más de 1 280 personas han firmado para colocar a los candidatos del PST en la boleta electoral en Washington, más de las mil requeridas. La meta es coleccionar 1 600.

David Rosenfeld, el candidato del PST para el congreso por Minnesota, al hacer campaña en la comunidad de Cedar-Riverside, mayoritariamente de origen somalí, el 29 de mayo, habló sobre los cargos amañados contra varios jóvenes en Minneapolis acusados de conspirar para unirse al Estado Islámico.

El partido ha recolectado las firmas de casi mil trabajadores durante la campaña en Minnesota, hacia la meta de 2 400 antes del 12 de junio.

¿Es Donald Trump un fascista?

Cuando los partidarios del PST van de puerta en puerta frecuentemente se topan con simpatizantes de Trump, mu-

chos de los cuales firman las peticiones y compran ejemplares del *Militante*, como hacen muchos de los partidarios de Sanders y trabajadores que dicen no simpatizar con ninguno de los candidatos.

La prensa capitalista, tanto liberal como conservadora, da la impresión que Trump y sus partidarios son reaccionarios, con mentalidad fascista. Un artículo en el *Washington Post* del 30 de mayo de Richard Cohen fue titulado, “Trump me ha enseñado a temer de mis compatriotas norteamericanos”.

“Quizás los comentaristas en la televisión trazarán una línea en una versión leve del fascismo, pero ¿podrá el pueblo norteamericano hacer lo mismo?” escribió, refiriéndose a los trabajadores. “El sí fácil del pasado ha dado paso a terribles dudas”. Pero los patrones realmente no le temen a Trump ni lo consideran el Adolph Hitler reencarnado. Él es un hombre de negocios, igual que ellos, en búsqueda del máximo de ganancias, mientras trata de vender la idea a los trabajadores de que “nosotros” tenemos intereses comunes para impedir que los trabajadores nos organicemos independientemente de los partidos de la clase gobernante. En muchas cuestiones, desde el acceso al cuidado médico hasta a la intervención militar en el extranjero las posiciones de Trump están a la izquierda de las de Hillary Clinton.

A lo que le teme la clase patronal es a los muchos trabajadores que han ido a sus mítines, lo cual es una reflexión del descontento, enojo y disgusto que tienen contra la “política usual”.

Esta es la misma crisis y búsqueda de respuestas que ofrece oportunidades sin precedente en muchos años al Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores.

¡Únase a la campaña del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores en el 2016!

Para participar en actividades de la campaña, obtener más información o hacer una contribución contacte a la rama del partido más cercana. Vea lista en la página 8, o escriba a:

Campaña del PST 2016
227 W. 29th St., 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001
(646) 922-8186
swp2016campaign@gmail.com

Puerto Rico

Viene de la portada

buitre: es el capitalismo, específicamente a través del dominio imperialista de Washington.

Los capitalistas estadounidenses extraen superganancias de la opresión colonial de Puerto Rico: las gigantescas corporaciones farmacéuticas que se benefician de los salarios e impuestos bajos en la isla; las compañías de transporte que tienen el monopolio del comercio de carga; la agroindustria que provee el 80 por ciento de los alimentos porque la dominación imperialista arrasó con gran parte de la producción agrícola de la isla.

Con la cesantía de miles de trabajadores, el alza de los impuestos sobre las ventas y los recortes de las pensiones, el pueblo trabajador ya está pagando por la crisis capitalista. El consejo fiscal apretará más la tuerca.

El presidente Obama y los principales políticos de los partidos Demócrata y Republicano, entre ellos Bernie Sanders, dicen que están a favor de realizar un referéndum para darle la oportunidad a los puertorriqueños a elegir entre la independencia, la estadidad o mantener su status actual.

Pero cualquier voto bajo el dominio colonial es una farsa. ¿Qué tipo de votación libre puede haber bajo la mirada vigilante —con policías, tribunales y espías— de aquellos que se benefician de que Puerto Rico siga bajo el dominio del mismo gobierno imperialista que ha mantenido preso por 35 años al luchador independentista Oscar López?

El Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores, en su congreso de fundación en 1938 se opuso a “cualquier intento del imperialismo norteamericano, abierto o enmascarado, de infringir sobre el derecho a la autodeterminación de cualquier nación o pueblo”.

“Hoy más que nunca el pueblo trabajador en Puerto Rico y en Estados Unidos tiene todo por ganar en la lucha unida por nuestros intereses comunes y en respaldar la lucha por la independencia de Puerto Rico del dominio colonial”, dijo al *Militante* Alyson Kennedy, la candidata del PST para presidente de Estados Unidos. Y tiene toda la razón.

¡Independencia para Puerto Rico!
¡Libertad para Oscar López!

EXHIBIT 8

DECLARATION

I, Naomi Craine, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I serve as the Managing Editor of the *Militant* newspaper, a paper that has editorially supported the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party since its first presidential campaign in 1948 and continues to do so today.
2. Over the last couple years the *Militant* has faced continuous harassment from prison administrations in both Federal and State penitentiaries. On numerous occasions, inmates who subscribe to our newspaper have had issues denied to them. This violated both the *Militant's* freedom of speech and the rights of the prisoners.
3. I have attached articles from the *Militant* over the last three years documenting impoundment of the paper by authorities in state prisons in Florida, New York and Washington state and at a federal prison in Colorado.

The instances include:

- a. September 2013 – The *Militant* was informed that a prisoner in the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla was not receiving his subscription. The inmate received a notice that they were rejected as a “threat to the safty (sic) and security of the institution.” The Washington ACLU represented the *Militant* and the authorities reversed their ban.
- b. January 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscribers at Blackwater River Correctional Facility in Milton, Fl., on basis “the entire publication is viewed as a threat to security.” After being contacted by the Florida ACLU, authorities said it was a “clerical error” and delivered to the subscriber. In the course of this, it came up that four subscribers at the institution had been denied from three to five recent issues and told that all issues of the *Militant*

would be banned in the future. After protest, the institution reversed the ban, blaming it on “miscommunication.”

- c. March 2014 – *Militant* withheld from subscriber at Taylor Correctional Institution in Florida. The Jan. 19 issue was impounded for an article “‘Militant’ beats back censorship at Fla. Prison.” When the papers’ counsel told authorities it would challenge the ban, they said they had reversed their decision.
- d. July 2014 – The *Militant* was impounded by the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, who informed the paper “this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to the Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system.” The attorney for the *Militant* filed an appeal with the regional director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Kansas. He received notice July 7 and the issue was admitted.
- e. July 2016 – *Militant* impounded in Florida at Northwest Florida Reception Center, and, in keeping with state prison regulations, then also impounded at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution. Prison officials said the paper was “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system” for an article titled, “Prisoners strike to protest abuse and little or no pay in Alabama,” a news article. Authorities at Santa Rosa also impounded the June 13 issue, pointing to an article reporting on a protest in Puerto Rico demanding release of *independista* Oscar López, who is in prison in the U.S. The reason given for this ban was the claim that the photo with the article contained “hang/gang signs.” After protest by the paper’s attorney, prison officials said the impoundments were “done in error” and these bans were all rescinded.
- f. October 2016 – Authorities at Attica Correctional Facility in New York impounded the October 3 issue of the *Militant* with an article “Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, ‘We are men, not beasts.’” Dozens of daily newspapers and magazines had run news stories on this anniversary, including the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Ebony* and the *Wall*

Street Journal. The paper and its attorney are in the process of appealing the confiscation.

4. The *Militant* has challenged and fought every one of these bans. We have been successful in every instance. We have been joined by support statements from other publications that have faced prison censorship as well as civil liberties groups that have supported the Constitutional rights of the paper and our subscribers. We have been represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida and Washington state, and by our own council in Florida, Colorado and New York.
5. At issue have been articles reporting on events that have been covered widely by media across the country, including *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, and daily papers from the *New York Times* to the *Miami Herald*. The stories included reporting on the hunger strike carried out by tens of thousands of inmates held in solidarity confinement in California and the 45th anniversary of the prison confrontation at Attica in New York. These other media had no difficulty getting to subscribers in prison.
6. The *Militant* was singled out by prison authorities because of its political views. This is confirmed by the fact that after our challenge, in each instance prison authorities relented and released the issues to our inmate subscribers.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 24, 2016.



Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016

Florida prison board reverses decision to ban newspaper over hunger strike coverage

Latara Appleby | Prior Restraints | News | October 16, 2013

The Florida Department of Corrections overturned a decision on Friday that forbid inmates from receiving a socialist newspaper that contained an article about hunger strikes in a California prison.

The Santa Rosa Correctional Institution, in Milton, Fla., had informed the the *Militant* in September that it would not distribute its July 22 issue to the more than 30 prisoners in the state who subscribe to the paper. Prison officials argued that the article on hunger strikes "presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system," the *Militant* reported.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida represented the newspaper in its appeal, and argued that the publication was written for everyone and did not urge inmates to take action. "Impoundment of *The Militant* violates the free speech rights of both *The Militant* and its subscribing inmates," the ACLU of Florida wrote in the appeal, which it filed last month.

Other publications, such as *The New York Times*, *Miami Herald* and *USA Today*, had covered the California hunger strikes. The appeal asserted that there was no evidence that the Florida prison confiscated those publications, or that the more than 40 other penal facilities that have *Militant* subscribers withheld the issue in question.

The Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee initially rejected the paper's appeal in the beginning of the month, upholding the prison's decision that officials could impound the paper. But last week, according to *Militant* reporter John Studer, the ACLU of Florida received an email saying that the review board had met again, overturned its previous decision, and decided to let prisoners in the state receive the paper.

Prior to learning about its win, the *Militant* had heard from a prisoner in Washington who was originally allowed three issues of the publication but then later had them confiscated, Studer said in an interview.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press had issued a statement last week in support of the *Militant's* appeal. "Just as the First Amendment protects journalists' right to truthfully report on matters of public concern, it protects prisoners' rights to receive that information, so long as the material does not interfere with safety and security. The article in question, a routine report about important events in a California prison, appeared to pose no such threat," the statement read.

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Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016



MAIL REJECTION NOTICE
 INCOMING OUTGOING

From: (name and address of individual/offender for incoming or outgoing) 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98118 To: (name of offender for incoming or individual for outgoing)	Offender Name:	Rejection #:
	DOC Number:	Date:
	Unit:	Facility:

MAIL TO OR FROM OFFENDERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Mail unauthorized by DOC 450.100 Mail for Offenders or DOC 450.110 Mail for Work Release Offenders, as applicable <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mail to or from an individual with whom contact is rejected per the requirements of DOC 450.050 Prohibited Contact <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Mail containing threats of physical harm against any persons or any other threats of criminal activity <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Mail containing blackmail or extortion threats <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Mail that is or contains contraband, or relates to sending contraband in or out of the facility <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Mail depicting or describing the procedures for constructing or using weapons, ammunition, bombs, or incendiary devices <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Mail containing plans to escape, or mail depicting or describing blueprints or operational detail of an existing facility's security devices (e.g., locks, electronics, facility grounds/buildings, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Mail containing plans for activities in violation of facility rules or for criminal activity, or mail that violates facility rules or the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Mail that is in code <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Maps, charts (e.g., topographical, nautical), or aerial photographs of any kind, with the exception of those received by the facility libraries <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Mail that is written correspondence and is in a foreign language with contents not understood by the inspecting staff, when reasonable efforts to have the mail interpreted have been unsuccessful <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Mail containing information that, if communicated, could create a risk of violence and/or physical harm to any person <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Mail that is sexually explicit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14. Mail that is deemed a threat to legitimate penological objectives <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Publications that have been altered after publication (e.g., pages or portions of pages removed, extraneous markings, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Mail advocating that any group is inferior based on national origin, race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status or status as a state registered domestic partner, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam Era Veteran, War-time Veteran, or Disabled Veteran; or the presence of a physical, mental, or sensory impairment and makes such group the object of ridicule and scorn, and may reasonably be thought to precipitate a violent confrontation between the recipient and a member(s) of the target group <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Mail purported to be legal mail, but upon visual scanning for contraband is determined to be general correspondence <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Mail containing cash or personal check(s) <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Mail containing markings of gang symbols or symbols of other unauthorized groups that may reasonably be thought to precipitate violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Mail containing a photo wherein the non-photo side is, or can be, separated from the photo side of the picture, or mail containing multiple copies of the same photo <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Mail containing non-cancelled postage stamps <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Mail containing another offender's correspondence or items, such as stickers/labels, stamps, or other envelopes <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Mail containing blank greeting cards or postcards, and cards, posters, and calendars that are padded, laminated/layered, and/or musical. For Prison offenders, mail that exceeds the storage dimensions noted in DOC 440.000 Personal Property for Offenders. <input type="checkbox"/> 24. Mail containing cassette tape(s) or CD(s), except as allowed per policy <input type="checkbox"/> 25. Mail containing more than a single magazine article per envelope or the magazine article violates any criteria established in policy and/or facility operational memorandum <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Mail containing book clippings of any size <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Publications and catalogs not mailed directly from the publisher/retailer <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Mail containing items that were not ordered, paid for, and approved in advance through facility designated channels <input type="checkbox"/> 29. Mail containing sweepstakes, contests, lottery tickets, or other mailings soliciting or offering games of chance, except publications containing sweepstakes/contest entry <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Mail containing multiple copies of the same document, or mail containing copies that is being sent into a Reception Diagnostic Center <input type="checkbox"/> 31. Standard mail, including catalogs, that is not addressed to a specific offender with the offender's name and DOC number <input type="checkbox"/> 32. Mail contained in any type of metal binder <input type="checkbox"/> 33. Mail containing items available for offender purchase through facility offender store operations <input type="checkbox"/> 34. Mail without an identifiable author/sender <input type="checkbox"/> 35. The outside of the envelope or package does not contain a return address as defined by the USPS, including an identifiable first and last name <input type="checkbox"/> 36. Other items that threaten the security and order of the facility or the offender's treatment, and/or are identified by the Superintendent/Community Corrections Supervisor (CCS) designed or facility operational memorandums <input type="checkbox"/> 37. Offender to Offender Correspondence not previously approved by facility superintendent. |
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NOTE: The offender is responsible for making arrangements to return the item(s) or provide disposal instructions. The sender should not send stamps or money for this purpose. If the offender is without funds, refuses to pay the required postage, or refuses to designate an individual to receive the property, such items will be donated to a charitable organization or destroyed per WAC 137-36.

The offender and the sender may make a written request to the Superintendent/designee to review the decision to reject his/her mail. Requests must be made within 10 calendar days of the initial rejection decision. Rejection of outgoing written correspondence is automatically reviewed by the Superintendent/CCS.

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**ISSUES OF *THE MILITANT* REJECTED BY WASHINGTON
STATE PENITENTIARY**

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'In US prisons, just going to trial earns you respect' — René González — PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 28 JULY 22, 2013

Actions in Texas and N. Carolina defend women's right to choose

BY SUSAN LAMONT

"We are going to stay here as long as needed," said Marianna Anaya, 23, of Rise Up Texas, speaking with the *Militant* by phone from outside the state capitol in Austin, Texas. Hundreds of supporters of women's right to choose abortion have been protesting a new anti-woman law under debate in the state legislature there that would further restrict access to abortion.

"We had many more pro-choice people here yesterday than the 'blue shirts,'" said Anaya, referring to the blue T-shirts worn by backers of the bill, who also rallied at the capitol July 8.

The new Texas law would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, require that the procedure be performed at ambulatory surgical centers, that doctors who perform them have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, and that drug-induced abortions be administered in a surgical center. Only five out of the 42 abortion clinics in Texas would meet the onerous building requirements.

Some 5,000 supporters of women's right to abortion rallied at the state capitol July 1, demanding that the legislature vote down the bill.

On July 9 more than 500 protested the bill in Houston. "I was moved to come out today by the actions in Austin," Sara England, a University of Houston student, told the *Militant*.

Continued on page 4

Calif. prisoners launch hunger strike against solitary confinement, abuses

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

NORWALK, Calif. — Some 30,000 inmates at more than two dozen prisons throughout California refused meals Monday morning July 8, initiating a mass hunger strike to protest barbaric treatment and press their demands. Solidarity rallies took place across the state the same day.

Some 2,300 inmates also refused to show up for prison work or classes, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

In California alone, more than 10,000 workers behind bars are held in solitary confinement, with dozens for more than 20 years.

Prisoners in Pelican Bay's Special Housing Units (SHUs) initiated the first round of hunger strike protests two years ago, which grew to involve more than 11,000 inmates. Protest organizers announced they would resume the strike July 8 because prison officials had re-

Millions celebrate ouster of Islamist gov't in Egypt

Workers defend space to organize, fight



July 5 mobilization in Cairo's Tahrir Square marks fall of Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohammed Morsi. Zinab al-Saghier, front, lost eye during recent clash with Morsi supporters.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Millions of people across Egypt are celebrating the ouster of President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood-led government, having succeeded in defending the political space opened by the overthrow of the Hosni Mubarak dictatorship less than two and a half years ago.

In the midst of massive protests, the military high command ousted Morsi on July 3, arresting him and other leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, and shutting down much of the group's media. They suspended the new Islamist constitution — pushed through by the Morsi government at the end of last year — that had become a source of contention with both

workers and competing factions of the capitalist class.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the largest capitalist party in the country, organized large actions to defend Morsi's government. Clashes took place between Morsi supporters and opponents in Cairo, Alexandria and other parts of the country. Residents of Cairo's Manial neighborhood told the Arab news service *Al Arabiya* that they saw Brotherhood supporters armed with automatic weapons, machetes and sticks.

When military helicopters flew

Continued on page 9

Senate passes anti-worker immigration 'reform' bill

BY SETH GALINSKY

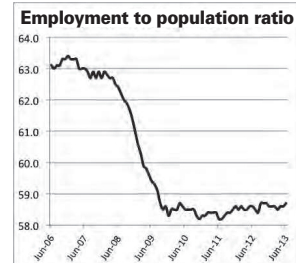
The immigration "reform" bill passed June 27 by the Democratic-controlled Senate would tighten government regulation over labor and borders, increase the criminalization of workers without "proper papers" and expand guest worker programs aimed at helping bosses continue to drive down the wages of all working people — immigrant and native-born. The carrot is a more than 10-year road to a possible green card for those who came to the U.S. before Dec. 31, 2011, and meet other onerous requirements.

The bill will now go to the House of Representatives, where, if anything, its anti-worker provisions will be strengthened and its carrot whittled down.

Just days before it was voted on,

Continued on page 2

Only 47% of adults in US work full time



"Only 58.7 percent of the adult population of 245 million was working at all last month."

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Four years into the so-called recovery from the 2007-2009 recession, only 47 percent of the adult population have full-time jobs, according to government figures. And those facing increasingly longer periods of unemployment are finding it more difficult to get work. Only 58.7 percent of the adult population of 245 million was working at all last month.

For June the official unemployment rate was 7.6 percent — unchanged from the previous month — with

Continued on page 4

To new readers: Welcome! Help win more subscribers!

Dear readers,

The *Militant* is extending a warm welcome to the 2,784 people who subscribed to the socialist newsweekly during the spring circulation drive.

A large proportion subscribed when *Militant* readers — including Socialist Workers Party candidates and campaign supporters — knocked on their door to talk and introduce them to the paper, along with books on revolutionary working-class politics.

Through the eight-week campaign,

Continued on page 3

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Immigration 'reform' bill

Continued from front page
119 pages of amendments were added to the more than 1,000-page bill. Among the measures: adding 20,000 immigration cops to double the number of Border Patrol Agents at the U.S.-Mexico border, 700 miles of additional fencing there and establishing 24/7 aerial drone surveillance.

But most pro-immigrant groups, as well as the AFL-CIO union federation, continue to back the bill. "The border security amendments ... were a bitter pill to swallow," America's Voice Education Fund Executive Director Frank Sharry said in a statement, "but on balance we believe this bill is a big win for our community."

The bipartisan bill passed with 68 votes in favor, including 14 Republicans, and 32 against, all Republicans.

Under the bill's "road to citizenship," undocumented workers could become eligible for permanent residency after registering with the government, paying at least \$2,000 in fines and fees, passing background checks, and making it through at least 10 years under a new "provisional status." A felony conviction or three misdemeanors would disqualify one from provisional status. Among the other things that could lead to its termination is being out of work for more than 60 days.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that only 6.3 million out of the estimated 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S. would qualify for provisional status.

Central to the "reform" is stepping up the crackdown on workers without papers. Within two years all businesses with more than 5,000 work-

ers would be required to use the government's online E-Verify system to check on the immigration status of all new hires, including requiring a digital photo. Within five years it would be mandatory for all businesses with one exception: "casual, sporadic, irregular, or intermittent" employment.

Combined with E-Verify, the bill requires that all future Social Security cards be "identity theft-resistant."

The Senate bill mandates tripling the number of "illegal entry" and "illegal reentry" prosecutions in the main border-crossing region and increasing the jail time.

Expansion of 'guest' workers

As part of exerting greater control over the flow of immigrant labor — key to the bosses pushing down the wages of all working people — the bill expands "guest worker" programs. It roughly doubles the number of guest workers allowed in agriculture. Many of these workers are given visas only if they have a contract with a farm boss. If they are fired before the contract expires they are subject to immediate deportation.

The bill, for the first time, would allow foreign workers to come into the U.S. for up to three years — as many as 200,000 per year — for construction, meatpacking, hotels and other industries. As part of the deal between the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and officials of the AFL-CIO that helped pave the way for the bill's approval, foreign construction workers would be limited to 15,000 a year.

This would not be the first time that the U.S. government has clamped down on workers without papers

Maoris protest New Zealand gov't seizing their land



Militant/Patrick Brown

ROTORUA, New Zealand — "It's the 21st century and they're still confiscating Maori land," said Morris Meha, one of 250 people who marched in this central North Island city June 24. Marchers were heading for a meeting of the Rotorua District Council's Standing Committee for Te Arawa — the local iwi (tribe) — to protest plans for a new highway through Maori-owned land on the outskirts of the city.

The protest, organized by the Positive Rotorua Environmental Society, was made up mainly of members of three Te Arawa subtribes whose lands would be taken for the road.

The group stepped up its fight in April when the New Zealand Transport Agency announced the route for a new highway would cut through a geothermal area alongside the city's lake and require demolition of 12 houses.

"We still use the hot pools to bathe and for cooking," Karleena Wineera told the *Militant*. Native birds and other wildlife would be affected, and the road would cut through an urupa (cemetery), she said.

—FELICITY COGGAN

while expanding the number of workers here "legally" but with few rights. In 1954, when the U.S. economy was in a recession following the Korean War, President Dwight Eisenhower launched Operation Wetback, which deported some 1 million workers without papers. At the same time he expanded the *bracero* program, which brought in hundreds of thousands of Mexicans to work in the fields.

In 1986, during an economic expansion, President Ronald Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which granted green cards to some 3 million undocumented workers while increasing federal penalties for entering the country without papers. The same year U.S. immigration cops deported 1.6 million workers without papers, one of the highest numbers in U.S. history.

Passage of the anti-worker law this year is not assured. Republican

Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner said the House plans to write its own bill. While supporting the general thrust of the Senate's bill, many in the Republican-controlled House are opposed to the "road to citizenship," unless even more arduous conditions are imposed.

'Militant' publishing break

This is a three-week issue of the paper, as we will be attending the Active Workers Educational Conference. The next issue of the *Militant* will be mailed out on August 1.

THE MILITANT

Back Kurdish people's fight for their rights

The Kurds, an oppressed nationality living in parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, are carving out space in their fight for land and language rights. Their struggles are in the interest of all working people in the region and worldwide. The 'Militant' covers these developments.



Oren Ziv/Activestills.org
March in Istanbul June 29 protests police killing of 18-year-old Kurdish youth.

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The Militant

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Welcome to our readers

Continued from front page
 hundreds bought books at reduced prices with a subscription, including well over 150 copies of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. The book has proved to be not only a powerful weapon for broadening support for the international campaign to free these five Cuban revolutionaries, but a way to discuss with thinking workers why we should defend and emulate Cuba's socialist revolution.

"I enjoy reading the *Militant*," said new subscriber and warehouse worker Marlon Grosvenor when *Militant* supporter Bev Bernardo called him in Montreal to check that he was receiving the paper OK. "I especially like the overseas coverage. The world has a lot of issues and the paper shows what people are doing about some of them." When told about the books on special, he decided to get *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* a few days later.

The book offers are still valid and I urge subscribers to take advantage of them.

The spring 2013 subscription campaign fanned out in cities, towns and rural areas across the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. As part of talking with a broad cross-section of working people door to door, *Militant* supporters built solidarity with those standing up to the bosses' attacks, joining and bringing others to labor actions and picket lines.

Last week the *Militant* reported 12 subscribers were won among workers behind bars, just three shy of the goal. This week I am delighted to report that the figure is much higher. Five subscriptions came in the mail shortly after the

chart was printed. Readers in prison fighting for their quota were slowed down only by the snail's pace of mail through the prisons and post office. This puts the prisoners' effort at 113 percent — the top of the chart! The welcome news comes just as tens of thousands of workers behind bars have joined a hunger strike in prisons across California, taking a stand for working-class dignity.

Contributions from readers to the Militant Prisoners' Fund, and what money inmates can put together, make it possible to bring the paper's revolutionary perspective to readers behind bars. And we know from comments they send us — both praises and criticisms — that these inmates use the paper to advance political discussions and working-class perspectives with fellow prisoners.

The effort to expand the working-class readership of the paper does not end with the spring campaign. In a real sense, it is just getting started. Join the effort. Introduce the paper to friends, relatives and fellow workers. You can call distributors in your area (see directory on page 8) or contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

And be sure to renew your subscription before it runs out!

In solidarity,
Louis Martin
 Circulation director

'Working people need our own political party'



Militant/Sara Lobman

"I was in Tahrir Square in Egypt two years ago, right after the massive mobilizations that toppled the Mubarak government," Dan Fein, center, told Chris Bishop, far right, a driver for an animal care company, when they met outside the John Lovejoy Elliott Houses in Manhattan July 7. "Now millions have come into the streets again forcing the unpopular Morsi government out. Working people in Egypt face the same question we do: how to fight for political power?"

"Working people are the foundation of society," Bishop said. "We need to do what you said in all countries."

"Yes," said Fein. "The challenge is building a revolutionary party. If working people had such a party in Egypt today, it wouldn't be the military stepping in. It would be the working class in its own name."

"Here the Democrats and Republicans represent the capitalist class. Working people need our own political organizations, independent of the bosses," Fein said.

—SARA LOBMAN

Militant Fighting Fund goes over the top!

BY LEA SHERMAN

Thank you to all our readers who contributed to the annual 2013 Militant Fighting Fund.

We raised \$121,752 — more than \$3,000 over the goal!

For the last eight weeks supporters of the working-class paper reached out to

other readers to exceed the \$118,000 international goal. This effort has been an integral part of the spring subscription campaign to expand readership of the socialist newsweekly worldwide.

Nearly all areas made their local quotas, some going substantially over. Based on reports from a dozen areas,

supporters of the *Militant* won more than 200 first-time contributors during the course of the drive.

"In New York, we took the goal of getting 50 new contributors. We ended up receiving contributions from 51 individuals who had never donated to the fund before, for a total of \$575 towards

Continued on page 4

Special offers with 'Militant' subscription



The Cuban Five
 Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free
from pages of the 'Militant'
 \$3 with subscription (regular \$5)



The Changing Face of U.S. Politics
 Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
 by Jack Barnes
 \$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

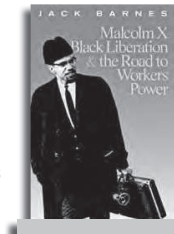


The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning
 The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
 by Jack Barnes
 \$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions
 by Thomas Sankara
 Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87
 \$5 with subscription (regular \$10)

Thomas Sankara Speaks
 The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987
 \$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

See distributors on page 8



Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
 by Jack Barnes
 \$10 with subscription (regular \$20)



Cuba and Angola
 Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own
 by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez
 \$6 with subscription (regular \$12)



Women in Cuba
 The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
 by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
 \$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Women and Revolution
 The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
 by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
 \$3 with subscription (regular \$7)

Militant Fighting Fund

May 4 - July 2 (Final chart)

Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle	\$8,500	\$9,426	111%
Des Moines	\$2,600	\$2,769	107%
Houston	\$4,000	\$4,201	105%
Omaha	\$600	\$621	104%
New York	\$20,000	\$20,608	103%
Miami	\$3,000	\$3,080	103%
Twin Cities	\$5,500	\$5,614	102%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$8,675	102%
Lincoln	\$200	\$203	102%
Atlanta	\$9,000	\$9,067	101%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$13,505	100%
Philadelphia	\$4,300	\$4,301	100%
Boston	\$3,500	\$3,500	100%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$9,035	95%
Washington	\$7,800	\$7,204	92%
Other		\$1,250	
Total US	\$100,500	\$103,059	103%
CANADA*	\$7,500	\$7,500	100%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,500	\$5,510	100%
AUSTRALIA*	\$1,950	\$2,000	103%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$2,515	126%
Manchester	\$600	\$770	128%
Total UK	\$2,600	\$3,285	126%
FRANCE	\$350	\$398	114%
Total	\$118,400	\$121,752	103%
Should be	\$118,000	\$118,000	100%
*Raised Quota			

Railway disaster in Quebec highlights bosses' profit drive

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — In the early morning of July 6 a runaway train transporting oil derailed and crashed in downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, causing a massive deadly explosion. As of July 9, 13 have been reported dead with dozens still missing. Whatever the exact cause, the incident has shown a spotlight on the dangers posed by transport bosses' relentless "productivity" drive.

Some 30 buildings were wiped out and more than 1,500 of the town's 6,000 residents have been evacuated from the area, which is 157 miles east of Montreal, close to the Maine border.

Oil spilling into the Chaudière River could affect water consumption as far as Quebec City, 115 miles north, and the St. Lawrence River eastward from there.

The 72 oil tanker car train, owned by Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway whose parent company is Rail World Inc., was initially secured and braked by its lone engineer at Nantes, about seven miles uphill from Lac-Mégantic. As per company regulations, the engineer left the locomotive running to get sleep at a nearby hotel.

At about 11:30 p.m. firefighters were called by MMA employees to put out a small fire in one of the five locomotives. They left when told by MMA that the train was OK and secured. Around 1 a.m. the unmanned train began to roll towards the town, gathering speed until it jumped the tracks.

MMA has a high accident rate, far higher than even the U.S. average, the *Wall Street Journal* reported July 8.

In 1991 the U.S. National Transportation and Safety Board stated in a report that the DOT-111 oil tanker cars that made up the 72 car train are "not adequate to resist the shock of a derailment." It took 20 years for the Canadian federal government to demand that transporters use tanker cars with thicker

steel walls when they renew their fleets, but Ottawa has permitted the companies to keep the old models in service.

For many years rail unions in North America have pointed to the bosses' cutbacks in the size of train staffs as a safety issue for rail workers and communities through which freight trains pass each day.

In 2012 Ottawa gave MMA permission to use one-person crews, which allow the company to run more frequent trains with higher profit margins.



Parts of runaway train that crashed and exploded July 6 in downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

Only 47% of US adults have full-time jobs

Continued from front page

195,000 jobs added. Described by some capitalist commentators as a sign the economy is improving, a closer look at the figures shows there's been no recovery for working people.

Every month government statisticians remove "discouraged" workers — those who, according to government statistics, have given up looking for work — from its jobless figures. While the official jobless rate has declined slightly over the last few years, the proportion of the population with a job has also shrunk.

In June, the number of "discouraged" workers rose by 247,000 over the previous month — more than the so-called added jobs.

Increasing numbers of workers seeking full-time work are being forced to accept part-time hours. In June, these figures rose by 322,000 to 8.23 million workers, according to the Labor Department.

"All of the net addition to June jobs — repeat all — were part time," said a July 8 *Investor's Business Daily* editorial. "Fulltime employment shrank by 240,000. Year to date, only 130,000 full-time jobs have been added to our

economy. The rest of the jobs — 557,000 — have been part time."

And companies from Walmart to General Motors employ nearly 17 million temporary and contract workers, freelancers and consultants — some 12 percent of everyone with a job.

Growing numbers of employers, especially in retail and food services, have been cutting workers' hours or hiring new workers at less than 30 hours a week to avoid providing health care coverage for employees under the Affordable

Care Act, known as ObamaCare.

The law requires employers with more than 50 workers to provide health insurance for full-time employees or pay a \$2,000 penalty per worker. While the Obama administration recently postponed implementing this regulation until 2015, more bosses are offering just part-time work. Lowe's home improvement store chain, for example, plans to hire 9,000 "permanent part-time employees" this year, reported the *Wall Street Journal*.

Active Workers Educational Conference begins July 19

BY LOUIS MARTIN

"I'm excited about going to the conference. I want to meet with other workers who are politically motivated and learn more about the world," Glen Gales told the *Militant* July 10, explaining his decision to participate in the Active Workers Educational Conference organized by the Socialist Workers Party July 19-20 in Oberlin, Ohio. Gales has worked as a Red Cap at Amtrak for 33 years in Washington, D.C.

"A coworker introduced me to the *Militant* a while back and I've been reading it ever since. That's where I really found out about the Cuban Five," he said. Gales helped organize local sup-

port for the "5 days for the Cuban 5" held in Washington, D.C., May 30-June 5, and attended the June 1 rally for the freedom of the Five in front of the White House. "The Five didn't get a fair trial. I'm against people being set up and I hate it when people are incarcerated for false reasons."

The conference will feature talks by SWP leaders, classes and a closing panel on the political work participants will carry out together coming out of the gathering.

For more information, call *Militant* distributors in your area (see directory on page 8) or contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

Militant Fighting Fund over top!

Continued from page 3

our goal. These contributions put us over the top!" wrote Tamar Rosenfeld, who helped organize the effort in the New York-New Jersey area.

"I like the *Militant* because it keeps you informed of what's happening," said longshoreman Jamal Dowling, one of 18 new contributors in the Miami area. "Even if you're not struggling, other people are and it's good to be informed."

First-time contributors in Miami gave a total of \$466, according to Dean Hazlewood, who led the local

fundraising effort.

Unlike the big-business press, which collects revenue from capitalist advertising, the *Militant* depends on contributions from supporters of the paper, published in the interests of the working people. These contributions help pay for basic operating expenses and reporting trips to cover political developments of interest to the working class and its allies worldwide.

Congratulations to all who took part in this successful international campaign!

Help get the SWP on the ballot in New York

Supporters of the citywide Socialist Workers Party candidates in New York City will be taking to the streets July 22-August 4 to gather 7,500 signatures, double the requirement, to put Dan Fein for Mayor, John Studer for Comptroller and Deborah Liatos for Public Advocate on the ballot. **Join us!**

**Saturdays July 27 & August 3 Meet at 9 a.m.
Sundays July 28 & August 4 Meet at 1 p.m.**

Hear the candidates!

Saturday evening, August 3

307 W. 36th St., 10th Floor, Manhattan (use north elevators)
For more information contact the SWP campaign in New York
Phone: (212) 736-2540; E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

ON THE PICKET LINE

Transit union officials suspend strike in Bay Area for 30 days

SAN FRANCISCO — Officials of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555 and Service Employees International Union Local 1021 agreed to a 30-day suspension of their strike, which had effectively shut down the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit System for four days starting July 1. The suspension came at the request of California Labor Secretary Marty Morgenstern and state mediators.

BART management remains intransigent in its plan to increase deductions from workers' paychecks for health care and pensions, which would be only partially offset by a proposed 8 percent raise over three years.

— Eric Simpson

Mental health workers strike 5 days in California for contract

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Some 200 mental health workers struck the Telecare La Casa Mental Health Rehabilitation Center here June 26-30. Demands include a contract and safer conditions for workers and patients.

On June 29 more than 100 members and supporters of the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West demonstrated at a local park.

"The company is deaf to our demands for training," said Neilanie Besana, 24, a nurse and SEIU member. "We are not trained to respond when patients have a breakdown. One nurse and two mental health workers is not enough for 30 to 44 patients in a unit."

Workers at Telecare, who joined the SEIU a year ago, say contract negotiations are stalled. They report the starting wage is \$9 per hour and that wages have been frozen for three to four years.

— Arlene Rubinstein

Quebec construction unions end strike in face of gov't order

MONTREAL — About 77,000 commercial, industrial and institutional construction workers returned to work July 2 under strikebreaking legislation adopted by the Quebec National Assembly the day before.

The law was approved after negotiations collapsed between the Union Alliance, a coalition of five unions organizing construction workers, and the Quebec Construction Association, the organization representing the Quebec construction bosses in the industrial and commercial sector.

The law extends the union contract for one year and makes any strike or lockout illegal during that time. The workers will receive a 2 percent increase in wages for the year. The unions and

construction bosses have until June 30, 2014, to reach a negotiated settlement for a new contract. The law stipulates fines of \$100 a day for workers and \$125,000 a day for unions and employers' associations for violations of the order.

The two-week province-wide strike that began June 17 shut down billions of dollars in construction projects. It initially involved 175,000 workers throughout the province. The 100,000 workers involved in residential and in engineering and road construction returned to work five days after union officials reached a tentative deal with the bosses that include wage increases of 8.6 percent over a four-year contract.

"We aren't going back with a smile on our lips," plumber Chrystian Tessier told the *Militant* as he returned to work at the \$2.1 billion University of Montreal Hospital Center here. "Now we don't have the right to strike for a year. Maybe we will get results later."

None of the workers' demands underlying the strike have been resolved.

— John Steele

U.K. teachers protest abolition of pay rates, pension cuts

MANCHESTER, England — More than 1,000 teachers rallied here June 27 during a one-day strike that closed hundreds of schools across northwest



Militant/Oliver Jones

More than 1,000 teachers march in Manchester, England, June 27 during one-day strike to protest pension cuts and abolition of pay rates and collective bargaining on national level.

England. Members of the National Union of Teachers and National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers were protesting the abolition of national pay rates and national collective bargaining, as well as pension cuts.

"Why do they have to hit teachers all the time?" said Katie Redford, a language teacher at Parris Wood, Didsbury. "Pay has been frozen for several years."

The new measures "will cause increased competition between teachers," said Miriam Hopkinson, a teacher of deaf students in Bury.

Claire Morreal, a teacher from nearby Salford, said, "If we don't take action now, things can be even worse in 10 years."

Rallies also took place in Liverpool, Chester and Preston.

— Paul Davies and Oliver Jones

Protests condemn worker's death at Ga. auto parts plant

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA — Some 60 people took part in a protest vigil and rally here June 26 for an auto parts worker who died after working in extreme heat at the Sewon America factory in LaGrange, about 65 miles south of Atlanta. A second vigil was held in LaGrange on June 29.

Teresa Pickard, 42, died on May 29 after working on the "project weld line."

"The air conditioning on the assembly line is not working properly and workers are soaked in sweat," an anonymous Sewon employee told the *LaGrange Citizen*. He said Pickard complained of chest pains several times before she was sent to the break room, where management keeps the air conditioning turned

off to discourage workers from staying there.

Sewon America produces stamped chassis and other components for the Kia auto plant nearby and the Hyundai auto plant in Alabama. The company released a statement denying that Pickard's death was work related and that it would have no further communication with the media.

Results of an autopsy could take six to eight weeks. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is conducting an investigation, which it says could take up to six months. In 2010 OSHA levied \$135,900 in fines against the company for a number of safety violations, including failure to provide workers with appropriate hand protection,

protect workers from arc welding flash burns, provide lockout/tagout procedures and provide machine guarding. In 2010 a worker there fell 50 feet to his death.

"Local people are now talking about the need for union organization to protect workers against the dangerous conditions," Scott Smith, publisher of the *LaGrange Citizen*, told participants at the rally here.

Other speakers included Pickard's cousin, Michael James, and representatives from the AFL-CIO, NAACP and the Georgia Student Justice Alliance.

Smith reported that Sewon officials threatened to fire workers if they attended the vigils and that company photographers would be taking pictures.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 22, 1988

FENTON, Mo. — Thousands of auto workers stopped production at two Chrysler Corp. assembly plants here in a series of walkouts in late June. The workers were protesting the intolerable conditions in the plants during a heat wave that caused temperatures inside to rise to well over 100 degrees. One worker died, and scores of others became ill before the workers' actions forced the company to back down on overtime demands and make other relief provisions.

The protests began June 21 in the paint shop of Plant 1, where the temperature reached 115 degrees. Company officials intended to run the line as usual, with nine hours of production and no additional relief time or other measures. The paint-shop workers walked out of the plant an hour and a half after start-up, and the rest of the workers followed soon after.



July 22, 1963

The five-day European Conference of Non-governmental Aid to Algeria, held last month in Algiers, was important in more ways than one. Of primary significance was its bringing together leading figures from various tendencies of the European left who obtained an accurate picture of the needs of the Algerian people in its heroic efforts to rebuild the country.

In his speech to the closing sessions of the conference, [President] Ben Bella outlined the staggering problems facing the Algerian people after seven and a half years of struggle against French imperialism.

"Algeria had 2,000,000 Algerians, who had been in what were called 'regroupment camps,' and 500,000 refugees who came back from Tunisia and Morocco with absolutely nothing, scarcely clothed, lacking especially anything with which to work in their fields."



July 23, 1938

AKRON, Ohio — A campaign to provide supplementary relief for W.P.A. and industrial employees was begun here this week by the Akron C.I.O. council and Goodyear Local, United Rubber Workers of America.

By mobilizing the labor movement behind this fight, union leaders seek to revitalize the unions and to alleviate the suffering of thousands of families living on sub-existence levels.

Over 110,000 of the 225,000 inhabitants of Akron are on one kind of relief or another, and thousands of rubber workers are working less than two days a week, thereby making a system of supplementary relief indispensable for the sheer existence of the people.

The campaign is not being made as a substitute for jobs, or adequate wages. Union leaders see it as a good supplementary move to fight against the effects of the social crisis.

Corrections

The article "Deaths in Plant Fires in Louisiana Highlight Bosses' Drive for Profit" in issue no. 25 incorrectly described Abel Bocanegra as a worker at Eagle Ford in Louisiana. Eagle Ford Shale is a hydrocarbon-producing formation in Texas. Bocanegra used to work in the Eagle Ford Shale Play south of San Antonio. The interview in the article took place not by phone but in person, where both the author and Bocanegra were then working near Houston.

Alain Hollie, who was quoted in "Bay Area Strike Shuts Down Rail Transit System," in issue no. 27, is a man, not a woman.

Socialist Workers adopt course to advance program of party

BY JOHN STUDER

The June 22-24 meeting of the Socialist Workers Party's National Committee adopted a course of action to advance the party's program in face of today's deepening capitalist crisis and the openness communist workers are finding among working people to discussing a working-class alternative to capitalist rule.

The leadership committee's decisions focused on fighting to free the Cuban Five alongside other supporters of this international defense effort and as an integral component of the party's working-class activity, as well as using SWP election campaigns to chart an independent political course for workers and their allies against the capitalist government and parties, the Democrats and Republicans. In each case, the party's efforts are built on a foundation of door-to-door sales of the *Militant* and books published by Pathfinder Press in working-class neighborhoods from big cities to small towns across the country.

The five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by Washington — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — are our comrades, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes told the meeting. None of us can know how long it may take to win their freedom, he said, but we do know they conduct themselves as revolutionary combatants behind bars, as participants in the class struggle here in the U.S., among fellow workers railroaded to prison.

Participants in the meeting reported that while most workers they talk with haven't yet heard about this fight, it resonates with many, particularly among the millions with family or friends who've been run through the U.S. "justice" system of stop-and-frisk, plea-bargain frame-ups, jacked-up sentences, solitary confinement and other indignities.

Party members are stepping up efforts to introduce fellow workers to the defense campaign, going house to house, apartment to apartment with the *Militant* and revolutionary literature, including the book *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. In New York, *Militant* supporters sold 55 copies of the book during the just concluded subscription drive.

In her report to the National Committee, SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters pointed to expanding opportunities to join with others in initiating and building defense activities —

from exhibits of cartoons and paintings by Gerardo Hernández and Antonio Guerrero to public meetings to educate and mobilize support for the fight. This includes joining efforts to build the campaign worldwide, from the upcoming VII Continental Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba in Caracas, Venezuela, July 24-27, to the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students in Ecuador, December 7-13.

Lessons of other defense fights

Barnes pointed to lessons from previous defense fights, including the campaign for Mark Curtis, a packing-house worker and SWP member in Des Moines, Iowa, sentenced in 1988 to 25 years in prison on trumped-up charges of rape and burglary. At the time of his arrest, Curtis was engaged in a fight to defend immigrant workers in the plant where he worked.

"There is no way on earth," Barnes told a defense rally for Curtis on the eve of his trial, that the packinghouse bosses, cops and city officials "will succeed in their goal. They will not prevent him from continuing to be the same person he is today, fighting for the same things, believing the same deeply held convictions, saying them openly to the entire world."

The Cuban Five conduct themselves in the same exemplary fashion.

These working-class fighters, Barnes said at the SWP leadership meeting, are examples of the caliber of revolutionaries needed to build a workers party here in the U.S. that can emulate Cuban workers and farmers, who overthrew the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959 and transformed themselves by the millions as they wrested political power and wielded their new revolutionary government to transform all of society in the interests of the toiling majority.

SWP election campaigns

One way the Socialist Workers Party is advancing the effort to free the Five is through its election campaigns, which champion their defense and the selfless, steadfast and dignified example they set for working people.

SWP candidates and their supporters — from Seattle to New York, from Miami to Des Moines — are explaining the deepening capitalist crisis of production and trade and the bosses' efforts to shore up their profits on the backs of working people here and the world over. They present a revolutionary working-



Militant photos by Dan Fein (left) and Michael Fitzsimmons (above) Using SWP election campaigns and building defense for Cuban Five on foundation of door-to-door propaganda in working class are at center of party's work today. **Left**, Deborah Liatos, SWP candidate for New York City Public Advocate, sells subscription and *The Cuban Five* to Glenn Taveras in Far Rockaway, Queens, N.Y. **Above**, Jacquie Henderson, candidate earlier this year for Texas Senate, and supporters Amanda Ulman and Katina Matthews meet with subscriber Abel Gonzales.

class *political* alternative to combat these mounting assaults on our class.

The workings of capitalism take a grinding toll on the conditions — and the very dignity — of workers in the U.S. The percentage who have a job has fallen. Millions have been pushed into lower paying, part-time or temporary work, face attacks on health care and retirement, as well as speedup leading to more injuries and deaths on the job.

Party candidates and supporters join and urge solidarity with workers' resistance to attacks by the bosses, from coal miners fighting Patriot Coal's effort to break their union and slash health care for working miners and retirees alike, to school bus workers in New York who face the loss of job protection at the hands of the city. They support social protests in the interests of the working class, from fights against cop brutality to actions in defense of women's right to choose abortion, like those in recent weeks in Texas.

SWP election campaigns champion the massive popular outpourings in Brazil against fare hikes and for other demands that were mounting as the party leadership was meeting; the overthrow of the widely hated Morsi government in Egypt a few weeks later; and the massive actions in Turkey for political space to practice politics. They call for withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military forces from Afghanistan, Korea, Guantánamo and elsewhere in the world.

When SWP candidates knock on doors and take time to talk with working people about what our class faces and what we need to do about it, Barnes said, it's not uncommon for workers to comment that this is the first time a candidate has ever come to their home and taken an interest in what they had to say.

This stands in stark contrast to the "canvassing" carried out by interns and volunteers fielded by the bosses' candidates, such as New York Democratic mayoral candidate Christine Quinn, who instructs them to knock on 100 doors an hour!

The SWP runs its campaigns to set an example of independent political action for the labor movement to break from the bosses' parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and chart a course toward the revolutionary fight for workers power.

SWP candidates raise the need for workers to fight for a massive government-funded public works program to create millions of jobs for those thrown

out of work and to build things working people need — schools, hospitals, day care centers and basic infrastructure.

They join with others to fight for a big increase in the minimum wage. For workers, wages are determined from the bottom up. The lower the bosses can keep them, the more they drag down all wages. For the labor movement to campaign for this demand alongside determined efforts to organize all workers — without regard to whether they have "proper papers" — would strike a blow against the bosses' superexploitation of immigrant labor as a bludgeon against all workers.

Axis of door-to-door propaganda

Both central efforts decided by the SWP National Committee — defense of the Cuban Five and advancing SWP election campaigns — are rooted in the proletarian propaganda axis of the party today, expanding the circulation of the *Militant* newspaper by going door to door in working-class neighborhoods.

This is how workers who help get the *Militant* around talk politics with thousands of working people each week, find out what they are involved in and what we can join together to fight for.

This weekly rhythm of door-to-door efforts to win new subscribers to the *Militant* aims to expand the paper's regular readership and sales of revolutionary books from Pathfinder Press. It provides a vehicle for SWP candidates to discuss the road forward for the working class. It broadens the number of those the party fights shoulder to shoulder with in the defense campaign for the Cuban Five. And it helps lay the basis, as the class struggle heats up in years to come, for the construction of a revolutionary workers party that can successfully fight for political power.

The SWP National Committee meeting took place as members and other supporters of the *Militant* were entering the last week of the paper's spring subscription effort. The course adopted by the party leadership to advance the reach of its program among workers helped bring the drive to a successful conclusion.

Coming up next is the Active Workers Educational Conference July 19-20 in Oberlin, Ohio, where members of the SWP, Communist Leagues in other countries and workers helping to expand the circulation of the *Militant* will come together to discuss how to take these working-class perspectives forward.



Above: Bill Hackwell. Right: Militant/Ron Poulsen SWP's National Committee discussed responding to growing opportunities to join with others in defense activities for the Cuban Five. **Above**, June 1 ecumenical-cultural event at Saint Stephen's Church in Washington, D.C., part of "5 Days for the 5." **Right**, exhibit of cartoons by Gerardo Hernández in Sydney, Australia, last year.



'In US prison system, just going to trial earns you respect'

René González, one of Cuban Five, talks about his arrest, frame-up and 13 years in US jails

Reprinted here is one section of an extensive interview with René González by Enrique Ojito and Arelys García that was printed in the June 15 issue of *Escambray*, a weekly newspaper in Cuba's Sancti Spiritus province. González is one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and jailed by the U.S. government for their work to defend the Cuban people as well as supporters of the revolution in the U.S. and elsewhere from armed attacks and provocations by counterrevolutionary organizations based in the U.S.

The Cuban Five, as they are known around the world, were arrested by the FBI in 1998. A campaign for their release is being waged internationally. Today, all but González remain in prison, with sentences ranging from 17 years and nine months to a double life term plus 15 years. Paroled in October 2011, González won his fight to return to Cuba May 3, about halfway through his term of "supervised release."

González begins the interview by talking about his early years in Chicago, where he was born in 1956. His parents were active in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee there and participated in street demonstrations opposing the U.S.-organized Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961. They returned to Cuba six months later.

González covers a number of topics: "stealing" a Cuban crop-duster plane in 1990 and flying to Florida, where he was welcomed as a hero by counter-revolutionaries; leaving family behind and comrades who thought he had be-



René González during *Escambray* interview. Vicente Brito

trayed the revolution; being reunited six years later in Miami with his wife Olga and their oldest daughter, Irmita; the 13 years he spent in U.S. prisons; and more.

In one section, González outlines the operations and plans of several Cuban-American paramilitary groups he infiltrated, including how they sought to exploit the economic hardships endured by the people of Cuba in the 1990s following the collapse of most of the island's foreign trade resulting from the disintegration of the Soviet bloc regimes. Among the major objectives of the rightists, González explains, was to provoke a military confrontation between Havana and Washington.

The excerpt below centers on González's time in prison; more will be printed in a future issue of the paper. Translation from Spanish is by the *Militant*. The full interview in Spanish is available at the *Escambray* website (www.escambray.cu). English translations have been prepared and posted online by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 and the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five.



How did your Sept. 12, 1998, arrest, take place?

In the United States, "arrest" is a euphemism for assault. They storm your home in a show of force to paralyze you; that's the first step to try to soften you up. They [the FBI] started beating on the door; in other cases they used a battering ram. We lived down a very narrow hall and the door was made of iron. It seems they couldn't physically knock it down. They banged on it violently and when I opened, they entered with pistols drawn. They shoved it open, threw me to the floor as they threatened me with the pistol, and immediately cuffed me.

When Olguita came out of the bedroom they threw her against the wall. Then they stood me up, asked me if I was René González, if I belonged to Brothers to the Rescue. That Saturday they took me away to prison.

How would you describe the first days in prison?

The first days are terrible. Besides, our case was different from the common practice in which they take you to an intake area, give you clothing, explain how the prison works and let you make



René González worked to raise political awareness of fellow inmates. Roddy Rodríguez, right, with other Cuban prisoners in Marianna, Fla., prison, next to T-shirt he painted. Through relationship with González, Rodríguez changed his view of Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro.

a phone call.

We were given special treatment; in military terms they call it "shock and awe" — they violently arrest you and take you to the FBI to see whether or not you're the kind of person who will plead guilty, who will cooperate. They immediately put you in the "hole," alone, to make you start thinking about what lies ahead for you. Those are days when you can't sleep; they didn't even give us a sheet, nothing.

At that moment the die is cast. If you didn't decide to give in then, you're not going to do it later. From that point on we decided we were not going to give in, and that was that. That's what I had to confront.

Those were difficult days, right up to Monday. It was all well-staged. They keep you alone with your thoughts on Saturday and Sunday, without shaving or brushing your teeth. On Monday they dress you up like a clown and take you down to the courtroom. They make you walk down an aisle and there's this mob of people, full of hatred, looking at you shackled, unkempt, with a cadaverous look, and at the same time you're worrying about your family.

I was lucky. When they brought me out of the elevator and made me face that room full of people, and I was looking for my family, I suddenly heard a shout: "Daddy!!!" I looked around and saw Irmita giving me a big thumbs-up. From that moment on I took a deep breath and told myself: this breath will last me until this is over, and it's still with me.

What did you hold onto, to keep from selling out, as some other members of the Cuban network did?

Basically, human dignity; I believe in the value of dignity. The trial showed there are some who don't believe in it, but human values do exist. We all assert them, but under conditions like those, you see who believes in them and who doesn't. The Five believed in them. If human values exist, I don't see why a human being must give in to brute force — political convictions aside.

Just because these people have the power to mistreat me, to lock me up, I'm going to give in? No one taught me there is any value to that. In addition,

there's the mission you were carrying out, the understanding of your cause, your awareness of what you were doing — knowing you are right, knowing you were defending human lives, knowing you are being tried unjustly.

All this adds up. And on top of that is the way they act. You see them lying to the judge, blackmailing witnesses, deceiving the court, defying the judge's orders, lying to the jury, coaching people to lie. As you see the depths to which they will go, you say: just how low can they get? At that point you tell yourself: I can't give in to these people.

You were locked up in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Florida. How do you win respect in such a hostile environment?

In the case of the U.S. prison system, just going to trial earns you a lot of respect — almost no one goes to trial. People are afraid to go to trial; the system is rigged in such a way that in a trial you will lose. Your lawyers will talk you out of it and persuade you to cooperate with the prosecutor, and cooperating always ends up meaning you have to finger somebody. What's involved? When you went to trial, you stood up to the government.

People respect you a lot for that. Besides, they know you won't finger them.

Your attitude is important, too. If you treat people well, they generally treat you well. You must associate with peo-

Continued on page 9

Who are the Cuban Five?

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in southern Florida. These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's 1996 shoot-down of two aircraft flown by the counterrevolutionary group Brothers to the Rescue that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana's repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. His wife, Adriana Pérez, is barred from entering the United States.

In Bolivia, Che sought to lay ground for broad revolutionary movement

Below is an excerpt from Pombo: a Man of Che's guerrilla: With Che Guevara in Bolivia 1966-68, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July. The book is a diary of this revolutionary campaign kept by Harry Villegas, widely known by his nom de guerre, Pombo. Villegas, currently a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, fought at Guevara's side from 1957 on — in the Rebel Army that led the fight to overthrow the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959, as part of the internationalist mission to aid anti-imperialist forces in the Congo in 1965, and in Bolivia a year later. The excerpt printed here is from Villegas' introduction to his diary. Copyright © 1997 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Courtesy Richard Dindo

"Che taught us many lessons, which were passed on to us through his practical activity," wrote Villegas. "In Cuba he, also, had the possibility of learning, of self-improvement. One of the virtues he acquired from contact with our people was confidence in victory, faith in human beings, and the deepest sense of loyalty." Top, combatants in Bolivia. Pombo is second from left in beret. Inset, Pombo (right) and Guevara in Bolivia.



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY HARRY VILLEGAS

It is necessary to make a few comments on the political and historical circumstances that existed at the time the diary was written. On the international level, the years 1966 and 1967 were marked by an escalation of one of the most horrendous crimes humanity has ever witnessed: the aggression against the people of Vietnam, a small but unflinchingly heroic country, by the strongest imperialist power on earth.

This genocide expressed, in all its cruelty, the U.S. government course of using force to impose its criminal inter-

ests of domination, plunder, and exploitation wherever in the world these interests were seriously threatened. . . .

An entire region has been ravaged by foreign control over its natural resources and products, the exploitation of its workers, and the sharp impoverishment of its economies. Tribute is exacted in ways that violate the sovereignty of the nations of Latin America, pillage their material and spiritual patrimony, deepen their dependence and subjugation to imperialism, and close off possibilities of development and progress.

Together with a handful of heroic Bolivian, Peruvian, and Cuban combatants who accompanied him to Bolivia, Che fought to change this reality of the 1960s—a reality whose cruel mechanisms of plunder have since been deepened and refined. Che's death resounds vividly in his stirring message to revolutionaries around the world:

"Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear, if another hand reaches out to take up our arms, and other men come forward to join in our funeral dirge with the rattling of machine guns and with new cries of battle and victory? . . ."

Totally convinced that the political conditions were ripening and that this perspective was realizable, Commander

Che Guevara carried out his plans and initiated actions to open a path toward victory. In his view, victory was certain to the degree that the struggle extended as far as possible throughout Latin America.

Never has such a small group of individuals undertaken an enterprise of such gigantic proportions. That small detachment of heroic combatants was Che's "sling of David." As our commander in chief pointed out, Che did not outlive his ideas, he enriched them with his blood.

Following the conclusion of his internationalist activity in the Congo, and given the confrontation unfolding in Latin America at the time, Che chose Bolivia as the place from which to initiate his strategic course in Latin America.

One factor behind Che's selection was his analysis of the Bolivian people's combative traditions going all the way back to the fight of the indigenous peoples against the royalists. . . .

The diary also reflects the firm conviction and internationalist fervor of our efforts for the national liberation of Latin America, as well as the real possibilities that existed for achieving that objective. The diary reflects our conviction that the struggle we were initiating would increasingly widen those possibilities. The precondition for this was

to overcome the hard and difficult stage in which the guerrilla unit struggled to survive, in order to develop later on along the lines conceived by Che.

We never envisioned a sectarian undertaking. Such a conception would have been impossible not only on a Bolivian scale, but above all on a continental scale. Our idea was to create a broad revolutionary movement that would draw in all honest individuals prepared to struggle for social justice, together with all revolutionary organizations, parties, and sectors of the people. This was the basis on which the ELN (National Liberation Army) was formed, as is made clear by its five public communiqués, containing information and appeals addressed to the Bolivian people.

Examining the events recorded in Che's Bolivian diary and in my own, one can see how relations were established not only with different political forces within Bolivia and their representatives, but also with leaders and representatives of other political organizations of the continent. These contacts and relations would inexorably lead to an expansion of ties with other progressive forces in the region provided that the struggle intensified and succeeded in surviving the initial phase, which imposed severe restrictions on contacts and communications.

My only hope is that the recollections contained in my diary give a true picture of the war in Bolivia. This was a confrontation carried out by a group of men true to their ideas. They fought a professional army equipped by the United States and aided by the CIA—starting with the country's president René Barrientos and extending to phony journalists, officers, soldiers, and peasant infiltrators. The participation of U.S. Rangers and agents from the CIA's station in La Paz and its general headquarters in the United States was, of course, direct and open. . . .

Che taught us many lessons, which were passed on to us through his practical activity. In Cuba he, also, had the possibility of learning, of self-improvement. One of the virtues he acquired from contact with our people was confidence in victory, faith in human beings, and the deepest sense of loyalty.

July **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

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Egypt: Workers celebrate Islamists ouster

Continued from front page

over Tahrir Square June 30 dropping Egyptian flags, demonstrators cheered the army's signal they would back the protests against attempts by the Brotherhood to drown them in blood. "We don't have the weapons the Brotherhood has," Karam Youssef, owner of a small bookshop in a Cairo suburb, told the *Militant* by phone July 7. "We couldn't defeat them on our own. It would have been chaos."

"There were people from all aspects of society at Tahrir Square — middle-class, working-class, poor people and lots of women," said Youssef. "Millions of people were in the streets all over the country, more even than during the protests against Mubarak."

The protests, initiated by Tamarod (Rebel), a group of young people who had collected 22 million signatures demanding Morsi's resignation, were fueled by the deteriorating Egyptian economy, government attempts to put a lid on growing labor struggles, opposition to the Brotherhood's attempt to impose their sectarian vision of Sunni Islam on political and social life and anger over violent attacks by Brotherhood thugs.

In the last few weeks before Morsi was ousted, a nationwide fuel shortage caused long waits at gas stations and rolling electricity blackouts affected millions, especially in working-class neighborhoods.

Workers take advantage of space

Working people have been able to take advantage of the space opened up by Mubarak's overthrow and the ensuing conflicts among competing capitalist factions to begin organizing themselves to defend their interests. The power struggle among the propertied rulers — represented by the army on one hand and the Muslim Brotherhood on the other — only sharpened, while labor battles, political discussions and efforts to organize among the toilers grew.

Protest actions, from sit-ins to strikes and demonstrations, mushroomed from just under 200 a month during Mubarak's last year to more than 1,000 a month recently. The rulers' hopes, including among the military high command, that a Brotherhood-led government would have better success than they had in putting an end to these struggles, were dashed.

"Workers still face the same old problems," Mohamad Ahmad Salem, a spokesperson of the Egyptian Democratic Labor Congress, said by phone from Mahalla, before Morsi's ouster. "The police are still raiding meetings of workers trying to organize unions and the number of detained workers has increased."

"The number of workers in unions has at least doubled since Mubarak was overthrown," Fatma Ramadan, a spokesperson for the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, told the *Militant* July 1 from Cairo.

Last December Morsi forced through a new constitution that restricted democratic rights, union organization and freedom of worship. It passed with the participation of less than one-third of eligible voters.

"We didn't get rid of a military regime to replace it with a fascist theocracy that enforces extremist

regulations in the name of religion," 12-year-old Ali Ahmed told Egypt's *El Wady* newspaper at a protest last October.

Capitalist factions jockey for power

After Morsi was arrested and his government dispersed, the military high command appointed Adly Mansour, head of the High Constitutional Court, as interim president. At first the National Salvation Front reported that Mohamed ElBaradei, former director general of the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, would be named prime minister. But the Nour party, a Salafist Islamic group that broke with Morsi in the midst of the mass protests, objected.

On July 8, while various factions were still vying for their share of power, more than 50 supporters of the Brotherhood demanding Morsi's return were killed when soldiers and police opened fire on a sit-in in front of the Republican Guard headquarters, where they believe Morsi is being held.

According to the *Financial Times*, the military has set in motion corruption investigations of Muslim Brotherhood-owned businesses, including those of Khairat al-Shataer, a real estate and textile mogul.

The Egyptian military is itself the largest single employer in the country, owning a wide range of businesses, real estate and factories.

On July 9 Mansour appointed former Finance Minister Hazem El-Beblawi prime minister and ElBaradei as vice president for foreign relations. Mansour issued a "road map" for writing a new constitution and holding parliamentary and presidential elections over the next five to six months.

White House failed to broker deal

For decades Washington has backed the military and a succession of dictatorial regimes in Egypt to promote capitalist stability in the region. After Mubarak's fall, the Barack Obama administration continued to send some \$1.3 billion a year in aid to the army, while seeking collaborative relations with Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood.

President Obama has released one statement since Morsi's overthrow, calling on the Egyptian military "to move quickly and responsibly to return full authority back to a democratically elected civilian government" and to "avoid any arbitrary arrests of President Morsi and his supporters." Many in Egypt view Obama as a supporter of the Brotherhood regime, while Brotherhood supporters feel betrayed. Widespread distrust or hatred for Washington appears to have only increased on all sides.

According to the *New York Times*, the White House tried to broker a deal that would have allowed Morsi to remain president by bringing bourgeois opposition parties into the government. Morsi refused.

Meanwhile, the governments of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait announced plans July 9 to provide a total of \$12 billion to the Egyptian government in hopes of stabilizing and shoring up whatever regime comes together — with the military as the perpetual main pillar of bourgeois rule.

René González

Continued from page 7

ple who have positive and constructive attitudes; avoid things like gambling and getting into debt; don't get involved with gangs.

The letters help a lot. People notice you get a lot of letters from different countries, and they come and ask you for stamps. The Cuban postage stamps that were issued helped. They would say: "Daamnn! This guy is on a stamp!" Even the guards asked me to autograph them on the sly.

Were there any cellmates or fellow prisoners in general who made an impression on you?

I had many cellmates. I remember one rapper who was with me [in Marianna, Fla.] who became so involved in the case that one day he got a T-shirt and, together with Roddy [Rodolfo Rodríguez], painted the symbol of the Five on it. They went out to the prison yard and he sang a rap for the Five; they almost caused a disturbance.

Roddy is an interesting case: a Cuban with a criminal record going back to when he was a youth, including some violent incidents. When we met — although he was already in the process of changing his thinking — he had a lot of resentment against Cuba. As a result of our relationship he began to change his views about Cuba, about the revolution, about Fidel. He ended up becoming more communist than me. Sometimes I would laugh — "hey brother, give people a break, you can't argue with everybody."*

There was a white supermax [super-maximum-security prison] inmate who also had had a very violent past, a very dysfunctional childhood, who had ended up becoming a skinhead and robbing banks. Little by little he had been rethinking things, and as luck would have it, he shared my cell when he was going through this process. He approached me, we discussed a lot, and he ended up becoming politicized. Generally there's a lot of respect for us from all the prisoners.

Olga became the pillar of the family, mother and father at the same time. However, you never stopped being the one who made the decisions in the family.

Let's get real, Olguita was the one who made the decisions in the family. I don't like directing people from afar. I trusted Olguita; my role was to do my job well where I was. I always thought it was important for them to know that I was OK, just as for me it was very important to know they were doing well.

Olguita knew what she had to do, and she did it well. Within that context, my exchanges with the girls, giving advice. ... They have always had a very open relationship with me. I'm not a cranky dad. I think I'm a good father, a good friend.

What did you do to avoid the depression that affects every human being, especially when incarcerated?

That didn't happen to me. I coined a phrase that people used to laugh about. In the morning when they asked me, "How are you?" I'd say, "I'm always OK." So people would approach me and say, "I know you're OK."

I don't know; you have to fight to avoid those things. There are days when you wake up more anxious, you do get anxious. There is a certain level of anxiety, and you have to learn to recognize it and tell yourself: relax. There are days when you get up and perhaps you're a bit more irritable. That's when you have to tell yourself: don't go looking for problems.

I took refuge in physical exercise, in reading, in studying. For me it was important not to look at the time. Time won't kill me, I would say to myself, and it worked. I never ended up depressed.

* The *Militant* printed major excerpts from an interview with Roddy Rodríguez on Edmundo García's program *La tarde se mueve*, which was broadcast June 13, 2012, on Radio Progreso in Miami. See article "Getting to Know René González, 'An Experience that Changed My Life': Fellow Prisoner Roddy Rodríguez Recounts Friendship with 1 of 'Cuban 5' Revolutionaries Framed Up by US Gov't" in May 27, 2013, issue.

— LETTERS —

CBTU resolution

Thanks for reporting on the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' resolution calling for release of the Cuban Five. But what should readers make of the words in the resolution that "call upon the Cuban government to release all political prisoners, including trade unionists"? What should those who want to make use of the resolution to defend the Five say about that wording? Might this be an opportunity to take on the oft-alleged charge of the enemies and opponents of the Cuban Revolution that civil liberties are nonexistent on the island?

August Nimtz
Twin Cities, Minn.

Editor's note: The CBTU's call for

release of the Five has set an example for the labor movement in the U.S. But its call for the Cuban government to release "political prisoners, including trade unionists," simply echoes lies peddled by Washington and its imperialist allies. Hopefully members of the CBTU who know such charges have no foundation will be able to win a majority to eliminate such

slanders from future resolutions that call for an end to Washington's economic war on Cuba and freedom for our five comrades.

Struggle in workforce

Your paper has opened my eyes to a struggle in the workforce I never even knew existed! Keep up the fight for all working-class struggles.

A prisoner
Pennsylvania

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

THE MILITANT

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René González: 'I went to US to fight actions harming Cuba'

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 29 AUGUST 12, 2013

Vigilante acquitted in Trayvon Martin killing

BY SETH GALINSKY

A six-person jury in Florida found George Zimmerman not guilty July 13 on second-degree murder and manslaughter charges for killing 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., in February 2012. Millions of workers have reacted with anger to Zimmerman walking free, feeling he

VIGILANTISM: ENEMY OF THE WORKING CLASS

—editorial, p. 11

belongs behind bars and concerned the case will encourage violence by other anti-working-class vigilantes.

It was only because of the widespread protests and condemnation that Zimmerman was brought to trial for his fatal shooting of the Black teen

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With Detroit bankruptcy, rulers target unions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The city of Detroit filed for bankruptcy July 18 in the largest such municipal filing in U.S. history. The move by Emergency Financial Manager Kevyn Orr — appointed with broad powers by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder in March to run Detroit, effectively replacing the city's elected officials — involves tearing up all city labor contracts and targeting in particular pensions and health care of public workers.

Of the city's \$18 billion in long-term debt, more than \$3.5 billion is owed to the pension fund for 10,000 current employees and 20,000 retirees, along with some \$6 billion for retirees' health care costs. Through bankruptcy proceedings, Orr is seeking to slash funds owed to these workers by more than 90 percent, reported

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Socialist Workers in Omaha respond to political break-in

Organize campaign to defend workers rights



Militant photos: above, Alex Huinil; inset, Jacob Perasso

July 16 break-in at house of Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Omaha City Council in May elections, was clear act of political intimidation, right. Above, Perasso addresses March 24 picket of postal workers against proposed cuts in Saturday delivery, one of many fights the party has and will continue to join with other working people in region.



BY LAURA GARZA AND JOE SWANSON

OMAHA, Neb. — "I knew this was no ordinary robbery. This is what's done when the authorities or their vigilante friends want to send you a message," Jacob Perasso told the *Militant*, in an interview following a July 16 break-in at his house. Perasso was the Socialist Workers Party candidate

for City Council District 4 in the May elections here and is active in support of workers' struggles, fights against police brutality and other social protests in the interests of working people.

"They are trying to intimidate us, but we are going to fight back," Perasso said, announcing plans to or-

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Korean people celebrate 1953 victory over US imperialism

BY STEVE CLARK

PYONGYANG, Democratic People's Republic of Korea — A Socialist Workers Party leadership delegation of Steve Clark, James Harris and Tom Baumann has been here to join celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the July 27, 1953,

cease-fire, marking the Korean people's victory over U.S. imperialism's murderous 1950-53 war to conquer the peninsula.

To this day Washington refuses to sign a peace treaty ending the state of war and, in violation of Korea's national sovereignty, maintains more than 28,000 U.S. troops in South Korea. The U.S. capitalist rulers aim to enforce the partition of Korea they

Continued on page 11

Thousands sign to put socialist candidates on New York ballot

BY BERNIE SENTER

NEW YORK — Dozens of volunteers fanned out across the five boroughs here, collecting more than 3,000 signatures in the first week's effort to put the Socialist Workers Party candidates for city offices on the ballot — Dan Fein for mayor, John Studer for comptroller, and Deborah Liatos for public advocate. Campaign

Continued on page 3

'Militant' worker-correspondents reporting from Egypt! See page 2, learn how you can help

Washington farmworkers' strikes win wage raise, better conditions



Militant/Clay Dennison

Farmworkers listen to explanation of agreement reached with owner of Sakuma Bros. Farms that granted wage increase and other gains July 25 after workers organized two walkouts.

BY CLAY DENNISON

BURLINGTON, Wash. — More than 200 farmworkers returned to the job July 26, after winning higher wages and better conditions following two strikes at Sakuma Bros. Farms in July.

The first walkout started July 12, after worker Federico Lopez was

fired for challenging the piece rate. Workers, who don't belong to any established union, ended the strike after winning Lopez's reinstatement and the transfer of what they described as an abusive foreman. Workers walked out again July 22 in response to the company's refusal to implement pay

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Kurds press for autonomy in midst of Syria civil war

BY SUSAN LAMONT

As the civil war in Syria grinds on, Kurds in the country's northeast bordering the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq are pressing for autonomy.

On July 19 the Democratic Union Party (PYD), the strongest Kurdish organization in Syria, proposed a new independent council and government for the region, according to Reuters.

The PYD is allied with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey, which has waged a 30-year armed struggle against the Turkish government.

The Kurds are an oppressed nationality of some 25 to 30 million, concentrated in an area that spans eastern Turkey, northwest Iran, northern Iraq and northeast Syria.

Denied a nation state by both the imperialist powers and the region's capitalist governments over many decades, advances in recent years won by Kurds in Iraq, Turkey and now Syria register a new stage in their fight for national rights and a homeland.

Some 1.7 million Kurds in Syria have tried to stay aloof from the contest for power in the country that erupted in March 2011 between the government of President Bashar al-Assad and various competing bourgeois forces. At the same time over the past year Kurdish militias have begun to assert control over the predominantly Kurdish districts of northeast Syria with little resistance from the Assad regime.

Clashes have been taking place between Kurdish militias and some forces opposed to the government. In mid-July fighters from the Committees for the

Protection of the Kurdish People expelled the Islamist jihadist groups Al-Nusra Front and Islamic State of Iraq from the Kurdish town of Ras al-Ain and four other villages in Hasaka province, Agence France-Presse reported July 23.

"The proliferation of newly hung Kurdish flags and signs in the mother tongue in al-Hassaka province give the impression of liberation after years of rule under the Ba'ath party, which expropriated land in Kurdish areas, suppressed expressions of Kurdish identity and arrested thousands of Kurdish activists, especially after riots shook the Kurdish areas in 2004," *Financial Times* journalist Loveday Morris wrote last October.

Moves by Syria's Kurds to consolidate control over their territory brought a sharp response from the government of Turkey, home to one-half the region's Kurdish population. Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Kurdish groups in Syria should refrain from "any de facto autonomy," before a post-Assad parliament is elected, reported *Today's Zaman*, an English-language paper in Istanbul, on July 24.

Kurds in Turkey, backed by Turkish supporters of Kurdish rights, are pressing the government to live up to a cease-fire agreement with the PKK reached in March that includes provisions for a greater degree of national and cultural rights.

A major factor in the new rise of the Kurdish national struggle is the establishment of a largely autonomous Kurdistan in northern Iraq following the 2003

US socialist candidates talk with fellow workers in Egypt



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, Dan Fein (right), speaks with Raef Elwishee in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, July 28. Elwishee, an Egyptian-American building worker, told Fein and Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor, that he and his son were tortured in 2007 by Egyptian government forces under Hosni Mubarak as U.S. officials witnessed.

Elwishee said he supported the recent overthrow of the Morsi government. "The Muslim Brotherhood did nothing to revive the economy and divided the country — for or against the Brotherhood. But most Muslims do not agree with those positions."

"Working people in the U.S. and Egypt face common problems," Martin said. "That is why we are here to learn about your struggles."

"Our history is just beginning," Elwishee said. "We've moved from dictatorship to democratic openings over a very short time. Workers are starting to become active now."

— PAUL MAILHOT

overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime by Washington.

The Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq has called for a congress of all Kurdish organizations from Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, to be held in August in Erbil, capital of Iraq's Kurdish territory.

The Iraq-based newspaper *Rudaw* reported that Masoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Regional Government

and head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, had talks with representatives of 39 Kurdish political parties from all four countries to promote the conference.

The meeting will be "the first congress to be held on Kurdish land, and the first to gather all Kurdish parties and groups from across the political spectrum," regional government spokesman Kawa Mahmoud said, according to a July 23 Bloomberg News report.

THE MILITANT

Expanding readership through door-to-door sales

One of the main ways the 'Militant' gets into the hands of working people is through door-to-door neighborhood sales. The recently completed subscription drive won nearly 2,800 new and renewing readers worldwide. Join the effort to keep expanding the reach of the workers paper!



Militant/Dag Tirsén

"I've learned so much reading the *Militant*," John Murtagh (left), a printer in Manchester, England, told distributor Paul Davies July 16.

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Help 'Militant' cover workers' struggles around the world

"We're going to bring solidarity to working people in Egypt, who are fighting with renewed confidence since the July 3 overthrow of the Mohammed Morsi government," Socialist Workers Party leader Paul Mailhot said July 26. "And we'll be writing articles that will bring to life what working people in Egypt are discussing and doing."

Mailhot and other worker-correspondents from the U.S. and United Kingdom flew to Cairo July 27 to take part in a one-week fact-finding trip. Reporting trips like this cost thousands of dollars and the *Militant* is appealing for funds from readers. Donations can be sent to: The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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SWP ballot drive in NYC

Continued from front page
supporters are on a two-week drive to get 7,500 signatures, double the required number.

Miriam Canales, a retired teacher and longtime resident of the Dyckman Houses in the Inwood area of Upper Manhattan, has collected 60 signatures from friends and neighbors, and is working to get more. "I've called up my friends and told them about Dan Fein's campaign. I say, 'I want to talk to you about a candidate for mayor I'm supporting, from the Socialist Workers Party. I tell them he's a factory worker, like us, and he knows the problems we're facing. He doesn't promise anything, except that he will fight with us.' So people sign, and sometimes they go next door and ask their neighbor to sign too.

"Then I went over to the CVS pharmacy and signed up the clerk there that I know. And I signed up the sales girl in the Plum boutique and also the owner of the shoe store. I've lived here for over 40 years, so I know a lot of people in the neighborhood."

"I haven't been paid in two months," Tammy Swan said as she signed the petition being circulated by Sara Lobman, SWP candidate for Manhattan borough president. "I keep calling and they tell me to be patient," said Swan, who works for the city government as a child care worker. "I can't be patient. This is my only income and I've already gotten two eviction notices."

Mel Walker, owner of Finally Mel's barbershop in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn, plays a video interview with Dan Fein on the shop's TV screen for customers to see. Eleven people signed Walker's petition the first day.

During most of the petitioning drive, Fein is in Cairo, Egypt, part of a team of worker-correspondents for the *Militant*

showing solidarity with the millions of Egyptian workers whose mobilizations toppled the unpopular government of Mohammed Morsi.

Twenty-three people signed up at a meeting here to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the July 26 assault on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba led by Fidel Castro that opened the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and culminated in the Jan. 1, 1959, victory of the Cuban Revolution.

Supporters of the socialist campaign have set a meet-the-candidates event with a dinner, program and social open to the public on Saturday, Aug. 3. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Manhattan campaign offices, 307 West 36th Street, 10th Floor.



Militant/Tamar Rosenfeld
Seth Galinsky, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Queens borough president, petitions in Jamaica, Queens, July 28 to place party's citywide candidates on ballot.

Calif. prisoners protest solitary, harsh conditions

BY BETSEY STONE

CORCORAN, Calif. — For the third time in two years, prisoners in California are on a hunger strike, fighting to end inhumane conditions faced by thousands of inmates being held in long-term solitary confinement.

The strike began July 8, when some 30,000 prisoners refused meals in prisons throughout California. Prison officials said July 27 that 601 inmates at nine California prisons remain on hunger strike — as defined by having declined at least nine consecutive meals, reported Reuters.

Prisoners in solitary confinement in the Security Housing Units (SHU) at Pelican Bay in the far north of California initiated two strikes in 2011, as well as the current one. They have

put forward five core demands, including an end to long-term solitary confinement, an end to group punishment, abolition of a snitch system that puts inmates accused of gang affiliation in solitary until they accuse others, and the right to adequate food, phone calls and warm clothing.

In the wake of the 2011 strikes some changes were made. Prison authorities began to review cases of prisoners in solitary, releasing 208 into the general population. But inmates say there has been no progress on the key issue of keeping thousands of prisoners in isolation.

"In California, nearly 12,000 people in prison are held in solitary confinement for 23 to 24 hours a day in small, windowless cells without sunlight, fresh air, meaningful human contact or

constructive activity for many years, even decades," according to the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition.

Prison officials have characterized the hunger strike as a "disturbance," organized by prison gangs. While refusing to address the prisoners' demands, they have retaliated against the hunger strikers, moving 14 of the Pelican Bay strikers to more isolated quarters, according to the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition.

Demonstrations in support of the strikers have taken place throughout the state.

Sylvia Rogokos, a member of California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement whose brother is a hunger striker in his 23rd year in the Pelican Bay SHU, told the *Militant* she is proud of the unity across racial lines of families that have come together in the fight.

On July 13, hundreds demonstrated outside the Corcoran State Prison here where more than 1,600 are held in solitary.

Maria Ceballos, whose uncle has been in the SHU here for eight years, drove with her family from Los Angeles to California's Central Valley where the prison is located. "Inside the prison they try to divide them," she pointed out. "It's important to be united. That way we can put an end to what's happening."

Wendy Lyons contributed to this article.

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See distributors on page 10



Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes
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The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
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Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)

Help put the socialist candidates on the ballot in Des Moines

The Socialist Workers Party campaign is organizing a two-day effort to place Ellen Brickley, David Rosenfeld and Margaret Trowe on the ballot for city council.

Sat. Aug. 10

11 a.m. — meet at campaign office
5:30 p.m. — dinner and reception
7 p.m. — campaign rally

Sun. Aug. 11

10 a.m. — class
noon-3 p.m. — campaigning

3707 Douglas Ave.

Tel: (515) 707-1779

Omaha political break-in

Continued from front page
ganize a broad international defense campaign.

“They have picked on the wrong guy,” Carl Tyler, 74, a longtime resident of north Omaha who knows Perasso from common political work, told the *Militant*. “Jacob is an open book, he doesn’t have anything to hide. He looks out for the working people and I stand with people like that.”

“Those behind this are challenging our right to be politically active,” Perasso said. “In response, we will step up our political activity in Omaha and the region. We’ll continue to run for political office, advancing demands in the interests of workers, taking our campaign door to door to introduce the *Militant* newspaper in working-class neighborhoods and asking workers we meet to join in the defense effort. We’re also going to open a public campaign headquarters.”

“Driven by the deepening crisis in their capitalist economic system, the bosses are speeding up production and pushing to drive wages, working conditions and workers’ very dignity down,” Perasso said. “One of the things the campaign talks with workers about, and gets a good response on, is the need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work to build hospitals, schools, child care centers — things workers need.”

“We call for a big increase in the minimum wage. Under capitalism, wages are set from the bottom up,” Perasso said. “Forcing the government to raise the minimum wage will push wages up for all workers. Fighting for these immediate measures would reduce divisions between us and boost our confidence, making the working class stronger to fight against the attacks.”

“We also introduce workers to the international campaign to win freedom for the Cuban Five,” Perasso said. “These revolutionaries were framed and imprisoned here for their efforts to defend the Cuban Revolution from attacks and

provocations by paramilitary groups that operate from U.S. soil with the tacit backing of Washington. Workers in this country who have relatives and friends caught up by the cops, courts and prisons can identify with their frame-up and treatment under U.S. ‘justice.’

“The fight we are involved in here is an opportunity to defend the political rights of the entire working class,” Perasso said.

Those who organized the break-in did not steal valuable items out in plain sight — a laptop, an e-reader and a tablet computer, Perasso said. And rather than conceal their intent, the culprit left clear evidence of a political purpose, pulling out drawers and files and leaving them strewn about the house.

“The only thing taken was a cellphone that contained phone records of people I called and emailed while I was part of a fight earlier this year against police brutality in Omaha. The phone would provide information for anyone looking to harass political activists,” said Perasso.

Appeal for solidarity

“Our response is to appeal for solidarity — an injury to one is an injury to all. When anyone’s rights are challenged, we all need to speak out to defend everyone’s rights to free speech and association,” said Perasso. The Socialist Workers Party in Omaha is asking all supporters of political rights, wherever they may be, to join in calling on the mayor and other city officials to press the police to find and prosecute those who organized the break-in.

A neighbor’s surveillance video captured images of a man casing the house, breaking in, and later scurrying out from behind the house. Omaha police were given a copy of the video.

In getting the defense campaign off the ground, supporters of the SWP have learned about harassment of others who are politically active in the area.

James Dugan, a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and an activist with Perasso in the fight against police brutality, said that his car tires were slashed a month ago. Despite repeated calls to the Omaha police, no cop has ever come to investigate.

Perasso has been working with Dugan and others since the spring to demand action against police caught on video beating and attempting to frame up Octavious, Juaquez and Demetrius Johnson, three brothers in the Black community of north Omaha. Four cops were eventually fired as a result of community protest. Several of those organizing the protests have been followed and stopped by the police repeatedly.

Perasso, 36, who lived in Omaha a



Militant photos: Top, Jacob Perasso; Left, Helen Meyers
Top, more than 120 workers in north Omaha discuss taking action against police brutality at community meeting April 1. Left, Victoria Raviola Thomas, a nurse, signs petition to place Jacob Perasso, right, on ballot for city council, Jan. 19, 2013.

decade ago, returned in 2012 to help re-establish the party here. He worked as a meat packer at the ConAgra cut and kill plant here in 2002 and joined with fellow workers in the United Food and Commercial Workers to defend workers who were targeted by the bosses for their union activity, fight for union recognition and in defense of the rights of immigrant workers.

A major manufacturing center in the Midwest, Omaha has been the site of bloody labor battles over decades between the bosses and railroad and packinghouse workers.

The Omaha area was a battleground in the Teamsters’ efforts to organize over-the-road truckers in the 1930s and the union remains one of the region’s largest.

Omaha is home to the national headquarters of the Union Pacific Railroad, ConAgra, and Mutual of Omaha, in addition to Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway. In May SWP campaign supporters joined a United Mine Workers action in Omaha at the annual stockholders meeting of Berkshire Hathaway as well as in Des Moines, Iowa, outside the offices of Buffett’s company, to protest moves to slash the UMWA’s contract at a subsidiary in Utah.

Large banks, including the First National, have tentacles throughout the state, tying farmers into debt as they seek to finance seed and fertilizer as well as farm equipment.

In recent decades packinghouse workers have fought the bosses to organize the slaughterhouses and defend themselves from dangerous conditions, speedup and efforts to divide them by race or immigration status.

In the course of these struggles, workers and political militants have faced frame-ups, company thugs and cop vio-

lence and provocations.

Earlier threats

When Perasso and his supporters collected signatures to put him on the ballot earlier this year, they found a receptive ear from working people. But they also ran into threats from political enemies of the working class.

Campaign supporter Frank Forrestal was accosted in February by a thug who told him, “You deserve to die, you commie bastard.”

In front of Forrestal, the goon called a friend saying, “Come down right away. We need to beat the s—t out of him.” In order to avoid confrontation, Forrestal left.

“It is precisely to put pressure against those who would take such measures that we need to respond publicly with a fight for our right to speak out,” Perasso told the *Militant*.

Documentation on the incident was filed along with dozens of other reports of harassment sent by workers to support the party’s application to have the Federal Election Commission continue its exemption from having to file the names of contributors to its election campaigns, opening them to potential harassment from government spy agencies, bosses and rightists.

The SWP won an important victory for its campaign supporters and for the working class as a whole in April, when the FEC, which had threatened to weaken or eliminate the protections the party had won against persecution in the past, had to admit the evidence of past and present harassment was more than enough to grant the extension.

Perasso will be bringing the new defense campaign to the Aug. 2-3 Black August Weekend Human Rights-Political Prisoners Commemorative Festival at the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation Center in north Omaha. The event is organized to win support for the fight to free Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa, two Black Panther Party members who were framed up and have been incarcerated for more than 40 years.

Perasso will speak at the event on the case of the Cuban Five. He will have just returned from participating in the Seventh Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba held in Venezuela July 24-27.

To find out how you can get involved in the free speech fight in Omaha, contact the SWP, P.O. Box 7908, Omaha, NE 68107. Email: swpomaha@fastmail.com; telephone: (402) 779-7696.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CANADA

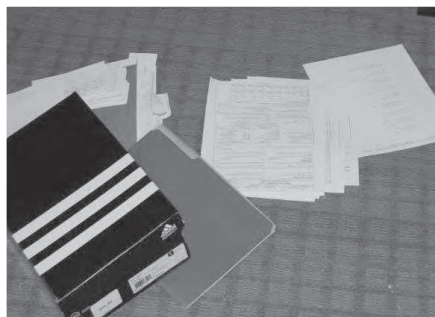
Montreal
Federal Government Complicit: Railway Disaster in Lac Mégantic Highlights Bosses’ Profit Drive. Speaker: Annette Kouri, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

—CALENDAR—

NEBRASKA

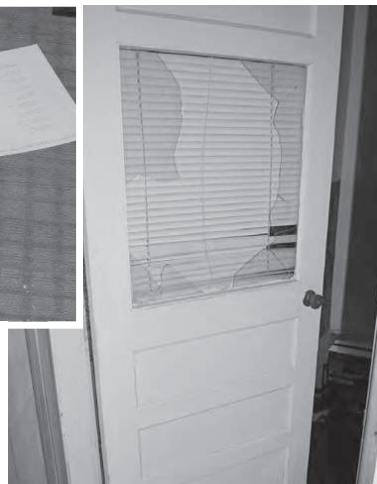
Omaha
Black August Weekend: Human Rights-Political Prisoner Commemorative Festival in Support of the Omaha Two, Mondo we Langa (aka David Rice) and Ed Poindexter.

Fri., Aug. 2: 6 p.m., live music; 8:30 p.m., film showing of *Cointelpro*. Sat., Aug. 3: 10 a.m., DVD interview with Poindexter and we Langa, leaders of Omaha Black Panther Party in 1960s, framed up and imprisoned for more than 40 years. 11 a.m., panel presentation on Cuban Five, Cuban revolutionaries in U.S. prisons; 1 p.m., keynote speaker Charles E. Jones, author, *Black Panther Party [Reconsidered]*; 2 p.m., panel discussion, includes Neb. state Sen. Ernie Chambers and Buddy Hogan, Omaha NAACP president at time of we Langa and Poindexter’s arrest. Malcolm X Memorial Foundation Center, 3448 Evans St., Tel.: (800) 645-9287.



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Scenes from break-in into Perasso’s house July 16 in Omaha, Neb. Culprit left political and personal files strewn on the floor. Right, rear door window was smashed. “Those behind this are challenging our right to be politically active,” said Perasso, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the region.



ON THE PICKET LINE

Oakland, Calif., airport fast food workers fight for right to unionize

OAKLAND, Calif. — Airport fast food workers and supporters picketed outside Oakland International Airport Terminal 2 July 14 in a fight for better job conditions and the right to unionize free of company harassment and victimization. Picketers passed out flyers urging travelers to boycott Subway and other concessionaires.

"I'm out here fighting for my rights," said Hayat Selmani, a cashier at Subway who had her hours cut after she signed a union petition. She, along with workers at Auntie Annie's, Jamba Juice and other companies, have been fighting around issues of overtime pay, vacation and sick days, breaks and work schedules.

HMS Host is looking to prevent unionization at nonunion food locations such as Subway and pressing concession contracts at outlets organized by UNITE HERE Local 2850, which represents a majority of fast-food workers at the airport.

HMS Host operates food and dining service in 112 airports around the world, as well 99 highway travel plazas in the U.S. and Canada, according to the company's website.

Subway worker Hakima Arhab was fired last year after she began to work with UNITE HERE to stop violations of the Port of Oakland's living wage ordinance that sets standards for wages, holiday and sick pay.

The union filed a complaint with the Port of Oakland that ruled in her favor, ordering that she and Diamond Ford, a Jamba Juice employee fired for union activity, be reinstated. But the workers have not been given their jobs back, despite an additional ruling by the National Labor Relations Board that Subway and other airport concessionaires violated federal labor laws, including firing and cutting the hours of workers trying to win union recognition.

"I decided to stand up for myself and my coworkers," Arhab told those who gathered for a rally during the July 14 picket. "I'm fighting to get my job back. For me, for everyone. I'm tired of waiting. The NLRB is not taking action. So we have to take action."

— Betsy Stone

Coal miners in Colombia strike over pay, safety and job security

Some 5,000 workers at Drummond Company Inc.'s open pit coal mines and port facilities in northern Colombia went on strike July 23, shutting down the entire operation. They are demanding a 9 percent wage increase, better sick pay, improved job safety and job security.

Colombia is the fourth-largest coal exporter in the world. Alabama-based Drummond, the second-largest coal producer in Colombia, employs 5,000 workers directly and as many as 7,000 others through contractors, who pay lower wages and provide fewer benefits.

Drummond offered a 4.75 percent wage increase and a one-time bonus of about \$3,700. Workers want a substantial wage increase, not a bonus, Ever Causado, secretary general of the Sintramienergética union, said by phone from Barranquilla July 26. "A bonus isn't factored into wages; it's not used for determining the pensions; it's useless," he said.

The union is also demanding that Drummond guarantee jobs for hundreds of Santa Marta port workers who will be laid off when the company finishes installing a conveyor belt loading system.

Miners work 12 hours a day, Causado said, but, the company only gives eight hours sick pay per day.

"This applies to 500 workers out due to job-related injuries," heavy machine operator Alberto Solano Cordero told the *Militant* by phone from Cesar department. "Sixteen miners have died at the mine in the last 15 years."

"The company doesn't follow the safety rules," he said. "They just want to organize production to be the most profitable and efficient for them."

"Drummond is carrying off a non-renewable resource, damaging the environment and they are not investing anything in the country," Solano said. "We want them to at least subsidize education to leave something to our children."

— Seth Galinsky

UMWA, supporters rally in W.Va. to protest union busting

FAIRMONT, W.Va. — Thousands of miners and supporters demonstrated here July 9 at the 14th rally organized by the United Mine Workers of America to protest the coal bosses' union-busting assault under the cover of bankruptcy proceedings by Patriot Coal Corp. Buses brought participants from Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia to the rally at the Fairmont State



Militant/Janet Post

United Mine Workers and supporters rally July 9 in Fairmont, W.Va., in the 14th protest action against Patriot Coal's bankruptcy scheme aimed at busting union and gutting retiree benefits.

University football practice field.

The miners are battling Patriot Coal's drive to gut miners' union contracts and slash health care for 23,000 retired miners and their dependents. On May 29, a federal bankruptcy court in St. Louis ruled in favor of Patriot's proposal to make cuts in wages and benefits and replace the current health care fund with a Voluntary Benefit Association.

In a well-calculated scheme, Peabody Energy created Patriot in 2007 by spinning off many of its mining operations in West Virginia and Kentucky, including all its union mines east of the Mississippi. A year later, Patriot bought Magnum Coal, a similar spinoff created by Arch Coal.

"What do we have to lose by fighting for the benefits of the older miners?" said Jim Harper, a miner at a local Consol Energy mine since 2007. "I will stand up for them. If we fight now, it sets a good example for the other workers as they consider fighting."

— Janet Post

Locked-out chemical workers in Quebec 'defend past gains'

VARENNES, Quebec — Wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Ensemble pour nos acquis" (Together to defend past gains), workers have been picketing outside chemical manufacturer Kronos here since the company locked out

320 members of the National Union of Kronos Employees June 13 — two days before the expiration of their union contract.

Earlier that day, the workers had rejected by 93 percent the bosses' proposed seven-year agreement, which included contracting out 100 maintenance jobs and cuts to the pension plan, according to workers on the picket line.

"At a given moment you can't just accept anything," Steve Chagnon, an instrumentation technician at Kronos for two years, told the *Militant* June 15.

This is the first major contract fight in the 56-year-long history at the Kronos plant in this town about 12 miles southeast of Montreal. Kronos Worldwide, based in Dallas, Texas, manufactures pigments and other chemicals used in a variety of products and industrial processes.

The company has been trying to maintain some production with foremen from other Kronos facilities, Norman Nardini told the *Militant*. "We work with toxic chemicals," Nardini said. "There could be an accident which could affect the community."

"What happens here could affect the conditions of workers in other plants in the area," said electrician Michel Arsenault who has worked for the company for 25 years. "In that sense our fight is a social struggle."

— John Steele

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 12, 1988

MIAMI — More than 300 Haitians, many of them undocumented farm workers, marched under a searing sun to the offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service here July 23.

Chanting "Justice for Haitians" and carrying placards that read "Green cards for farm workers," the marchers demanded residence status for the tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants who have been working for many years on U.S. farms and qualify for amnesty under the new immigration laws.

This was the latest of several rallies held here by Haitian farm workers in support of a class-action suit filed on behalf of all migrant farm workers nationwide. The legal action is seeking to change INS policy under which tens of thousands of migrant workers have been denied temporary residence work permits.



August 5, 1963

NEW YORK — Support to the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was voted by delegates to the 20th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party held here in July.

"In addition to the vital problem of discrimination, the March is intended to dramatize the problem of unemployment which weights most heavily on Negro workers. A giant march by those who suffer from these evils will strike fear into their enemies on Capitol Hill. The sponsors of the March have pointed out that the struggle for decent jobs for Negroes is 'inextricably linked with the struggle for decent jobs for all Americans,' and have called for a federal 'massive works program to train and employ all Americans at decent wages and at meaningful and dignified labor.'

"Every unemployed worker, every militant unionist should be in Washington August 28."



August 13, 1938

The breaking of the strike against the Maytag Company of Newton, Iowa, by the National Guard should convince every American worker that to rely on the National Guard, called out by a "friendly" governor, to win a strike is utter folly.

Governor Kraschel called out the guards ostensibly to prevent violence. He ordered the plant closed, and this maneuver fooled some workers who had an idea that the Governor would win the strike for them.

The same thing happened in the Little Steel Strike of last year when the governors of Ohio and Indiana called out the troops and at first ordered the mills closed. At that time the leaders of the C.I.O. were jubilant at the action of the governors. But they reckoned without their host. Not long after the Guard came on the scene, the steel mills were opened and scabs worked under the protection of bayonets.

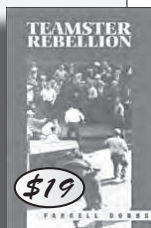
Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle. First in a four-volume series. The other books are *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

Also in Spanish, Swedish, Farsi, French.

PathfinderPress.com



‘Women played critical role in development of new society’

‘Women in Cuba’ reviewed in journal of social work

The following review of the Pathfinder book *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* was published in the May issue of the *Journal of Women and Social Work*. The author of the review, Susan Chandler, is an associate professor of social work at the University of Nevada in Reno. Reprinted by permission.

BY SUSAN CHANDLER

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution is a collection of interviews with Vilma Espín, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, or, in Spanish, La Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

IN REVIEW

(FMC), from its founding in 1960 until her death in 2007; Asela de los Santos, a cofounder of the FMC; and Yolanda Ferrer, the FMC’s current general secretary. The interviews are accompanied by editor Mary-Alice Waters’s introductory notes and photographs that bring alive women’s considerable participation in the revolution. The book, brought out by Pathfinder Press, the publishing wing of the Socialist Workers Party, stands unabashedly in support of the Cuban revolution. Having been fed a constant diet of anti-Castro rhetoric for the past 50 years, we in the United States may feel challenged by *Women in Cuba*, but for social workers and feminists alike, the challenge is one worth taking on.

The interviews serve principally to document women’s contributions during the period of armed struggle leading up to the defeat of the Batista dictatorship on January 1, 1959, and the early, heady days of the Cuban revolution. The interviewees all attribute Cuba’s early attention to the well-being of women to Castro’s leadership. In fact, the title of the book is from a 1966 speech in which Castro said, “The phenomenon of women’s participation in the revolution is a revolution within another revolution. If I were asked what is the most revolutionary thing the revolution is doing, I would answer that it is precisely this — the revolution that is occurring among the women of our country” (p. 231).

What I found most engaging were the women’s accounts of how Cuban women came to play such critical roles in the development of the new society. Espín explained the philosophy that

underlay these organizers’ work:

I always emphasize that at the time we didn’t talk about women’s liberation. We didn’t talk about women’s emancipation, or the struggle for equality ... What we did talk about was participation. ... There was real proof, every day, that the revolution wasn’t just hot air, it wasn’t empty phrases of the kind people were used to hearing from politicians in the past. This was the genuine thing. And women wanted to be part of it. (pp. 29–30)

This is a considerably different perspective from that of feminists in capitalist countries, but it is a useful one to consider, especially given the successes of the Cuban revolution in relation to poor women and in the areas of health and education. (Cuba has the largest numbers of doctors per capita of any country in the world, free education and health care are guaranteed to all citizens, literacy exceeds 99%, and Cubans enjoy a 79-year life expectancy).

The participation of which Espín spoke, though, was neither automatic nor easy. As Ferrer explained, “In those days, women were greatly limited by social norms. They were expected to restrict their interests to the confines of the home and to subordinate themselves to the males in the family. But there was enormous political ferment, and women ... wanted to volunteer to work wherever needed. These feelings were so strong they led women to break with traditions going back thousands of years” (p. 199).

It was the FMC, founded in 1960, that opened the doors to women’s participation and changed the way women — and the entire population — thought about women’s role in society. As Espín explained, “The federation began by focusing on simple tasks that motivated women to reach beyond the home, that made them aware of their own possibilities, capacities, self-worth, and rights. ... omen learned they were capable of the most diverse kinds of activities. As they demonstrated what they could do, they increasingly won social respect. Prejudices began to lose ground” (pp. 202–203).

FMC activities — the mobilizing of literacy and the public health brigade, the retraining of domestic workers, the building of child care centers — are described in loving detail by the three women. One initiative was the Ana Betancourt Schools for Campesinas. Begun in 1961, the schools invited peasant families to send their daughters to Havana to learn to sew. The response was enthusiastic, and eventually more than 21,000 young women enrolled. They learned to make clothes for their families; received medical and dental care; and, critically, became a part of the national discussions. “The young women hadn’t just learned to read and write,” Espín said later of the “Anitas.” “They hadn’t just learned to sew. They had also learned about the revolution. ... They’d learned about the pro-



Granma

“Women learned they were capable of the most diverse kinds of activities,” said Vilma Espín in *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*. “As they demonstrated what they could do, they increasingly won social respect. Prejudices began to lose ground.” Above, 1961, former domestic workers retrained as taxi drivers, previously an all-male occupation, after triumph of Cuban Revolution. Right, cover of Cuban humor magazine in 1961 parodies bourgeois woman’s shock at encountering her former maid, now a bank worker.



grams for health care, for education, how schools were being built. ... They’d become aware of what the revolution meant” (p. 240). Upon graduation, each young woman received her own sewing machine with the instruction to return home and teach 10 others to sew; many, according to Espín went on to become doctors, teachers, technicians, and political leaders.

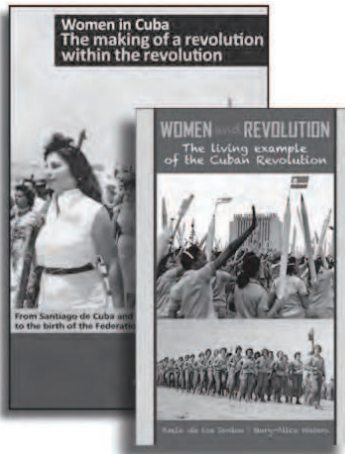
The challenge that books like *Women in Cuba* bring to social work education is 2-fold. The first and easier challenge is that of bringing a range of global perspectives to the classroom. Cuba’s unique experience should be part of that. The second, more difficult task is related to questions of capitalism. Corporate globalization has bequeathed us a wildly unequal world, and while I have no answers, it is clear that we need to consider what it means to be feminist, justice-oriented social workers in a world bent to the interests of the “1%.” These are questions that Cubans have considered for many years, and it is possible that there is a thing or two that we can learn from them.

The past decade has witnessed a rising interest in Cuba within social work. Several small, well-conceived studies have been published (see Backwith & Mantle, 2009; Strug, 2006) and in 2011, the National Association of Social Workers sponsored two professional research trips to Cuba. Cuba, for its part, is newly committed to “community-based social work.” In Cuba, the 1990s

— the “Special Period” — were characterized by extraordinary hardship as Cuba’s economy reeled from the fall of the Soviet Union and the breakup of the Eastern Bloc. Overnight, Cuba, which had relied on a mono-crop economy and favorable trade agreements with the socialist nations (Cuba’s sugar for machinery, pesticides, parts, and food), was forced to reshape and diversify its economy and open itself to tourism. To ensure that its hard-hit population minimally had access to food, health care, and basic services, Cuba turned to community-based social work. A social work concentration in sociology was developed at the University of Havana, and a paraprofessional social work program for youths was organized for unemployed young people from Cuba’s poorest neighborhoods. These young “emergentes,” enthusiastically praised by Castro, addressed emergent social problems, such as child malnutrition, school absenteeism, and the needs of the elderly (Strug, 2006).

I wrote part of this review in Cuba, which I visited in the summer of 2012. Cuba feels well past the fervor and idealism of its youth, and I do, too. Still, commitments live on. As one Cuban said to me, “I think the United States always thought that if they made things really difficult, the Cuban people would revolt. But we don’t want to be like the United States. We like our medical system and our education system — and our tradition of thinking about the well-being of everyone.” Books like *Women in Cuba*, in concert with new studies and, most important, the lifting of the embargo, are all part of opening the doors between our nations and provide the basis for free and respectful exchanges between the United States and Cuban feminists and social workers.

See special offers with subscription on page 3



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Granma

Students training as volunteer teachers arrive in Varadero to join 1961 massive social campaign that wiped out illiteracy in Cuba.

Strike in Tunisia protests killing of opposition leader

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Hundreds of thousands of people responded July 26 to a call by the Tunisian General Union of Labor for a one-day nationwide strike “against terrorism, violence and assassinations,” to protest the killing the day before of Mohamed Brahmi, a prominent opposition leader and member of the National Constituent Assembly. Brahmi was gunned down outside his home near the capital Tunis. The next day some 15,000 to 20,000 joined Brahmi’s funeral.

Brahmi is the second opposition figure to be killed in the last six months in Tunisia. When Chokri Belaid was slain in February, the country was shut down by a nationwide strike. More than 1.5 million people across the country participated in his funeral.

Mass protests toppled the tyranny of Zine al-Abidine in Tunisia in January 2011, initiating a rise of popular mobilizations in the Middle East. The government is currently run by a coalition of three parties headed by Ennahda, an Islamist party associated with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

“All important cities are in an up-

Farmworkers

Continued from front page

raises and other demands.

The walkouts took place when the blueberry harvest was in full swing. Nearly all the workers are indigenous Mixteca and Trique people, from the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Most return to work year after year at Sakuma Farms, a major operator in the berry-growing and processing industry in this agricultural region north of Seattle.

On July 25 workers gathered in one of the labor camps to hear a report on negotiations from strike committee president Ramón Torres. The committee had done a test-pick on a field to be harvested the next day, Torres said, and negotiated a new rate with the grower. The agreed-upon rate, 37 cents a pound, represented a 23 percent raise over what the company had been paying, and the grower had agreed to negotiate a rate for other fields after company and workers’ representatives did further test-picks.

The rate makes it possible to make \$12 or more an hour, Torres said, and workers will have the right to know the company-recorded weights for their picks.

Torres said they were still meeting on other demands. Pickers are concerned about losing their jobs when the company begins bringing in 160 contract workers from Mexico in August, under the federal government’s H-2A temporary “guest worker” program. The company says it needs more workers to avoid a repeat of last year’s harvest, when 15 acres of blackberries rotted in the fields.

“Now we are working again, though everything isn’t fixed,” said Torres. “Something very important is that youths under 16 years just got a check for money that wasn’t paid for time they had worked.” He explained that the company is beginning to replace old, bedbug-infested mattresses in the workers’ housing, one of the strikers’ demands aimed at improving their living conditions. The farmworkers want to keep negotiating, he said, “and so does the boss, and that’s good.”

roar,” said Hamadi Aouina in a phone interview from Paris July 29. “Tens of thousands are protesting across the country, demanding dissolution of the National Constituent Assembly elected in October 2011 and the fall of the government.” Aouina is an executive member in the Paris area of the People’s Front coalition, to which Brahmi also belonged.

After Brahmi’s funeral cops assaulted thousands of demonstrators who had joined a sit-in in front of the parliament building, initiated by assembly members who resigned in protest against the Ennahda-led government. As of July 29, 72 members had quit.

There have been increased violent assaults over the last year by ultraright Islamist groups against women, artists,

Vigilante acquitted in killing of Trayvon Martin

Continued from front page

ager. After asking the self-appointed “neighborhood watch” captain a few questions, cops had just let him walk.

But after six weeks of demonstrations, Gov. Rick Scott appointed a special prosecutor who filed second-degree murder charges. After the jury heard the closing statements, Judge Debra Nelson instructed them to also consider manslaughter.

The second-degree murder charge required the jury to find Zimmerman guilty only if convinced that he exhibited “depraved indifference” and was of “depraved mind without regard for human life.” At the start of the jury deliberations Judge Nelson said that even to find Zimmerman guilty of manslaughter would require proof he intended to kill Martin.

Zimmerman’s attorneys did not argue the case based on Florida’s Stand Your Ground law. But the judge instructed the jury that if Zimmerman “was not engaged in an unlawful activity,” he “had the right to stand his ground and meet force with force, including deadly force if he reasonably believed that it was necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm.”

Like millions of others, some of the jurors have come forward to say they were uncomfortable with Zimmerman getting off scot-free.

“That’s where I felt confused,” Juror B29, identified only as Maddy, said on the ABC’s “Good Morning America” show July 25. “But as the law was read to me, if you have no proof that he killed him intentionally, you can’t say he’s guilty.” Maddy is a nurse’s aide of Puerto Rican descent. “George Zimmerman got away with murder,” she said.

Zimmerman’s vigilante attack

Zimmerman called 911 after seeing Martin walking through the gated Retreat at Twin Lakes complex in Sanford, where he was staying with his father. “We’ve had some break-ins in my neighborhood,” Zimmerman told the dispatcher, “and there’s a real suspicious guy.” He then followed Martin in his truck.

Noticing a stranger following him, Martin picked up his pace to get home. “These assholes. They always get away,” Zimmerman complained to the dispatcher. Disregarding the dispatch-



Reuters/Anis Mili

July 26 protest in Tunis condemns assassination of opposition leader Mohamed Brahmi.

journalists, bourgeois liberal figures and trade unions.

In response to the July 27 police crackdown, more than 10,000 came back the next day to break their fast

after sunset, as part of observing Ramadan. After staying away most of the night, the police charged the demonstrators in the early morning hours, injuring many.

er’s instruction not to pursue Martin, Zimmerman got out of his vehicle and moved, noticeably out of breath on the phone, well into the apartment complex.

According to Zimmerman’s story, Martin suddenly appeared and said, “You got a problem?” and then punched him. He said Martin got on top of him and began banging Zimmerman’s head on the concrete sidewalk.

Claiming that he feared for his life, Zimmerman said he drew his gun and fired, hitting Martin right in the heart.

Zimmerman told police investigators his pistol was in a holster concealed behind his right hip. He said Martin was straddling him with his knees near Zimmerman’s armpits. Zimmerman has never explained how under those conditions he reached his gun, removed it from the holster, loaded a bullet into the chamber, and fired.

The most plausible scenario is that Zimmerman — on a self-assigned vigilante mission to dispense “justice” on a teenager he considered “suspicious” — had drawn and readied his weapon before the physical confrontation ensued.

Zimmerman’s lawyers sought to introduce evidence that showed Martin was in many ways a typical teenage male, to smear his character and paint him as the aggressor. At the urging of the prosecution, the judge suppressed it. This included text messages Martin had sent to friends about fights he got into, a school suspension and marijuana use.

Calls for federal civil rights charges

After the acquittal the NAACP, National Organization for Women and many others called on the U.S. government to bring federal civil rights charges against Zimmerman, arguing the killing was motivated by racial hatred, despite the lack of concrete evidence to that effect. Liberal media often described Zimmerman, who is half Peruvian, as a “white Hispanic” in promoting that view.

“Racial profiling is a menace,” NOW stated. “We will not let the unsubstantiated — and racist — fears of some run roughshod over the rights and lives of people of color. Now activists have added their voices to the groundswell demanding that the Department of Justice investigate George Zimmerman for violating the civil rights of Trayvon Martin.”

Rumors that Attorney General Eric Holder was considering civil rights charges were floated to the press immediately after the verdict in an effort to placate anger. But President Barack Obama made a statement July 19 strongly indicating that was not going to happen.

The president spoke abstractly about problems of racial prejudice, and made critical comments about Stand Your Ground laws, while defending the trial and verdict as a case closed. But he avoided entirely the real heart of the issue — Zimmerman the vigilante taking justice into his own hands, protected by the laws, courts and cops.

And he added other irrelevant and dubious points that further clouded the issue. “African-American young men are disproportionately involved in the criminal justice system” and “disproportionately both victims and perpetrators of violence,” he said, adding that “Trayvon Martin was probably statistically more likely to be shot by a peer than he was by someone else.”

The six-person all-women jury was comprised of one Puerto Rican and five Caucasians. Many working people were uncomfortable that no African-Americans were represented.

“After seeing the quality of the evidence presented by the state, the diversity of the jury really didn’t matter in the end,” Larry Handfield, a prominent African-American Miami criminal defense lawyer, said, commenting on the trial in the July 13 issue of the *Journal Times*. “But it would have helped the community in giving more credibility to the decision to acquit Zimmerman.”

But the fact that there was insufficient evidence to convict Zimmerman of either charge brought against him under the laws as written has not placated widespread indignation that the vigilante killer got off scot-free.

“It’s not only Black people who are disappointed,” Caroline Wade, who works at Sun Life Stadium in Miami, told the *Militant*. “If you see someone and stalk them, you are looking for trouble. After this verdict, it doesn’t matter what color you are, you can’t walk the street without the risk of being violated.”

Dean Hazlewood in Miami contributed to this article.

René González: 'I went to US to fight actions harming Cuba'

Reprinted here is part of an interview with René González, one of the Cuban Five, that was published in the June 15 issue of *Escambray*, a weekly newspaper in Sancti Spiritus province in central Cuba.

In the last issue, the *Militant* ran another section of the interview, centered on González's experiences in U.S. prisons and his relations with fellow workers behind bars. Here he talks about his mission as a Cuban state security agent along with Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and Gerardo Hernández. The five revolutionaries were gathering information on activities and plans for violent attacks and provocations by U.S.-based Cuban-American organizations bent on overthrowing the socialist revolution in Cuba and restoring capitalist rule there in alliance with Washington.

González's mission began Dec. 8, 1990, when he "stole" a Cuban crop-dusting plane from the San Nicolás de Bari air base near Havana and flew to the U.S. naval base in Boca Chica Key, Fla., where he was greeted as a hero by opponents of the Cuban Revolution and welcomed into the circles of rightist paramilitary groups, including Brothers to the Rescue, Democracy Movement, National Democratic Unity Party and the Cuban American National Foundation.

A campaign for release of the Five is being waged internationally. Today all but René González remain in prison, with sentences ranging from 17 years and nine months to a double life term plus 15 years. In May, having served 13 years in prison and half of a three-year term of "supervised release," González won his fight to return to Cuba, where he was reunited with his wife Olga and their daughters, Irmitta and Ivette.



Before leaving, you left Olga some money and the lyrics of a song by Pablo Milanés inside a magazine. Was it a coded message?

"It's difficult to leave when your family has no idea what you're doing," González said. "One of the hardest things on such a mission is convincing people you respect that you are a traitor. In all these years, the most difficult tasks I carried out were in Cuba, both times in San Nicolás de Bari: ending the process of becoming a member of the Cuban Communist Party and stealing an airplane. There are things that are not just tasks but are something very hard for a human being. Leaving your family behind is one of them; it's rough. I left Olga money I had saved along with that song — I don't even remember which one — inside a copy of *Bohemia* magazine.

I told Irmitta a secret — she was six years old but very discreet and her lips were sealed. "I'm going to leave a little gift here for your mom for when I come back at the end of the year. This is a secret to surprise your mom," I said.

"Mommy, mommy, daddy left this here!" — that's how Olguita found it.

How many times did you review the plan to commandeer the aircraft that took you to Boca Chica, where you arrived with the fuel tank almost empty?

None. In the circumstances in which everything happened, it was impossible to review anything. We were entering the Special Period, so parachuting and air sports in general were among the first activities to be cut back. It all ended up being improvised, except for my decision that if the opportunity presented itself, I was going to go. I had to find the most opportune moment and make the most of it, that's how I arrived on an empty tank. The opportunity appeared and I did a quick calculation. I said to myself, "The fuel will be just enough — I have to take the plunge." It was probably the riskiest, most dangerous flight of my life."

On arriving in Miami you made a statement on the so-called Radio



Vicente Brito

René González and Olga Salanueva, his wife, during interview with *Escambray* newspaper.

Martí saying that you felt like a veritable Christopher Columbus when you saw the Florida Keys. How did you manage to take on the persona of a traitor and make yourself credible before public opinion?

I asked myself that question from the moment they proposed the mission. I don't think anyone can train for that. Besides, I was the complete opposite. I've never been a good actor. You can't find someone who is a revolutionary and a faker. What's the key? The sense of duty, the satisfaction of deceiving someone who wants to inflict harm on my people. Beyond that, maybe some personal traits make it possible for you to pull it off.

I remember when I first met Félix Rodríguez, "El Gato" ["The Cat," the CIA agent involved in the 1967 murder of Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia]. It was the same day Brothers to the Rescue was created. The night before, I had been at the home of a pilot who had hijacked a plane in the 1960s and was the head of a group known as CUPA, Cuban Pilots Association. While I was with him [Brothers chief José] Basulto called to let him know. "Listen, we're going to set up a group that will be called Brothers to the Rescue, and we'll announce it at a press conference at the Miami airport." And the guy invited me.

I go there, and when I walk into the conference room they say, "Oh, look, the one who hijacked the plane." All of a sudden they tell me, "Look, we want to introduce you to Félix Rodríguez, the man who killed Che." I don't know what happened to me — it was an electric shock. I shook hands with him and said, "You don't say, *compadre*, so you're the man." I thought to myself, amazed: how could I have done that? When I left I told myself: now I know I can carry out this task.

Some people might think that as an intelligence agent you must have had a comfortable life. How did you survive financially during those first few months?

I had the advantage of having many relatives there who helped me. I didn't have a penny to spare, but I did have a place to live and food on the table. I was welcomed by my grandmother, and of course I began to work as soon as I arrived. I did a variety of jobs, but my goal always was to get

closer to the world of aviation.

After Brothers to the Rescue was created I joined it. To advance in those circles, I had to spend much of what I earned on getting a lot of licenses, which are very expensive. First I worked in a store for miserable pay. Then I had a job selling low-quality heaters, but I quit that because I had to mislead people. I did flooring and roofing. I had a modest lifestyle. My main goal was always to upgrade my qualifications as a pilot.

You joined Brothers to the Rescue in May 1991. You flew over Havana with Basulto, dropping pamphlets. How could you maintain your composure when you shared the cockpit with that terrorist?

I didn't go to the United States to fight people. I went there to fight against actions that were causing harm to Cuba, that could harm the Cuban people, Cuban property, our leaders. I went there to keep the country alerted against such activities. In those circumstances you can't allow yourself to dwell on the personal element that repels you — you have to detach yourself from it.

On these flights you took journalists from TV stations like Univisión that were waging their anti-Cuba campaign.

In the beginning Brothers to the Rescue was probably one of the most effective psychological warfare operations ever carried out. It was waged around the issue of the *balseros* [rafters], a complex question that was easy to manipulate. The organization was founded by Basulto and a group of Bay of Pigs veterans, in particular from groups called infiltration teams. These groups had been trained by the CIA in the 1960s to carry out sabotage, infiltration and extraction operations, and psychological warfare.

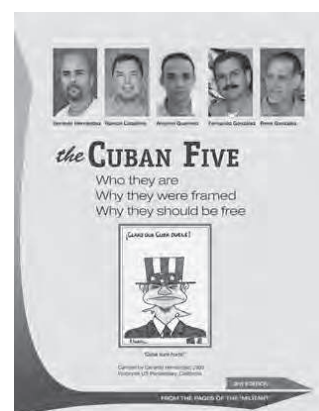
Who are the Cuban Five?



Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue aircraft that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana's repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. His wife Adriana Pérez is barred from entering the United States.



"We know that r
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make our truth k
—Gerardo

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They saw the possibility of using the balseros issue to wage a two-track psychological war: on one hand, to provoke illegal emigration from Cuba in order to destabilize Cuban society, and on the other hand, to portray Cuba in the most negative light possible in the world, as a hell from which people were fleeing. That was during the Special Period, a very propitious moment for those campaigns, with many people wanting to leave because of the economic hardships. ... They made good use of that situation.

At the same time, a euphoria was developing in Miami around all of the problems Cuba had and the problems it didn't have — that is, the ones they made up.

In that context, Brothers to the Rescue was a very effective propaganda tool. It also appealed to humanitarian sentiment. You had the rafters, individuals who were half-dead in a raft, and they would go rescue them. These combined elements made it a very strong psychological-warfare operation.

Later they evolved. As the Special Period worsened in Cuba, their hopes of social explosion grew. They began to act on the expectation, in the medium term, of an explosion in Cuba, of people going into the streets. What happened on the Malecón in August 1994 was a boost for them, wind in their sails.*

In this context they began to prepare violent actions. At our trial, evidence was presented that Brothers to the Rescue had been preparing deadly devices to be launched against Cuba, that could be used by disgruntled people against the police. These devices were like flares. Unlike fireworks, however, they were loaded with pellets and gunpowder that could damage and kill. ...

What happened? The so-called rafters crisis developed, where more than 30,000 people emigrated illegally to the United States in 1994. When Washington and Cuba signed the immigration accords [Joint Communiqué of Sept. 9, 1994, and Joint Declaration of May 2, 1995], Brothers to the Rescue's business collapsed, because the Cubans who went out to sea were going to be intercepted by the Coast Guard and returned to Cuba.

This was a hard blow for Brothers to the Rescue. They shifted toward increased provocations, trying to create a confrontation between Cuba and the United States. That's when they started the overflights, the provocations, the famous flotillas. There had been one in April 1994, and then they began to step these up in conjunction with the Democracy Movement. So that's what happened right up to the events of Feb. 24, 1996, which became a coup de grace for Brothers to the Rescue.

What concrete missions did you carry out?

I was in several organizations. Brothers to the Rescue was the first I joined. Obviously the main task was to keep Cuba informed of every-

thing they were doing, all the preparations for the flotillas. ... From the beginning Basulto conceived of Brothers to the Rescue as an organization that, besides focusing on the rafters, would carry out violent acts. In 1992 he consulted with me about carrying out an incursion with his planes to sabotage the national electrical system.

Later Basulto was involved in buying a Russian combat plane, a MiG-23, which he wanted to use in a violent action. It's very common in the United States that when certain aircraft are decommissioned, they are bought by some private party. He also wanted to buy a Czech military training aircraft.

I got involved with the PUND, the National Democratic Unity Party, which carried out incursions in 1992 and 1993 along Cuba's north coast, mainly in the area between the Varadero and Cayo Coco resorts. A PUND commando group murdered a compañero in Caibarién. I was involved in their infiltration actions. The United Liberation Command also took part in these activities.

Those groups also had to be tracked. A paramilitary group of the CANF [Cuban American National Foundation] obtained various kinds of equipment, including aircraft. They had to be located. That was part of my responsibilities. I found out the whereabouts of Posada Carriles [a CIA-trained paramilitary responsible for the bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados in 1976 that killed more than 70 people] through an indiscretion committed during the 1990s. Those were the kinds of activities we carried out.

Why did you cooperate with the FBI in dismantling drug operations?

I dismantled two drug operations. Why? First, everyone knows Cuba's position against drugs. But drug trafficking there played a double role — it's not just the harm they do as drugs, but the money was being used to finance the PUND and the United Liberation Command. To the degree you cut off their sources of financing, you would block their operations against Cuba.

It's difficult to assess how many operations were not carried through. For example, once we sent Tony "El

Venezuela hosts conference in solidarity with Cuba



Militant/Jonathan Silberman
CARACAS, Venezuela — More than 500 people from 35 countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Middle East participated in the VII Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba here, July 24-27. A report will appear in next week's *Militant*.

Defense of the Cuban Five was a prominent theme in several sessions of the conference.

Inset, Irma Sehwerert, mother of René González, and Ailí Labañino, daughter of Ramón Labañino, speak on panel "The Five after 15 Years of Injustice." Above, audience of hundreds in conference workshop.

—JONATHAN SILBERMAN

Gordo" [Fatso], who was financing the PUND, to prison. They were left without money. These were hard blows for them.

As an intelligence agent, how did you deal with the feeling of being watched?

As part of this work you have to act in a certain way and remain alert. It can do you harm if you overdo it. But you can never be completely relaxed. You have to find a balance. You have to tell yourself, "I have to remain alert and careful," but on the other hand, you can't drive yourself crazy.

In the midst of all of this, you were determined to reunite with Olga and Irmita. To what lengths did you go to achieve this? They say you even went to the U.S. Capitol.

Many considerations came into play. [Cuban-American Congresswoman] Ileana Ros-Lehtinen didn't have the power to bring Olguita over there. That was part of the whole picture. Obviously, it was always my priority to reunite with them. But it took work because of a series of circumstances that had to come together. We were apart for

six difficult years, but finally they were able to go there in December 1996.

You went to welcome them at the Miami airport dressed in a suit and tie and carrying flowers.

Our reunion had two conflicting sides. Unfortunately I had to go there accompanied by a character who was not very ... [Ramón Saúl Sánchez, leader of the Democracy Movement]. But it was as if Olguita and I got married again. We had been married since 1983. After six years apart, it was beautiful and at the same time difficult, because of what Irmita had to go through. But love conquered.

Ivette was born from that love. How did Gerardo Hernández, without a child of his own, enjoy Ivette's birth?

Gerardo was always sensitive to everything related to family. Even before Ivette was born, he was very attentive to Irmita's arrival. Afterward he would turn up with a gift here, a kind touch there, and the same toward Olguita. We were like a family. Actually, under those conditions it was the only family we had, in the sense that they were the only people you could talk to about everything. I had relatives over there who didn't share our way of thinking but who proved to be very kind. Gerardo took on that role in a very human way, with a great capacity for love; with Ivette he was very happy.



Cuban revolutionary René González penetrated rightist paramilitary groups that were carrying out provocations and planning violent attacks against Cuba. From left, José Basulto, CIA-trained counterrevolutionary and founder of Brothers to the Rescue; González (kneeling); and Juan Pablo Roque, Cuban state security agent who also penetrated group.

* The disintegration of the Soviet Bloc regimes in 1991 led to the rapid loss of 85 percent of Cuba's foreign trade and precipitated a deep economic, social and political crisis referred to in Cuba as the Special Period. On Aug. 5, 1994, in the midst of these challenges, a riot of several hundred broke out along the Malecón waterfront in Havana following an attempted boat hijacking that was stopped by dockworkers and police. Several thousand supporters of the revolution, joined on foot by President Fidel Castro, poured into the street and peacefully diffused the provocation.

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'The duty of every revolutionist is to make the revolution'

Below is an excerpt from The First and Second Declarations of Havana, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. The declarations were adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people. The selection is from the Second Declaration, delivered by Fidel Castro on Feb. 4, 1962. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

What Cuba can give to the peoples, and has already given, is its example.

And what does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible, that the peoples can make it, that in the contemporary world there are no forces capable of halting the liberation movement of the people.

Our triumph would never have been feasible if the revolution itself had not been inexorably destined to arise out of existing conditions in our socioeconomic reality, a reality that exists to an even greater degree in a good number of Latin American countries. ...

Where the roads are closed to the peoples, where the repression of workers and peasants is fierce, where the rule of the Yankee monopolies is strongest, the first and most important task is to understand that it is neither fair nor correct to beguile the peoples with the futile and conciliationist illusion of wresting power by legal means—



"What does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible," states Second Declaration of Havana. Above, rally supporting its proclamation, Feb. 4, 1962, in Havana.

means that do not and will not exist—from the hands of ruling classes that are entrenched in all the state positions, monopolize education, own all the means of communication, possess infinite financial resources—a power that the monopolies and oligarchies will defend by blood and fire and with the might of their police and armies.

The duty of every revolutionist is to make the revolution. It is true that the revolution will triumph in the Americas and throughout the world, but it is not for revolutionists to sit in the doorways of their houses waiting for the corpse of imperialism to pass by. The role of Job does not suit a revolutionist. Each year that the liberation of Latin America is speeded up will mean the lives of millions of children saved, millions of intellects saved for culture, an infinite quantity of pain spared the people. Even if the Yankee imperialists prepare a bloody drama for Latin America, they will not succeed in crushing the peoples' struggles; they will only arouse universal hatred against themselves. And such a drama will also mark the fall of their greedy and Stone Age system. ...

This epic before us is going to be written by the hungry Indian masses, the peasants without land, the exploited workers. It is going to be written by the progressive masses, the honest and brilliant intellectuals, who so

greatly abound in our suffering Latin American lands. A struggle of masses and of ideas. An epic that will be carried forward by our peoples, mistreated and scorned by the imperialists; our people, invisible to them until today, who have begun to give them sleepless nights. Imperialism considered us a powerless and submissive flock. Now it begins to be terrified of that flock—a gigantic flock of 200 million Latin Americans in whom Yankee monopoly capitalism today sees its gravediggers.

This toiling humanity, these inhumanly exploited men and women, these paupers, controlled by the system of whip and overseer, have not counted or have counted little. From the dawn of independence their fate has been the same: Indians, gauchos, mestizos, zambos, quadroons, whites without property or income, all this human mass that formed the ranks of the "nation" that was never theirs, who fell by the millions, who were cut to bits, who won independence from the mother country for the bourgeoisie, who were shut out from their share of the rewards, who continued to occupy the lowest rung on the ladder of social benefits, continued to die of hunger, curable diseases, and neglect for lack of things that never reached them: ordinary bread, a hospital bed, medicine that cures, a helping hand.

But now, from one end of the con-

tinued to the other, they are signaling clearly that the hour has come: the hour of their redemption. Now this anonymous mass, this America of color, somber, taciturn America, which all over the continent sings with the same sadness and disillusionment, now this mass is beginning to enter definitively into its own history, is beginning to write it with its own blood, is beginning to suffer and die for it.

Because now in the fields and mountains of the Americas, on its hillsides, on its flatlands and in its jungles, in isolated fields and in the crush of its cities, on the banks of its great oceans and rivers, this world is beginning to tremble. Ardent fists are raised, ready to die for what is theirs, to win those rights that for five hundred years have been laughed at by one and all. Yes, now history will have to take the poor of America into account, the exploited and spurned of America, who have decided to begin writing their history for themselves for all time. Already they can be seen on the roads, on foot, day after day, in an endless march of hundreds of miles up to the "Olympian" heights of government to demand their rights.

Already they can be seen armed with stones, sticks, machetes, from one end to the other, each day, occupying lands, sinking stakes into the land that belongs to them and defending it with their lives. They can be seen carrying signs, slogans, banners; unfurling them in the mountain and prairie winds. And the wave of trembling anger, of demands for justice, of claims for rights trampled underfoot, which is beginning to sweep the lands of Latin America, will not stop. That wave will swell with each passing day. For that wave is composed of the greatest number, the majorities in every respect, those whose labor amasses the wealth and creates all value, those who turn the wheels of history. Now they are awakening from the long, brutalizing sleep to which they had been subjected.

For this great mass of humanity has said, "Enough!" and has begun to march. And their march of giants will not be halted until they conquer true independence—for which they have died in vain more than once.

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Vigilantism: enemy of working class

George Zimmerman, who admits to fatally shooting 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, is a vigilante — a self-appointed judge, jury and executioner — whose murderous actions were backed by the Sanford cops who refused to indict him.

The die was cast when the “neighborhood watchman” moves beyond watching and exits his vehicle, armed and “ready for action” to pursue Martin — whom he knew nothing about, yet characterized as “suspicious” and an “asshole.” He disregards instructions from the cop dispatcher who instructed him to stay put. The killing is an example of how the bold, risk-taking vigilante, who “takes matters into his own hands” is more dangerous to the working class even than the cops, the organized and armed force whose job it is to protect the property and prerogatives of the propertied rulers and, as such, have some constraints on their conduct.

Based on the killer’s version of events, Martin responded as many teenage males would have when pursued by a creepy stranger. And for that his life was taken. (Only the kind of discipline young militants learn through collective experience in working-class combat and social struggle can prepare the countless cocksure young-men-in-becoming to consider a more prudent response.)

Vigilantism has a long and deep history in the U.S. and has always been directed against the interests of working people. It has served as a tool of ruling-class terror to keep the oppressed and exploited “in-line,” divided and fearful. Targets have included African-Americans and all defenders of Black rights, other victims of discrimination from Mexicans and Chinese to Catholics, Jews and Mormons; as well as militant workers and their small farmer allies, unionists, communists and other targets of the propertied rulers.

Frontier “justice” and lynchings date back centuries. Countless Hollywood movies feature vigilantes in the West riding into town, hunting down and killing rustlers, Native Americans and others, then riding off into the sunset.

Among the registered gains of the revolutionary U.S. Civil War that overthrew the slavocracy was passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. These amendments outlawed slavery, made it the law of the land that all men could vote, and granted power to the federal government to take action against Ku Klux Klanners and other vigilante thugs who employed lynchings and mob violence against the social progress of Radical Reconstruction. Anti-vigilante laws were adopted in many areas of the country. The abolitionists and their allies who dominated the Congress sent federal troops to the South to defend freed Blacks and their allies.

But with the 1877 withdrawal of federal troops from the South and other counterrevolutionary moves by the Northern rulers, the reactionary forces were given free rein and were ultimately successful in dealing the greatest blows ever inflicted on the working class in the U.S., a body blow that included the imposition of Jim Crow segregation.

Through a series of Supreme Court decisions, the rulers overturned the newly adopted constitutional protections against mob rule and vigilante

lynchings. The black-robed agents of the bosses declared protection of basic rights was a matter for the states, and Blacks and other workers couldn’t use federal constitutional protections to defend themselves.

In 1873 some 150 heavily armed vigilantes attacked and murdered an equal number of outgunned African-Americans, many members of the city’s militia, who were defending the county courthouse in Colfax, La. The U.S. Attorney in New Orleans indicted nearly 100 of the attackers under the enforcement provisions of the 14th Amendment, affording equal protection of the laws to all. When the case reached the Supreme Court, the justices unanimously overturned the convictions in 1876, ruling the amendment only applied to actions carried out by state governments. This notorious ruling — still the law of the land — was a milestone blow to the fight against vigilantism and racist violence.

The need to push back and defend against all forms of vigilante “justice” is not a thing of the past. In fact, it will become a bigger question in the future when a sharpening class struggle leads the capitalist rulers to employ their armed state power — supplemented by deputized vigilantes and “extra-legal” goons — against fighting workers and their organizations.

Addressing the danger and class character of vigilantism can help give perspective to millions of working people angered and seeking a fighting course of action in response to the vigilante killer George Zimmerman walking free. Efforts along these lines include the fights to overturn pro-vigilante Stand Your Ground laws now on the books in 21 states.

Another trial not in our interests

Zimmerman would never have been brought to trial if not for the popular mass demonstrations demanding his prosecution that won an important victory. The jury did not find Zimmerman guilty beyond a reasonable doubt on the specific charges brought against him and based on the evidence presented. Calls to open a new trial on federal civil rights violations by various groups from the National Organization for Women to the NAACP — demands which finds a hearing among many with justifiable outrage — are not in the interests of working people.

Starting a new prosecution against Zimmerman — in fact, double jeopardy — would set a precedent that would erode hard-won protections from the state registered in the Bill of Rights and other protections that we need to organize to fight more effectively against the deepening ruling class offensive against our jobs, wages and political rights. And no evidence has been presented that shows Zimmerman was motivated by racial hatred when he killed Martin.

Blind pursuit of retribution cannot advance the struggles of the oppressed and exploited. On this question the leaders of the Cuban Revolution, along with millions of Cuban toilers, stood on the highest moral ground after the victorious revolutionary war, preventing mob justice and vengeance to befall hated and murderous cops and thugs of the fallen Fulgencio Batista dictatorship.

It is only the working class that has or ever will claim such high ground. And only on such moral grounds can the working class lead humanity to a world free of exploitation and oppression that are part and parcel of capitalist society.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Detroit bankruptcy

Continued from front page

the *Wall Street Journal*. At the same time, \$7 billion in municipal bonds secured by casino profits and utility taxes, held by the propertied rich, are protected.

However, Orr has also threatened to force wealthy general-obligation bondholders — whose \$530 million in investments are guaranteed in the state constitution — to take a substantial “haircut.”

Working people in Detroit have been pummeled by the capitalist economic crisis. The official unemployment rate in May was 16.3 percent. The city’s population, currently 700,000, has declined 25 percent since 2000. More than one-third of workers live below the government’s official poverty level, according to the U.S. Census.

The city of Detroit, like all U.S. government bodies, has financed its day-to-day operations through selling municipal bonds. The \$3.7 trillion municipal bond market is a prerogative of the very rich. These pieces of paper are guaranteed by the “full faith and credit” of the government agency that issues them.

The fact that Orr threatens to go after some bondholders has evoked a fierce outcry from those who defend the municipal bond market as sacrosanct. Such proposals “would flatten the traditional hierarchy of creditors, putting ... a retired librarian on par with an investor holding a general obligation bond,” the *New York Times* said.

While workers’ benefits are slashed and union contracts torn up by bankruptcy courts, capitalist investors, contractors and others have been preparing to cash in on the backs of the bankruptcy.

Orr and others have made it clear that once the debts are wiped clean and health care, pensions and union contracts gutted, the city will issue new bonds for a round of construction and other projects, promising large profits for those in the know who get in early.

US uses ship seizure to smear Cuba, NKorea

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The July 15 seizure by Panamanian authorities of a North Korean cargo ship sailing from Cuba is being used by Washington and its allies to trample over the sovereignty of Pyongyang and Havana, with charges the ship’s cargo violated an arms embargo against North Korea imposed by the U.N. Security Council under Washington’s prodding. The ship was exporting Cuban sugar and transporting Cuban arms for repair in North Korea.

Acting on a “tip” from U.S. intelligence that the ship was smuggling narcotics, Panamanian authorities intercepted the 450-foot Chong Chon Gang as it prepared to cross the Panama Canal, heading for home.

Panamanian authorities forcibly took over the ship after a five-day standoff. The 35 North Korean crew members were arrested after putting up fierce resistance and destroying the ship’s electrical system. The North Korean government demanded July 17 that the ship and its crew be released. The crew has been charged with attempting to transport undeclared weapons through the canal.

In the following days, the Panamanian government asked the U.N. to investigate whether there had been a breach of sanctions imposed on North Korea by the U.N. Security Council under the self-serving fig leaf of “nuclear nonproliferation.”

Cuba’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement July 16 saying that, in addition to 10,000 tons of sugar, the ship “transported 240 metric tons of [Soviet-era] obsolete defensive weapons — two anti-aircraft missile complexes Volga and Pechora, nine missiles in parts and spares, two Mig-21 Bis and 15 motors for this type of airplane, all of it manufactured in the mid-twentieth century — to be repaired and returned to Cuba.”

The agreement with North Korea, the Cuban statement said, was aimed at filling “the need to maintain our defensive capacity in order to preserve national sovereignty.”

After a week of searching, Panamanian agents have found nothing not declared in Cuba’s statement.

U.N. Security Council representatives are expected to arrive in Panama sometime after Aug. 4.

Koreans celebrate

Continued from front page

imposed on the people of that country in 1945 in collaboration with the government of Josef Stalin in the Soviet Union. This is the last remaining national division coming out of the interimperialist slaughter of World War II.

The U.S. bases in Korea are part of Washington’s massive air and naval domination of the Pacific — including some nine nuclear-armed submarines — stretching from Hawaii, to Australia, the Philippines, Okinawa, Diego Garcia and beyond.

According to the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, some 300 delegations from 80 countries joined the 60th anniversary celebrations here. More next week.

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Cuba solidarity conference held in Caracas, Venezuela
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 30 AUGUST 19, 2013

Don't miss an issue! — Renew your subscription

In the coming weeks, hundreds of the nearly 2,800 subscriptions sold during the *Militant* spring campaign will expire.

If you are among them, the *Militant* urges you to renew and continue read-

LETTER TO READERS

ing the working-class press. You can contact distributors in your area listed on page 10. Or mail back the renewal form you received with the last three issues of your subscription.

If you took part in the international subscription drive, now is a good time to follow up with those you signed up selling door to door, taking part in labor actions, joining social protests, or while discussing politics with co-workers, neighbors, family, friends, fellow inmates, acquaintances in barbershops, train cars, laundromats — wherever.

Most who subscribed during the drive signed up for the introductory offer of \$5 for 12 weeks. Some also took advantage of the special deals on nine book titles available to subscribers. These book specials are still available for regular readers. Check
Continued on page 3

Supporters of rights respond to political attack in Omaha

BY LAURA GARZA

OMAHA, Neb. — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and other defenders of political rights and free speech are campaigning here to respond to a July 16 political break-in at the home of Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for Omaha City Council District 4 in the May elections.

“The authorities or their vigilante

DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS!

—editorial, p. 11

friends hope to intimidate us and deal a blow to the rights of all working people in Omaha,” Perasso told the *Militant*. “That’s what we explained to everyone we met going door to door Aug. 4 in south Omaha, where I live. We showed them the Aug. 12 *Militant* with its front-page coverage of the attacks and the socialists’ response.”

“Your campaign is necessary,” Lorenzo Quijano, 37, a worker at the Old Chicago restaurant, told Perasso. “This kind of harassment shouldn’t be carried out against a person because they are fighting for a better system for workers.”

Supporters of political rights and
Continued on page 3

‘Workers in Egypt are more confident today’

‘Militant’ on-the-scene following Morsi ouster



Reuters/Mohamed Abd El Ghany

Massive demonstration in Cairo’s Tahrir Square July 26 dealt blow to Muslim Brotherhood efforts to reimpose unpopular and unstable Islamist government of Mohammed Morsi.

BY PAUL MAILHOT

CAIRO — A month after mass demonstrations and a nationwide petition-signing campaign involving millions of people that prompted the military to oust Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi, working people here are beginning to focus on the next steps in their struggle to keep political space open and improve their conditions of life.

On July 26 massive demonstrations

across Egypt squashed any momentum toward the return of Morsi, who remains under arrest.

Workers and others here give many reasons why they campaigned to push out the Muslim Brotherhood after a year in office.

“Morsi’s campaign for president was a campaign of promises,” Mahitab Elgilani, an organizer of a tent city of several hundred camped out in

Continued on page 6

Under pressure, Bangladesh parliament amends labor law



Reuters/Andrew Biraj

Amid labor unrest and international pressure following profit-driven factory deaths, Bangladesh parliament passed law that bars labor ministry from turning over names of union supporters to bosses, but also includes anti-union provisions. Above, workers from textile company Envoy Group on strike in Dhaka June 10, demand wage raise, back pay and larger lunch allowance.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Bangladesh’s parliament amended the country’s labor law July 15 in response to mass protests and mounting political pressures after more than 1,200 garment workers were killed

on the job — sacrificed on the alter of profit as a result of the bosses’ disregard for the most basic safety standards and workers’ lives.

To win recognition, unions still
Continued on page 4

Socialist candidates tour Egypt in solidarity with workers, farmers

See page 7

Fast-food workers demonstrate for \$15 per hour, unionization

BY BETSY FARLEY AND SUSAN LAMONT

Hundreds of fast-food and retail workers marched through Chicago’s busy downtown Loop business district here Aug. 1, chanting and handing out fliers to press demands for a wage raise to \$15 an hour and

seven cities around the country, including New York; Milwaukee; Detroit; St. Louis; Kansas City, Mo.; and Flint, Mich.

Many protesters carried signs that

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FIGHT FOR BIG RAISE IN MINIMUM WAGE!

—editorial, p. 11

the right to form unions. Protesters stopped and held several rallies along the march route.

The workers — from McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Burger King, Dunkin’ Donuts and other fast-food restaurants, along with workers from Sears and Walgreens — were part of several days of strikes and protests in at least

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- Calif. prisoners’ hunger strike protests solitary confinement 4
- Bosses respond to ‘Obamacare’ by cutting workers’ hours 7

Marchers condemn cop killing of Toronto youth

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Some 1,000 people marched through downtown Toronto July 29 to condemn the killing of Sammy Yatim, 18, by Toronto cop James Forcillo two days earlier.

Forcillo fatally shot Yatim on a Toronto Transit Commission streetcar after passengers said he had ordered them to leave the car while brandishing a small knife.

Yatim's death sparked outrage across the city and around the country after a video of the killing taken by a passerby hit the Internet. The video shows Yatim alone, standing in the aisle near the front of the streetcar as five cops order him to drop his knife. Fourteen seconds later Forcillo fires nine shots at Yatim in 12 seconds. Another video taken from a nearby security store camera released to the

public shows Yatim crumpling to the floor after the first three bullets are fired, his legs still moving. It then shows Forcillo firing six rounds at Yatim.

Yatim, who moved to Toronto from Syria five years ago to live with his father, was planning to start college in the fall. His mother, a pediatrician in Syria, was in Toronto at the time of the killing. She and other family members took part in the demonstration wearing T-shirts that said, "Protect us from our protectors" with a picture of Yatim underneath.

Militant supporter Gabriel Charbin and his coworker Matt Murphy at the Brampton Chrysler auto assembly plant joined the demonstration after work. "We saw it on TV and decided to go," said Charbin. "It's important to react to this. There is a pattern to



Matt Murphy

Demonstrators in Toronto July 29 protest killing of Sammy Yatim, 18, by cop James Forcillo.

what the police do. We have to hold them accountable."

Constable Forcillo has been suspended with pay while Ontario's Special Investigation Unit carries out

an inquiry.

Another "Justice for Sammy" demonstration has been called for Aug. 13 at the next scheduled Police Services Board meeting.

Demonstrations protest Australian gov't closing door to refugees

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — Thousands joined demonstrations across Australia July 27-28 to protest the Labor government's latest decision to send all refugees arriving in Australia by boat to Papua New Guinea.

In Melbourne 5,000 demonstrated July 27 while other protests took place in Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth. The following day up to 3,000 joined a rally in Sydney.

"Any asylum seeker who arrives in Australia by boat will have no chance of being settled in Australia as a refugee," Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd an-

nounced July 19. The governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea signed an agreement July 19 to send asylum seekers to Papua New Guinea's Manus Island for processing in the island's immigration detention facilities, which are being expanded to hold as many as 3,000 people. "Genuine refugees," Rudd said, "will be resettled in Papua New Guinea."

The increasing number of refugees arriving by boat — most crossing from neighboring Indonesia to the Australian territory of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean — has become a major is-

sue for the Labor government as it heads towards federal elections later this year.

Last year the government of Prime Minister Julia Gillard — who was replaced June 26 by Rudd as the leader of the Labor Party — reopened detention centers on Manus Island and the Pacific island of Nauru. There have been escalating protests by refugees on Nauru against their indefinite detention. On July 19 much of the immigration jail on Nauru was burned to the ground.

While there is bipartisan support for the government's policy to prevent refugees arriving by boat from being processed in Australia, the opposition Liberal Party-led coalition is pressing for harsher measures.

Last week the government ran full-page advertisements in daily papers and announcements on radio and TV saying, "This is the Australian Government's message for anyone associated with people smuggling: If you come here by boat without a visa you won't be settled in Australia." The ad was run in nine languages, including Farsi, Arabic and Tamil. The majority of asylum seekers are from Afghanistan, Iran and Sri

Lanka.

Since Rudd's July 19 announcement, 1,267 people have arrived on 16 boats, Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare announced July 27.

In the last four years more than 800 people have drowned trying to make their way across the Indian Ocean to Christmas Island, an Australian territory nearly 1,000 miles from the mainland and some 200 miles from Indonesia. Refugee advocates say the figure is much higher, as some boats have disappeared without a trace and have not been counted.

"Attacks on refugees and immigrants are part of the wider assault on the working class," said Ron Poulsen, Communist League candidate for senate in New South Wales, in a press release. "The Australian rulers are tightening border controls while seeking to deepen divisions among workers. It is in the interests of all workers to join the calls to close the detention centers and open Australia's borders to refugees."

More demonstrations defending asylum-seekers have been called in the lead up to the federal election.

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Militant/Clay Dennison
Farmworkers employed by Sakuma Brothers in Washington state win raise after walkout.

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SWP ballot drive in NYC

Continued from front page
supporters are on a two-week drive to get 7,500 signatures, double the required number.

Miriam Canales, a retired teacher and longtime resident of the Dyckman Houses in the Inwood area of Upper Manhattan, has collected 60 signatures from friends and neighbors, and is working to get more. "I've called up my friends and told them about Dan Fein's campaign. I say, 'I want to talk to you about a candidate for mayor I'm supporting, from the Socialist Workers Party. I tell them he's a factory worker, like us, and he knows the problems we're facing. He doesn't promise anything, except that he will fight with us.' So people sign, and sometimes they go next door and ask their neighbor to sign too.

"Then I went over to the CVS pharmacy and signed up the clerk there that I know. And I signed up the sales girl in the Plum boutique and also the owner of the shoe store. I've lived here for over 40 years, so I know a lot of people in the neighborhood."

"I haven't been paid in two months," Tammy Swan said as she signed the petition being circulated by Sara Lobman, SWP candidate for Manhattan borough president. "I keep calling and they tell me to be patient," said Swan, who works for the city government as a child care worker. "I can't be patient. This is my only income and I've already gotten two eviction notices."

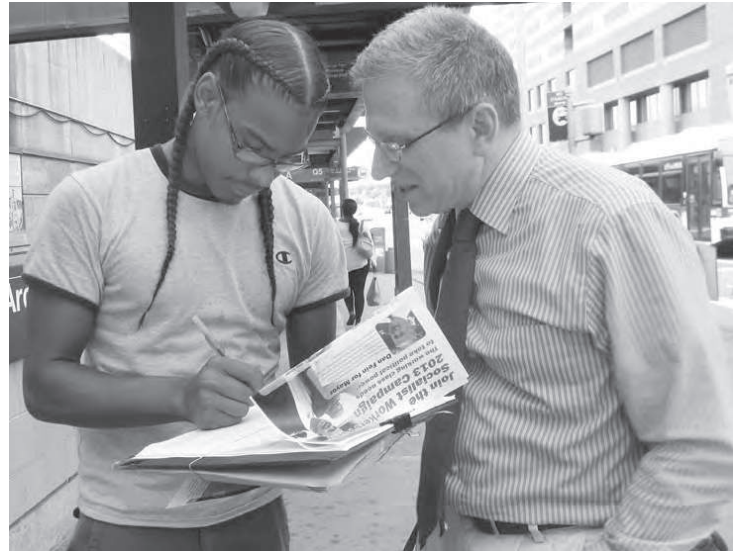
Mel Walker, owner of Finally Mel's barbershop in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn, plays a video interview with Dan Fein on the shop's TV screen for customers to see. Eleven people signed Walker's petition the first day.

During most of the petitioning drive, Fein is in Cairo, Egypt, part of a team of worker-correspondents for the *Militant*

showing solidarity with the millions of Egyptian workers whose mobilizations toppled the unpopular government of Mohammed Morsi.

Twenty-three people signed up at a meeting here to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the July 26 assault on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba led by Fidel Castro that opened the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and culminated in the Jan. 1, 1959, victory of the Cuban Revolution.

Supporters of the socialist campaign have set a meet-the-candidates event with a dinner, program and social open to the public on Saturday, Aug. 3. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Manhattan campaign offices, 307 West 36th Street, 10th Floor.



Militant/Tamar Rosenfeld
Seth Galinsky, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Queens borough president, petitions in Jamaica, Queens, July 28 to place party's citywide candidates on ballot.

Calif. prisoners protest solitary, harsh conditions

BY BETSEY STONE

CORCORAN, Calif. — For the third time in two years, prisoners in California are on a hunger strike, fighting to end inhumane conditions faced by thousands of inmates being held in long-term solitary confinement.

The strike began July 8, when some 30,000 prisoners refused meals in prisons throughout California. Prison officials said July 27 that 601 inmates at nine California prisons remain on hunger strike — as defined by having declined at least nine consecutive meals, reported Reuters.

Prisoners in solitary confinement in the Security Housing Units (SHU) at Pelican Bay in the far north of California initiated two strikes in 2011, as well as the current one. They have

put forward five core demands, including an end to long-term solitary confinement, an end to group punishment, abolition of a snitch system that puts inmates accused of gang affiliation in solitary until they accuse others, and the right to adequate food, phone calls and warm clothing.

In the wake of the 2011 strikes some changes were made. Prison authorities began to review cases of prisoners in solitary, releasing 208 into the general population. But inmates say there has been no progress on the key issue of keeping thousands of prisoners in isolation.

"In California, nearly 12,000 people in prison are held in solitary confinement for 23 to 24 hours a day in small, windowless cells without sunlight, fresh air, meaningful human contact or

constructive activity for many years, even decades," according to the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition.

Prison officials have characterized the hunger strike as a "disturbance," organized by prison gangs. While refusing to address the prisoners' demands, they have retaliated against the hunger strikers, moving 14 of the Pelican Bay strikers to more isolated quarters, according to the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition.

Demonstrations in support of the strikers have taken place throughout the state.

Sylvia Rogokos, a member of California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement whose brother is a hunger striker in his 23rd year in the Pelican Bay SHU, told the *Militant* she is proud of the unity across racial lines of families that have come together in the fight.

On July 13, hundreds demonstrated outside the Corcoran State Prison here where more than 1,600 are held in solitary.

Maria Ceballos, whose uncle has been in the SHU here for eight years, drove with her family from Los Angeles to California's Central Valley where the prison is located. "Inside the prison they try to divide them," she pointed out. "It's important to be united. That way we can put an end to what's happening."

Wendy Lyons contributed to this article.

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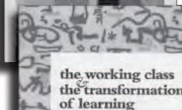
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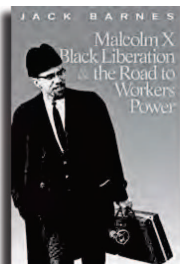
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See distributors on page 10



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Help put the socialist candidates on the ballot in Des Moines

The Socialist Workers Party campaign is organizing a two-day effort to place Ellen Brickley, David Rosenfeld and Margaret Trowe on the ballot for city council.

Sat. Aug. 10

11 a.m. — meet at campaign office
5:30 p.m. — dinner and reception
7 p.m. — campaign rally

Sun. Aug. 11

10 a.m. — class
noon-3 p.m. — campaigning

3707 Douglas Ave.

Tel: (515) 707-1779

Calif. prisoners keep up hunger strike over solitary confinement

BY BETSEY STONE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — “End long-term solitary confinement” and “Stop the Torture” were signs carried by some 50 supporters of the prisoners on hunger strike in California at a protest here July 30.

The hunger strike began July 8, with 30,000 prisoners participating, putting a spotlight on the inhumane conditions faced by prisoners in solitary in California.

Now, almost a month later, more than 500 remain on strike, fighting for demands that include an end to long-term solitary confinement and group punishment.

“We’re going to continue fighting to bring more people into this,” Dolores Canales told demonstrators who gathered outside the state Capitol. Like Canales, whose son is on hunger strike at the Pelican Bay State Prison, many were members of California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement, a group that organized the protest along with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Canales and Maria Levin, whose brother is one of the leaders of the hunger strike in Pelican Bay, delivered petitions with more than 60,000 signatures to Gov. Jerry Brown’s office, calling for an end to solitary confinement.

“The prisoners have forged unity inside the prison. This is a public display of the unity that’s outside, the unity of the families,” Canales said.

The protest in Sacramento was one of many throughout the state and beyond that have helped spread the truth about the brutal conditions faced by the more than 12,000 California prisoners held in solitary confinement, including at least 3,000 in the Security Housing Units (SHUs).

Amnesty International released a statement supporting the hunger strike and calling for an independent investigation of hunger striker Billy Sell’s July 22 death, which the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation termed a suicide.

A 2012 report by Amnesty International titled “The Edge of Endurance: Prison Conditions in California’s Security Housing Units” reported that

more than 500 prisoners had spent 10 or more years in the Pelican Bay SHU. More than 200 had spent over 15 years and 78 more than 20 years.

To date, the CDCR has taken a stance of no negotiations with the hunger strikers, claiming that the leadership of the hunger strike is in the hands of prison gangs.

A July 28 article in the *Los Angeles Times* describes Todd Ashker, one of the hunger strike leaders, as being covered with Nazi tattoos and possibly a member of the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist prison gang. Terri McDonald, until recently head of California’s 33 prisons, told the *Times* that Ashker and other strike leaders are not fighting for rights, but power. “From my perspective, they are terrorists,” she said.

Ashker, who earned a paralegal degree behind bars, has filed or been party to 55 federal lawsuits against the California prison system, winning the right of prisoners to order books. He sent a message to the *Times* describing the strike as “a collective effort initiated by a multiracial group.”

In August 2012, Ashker and other leaders of the 2011 hunger strike is-



Militant/Betsy Stone

Rally in front of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Sacramento July 30 to back prisoners on hunger strike against solitary confinement and other harsh conditions.

sued an “agreement to end hostilities” between racial groups in the prisons. “We can no longer allow CDCR to use us against each other for their benefit,” the agreement said.

Speaking at the protest here, Daletha Hayden, a nurse whose son is a striker in Tehachapi prison, answered the CDCR’s slanders: “They call them the worst of the worst,” she said. “How can this be true if they come together across racial lines? Doing it

peacefully. Asking for education. For food appropriate to making learning possible.”

Prison authorities have also tried to undermine the hunger strike by claiming they have made progress in cutting the numbers in solitary, releasing 208 into the general prison population since the 2011 hunger strike. But prisoners point to the lack of progress on the key issue of thousands of prisoners

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Under pressure, Bangladesh amends labor law

Continued from front page

need the support of at least 30 percent of the workers at a workplace, but the labor ministry is now barred from the practice of turning over a blacklist of union supporters to the boss.

Leaders of Bangladeshi worker federations say the change is still inadequate and sharply criticized other provisions in the amended law.

On April 24 Rana Plaza, an eight-story building housing five garment factories, shops and a bank in Savar, 20 miles from the capital Dhaka, caved in. In spite of major visible cracks in the wall the day before — prompting evacuation of the bank and shops — garment bosses pressured workers to return to work the next morning. About an hour into the workday the building collapsed, killing more than 1,100 workers.

Tens of thousands of workers took to the streets in response. A wave of strikes and other demonstrations demanded arrest of bosses and landlords, compensation to families of workers killed and wage raises in the industry.

Just five months earlier more than 120 workers died in a fire in the Tazreen Fashions factory on the outskirts of Dhaka. According to survivors, the exits were locked, fire extinguishers didn’t work and highly flammable stacks of yarn and clothes blocked parts of the stairs.

Bangladesh’s 5,000 garment factories generate 80 percent of the country’s export income. It is today the second biggest exporter of garments after China. Over the last two decades the garment workforce has grown from 1 million to 4 million, the majority women from rural villages.

The law against turning over names to the boss “is not a strong bar,” said Kalpona Akter, a leader of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity, in an Aug. 1 phone interview from Dhaka. “Factory owners have ways of getting around this.”

Bribes and collusion play a big part in political life and factory owners have decisive influence in parliament, many point out. To form a union, workers would also need registration from the directorate of labor. In recent years, hardly any registration has been given.

“I have another concern,” Akter said. “Owners can outsource workers to other factories, where unions are not allowed. And if you’re outsourced you can’t belong to a union.”

Unions barred in export zones

Workers in export zones where a large percentage are employed, are still prohibited from forming unions. The law adds more sectors, among them “hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers,” to the list where unions are not allowed.

To go on strike, two-thirds of the union’s membership would have to vote in favor, a small change from the previous requirement of three-quarters. The government can stop strikes on the pretext that they cause “serious hardship to the community” or are “prejudicial to the national interest.” Strikes are prohibited during the first three years of operation in any factory “owned by foreigners or is established in collaboration with foreigners.”

“Maternity leave is still four months,” said Nazma Akter, a leader of the Bangladesh Combined Garment Workers Federation, in an interview Aug. 2. “We demanded six months as workers in the public sector have. This is very important, women make up the big majority of workers in the industry.”

Kalpona Akter and Nazma Akter said the most important issues for workers in Bangladesh are the fight for safer workplaces, the right to form unions and negotiate a contract, and higher wages.

“A new law doesn’t change anything,” Kalpona Akter said. “We have to keep mobilizing and organizing to put the pressure on.”

Parliament adopted the law three

weeks after Washington suspended Bangladesh’s trade preferences, ending the country’s duty-free exports to the U.S. “The decision will have little practical effect because important products such as apparel are excluded,” Stephanie Lester of the Retail Industry Leaders Association, a retail lobby group, told the *Financial Times* June 27.

The European Union has threatened to revoke Bangladesh’s trade privileges. The EU’s duty-free privileges include apparel and EU countries buy 60 percent of Bangladesh’s garment exports.

Workers organizing unions in Bangladesh face harassment, intimidation and brutality from the police and company-hired goons.

In the midst of a strike wave in 2010, the government set up a 2,900-strong industrial police force to spy on workers, subvert union organizations and protect the interests and property of the bosses.

Aminul Islam, a union leader, was tortured and killed in April 2012. No one has been charged with his murder.

Kalpona Akter, along with Babul Akhter, president of the Bangladesh Garments & Industrial Workers Federation, were imprisoned in August 2010 on frame-up charges for trying to improve the working conditions of garment workers. They were freed on bail a month later.

The government is in the process of dropping the charges. “This comes because of the threat to revoke the trade privileges. The government hopes this will be seen favorably by governments in the U.S. and Europe,” Kalpona Akter said.

Police have reopened an investigation into the Tazreen fire. An earlier investigation blamed “unidentified miscreants,” and no one was charged. Arrests have been made, but no charges filed in connection with the Rana Plaza collapse. No factory owner in Bangladesh has ever been charged with a crime related to an industrial disaster.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA San Francisco

Join the International Campaign to Free the Cuban Five! Speaker: Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party, attended recent VII Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba in Caracas, Venezuela. Sat., Aug. 17. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

FLORIDA Miami

Korea Is One! The Korean People’s Fight for Reunification and Against U.S. Imperialism. Speaker: Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Pyongyang, North Korea, celebrations of 60th anniversary of victory over U.S. imperialism. Sat., Aug. 17. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

Fast-food workers press for \$15

Continued from front page

read “Fight for \$15,” a slogan of the Workers Organizing Committee of Chicago, which initiated the protests there. WOCC is backed by the Service Employees International Union.

The day ended with a rally of 300 at Navy Pier, where strikers were joined by SEIU members and other supporters.

At \$8.25 an hour, the minimum wage in Illinois is a dollar higher than the federal minimum wage. That translates into \$17,160 a year, if someone works full time. Many fast-food and retail workers are employed only part time, however, because bosses don't want to pay for benefits workers might be eligible for if they worked a 40-hour week.

DeJuan Jackson and several co-workers from Walgreens drugstore and Chick-fil-A restaurant joined the Navy Pier protest. “I work part time at Walgreens for \$10.72 per hour and part time at Chick-Fil-A for \$8.75 an hour,” Jackson told the *Militant*. “The reason I'm striking is because I have to work two jobs to take care of my family. I have two children who are asleep when I leave for work and they're asleep by the time I get home.

“We're not looking for bonuses tied to sales, but something we can depend on in our paycheck every week,” Jackson said. “And it's not just for ourselves, but for all people who have kids and want a better life.”

Workers at Whole Foods in the Lake View neighborhood of Chicago walked off the job July 31. “After the

last demonstration, they gave us two paid 15-minute breaks. Before, we had only one,” Whole Foods employee Matthew Camp, 32, told the *Chicago Sun Times*. “They renovated our break room and put our attendance policy under review. After this protest, yeah, we're at least expecting to hear back about the attendance policy.”

Fast-food workers winning support

In New York, several hundred fast-food workers and supporters rallied at Union Square July 29. SEIU-backed Fast Food Forward helped organize this and earlier protests, which have won widespread support from fellow workers around the city.

“If we keep fighting together, we can pull this thing through,” said Jessica Cogle, 22, in an August 5 interview with the *Militant*. “\$7.25 an hour just doesn't pay the bills, especially when you can't get the hours or any overtime.

“People from the union came to my job at McDonald's in Harlem last October,” said Cogle. “They talked about the fight to win \$15 an hour and the protest they were organizing in November. We asked if we would lose our jobs. They said, ‘no,’ so four of us went out. I didn't lose my job and I participated in the second strike in April too.”

Cogle, who is living in a battered women's shelter with her new baby, was fired in June. McDonald's is challenging her unemployment claim.

Sonya, 38, who did not want to give her last name for fear of reprisal, is a



Militant/Betsy Farley

Fast-food workers rally at Navy Pier in Chicago Aug. 1 demanding \$15 an hour and union.

worker at a McDonald's restaurant in the Times Square area of Manhattan. She has worked as a cleaner for six months, making \$7.25 an hour, she told the *Militant*.

With two children, a daily commute from Jersey City, N.J., and a schedule of 30 hours a week or less, she was supportive of the protests, although no one from the McDonald's where she works attended, she said. But they all knew about it and many were sympathetic. “Next time, I think I will take part,” she said.

McDonald's and other fast-food chains and retail companies have responded to workers' demands for a minimum wage raise with the claim that higher wages would force them

to increase prices, leading to layoffs.

A full-page ad appeared in *USA Today* July 26 in response to the fast-food workers' latest round of protests. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour “would have negative consequences for employees,” the ad stated. If wages go up, companies “will be forced to replace employees with less-costly, automated alternatives like touch-screen ordering and payment devices.”

The ad was paid for by the Employment Policies Institute, a research organization that “focuses on issues that affect entry-level employment,” according to its website.

Earlier this year President Barack Obama called for increasing the minimum wage to \$9 an hour over time. Bills calling for a raise introduced into Congress earlier this year have so far gone nowhere. The last increase in the federal minimum wage was in 2009, when it rose to \$7.25.

In 1968, the federal minimum wage was \$1.60 an hour. That would be \$10.56 an hour today, when adjusted for inflation.

There was no reply from McDonald's corporate headquarters in Chicago to the *Militant's* request for comment.

Courts strike down discriminatory marriage laws

BY JOHN STUDER

Anti-gay discriminatory laws are being pushed back in one state after another since the Supreme Court struck down the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act June 26 as unconstitutional because it prevents gays from receiving spousal benefits available to heterosexual couples.

The June 26 ruling means same-sex couples in the 12 states where their marriages are held to be legal are entitled to file joint federal tax returns, collect Social Security survivor benefits, be free from tax liabilities in certain inheritances when their spouse dies, and other matters covered by federal law.

On July 22 federal Judge Timothy Black in Cincinnati suspended a 2004 Ohio law banning recognition of same-sex marriages from other states.

In Detroit June 28 federal Judge David Lawson issued a temporary order striking down a Michigan law denying family health insurance to public employees who are gay and their companions, pending the trial in that case.

The Supreme Court's ruling reflects swiftly changing attitudes among working people and others, toward discriminatory marriage laws that deny equal protection to individuals on the basis of their gender or sexual orientation, as well as widespread opposition to government intrusion on people's private affairs.

These changing attitudes within the working class strengthen workers' unity and capacity to be the standard bearers in the fight against all forms of discrimination.

On Aug. 1, Rhode Island and Min-

nesota became the 12th and 13th states to legalize same-sex marriage.

The shift has caused both Democratic and Republican politicians to scramble to change their opposition to same-sex marriage laws. The same day the Supreme Court issued its ruling on DOMA, it also declined to rule on a second case, Hollingsworth v.

Perry, involving lower court rulings declaring unconstitutional Proposition 8, a 2008 California voter initiative that banned same-sex marriage. This means same-sex marriage is legally recognized in California.

Laws on the books in 29 other states against recognizing same-sex marriages still stand, for now.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 12, 1988

“With what will we carry forward the revolution, with what will we rectify, with what will we solve our problems? Basically with the pride and honor of Cubans, with their patriotism and awareness!” Cuban President Fidel Castro told a congress of the National Union of Construction Workers in Havana.

Castro described some of the conditions that had developed in the construction industry that are beginning to be corrected. They included, “indiscriminate start of projects to give the impression that a lot was being done in terms of value, but they were never finished, in contrast to other periods when schools, highways, and factories had been built.”

The minibrigades, made up of volunteer workers, were first organized in the early years of the Cuban revolution, but were permitted to decline in the 1970s and early '80s. Today they are being organized again to build housing, child-care centers, clinics, and other badly needed social facilities.



August 19, 1963

NEW YORK — “Freedom Now” — the rallying cry in the struggle for first-class citizenship across the nation — is a central plank in a campaign to elect a Negro City Council member from Brooklyn.

Independent nominating petitions are being circulated for Clifton DeBerry, a Negro union man and socialist for councilman-at-large. He will be the only Negro candidate in Brooklyn. DeBerry, 39, is the nominee of the Socialist Workers Party. DeBerry's platform is based squarely on the issue of Negro rights.

Other proposals of DeBerry's to create more jobs and to help the unemployed are a call for a \$2 per hour minimum wage, unemployment checks for the entire period of unemployment, instead of a fixed limit of 26 weeks and a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay. This last would spread the existing work among more people with no reduction of wages.



August 20, 1938

For the workers of Spain, for the workers of the whole world, there is nothing more important at the present moment than to defeat the Spanish, German, and Italian fascists. For that not only is necessary to have the utmost unity of the working class but also correct policies. There are those who do not see the overwhelming importance of correct policy but demand unity. We ask them to consider: who is responsible for breaking the unity of the working class in the face of fascist attack?

To jail the most valiant fighters against fascism, those who drove the fascists out of Barcelona in July, 1936; to accuse them of being fascist spies is to break the unity of the working masses, to bring demoralization into their ranks and to prepare the ground for the victory of the fascists.

That is what the Loyalist government, under the prodding of the Stalinists, has done. To defeat the fascists we must fight for the liberation of the anti-fascists.

Egypt workers

Continued from front page

Tahrir Square, said July 29. “One of those was to release the thousands who were imprisoned in the course of the successful struggle against former dictator Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Instead, Morsi added to the numbers in jail for political protest.” Elgilani also pointed to rampant cronyism and deteriorating economic conditions.

A reminder of the price paid to advance the democratic openings are portraits of hundreds of youth who died in the struggle against the Mubarak dictatorship, along with others killed protesting the Morsi government, painted on walls throughout the city.

Because of the widespread expectation that economic, social and political conditions would improve following the February 2011 ouster of Mubarak, it did not take long for most layers of society to turn against the corrupt, violent, and politically stifling Islamist government.

“We began to protest after the first 100 days,” said Elgilani. “In the three months before the Morsi presidency was pushed aside on July 3, millions of Egyptians signed the Tamarod petition calling on him to resign.” Tamarod, which means rebellion, is the loose political coalition that initiated the petitioning campaign that spread in neighborhoods, workplaces and schools throughout the country for a change in government.

Although most Egyptians *Militant* correspondents spoke to expressed support for the military’s role in the ouster of Morsi, many were also quick to point out that the military leadership had collaborated with the Muslim Brotherhood to impose repressive measures. The military has appointed an interim government, which includes many prominent capitalist politicians, some of whom were part of the Mubarak regime. New elections are being planned.

Workers point to deteriorating economic conditions over the past two years, leaving many workers and farmers on the edge of survival. In Ismailia, an industrial city surrounded by farmland 75 miles northeast of Cairo along the Suez Canal, three construction workers sat down with *Militant* worker-correspondents Aug. 2 to talk about the struggles of daily life.

“We had illusions that things would simply be better once Mubarak was ousted from office,” said Mahmud Salama,



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Murals all over Cairo, like one above, depict martyrs of struggle against governments of Hosni Mubarak and Mohammed Morsi.

a construction worker and leader of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions. “We thought we would no longer have to fight in the streets, but we have learned that is not the case.”

“The average construction worker makes between \$3 and \$8 a day, and most of us don’t work a full month,” said Salama. All three construction workers said they had not worked at their trade in the past three months.

“We used to be able to leave the country and look for work in other parts of the Middle East if things were slow here,” said Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud, “but that became severely restricted under the Brotherhood.” Disputes with other Arab governments also closed opportunities for work. Mahmoud, a plumber, said he was expelled from Saudi Arabia where he was working, following a dispute between Cairo and Riyadh.

Salama said workers are trying to find ways to unify the campaigns of the labor movement in Egypt. “We need to raise the wages of the lowest paid, to equalize conditions. The level of poverty is very high throughout the country. If the government subsidy on basic food items was ended it would be a disaster for millions.” Egyptian workers also need health care and social security that carries over whatever job you have, he said.

‘Workers have more confidence’

“Workers in Egypt have more confidence today because of what we have fought for,” Salama continued. “We brought down Mubarak, we petitioned for Morsi to step down, and we are learning from each other. It is a tremendous change from a couple of years ago. We could not have even discussed the

Tamarod petition then.”

During the Mubarak regime, nearly all unionized workers belonged to the government-controlled Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF). Following the overthrow of Mubarak, independent unions mushroomed as part of growing struggles for higher wages and better working conditions and reinstatement of militant workers fired for leading strikes or protests. Many of these new unions gravitate to the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions (EFITU).

“There are a growing number of struggles involving workers in Egypt,” said Fatma Ramadan, a member of the EFITU executive board. “But that doesn’t mean there are a growing number of workers in unions. The old Trade Union Federation has not been a good advertisement for belonging to a union. Also, because of ETUF’s relationship with the government, it offers certain benefits to be a part of their union federation that an independent union can’t.”

Workers who have pensions in Egypt, for example, have retirement funds tied to being a member of the government union. If you leave that union your pension is forfeited, Ramadan said.

Textile workers join anti-Morsi fight

“Workers in our plant and throughout Mahalla participated in a massive way in the mobilizations that led to the June 30 revolution,” Kamal Fayoumy, a leader of the Mahalla textile workers, said in an Aug. 4 phone interview, referring to the ouster of the Brotherhood. “Thousands of us — women as well as men — participated in six large workers protests in Mahalla demanding Morsi step down, because the Morsi government stood against the workers all along the line.

“Right now our main campaign is the collection of signatures on a petition of workers’ demands,” said Fayoumy. These include the legal right to join any union and recognition by the government of the choice of the workers; return to public ownership of companies that have been privatized, often leading to massive layoffs; a significant increase in the minimum wage and a cap on sala-

ries for management personnel.

“The independent union in Mahalla continues to try and establish itself in the plant. Our numbers are growing and that is positive,” said Fayoumy. The government union officially remains in the plant, although it has little support among the workers and has remained aloof from their struggles.

There has been a lull in strikes and other workers actions since the overthrow of Morsi, as many are waiting to see what happens now. In an apparent effort to placate widespread dissatisfaction among working people, the military appointed former EFITU President Kamal Abu Eita as the new Manpower Minister, a post similar to a labor minister in many countries.

‘Gov’t sitting on time bombs’

“The government is sitting on a half-dozen time bombs right now,” said Ibrahim Abdel Gawed, a former farmer and leader of an independent farmers organization, who took part in the discussion in Ismailia. “Transit workers, port workers, farmers, all have long-standing grievances and demands that there are no proposals to satisfy.

“People’s attention is diverted temporarily with the ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood government,” he said, “but that won’t last long and decades of workers and farmers demands will soon come to the fore again.”



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Top, Mary Martin, far right, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor, and translator Georges Mehrabian, meet with workers, farmer representative and student supporters of Tamarod movement in Suez Canal city of Ismailia. Inset, from left, students Nada Saed and Shymaa Ashraf and construction worker Mahmud Salama.



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by Jack Barnes
Arabic \$12, English \$20

pathfinderpress.com

Socialist candidates from US meet fellow fighters in Egypt

BY PAUL MAILHOT

CAIRO —“What does Egypt have to do with campaigning to be mayor of Seattle?” National Public Radio reporter Ross Reynolds in Seattle asked Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Mary Martin before she left on a fact-finding campaign tour of Egypt.

Working people in Egypt recently mobilized in their millions to oust the capitalist Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohammed Morsi, Martin said. “People in Egypt, like people in the U.S., are resisting the grinding economic effects of the capitalist crisis and attacks on democratic rights. We are going to Egypt in solidarity with workers and farmers, and I’m sure we will get a warm welcome when they hear we are on their side. They won’t have a problem seeing the connections.”

Dan Fein, SWP candidate for mayor of New York City, was also part of the delegation from the United States, United Kingdom and Greece, visiting Cairo for the second time since 2011 to learn about workers’ struggles here. Upon arriving July 28 Fein led the delegation to visit Tahrir Square, the site of a mobilization of several million two days before that dealt a giant political blow to the Muslim Brotherhood’s campaign to reverse the July 3 ouster of the Morsi regime.

Fein and Martin met Mahitab Elgilani, a protest organizer and head of security for the tent city at the square to prevent attacks from the Muslim Brotherhood.

After explaining her decade-long involvement in the fight against dictatorship in Egypt, and why the masses of Egyptian people turned against the Muslim Brotherhood after only one year in office, Elgilani asked Fein what he thought of the developments here. “Working people in the U.S. and Egypt have some common challenges,” Fein said. “Our election campaign fights along a course toward working people taking political power from the capitalist exploiters. Millions of workers are without jobs, work conditions and health care are deteriorating, and no solutions are being put forward by the capitalist class and their politicians. That’s true in the United States, and in Egypt.”

The candidates visited two cities along the Suez Canal, where many militant struggles have been fought in recent

years, to learn about issues working farmers and fishermen face. In Fayid and Ismailia the delegation met construction workers, students, mango farmers and local leaders of a farmer’s union.

“We are not sure that workers in Egypt and the United States have all that much in common,” Mahmud Salama, a young construction worker initially told the socialist candidates. “We haven’t worked in three months, we have no health care, and no social security. Some things are worse now than they were under Hosni Mubarak.” His coworker Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud asked, “Don’t workers in the United States have unemployment insurance, health care, and a nice warm home if they lose their job? We have none of those things here.”

“Conditions are more difficult for workers in Egypt, but what the capitalists are doing in the United States is aimed at destroying our unions and lowering our standard of living to ensure their profits,” Martin said. “Every day, more and more workers are losing their health care, running out of unemployment benefits, and learn that the banks are the real owners of their homes. The capitalist economic crisis is driving workers from all countries together.

“That is why we are here,” Martin said, “to build solidarity and make contacts with workers and farmers in Egypt and elsewhere who are fighting to reverse the disastrous situation facing working people the world over.” One of the central demands of the labor movement in Egypt, to raise the wages of the lowest paid workers, Martin pointed out, is the same as what socialists campaign for in the United States, to raise the minimum wage. “This helps overcome the divisions in the working class and puts us in a stronger position to fight,” Martin said.

At the end of the conversation, the construction workers asked how to deepen the contacts that were being made with the socialists’ visit.

At an Aug. 2 meeting with Fatma Ramadan, a leader of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, Fein asked how the overthrow of Mubarak and then Morsi affected strikes and labor struggles. “After Mubarak’s downfall, workers launched many struggles to assert their demands



Militant/Paul Davies

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, and Mary Martin, SWP mayoral candidate in Seattle (at right), meet with Mahitab Elgilani in Cairo’s Tahrir Square, July 28. Elgilani, a co-founder of April 6 Movement against former U.S.-backed dictator Hosni Mubarak, talks about why millions took to streets to oust Mohammed Morsi government.

for better wages, putting an end to temporary work, and halting the privatization of factories,” Ramadan said. “Workers are still protesting and over more questions, like the imprisonment of militant workers.”

Ramadan was interested in the experiences of socialist workers who are running for political office in the United States. “What response are you getting? Will you get a lot of votes?” she asked.

“We talk to a very broad number of workers through our door-to-door campaigning in working-class neighborhoods with the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper,” Martin said. “Many like what we have to say and identify with the struggles that we talk about, including the example of workers here in Egypt using the new political space available to

them to press for greater rights, jobs and a better life.”

“The Socialist Workers Party candidates are the only working-class voice in the elections, so most workers appreciate the discussion when we knock on their doors asking about what they are going through, why a socialist revolution is needed, and how we can fight for it,” Fein said. “Most workers will never have the experience of a Democrat or Republican party candidate knocking on their door asking what their views are. After many of our discussions, the conversation often ends with ‘I might vote for you.’”

On their last day in Cairo, the candidates were interviewed by a reporter from *Al-Masry Al-Youm*, one of the main daily newspapers in Egypt.

Bosses respond to coming ‘Obamacare’ provisions by cutting hours of workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As major sections of the Affordable Care Act — known as “Obamacare,” — are set to take effect in the coming months, many working people are already beginning to feel the negative consequences of its provisions, while the quality of health care for millions continues to decline.

The legislation is “very much a compromise dictated by the perceived political need to change existing coverage and challenge entrenched interests as little as possible,” summarized *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman, a supporter of the plan.

The aim by many of the program’s liberal authors and backers was to take a step toward something resembling a single-payer health-care system without cutting too deep into the capitalists’ surplus extracted from our labor. And the plan compels everyone to come under the framework of a new government bureaucratic apparatus that will funnel even greater profits to the health insurance giants, which were both eager to make “suggestions” on the law to help ram through its passage in 2010.

The law provides incentives for many employers to offer some basic insurance. The millions who aren’t “covered” by their boss will be forced to purchase their own insurance policies or pay fines. The program will subsidize plans for those with the lowest incomes. By 2016 the tax penalty will rise to 2.5 percent of household

income, at least \$695 and as much as \$2,085 per family.

Seeking to avoid fines, many bosses are offering “bare-bones” plans, notes the *Wall Street Journal*, which “cover minimal requirements such as preventive services, but often little more. Some of the plans wouldn’t cover surgery, X-rays or prenatal care,” or hospital stays.

Obamacare is based on insurance companies raking in profits from millions of healthy people who are today uninsured. The White House says this will keep down prices for the sick, elderly and infirm. “Young, healthy adults today spend an average of \$854 a year on health care,” stated the *Wall Street Journal*, pointing to comments made by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito during hearings on the Affordable Care Act last year. “ObamaCare would require them to buy insurance policies expected to cost roughly \$5,800.”

One of the law’s provisions is already hitting many workers hard. Under Obamacare bosses do not have to provide any coverage for those working less than 30 hours a week.

As one of the inevitable consequences, bosses have been reducing work hours for current employees and hiring mostly part-time and temporary help. In June, for example, full-time jobs declined by 240,000, while part-time jobs soared 360,000. Since the recession began at the end of 2007,

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Militant/Paul Davies

Dan Fein and Mary Martin, Socialist Workers candidates for mayor in New York and Seattle, being interviewed by *Al-Masry Al-Youm* reporter Azza Moghazy in Cairo, Aug. 3.

Cuba solidarity conference held in Caracas, Venezuela

Discusses fight against US imperialist domination, stepping-up international campaign to free Cuban 5



BY NAOMI CRAINE AND JACOB PERASSO

CARACAS, Venezuela — “Nothing is won without struggle,” Kenia Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, told participants in the VII Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba. She was referring to the fight to free the Cuban Five — political prisoners held by Washington for the last 15 years. “We need to keep knocking on the door and pressing [U.S. President Barack] Obama,” she said in a session held in the meeting chamber of the Venezuelan National Assembly. “He’s the one who can release them, but to win that victory we must mobilize a jury of millions.”

Some 500 delegates attended the conference, held here July 24-27. Three hundred delegates from across Venezuela joined 196 from more than 30 other countries, seven outside of the Americas. More than 50 participants came from Colombia, 30 from Cuba, about a dozen from the Dominican Republic and nearly 20 from the United States.

The Cuban delegation included Lázara Mercedes López Acea, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba and a

vice president of the Cuban Council of State; Ana María Mari Machado, vice president of the National Assembly; former ambassador to Venezuela Germán Sánchez Otero; and Miguel Barnet, president of the Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba.

Among the themes taken up in plenary sessions, panels, workshops and cultural events were the need for united action in the face of U.S. imperialist domination of Latin America, Washington’s half-century-long economic war against Cuba, and the fight to win the freedom of the Cuban Five. A highlight of the conference was the live July 26 broadcast from Santiago de Cuba of the event there marking the 60th anniversary of the assault led by former Cuban President Fidel Castro on the Moncada barracks, the opening battle of the revolutionary struggle that culminated in the mobilization of millions of workers and farmers in Cuba to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and destroy their bloody military and economic dictatorship.

Fight against imperialist domination

The conference opened on the 230th anniversary of the birth of Simón Bolívar, the Venezuelan-born



Above, participants at Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, in Caracas, Venezuela. Left, panel on campaign to free Cuban Five. From left, Kenia Serrano, president of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples; Venezuelan member of parliament María León; Irma Sehwert, mother of René González; Ailí Labañino (speaking), daughter of Ramón Labañino; Camilo Rojo, whose father was killed when CIA-trained mercenaries blew up Cuban airliner in 1976; and Moisés Rodríguez, former Cuban state security agent who penetrated counterrevolutionary groups in U.S. and Cuba.

leader of the fight for Latin American independence from Spain in the early 19th century. Venezuelan historian Alexander Torres spoke about this proud chapter in the struggle by the peoples of Latin America to unify their forces in the fight for independence and sovereignty.

He was joined on the opening panel by Pedro Pablo Rodríguez from the Center for Study of José Martí in Cuba. Rodríguez, holder of Cuba’s 2009 National Social Sciences prize, cited the final letter written in 1895 by Martí, Cuba’s national hero and leader of the country’s third war for independence from Spain. Martí wrote of the need to prevent “the United States from spreading through the Antilles as Cuba gains its independence, and from overpowering with that additional strength our lands of America.” Today, Rodríguez noted, “there remains one colony in the Americas, not of Spain but of the United States — Puerto Rico.”

Many panelists throughout the four-day gathering spoke about the initiatives taken by the government of Venezuela under the leadership of President Hugo Chávez, from his election in 1998 until his death earlier this year, to marshal the economic resources of oil-rich Venezuela to aid other governments of Latin America and the Caribbean resisting econom-

ic, political and military pressures from Washington and other imperialist powers.

Along this course, the collaboration between the governments of Cuba and Venezuela was underscored by numerous participants. “When Chávez first met with Fidel Castro in 1994, he asked, ‘What can I do to help Cuba?’” said former Ambassador Sánchez, speaking on a panel on the legacy of Hugo Chávez. He noted that this was four years before Chávez was elected president of Venezuela, when Cuba was going through the worst years of the economic crisis that followed the implosion of the Soviet Union.

Today PetroCaribe, an energy cooperation agreement begun in 2005, provides Cuba and other countries in the Caribbean and Central America with oil at preferential prices, weakening the stranglehold of the imperialist-dominated oil conglomerates. Other initiatives Sánchez pointed to include the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), which promotes trade and economic cooperation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as a counter to the U.S.-dominated trade blocs, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), a political initiative launched in 2010 to counter the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States.

Cuba’s internationalist solidarity: from Venezuela to Colombia to Haiti

In interviews with the *Militant*, many delegates from Venezuela and other countries commented on the impact of Cuba’s revolutionary example and international solidarity on the day-to-day lives of working people in their communities.

Doriscat Jean Guimy was part of a delegation of seven from the Friends of Cuba Club in Leogane, Haiti. “Our club formed in 2006 to work with Cuban doctors to help people get medical care and to help Haitian youth obtain scholarships to study, including in Cuba and Venezuela,” he said. “Together with the Cuban doctors, we’re organizing a free mobile health clinic Aug. 28 and that will also be an opportunity to inform people about the Cuban Five.”

“I think it’s important to be here for solidarity,” said Martín Jaimes, a telecommunications worker and union activist from Bucaramanga, Colombia. “Cuba is an example of resistance.” He described the challenges union members face in Colombia, including intimidation and murder by paramilitaries.

“Before there was only one hospital and two private clinics in the entire state, and they were horrible,” said Angelica Figuera, from Delta Amacuro in northeast Venezuela. “Now with the Cuban doctors we have good health care,” she said, referring to the 32,000 Cuban medical personnel working in Venezuela.

“I came to the conference to learn,” Silvana Cedeno, 24, told the *Militant*. “There isn’t a campaign for the Five where I live in Ecuador, but I have been explaining to people the lies about Cuba. I’m a member of the Socialist Party in Ecuador,” Cedeno said, “and I work in defense of workers in my country. The government of Ecuador recently banned temporary agencies by law but it is not actually happening. People who speak out against subminimum wages or the use of temp agencies are often fired.”

— NAOMI CRAINE AND JACOB PERASSO



Members of Cuba’s medical mission in Venezuela at event in Caracas during Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba. There are 44,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers in Venezuela, 32,000 of them doctors, nurses and other health care workers.

The first evening featured an inaugural cultural gala, which included a beautiful performance by the youth orchestra Orquesta Sinfónica Alma Llanera, broadcast live on TV. Venezuelan Vice President Jorge Arreaza welcomed the conference participants. “Events like these are necessary,” he said, “to let the world know that we won’t be imposed upon, neither by formulas nor by imperialist military boots.”

Dario Vivas, vice president of Venezuela’s National Assembly, invited the conference to hold a session in the assembly chamber, where he addressed participants along with Serrano and renowned Venezuelan writer Luis Britto García.

U.S. economic war vs. Cuba

“Despite the whole history of war, there are commercial relations today between the United States and Vietnam,” noted Nidia Alfonso from the Cuban Foreign Ministry. “Why not Cuba? Because of the revolutionary process” that Washington will never accept. Alfonso was one of several speakers to describe the severe impact of Washington’s decades-long economic war against Cuba.

“There are some medicines that carry a U.S. patent which no one will sell to Cuba, because of fear of the extraterritorial reach of the blockade,” explained Aleida Guevara, a practicing pediatrician in Cuba and daughter of revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. She described the case of a child who died for lack of one of these drugs. Guevara and others also pointed to the expansion of the number of U.S. military bases throughout Latin America in recent years as a threat to regional sovereignty.

José Ángel Pérez of the Center for Study of the World Economy in Cuba gave a presentation on the economic measures being introduced in Cuba

today. “Let me be clear, our economy is socialist. It’s not a mixed economy. It’s not state capitalist,” he began. “We’re not going back to capitalism.”

The severe economic problems Cuba is addressing today are due to three factors, Pérez said — the U.S. economic war that adds billions to the cost of imports and deprives Cuba of essential products; the collapse of the Soviet bloc at the opening of the 1990s, abruptly wiping out 85 percent of Cuba’s foreign trade; and “our own errors.”

“While the means of production will remain social property,” Pérez noted, the measures being taken today are aimed at increasing labor productivity by decreasing centralized state controls over economic decisions and promoting both individual entrepreneurship and cooperative enterprises, especially in agriculture and in services.

“Ours is the course of scientific socialism,” Pérez emphasized. “It’s not ‘21st Century Socialism’ or the road of ‘Buen Vivir,’” he said, referring to the terms used in Venezuela and Bolivia to describe their respective policies of capitalist reform.

Work in defense of Cuban Five

Mobilizing the broadest and largest possible forces to win the freedom of the Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — was the central campaign discussed throughout the conference. A feature panel on the case included Irma Sehwerert, mother of René González, and Ailí Labañino, daughter of Ramón Labañino.

“There’s many more opportunities to reach out to the American people,” Sehwerert noted. She pointed to the success of the second “Five Days for the Cuban Five” actions in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of June,

Cubans celebrate 60th anniversary of July 26 assault



Fernanda Le Marie/Cancillería del Ecuador

“This will continue to be the socialist revolution of the humble by the humble and for the humble,” Cuban President Raúl Castro told more than 10,000 people in Santiago de Cuba July 26 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the opening of the revolutionary fight to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

The July 26, 1953, bold assaults led by Fidel Castro on the Moncada barracks in Santiago and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks in Bayamo were an attempt to “storm the heavens,” Raúl Castro said. The revolutionaries failed in their objective to take the garrisons and spark a mass revolutionary insurrection; more than 50 of the young combatants were captured, tortured and murdered by Batista’s forces. “But exactly five years, five months and five days later, on Jan. 1, 1959, we were passing through the main entrance of the city to demand the unconditional surrender of the garrison there, made up of more than 5,000 men.”

The celebration was attended by the heads of state or high-ranking government officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Venezuela, and Uruguay. In brief speeches several spoke about the interconnected legacy and ties among the nations of the Caribbean and the deep social and political impact the 1959 Cuban Revolution had on the region. Government representatives also highlighted the role revolutionary Cuba has played in standing up to U.S. imperialism and in providing medical aid and other assistance to Latin America, the Caribbean and other semicolonial countries around the world.

— SETH GALINSKY

and urged delegates to begin planning for the next international gathering in D.C. She also highlighted new support within a few trade unions. This has included the presence of campaigners in defense of the Five — from the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in the United Kingdom and from the

International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 — at the Service Employees International Union convention in May 2012 and at this year’s United Steelworkers “Women of Steel” gathering.

Sehwerert noted that there is currently a habeas corpus petition pending in U.S. court on behalf of the Five, but that there has been no response from the court yet.

Labañino described the obstacles that had to be surmounted to visit her father in prison — a degrading process familiar to the families of the more than 2 million men and women incarcerated in the United States today. “And then there are the lockdowns,” she said. “One time I had a 30-day visa to visit him at the penitentiary in Beaumont, Texas. The day I arrived I was informed the prison was on lockdown and no visits were allowed. I tried every visiting day for a month, and was never allowed in.”

Camilo Rojo, whose father was killed in the 1976 bombing by counterrevolutionaries of a Cubana Airlines flight over Barbados in which 73 Cubans lost their lives, and Moisés Rodríguez, a former Cuban state security agent who spent 28 years infiltrating counterrevolutionary groups in Cuba and the United States, described the kinds of violent attacks that the Cuban Five were working to prevent at the time of their arrest.

María León, a member of Venezuela’s National Assembly, concluded the panel by describing her work in initiating committees of Mothers for

Continued on page 11

NY event commemorates opening of Cuban Revolution

BY CANDACE WAGNER

NEW YORK — More than 300 people here July 27 celebrated the opening of the revolutionary fight to overthrow the U.S.-backed-dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in Cuba that began with the July 26, 1953, attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba led by Fidel Castro.

The young combatants sought “to completely transform the national picture, in which 600,000 Cubans were unemployed; 500,000 peasants were living in miserable homes; they worked four months a year and starved the rest of the time,” Oscar León, Cuba’s deputy ambassador to the United Nations, told the meeting.

“We have been together for 15 years in one of the most important struggles in the history of our revolution,” León said, “the release and return to Cuba of Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, Fernando González Llorca, Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar and René González Sehwerert. That is still an unfinished task and we will not stop until our other four comrades finally return to their homeland.”

A video prepared for the New York event featured René González, the only



Militant photos: left, Hilda Cuzco; right, Arthur Hughes

“We will not stop fighting” until all of Cuban Five are back in Cuba, Cuban Deputy Ambassador to the UN Oscar León told July 27 meeting in New York. Cuban and Puerto Rican people “are fighting the same enemy,” said Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda.

one of the Five who has been freed and is back in Cuba; his mother Irma Sehwerert; Rev. Luis Suárez from the Martin Luther King Center in Havana; and Kenia Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples. Serrano called on meeting participants to keep fighting for the freedom of the Five, an end to the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, for the right of U.S. citizens to travel freely to Cuba, and for the return of the U.S. military base at Guantánamo to Cuba.

Rafael Cancel Miranda, who spent 25½ years in U.S. jails for carrying out

an armed protest action in the U.S. Congress in 1954 to support independence for Puerto Rico, also spoke. The Cuban and Puerto Rican people “are one and the same,” he said. “We are fighting the same enemy.”

The New York event, held at the Service Employees International Union Local 1199 hall, was organized by a coalition of 32 organizations. Other speakers included Julio Escalona, Venezuela’s deputy ambassador to the U.N.; Rosemari Mealy, a professor at City College; and Jonna Baldres of the Philippine Forum.

In 1930s Omaha was 'rotten ripe' for union organizing

Below is an excerpt from *Teamster Power*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. It is the second of four books on the 1930s strikes, organizing drives and political campaigns that transformed the Teamsters union in Minnesota and the Midwest into a fighting industrial union movement. Farrell Dobbs, a central leader of these battles, was Socialist Workers Party candidate for president in 1948, 1952, 1956 and 1960 and SWP national secretary from 1953 to 1972. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

Around mid-June 1938 the North Central Area Committee fought a brief skirmish with long distance trucking firms operating out of Omaha, Nebraska. The clash was only a prelude to a long, bitter struggle that was to erupt there a bit later. To explain why this situation developed, a short sketch of the background is needed.

Omaha lies on the west bank of the Missouri river, opposite Council Bluffs, Iowa. It is the industrial and commercial center of Nebraska. As a transportation hub for the surrounding region, the city is also an operational base for several railroads and truck lines.

In the 1930s Omaha had a population of around 200,000. Of its 17,000-odd industrial workers, about 6,000



Victorious strikers celebrate in front of first truck to move following Arrow Motor Freight's signing of a closed-shop agreement with the union, June 1937. Trucking bosses boasted they could operate with low labor costs and prevent unions from organizing industry.

were employed in packinghouses and some 4,000 in trucking. The conditions under which they toiled were exemplified by a Chamber of Commerce boast that capitalists could operate with "low labor costs."

To have cheap labor it was necessary to maintain open shop standards. This required an unremitting anti-union campaign, which was carried out by the Omaha Business Men's Association (a counterpart of the Minneapolis Citizens Alliance). In 1919, for example, the Association had been instrumental in viciously smashing a packinghouse strike, and as recently as 1935 it had broken a strike of streetcar workers. A general anti-union weapon had been devised for such purposes in the form of a state-enacted anti-picketing law, which declared in its key provision:

"It shall be unlawful . . . to loiter about, beset, patrol or picket in any manner the place of business . . . or any street, alley, road, highway or other place in the vicinity . . . for the purposes of inducing . . . others not to trade with, buy from, work for, or have business dealings with [any firm or corporation]."

These brutal policies had long held the Omaha labor movement down to little more than a few small craft unions of skilled workers. Previous attempts to organize truck drivers in 1929, in 1931, and again in 1933, had been defeated. As a result the average wage in truck-

ing was twenty-five cents an hour. The usual work week was eighty hours.

Although a charter existed for General Drivers Local 554, it had remained more or less a paper union, dominated by right-wing officials in the Omaha Central Labor Union (AFL), and utterly lacking in organizational initiative. This was criminal neglect. Conditions were rotten ripe for a membership campaign in the industry, as the workers themselves demonstrated in the spring of 1937. One day they simply launched a spontaneous strike against Watson Brothers Transportation Company, headquartered in Omaha. Long after the event Louis Miller, who emerged as one of the Local 554 leaders, wrote a letter to me describing how their first walkout began. . . .

"We came to an agreement that the best way to get our fight going was to tie up Watson's, where we worked. Tom would get the men lined up on the Chicago end of Watson's runs. Lee and Fritz would take care of Lincoln. John, Earl and I would tie up the company's Kansas City terminal.

"The night we tied up Watson in Kansas City, the first driver who had been called for a run was Bert [Albert S.] Parker. He had a hot-freight load of bakery goods that was supposed to be in Omaha by 3 a.m. When we told him about the strike he refused to pull out the rig and everyone else on the dock

also quit work.

"That's the kind of guts the men had, with no union behind us.

"Tom Watson, who had charge there, told us we couldn't do that to him. We answered: 'They ain't rolling, Watson.' Then we held a meeting on the street to decide what to do next.

"We called Omaha to report that the Kansas City terminal was shut down. Then we called the Teamster business agent at our end, O.B. Enloe of Local 41. The first thing he said when he came down was: 'I have been waiting for this for over a year.'

"About 3 a.m. Mace Brown, president of the Omaha Central Labor Union, called and I talked to him. He said we should bring the trucks to Omaha and join Local 554, which he called 'his union.' I didn't know Brown from Adam's green fox, so I asked to talk to one of the Watson drivers. I don't recall who it was I talked to, but he said it was okay to come on in because they had Omaha tied up and were about to join Local 554."

Developments similar to those described by Miller had also been taking place at other Watson terminals. Once the Omaha road drivers were all back in town, they marched in a body to the Labor Temple. There they joined Local 554 and Mace Brown helped to arrange a meeting at which they elected new local officers. After that Watson and the other trucking employers agreed to negotiate with the union, so the strikers returned to their jobs.

In the talks that followed the bosses offered little and stalled a lot. Things dragged along until the angry workers again launched a spontaneous walkout, this time at several trucking companies. The new tie-up, which lasted about two weeks, was conducted in defiance of the state's anti-picketing law, and it was very effective. Finally, on June 16, 1937, the bosses gave in. They signed a contract providing a minimum wage of forty-five cents an hour, well above the previous average rate for the city, along with other concessions. They also agreed to reinstate eleven workers who had been fired for union activity.

It was the first strike victory in the recollection of the oldest Omaha union worker.

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Defend political rights in Omaha!

With the July 16 political break-in into the home of Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party 2013 candidate for city council, authorities in Omaha, Neb., or their vigilante associates are issuing a direct challenge to supporters of the party and to working-class fighters everywhere.

Omaha, an industrial and financial center in the Midwest, has a long history of working-class battles. The city's propertied rulers have used both legal and extralegal methods to intimidate and deal blows to their class opponents — from the use of federal immigration raids to break up union organizing drives in area packinghouses in 2000 to Ku Klux Klan night riders threatening and driving out of town Earl Little, an activist in Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association and the father of Malcolm X, in 1925.

The party's initial efforts to respond have uncovered more recent attacks by cops and others against

political activists in the city.

We urge readers to join party supporters in responding by stepping up their political work with others involved in struggles in the interests of working people. Go to Omaha, join in teams taking the *Militant* door to door to workers throughout the area, help build the fight to win freedom for Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter, get out the word about the international campaign for the Cuban Five. Help show the authorities that efforts to push socialists and other working people out of politics will have the opposite effect.

Wherever you are, join in the campaign to defend the party's right to free speech in Omaha. Circulate copies of the open letter supporters of political rights are getting around and win new signers. Help press city officials to arrest those responsible for the break-in and expose those behind the political attack. An injury to one is an injury to all!

Fight for big minimum wage raise!

The protests by fast-food workers from New York to Chicago and beyond, demanding \$15 an hour and unionization, deserve the support of the entire labor movement. These demands have won widespread sympathy from working people, who in their great majority face a relentless push by the bosses to cut jobs, speed up work, lower wages and minimize hours and benefits. These attacks are driven by the deepening crisis of world capitalist production and trade.

Four years into the "recovery" from the 2007-2009 recession, only 47 percent of the U.S. adult population have full-time jobs. Meanwhile, provisions of Obamacare promise only to exacerbate the expansion of part-time work.

The protests highlight the need for a nationwide fight for a big raise in the federal minimum wage. Such a campaign is not only necessary for millions of workers to get by. It would also strengthen working-class unity, self-confidence and combativity, and put us in a better position to effectively or-

ganize, resist and set a course toward independent working-class political action.

Wages under capitalism are set from the bottom up. When the bosses are able to hold down the minimum wage, it drags down the wages of all.

The propertied rulers' always play on divisions, often scapegoating the very sections of the working class to whom they pay the lowest wages, including workers without "proper papers." And they peddle lies to convince us that a higher minimum wage is not in the interests of all workers — from empty threats that they can simply replace us with machines to debunked theories that rising wages contribute to inflation.

In addition to fighting for a big raise in the minimum wage, the labor movement should campaign for a massive government-funded public works program to put millions to work — lessening the competition fostered by high unemployment — and mount a major effort to organize unions and bring union power to bear that could draw millions into action.

Obamacare prompts bosses to cut hours

Continued from page 7

there are now 3 million more part-time positions.

While the Obama administration recently postponed until 2015 fining employers with 50 or more workers who do not provide some health coverage for full-time employees, fines on individual workers without insurance take effect in January 2014.

For employees in workplaces where past union struggles have won higher quality health plans, Obamacare is adding pressure on employers to cut them back. Starting in 2018 a so-called Cadillac tax is slated to penalize employers for providing comprehensive health care plans to their workers. Bosses are wasting no time in cutting these plans, including through raising deductibles and co-payments.

The act considers employer-sponsored insurance

"affordable" if workers pay out-of-pocket 9.5 percent or less of their household income. Above that amount individuals can file paperwork to apply for subsidies and tax credits. But for family coverage each worker would have to pay thousands of dollars more.

Many of the Affordable Care Act's provisions "are inconsistent with the promise that those who were satisfied with their employer-sponsored coverage could keep it," Kinsey Robinson, president of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, told the media. He backed the act's passage and is now calling for its repeal, as is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The United Food and Commercial Workers, Teamsters and UNITE HERE, have also protested aspects of Obamacare in recent months.

Prison hunger strike

Continued from page 4

held in isolation for long periods in small, windowless cells, with no hope of getting out.

Nor has there been an end to the situation where prisoners can be put in solitary after being "validated" as gang members — not on the basis of any gang-related activity or crime, but on "evidence," such as possession of art work, a tattoo, a book by Malcolm X, an accusation from another inmate in exchange for their release from SHU or association with another prisoner labeled as gang affiliated.

"Don't let the support stop," former prisoner Luis Jaukegui told a rally at San Quentin prison on August 3. "It's for humanity. We need to put an end to solitary! We need a situation where people can function if they get out of prison! We need jobs!"

Cuba solidarity conf.

Continued from page 9

the Five throughout Venezuela.

Their presentations were followed by remarks by Gloria La Riva, coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five in the United States, and Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. They reported ongoing efforts, and plans for future actions to broaden support for the fight.

A lively two-hour discussion continued the next day. Delegates heard reports of activities bringing attention to the case in numerous countries, as well as plans for actions in the coming months that were incorporated in the Declaration of Caracas and Plan of Action adopted by the conference at the closing session.

While many delegates are already involved in work for freedom of the Cuban Five, a good many others were learning details about the case and about the Five themselves — their histories of revolutionary activity — for the first time.

One of the most popular items at the conference was the compilation of *Militant* articles published in the book *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* from Pathfinder Press. It provides that kind of information about the Five and the 15 years of the fight for their freedom. Some 120 copies of the book were purchased by conference participants, including small bundles by delegates from Argentina, El Salvador, Haiti and Lebanon to take home for use in their own countries.

Tania Blanco, 40, a cleaning worker at a school in Aragua province in Venezuela, was typical. She said she has been involved in organizing activities in defense of the Cuban Five in her region and bought a copy of *The Cuban Five* to learn more about who they are. Blanco is a candidate for city council for the governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela.

Many delegates were interested to find out how the book is being used to broaden knowledge about the case in the United States, including through door-to-door sales in working-class neighborhoods.

Venezuela-Cuba solidarity

The final morning of the conference, participants visited several joint Venezuelan-Cuban projects that highlighted mutual collaboration and solidarity. One of these was Ciudad Caribia, which when completed will include 20,000 modern apartments, along with schools, medical and sports facilities, factories, and shops. Many of those living in the more than 1,500 units already completed are people who lost their homes in 2010 during torrential rains and massive mudslides. Many Cubans are involved in the project, serving as teachers, doctors, and organizing recreational activities.

Other visits included a predominantly Cuban-staffed medical clinic in the working-class 23 de Enero neighborhood in Caracas, as well as the national José Gregorio Hernández Medical Genetics Center in Miranda — part of a genetics study to aid the handicapped that is a joint project of the governments belonging to ALBA.

The conference closed with a march and cultural activity paying tribute to Chávez's legacy in the fight for Latin American unity in the struggle against imperialist domination. The next day many participants still in Caracas took part in the official commemoration of the 59th anniversary of Chávez's birth, a gathering of several thousand at which Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro gave a major address aimed at mobilizing supporters of the governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela for the municipal elections scheduled for December.

In their final plenary session delegates at the conference adopted a Plan of Action that highlights "redoubling the campaign of solidarity" for the freedom of the Cuban Five and Puerto Rican political prisoners held in the United States. Among the upcoming events it points to are the IX Colloquium for the Freedom of the Five and Against Terrorism, Nov. 13-17 in Holguín, Cuba; the World Festival of Youth and Students, Dec. 7-12 in Ecuador; the International Commission of Inquiry into the Case of the Cuban Five in London, March 7-8, 2014; a third round of actions to be organized in Washington, D.C., next year; and the III World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba to be held Oct. 27-31, 2014.

Workers sign to put socialist candidates on ballot in NYC

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party collected 7,524 signatures by Aug. 7 to put the party's citywide candidates — Dan Fein for mayor, John Studer for comptroller and Deborah Liatos for public advocate — on the New York City ballot for the November elections. Petitioners fanned out across all five boroughs, gathering more than twice the signatures required. Talking to workers on street corners, at shopping centers and door to door in working-class neighborhoods, campaign supporters also sold a couple of hundred copies of the *Militant*.

—JOHN STUDER

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Chinese communities around world
discussed at Malaysia conference
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 32 SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Judge orders NY to reform stop and frisk

BY DOUG NELSON

NEW YORK — U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled in a class-action suit Aug. 12 that the New York City Police Department's stop-and-frisk tactics are unconstitutional and racially discriminatory and ordered a series of reforms aimed at moderating what she called a "proactive policing tool" — stopping working people on the street without cause.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly countered by appealing to working people to support current policing methods they argue have brought the rate of violent crime in the city to an all-time low. Their message was foremost aimed at workers who are Black and live in neighborhoods with the highest levels of gang activity, shootings and other predatory violence.

Based on personal stories of 12 plaintiffs, testimony from cops on both sides and "expert" analysts of police data, the judge ruled that the stop-and-frisk practices violate Fourth Amendment protections from unreasonable search and seizure and

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Egypt workers press fight for wages, rights, unions

Undeterred after army crackdown on Islamists



Textile workers in Mahalla, Egypt, at sit-down protest Aug. 26 demand payment of promised bonus. "Our revolution is for freedom against hunger, poverty, and nepotism," they chanted.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Less than a week after the Egyptian army's bloody clash with the Muslim Brotherhood, hundreds of workers at the government-owned Weaving and Textile Company in Mahalla launched another strike Aug. 26, demanding payment of a promised bonus and the firing of a hated top manager — one

of many signs that working people in Egypt remain determined to fight for their interests.

President Mohammed Morsi, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, was ousted by the military July 3 after tens of millions took to the streets across the country demanding his resignation. Some 1,000 Morsi supporters were killed and thousands injured in the military's heavy-handed response to the Brotherhood's attempts to restore the Islamists' hold on the

Continued on page 4

US hands off Syria!

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people here in the U.S. and worldwide to join in demanding that Washington and its imperialist allies keep their blood-stained hands off Syria.

Government officials and other voices for the capitalist rulers in Washington, London, Paris and elsewhere are trying to build a bandwagon to launch a military assault against the regime of

STATEMENT BY DAN FEIN, SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY NY MAYORAL CANDIDATE

— August 29

Bashar al-Assad. Such an attack would be a blow to the interests of the working class and toilers — in Syria, throughout the region, and in the U.S. and the world over.

As a pretext to rain down missiles on Syria, the U.S. rulers are shedding crocodile tears over the slaughter of hundreds of civilians in an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs that Washington says was carried out by Assad's armed forces. Assad is already responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrians during the civil war and before; it's certainly not above that tyrannical regime to use chemical weapons.

Whatever the facts, however, this latest massacre is simply being grabbed

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Public outcry, protests force arrest of killer cop in Toronto



Militant/John Steele

Protesters march to Metropolitan Toronto Police Headquarters Aug. 13 demanding arrest and prosecution of cop James Forcillo, who fatally shot Sammy Yatim nine times July 27.

BY FÉLIX VINCENT ARDEA AND JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Constable James Forcillo, the cop who killed 18-year-old Sammy Yatim July 27, was charged with second-degree murder Aug. 19 amid public outrage and street demonstrations.

Forcillo fatally shot Yatim on a Toronto Transit Commission streetcar. According to witnesses, Yatim quickly found himself alone in the

streetcar after brandishing a three-inch knife in an apparent disturbed mental state, first ordering passengers to remain, then ordering them off the car.

A video taken by a passerby and widely viewed on the Internet shows Yatim alone, standing in the aisle near the front of the streetcar as five cops on the street ordered him to drop his knife. Fourteen seconds later Forcillo

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Door to door: Australian workers sign to put communists on ballot

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

SYDNEY — Campaigning door to door in workers' neighborhoods and at political events here, supporters of Ron Poulsen, a factory worker and Communist League candidate for the federal senate from New South Wales, collected in less than two weeks well over the required 100 signatures to place him on the ballot in the Sept. 7 national elections.

After a campaign team knocked on his door, Stephen Roach, 41, a casual (temporary) forklift driver with a transport company, signed for Poulsen. He expressed concern at the growth of casual work and "the number of agencies" who profit from pushing workers into temporary jobs. Roach saw this as the reason "hourly wages are going down, destroying any stability for workers."

The communist candidate explained

Continued on page 3

Oakland airport fast-food workers win reinstatement of union backers

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Concession workers at Subway and Jamba Juice at the Oakland International Airport won reinstatement of three coworkers who were fired for taking part in a union struggle for better working conditions.

"The fight and actions we've had

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Support for Obama was focus of event marking 1963 march

BY SETH GALINSKY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tens of thousands turned out here Aug. 24 on the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

In 1963 more than 200,000 marched as the fight against Jim Crow segregation and racism was advancing in battles across the South and spreading into the North.

This year's event was organized by National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King III, and endorsed by scores of Black and civil rights groups and trade unions.

The March for Jobs and Freedom anniversary was organized above all as a celebration of the Barack Obama presidency. In midst of the highest unemployment facing workers in decades — hitting disproportionately at workers who are Black — his administration has done nothing to put any of the millions of jobless to work. And attorney General Eric Holder, who spoke at the rally, has led the government's attacks on political rights.

The event included many workers looking to discuss what is happening today — from the economic crisis and the recent gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court to the anger many feel at the fact that George Zimmerman got off scot-free for the vigilante killing of Trayvon Martin.

Discussions on these questions swirled on the hundreds of buses to the rally and where workers gathered on lawn chairs and blankets that dotted the area around the National Mall.

Overwhelmingly Black in composi-

tion, most of those attending were workers, including substantial union contingents. But there was also many lawyers, professors and other professional and middle-class people, a section of the Black community that has expanded substantially in the decades since the 1963 march.

In addition to Sharpton, King, and Holder, speakers included Congressman John Lewis, one of the 1963 speakers; NAACP President Ben Jealous; Trayvon Martin's mother Sybrina Fulton; and several union officials.

Rally participants were looking to discuss what can be done to fight to change the deteriorating economic conditions workers face today, which for many is worse than in 1963.

"I came because we need to stay strong and fight for our rights," said Eric Timmons, 31, a member of the United Auto Workers union in Detroit. Timmons said that under the two-tier wages imposed where he works, he gets about half the pay of coworkers with more seniority on the first tier.

Rachel Hampton, 36, a nursing assistant, came from Rutherford County, N.C., with the local chapter of the NAACP. Hampton said she is working three different jobs, all at minimum wage, to make ends meet. Chapter secretary treasurer Darwin Little joined in the discussion. "We need to pull together, Black and white, to see more jobs created with better wages," he said.

Carolyn Taylor-Chester, 49, came to the action with Service Employees International Union Local 1199 from Baltimore. "So many of us are working



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Tens of thousands turned out for Aug. 24 event marking 1963 March on Washington.

in health care and we can't even afford it ourselves," she said.

"Trayvon is on my mind," Connie Henderson, 60, a retired autoworker from Detroit, told the *Militant*. "I feel like it was a lynching."

Theresa Green, a member of Transport Workers Local 100, said the rally "was more like a gathering. There are so many important issues we face. We really needed a protest."

"The tables were a real magnet for hundreds of workers looking for literature on what we face today," said Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, who helped staff one of the two big literature displays for the *Militant* and Pathfinder books at the Aug. 24 event. Overall, 101 subscriptions and 165 books on revolutionary working-class politics were sold.

1963 march registered advance in proletarian battle for Black rights



Below are excerpts from the *Militant's* coverage of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, including from the speech prepared by John Lewis, then chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, that was censured by march organizers in part because of his criticisms of President John Kennedy and the Democratic Party.

The 1963 march registered the continuing expansion of a powerful proletarian movement to overthrow Jim Crow segregation. It also brought to the fore two opposing class trajectories. On one hand were those who censored Lewis' speech and looked to the Kennedy administration and Democratic Party. On the other were proletarian forces pressing for independent working-class political action, including Malcolm X, the Socialist Workers Party and those who chose the occasion of the march to launch the Freedom Now Party.

Turnout Shows Negroes Ready for Action

BY GEORGE LAVAN

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 29 — The massiveness — a quarter of a million people is the best estimate — was the outstanding feature of yesterday's March for Jobs and Freedom. This was also the most *important* thing about the march. For both friend and foe were carefully watching to see in what numbers Negroes would come out. To the politicians, the top union brass, the liberals, the fence-sitters and to the white supremacists — indeed to all social and political realists, the march's size would be a gauge of whether the Freedom Now fight was still in its upsurge or beginning to subside.

The Negro people were watching
Continued on page 11

THE MILITANT

Free the Cuban Five!

Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, René González

The 'Militant' champions the international fight to free these five exemplary working-class fighters and products of the revolution they defend. Join Sept. 12 actions to protest their frame-up and demand their freedom. See ad on page 7.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

'Important there's a paper that supports struggles of workers'

BY JOHN STUDER

Across the U.S. and in a number of other countries around the world, supporters of the *Militant* and campaigners for candidates of the Socialist Workers Party and sister Communist Leagues are knocking on workers' doors, selling introductory subscriptions and winning long-term renewals.

"If you have a group of workers together you have something to stand on. By yourself you are just a target," retired worker Donald Lewellen told Clay Dennison in Burlington, Wash., while they were discussing the fight by berry pickers at Sakuma Brothers Farms in the area, most of whom are immigrants from Mexico.

"Not only Sakuma Farms, but anywhere there are immigrant workers it seems like they just use up their talents," said Lewellen, who previously worked in a chicken plant, as he signed up for a subscription. "Sakuma Farms is trying to cut corners and take food off the workers' table."

"We have been visiting subscribers whose subscriptions have expired or are about to expire," *Militant* supporter Olöf Andra Proppé wrote from London. "We go door to door in the same areas to sell new subscriptions. Over the past week, five subscribers have renewed and 10 new subscriptions have been sold."

"People get so absorbed in their own daily struggles to survive," Adamo Giraldo told John Benson, SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta, when he and campaign supporters knocked on his door in Norcross, Ga., Aug. 17. "So it's important there's a paper that explains what's happening in the world and sup-

ports struggles of working people."

Giraldo, who went back to school to try and pick up a trade after being laid off, renewed his subscription and purchased a copy of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, one of nine books offered at special reduced prices with a subscription (see ad on this page).

"I would like to let you know that I am a big fan of your newsweekly, the *Militant*," a worker behind bars in San Diego wrote Aug. 19. "There is not much to look forward to in prison and I always anxiously await your paper."

In recent years the number of subscribers has steadily grown in U.S. prisons, where the workers' paper gets passed around and discussed. To help workers behind bars receive the socialist press at the reduced price of \$6 for six months, or in some cases free of charge, send a check or money order to the *Militant* address listed on page 2, earmarked "Prisoners Fund."

To get or renew your subscription — or to join efforts to expand the readership of the working-class press — contact distributors in your area (listed on page 10) or the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

Don't miss a single issue!

Colombia peasants, workers strike over conditions



Several hundred thousand peasants, truck drivers, artisanal miners and others went on strike in 19 provinces in Colombia Aug. 19. More than 15,000 police tried to dismantle 37 roadblocks set up by farmers and more than 175 protesters have been arrested. Above, march in Tunja supporting strike.

Farmers are demanding government price supports and lower prices for agricultural supplies. "Government subsidies go to the big land owners," Urbano García, an organizer with Fensuagro, the farmer and farmworkers union, said by phone from Magdalena Aug. 23. "But for peasants, the cost of production is often greater than the price they receive."

Pedro Aguilar, president of the Truckers Association of Colombia, told the *Militant* that drivers are demanding that the price of gas be lowered from \$4.50 a gallon to \$1 a gallon. "We also want the companies that contract us to pay a minimum per mile to cover truck maintenance," Aguilar said. "Right now many of us don't even earn enough to eat."

Artisanal miners are protesting government bans on small-scale mining and confiscation of their equipment. "The government favors the transnational mining companies," Aydeé Moreno, human rights director for Fensuagro, said from Bogotá.

—SETH GALINSKY

Workers sign to put Australia communist on ballot

Continued from front page

his campaign's call "for a mass movement, including the unions, to fight for a government-funded program of needed public works to provide jobs for all. This fight should also demand an increase in the minimum wage to

improve the conditions of the lowest-paid workers — casual and youth, female and immigrant — and help unify the working class." "Our election campaign is centered on discussing the impact of the growing global capitalist crisis, increasingly evident

now in Australia, on the jobs and livelihoods of working people," Poulsen told the *Militant*.

The elections have been marked by competition between the main bourgeois parties to see who can propose harsher measures to close the door on so-called "illegal" asylum-seekers coming to Australia by boat.

Liberal opposition leader Anthony Abbott declared the issue a "national emergency." In response, Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced refugees without papers would no longer be allowed to settle in the country.

"These refugees are people too," Roach said as he signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*. "They have the right to escape whatever horrible conditions they are leaving behind."

At an Aug. 4 meeting in Sydney celebrating 60 years of the Cuban Revolution, Poulsen spoke on the campaign to free the Cuban Five, political prisoners held by Washington since 1998, and on Cuba's participation from 1975 to 1991 in an internationalist mission that helped drive invading white supremacist South African forces out of Angola. Three of the Five participated in the Angola campaign. Fifty of those at the meeting signed to help get the communist candidate on the ballot.

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Egypt workers press fights

Continued from front page

reins of government. Top leaders of the Brotherhood have been jailed.

Much of the U.S. press — from major bourgeois dailies to most radical liberal publications that claim to speak in the interests of working people — wrung their hands over the ouster of the elected president as a blow to “democracy” and called for his restoration or reconciliation with the severely weakened Brotherhood.

The *New York Times*, noting the imposition of martial law and curfews by the interim government and the appointment of military officers as governors in many provinces, warned that a crackdown on workers and their organizations would swiftly follow the actions against the Brotherhood.

But one doesn't so easily follow the other.

On one hand is a sectarian bourgeois Islamist movement that miscalculated its real power. On the other are millions of toilers who have carved out political space and gained confidence in struggles over the last several years against the repressive Hosni Mubarak regime, the military junta that replaced him, and the Morsi government, backed by Brotherhood street thugs, that followed. Having dispatched its main capitalist rival, the army-connected bourgeoisie in Egypt now faces a more complex challenge — the unfolding class struggle and deepening crisis of capitalism.

Workers, small farmers and Egyptians from all walks of life — including many who voted for Morsi in 2012 following the popular overthrow of Mubarak in February 2011 — were fed up with the Muslim Brotherhood government. Not only were working people angry that the Morsi regime fulfilled none of its promises and made them pay dearly for the deepening capitalist economic crisis — with steep price and tax hikes in basic necessities and growing unemployment. But they became increasingly incensed at the creeping assault on basic democratic rights and steps to impose the Brotherhood's sectarian vision of Sunni Islam in public life.

“The Muslim Brotherhood's stubbornness is the central cause of the current crisis,” Kamal Fayoumy, an electrician at the giant Mahalla El Kubra textile mill and central leader of many workers struggles, told the *Militant* by phone. “They have refused to step aside in the face of the people's will.”

The Brotherhood hoped that by provoking the military into attacking them, supporters who died would become “martyrs” and help the group regain support. Preparing for battle at their camp at the Rabaa al-Adawiya, they

set up a kitchen, pharmacy and a field hospital. On Aug. 14 soldiers and cops cleared out the camp using armored vehicles, bulldozers, tear gas and, eventually, live ammunition, killing at least 200 people. According to the Interior Ministry, 43 police and soldiers were also killed in the clash.

Meanwhile, Brotherhood supporters targeted Egypt's Christian Coptic community, which represents about 10 percent of the country's population. According to *Al Ahram* weekly, the Islamists torched at least 50 churches, Christian-owned businesses and schools on Aug. 14 alone.

People protect Christians

In many cases workers, youth and others who are Muslim joined human chains to protect Christian institutions and homes from reactionary mobs. “The Muslim Brotherhood is trying to cause religious animosity and conflict. But no one must be allowed to divide us,” said Ibrahim Abdel Gawad, president of the Independent Farmers Union in Ismailia. “That is why you see Muslim and Christian youth standing together side by side to protect the churches.”

The Brotherhood's recent actions are no surprise to working people in Egypt. In early December last year, armed Brotherhood thugs attacked demonstrators who were protesting Morsi's proposed constitution that would soon be used to restrict democratic rights, union organization and freedom of worship.

The intimidation didn't succeed in pushing working people back. According to the Cairo-based International Development Centre, there were an average of 1,140 strikes, sit-ins, marches and other workers' actions in June and July leading up to Morsi's overthrow.

Working people organized to protect themselves against stepped-up Islamist thuggery after Morsi's ouster.

In Ismailia, an industrial city along the Suez Canal, “we discussed with the army establishing popular committees, but they rejected the idea,” construction worker Mahmoud Salama, a leader of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions there, said by phone. “So people started on their own to form popular committees to defend themselves from Brotherhood attacks.”

Popular committees were also set up in Mahalla El Kubra, a textile industry center. “Made up of workers, students and residents, they guarded the workers' neighborhoods, and public and private institutions,” Fayoumy said.

But the committees were often not strong enough to prevent non-proletarian elements from undermining their purpose.



Delta Sugar workers protest in Cairo for better wages and job conditions, November 2012. Workers have carved out space in struggle against Hosni Mubarak regime, military junta that replaced him, and government of Mohammad Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Fatma Ramadan, a member of the executive board of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, said from Cairo that now “most of these committees are constituted by thugs or are being used by opportunists.”

On Aug. 18 the government ordered the committees to disband.

Labor opposes Brotherhood return

Trade union activists and participants in struggles of small farmers who spoke with the *Militant* by phone Aug. 20 and Aug. 21 oppose the Muslim Brotherhood's return to power. While they hold a range of views on the crackdown, they remain confident in their capacities and prospects for future struggle.

“The situation is dangerous,” Salama said. “Roads between towns are not safe. Many workers are not going to work. This creates chaos.” At the same time, he said the curfew is “not dangerous for the rights of workers, who meet during the day anyway, and not at night.”

Fayoumy noted that workers in Mahalla are conducting a petition campaign “demanding that a trade union law legalizing our unions be passed, that free union elections be held, that fired workers be returned to their jobs and for a minimum wage of 2,000 Egyptian pounds a month (\$286) and a maximum wage 20 times that.”

“In Mahalla 10,000 workers have already signed,” he said. “But the state of emergency is making it harder to get around so it has slowed somewhat now.”

“Our struggles have been postponed, that is the price working people are being forced to pay,” Karam Saber, president of the Land Center for Human Rights, said from Cairo. “The farmers' union movement is starting a campaign against debtors prisons, for land distribution and for better loans, but when we go to the Ministry of Agriculture they tell us to wait until the battle with the Muslim Brotherhood is over.”

“This state of emergency will slow the class struggle, because right now the only thing the worker can do is go to work and return home,” said Ramadan.

Mahitab Algilani, a member of Revolutionary Youth who has been active in the protests at Cairo's Tahrir Square, said that “although the state of emergency is against the rights of working people, in the current situation it is justifiable in order to eliminate terror. But we know that the state of emergency could be used against us next.”

“I support the intervention of the army and the arrests of the Muslim Brotherhood people because workers do not have arms at this point,” said Gamal Abu'l Oula, director of the Center for Trade Unions and Workers Services of-

fice in Mahalla. “We are for a temporary state of emergency. It will not stand in the way of trade union struggles.”

A strike for higher pay by 2,100 workers at Suez Steel that began in early July ended Aug. 22, according to *Al Ahram*. The paper reported that two strike leaders were released on bail Aug. 13 after fellow workers protested in front of the Suez City courthouse. Police then arrested three more workers Aug. 21-22.

According to the *Times*, the army has sought to pin blame for the strike on the Muslim Brotherhood. But *Al Ahram* notes that a variety of political parties are supporting the workers' fight.

“The Suez governor promised to release our coworkers on Friday,” Walid Hassan told the paper. “If not, workers might go on strike again.”

President Barack Obama said in an Aug. 15 statement that Washington “strongly condemns the steps that have been taken by Egypt's interim government and security forces” and favors “a process of national reconciliation.”

Although Obama cancelled a joint U.S.-Egypt military exercise scheduled for September, Washington maintains \$1.3 billion in annual military aid to Egypt. The aid is crucial to maintaining advanced equipment the military buys from the U.S.

The government of Qatar, the biggest financial backer of the Muslim Brotherhood when Morsi was in power, has continued to send some aid to the Egyptian government.

Four Middle East governments — Saudi Arabia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait — are backing the interim government. The three Arab monarchies — who have long viewed the Brotherhood as a political threat — have put together a \$12 billion aid program. The Israeli government has been lobbying Washington to keep the military aid to Egypt flowing. All four see aiding the new regime as the best road toward establishing capitalist stability and countering the governments of Turkey and Iran, which denounced the overthrow of Morsi as a coup.

Georges Mehrabian and Bashar Abu-Saifan contributed to this article from Beirut, Lebanon.



Muslim Brotherhood backers beat opponent of Mohammed Morsi regime April 19 in Tahrir Square. Islamist group alienated workers with thuggery and capitalist economic measures.

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Bosses renege on agreements with farmworkers after strike

BY CLAY DENNISON

SEATTLE — “Sakuma is not honoring the agreement,” said farmworker Francisco Eugenio Paz at an informational picket Aug. 20 outside a Seattle grocery store that sells the company’s produce. “We’re going to keep fighting and we are asking people not to buy berries from Sakuma.”

Field workers and supporters carried out similar actions at two other locations in western Washington the same day.

After going on strike two times in July, some 250 members of the farmworkers group *Familias Unidas por la Justicia* (Families United for Justice), reached an agreement with Sakuma Brothers Farms management on wages July 25. But workers say the company stopped honoring the verbal agreement and started to bring in several dozen “guest workers” from Mexico.

After the company refused to pay an agreed-upon price per pound that would guarantee a minimum wage of \$12 an hour, the workers decided to call for a boycott.

The strikes won improvements in living conditions. Filthy and bug-infested mattresses in the labor camps were replaced with new ones. They won back pay for young workers who had been receiving less than the Washington state minimum wage and an agreement to hire family members to weigh the picked produce.

“They negotiated with us, which was a big achievement” and workers are prepared to strike again if they don’t reach an agreement, said Rosalinda Guillen in a published interview. She is a farmworker organizer and director of Bellingham, Wash.-based Community to Community Development, which works with the pickers. Guillen said the company negotiated out of fear that their application for guest workers would be suspended by a strike.

The main demands of the workers are for higher wages, reimbursement of transportation costs for those who migrate annually from California and guarantees that workers who went on strike will be rehired next year without reprisals.

“Familias Unidas has not been able to speak with the guest workers, and the company put up a wire fence to separate guest worker housing from the other cabins,” said Paz.

Company security “stay with the guest workers when they go to the store, when they go to buy food,” said Angelica Villa, an organizer with Community to Community. “Those workers don’t know what is going on here.”

After a strike in 2004 workers at Sakuma Farms won a wage increase. But wages were lowered the following year.

The guest workers are employed under government H-2A permits. They cannot change jobs on their own accord and face deportation if fired. Each state sets a prevailing minimum wage for them, which in Washington this year is \$12 per hour.

In 2012 some 85,000 workers received H-2A visas. The immigration bill under consideration in Congress would make it easier for growers to bring in guest workers and increase the annual number to 337,000 workers.

Messages for the workers and financial contributions can be sent to Familias Unidas por la Justicia at P.O. Box 1206, Burlington, WA 98233.



Militant/Clay Dennison

Berry pickers from Sakuma Farms and supporters at Seattle grocery informational picket Aug. 20. Company refuses to pay agreed-upon wages and has brought in “guest workers.”

Mine Workers ratify contract with Patriot Coal

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHICAGO — Members of the United Mine Workers of America in West Virginia and Kentucky ratified a five-year contract with Patriot Coal Corp. Aug. 16 by 85 percent. The vote by some 1,800 active and laid-off miners followed a recommendation by union officials to approve the pact and takes place amid company bankruptcy proceedings.

In 2007 Peabody Energy spun off its UMW-organized mines, forming Patriot Coal as a separate company. This allowed Peabody to get out from under union contracts and obligations affecting benefits of thousands of retired miners. The following year, Patriot Coal acquired Magnum, a similar spin-off of Arch Coal. In July 2012 Patriot submitted a series of deep concessions as part of its bankruptcy filing.

Over the past year, miners and their supporters have taken part in numerous demonstrations in coalfield areas and other locations, including Peabody headquarters in St. Louis. They mobilized repeatedly to protest the expected ruling handed down May 29 by bankruptcy Judge Kathy Surratt-States, sanctioning the company’s proposals.

The agreement imposes a \$1 per hour wage cut with a 50 cents annual increase for three years starting in 2015. Judge Surratt-States had approved Patriot’s proposal to cut wages by as much as \$7.53 an hour. Workers’ dental, vision, accident and life insurance plans, as well as job-bidding rights will not be cut as the company initially demanded.

Patriot will eliminate some paid holidays, raise workers’ medical expenses, cut overtime pay, end pensions for new hires, and walk away from obligations to maintain guaranteed health care insurance for some 20,000 retirees.

“We took concessions to help our retired brothers and sisters,” said Darryl Hedgepath, a member of UMW Local 1793 and scoop operator at the Patriot’s Highland No. 9 Mine in Uniontown, Ky. “On any one day they could still close down the mines.”

The deal keeps the company “on track for reorganization — and not liquidation,” Patriot Coal President and Chief Executive Bennett Hatfield said in a press statement.

Funds for retiree health benefits, which will run out in the coming months, will be shifted to a union-administered

Voluntary Employee Benefit Association fund. Patriot agreed to pay a one-time sum of \$15 million to the VEBA and 20 cents per ton of coal mined. As part of the agreement the union will get a 35 percent stake in the company that it can sell to fund the VEBA if and when Patriot emerges from bankruptcy, which company officials project will happen by the end of the year.

UMWA officials are pursuing a suit against Peabody and Arch for retiree health care funds and lobbying politicians in Congress to press for legislation to transfer federal Coal Act funds slated for reclamation of mined land to the VEBA. “We do not have the resources in the VEBA to guarantee retiree health care forever,” said UMW President Cecil Roberts in a video address explaining the contract proposal ahead of the vote.

In a reversal of the May 29 court decision, the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Eighth Circuit ruled Aug. 21 that Peabody maintains responsibility for health care benefits for some 3,100 of the retired miners.

The union is organizing the next rally Aug. 27 in front of Peabody Energy headquarters in St. Louis.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 9, 1988

TORONTO — A big victory was won here August 31, when the U.S. State Department finally granted Héctor Marroquín an immigrant visa to the United States.

A national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and a leader of the struggle for immigrant rights, Marroquín was born in Mexico. He has been fighting for 11 years for his right to live and work in the United States. After 11 years of government efforts to deport him because of his communist views, the State Department finally decided to give up and grant the visa he needs to get a green card, which would make him a permanent resident of the United States.

Thousands of working people in the United States have heard about Marroquín’s case and signed petitions, written letters, or joined rallies in his defense.



September 9, 1963

Where does the Negro people’s fight for equality stand now that the March on Washington has passed into history?

The Aug. 28 march, the largest demonstration Washington has ever seen, commanded the attention of the whole country — indeed of the whole world. Between 200,000 and 250,000 people — about 90 percent of them Negro — made a sacrifice of time and money to journey to the nation’s capital on a work day to register by their physical presence the demand for freedom and jobs. This was eloquent and dramatic testimony of their feelings and their potential power.

But despite this tremendous outpouring, nothing concrete appears to have changed in the oppressed position of the Negro people. The March showed the potential political power of the Negro people — but only the potential. That power has not been made actual, nor can it while the Negroes are trapped in the two-party system.



September 10, 1938

CHICAGO — Employers of 70 percent of the drivers in the 11-state North Central Area last week unanimously voted to sign the agreement reached a week ago by committees representing the unions and the operators, thus ratifying a pact that embraces more than 250,000 workers and brings union conditions and wages to a vast number of hitherto unorganized workers.

Only three hours was needed for the employers to decide to accept the terms reached after nearly a year’s negotiations on the part of the union representatives. The contract lays the foundation for other area agreements and ultimately a nationwide contract.

The contract’s wage provisions win substantial improvements for the great majority of drivers. It establishes a series of minimum wages and working conditions. Seniority rights are established for the whole area.

Teamster Rebellion
by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.—\$19

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'Release victims of Chicago cop torture and frame-up'

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — Two dozen people picketed the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel Aug. 5 to draw attention to the fight for the release of more than 100 prisoners, all African-American men, who were framed up and incarcerated based on "confessions" extracted through beatings and torture.

Inside, Detective Kenneth Boudreau was speaking on a panel at the 2013 International Gang Specialist Training Conference on "The Chicago Police Department's Gang School Safety Team." Boudreau is among a number of Chicago police officers accused of torturing suspects in custody under the command of Lt. Jon Burge at Police Area 2 in Chicago during the 1970s, 1980s and early '90s. Boudreau has been named in 38 such cases.

In 2006 special prosecutors assigned to probe torture allegations determined there was sufficient evidence to convict Burge and others, but no charges could be brought because the federal five-year statute of limitations for the crime had passed. Burge, however, was convicted in June 2010 on federal charges of perjury and obstruction of justice for lying in a civil lawsuit about the torture. In January 2011 he was sentenced to four and a half years in prison.

"Why should my son be in jail while Boudreau still walks the streets?" said Jeanette Plummer, speaking through a megaphone to picket line participants and passersby. "My son was 15 years old when Boudreau tortured him. What Boudreau did was criminal."

Calif. inmates press hunger strike in fight against long-term isolation

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES — Some 45 days into a hunger strike that began July 8 California prison authorities have yet to negotiate with prisoners, whose fight has drawn attention to the practice of long-term solitary confinement and other inhumane conditions.

An official with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's media department said 80 prisoners are on strike, 45 of whom have not eaten in 45 days. Supporters of the strikers say the number is higher. The action began with some 30,000 inmates refusing meals.

"My understanding is that for standing up and fighting to better their situation hunger strikers like my son are getting more time in the SHU," said Bertha Nava, "in some cases another 120 days."

Prisoners in Pelican Bay's SHUs initiated the first round of hunger strike protests two years ago. Protest organizers say they resumed the strike July 8 because prison officials had refused to carry out promises to meet prisoners' demands — including abolition of a snitch system that puts inmates accused of gang affiliation in long-term isolation until they finger others, release of those in SHU isolation for more than 10 years and a weekly phone call.

"My brother Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa has spent 29 years in the SHU at Pelican Bay," Marie Levin said in a phone interview from Oakland. "He's past 43 days on the hunger strike. I don't want my

Plummer's son Johnnie was arrested in August 1991 and interrogated by Boudreau and other detectives about a murder he insists he had nothing to do with. He was allegedly threatened and beaten by officers Michael Kill and Boudreau until he provided self-incriminating statements and was subsequently sentenced to 50 years in prison. He is a named plaintiff in a class-action petition filed last November seeking new hearings for the more than 100 still-incarcerated victims.

"My son, Marcus Wiggins, was 13 years old when he was tortured by Boudreau and other officers into making a false confession," said Caroline Johnson. "How can a man who tortured children be asked to speak about children's safety? Boudreau and all those who did what he did should be in jail."

Report exposes sterilization of women prisoners

BY SUSAN LAMONT

Women in California's prison system were improperly sterilized in recent years under coerced consent and false claims of medical necessity, according to a July 7 report by the Center for Investigative Reporting. Prison authorities also broke the law by circumventing required state approval.

During a five-year period ending in 2010, at least 148 pregnant women in the California Institution for Women in Corona and the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla were pressed into agreeing to have their tubes tied, the re-

brother to go through that. But I stand with him because the hunger strike is educating thousands about inhuman treatment in U.S. prisons."

Nantambu Jamaa, of the Pelican Bay-SHU Short Corridor Collective and a leader of the hunger strike, released a statement Aug. 14 referring to efforts by prisoners to overcome racial divisions fostered by prison authorities. "I would like to reiterate that the Agreement to End All Hostilities, issued Aug. 12, 2012, is significant for all prisoners because the CDCR has encouraged prisoners in their 33 prisons to not only engage in self-destructive behavior but has also helped heighten racial hostilities — the catalyst for internal warfare, racial warfare and gang warfare — all of which has been magnified inside the prison and throughout our communities," he wrote. "We called for an end to hostilities to eliminate giving guards an excuse to kill prisoners."

On Aug. 19, U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson authorized California prison officials to force-feed inmates and to disregard "do not resuscitate" orders signed by hunger strikers.

"Victor has spent 23 years in the Special Housing Unit in Pelican Bay — half his life in a tomb," Gracie Martinez, a childhood friend of one of the prisoners, said at an Aug. 13 protest here sponsored by California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement. "How many more strikes will there be before Governor [Jerry] Brown responds?"



Protest in Chicago Aug. 5 demands new trial for more than 100 prisoners convicted on basis of "confessions" extracted through police torture in Chicago's southern police districts. From left, Wallace Bradley, John Hawkins, Elliot Zinger and Jeanette Plummer with picture of her son.

Joining Plummer and Johnson was speaking at the picket were cop torture victim Mark Clements, who won release after serving 28 years in prison; Wallace Bradley, a leader of the fight to win release of torture survivors; Annabel

Perez, mother of Jaime Haude, who was tortured by Chicago police; Ted Pearson of the Chicago Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression; attorney Elliot Zinger; and John Hawkins of the Socialist Workers Party.

port says.

For decades federal law has prohibited use of federal funds for sterilizations of institutionalized individuals, a protection won through fights against "eugenics" sterilization programs targeting working people.

The operations were performed using state funds, but were still illegal because they were done without authorization from state medical review committees. Prison authorities claim they were unaware of the requirement, which was made state law in 1994.

In March 2012 the prisoners' rights group Justice Now submitted testimony to the California Senate budget subcommittee related to a range of abuses of inmates in California women's prisons, including illegal sterilizations. "Federal and state laws," the group testified, "prohibit sterilization in coercive environments and specifically prohibit elective sterilization in prisons, making clear that voluntary, informed consent cannot be procured in the prison environment."

In addition to the 148 women given tubal ligations, 10 other women told Justice Now that they were improperly sterilized by other methods. Among them was Kelli Thomas, who told the *Los Angeles Times* that she went into surgery at Valley State for a biopsy and to remove two cysts. She gave the doctor permission to remove her ovaries if cancer was found. Although no cancer was present, her ovaries were taken out.

Crystal Nguyen, 28, a former Valley State inmate who worked in the prison's

infirmary in 2007, told the Center for Investigative Reporting that she often overheard medical staff asking inmates who had served multiple prison terms to agree to be sterilized. "I was like, 'Oh my God, that's not right,'" Nguyen said. "Do they think they're animals, and they don't want them to breed anymore?"

In an interview with CIR, Dr. James Heinrich, Valley State Prison's gynecologist, said he saw the sterilizations as an important service for poor women who faced potential health risks.

But Heinrich's comments on the \$147,460 in state funds paid for the operations betray an attitude of contempt for working-class women. "Over a 10-year period, that isn't a huge amount of money," he said, "compared to what you save in welfare paying for these unwanted children — as they procreated more."

Medical care at the state's 33 prisons has been under the California Prison Health Care Receivership Corp. since 2006, after a U.S. district judge ruled that the system's health care was so poor that it violated constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina state legislature agreed July 25, after 10 years of debate, to award some \$50,000 to each victim of that state's involuntary sterilization program, under which more than 7,000 people deemed "feeble-minded," "promiscuous," or in other ways "unfit" were sterilized between 1929 and 1974.

Thirty-three states had similar "eugenics" programs during much of the 20th century.

For further reading ...

... "Better sex offenders programs, better substance abuse programs, better job training programs for prisoners — these reforms are all designed to do the same thing as gangs in the prison yard and corruption in the cell blocks. Everything is organized to turn cons against one another, to reinforce the worst, dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to differentiate the incarcerated. The fight of the working class is the opposite." ...

—Jack Barnes from *Capitalism's World Disorder*

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Airport workers reinstated

Continued from front page

helped a lot to get this victory," Hakima Arhab told the *Militant* at an Aug. 23 protest of concession workers outside an airport terminal here.

Subway management fired Arhab last year after she began to work with UNITE HERE Local 2850 as part of a fight around overtime pay, vacation and sick days, breaks and work schedules.

"They did not want to rehire me because they know I'll continue to fight against company abuses," Arhab said. "They offered me money. But I said no. I want my job back."

The majority of concession workers at the airport here are members of Local 2850 and employed directly by HMS Host, which operates food service at

airports and travel plazas. Workers at Subway, Jamba Juice, Burger King and other food concessions are employed directly by those companies, which operate under contracts with HMS. The subcontract outlets are nonunion and workers say bosses are fighting hard to keep it that way.

Joining the Aug. 23 picket were workers facing a wage freeze, cuts in health care and pensions and an end to paid lunch breaks demanded by HMS Host.

"They want new hires to be paid less, with no possibility of catching up with other workers," said Monica Guzman, who has worked for HMS Host for 21 years. "Newly hired workers are joining the contract fight when they learn what the company is pressing," she said.



Workers celebrate on picket line with Hakima Arhab, far left, after she won back her job at Oakland airport Subway restaurant. Workers at Subway, Jamba Juice and other airport concessions run by contractor HMS Host are fighting for higher wages and other demands.

Judge orders New York officials to reform stop and frisk

Continued from front page

14th Amendment protection from denial of equal protection of the law. She said top city and police officials acted with "deliberate indifference" to the rights of New York residents.

Based on the NYPD's own figures, Scheindlin said, stops and frisks have been routinely carried out without the "reasonable suspicion" required by law. Among the examples she cited was the statistic that 42 percent of the 4.4 million reported police stops between 2004 and 2012 were carried out solely on the vague pretext of "furtive movement."

The NYPD's practices amount to racial profiling, the judge said, because they disproportionately target Black and Latino men.

According to police records, 52 percent of those stopped in recent years were Black, more than double their representation in the city's population. Blacks and Hispanics were also disproportionately arrested as compared to Caucasians when stopped on suspicion of the same crime, and were disproportionately subject to physical force. About 6 percent of stops result in arrest.

According to police figures, the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn has both the highest rate of violent crime and the highest rate of stop and frisk. The total number of stops last year represented 25 percent of the neighborhood's population.

"They stopped my 14-year-old son three times," Diane Richmond 34, a retail store worker, told the *Militant*. "I don't like it. He's only 14. Three times. Come on! That's like profiling him. I think stop and frisk is overdone."

"Stop and frisk is a good idea," said Michael Best, 26, also of Brownsville. "I was stopped once. They said I fit a description, and I didn't like it. But it cleans up the area and makes it a safer place to live."

"It's good and bad. That's just what it is," said Devon White, 28, a construction worker. "But I should be able to walk the streets. Instead people stay in the house because they don't want to be harassed by cops. They got to do their job. But it's the way they do it."

"Unmarked cops should be banned from doing stops," added White, who said plainclothes cops recently jumped out of an unmarked car and went through his pockets without any explanation.

"I'm for stop and frisk by all means," said building super Harold Johnson, 47. "We got to stop the guns. These young

guys don't know how to shoot, they just shoot any which way. But some of the cops are just hostile — and then when you respond, you get set on."

East Harlem, a largely working-class area that is more than half Hispanic with a substantial Black population, is another stop-and-frisk hot spot.

"The cops stopped and beat me up right here four years ago, a couple of people taped it," said Darrin Sax, 45, in East Harlem. He worked as a porter, but is now on disability. "I was cited for resisting arrest. If I was doing something wrong, that's one thing. But the cops shouldn't be doing this."

"Another day I was going to see a friend and the cops stopped me for trespassing," said Sax, who is African-American. "How can you be trespassing when you live right across the street?"

"I like stop and frisk," said Lejuan Gabbidon, 24, who added that he was most recently stopped a week ago when cops said he fit the description of someone with a gun. "But if we keep stop and frisk, cops should be more polite — no staring at civilians because a lot of people in the neighborhood don't like cops. Cops should be calmer."

According to police records, more than half of stops are followed by a frisk. Hundreds of guns are seized as a result of the sweeping, arbitrary searches — 729 in the course of 533,000 stops in 2012.

Stop and frisk not ending

While making clear she was "not ordering an end to the practice of stop and frisk," Judge Scheindlin appointed an "independent monitor" and a "facilitator" to oversee the NYPD's compliance with policies and training reforms. She said police should have to report details to justify each stop and provide those stopped with a copy. She ordered a one-year pilot project of police body-worn cameras in the precinct with the most recorded stops in each borough.

If the NYPD is forced to change its methods "there is no question about it, violent crime will go up," warned Police Commissioner Ray Kelly on "Meet the Press" Aug. 18. "The stark reality is that violence is happening disproportionately in minority communities, and that, unfortunately, is in big cities throughout America."

The number of murders in New York City fell from a high of more than 2,200 in 1990 to under 500 in recent years — 419 last year. It dropped sharply to less than 1,600 by the time Rudy Giuliani

was elected mayor in 1994 and continued to fall during his administration, which was marked by more aggressive police tactics. The fall in murders, assaults and robberies coincided with a general fall across the U.S., but was particularly sharp in New York. By comparison, the murder rate last year in Chicago was nearly four times that of New York. In Detroit it was nine times.

'Broken windows' policy

Under Giuliani, the NYPD grew from 28,000 to 40,000 as he flooded working-class neighborhoods with cops. Under a new "broken windows" policy, cops began making arrests for minor law infractions, like spraying graffiti or panhandling that had previously been ignored. The policy was based on the theory that sending swarms of cops to stop such "quality of life" crimes would bring down the rates of murder, burglary and other major felonies.

It was also under Giuliani that cops began the systematic practice of stopping and frisking working people.

Stop and frisk tactics became more aggressive under Bloomberg, who was elected mayor in 2002. The number of stops, according to police records, more than doubled between 2002 and 2011 before declining slightly in 2012 following protests, lawsuits and

stepped-up media attention. During Bloomberg's three terms, the murder rate has declined slightly.

"Unlike many cities, where wealthy areas get special treatment, the NYPD targets its manpower to the areas that suffer the highest crime levels," wrote Bloomberg in an opinion piece run in the *Washington Post*. Opponents of stop and frisk argue that the stops don't reflect the city's overall census numbers, he said. "By that flawed logic, our police officers would stop women as often as men and senior citizens as often as young people. ... The absurd result of such a strategy would be far more crimes committed against black and Latino New Yorkers. When it comes to policing, political correctness is deadly."

The issue has become a focus of the 2013 mayoral election, with the front-running Democratic Party candidates vowing to press for police reforms to show they have a more sophisticated way to control working people here.

Candidate Christine Quinn has shifted away from her previous strong backing for Kelly — whom President Barack Obama had considered appointing as head of the Department of Homeland Security — and said stop and frisk has "gotten out of hand." The other Democratic front-runner, Bill de Blasio, has pledged to fire the police chief.

Free the Cuban Five! 15 years since arrest and frame-up

Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who were gathering information on Cuban-American paramilitary groups with a long record of deadly attacks against Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution. They were arrested by the FBI on Sept. 12, 1998, framed up, and convicted on charges ranging from acting as unregistered agents for Cuba to "conspiracy" to commit espionage.

Minneapolis

"I Will Die the Way I Lived," 15 watercolors by Cuban Five prisoner Antonio Guerrero, one for each year in prison. Sept. 1-30, M-F 8am - 6pm, S-S 10am - 2pm. Reception: Thurs., Sept. 12, 6 p.m. Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. Sponsored by Minnesota Cuba Committee and Obsidian Arts. For more information call 612-367-6134 or 612-787-3644.

New York City

Presentation of the book "What Lies Across the Water" by author Stephen Kimber; update on the case of the Five by attorney Martin Garbus; exhibit of "I Will Die the Way I Lived," 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero. Sun., Sept. 15, 5 p.m. Cuban Art Space, 231 West 29th St., 4th Floor. Organized by the Center for Cuban Studies and the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. RSVP 212-242-0559.

Picket line to "Free the Cuban 5! Protest 15 years of Unjust Incarceration!" Thurs., Sept. 12, 5 p.m. at 26 Federal Plaza. Take 4, 5 or 6 train to Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall. Initiated by The Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5. For more info call 718-601-4751.

Washington, D.C.

Vigil to Free the Cuban 5. Thurs., Sept. 12 in front of the White House starting at 12 noon. Sponsored by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. For more information: www.thecuban5.org

Chinese communities around world discussed at in

BY PATRICK BROWN
AND LINDA HARRIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — This Southeast Asian nation was a fitting place to hold the eighth International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO) Aug. 17-18. Out of a population of close to 30 million, Malaysia is home to 6.5 million people of Chinese ancestry, more than 20 percent of the total.

The conference was organized in collaboration with students and teachers at the Institute of Chinese Studies and other departments at the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), a university in Kuala Lumpur named after Malaysia's first post-independence prime minister. The successful event attracted some 200 people from 20 countries. With 50 panel discussions and plenary sessions over two days, participants delved into various aspects of the centuries-old settlement of Chinese migrants in virtually every country of the globe.

ISSCO was established at a 1992 conference in San Francisco sponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Since then international conferences, held every three years, have been organized in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Taiwan, Denmark, China, and Singapore. In between there have been regional conferences in Cuba, South Africa, New Zealand, and several other countries.

For the first time at ISSCO gatherings, a majority of papers this year — more than 100 of the total 167 — were presented in Chinese. Most of the rest were in English, but nine were presented in Malay, another first. While numerous students and teachers from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) took part, the largest number came from universities in Malaysia. Others traveled from near-neighbors Indonesia and Singapore, as well as the Philippines, Japan, Canada, the United States, Europe, South Africa and Australia. Conference organizers were especially pleased with the larger numbers of students presenting papers at this year's event. Welcoming the participants, a representative of Malaysia's deputy minister of education Mary Yap Kain Ching noted the role of Chinese laborers, whether indentured or "free," in building railroads and working the country's tin mines under British colonial rule in the 19th century.

Introducing the keynote speakers at the same session, ISSCO's founding president Wang Gungwu of the National University at Singapore spoke of his experiences growing up in Ipoh, the capital of Perak, one of a number of federated states during British colonialism that are now part of Malaysia. Modern Malaysia was consolidated under that name and in its present form in 1965 when Singapore, which had joined the federation two years earlier, withdrew and became a separate nation. Sabah and Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo (Indonesian Kalimantan) also joined the federation in 1963 and remain part of Malaysia today.

Independence struggle

Wang Gungwu recalled the invasion by Japanese forces in December 1941, in the days following the attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Within a few weeks the British colonial masters of what was then called Malaya were expelled as the Japanese army swept south. When the tide of war turned and the Japanese troops were defeated in 1945, however, that did not usher in Malayan independence, as many had expected. Instead, a new period of British domination and war began.

Throughout the 1940s a growing movement for national independence took shape, with labor actions, popular protests and military actions led by the Malayan Communist Party.

In response to this growing political and military threat to their rule, British generals herded half a million poor farmers and farmworkers, most of whom were Chinese, into so-called New Villages — later used as a model for the "strategic hamlets" established by U.S. forces in Vietnam in the 1960s. Recalling the independence struggle in Malaya and its long-lasting aftermath, Wang Gungwu said he had "lived through times where every Chinese was considered a communist."

By 1952 more than 32,000 troops — from the United Kingdom, Australia



Part of audience at the opening session of the eighth International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO) that took place Aug. 17-18 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

and New Zealand, as well as from other British-dominated regions of Asia and Africa — were battling the independence movement in Malaya.

The imperialists crushed the armed insurgency, but were forced to concede independence in 1957. Their legacy of divide and rule — pitting the indigenous Malay population against Chinese and Indian communities — has deeply marked Malaysian government policies ever since.

"Malaysia is a very good place to understand the questions" facing overseas Chinese in many countries, concluded Wang Gungwu as he introduced the two keynote speakers, Leo Suryadinata and Ling-chi Wang.

Suryadinata, director of the Chinese Heritage Center of Singapore and outgoing president of ISSCO, spoke in Chinese on "Reflections on Chinese Migrants and Their Descendants in the Modern and Contemporary Eras." In the following presentation in English, "Chinese Americans in Science and Technology since World War II," Ling-chi Wang — retired professor of Asian American and ethnic studies at the University of California at Berkeley and, along with Wang Gungwu, the principal initiator of ISSCO — reviewed his research on the contributions of Chinese-born scientists and engineers and the discrimination they continue to face.

Rich history and culture

The rich cultural, economic and political history of the Malay Peninsula was touched on in numerous panels, especially those conducted in Chinese and Malay. At one session Tan Ai Boay of the University of Malaya spoke on "Chinese Citizenship in British Malaya before World War II." Since the British at the time had divided the territory into the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, and Unfederated Malay States, she said, Chinese residents seeking citizenship had to contend with both colonial officials and the sultans who headed most states in the country, as they still do today.

At another session, Aloysius Yapp and Anita Abas spoke of the struggle for recognition by the Sino-Iban, descendants of Chinese who had intermarried with the indigenous people of Sarawak. Speakers from the Philippines de-

scribed their efforts to encourage young Tsinoys, or Chinese-Filipinos, to learn Chinese. Since English and Tagalog are the official languages of education, "we are working to preserve culture so we don't forget," said Lily Rose Tope from the University of the Philippines. Chinese make up 1.5 percent of the country's population of more than 100 million. Tope stressed that Tsinoys are not a single, undifferentiated group but are divided along class lines. At a session on "Chinese in Africa and Java," the University of Pretoria's Karen Harris discussed a struggle waged by the Chinese in South Africa. In 2008, 17 years after the official abolition of apartheid, the High Court finally "corrected an historical wrong," Harris said, ruling that Chinese are "Black." The decision, she noted, is a belated recognition that, like Africans, Indians, and other oppressed nationalities the Chinese were included as "non-whites" under the hated racist system and still suffer under its legacy. Before the court's decision, Chinese were ineligible for affirmative action measures under South Africa's current "equity" laws.

In his keynote address the opening day of the conference, Ling-chi Wang had spoken about the discrimination faced today by Chinese in the United States. He pointed to the record of more than 160 years of racist attitudes toward Chinese there.

Wang cited an 1854 decision by California's Supreme Court overturning the admissibility of evidence brought against "a free white citizen of this State" who had been "convicted of murder upon the testimony of Chinese witnesses." The judges ruled that "a race of people whom nature has marked as inferior, and who are incapable of progress or intellectual development beyond a certain point," should not have "the right to swear away the life of a citizen" or "the privilege of participating with us in administering the affairs of our Government."

Increasing restrictions on the Chinese, especially in California, were enacted in the decades following the 1854 ruling. These included limitations on immigration, business activities, areas where they were allowed to live, and rights to work and own property. In 1882, almost a decade into a deep nationwide post-Civil War economic de-



Left, ISSCO; Right, Militant/Baskaran Appu

ISSCO founders Ling-chi Wang and Wang Gungwu. Ling-chi Wang spoke about scientific achievements of Chinese in U.S. in face of 160 years of prejudice. Wang Gungwu discussed Britain's efforts to pit Malays against Chinese during Malaya's independence fight. "Malaysia is a good place to understand questions" facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said.

t'l conference in Malaysia

pression, the U.S. Congress adopted the Chinese Exclusion Act, halting all immigration from China for 10 years. That bar was subsequently extended indefinitely, made still more stringent, and expanded to include immigration from Hawaii and the Philippines. It remained in force until 1943.

That experience of Chinese immigrants in the U.S., and the origins of anti-Chinese agitation and government policies there, were later the topic of a lively discussion and debate at a panel on "Chinese in the Americas." Among some 20 participants were three guests from the Cuban Embassy in Malaysia: Ambassador Rubén Pérez; Cultural and Administrative Affairs Officer Ileana García; and Third Secretary Yanila Reyes.

In his closing address to the ISSCO gathering, conference convener and UTAR professor Ho Khai Leong noted the breadth of questions addressed in the different sessions. He pointed to "the situation of the Sino-Iban people of Sarawak and the question of the Chinese in Cuba," which was addressed in the panel on "Chinese in the Americas," as experiences "not often discussed in Southeast Asia" and about which he had learned a great deal.

He also saluted the UTAR students and staff who had helped to organize and run the conference. Their friendly efficiency, esprit de corps and interest in the sessions were evident to all participants.

At an ISSCO membership meeting held at the conference's conclusion,



Some 50 panels took up aspects of centuries-old Chinese migration. From left, Nahoko Tate, Junichi Shibano, Tomoko Ishikawa discuss "Survival Strategies of Chinese Schools in Japan."

Tan Chee Beng of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was elected the association's new president. Outgoing President Leo Suryadinata announced that Panama will be the venue for a regional ISSCO conference in 2014, to be followed in 2015 by a regional gath-

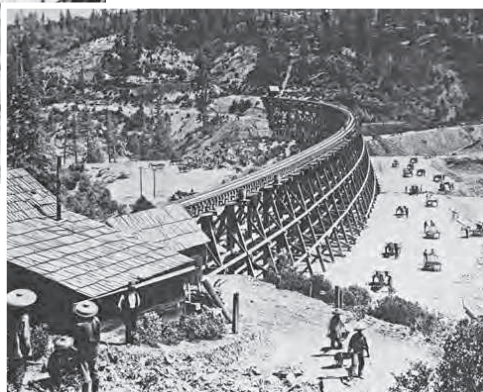
ering in Seoul, South Korea. The next international conference will be held at the University of British Columbia in Canada in 2016.

Baskaran Appu and Mary-Alice Waters contributed to this article.

Panel debates fight against anti-Chinese racism in US vs. Cuba



Unlike in U.S., "Cuba has eliminated capitalism, the foundation on which the superexploitation of Chinese is based," said Mary-Alice Waters at panel on "Chinese in the Americas." That made it possible there to wage the struggle to eliminate discrimination and prejudice based on skin color. Left, banner says "Resident Chinese support the Cuban Revolution and its leader Fidel Castro" at Havana rally, Sept. 2, 1960. Below, Chinese workers in U.S. building transcontinental railroad in 1860s. Thousands later emigrated from United States to Cuba.



BY PATRICK BROWN

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The origins in the United States of anti-Chinese discrimination, violence, and government policy, and the place of Chinese-Americans in the U.S. class struggle, became the focus of a discussion and debate at a panel on "Chinese in the Americas" during a conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas held here Aug. 17-18.

Much of the discussion during the panel centered on a turbulent and pivotal three decades in U.S. history that included the 1848-58 California gold rush, the 1861-65 Civil War, the post-war Radical Reconstruction governments across the states of the defeated slavocracy and, by 1877, the bloody crushing of those popular democratic regimes.

This history was contrasted with the revolutionary struggle for independence from Spain and for the abolition of slavery and all forms of indentured servitude. The place of Chinese immigrant workers in the class struggle in both countries was highlighted.

The event was chaired by ISSCO board member Khun Eng Kuah-Pearce. Leading off the five panelists was Setsuko Sonoda from Kobe Women's University in Japan. Sonoda spoke about the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Associations formed in San Francisco and other cities to defend Chinese who were victimized under the federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which initially halted all immigration from China for 10 years and ended up

being extended all the way to World War II. Similar associations were formed in Canada, Peru and Cuba, she said.

Chuimei Ho and Bennet Bronson, both from the Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee, presented information on the history of Chinese women in Northwestern United States and Canada from 1860 to 1920. They highlighted the women's resistance to both their oppression as a sex and to anti-Chinese racism.

The other two panelists presented sharply different views of the class forces behind the drive in 19th-century California to scapegoat and exclude immigrants from China.

Anti-Chinese agitation in California

Cao Yu, from Jinan University in China's Shandong province, presented a paper on "Engagement and Conflict: A Comparative Study of Chinese and Irish Immigrants in California 1848-1882." Facing severe discrimination on grounds of race or religion, he said, working people in the U.S. who had emigrated from Ireland and from China ended up in competition and conflict.

Yu focused on the role of the Workingmen's Party of California under the leadership of Denis Kearney. During the post-Civil War economic crisis, the party scapegoated the Chinese in competition for jobs in California, pitting Irish-born workers against Chinese immigrants in particular.

Yu said the Workingmen's Party and the Irish workers who supported it were the primary source of the violent racism faced by the Chinese. The "labor movement," he said, "jeopardized Chinese immigration," with the "most severe impact" often coming from "the bottom of society and the left-wing movement."

In his written paper distributed to conference participants, Yu advised Chinese "to try to prevent the labor force and left-wing parties" from "taking power." He called for an "alliance with other possible parties and capitalists," with the aim of preventing "the left-wing parties from becoming the majority of parliament."

Cuba and the U.S.

In her presentation on "The Struggle Against Anti-Chinese Racism in Cuba and the United States, 1865 to Today," Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, presented views that were the polar opposite — in class terms — to Cao Yu's. Waters is the editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press in 2005.

Roughly equal numbers of Chinese arrived in the United States and Cuba

between 1846 and 1875, Waters noted. They came to California searching for gold, and later as contract labor to build the transcontinental railroad. Meanwhile, Chinese were shipped to Cuba to work as indentured labor on the sugarcane plantations.

During that quarter century, Waters said, "both Cuba and the United States were swept by deep-going revolutionary struggles" in which the abolition of slavery and involuntary servitude were settled in blood. In Cuba, Chinese indentured laborers by the thousands joined the armies fighting for independence from Spain and for an end to all bonded labor. In the United States, however, the workers who had emigrated from China were far from the political and military battlefields of the 1861-65 Civil War.

"In both countries, the rising capitalist class, together with plebeian and middle-class forces, eventually emerged victorious," Waters said. "But the differences in the social and political weight of Chinese workers in the two countries deeply marked their future histories."

In contrast to their counterparts in Cuba, then the largest sugar producer in the world, Chinese immigrants in the United States were not concentrated at the center of production for the world market, and did not have the opportunity to be at the center of the revolutionary struggles.

Waters noted one exception. In Louisiana and Mississippi of the immediate post-Civil War years, the defeated slavocracy imported several thousand Chinese workers from Cuba, hoping they would be a "docile" replacement for their former slaves.

Things turned out differently, said Waters. Not only had these workers "already experienced the hated contract labor system in Cuba, they had been infected by the revolutionary struggles beginning there," she said. "Many joined forces with the freed slaves, poor farmers, and other toilers in the Mississippi Delta," participating in the armed militias that confronted the rising counterrevolutionary terror of the planters' White Knights and other armed squads.

It was precisely this kind of unity that

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Debate on anti-Chinese racism

Continued from page 9

“the northern industrial capitalist victors in the Civil War feared,” Waters said. “That’s the historical political and economic context in which we have to place the rise of organized anti-Chinese bigotry and violence in California and the adoption of the federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.”

While many workers were drawn into the anti-Chinese bigotry, Waters noted, “The Workingmen’s Party of California ... was not a working-class organization. It was tied to the Democratic Party that led the bourgeois opposition to the revolutionary war that brought down the slavocracy. Its central leader was a small businessman.

“Anti-Chinese racism served the interests of the nascent financial capitalist class. It was not in the interests of the working class; it was a blow to workers’ solidarity; it weakened and divided the labor movement, and set back independent working-class political action and organization,” she emphasized.

Cuban Revolution’s example

Waters opened and concluded her remarks by contrasting the absence of discrimination and prejudice today against Cubans of Chinese descent with the racism Chinese and their descendants face in the United States and other countries where they have settled. She pointed to the reasons why this has become possible over the more than half century since the triumph of the 1959 revolution there.

“There is no ‘glass ceiling’ in Cuba,

nor are there special Chinese occupations,” she stressed. “Chinatowns have basically disappeared in Havana and other cities, because there is no longer any need for those of Chinese ancestry to concentrate together for protection or in order to make a living.”

In the discussion period, conference convener Ho Khai Leong — a professor at Kuala Lumpur’s Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, members of whose faculty and student body collaborated with ISSCO to organize the gathering — asked Waters a question. What did she consider the “unique element in the political ideology in Cuba that actually makes discrimination against the Chinese completely absent in its policies,” Leong said. “Are we [also] talking about complete absence of discrimination against other ethnic groups in Cuba?”

Waters recalled that in 1999, at a regional conference of the Overseas Chinese association in Havana, Wang Gungwu, founding president of ISSCO, had asked a similar question of Moisés Sio Wong. Sio Wong, Waters explained, was “a general of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, both of whose parents were Chinese.” He was one of the authors of *Our History Is Still Being Written*.

Our History Is Still Being Written

THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

ARMANDO CHOY, GUSTAVO CHUI, MOISÉS SÍO WONG



ISSCO photos

Anti-Chinese racism in United States served interests of rising capitalist class, not workers, whose solidarity it undercut, said Mary-Alice Waters (top) of Pathfinder Press at panel on “Chinese in the Americas.” Cao Yu of Jinan University (top, right) presented opposite view that danger to Chinese immigrants comes from labor and “left-wing movement.” During discussion, Ho Khai Leong (right), a conference organizer, asked Waters what it is about Cuban Revolution that led her to point to the absence of anti-Chinese discrimination in Cuba today.



Sio Wong had answered Wang Gungwu by first noting the important place of Chinese in Cuba’s revolutionary struggles going back to the independence wars from Spain of the latter 19th century. But that’s not “the most fundamental answer,” he had said. “Because before the revolution of 1959, Chinese were still discriminated

against in Cuba.”

The difference in Cuba, Sio Wong noted, is what has happened since the revolution. “Here a socialist revolution took place.”

“Cuba has eliminated capitalism, the economic foundations on which the superexploitation of Chinese is based,” Waters said. “And that has made it possible to wage the kind of struggle that has been fought there to eliminate discrimination and prejudice based on the color of a person’s skin.

“Enormous strides have been made in Cuba,” Waters said, “but history has shown that it was easier to eliminate prejudice against Cubans of Chinese descent than Cubans who are black. That’s still an ongoing battle.”

Cuba’s ambassador to Malaysia, Rubén Pérez, who was in the audience together with two others from the Cuban Embassy, joined the discussion at the end of the session. “In my country,” he noted, “There are no people of only one race.

“It’s very important to take this into account,” Pérez emphasized. In Cuba, “your ancestors can come from Africa, from the Middle East, from Europe, or from China. To rationalize discrimination in Cuba means justifying discrimination against ourselves!”



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Hands off Syria! says socialist candidate

Continued from front page

on by Washington and its allies as a rationalization to advance their class interests in Syria and throughout the region.

The capitalist rulers of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and other imperialist powers are the deadly enemy of working people at home and abroad. For decades they have intervened repeatedly in the Middle East and North Africa seeking to keep workers and farmers from gaining control of the patrimony of their lands, to reap the profits flowing from oil in the region, and to impose stability for the capitalist world order.

The beginning of a new rise of popular struggles since late 2010, signaled by what is called the Arab Spring in Tunisia, Egypt and beyond, is creating big problems for imperialism and for the propertied landlords, capitalists, and officer corps in that part of the world. The rebellions are a response to intolerable conditions confronting working people in face of today's worldwide economic crisis and decades of despotic rule by regimes like those of Mubarak in Egypt, Assad and others.



Militant/Paul Mailhot
Dan Fein, SWP candidate for NY mayor, in Tahrir Square, April 2011. Fein also made trip in solidarity with Egyptian workers in July this year after ouster of Islamist regime.

The civil war in Syria grew out of bloody repression against spreading anti-government protests that began in early 2011.

Workers and farmers in Syria face many obstacles, from the murderous Assad regime to anti-working-class Islamist groups, including some allied to al-Qaeda. As they fight to stem the slaughter on all fronts and throw off the Assad regime, the last thing Syrian working people need is military intervention by imperialist forces.

If Washington hits Syria with its bombs and missiles, the consequences will be grave for workers and farmers across the region. Already the war has spilled over into Lebanon and Jordan, where there are hundreds of thousands of refugees, to the Kurdish areas in Syria and nearby, to workers and farmers in Turkey, Israel and Palestine and throughout the Middle East.

The self-serving protests by President Barack Obama and other imperialist spokespersons against the slaughter of innocents by the use of poison gas flies in the face of the decades of indiscriminate murder inflicted on workers and farmers worldwide by U.S. imperialism, from fire bombing of working-class neighborhoods across Germany and Japan in World War II to the massive bombardment and use of napalm in the wars against the people of Korea and Vietnam. The U.S. rulers are the only ones in the world to have ever used nuclear weapons, dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

And Washington maintains thousands of tons of chemical weapons, the second largest stockpile in the world.

The U.S. bosses are pushing a relentless assault on the jobs, wages, working conditions and political and social rights of workers here bred by the deepening crisis of their capitalist system of production and trade.

Working people here have common class interests with working people in Syria in opposing imperialist intervention.

U.S. hands off Syria!

Washington threatens missile strike on Syria

BY SUSAN LAMONT

In the wake of an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack killing hundreds of civilians in a rebel-held Damascus neighborhood, President Barack Obama's administration — along with London and Paris — is seeking to build support to launch a military assault on the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Doctors Without Borders, which operates hospitals in the few Damascus suburbs the Assad regime does not control, reported that these facilities had treated 3,600 victims of poison gas, 355 of whom died. Assad claims the Syrian opposition forces fighting to oust him carried out the attack to discredit his government.

The civil war in Syria, which began in early 2011, is a conflict between the armed forces of Assad's brutal regime and those of a disparate bourgeois opposition, which includes Islamist jihadist groups. The devastating war is taking a mounting toll on working people in Syria, with widening ramifications in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere in the region. More than 100,000 Syrians have been killed in the war. Hundreds of thousands have been made refugees, most forced to flee into neighboring countries.

Since the Aug. 21 attack, Obama administration officials have pushed toward a U.S. military strike against Syria, hinting at cruise missile attacks on selected targets. "We are ready to go," Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel told the media, referring to four U.S. destroyers currently deployed in the eastern Mediterranean, as well as multiple warplanes.

Many reporters and commentators cited Obama's statement last year that "a red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized" by the Syrian government. Up to now, however, Washington has not taken direct military action against the Syrian regime, despite earlier reports of chemical weapons' use by Assad's forces.

The British government of Prime Minister David Cameron, which is also calling for a military response, has indicated it will wait for a report by the United Nations team dispatched to Syria to investigate the Aug. 21 attack before taking action. U.N. officials said the report would be submitted the last weekend in August.

Obama administration officials told the *New York Times* Aug. 29 that it hasn't backed off moving ahead with a strike on Syria, even without British support and endorsement by the U.N. Security Council.

Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin, who backs Assad, announced Aug. 29 that Russia was sending two warships to the eastern Mediterranean.

1963 march reflected fight against Jim Crow

Continued from page 2

it very closely themselves and were exhilarated by the record-breaking turnout. It was also a source of great encouragement to those whites who are dependable allies of the Negroes, and who constituted about ten per cent of the marchers.

The march dramatized the readiness of the Negro masses to struggle, to go all the way in the fight. It also pointed up what the Negro people could do if they had leaders of the same mettle.

From the speech John Lewis was prevented from delivering

We are now involved in a serious revolution. This nation is still a place of cheap political leaders who build their careers on immoral compromises and ally themselves with open forms of political, economic and social exploitation. What political leader here can stand up and say "My party is the party of principles"? The party of Kennedy is also the party of Eastland. The party of Javits is also the party of Goldwater. Where is *our* party? ...

The revolution is a serious one. Mr. Kennedy is trying to take the revolution out of the street and put it in the courts. Listen Mr. Kennedy, Listen Mr. Congressmen, Listen fellow citizens, the black masses are on the march for jobs and freedom, and we must say to the politicians that there won't be a "cooling-off" period.

All of us must get in the revolution. Get in and stand in the streets of every city, every village and every hamlet of this nation, until true Freedom comes, until the revolution is complete. In the Delta of Mississippi, in southwest Georgia, in Alabama, Harlem, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and all over this nation. The black masses are on the march!

We won't stop now. All of the forces of Eastland, Barnett, Wallace, and Thurmond won't stop this revolution. The time will come when we will not confine our marching to Washington. We will march through

the South, through the Heart of Dixie, the way Sherman did. We shall pursue our own "scorched earth" policy and burn Jim Crow to the ground — non-violently. We shall fragment the South into a thousand pieces and put them back together in the image of democracy. We will make the action of the past few months look petty. And I say to you, WAKE UP AMERICA!

Protests force arrest of killer cop in Toronto

Continued from front page

fires nine shots through the front door entrance at Yatim. Another video taken from a nearby security store camera released to the public shows Yatim crumpling to the floor after the first three bullets are fired, his legs still moving. About seven seconds later Forcillo fires six more rounds at Yatim, definitively ending his life.

Charges were laid by Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, a provincial civilian body set up to investigate deaths involving police. Forcillo is the third Ontario cop to be charged with murder in the 23-year history of the SIU. After turning himself in, Forcillo was released on \$510,000 bail Aug. 20.

The charges came a week after the second of two demonstrations here organized by the Yatim family and supporters.

The march of several hundred to the Metropolitan Toronto Police Headquarters Aug. 13 was led by Sarah Yatim, sister of Sammy Yatim, and family friends from the back of a pickup truck. They shouted slogans that included "charge the police with murder."

"The cop who killed my brother is getting paid right now. That cop should go to jail," Sarah Yatim told the demonstrators. "My brother was one of many teenagers like him. He didn't deserve to die."

Participants included families and friends of other victims of cop killings as well as activists with the

Black Action Defence Committee, which has been campaigning since 1988 against killings by Toronto cops. Reuben Abib, a leader of the group, told the crowd.

"I came to honor my son Trevor, who was killed by the police in 2007," Karyn Greenwood-Graham told the *Militant*. "I always support people in these situations." Speaking earlier to the crowd, she called the move by Toronto Police Chief William Blair to set up an independent review of police procedures led by a retired judge "pure tokenism."

A statement issued by the Yatim family said they were relieved that the charges had been laid, but called on the SIU to "continue looking into the actions of the supervising police officer(s) and the other officers in attendance for their lack of intervention in this tragedy" and pointed out that of the more than 20 cops present "no one stepped forward to stop the gun shots or offer any mediation."

'Militant' publishing schedule

This is a two-week issue of the paper. The next issue will be mailed out on Sept 12.

EXHIBIT 10

DECLARATION

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3. I have attached articles from the *Militant* over the last three years documenting impoundment of the paper by authorities in state prisons in Florida, New York and Washington state and at a federal prison in Colorado.

The instances include:

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would be banned in the future. After protest, the institution reversed the ban, blaming it on “miscommunication.”

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- f. October 2016 – Authorities at Attica Correctional Facility in New York impounded the October 3 issue of the *Militant* with an article “Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, ‘We are men, not beasts.’” Dozens of daily newspapers and magazines had run news stories on this anniversary, including the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Ebony* and the *Wall*

Street Journal. The paper and its attorney are in the process of appealing the confiscation.

4. The *Militant* has challenged and fought every one of these bans. We have been successful in every instance. We have been joined by support statements from other publications that have faced prison censorship as well as civil liberties groups that have supported the Constitutional rights of the paper and our subscribers. We have been represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida and Washington state, and by our own council in Florida, Colorado and New York.
5. At issue have been articles reporting on events that have been covered widely by media across the country, including *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, and daily papers from the *New York Times* to the *Miami Herald*. The stories included reporting on the hunger strike carried out by tens of thousands of inmates held in solidarity confinement in California and the 45th anniversary of the prison confrontation at Attica in New York. These other media had no difficulty getting to subscribers in prison.
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 24, 2016.



Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016



Vol. 78/No. 2 January 20, 2014

‘Militant’ held up in Florida jail over ‘miscommunication’

BY JOHN STUDER

The *Militant* was withheld from subscribers incarcerated at the Blackwater River Correctional Facility in Milton, Fla., for several weeks on the basis that “the entire publication is viewed as a threat to security.” After an inquiry by the American Civil Liberties Union, prison authorities chalked it up to a clerical error and said the paper would be promptly delivered.

The incident followed the *Militant*’s victory against prison authorities’ effort to censor the paper “in all major institutions, work camps, road prisons, and forestry camps” under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Corrections.

On Dec. 24 the *Militant* received multiple sets of impoundment notices from Blackwater, indicating that four subscribers to the paper had each been denied from three to five recent issues and that all issues would be banned in the future.

ACLU lawyer Benjamin Stevenson then contacted Mark Henry, the warden at Blackwater, who referred him to Scott Seagle, a lawyer for Geo Group, Inc., a private company that builds and runs prisons around the world. Henry said his prison was just following the Florida Department of Corrections’ earlier decision to impound the paper in September.

“I’ve contacted Blackwater and determined that the magazine was impounded in error,” Seagle wrote to Stevenson Jan. 7. “The error has been corrected; the magazine will be delivered today.”

Geo Group describes itself as “the world’s leading provider of correctional, detention, and community reentry services, with 95 facilities, approximately 73,000 beds, and 18,000 employees around the globe,” with facilities located in the U.S., United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa. In the U.S. the company runs federal and state prisons, county jails, immigration detention centers and other incarceration facilities.

When the *Militant* appealed the earlier September impoundment, the Florida Department of Corrections’ Literature Review Committee initially upheld the censorship. But after the *Militant* continued to press the case and started winning support from journalist organizations and other publications, the committee reversed it.

“There was apparently a miscommunication with the mail room staff on the status of the publication,” Seagle wrote, suggesting that the second decision by the Literature Review Committee did not make it to those in charge at Blackwater.

“We intend to follow up whenever we learn about delivery problems or efforts to censor the paper in prisons,” said *Militant* editor Doug Nelson. “It’s more than a question of free speech and freedom of the press. We think the *Militant* is needed by workers behind bars to help connect them and their everyday fights for dignity with the struggles of working people on the outside. That’s why we offer special rates to prisoners without means to pay and more and more have been signing up.”

Related articles:

[Framed-up, jailed lawyer Lynne Stewart wins release](#)

[Front page \(for this issue\)](#) | [Home](#) | [Text-version home](#)

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Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016



Vol. 79/No. 9 March 16, 2015

Fla. prison censorship of 'Militant' reversed again

BY NAOMI CRAINE

For the second time in two months, Florida prison authorities had to reverse an attempt by the Taylor Correctional Institution to ban an issue of the *Militant*. This continues a string of victories over the last year and a half against attempts by Florida prison officials to prevent *Militant* subscribers from receiving the paper.

Ironically, prison censors ordered the Jan. 19 issue "impounded" because a front-page article "'Militant' Beats Back Censorship at Fla. Prison" reported how their efforts to bar the paper failed last time.

On Feb. 25 the *Militant* received notice that the paper was seized because it "discusses local prison," that is, the Taylor CI. The censors also objected to the paper's annual holiday "Greetings to Workers Behind Bars!" saying it showed "disrespect to authority."

"The efforts of tens of thousands behind bars to use hunger strikes and other protests to demand their rights and assert their dignity has won grudging gains from some prison authorities," the editorial said. "Victories have been won in the U.K. recently and at Taylor Correctional Institution in Florida on the right of inmates to get books and newspapers, including the *Militant*."

David Goldstein, an attorney for the *Militant* in New York who has worked with the Florida American Civil Liberties Union to beat back previous attacks on the rights of the paper and its readers in prisons there, called Florida Department of Corrections Library Services Administrator Marty Morrison to indicate they would be challenging the impoundment. Morrison said that they had already reversed Taylor authorities' impoundment.

She sent Goldstein a notice marking the *Militant* issue as "approved" on the state's "Admissible Reading Materials list," dated the same day the paper received the notice of impoundment.

Defending the right of subscribers to receive their paper is an ongoing fight not just for the *Militant*, but also for publications such as the *Prison Legal News* and *San Francisco Bay View* that champion the rights of workers behind bars and report on their fights for respect and dignity.

Now we'll see what happens when this issue gets to Taylor. ...

[Front page \(for this issue\)](#) | [Home](#) | [Text-version home](#)

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Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016

Form 4572B

Inmate Disposition Notice

Attica Correctional Facility
Media Review Committee

Date of Notice: 10/6/16

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Inmate Name	Number	Cell Location

The Publication:	The Militant
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V. 80, No. 37
Author, date, volume, number...etc.

Has been reviewed by the Facility Media Review Committee and the following portions:	
Pages 1-6	Pages, articles, locations of offensive portions ...

Guideline II D Incite rebellion against government authority.
Guideline numbers and reasons

Do you wish to appeal this disposition?

- Yes. Appeal to the Central Office Media Review Committee by checking this box and sending this form and sending (if you desire) a letter in support of your appeal to the FACILITY MEDIA REVIEW COMMITTEE.
- No. Choose only one of the following disposal options.
- Receive the publication with the objectionable portions cut or blotted out. This option is only available if the objectionable portion is eight pages or less. Or a single chapter, article, or section of any length.
- Have the publication sent to a person of your choice, not another inmate or a Department of Correctional Services and Community Supervision official, AT YOUR EXPENSE.

Send to (Include name and address): _____

- Have the publication destroyed after 30 days. If the FMRC receives notice that the publication has been approved before it is destroyed, you will receive it.

Note: If you choose not to appeal, the publication will be held as is for at least 30 days from the date of this notice to allow time for the sender to submit an appeal, if any. If a sender submits an appeal, the publication will be held, as is, pending the COMRC appeal determination. For the purpose of this notice, the term "sender" shall refer to the person or entity that sent you the publication, if known, and if that person or entity is unknown, the term "sender" refers to the publisher, if known.

If you do not make a choice and the sender does not submit a timely appeal, DISPOSAL OF YOUR MATERIAL WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE.

Inmate Signature: _____ DIN: _____

THE MILITANT

Vol. 80/No. 37 October 3, 2016

(front page)

Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, 'We are men, not beasts'

BY SETH GALINSKY

On Sept. 9, 1971, 1,281 workers behind bars at Attica State Prison in upstate New York stormed the heavens. Rebelling against abusive conditions, they proclaimed, "We are men. We are not beasts and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such."

The conditions they denounced still exist in prisons across the United States. That's why their rebellion, the bloody retaliation by guards and police in the retaking of the prison — including outright murder and torture — and the government lies and cover-up continue to reverberate today.

At the opening of the 1970s, the fight for Black rights that had swept the U.S. over the last decade and the mass movement against the war in Vietnam were giving more confidence to working people behind bars.

On July 29, 1970, some 450 inmates in the Attica metal shop went on strike for two days, winning a raise to a minimum of 25 cents and a maximum of \$1 a day.

In October that year an uprising in a Long Island City, New York, jail spread to the Manhattan House of Detention for Men, known as the Tombs, and two other jails before cops retook them.

In early November prisoners at Auburn State Prison rebelled after officials put 14 inmates in



AP Photo

Leaders of Attica prison rebellion — from left, Richard Clark with elbows on table, Carl El Jones, Herbert X Blyden, Frank Smith, Roger Champen, and Elliot "L.D." Barkley — negotiating with N.Y. prison Commissioner Russell Oswald, left corner, on Sept. 9, 1971.

solitary confinement for defying a prison ban on celebrating Black Solidarity Day. After prisoners surrendered, guards forced them to run gauntlets and beat them with batons.

That same month hundreds of prisoners at Folsom State Penitentiary in California held a 19-day strike.

In June 1971 prisoners calling themselves the Attica Liberation Faction sent a list of demands, modeled on Folsom's, to Commissioner of Correctional Services Russell Oswald, newly appointed by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Among the 27 demands: proper medical care; "an end to political persecution, racial persecution" and the censoring of newspapers and books; prosecution of prison guards who perform "cruel and unusual punishment," and clean dishes and eating utensils.

Oswald, who saw himself as a liberal reformer, replied that he would "study" what improvements could be made.

Prisoner solidarity

Attica officials' worries grew a few days after well-known Black Panther George Jackson was killed in San Quentin State Prison in California. Guard Jack English later told the *New York Daily News* that prisoners walked into the cafeteria on Aug. 22, 1971, but "nobody took any food. ... They looked straight ahead and nobody made a sound." Almost all the prisoners — Blacks, Caucasians and Latinos — were wearing black armbands or something else that was black.

"It scared us because a thing like that takes a lot of organization, a lot of solidarity, and we had no idea they were so well-organized."

On Sept. 9, 1971, some prisoners, upset at the beating of two inmates the night before, broke through a locked gate and took control of a wing of the prison. Some 40 guards and civilian prison employees were taken hostage.

Prisoners rapidly organized to get a guard who had been severely injured in the initial confrontation out for medical care, but he died a few days later.

The prisoners poured into the open-air D yard. Roger Champen, a Korean War veteran and respected jailhouse lawyer, grabbed a bullhorn. "We have to pull ourselves together," he said. Soon they formed a multiracial leadership committee. Among those who came forward were Herbert X Blyden, a veteran of the Tombs rebellion; Don Noble and Frank Lott, two of the authors of the Attica Liberation Faction demands; Black Panther Tommy Hicks, who had been in the Auburn rebellion; Young Lords leader Mariano Gonzalez; jailhouse lawyer Jerry "the Jew" Rosenberg; and Elliot "L.D." Barkley.

They dug latrines, since prison authorities cut off water to the toilets. They rigged up a sound system. They set up a racially integrated security force and made sure no harm came to the hostages. They set up a medical aid station. They cooked food and distributed mattresses and

bedding, giving the hostages priority. They banned drug use.

Hoping to get the prisoners to give up by giving some small concessions, Oswald allowed the press into D yard. With TV cameras rolling, Barkley read their manifesto and initial demands. (See excerpts below.)

Tom Wicker, a *New York Times* associate editor, who arrived the next day, was struck by “aspects of that strange society — its strikingly effective organization, its fierce political radicalism, its submergence of racial animosity in class solidarity.” He was astonished.

He reported that while a Black prisoner was speaking about “the disadvantages suffered by blacks in America, an inmate shouted back at him in a heavy Puerto Rican accent: ‘Don’t forget our white brothers! They’re in this too.’”

An orgy of terror

Oswald and Rockefeller claimed they would agree to all the demands for better conditions except the two that were most important to the prisoners: amnesty for any alleged “crimes” connected to the rebellion and removal of the hated warden Vincent Mancusi.

When the prisoners refused to immediately agree, Rockefeller on Sept. 13 ordered the assault officials had been preparing since day one. It became an orgy of terror.

Under the command of Mancusi and a low-ranking state police official, more than 1,000 state troopers, local cops and prison guards began the assault, along with National Guardsmen. They were armed with shotguns, rifles with dum dum bullets and their personal weapons.

As soon as a helicopter dropped debilitating CS tear gas, they opened fire indiscriminately, killing prisoners and hostages alike. By the end of the day 29 prisoners and 10 hostages were dead.

New York officials immediately publicized a blatant lie. They said the hostages’ throats had been slit and several castrated by the prisoners. A few days later the truth came out: All the hostages had been killed by gunfire. The prisoners didn’t have a single firearm.

The terror continued for days.

Prisoners were forced to crawl on their stomachs through broken glass. They were stripped naked and made to run gauntlets with guards on either side beating them. They were left naked in cells for days. Troopers forced prisoners to remove their dentures and eyeglasses and smashed them.

Troopers and guards singled out alleged leaders for abuse. Doctors from the National Guard reported hearing troops and guards tell Caucasian inmates they were beating, “This is what you get for hanging around with niggers.”

Barkley was shot while lying already wounded on the floor. He wasn't the only leader of the rebellion killed in cold blood after "order" was re-established.

"The prisons of this country exist for one reason — to try to terrorize people into accepting an inhuman, irrational social system based on maintaining the 'rights' of the few over the majority," wrote Mary-Alice Waters in the pamphlet *Attica: Why Prisoners Are Rebelling*, distributed widely by the Socialist Workers Party to get out the truth about the rebellion. Until that changes, there will "almost certainly be more Atticas."

Related articles:

[Declaration of the Attica rebellion](#)

[Prisoners protest conditions, mark Attica anniversary across U.S.](#)

[Front page \(for this issue\)](#) | [**Home**](#) | [Text-version home](#)



Vol. 80/No. 41 October 31, 2016

(front page)

‘Militant’ challenges Attica prison censorship

BY SETH GALINSKY

The *Militant* plans to challenge the impoundment of its Oct. 3 issue by New York State prison authorities at the Attica Correctional Facility.

The issue featured an article on the 1971 Attica prison rebellion titled, “Fight Continues 45 Years After Attica Rebels Said, ‘We Are Men, Not Beasts,’” as well as an article on several protest actions that took place in prisons in the U.S. this year demanding higher wages for labor and better conditions.

Prison officials claim that the front page and inside coverage “incite rebellion against government authority.”

Dozens of other periodicals published articles on the anniversary of the Attica rebellion, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* and the *Wall Street Journal*, along with widespread reports on television.

“Workers behind bars have the right to know what’s going on in the world, to read different political views and to form and hold their own opinions,” said John Studer, the *Militant*’s editor.

The censorship decision at Attica “is not just an attack on the rights of the *Militant*,” he added. “It’s an attack on freedom of speech and freedom of the press.”

“Running an article on a watershed event in the modern U.S. class struggle doesn’t ‘incite rebellion,’” Studer said. “It just tells the true story of the brutality and violence by state officials and prison authorities, a story hundreds of other media took the opportunity to reprise as well.”

The *Militant*’s lawyer David Goldstein of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman law firm, well known for defending civil liberties, is preparing the paper’s appeal.

Fight prison censorship

Help get out the word. Print out copies of this article and get them around.

Get statements of support for the *Militant's* appeal from defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to themilitant@mac.com

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EXHIBIT 13

DECLARATION

I, Osborne Hart, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. As the Socialist Workers Party's candidate for Vice President, I made a campaign and fact-finding visit to Australia and New Zealand from August 19 to 31, 2016. On my return flight to the U.S., I flew from Auckland to the U.S. via Sydney. As I was boarding my connection in Sydney on September 1 – American Airlines Flight 7363 (Quantis) – the agent looked at my passport and ticket. I was told to wait for an agent for a security check. I asked why, since I had cleared the security check at Auckland airport, was connecting to my flight to the U.S. and had not been outside the connecting gates area. This boarding area is exclusively for U.S. bound flights.

2. The agent told me it was a "random" check. My documents were handed to a security agent who escorted me to a small room adjacent to the gate. He gave the documents to another agent at the desk outside the room. I noticed she had a list of names with citizenship attached. Mine was the only one I could see with a "USA" designation.

3. In the room, my carry-on luggage was opened and contents emptied. My hat, jacket and shoes removed and examined. I was patted down. This took about ten minutes.

4. When I arrived at LAX airport in Los Angeles, I was processed through customs. Without leaving the gate area, I went to reboard the flight to JFK. The TSA agent looked at my ticket and passport, called over another agent and then told me to wait next to their podium. I was the only passenger told to wait while others (including those I recognized from the flight from Sydney) passed through.

5. After 15 minutes, I asked what the problem was. They said, "We're waiting on a supervisor." After another five minutes or so, a supervisor and another agent approached. One took my brief case and carry-on bag; put them through the x-ray. Then I walked through the

x-ray. I was told to step to another area nearby where my luggage was opened and all the contents emptied and examined. I was patted down twice, separately, by the two agents. My hat, jacket and shoes were examined. This extensive and unexplained search lasted about 35 minutes.

6. Despite my requests for explanation, I was never given a reason for this treatment for being singled out in this way for multiple and invasive searches. I believe it was because of my connection to the Socialist Workers Party.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Seattle, Washington, on October 11, 2016.



Osborne Hart
Socialist Workers Party 2016 vice-
presidential candidate
October 11, 2016

EXHIBIT 14

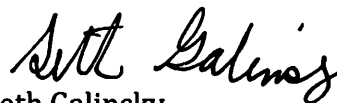
DECLARATION

I, Seth Galinsky, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

- I. Lea Sherman and I went door to door in a residential neighborhood of Kearney, New Jersey, Oct. 16, 2016, introducing people to the campaign of Alyson Kennedy Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president and Osborne Hart for Vice President, and distributing campaign literature. Many people were interested but three or four said they did not want to talk to a socialist.
- II. While we were talking to a retired Verizon worker at her door step, who was interested in learning about the Socialist Workers Party campaign and its support for the labor movement, including Verizon workers who have been forced on strike twice in recent years by take-back demands from the company, we were confronted by a Kearney police officer who asked us what we were doing. I replied that we were campaigning for the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president. He asked if we had a permit. I answered that we don't need a permit, our candidates are on the ballot and it's our constitutional right. He said, "In Kearney you need a permit."
- III. I suggested that he call his supervisor. He agreed to do so. Meanwhile another police officer arrived. He stared at us while the first officer walked a short distance away. The retired Verizon worker said to us "Wow, one cop for each of you!" She said that a neighbor must have called the cops on us.
- IV. After a few minutes the first cop returned and said, "You're right. But you can't sell anything" and left.
- V. About a half hour later while Lea was talking to another worker another police car drove by and eyed us, but did not stop.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in New York, New York, Oct. 17, 2016.



Seth Galinsky
New York, N.Y.

EXHIBIT 15

DECLARATION

I, Mary Martin, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. While going house to house with Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, in Spokane, Washington, in June 2016 to collect signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket on the ballot, and as the party's candidate for governor of the state of Washington, police were twice summoned as we campaigned. This disrupted our efforts for substantial portions of that day.

2. First, a resident of an apartment complex told Ellie Garcia and myself we had no right to be soliciting there. I told him I was the SWP's candidate for governor and was campaigning along with our presidential candidate. He said "Get out or I'm calling the police." We left his building and walked to another building. The police came and first talked to the man who had complained and told him our campaign activity was protected by law. Then the police talked to me and said they had told the guy that we had a right to campaign. We decided to leave then.

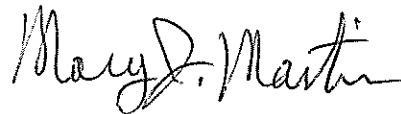
2. A couple hours later in a different apartment complex in Spokane, an employee of the complex in a utility cart rode up to me and said I would have to leave because I was soliciting which was not allowed without management approval. I told him I was the SWP candidate for Washington governor and that I was here with the SWP candidate for US president. I assured him that we were conducting federally protected election activity as required by law to gain ballot status and that no other approval was needed. He said it didn't matter who we were and

if I refused to get permission from management he would call the police. Then he left.

3. A short time later another Spokane policeman arrived and went up to campaigners Joel Britton and Clay Dennison and asked them about whether or not I had been rude or abusive to the apartment employee. They both insisted I had not. Eventually the policeman told the apartment employee that our campaign activity was permitted on the property as long as campaigners were not abusive or rude and admonished Britton and Clay against being rude to people. We decided to leave then.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Seattle, Washington, on October 5, 2016.



Mary Martin

October 5, 2016

EXHIBIT 16

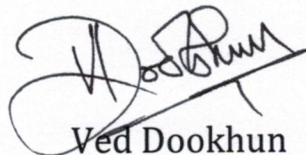
DECLARATION

I, Ved Dookhun, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On September 23, 2016 I was campaigning door to door in Manassas, Virginia in an apartment complex. I knocked on a door and a Caucasian man about late 50's answered the door. I introduced myself as a member of the Socialist Workers Party to which he replied, "You can't be serious". He then said, " You Socialists are the problem. You were the problem in Russia. Now you are the problem in the United States."
2. He then got agitated and said, "Get the hell out of my face before I snap," and slammed the door in my face.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Washington, D.C., on October 9, 2016.



Ved Dookhun
October 9, 2016

EXHIBIT 17

DECLARATION

I, Joel Britton, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. In July 2016, I was campaigning door to door for the Socialist Workers Party and its presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart in a residential neighborhood in Provo, Utah. At one home, as I was introducing my self as a member of the Socialist Workers Party, the resident yelled out, "Get your communist self away from my door and don't you dare ever come back here." As I stepped back and turned away he demanded that I "move to another country."

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Salt Lake City, Utah July 22, 2016.



Joel Britton
Joel Britton
July 22, 2016

EXHIBIT 18

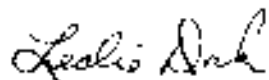
DECLARATION

I, Leslie Dork, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I campaigned door-to-door in Salt Lake City, Utah, in August 2016, on behalf of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.
2. On August 7, at one house where I knocked on the door, a man answered and we began talking about politics. But when I explained that I was visiting with people to tell them about the Socialist Workers Party and its candidates, he said, "Out! Get out now! You have 20 seconds to get out and then I'm releasing my dogs on you." From his belligerent manner, I believed him and left as rapidly as I could.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 10, 2016.



Leslie Dork
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 10, 2016

EXHIBIT 19

DECLARATION

I, Rose Engstrom, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On July 04, 2016, I and another campaigner were campaigning for Alyson Kennedy to be on the ballot as a presidential candidate for the US in November 2016 in Huntington Utah. We met a man who, when I started to explain that the SWP supports rights for immigrants, cut me off before I could finish and yelled, "You're for immigrants, for Muslims. How dare you. Get the fuck out of here before I put a bullet in your ass."
2. We left immediately, but he followed us. He started yelling, "You are allowing them to come and rape our daughters. I told you to get the fuck out of here."

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Minneapolis, Minnesota July 25, 2016.



Rose Engstrom

July 25, 2016

EXHIBIT 20

Declaration

I, Laura Garza, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. In September 2015, I was campaigning for the Socialist Workers Party campaign with another supporter of the SWP's campaign in the Grover Square apartments in Omaha, Nebraska. "I don't want any of that communist shit," one man said and closed the door.

2. A few seconds later he opened the door again and came out into the hallway. He said he would beat us up if we didn't get the hell out of there. He was over 6 feet tall and came very close and stood over me to me in a menacing manner. The confrontation ended when another campaigner, Dennis Richter, entered the hallway and we immediately left the building.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Omaha, Nebraska on October 7, 2015.



Laura Garza

EXHIBIT 21

DECLARATION

I, Barbara Bowman, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On Saturday, October 8th, 2016, on or around West Ave 134th in San Leandro, CA, I was campaigning for the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party and approached a man in his garage and introduced myself and another party member. As soon as we said we were members of the Socialist Workers Party, a working class party, the man said, "Socialists? Like in communists?"
2. He interrupted my attempt to reply, yelling and demanding we "Get off of my property right now!" We turned and left. He again shouted, "Get off of my property!"

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Oakland, California, on October 11, 2016.

Barbara Bowman

Barbara Bowman
October 8, 2016

EXHIBIT 22

DECLARATION

I, Sara Lobman, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On Saturday, June 4, 2016, I was at the Trinity Pines apartment complex at 3002 Golden Way in White Pine, Tennessee, collecting signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president Alyson Kennedy on the ballot. A woman opened her door. When I said I was with the Socialist Workers Party, she immediately said, "I'm not interested." I offered her a campaign flyer. She declined and shut the door. Shortly afterwards, I was in the car with Dave Ferguson, waiting for other team members to finish their visits to other apartments. A woman, whom I believe was the same person I spoke to earlier, and a boy, approached the car with her phone pressed to her ear. She told us to "get your people and get out of here" and that the landlord was going to call the police. We said we were leaving. As Ferguson and I drove up to meet the other campaigners, a pick-up truck pulled up and a man whom I believe was the landlord got out and spoke to another team member.
2. Shortly after we drove out of the complex, Glova Scott informed me of what she had witnessed. She and Sergio Zambrano were campaigning on the second floor of another building when this same middle-aged woman shouted up, "You all have to leave. I'm on the phone with the landlord. He's going to call the police if you don't leave immediately." At that moment another resident opened his door. He invited Scott and Zambrano to sit down on his balcony and discuss the Socialist Workers Party campaign. He signed the nominating petition and was considering becoming an elector when his wife came out and handed him his cell phone, saying it was the landlord. When he got off the phone, he

abruptly ended the discussion. He had been relaxed and interested until then. When the landlord got out of his pick-up truck, Scott told me she heard him say, "You have to leave."

3. Zambrano told me that he was just getting in his car when the pick-up truck pulled up and the landlord got out. He said he saw the landlord taking photographs of his license plate.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City on September 24, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Lobman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lobman".

Sara Lobman

September 24, 2016

EXHIBIT 23

DECLARATION

I, Jeff Powers, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On September 14 Eric Simpson and I were campaigning in San Leandro, California. We knocked on the door of one house and explained we were members of the Socialist Workers Party. The couple who were there said they had no interest in talking with us and told us to leave immediately. We did.
2. They started yelling, "Communists, they are communists," hoping they could get others in the neighborhood not to talk to us.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Oakland, California, on October 5, 2016.



Jeff Powers
October 5, 2016

EXHIBIT 24

DECLARATION

I, John Studer, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. In September 2015, I campaigned to inform workers in the Fishtown neighborhood in Philadelphia about the Socialist Workers Party and asked for their signature to put the SWP's candidate Osborne Hart on the ballot in the election for Mayor of Philadelphia.
2. At one house I went to, I showed the resident a picture of Hart and began an explanation of the platform of the SWP. He stopped me and told me that his father had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan in the South and that his views were the same.
3. He said that if I didn't get away from him, he would punch me in the face and I would be sorry I ever came there.
4. I said I was sorry he felt that way and I left.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in New York City, New York, October 15, 2016.



John Studer
New York
October 15, 2016

EXHIBIT 25

DECLARATION

I, Dennis Richter, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my person knowledge.

1. I campaigned for the Socialist Workers Party in Utah in July 2016.
2. At a residence in Spanish Fork, Utah on Sunday, July 7, 2016, I was talking with a retired lineman. His son came out of the house and asked what I was doing. I explained, introducing the Socialist Workers Party presidential campaign and program.
3. He pointed to the "No Soliciting" sign on the door. He told me that there was a no soliciting ordinance in Spanish Fork. I explained that we were not soliciting but practicing our first amendment right to campaign for our party. He said he did not care about that, that I was on private property and he ordered me to immediately leave.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 28, 2016.



Dennis Richter

July 25, 2016

EXHIBIT 26

DECLARATION

I, Lisa Rottach, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. While going house-to-house collecting signatures May 21, 2016, in Hutchinson, Minnesota, to put the Socialist Workers party candidate for president on the ballot, I spoke with a woman who was supportive of the SWP's platform and offered to organize a gathering of friends and family in a local park to meet David Rosenfeld, the SWP candidate for U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota. We agreed that I would follow up with her to work out the details of the gathering.

2. I called her several days later to follow up. She said that her immigration lawyer advised her to not have anything to do with this activity, because she was in the process of applying for her immigration status papers and he feared her activity with the Socialist Workers Party would become known to immigration authorities and it would jeopardize her approval. She was apologetic, and said that she would call me after that immigration process was completed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 8, 2016.



Lisa Rottach
October 8, 2016

EXHIBIT 27

DECLARATION

I, Elizabeth Stone, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my person knowledge.

1. While going door to door in Salt Lake City, Utah in July 2016, collecting signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party candidate for President of the U.S. Alyson Kennedy on the Utah ballot at least three people I spoke to declined to sign the petition citing their fear of getting on a list that could be used by the government to target them.
2. Three other volunteers who were circulating nominating petitions for the 2016 Socialist Workers Party candidate for President in Utah reported they also talked with people who declined to sign out of fear of being targeted by government officials or others who might see their name on the petition.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 17, 2016.

Elizabeth Stone

Elizabeth Stone

July 17, 2016

EXHIBIT 28

DECLARATION

I, Rebecca Williamson, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On October 5, 2016, I went canvassing in Culver City, California, for Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for President and Vice President, and for Eleanor Garcia, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate.
2. Fellow campaigner Dennis Richter and I had a long discussion with a woman, and she was interested in the SWP program and our literature.
3. But at the end of the discussion, she said she feared giving us her contact information because she "didn't want to end up on some government list." She said she was afraid it would jeopardize the work she does in helping prisoners defend their rights.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Los Angeles, California, October 14, 2016.



Rebecca Williamson
October 14, 2016

EXHIBIT 29

DECLARATION

I, Elizabeth Stone, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my person knowledge.

1. While going house to house collecting signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party candidate for President on the ballot in June, 2016 in Glencoe, Minnesota, one of those I spoke to declined to sign, saying he feared it might lead to the government targeting him. He said he was afraid it would jeopardize help he was getting from a government program to pay his medical bills. I was with campaign supporter John Hawkins at the time.
2. Two other volunteers who were collecting signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot in Minnesota told me they had a similar experience of at least one person refusing to sign based on their fear of being targeted by the government for signing for a socialist candidate.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 28, 2016.



Elizabeth Stone

July 28, 2016

EXHIBIT 30

DECLARATION

I, Eric Simpson, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On September 16, 2016 I knocked on a door near Billings Boulevard in San Leandro, California. I introduced myself as a member of the Socialist Workers Party and engaged in a back and forth discussion of our party's revolutionary perspective with the man who came to the door. He was interested in what I had to say and in the literature I showed him.
2. But he said he could not subscribe to the *Militant* newsweekly or buy the book *Are They Rich Because They-re Smart?* because he believed it would endanger his job. He said he used to work for the army.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Oakland, California, on October 4, 2016.



Eric Simpson

October 4, 2016

EXHIBIT 31

DECLARATION

I, Joel Britton, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. On October 15, 2016, I introduced myself and another member of the Socialist Workers Party to a worker at his doorstep in San Leandro, California. He invited us in for discussion about the economic crisis and what working people can do to chart a way forward and help build our party.

2. A mechanic and member of the Operating Engineers union, and an immigrant many years ago from Central America, he was open to considering our revolutionary perspectives. He bought copies of the Pathfinder Press books *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? A Necessary Debate Among Working People* to learn more about what the party thinks. But he declined to subscribe to *The Militant*, the newspaper that editorially supports the SWP candidates, citing fears of "getting on a list" and possibly being open to harassment and victimization.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Oakland, California, on October 22, 2016.



Joel Britton
October 22, 2016

EXHIBIT 32

DECLARATION

I, John Doe, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I donated over \$1000.00 to the SWP National Campaign Committee for their 2012 and 2016 presidential tickets. I did this because I understood the SWP had an exemption from the FEC from disclosing names of contributors because of potential harassment from government agencies and others who target supporters of the SWP because of their political views and activities.
2. I declare that due to the nature of my employment in the aerospace industry in Renton, Washington, that I would not want to continue to make financial contributions to the Socialist Workers Party campaigns if my financial contributions were made public out of concern that my employment might be effected because of my support for the SWP.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Renton, Washington, on October 24, 2016.

John Doe
October 24, 2016

EXHIBIT 33

DECLARATION

I, Jane Doe, make this declaration in support of the application to the Federal Election Commission for an advisory opinion that the SWP, the SWP's National Campaign Committee, and the Committees supporting the candidates of the SWP are entitled to an exemption from certain disclosure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

I make this statement on the basis of my personal knowledge.

1. I donated over \$2,000 to the SWP National Campaign Committee for their 2012 and 2016 presidential tickets.
2. I did this because I understood the SWP had an exemption from the FEC from disclosing names of contributors because of potential harassment from government agencies and others who target supporters of the SWP because of their political views and activities.
3. I am employed in a managerial position in a publishing firm in Seattle.
4. I declare that if my financial contributions to the SWP were a matter of public record, it is likely that I would not continue to make these contributions to the SWP out of concern that my employer would disapprove of my support for the SWP.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed in Seattle, Washington, on October 24, 2016.

Jane Doe
October 24, 2016