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
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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
Victim's Name: PERLAZO, Jacob
Address Loss Occurred: 6001 S. 37th
Date Reported: 15 July 13
Res. Phone: 402-343-5344

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MAIL TO:
OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU
505 SOUTH 15TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102
FAX TO: (402) 444-4990
402-444-5818 (POLICE DESK)

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QPD Form 125 (05/2005)
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.

Front page (for this issue) | Home | Text-version home
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!
Socialist Workers in Omaha respond to political break-in
Organize campaign to defend workers rights

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; 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
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.

Bill Arth
Los Angeles, Calif.
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.

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.

Seth Galinsky
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 safety (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
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.

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AOR598
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 Trove 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 Pelley, a Militant supporter and cab driver, had a group of seven Angolan oil workers as passengers for four days last week,” Trove said. “They are mechanics taking training classes at a local company company here, Pelley brought them to the book center. One of them got a subscription and three bought both a subscription and the book.”

Ukraine crisis grows as Putin, imperialists vie for influence

Moscow tightens grip with carrot and stick

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 Yanukovych 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 Yanukovych of selling Ukraine out to the highest bidder.

Protests in Kiev’s Independence Square began in response to Yanukovych’s Dec. 5 announcement that he would not sign agreements to move toward integration into the European Union trade bloc and instead maintain

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 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 Arum, two towns southeast of Aleppo, and

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

BY JOHN STUDER

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

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

BY JOHN STUDER

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

COMMENTARY

wins by Kulanna 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 unions 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

Also Inside

New Zealand taxi drivers’ strike makes gains at airport

‘Militant’ scores another win in prison censorship fight

Striking SKorea rail workers win international solidarity

Gerardo Hernandez salutes Mandela, SAfrica revolution

Continued on page 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 "definitive victory," Manu- mohan Singh, spokesman for the Auckland Taxi Association, told the New Zealand 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 exclaimed, "We are working below $4 an hour" (US$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 fliers that can be charged to their employer.

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 paying for money for their license, airport rates, 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 use 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 wider coverage in the media, the picketing drivers won backing from the First Union and tools of appeal from many travelers and workers in the area. Drivers for the three larger designated rank companies were guarded in their comments to the Media during the stoppage.

One striker, who declined to be named, and several such drivers told him they sympathizes with the action.

"Happy to give bosses' holiday tribute to communist movement"

"Blood money" contributions to the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund totaled $971 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 Atwood, wrote. With a note he sent with a $20 contribution, "This year they excluded temporary workers, like myself, from participating in the hourly rates...previously open to all workers. Most workers disagreed with this. 'You guys do the same work as us. It's not fair,' one of them told me."

After workers protested, the taxes were included in the $21 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, conversion 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 the "trip" is and how much he 'loves Thanksgiving because it's a "non-commercial" holiday for family,' Trowe wrote. "With pleasure we put this blood money toward building the revolutionary party."

Carole Lenick 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, rates monthly, there will be no bonus. But we 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

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Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

Angola: Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own.

This book is one of nine special offers with the 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 Jacqueline 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 garment workers in this small industrial city to understand that the workers are the masters and not more to get rid of it. But now we have a new kind of slavery, wage slavery. And we will take another revolution to end that. That is what we need.”

Jimenez asked the Militant supporter 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, Confectionary, 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 Transser Rebellion.” LaMont said. “He was fascinated by the story of how members of Teams Local 57-organized the unempl-

ied, a women’s auxiliary and got help from farmers in their battle in the 1930s, to make Minneapolis a union town.”

Erendrim Valadez renewed her subscription during the drive after several years of not getting the paper. Arlene Rubenstein 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 Militants there are meeting with a number of new readers to discuss their ideas on topics for upcoming forum programs.

Seth Galmish 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-

tes met a postal worker going door to
door two weeks ago. They pointed to the article about how Metro-North’s doctors for safety in order to max-
imize 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,” Thier-

jung said. “She used to be a teacher. ‘Tell them why you are not a teacher anymore,’ her aunt said. So the niece tells us she doesn’t want to ‘turn out any more worker-biases,’ she’s end up with teaching. She grabbed The Work-

ing 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 past worker said. “And be sure to bring the books.”

Thierjung and Liates went back last Sunday. After talking politics for an hour, she decided to get Mandela 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 from pages of the ‘Militant’ (regular $5)

The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free from pages of the ‘Militant’ (regular $5)

$3 with subscription (regular $5)


The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning by Jack Barnes Under Capitalism (regular $2)

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

The Militant December 30, 2013 AOR6D1

Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription

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 $8 with subscription (regular $12)

Women in Cuba The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution by Viilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer $10 with subscription (regular $50)

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)

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 (facing Africa’s Freedom and Our Own and two copies of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power.)
`Militant` scores another win against censorship in prisons

BY JOHN STUDER

"Yes, I received copies of the Militant you sent last week. I thank you." 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 prisoners 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 has helped from the American Civil Liberties Union. It also received support from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the number of public officials who re- ported on struggles by workers behind bars, including the San Francisco Bay View 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 prisons," Washington ACLU attorney La Rond Baker wrote to John Dittmann, Assistant Attorney General in Washington state, Nov. 25, quoting from a 1989 Supreme Court decision.

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 focusing on the final payments in. Just over $71,000 came in this week, bringing the total to $76,123. Three areas—Lincoln, Pittsburgh and Seattle, and have met their quotas for the fund, and many others 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.

Den Hazelewold reports from Miami that "we've gotten 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 a worker who kicked in an extra dollar as two of we were selling the Militant door to door. A final count 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 active movement for change that will ensure enforcement of the rights of prisoners," Mead says. "Not the mere promises of prisoners or the mood of the courts."

Workers locked out by Kellogg

Continued from front page to hire temporary, part-time workers at the plant, at $5.60 per hour and with fewer benefits and rights than current workers.

"We've had many people from other unions, retirees from our local and the community in this area and the locals in communities bring food and fuel to show their support for us," Local 2520 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. 16 it said it will close its cereal plant in Long Island, 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 sách to run the Memphis plant.

"I never thought this would happen. And I don't think it would have happened," said Tim Riggs, who has worked at the plant for 12 years. "We'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 announce its decision to close the Long Island facility after further negotiations with the union.

Quito, Ecuador — Delegates from 86 countries gathered here Dec. 7 to begin the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students. The event, which brought together thousands of political party leaders under the banner of the struggle against imperialism, had some 8,000 registered participants, 4,500 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 Gonzalez and Aitl Lahuart, daughters ofreeze Gonzalez and Ramon Lahuart, two of the Cuban Five. Ramon Lahuart is one of four of the framers who remain in U.S. prisons. In May, Rene Gonzalez returned to Cuba where he has been active in the political fight to free his comrades.

Some 250 came from Namibia, Szazle delegates 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 Vermeun

Teamster Rebellion

BY FARRELL DOBBS

The 1934 strike 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.

The first in a two-part series. The other books are: Teamster Power, Teamster Politics, and Teamster Autocracy. Also available in Spanish, Swedish, Farsi.

Pathfinder Press.com
Skorea rail workers strike, walk on international solidarity

The South Korean government is trying to break a strike by workers at the state-owned rail company. An estimated 10,000 people were called off the duties 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 7,000 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 its $8 billion debt, which reached 17.7 trillion won [$37.2 billion] in June."

"In most countries rail privatization beats this same way," wrote an 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 that will have an impact on safety, on repairs and maintenance."

By the third day of the strike about two-thirds of freight train traffic was shut down as well as many passenger and mail trains. KORAIL has brought in students, retired workers, managers and some soldiers to work as scab. "It means," said a worker, "we are not adequately trained."

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

The attack on rail workers is one of a series of attacks on unions and political rights since President Park Chung-hee was elected last year. Four 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," Ieri said.

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


"Privatization is going on around the world, especially in Europe where workers are trying to protect public rail," Ieri 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/showcampaign.cgi?5=2072.

Seth Cardony

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 representative of the workers union.

"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 Vezirgioglou, an official of the Federation of Higher Education Administrative Personnel.

"With the government proposal, nearly half the country would get 351-400 euros ($480-$550) a month for eight months and then be fired," said Vezirgioglou. "With unemployment over 37 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 suspendes for clauses for some 100,000 students.

"We have tried hard to get students and parents to oppose the strike," Vezirgioglou 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. 18 "the university walked; our strike continues," says Dimitrios Antoniou, another strike committee member. "We have not stopped the government's course. But we have shaken them up."

Seth Cardony

Amazon workers in Germany strike for higher pay, respect

Workers at three Amazon distribution centers in Germany began a three-day strike Dec. 10. Germany is Amazon's second-largest market after the U.S.

More than 1,500 workers joined the strike in three cities on the first day. Heiner Reimann, a spokesperson for the Verdi union, which is leading the organizing drive among Amazon's 8,000 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 warehouse employees as retail employees instead of logistics employees. The latter get paid about 10 euros an hour ($13.30), Reimann said, while those classified as retail get 12 euros ($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 workers and so-called minijobs — tax-free part-time jobs with relatively low pay — have been rapidly growing in Germany over the last decade. Today those classified as retail get 12 euros ($50).

"The most important issue has to do with dignity," Amazon worker Christian Krudel said by phone. "We didn't have any raises from 2000 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 50 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 Cardony

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

December 30, 1988
NEW YORK — Thousands of marchers took to the streets here to demand 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 country in a week of national picket lines, and educational events that highlighted the plight of nearly 100,000 New Yorkers — including 5,000 children — who are homeless.

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

Scores of churches endorsed the event along with Waterfront, city employee, hospital, telephone, United Auto Workers locals as well as the Coalition of Black Trade Unions.

December 30, 1963
Recent reports from northern Angola describe the increasing influx of armed and trained men across the border from the Congo as part of the third major drive against the Portuguese colonists by the Angolan Liberation Army. The build-up is supported by war matériel mostly from Angola, which is carried into Angola on the heads of bearers over narrow paths and is massed by 7,500 disciplined troops.

The Angolan liberation fight has been going on for two and a half years now. Flaring into the open with the uprising in Luanda, the capital, in February 1962, the pen-up wrath of the Angolan people was countered by wholesale slaughter.

The Liberation Forces live off the land and thus sustain mainly on their dedication to their cause. Officers and men drive off 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 us forth to the minds and hearts of many a leader of the Jewish community: the debacle of assimilationism, the blind alloy into which Zionism has led, the sheer 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 out 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 need for an inescapable alternative either to go down in the dark with fascism or up into the kingdom of freedom with the socialist revolution. For the Jews the question is posed more starkly: 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 suburb south of Damascus, the capital city, and five towns are back under government control.

Government forces have recaptured several towns and are targeting areas sympathetic to the opposition. Syrian government aircraft pounded areas around the southern border with Jordan and in Aleppo Dec. 16. Barrel bombs — steel barrels packed with explosives — dropped on several Aleppo neighborhoods, killing 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. 30-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 a deal reached at a Jan. 22 peace conference set for Geneva, Switzerland, and that he may again in elections scheduled for mid-2014.

"Assad's survival may not be the worst scenario for Syria," he said Nov. 19. The Wall Street Journal editorial described the view of the Barack Obama administration.

"Washington and Russia appealed to be seen in Geneva as a means to a transitional framework," Reuters reported Dec. 17, in which Assad's military and intelligence apparatus would "rain 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 responded 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 began to enter the country, seeking to join a Syrian army. They have been increasingly clashed with the Free Syrian Army.

The Syrian Observatory puts the total death toll in the war at about 126,000. On average more than 5,000 a day, with an estimated 7.1 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. has estimated that 6.5 million people in the country who have been driven from their homes. Another 3 million Syrians have fled to nearby countries — 141,000 to Egypt, 207,000 to Iraq, 54,000 to Turkey, 57,000 to Jordan and 82,000 to Lebanon. They face limited resources, little opportunity for jobs, and are often scapegoated for deteriorating economic and social conditions in these countries.

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

Nearly 630,000 refugees have crossed over the Turkish border to Bulgaria, the poorest nation in the European Union, hoping to make it to Germany or Sweden. In Bulgaria, one of the entry points to Europe, they have been turned away by the ultranationalists. The group, which seeks to block, the Syrians be driven out, saying "Bulgaria for the Bulgarians."

Simplification 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 U.S. Department of Defense, split from the Free Syrian Army and formed the Islamic Front. The front has led 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 militia have pushed both the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and the Nusra Front out of their territories. They have been strengthened by the U.S. military strike. The Kurdish forces have taken over much of Hasakah province. These gains are part of a broader effort to push back the Kurdish people, who are opposed to the Islamic State and the Islamic Front.

Over the Dec. 7-8 weekend the Islamic Front took over key Free Syrian Army warehouses, near the Turkish border. In one of the items seized were aircraft and anti-tank weapons, 30,000 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 U.S. One said a U.S. Abrams tank, driven by a Free Syrian Army soldier, forced the Islamic Front to retreat in the crisis. Another that the Free Syrian Army had taken 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 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 Islamic 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 Assad regime. The same development has angered Washington's allies in the region, particularly the monarchy in Saudi Arabia, which has stopped the $140 billion in arms and equipment. The Saudi government 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 went, and eventually ended up completely white," Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal, the country's former intelligence chief, said Dec. 17, speaking at a World Policy Conference.

With the emergence of the Islamic Front, Saudi Arabia now sees a foe one of its vanguards claim to be itself, as the leader of the group, while others see it as a continuation of the Islamic Front.

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 taken to the square, fortifying their positions with barricades and roadblocks. On Dec. 14, the government organized a one-time counterseminar to support Yanukovych, numbering in the tens of thousands.

The unfolding events in Ukraine have a historical roots in the anti-working-class course of the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc governments following the upsurge of political power by privileged bureaucratic layers in the 1920s — a course which led to their collapse in the early 1990s. Since then, the remnants of these 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 cause 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 to Moscow, while others look to new opportunities in closer economic integration with western Europe.

Conflicts between different factions of the new capitalist layers exploded around the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine, emerging from the government-runs eastern coal industry and had strong ties to Russia, claimed victory. His opponent, Viktor Yuashchenko, came out of the state banking apparatus and oriented toward Washington and capitalist governments in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, backing Yuashchenko and a break with Russia. But his rule ended six years later amid growing...
Women trade unionists back fight to free the Cuban Five

BY SETH GALVAN

The Coalition of Labor Union Women approved a resolution at its Nov. 13-14 convention backing the fight to free the Cuban Five:

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

"We demand that we be allowed to visit the release of these five innocent men," said Huerta, who is also a founding member of the United Farm Workers, in a You Tube video referred to in the resolution.

The resolution calls on the "U.S. Department of Labor to grant a visa to Adriana Perez in order that she may visit with her husband, Gerardo Hernandez, one of the Five. During 15 years of imprisonment, Washington has repeatedly denied a visa request for Perez to come to the U.S. to see Hernandez, who was sentenced to 24 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 spouse to visit their incarcerated husband or wife is a violation of human rights," the resolution says.

While the case of the Five "has received 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-Cuban 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, Nev.; the AFL-CIO, which merged with the coalition, founded in 1974, has chapters around the country. The resolution, which was approved unanimously, was submitted by Kate Jordan, president of the Chicago chapter of CLUW. She as 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 fight for justice in the U.S. "You can do 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 look other unions will do the same," she said.

Who are the Cuban Five?

Fernando Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labanino and Rene Gonzalez are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s as combatants from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organized 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 tried in 1998 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, they were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

The trials 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 leaders of that nation for making and defending a socialist revolution. Fifty miles from U.S. shores.

All but Rene Gonzalez, who returned to Cuba in May 2013, remain in prison.

Gerardo Hernandez salutes Nelson Mandela, South African revolution

Below is a message sent by Gerardo Hernandez, one of the Cuban Five, following the death of Nelson Mandela, leader of the democratic revolution in South Africa:

"Three of the Five - Hernandez, Rene Gonzalez and Fernando Gonzalez - 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 37 years in prison. Governments around the world that backed the apartheid regime branded the African National Congress and Mandela as "terrorists." Che Guevara among them. 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 harbor 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 Hernandez, Nordelo
United States Penitentiary, Victoria, California
Dec. 5, 2013

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 struggle, it is strong to transform our labor unions and lay the basis for a social movement that can challenge the bosses' political power, the answer is clearly yes. Without this, and lacking a revolutionary program, these elections only nurture workers' illusions in democratic forms of capitalist rule and provide them with false comfort.

Kshama Savant, an economics professor, ran for the nonpartisan Seattle City Council position No. 2, winning with 50.07% in a two-candidate race, with no Republican running. With a "practical" focus on getting elected, she campaigned around three central challenges: $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.

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

Constrained to the narrow boundaries of the typical capitalist election contest 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.

"Savant pushed the discussion into the race 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 is far from left to do nothing about political action on the part of the working class — which takes place in the streets, not at the ballot box. Electoral politics is not 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 class' 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 a false consciousness.

Some middle-class socialist groups have in recent years pulled back from running for office themselves, turned out from previous exertions of their small to 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 the key arena where workers and activists can make a difference.
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 hands at the Month of the Month. The book contains writings and speeches from 1945-57, at James P. Cannon, a leading leader of the communist movement in the U.S. and a founder of both Pathfinder and the Socialist Workers Party. The selection is from “Notes on the American revolution,” adopted by the 12th National Convention of the S.W.P. on November 4, 1946 (copyright © 1947 by Pathfinder Press. Reproduced by permission).

December Books of the Month

Pathfinder Readers Club

The Struggle for Socialism in the “American Century” by James P. Cannon

“...The relatively high living standards of the American workers is a revolutionary and not, as is commonly believed, a conserving factor,” said 1946 Socialist Workers party leaders. Dissolution of the revolutionary and socialist idea is shown in the period occupied by the Negroes. Formerly, it was seen that the white worker and the Negro worker had the same hope and desire for a better life. Now, with the rise of the Negro in the industry and the military, the white worker has a realization of the same principles and values. For the Negro worker, his hope is in the future. The relative high living standards of the American workers is a revolutionary and not, as is commonly believed, a conserving factor.

An equally significant and profound development is represented by the transformation that has taken place in the institution of slavery. Formerly, it was seen that the white worker and the Negro worker had the same hope and desire for a better life. Now, with the rise of the Negro in the industry and the military, the white worker has a realization of the same principles and values. For the Negro worker, his hope is in the future.

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Did Seattle, Ohio elections strengthen labor?

Continued from page 7

“activists” should focus attention. “On election night Swanty’s supporters, including this writer, gathered to watch the returns and vote.”

There were “socialists of all stripes: independents, the FSP, NA, and International Socialist Organization (ISO).”

In the electoral realm, such collaboration is historic in recent years.

This attempt to regroup through a “practical” electoral focus is an attempt to look to something other than real politics — the actions of the working class and their trade and labor organizers. These groups, with their attraction to Occupy, no longer look to the working class as the engine of revolutionary change. They look for alienation that is sustained in the face of a new movement for progressive change. The idea led to disillusionment in face of Occupy’s new table emptying out after the election to the left of the Democratic Party. But today such hopes have been rekindled in growing excitement about new possibilities in election politics.

“it has been said that what happened in Seattle was that Occupy went to the polls,” Jason Niesz wrote in The ISO’S Socialist Worker

“Labor management 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 needs of workers.”

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 Hostek, a longtime leader of the Communist Party in LA, wrote in the Dec. 4 Labor Voice.

The ticket was launched in response to an effort to break city unions by Democrat Mayor Chase Ritenauer and a number of incumbent Democrat city councilors, who represent 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.”

Hostek quoted Machinist Art Thomas as saying.

The meaning of the Lorain Central Labor Council after the election voted to buy a tab at the upcoming Democratic Party dinner and to donate to the campaign of Lorain’s, the party’s candidate for county commissioner.

What made possible the elections of Swanty and the Lorain labor ticket was a shift in workers’ thinking today under the impact of the housing crisis to fight the crisis of capitalism on their 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 selected 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’s independent campaign is 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 solid eye to the fact that the central political prep of the capitalists 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 independent development 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 seats in the capitalist government. History is full of such examples that in the end served to buttress capitalist rule.

The ugly revolutions of our epoch — in Russia in 1917 and China in 1949 — weren’t won through elections, but by the actions of millions in the streets.

Divisions in Ukraine

Continued from page 6

disarm for the defense and corruption of his government, laying the basis for Yanukovych and his clique to take it even further.

The forces leading the opposition opposing imperialist pates

with seats in Ukraine’s parliament. One of the main groups organizing the protests is the FSB’s new opposition leader Vitaly Klitschko, prime minister in YuShencko’s cabinet, representing oligarchs on the cuts.

Ukrainian presidential campaign — led by Vitaly Klitschko, a former heavyweight 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 national party in World War II, which was founded with Nazi Germany and then operated as a political force in post-war Ukraine. Party leader Oleh Tyagnibok says “Nationalism is love of the land” and has come out against a supposed “Jewish-Bolshevik mafia” running Ukraine. Members of Svoboda make up a large part of the bloc defending the square against the cops.

The oligarchic competing allegiances with either side are based on pragmatic, not ideological views on “democracy,” as is often presented in the big business sphere of Europe and the U.S.

The Eastern Partnership, which Yanukovych said no to in Nov. 2013, was set up in 2007 to integrate Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine into the EU with removal of tariffs on imports and exports.

Yanukovych said he couldn’t sign the deal because of concerns to government officials, business 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 Yanukovych’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 billions of oil and gas. In addition to the hundreds of billions in low 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 2014 Moscow has imposed trade restrictions that cost Ukraine $2 billion.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the deal “is not tied to any conditions” and the trade of Ukraine joining the 2013 customs and trade agreement between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan was 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 eastern industrialized part of the country — Yanukovych’s traditional support base — has seen very little participation in the demonstrations. The eastern Donbas 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 Donbas it’s nearly 40 percent. Local industries are heavily dependent on Russian supplies and markets. The prospects 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 pensions, and then talk about the breadline. I am against joining the EU.”

Correction

Last week’s article “Whatapperferred Deans Opened for Workers in SAFIRA, World,” implied that former Mandela’s call for an end to apartheid and the struggle against the apartheid regime. Was forward contrary to proposals for negotiations by Communist Party leader Joe Slovo in 1990. 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.

LETTERS

Prisoners strike in Canada

Readers of the Militant, in particular those behind bars, will be interested to know about a three-day 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” move. The strike quickly spread to federal prisons across the country.

The average wage for prisoners in the country is significantly lower than the national level, which is $15 a day for the rate the government set in 1981. Inmates now have to pay for necessities like shampoo, soap, deodorant, stamps and memoria, which used to be provided by the prison. Government officials condemned the strike as an “offensive to our hard-working-abiding Canadians.”

“We’re working citizens as well,” a prisoner at the Dorma Community Treatment Center in 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 between their representatives and prison and government officials.

Like the 20,000 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 L. Hrabalek, Toronto, Quebec

Experiences on railroad

My dad was a railroad electrician. The railroads have had the alerter/acknowledgment 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 it caused the railroad companies argued it was needlessly slowing down operations.

But, Metro-North is operated like other mass transportation systems, where tax dollars are funnelled into the system because of the “necessity” to make profits directly off the system. Efficiently the rolling stock belongs to the State of Connecticut.

However, just like hospitals and universities, the College 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.

Edward Craig, Willimantic, Conn.

The Militant December 30, 2013 AOR-007
U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

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☐ Medium Security Institution
☐ Minimum Security Institution

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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;

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(3) It depicts or describes procedures for the brewing of alcoholic beverages, or the manufacture of drugs;

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(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.


Sincerely,

[Signature]

J. Oliver
Warden
‘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:
L.A. rally marks anniversary of prison hunger strike

Front page (for this issue) | Home | Text-version home
‘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:
UK court pulls back from using ‘terrorism’ law to seize home
New documents highlight extensive gov’t spying
‘Working class must organize its own political party’
‘Socialism on Trial’ presents revolutionary program in fight for workers power – in wartime or ‘peace’

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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 safety (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.

[Signature]

Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016
NOTICE OF REJECTION OR IMPOUNDMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Date: 6/15/16
Inmate: [ redacted ]
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 IMPOUNDED 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.
☒ (3)(m) It otherwise presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.

DC5-101 (Effective 6/16/09) (Revised 12/9/11)
Incorporated by Reference in Rule 33-501.401, F.A.C.

AOR619
Inmates may obtain further administrative review of a publication rejected for reasons not relating to subject matter by submitting an informal grievance on Form DC6-236, Inmate Request, as prescribed by Rule 33-103.005 F.A.C. A copy of this Form DC5-101, Notice of Rejection or Impoundment of Publications, must be attached to the informal grievance.

Inmates may obtain further administrative review of a publication that was impounded or rejected due to subject matter per Sections (3) or (10) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C. by obtaining Form DC1-303, Request for Administrative Remedy or Appeal, completing the form, attaching a copy of this Form DC5-101, Notice of Rejection or Impoundment of Publications, and forwarding the complaint to the Bureau of Inmate Grievance Appeals, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500. The complaint must be filed within 15 days from the date of impoundment or rejection.

Inmates are advised that this impounded or rejected publication shall be held at the institution for 30 days. Inmates must make arrangements to have the publication picked up by an approved visitor or mailed to a relative, friend, or the sender at the inmate’s expense within 30 days, or it shall be discarded or destroyed. The 30-day time period shall not include any time during which an appeal or grievance proceeding is pending, provided the inmate gives the Warden written notice of the appeal within 15 calendar days. The written notice must be submitted on form DC6-236, Inmate Request. The written notice must clearly identify the inmate by committed name and DC#, must specifically identify the title of the publication to include volume or issue if applicable, and must state that the inmate intends to appeal the impoundment or rejection decision to the Office of the Secretary.

Senders are advised that when a publication is impounded or rejected because it contains written or pictorial matter that is inadmissible pursuant to the criteria established in Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C, the impoundment or rejection shall be immediately applied in all major institutions, work camps, road prisons, and forestry camps of the Florida Department of Corrections. However, senders may appeal an institution’s decision to impound or reject reading materials by writing the Department’s Library Services Administrator within 15 days of receipt of the notice of impoundment or rejection. The appeal must include a copy of this form. Sender appeals are to be mailed to the following address: Department of Corrections, ATTN: Library Services Administrator, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500.

S. Duvall, Asst. Warden Operations, NWFR

DATE MAILED TO SENDER: 6/20/10

cc: Library Services Administrator; Sender

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY. Impounded publications approved by Literature Review Committee or per grievance appeal:

RECEIVED BY:

Inmate Signature __________________________ Date __________________________

DCS-101 (Effective 6/16/09) (Revised 12/9/11) Page 2 of 2
Incorporated by Reference in Rule 33-501.401, F.A.C.
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 today’s feeble economic recovery — including low pay, unsafe working conditions and degrading treatment.

The government’s list of what they want to change — and what they have achieved in the past — has been compiled by the **Militant**.

**Continued on page 3**

US gov’t seeks stability for imperalist order in Mideast

Tries for Moscow deal while sending more troops

**BY MAGGIE TROWE**

As he approaches the end of his second and final term, Barack Obama — who ran for president in 2008 on a platform 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 Sea.

**Continued on page 9**

Indiana aerospace workers reject cuts, fight lockout at Honeywell

**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 offer,” 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 1**

Washington launches anti-missile system on Russian ‘periphery’

**BY BETSY 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.

**Continued on page 4**

Inside

Statement: Wildfire disaster a product of capitalism

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

Relatives of victims of US cop brutality visit Cuba

— On the picket line, p. 5—

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

Austria 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 2017.

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 Mediterranea-

nian Sea from a base in Italy.

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 Presi-

dent 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 mable 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 op-

ponent of nuclear weapons, Obama has been stepping up the modernization of the U.S. arsenal. The Pentagon is plan-

ning 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 “dual-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 provocat-

ive anti-missiles 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 So-

viet 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, Pol-

nish forces and other NATO nations will hold Anakonda 16, one of the largest war exercises in Europe in years.

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 of steelworkers Local 7-669 in Metropolis, Illinois, over the conversion plant in Metropolis, Illinois, to renewable energy.

“Workers fight back,” the Militant says. “They treat us like we’re a com-

modity, like corn or soybeans,” said John Billington, a substation electrician.

The unions are in trouble,” said Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

The Militant

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Closing news date: May 18, 2016

Editor: John Staed

Managing Editor: Naomi Craine

Editorial volunteers: Roger Calero, Seth Galfinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Gerardo Sánchez, Maggie Twome, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in August and one week in September.

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Honeywell workers fight lockout

Continued from front page

Glen Rock, New York, brake pad plant.

“We couldn’t accept going from $8 a week to $14 a week for fam-

ily medical and a deductible increase from $3,400 to $8,000,” said Local 9 President Adam Stevenson.

“We’ve had several work sched-

ules, 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 elimi-

nate hours at 11:00 a.m. so 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 breaking outfit, two months be-

fore 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 reali-

ties facing the industry,” pointing to “thousands of job cuts announced by our largest customer in March.”

“They treat us like we’re a com-

modity, like corn or soybeans,” said John Billington, a substation electrician.

The unions are in trouble,” said Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

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Canada: For one year send Canadian $45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Mon-

treal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83


Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send €85 for one year by check or in-

ternational money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send €20 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75725 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand: Send NZ$55 for one year to PO Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send $45 for one year to PO Box 169, Carrara, NSW 2249, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 for one year to PO Box 3125, Auckland 1048, New Zealand.

Submissions to the Militant may be pub-

lished in the newspaper in print and digital formats.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views.

These are expressed in editorials.

Workers fight back,” the Militant says. “They treat us like we’re a com-

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Workers fight back,” the Militant says. “They treat us like we’re a com-

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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 Kenne-dy 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 Minnesotta 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 meet-ings 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 abortion at the state capitol here in April, we had a forum where Alexandra 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 Commit-tee 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 Commu-nist League sister parties around the world go over the top.

To date 1,435 subscriptions and $90,586 have come in toward the quota of 1,550 subscribers and $110,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The cost of the paper’s production is sustained by hundreds of contributions every spring. “Twelve readers of the Militant here contributed $621 to the Militant Fight-ing Fund,” Nat London writes from Paris. “Five workers on the SNCF 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-laged that the Militant has opened my eyes and educated me to social issues that affect all working classes and struggle与其 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 revolu-tionary perspective, contact a party branch listed in the directory on page 8.

Spring subscription drive

April 2 - May 24 (week 6)

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BY MAGGIE TROWE

The three-day Active Workers Conferences 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 dis-plays, will address the economic, po- litical and moral crisis of the capital-ist rulers that the 2016 election cam-paign reflects, the growing receptiv-ity among workers to a revolutionary perspective and openings to build the revolutionary party.

Six classes will be presented. Martin 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-ization,” and the Struggle for a Proletarian Party.”

“Now Nukes!” — Our Call for U.S. Nuclear Disarmament and Why Nuclear Weapons Weaken the Proletarian Power” is the title of a class by Dave Prince and Naomi Crane.

“The World Capitalist Economic Cri-sis Why the Revolutionary Compos-tion 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 was the state’s 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, although Tyler was standing, 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 prosecution coerced testimony against Tyler from fellow students, who later recanted. Police eventually located a gun in Tyler’s seat, despite no evidence during the first investigation, and participants can browse tables of a book by SWP National Secretary Jack Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., May 15 in a phone interview from one of 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 “denied he be allowed to correspond with socialist and communist publica-

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 confer-

As a young man, Staton and Elmore Correctional Facility refused to leave their cells to

Prisoners strike to protest abuse, little or no pay

Continued from front page

Day, also underscored how prisoners are going to be paid a reasonable wage,” said state representative Jim McClen-

Prisoners also are charged $25 for

The prisoners ended their strike for armbands and identification cards, though they didn’t participate directly.”

Many are supporting our protests, even though they didn’t participate directly.”

“We have contact with women in Tut- wiler 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 contact with family mem-

The prisoners also are charged $25 for being caught with a cell phone the first time, with fines rising $25 for each fur-

Prisoners also have been receiving well below a thou-

“Unfair 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 Tu-

SAVINGS AND MODERNITY IN THE BRITISH FISHERY INDUSTRIES, 1800-1880 edited by H. W. Jevons and B. J. C. Evers (Cambridge University Press, 1986) 368 pages, $40 (Reprint of 1903 edition). A major work on the history of the British fishing industry, this volume is a collection of essays by leading scholars in the field. It includes discussions of fishing technology, the economy, and social issues related to the industry. The essays are well-written and comprehensive, making this book a valuable resource for students and researchers interested in the history of fishing. The book is highly recommended for libraries, archives, and individual scholars. **The Militant**

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**—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS**

**CANADA**

Montreal US Elections: The Working Class and the Brutality of Capitalism. Speaker: Aiyon Kennedy, Socialist Alternative. Thu., May 27, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5.00/Adults, $3.00/Students, $1.00/Seniors.

**NEW ZEALAND**

Auckland Agricultural Workers and Working Farmers Bear the Brunt of Collapsing Dairy Prices. Speakers: Gina Greenwood, Farmers United for Fair Dairy; Anuradha Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., May 27, 7:30 p.m. Participation: $5.00/Adults, $3.00/Students, $1.00/Seniors.

The Alabama government legalized the use of prison labor by private, for-

Bird-feeding.” For the last 10 days we have been receiving well below a thou-

“Unfair 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 Tut-

**—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS**

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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 (CAD $15.80). 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 CAD$11.80 an hour and the average wage is CAD$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 Imnogreedy 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 CAD$16.87 and further increases to CAD$16.87, a union press release said.

“We have a big job ahead of us,” Lo-
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 online 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 policemen. Malcolm, a 23-year-old Black man, was shot in the head at point blank range while returning home from a party. Young participated 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 explained how she won a civil suit in 2003 in favor of the lawsuit filed against the acquittal of four police officers.

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.

Amarelle Boué, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, told the delegation from the north listened carefully with determination to the problems faced by mothers and families affected by police violence, who had escaped. She recalled how 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 to 70 percent of physicians, and more than 80 percent of nurses, alongside other gains achieved by women.

Problems in the capitalist system

Alamy 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 Pantijó 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.
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 that has more to the liking of U.S. imperialism.

In March President Barack Obama renewed an executive order declaring the government of President Nicolas 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 America (ALBA) declared May 5. The alliance, initiated by the governments of Cuba and Venezuela, includes 13 Latin American and Carribbean nations.

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

PSP’s opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable — which won the majority of seats in Venezuela’s legislative 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 Aristobulo Isturiz said there were “errors, contradictions and an apparent spiring of fraud.”

Maduro extended a “state of exception and economic emergency” May 15, charging left-leaning opposition groups were promoting hoarding, boycott, usury, shortages and inflation to destabilize the government. He said the armed forces would decide whether to make him president for more than 55 years ago in a failed attempt to bring the Cuban people to their knees — remains in place. While its targets have shifted over the years, the goal remains the same: the overturning of the 1959 revolution that removed a U.S.-backed dictatorship and brought the ability of the Cuban people to gain greater control over their own lives and the objective 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 farmers do not fear cuts because they are our own making. This is the powerful reason why the permanent aim of the government of the United States to shutter the state, the army and the people and separate them from our state.

Cuban small farmers do not fear cuts because they are our own making. This is the powerful reason why the permanent aim of the government of the United States to shutter the state, the army and the people and separate them from our state.

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 definitive - 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.

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

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.

The State Department also ignores 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 would have to be paid, making exports of eggs and fruits highly likely the highest in the world — up from 180 percent in 1961.

Starting April 26, Maduro placed new government-made rates for the workforce, on a two-day workweek to conserve energy. Public hospitals are exempt. The government has also initiated rolling four-hour blackouts throughout the country, with 30 minutes to increase daylight hours.

In response Maduro threatened to nationalize any company that does not produce. A handful of companies have been clearly stripped of their rights, and the state, and the government has also initiated rolling four-hour blackouts throughout the country, with 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, corn and soybeans.

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The rich want working people to like being poor


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 a daunting task. These two trends seem strong enough to predict the end of the cognitive elite distribution. This is 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. At any rate, 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 discussed 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 opening the years of the twentieth century. In the United States it happened a bit earlier; but, by the 1970s, 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 virtually demented. 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 technology and computing advances, they add. The intelligence and competence required to keep modern society up and running is increasing, so a world of power and more and more in the hands of a relatively small layer of middle-class professionals, technicians, managers — people, coincidently, 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 hardware. Let me bring this to a close.

But none of this is reducible to some built-in limit to the potential of human beings, or of any socially defined group of people. They are 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 our own social experience so that 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, 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.

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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 wildfire has destroyed a major port of Fort McMurray, Alberta, and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of the area's 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 poured in thousands of workers. Despite the well-known fire danger, the bosses’ government paid little attention to the safety of the community’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.

When the fire swept through Fort McMurray it 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 foreclosure rate was rising.

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 crisis forced the selling off of oil prices, ignoring the human toll. “Oil price rises as Canada wildfire disrupts supply,” the May 5 Financial Times said.

In massive outsourcing of predatory, 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 had a one-time payment of $1,250 to adults and $500 for children, an amount utterly insufficient for 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. Ten of thousands of workers, whose kinds are unemployed, are employed. 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 enormous evacuation of those at risk and volunteers were mobilized to begin rebuilding immediately. In contrast, 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 together into their new jobs to dramatically raise the economy’s capacity to run Cuba based on human need, 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 since late last year. Their task is “to thus identify potential allies among local armed factions and gauge the level of 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 Post reported May 14 that 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.

Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Charles Keating IV, 29, who died last week 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.

While House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, in a classic example of doublespeak, said Keating’s death was not a “combat mission” but “was in a combat situation.”

As a Combat Mission, Mr. President,” was the title of a May 5 article in the Times article reported “The exchange of fire between the two parties killed three Syrian soldiers and wounded 35.”

According to the article, three Syrian soldiers and wounded 35.”

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 reported, 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 by more than 15 percent.

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. Moscow and Baghdad are jockeying for a position 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 divided.

In an apparent act of revenge over the Syrian government attacked on Aleppo, the Islamist groups Ahrar al-Sham and al-Qaeda affiliate Nusra Front killed at least 19 civilians May 12 in a road accident near 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.

Crisis in Venezuela

Continued from page 7

Maduro said he would ease price controls on some in- dustry to encourage workers to return to their jobs, but these 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 May 11 that hundreds of people broke into a market in Maracay when they were told there were no subsidized product for sale, carrying off boxes of corn, pasta and oil. The market was guarded by soldiers, after authorities charged that people were needed to sell旗下 at higher prices.

“You can hear the ice cracking,” an unidentified U.S. official told the Washington Post at a May 13 briefing about the crisis.

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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 Leonard Sherwood and the 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 were bowling under the NLRB, which has 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 picket line.

The Hotel Trades Council here, whose members have joined strikers’ marches, adopted the picket line at 45th St. and Lexington Ave, where unionists were loudly urging passersby to boycott Verizon. The New York Post 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 of the 39,000 strong striking workers who walked off their jobs for their rights for decent work and a seat at the bargaining table.” Adam in Washington May 15.

CWA President Chris Shelton, IBEW President John S. Boos, ordered out of the area.

9

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 cuál 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 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 apaarezca en la bola electoral”.

Martin aplicó para estar en la bola electoral ese mismo día. Los trabajadores rechazan 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 de pensionados mayores de 16 años que no están empleados o que enfrentan en la débil recuperación económica actual. Esto es lo que nos hace tener una propuesta de nuestro Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores en el 2016. David F. Willkie, presidente del PST.

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 a medida que se profundiza la crisis secundaria. Y los disturbios en el seno del Partido Laborista no son producto de la supremacía del presidente Barack Obama—una amenaza en el Reino Unido no se limita a aquellos que niegan que exista un problema de antisemitismo.

"Desde que Jeremy Corbyn fue elegido", dijo Livingston, el 28 de abril, “la prensa alborta 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 obrera 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. Los miembros del PST, así como otros partidos de izquierda, entienden que el Partido Laborista no es un freno en la lucha por derechos nacionales y el Partido Socialista.

Aunque Obama tomó posesión después de George W. Bush, las tropas estadounidenses en Iraq y Afganistán fueron reducidas de 200 mil a 5 mil en julio y 9 900 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 militares en Libia, Pakistán, Somalia y Yemen.

Washington acaba de inaugurar su primer sistema terrestre antimisilístico 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 de EEUU invadieron en 2011, el presidente Obama postuló en 2008 comprometiéndose a eliminar gradualmente la participación militar estadounidense en el Medio Oriente—hasta el 2012 realizando continuamente intervenciones militares en el extranjero, y actualmente está aumentando la participación de Washington en operaciones de combate.

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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 posteo de Facebook decía que el “costo del transporte” sería menos que el costo de tres años de asistencia financiera para Washington para los gastos de defensa de Israel.

Shah es víctima de una “campaña bien oquenatada por el lobby israelí”, afirmó Livingston. Aunque dijo que el mensaje de Facebook era “demasiado”, agregó que “un verdadero antisemita no saldría por las calles en Israel, sino que también oda a sus vecinos judíos” en Londres.

La calumnia del “dinero judío”

El pasado octubre, el diputado laborista Gerald Kaufman dijo que “el dinero judío” está actuando como un “guardia de un lynch mob”. Cuando era el alcalde de Manchester, Kaufman dijo en un evento: “El odio antijudío es producto del capitalismo en decadencia. Su objetivo ulterior es desviar a los trabajadores de su lucha milenaria, unida desde 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”.

Por LEA SHERMAN

Joseph Murchison, quien ha tenido una storied vida, ha tenido mucho tiempo para reflexionar sobre la revista Newsweek nunca recibió la edición del 11 de octubre de 2010. No se perdió en el correo. No llegó a una dirección registrada.

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 inamovible”. Se referían a un artículo acompañado con fotos titulado “Ocultos detrás de la Web”, que describe atques 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 “ocurre durante un periodo de su juicio bajo la primera enmienda a la constitución. El 1 de abril de 2013, el tribunal de distrito falló que la censura de la editación 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 inamovible”.

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 el juzgador puede ejercer sus derechos bajo la primera enmienda, ya que no hay una prohibición total de la revista y “Murchison tiene medios alternativos para ejercer sus derechos”.

Gary 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 el editor, y continúa la infantilización de los presos”, dijo al Militante Gary Scheer, director de Prison Legal News.

“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 en las rejas y la publicación ha liberado numerosas luchas contra los esfuerzos de los funcionarios de prisión para censurar prisiones.

En años recientes, el Militante ha hecho retroceder con éxito los intentos de las autoridades carcelarias para prohibir o limitar el derecho a leer y a impedir que suscriptores reciban sus periódicos. “Defendemos los derechos de los trabajadores, dentro y fuera de la prisión, ante los esfuerzos de los políticos gobiernos, los tribunales y los carceleros de socavar los derechos constitucionales que fueron ganados con la lucha de las nuevas generaciones”, declaró el 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”.

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

Gary Tyler fue puesto en libertad el 20 de octubre después de estar preso casi 42 años en la penitenciaria estatal de Angola, Nueva Zelanda. A la edad de 16 años fue falsamente acusado de matar a un joven caucásico en octubre de 1974 durante un ataque racista contra un autobús de estudiantes de secundaria african-americanos que estaban en su camino en el camino a la escuela. Tyler fue liberado en 1975 a pesar de muerte de un jurado compuesto en su totalidad por blancos convirtiéndose en el reo más joven en el pabellón de la libertad en Estados Unidos. Durante décadas Tyler luchó por su libertad ganando apoyo alrededor del mundo. Amparado por una decisión de la Corte Suprema que en 2012 anuló las penitenciarias capitalistas sin derecho a libertad condicional para menores, Tyler aceptó una sentencia negociada de 21 años de prisión, más larga el tiempo que ya había cumplido, y salió libre finalmente.

—POR ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

Falso sobre la censura en las prisiones ofrecen derechos

Junto con Dzhemilev, el líder del Mejlis Refat Chubarov ha tenido prohibido entrar a Crimea por cinco años. El actual dirigente del Mejlis, Akhtem Chiigoz, está encarcelado bajo cargos amañados en la dirección equivocada.

El odio antijudío es producto del capitalismo mundial, seguirá estallando en las calumnias clásicas de los antisemitas. ‘Antisemita’ como Corbyn a menudo han acogido a los judíos o colono, y no lo utiliza para atacar a un judío o colono, y no lo utiliza para atacar a sus vecinos judíos” en Londres.

La criminalización del Mejlis se basa en la ley rusa para “Contrarrestar la Actividad Extrema”, Natalya Poklonskaya, el fiscal de Crimea designado por Rusia, acusó al Mejlis de reciar ar por organizaciones terroristas internacionales e de tratar de destruir la integridad territorial de Rusia.

En octubre, Ruslan Balbek, viceprimer ministro de Crimea, dijo que “la República de Crimea está patrocinando por el Estado Islámico para “posteriormente utilizar su experiencia militar para actividades subversivas en Crimea y ucranianos, que introdujeron la resistencia no violenta contra Moscú por décadas, dijo que esto “era falso”.

La prohibición se añade a los asedios de vecindarios tártaros en Crimea y redes de mezquitas, escuelas y hogares por parte de la policía. Cargos amañados, políticas y desapariciones han llegado a ser comunes.

La revista y “Murchison tiene medios alternativos para ejercer sus derechos”.

Participa con el Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores

Para ayudar a asegurar un lugar en la boleta electoral para los candidatos del PST, gane lectores al Militante o acompañarlos a actos de solidaridad con huelga de Verizon. Líneas telefónicas y contactes personales de aristas al partido (vea el directorio en la página 8).
Viene de la portada
tenemos por más de medio millón de personas el mes pasado, alcanzando
derecho de 94 millones, la más alta jamás registrada.
Es en este contexto que miembros y partidarios del PST están llevando su campaña activista revolucionaria proletaria a los trabajadores en las puertas de sus casas y en las luchas contra los ataques de los patronos, a la vez que colectan firmas para asegurar que los candidatos del partido para presiden-
te y vicepresidente, Alyson Kennedy y Osborne Hart, aparezcan en la bo-
leta electoral.
El PST también está postulando candidatos para el senado y el congreso en California, Minnesota, Illinois, Pensilvania, Nueva York, Georgia, Florida y Washington.
Honeywell
Viene de la portada y trabajamos tanta hora como ellos quieran, igual a lo que hacen con los trabajadores de Walmart”, también au-
mentarían las horas obreras obligatorias.
La Honeywell contrató a por lo menos 200 personas de la Strom Engineering, una agencia rompehuelgas, dos meses antes del tiempo 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 aumen-
tado sus ganancias en un 6.3 por cien-
to en el primer trimestre de 2016, un aumento de ingresos netos de 1.19 mil millones de dólares, por el décimo del cierre patro-
nal. “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”.

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“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”.

Fines EUA en Medio Oriente
Viene de la portada
Estado Islámico han sido blancos de
bombarderos estadounidenses, funciona-
dores del Pentágono reconocieron que tro-
pas de operaciones especiales han sido estacionadas en dos puestos de avanza-
da ahí desde el año pasado.
Aunque Obama dice favorecer los
bombarderos con “drones” y el uso de
“operativos especiales” en vez de tropas
en el terreno, la creciente presencia de
Washinton en Irak y Siria ha producido
duro muertos y heridos en combate, que
la administración trata de encubrir o mi-
nimizar.
El secretario de defensa de los obedi-
dentes 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 ejem-
plar de doble discurso, dijo que Keating
“no estaba en una misión de combate”
sino que “estaba en una situación de
combate”.
El fin de una misión de combate, Sr. Presidente”, fue el titular de un editorial en el New York Times el 16 de mayo, que
denuncia “el tipo de semántica desconce-
dente que usa Washington para negar lo
obvio”.
El imperialismo norteamericano está
aumentando su presencia militar en Libia
donde el Estado Islámico, el cual esta avanzando en la ciudad de Siria e Iraq, ha
despelgado tropas y capturado territo-
rio. Los avances del grupo reaccionario han sido posibles debido a la ausencia de un gobierno central para la fraccionamiento de países entre fieles elíptices después que Washington y sus aliados desataran los masivos bombardos que ayudaron a
para llevar a cabo la lucha”, dijo.
En una reunión que tuvo lugar el 14 al 16 de mayo para preparar la conferencia, el Comité Nacional del PST decidió extender la campaña del partido para ganar lectores y contri-
buir al Movimiento hasta 24 de mayo para ayudar a que las ramas del PST y de los partidos hermanos de la Liga Comunista en todo el mundo su-
porten el esfuerzo.
Hasta la fecha se han vendido 1.435 suscripciones y han llegado 90.588 dólares de la cuota de 1.550 sus-
cripciones y 110 mil dólares para el Fondo de Lucha de la Liga Mundial. El co-
sto de producción del periódico es sos-
tenido por cientos de contribuciones de trabajadores cada primavera, lo
que hace posible mantener el precio del periódico y las suscripciones a precios asequibles.
Veintiséis positivos se han suscrito duran-
te 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 Nuevo Zelandia. Dijo que también aprecia los libros que ha recibido de Pathfinder.
“Me gustó especialmente ‘Son los po-
bros quienes enfrentan el saqueo del sistema de ‘justicia’ en EUUU: Los Cinco Cubaunos hablan sobre sus vidas en la clase trabajadora en EUUU.” 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 lis-
tadas en el directorio de la página 8.

John Stagg, candidato del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores para el senado de los 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.

Militante 30 de mayo de 2016

Fondo de Lucha del Militante. El coste 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 efectivos acumulati-
os de esa guerra paralizan la economía.
Una inflación galopante está azo-
tando 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 sala-
ros han bajado a 20 dólares per cápita 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 in-
mediatamente después de recibirlo por-
que “los precios cambian cada hora, no
diego a mi”, dijo ella.
Las reservas de divisas de Siria han caído de 20 mil millones de dóla-
res a la guerra a 700 millones, según el Banco Mundial, y su producto inter-
no bruto ha caído por más del 15 por ciento por año. La tarna de control por el Estado Islámico de los campos petro-
líferos en el este de Siria en 2014 dismi-
nó los ingresos de las exportaciones de 4.7 mil millones de dólares a menos de 200 millones.
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 safety (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: JUNE 27, 2016
Inmate: [Redacted]
Institution: SANTA ROSA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

This letter is notice that the following publication:
Title: THE MILITANT
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:

☐ (3a) It depicts or describes procedures for the construction of or use of weapons, ammunition, bombs, chemical agents, or incendiary devices;

☐ (3b) 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 escapes from correctional facilities;

☐ (3c) It depicts or describes procedures for the brewing of alcoholic beverages, or the manufacture of drugs or other intoxicants;

☐ (3d) It is written in code or otherwise written in a manner that is not reasonably subject to interpretation by other than its intended audience;

☐ (3e) It depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption;

☐ (3f) It encourages or instructs in the commission of criminal activity;

☐ (3g) It is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, disruption of the institution, violation of department or institution rules;

☐ (3h) It threatens physical harm, blackmail or extortion;

☐ (3i) It depicts sexual conduct as follows: (1) Actual or simulated sexual intercourse; (2) Sexual bestiality; (3) Masturbation; (4) Sadomasochistic abuse; (5) Actual sadistic 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;

☐ (3j) 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;

☐ (3k) 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;

☐ (3l) It contains an advertisement promising 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;

☐ (3m) It otherwise presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.

If the publication was IMPOUNDED per criteria established in Section (3) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C., the following details the specific written or pictorial matter that is believed to be inadmissible, and lists the page numbers in the publication where it is found:

DC5-101(Effective 6/16/09) (Revised 12/9/11) Page 1 of 2
Incorporated by Reference in Rule 33-501.401, F.A.C.
Inmates may obtain further administrative review of a publication rejected for reasons not relating to subject matter by submitting an informal grievance on Form DC6-236, Inmate Request, as prescribed by Rule 33-103.005 F.A.C. A copy of this Form DC5-101, Notice of Rejection or Impoundment of Publications, must be attached to the informal grievance.

Inmates may obtain further administrative review of a publication that was impounded or rejected due to subject matter per Sections (3) or (10) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C. by obtaining Form DC1-303, Request for Administrative Remedy or Appeal, completing the form, attaching a copy of this Form DC5-101, Notice of Rejection or Impoundment of Publications, and forwarding the complaint to the Bureau of Inmate Grievance Appeals, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500. The complaint must be filed within 15 days from the date of impoundment or rejection.

Inmates are advised that this impounded or rejected publication shall be held at the institution for 30 days. Inmates must make arrangements to have the publication picked up by an approved visitor or mailed to a relative, friend, or the sender at the inmate's expense within 30 days, or it shall be discarded or destroyed. The 30-day time period shall not include any time during which an appeal or grievance proceeding is pending, provided the inmate gives the Warden written notice of the appeal within 15 calendar days. The written notice must be submitted on form DC6-236, Inmate Request. The written notice must clearly identify the inmate by committed name and DCP, must specifically identify the title of the publication to include volume or issue if applicable, and must state that the inmate intends to appeal the impoundment or rejection decision to the Office of the Secretary.

Senders are advised that when a publication is impounded or rejected because it contains written or pictorial matter that is inadmissible pursuant to the criteria established in Section (5) of Rule 33-501.401 F.A.C, the impoundment or rejection shall be immediately applied in all major institutions, work camps, road prisons, and forestry camps of the Florida Department of Corrections. However, senders may appeal an institution's decision to impound or reject reading materials by writing the Department's Library Services Administrator within 15 days of receipt of the notice of impoundment or rejection. The appeal must include a copy of this form. Sender appeals are to be mailed to the following address: Department of Corrections, ATTN: Library Services Administrator, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500.

D. LOCKE

Authorized Employee (DB)

DATE MAILED TO SENDER:

cc: Library Services Administrator: Sender

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY. Impounded publications approved by Literature Review Committee or per grievance appeal:

RECEIVED BY:

Inmate Signature Date

DCS-101 (Effective 06/16/09) (Revised 12/9/11) Page 2 of 2
Incorporated by Reference in Rule 33-501.401, F.A.C.
Debate on UK vote highlights EU rivalries, workers anger

BY PAUL DAVIES
LONDON — Growing competition between capitalist countries world-wide 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 different 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

Seven-week Verizon strike won solidarity, tentative deal is set

BY CANDACE WAGNER

Strikers rally in Brooklyn April 14 on second day of walkout against telecommunications giant.

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 profit-sharing plan proposals, job security and the renewal of labor agreements.

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Among the central issues were profit-sharing plan proposals, job security and the renewal of labor agreements.

Continued on page 9

Join SWP in campaigning for working-class program

Discuss what our class is capable of fighting for

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 doing to fight independently of the bosses and their political representatives.

The next two weeks will be a period of maximum effort. 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 its economic, political and military rivalry with Beijing.

Washington is especially worried 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 the next two weeks.

Continued on page 4

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 output. Continued on page 9

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Frame Ukraine pilot Savchenko freed from Russian jail

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Strikes in France protest labor “reform” law

4

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 CAS$15 an hour

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Inside

AUSTRALIA $1.50 - CANADA $1.50 - FRANCE 1.00 EURO - NEW ZEALAND $1.50 - U.K. £1.50 - U.S. $1.00

Inside

AUSTRALIA $1.50 - CANADA $1.50 - FRANCE 1.00 EURO - NEW ZEALAND $1.50 - U.K. £1.50 - U.S. $1.00
The Militant

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 International, 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 published 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 uprisings 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 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, monetarily welcomed Savchenko and basked in the glow of celebration on his arrival. His government has been in turmoil amid corruption scandals and a deepening economic crisis. Ukraine's economy slumped last year, a result of the worldwide economic crisis. The price of natural gas, the biggest single debtor in government's budget, raised prices for domestic and industrial gas consumers.

While in prison, Savchenko was elected to parliament on the ticket of the Fatherland Party headed by Yulia Tymoshenko, a former gas minister and rival of Poroshenko. Savchenko took her distance from Tymoshenko's effective air force 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.

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 Yanukovych. After Moscow annexed Crimea and backed armed separatists who seized sections of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine, Savchenko joined the 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 fans.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, a capitalist billionaire whose regime has attacked the working class and economic crisis of capitalism, demanded Kiev reduce social spending, raise taxes and privatize state-owned enterprises, cutting thousands of jobs.

The Militant

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Editorial volunteers: Roger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Maggie Trove, Brian Williams

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Canada: For one year send Canadian $45 to The Militant, 7007 St. Denis St., Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £6 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingly High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PH, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £8 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 120 euros for one year to Distribution du Militant, BP 10310, 75725 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand: Send NZ$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3020, Auckland 114, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$70 for one year to P.O. Box 1668, 1st Floor, 9-13 Centenary Rd., Sydney, NSW 2093, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 for one year to P.O. Box 70125, Auckland 1040, New Zealand.

Submissions to the Militant may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format, or submitted, authors represent that their submissions are original and contain no nonpublic in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.
Working-class program

Continued from front page

rid of concentrated campaigning for the party, leading up to June 16-18 Active Workers Conferences in Oberlin, Ohio.

The Socialist Workers Party got a good response in Maritfreesboro and Senn, 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 Har-nessey 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. Mem-
bers of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers have fought bitter battles against company lockouts and concession de-

The Militant Fighting Fund

April 2 - May 24 (Final)

Country	Quote	Paid %
UNITED STATES
Atlanta	$10,000	$10,730 107 %
Chicago	$11,500	$11,462 99 %
Lincoln *
	$240	$231 134 %
Los Angeles	$8,600	$8,720 101 %
Miami	$3,000	$3,270 109 %
New York	$7,700	$7,622 99 %
Oakland	$14,500	$14,777 102 %
Philadelphia	$3,300	$3,473 109 %
Seattle	$7,000	$7,525 108 %
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	$3,290 104 %
Montreal	$4,000	$5,060 140 %
Canada Total	$7,200	$8,900 121 %

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	$1,300 108 %

Total	$107,390	$113,173 107 %

Should be	$110,000	$110,000 100 %

**Militant fund over the top!**

Congratulations and thanks to all our con-

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 1,668 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, N.Y. 10018.

— LEA SHERMAN

Socialist Workers Party files for ballot in New Jersey

TRENTON, New Jersey — Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party can-
didate for vice president of the SWP, and campaign supporter Richard Aniza, 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.

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“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, candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, and cam-
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The Militant June 13, 2016 AQ0641
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 thou-
sands 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 wel-
commed expanded capitalist investment, annual U.S.-Vietnam trade has grown from $450 million to $45 billion, just a little over a trillion “modernization” of the U.S.

The Vietnamese government cau-
tiously sees increased military collabo-
ration with Washington as a protection against the growing economic and mili-
tary 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 U.S.-backed dien Bien Phu regime in Cambodia in 1979, they had to repel an invasion by Beijing in which some 10,000 Vietnamese sol-
diers and civilians were killed. In 1986, more than 60 Vietnamese sailors died during a clash with Chinese forces over control of part of the Spratlys Islands.

As part of the informal agreement between Hanoi and Washington, Viet-
nam will likely be provided U.S. radars, sensors, surveillance planes, drones and refurbished U.S. Coast Guard pa-
trol 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 his Group of 7 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 de-
cision by President Harry Truman to destroy a mostly civilian city. As many as 80,000 people died instantly; the fi-
nal 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 la-
bors who had been forcibly conscript-

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 weap-
ons. According to the New York Times, the Obama administration has dismantle-
ted 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 militariza-
tion 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 wel-
comed 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

BAGNOLET, France—Hundreds of workers from Mali held a sit-in out-
side 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 re-
leased on parole May 11 in response to protests there, in France and else-
where. House arrest was also lifted for some 20 supporters of the group.

The banner (above) reads, “No to injustice, no to insecurity, no to corrup-
tion.” 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 pro-
tests 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 affect-
ing 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 unem-
ployment. For years, workers here have been demanding freedom to work at will, as is ensured by their contractual employment. 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 agree-
ments 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 parlia-
ment, President Francois Hollande de-

ced 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 govern-
ment’s measures. Within days barr-
cades set up by unionists, young peo-
lple, 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 union workers have called for a strike, as have the public transporta-
tion unions in Paris.

A public survey by the IFOP poll-
ing company May 26 reported 60 per-
cent 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 ar-
ticle.

in New International #12

Capitalism’s Long
Hot Winter Has Begun

“One of capitalism’s inre-
lent long winter-
ters has begun. Accompanied by imperialism’s ac-
celerating drive toward war, it’s going to be a long, hard winter.”

—Jack Barnes

pathfinderpress.com

Active Workers Conference

Oberlin, Ohio, June 16-18

Classes

Puerto Rico Is a US Colony: SWP’s Communist Continuity in the Fight for Independence

The Coming Apart of Imperialism’s Post-“US-Lost-the-Cold-War” Order in the Middle East

Colonization, “Trade Union-ification,” and the Struggle for a Proletarian Party

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The World Capitalist Crisis: Learning to Displace the Dictatorship of Capital

Capitalist Nation States and Fracturing of the European Union:

Dammed If They Do, Damned If They Don’t

Sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party

For more information contact the SWP in your area (see list on page 8)

Militant Labor Forums

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Defending Working-Class Interests as the Capitalist Crisis Sharpens. Sat., June 11, 6:30 p.m. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Tel.: (0161) 4782496.

Manchester

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AOR942
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, the true vanguard of workers organizing and winning shared gains. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

I invite those involved in workers’ battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We’ll work together to ensure your story is told.

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 Rosch 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 biggest 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.”

— Maggie Trowe

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 280 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 Carolene 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 workers.

— Tony Hunt and Dag Tarsøn

United Airlines flight attendants march for unionized contract

LOS ANGELES — More than 300 United Airlines flight attendants and their supporters walked 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 Pacific, which has merged into the United Airlines, had an agreement last month that is considered a step in the right direction. 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 are coming to the table that might actually get us back doing our job,” union President Konrad Statham, vice president of AFA-CWA, told the 300 workers.

— Deborah Liatos

ON THE PICKET LINE

Day of Solidarity with Fight for Puerto Rican Independence

Speakers:
Norberto González Claudio, former political prisoner; Rev. Danilo LaChapel; Maria de Lourdes Santiago, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Dr. Héctor Péquera Sevillano, Hostos National Independence Movement

Fri., May 20, 7 p.m.
1199SEIU, 310 W 43rd St.
New York

Sponsor: A Call to Action on Puerto Rico

International Day of Solidarity
Freedom for Oscar López!

Puerto Rican independence fighter jailed in US for 35 years

Mon., June 20, 4-6 p.m.
New York City
1st Ave and East 47th St.
Contact: info@chicanorevocar.org

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 the People’s Liberation Front won control of all of Eritrea, the first time since Ethiopia since the 1974 overthrow of their health care, work conditions

Philadelphia nurses strike for pay raises

Philadelphia nurses strike for pay raises, work and time-off days for working on holidays and weekends.

About 900 people work at the plant, which they’re due to sign the contracts,” said Har- riss. “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.

— Maggie Trowe

Minneapolis nurses in strike for better pay

MINNEAPOLIS — More than 200 nurses at five Allina Health hospitals and facilities to defend their health benefits.

MNA Executive Director Rose Rosch told the Militant. “It is an excellent plan,” MNA Execu- tive Director Rose Rosch told the Militant. “It is an excellent plan,” MNA Execu-

helping under with one unified agreement.

“At the beginning, we were divided,” said Lamour. “Now we’re catching up,” he said.

Since they work under the federal la-

or one of their plans.”

In their island-wide campaign 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

June 16, 1966

NEW YORK — Juan Mari Brás, leader of the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence, and a lawyer, was in the city recently to represent a group of Puerto Rican workers.

The youth intend to use such infor-

mation in their island-wide campaign to inform the people of Puerto Rico about the true nature of the war.

There was also discussion of the draft law which obliges Puerto Rican youth to serve in the army of the colonial power which refuses them independence.

Food workers strike in England, say “enough is enough” of cuts

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— Deborah Liatos

Montreal Old Port workers launch strike for $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 union expired in March. Previous negotiations have always ended with the impoverishment of the workers, Lamour told the Militant before the 1989 strike, but walked the line. 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.

Bossses have divided the workers into classes of permanent, regular and tem- porary 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.

— Gaëlle Imbeault and John Steele
The following interview appeared in the May 8 issue of Jaunval 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. 

BY JUANA CARRASCO MARTÍN

A voice for the excluded

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 what is actually 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 support for the strike this year by 46,000 workers at Verizon. “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’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 1950s, 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 lately, like the fight for union rights to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour and against police violence.”

This resolute statement by the political activist is based on her personal experience as a worker and union organizer. Alyson Kennedy, who joined the socialist movement in 1973, was a coal miner in Alabama, a car worker in Utah, and a teacher in 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. These 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. “It’s important to speak from the outside or from a theoretical view of the class struggle. Today Alyson Kennedy works in Chicago at a Walmart, the largest 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 Midwest. “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 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 Jaunval 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 Guantanamo, which belongs to Cuba. Having been here helps us realize why it’s important to continue to fight for our rights.”
Debate on UK referendum

Continued from front page

especially given their precarious pros-
pects for profitable production and trade.

The capitalist magnates point out that
the EU is the biggest trading area in
the world. Through membership, Brit-
is 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 re-

sult, the U.K. has one of the highest levels of foreign direct investment in the
world. EU membership, the bosses ar-
gue, 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 back-
ing of the Labour Party, Scottish Nation-
al 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 po-
litical 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 liv-
ing standards and growing social crisis,
angered by the blunted EU bureaucracy
detrustful 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 polit-
ical crisis within the Conservative Party.
Nearly 40 percent of Tory members of
Parliament have declared support for
the “Leave” campaign. Some are calling
leaves the EU, the “U.K. is going to be
Prime Minister David Cameron, what-
ever the outcome of the referendum.

The other major party campaign-
ing for a British exit is the populist UK
Independence Party, which argues that
London needs to defend “British sov-
ereignty,” including imposing greater
restrictions on immigration from other
European countries. They say further
expansion of the EU will lead to in-
creased immigration, especially from
Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Er-
dogan has sought to take advantage of
the surge of refugees from Syria, Af-
ghanistan and elsewhere in the Mid-
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
government is now taking mea-
sures to slow down Europe-bound refu-
gees across the Mediterranean Sea.

Remain and Leave campaigners have
traded exaggerated threats of the dash-
gers of their opponents’ stand. Cameron
claims that leaving the EU will result in
imminent economic crisis and war. Fel-
lowing MP Henry Johnson argues that
the EU “is an attempt to do ... by differ-
ent methods” what Napoleon and Hitler
had attempted, to “recreate the dream
of the Roman Empire.”

But partial for leaving has little to
do with these arguments. “I’ll be vot-
ing leave,” Kevin Gallagher, a factory
worker from Dagenham in East Lon-
don, 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. Others told this reporter
they would vote to stay in, despite
disliking the EU, because they are un-
certain what a British exit would mean
for living standards.

The referendum debate is sharp en-
ing factional tension within the Labour
Party. The party’s recently elected Lon-
don mayor Sadiq Khan has joined with
Cameron to campaign for Remain.

While party leader Jeremy Corbyn has
denounced sharing a platform with the
Conservative leader, he also 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 under-
way in France today led by the Socialist
Party government of Francois Hollande
(see article on page 4).

Similar developments are fueling po-
litical crisis across the continent. The
two dominant capitalist powers, the rul-
erg 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 Ger-
many to France to Italy to Austria, anti-
EU parties and movements are grow-
ing. Attitudes to the EU differ between
advanced capitalist and bourgeois labor parties.

Despite “stimulus” measures, growth
remains sluggish across the eurozone.
While unemployment averages over
10 percent, there are vast regional dif-
erences. Germany’s official unem-
ployment rate is 4.5 percent; Greece’s
stands at a quarter of the population.

Whatever the outcome of the UK
referendum, further fracturing pres-
ures will dominate the EU.

Communist League: Vote Leave, oppose UK imperialism

The following statement was issued by Jonathan Silberman for the Commu-
nist League in the United Kingdom.

The Communist League in the U.K.

is calling for a vote against EU member-
ship, while opposing the British nation-
alist demagogy of both the Remain and
Leaves 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
down wages and job conditions of the work-
ing class at home and weakening our
unions. They rely on the EU to bolster
their imperialist interests against op-
posed peoples of the semi-colonized
world, and to boost British capital’s po-
sition in fighting for profitable markets
against imperialist rivals in Europe,
North America, and the Pacific.

Working people in other EU mem-
ber states — our brothers and sisters
— from Germany to Greece, face the same
terrors of attacks on the exist-
ing 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 reaction-
ary “British sovereignty” banner of the
Leave campaigns of Boris Johnson and
UKIP, which appeal to working people
to subordinate ourselves to the rule of
British capitalists.

Workers have no interest in support-
ing Cameron’s deal, which serves the
interests of the U.K.’s ruling class. Backing
pro-EU campaigns such as Corbyn,
who falsely claim that a “social Europe”
benefits workers, deals a blow to
working class and trade unions.

Independent working-class political
action means organizing solidarity with
union and other workers’ struggles here
and around the world. It means fight-
ing 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 ad-
vancing a course to forge a party that
will mobilize working people in revolu-
tionary struggle for a workers and farm-
ers government.

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. Militant/Paul Davies

Thousands in Puerto Rico say ‘Free Oscar López’

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 Commit-
tee of Puerto Rico, one of the organizers. López was framed up on charges of “seditionary conspiracy” for his activities in support of independence for Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony.

“We don’t want this boss, we want to be free,” was one of the chants during the march, a reference to a plan by Washington to impose an ap-
pointed 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

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Johnathan 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. Militant/Paul Davies
Trotsky’s 1939 call for ‘united, independent Soviet Ukraine’

Writings of Leon Trotsky (1938-1939) is one of Pathfinder 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 constant pressure of Lenin, was a leader of the Bolshevik Party, not without regard to accede as far as possible to those nationalities that have been oppressed the past. In the proposals and decla-

In my opinion there can be at the present time only one such slogan: A united, free, and independent work-

Every inclination to evade or postpone the problem of an oppressed nationality he regarded as a manifes-
tation of Great Russian chauvinism. After the conquest of power, a serious struggle took place in the party over the solving of the numer-
ous 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 dis-
posal. 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 decla-
rations of Stalin, on the contrary, the tendency toward bureaucratic cen-
tralism 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 pet-
ty-bourgeois nationalism. All these symptoms could be observed as early as 1922–23. Since that time they have developed strongly and dealt with to outright strangulation of any kind of independent national development of the peoples of the USSR. In the conception of the old Bol-

dhevik Party, Soviet Ukraine was destined to become a powerful axis around which the other sections of the Ukrainian population would unite. It is indisputable that in the first period of its existence Soviet Ukraine exerted a mighty attractive force, in national re-
spects as well, and aroused to struggle the workers, peasants, and revolution-
ary intelligentsia of Western Ukraine enslaved by Poland. But during the years of Thermidor reaction, the position of Soviet Ukraine and togeth-
er with 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 mat-
ters were further complicated by the fact that national minorities there were especially affected. In the toiling masses of the Ukraine, to

define restrictions, purges, repressions, and in general all forms of bureau-
cratic 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 free-
dom and independence. The totalit-
arian bureaucracy, Soviet Ukraine became an administrative division of an economic unit and a military base of the USSR. To be sure, the Stalin
tendency earlier stated by [Ukrain-
ian poet Taras] Shevchenko but only in order more thoroughly to crush the Ukrainian people under their weight and to force it to chant pacas in the

language of the Kobzir [the Bard, a nickname for Shevchenko] to the rap-

tist clique in the Kremlin. ... The Fourth International must clearly understand the enormous im-
portance 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 a region of exceptionally rich territory, which, moreover, is of the highest strategic importance. The question of the fate of the Ukraine has been posed in its full scope. A cleverly defined principle that corresponds to the new situa-
tion. 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 imperial-
ist states, the victory of one grouping or another can signify only a new dis-
memberment and a still more brutal subjugation of the Ukrainian people. The program of the independence of the Ukraine in the epoch of imperialism is directly and indisputably bound up with the program of the proletarian revolution. It is not our intention to en-
tertain any illusions on this score.

But the independence of a United Soviet Ukraine would mean the separation of Ukraine from the USSR, the “friends” of the Kremlin will ex-

claim in chorus. What is so terrible about that? — we reply. The fervid

hope 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 is based on the con-

vention federated peoples to self-deter-
mination, that is, to separation. Thus, not even the incumbent Kremlin oli-
garchies dares to deny this principle. To be sure it remains only on paper. The slightest attempt to raise the question of an independent Ukrainian openly would be tantamount to the charge of treason. But it is pre-
cisely this despicable equivocation, it is precisely this ruthless hounding of all free national thought, that has led to the present situation of the Ukraine to an even greater degree than the mass-

es of Great Russia, to look upon the rule of the Kremlin as monstrosely oppresive.

Trotsky’s 1939 call for ‘united, independent Soviet Ukraine’...
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 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. the ability to destroy any missiles in the former Soviet Union, aimed at giving the U.S. the ability to destroy any missiles that might be launched from the former Soviet Union.

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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 commemoration of this date, 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 re-volt of the proletariat had had time to mature. Capitalism is not so harmo-niously built that the various sources of rebellion can interlace, each with its own accord, without reverse and defeat. On the other hand, the very fact that revolts do break out at different times in different countries, and are of different kinds, guaran-tees wide scope and depth to the general movement; but it is only in

The Militant

Demand US Gov’t destroy its nukes!

Continued from front page

Fear of recession

Continued from front page

output. Declining industrial production and falling commodity prices are creating depression conditions worldwide that wreck havoc on the lives of workers and farmers. This is despite an official recovery since the 2008 financial crisis in the U.S. It is for this reason that 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., the manufacturing sector’s 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 safety net the Obama administration has erected is the highest ever. For the first time since the mid-1980s, life expectancy has stalled for three consecu-tive 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 short interest rates at low or near-zero lev-els, near zero. This has been accompanied by “quan-titative easing” programs to purchase bonds and se-curities in order to pump money into the economy. The aim was to stimulate economic growth and boost hiring.

Negative interest rates depress economy

As growth failed to materialize, in 2014 the ECB and several central banks in Europe set negative in-terest rates. They were joined by the Bank of Japan in December. Under this policy, instead of paying interest on commercial bank deposits, these banks now pay interest to the owners of deposits. Because this is a tax, not easy credit, negative interest rates not only fail to stimulate produc-tion but have a depressive impact on the economy. Instead banks would be encouraged to lend the cash in hand, one reason officials in the U.S. and Eu- rope are moving to limit its use. The European Cen-tral Bank announced May 4 it will no longer print 500-euro notes, thereby erasing one with the lowest 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 de-clining worldwide for decades.

Without a profit motive to invest in, the giant capitalists sit on cash or speculate on stocks, bonds and derivatives where the rate of return is highest. 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 bol-ster shareholder returns and to fund takeover activity and speculation. In the U.S., according to two reports by Rull Lynch, companies have added nearly $4 trillion of debt to their balance sheets since the start of 2008. Total global debt — including governments, busi-nesses and household debt — has already topped 208 trillion 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 pa-per values, real estate and financial assets and remove unprofit-able businesses — opening the way to a new cycle of growth. But the capitalists fear the consequen-ces, which would be devastating for working people worldwide and the unemploym ent crisis.

As the rulers seek to stave off a recession, and paper values and debt balloon with no correspond-ing growth in industrial capacity, the conditions are ripe to stage a new global depression.

At the same time, the bosses continue their grind-ing offensive against workers’ jobs, wages, social benefits and rights.
![Militante](https://example.com/militante.png)

**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 frecuentemente desobedecen sus edictos, pero que exigen el pago total. Pero el problema no es el capitalismo. Sigue en la página 10

Miles de personas marcharon el 29 de mayo en San Juan, Puerto Rico (arriba), para exigir la excarcelación del independentista puertorriqueno 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 la ley de la “buitre”, que compraron una buena parte de la culpa recae en los fondos que funcionarios sindicales aceptaron “nuevos costos del seguro médico”. Muchos trabajadores dijeron que querían dejar el acuerdo antes de decidir lo que piensan. Los trabajadores votarán sobre el contrato el 17 de junio.

**¡No al dominio colonial de EEUU en Puerto Rico!**

La propuesta de imponer un consejo fiscal en Puerto Rico desencadenaría 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. Tendrás el poder de vetar cualquier ley aprobada por la asamblea 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”.

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**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 trabajadores; cerrar centros de atención telefónica y trasladarlos a países con salarios sustancialmente 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 dejar 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 por un programa obrero. Pero el problema no es el capitalismo. Sigue en la página 10

**Exigen libertad para Oscar López Rivera**

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**El Militante**

**Sigue en la página 10**

**Diana Newberry (izq.), habla sobre el Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores y su programa con Patty González en Owatonna, Minnesota, el 29 de mayo. Partidarios también están cogiendo 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 candidatos del partido para presidente y vicepresidente de Estados Unidos, Alysson 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 partícipes de movimientos por la independencia de Puerto Rico. 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

**Sigue en la página 10**

**Luchadores contra brutalidad policial en EEUU visitan Cuba revolucionaria**

**POR RÓGER CALERO Y JACOB PERASSO**

LA HABANA—“Si viviríamos en Cuba mi hijo aún 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 Trabajadores y estudiantes cubanos de 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 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 enjuicien, condenen y encarcelen a los policías responsables por estas muertes. Su lucha conmovió a muchas de las personas con las que hablaron. La valentía de las mujeres 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 de Las 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.
Luchadores visitan Cuba

Viene de la portada

con carteles coloridos hechos a mano que identificaban su sindicato y centro de trabajo coreando consignas, cantan- do y bailando.

“Nunca he visto algo como esto! Trabajadores marchando sin ser rodea- dos por policías”, dijo Juanita Young al final de la masiva celebración. A su hijo, Malcolm Ferguson, lo mojó la policía de Nueva York en el 2000. Durante la marcha, muchos cubanos se acercaron a la delegación para preguntar sobre sus luchas, y los residentes compartieron fotos.

Miembros de la delegación hablaron en una conferencia internacional de soli-idaridad con Cuba el día siguiente, y desplegaron pancartas que habían traído consigo que decían “Mothers Cry for Justice” (Grito de Madres por Justicia), “Familias contra la Brutalidad Policial en EEUU” (FMP en Solidaridad con Cuba: Cese el bloqueo de EEUU contra Cuba). Recibieron una ovación de los más de 1600 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 de- legación —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 comunitaria dirigido por la FMC y proyectos comunitarios que organizan actividades y trabajan estrecha- mente con los residentes, especialmente los adolescentes y ancianos. También visitaron el Museo de la Alfabetización, donde ciertas consignas sugieren que “la alfabetización en el 2000 es un derecho”. Varios miembros de la delegación se reunieron con varios de los delegados. Báez agregó que “el capitalismo no está a favor de los trabajadores”, pero ¿cómo podemos olvidar? Sería como pedirle a ustedes que olviden a sus hijos”. En el Museo de la Alfabetización la delegación visio- naron carteles hechos a mano que identifican el sindicato y en uno de ellos, principal- mente 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 requiera tanta disciplina?”, preguntó Young.

“La revolución nos transformó”, res- pondió Olga Santos, quien participó en la campaña de alfabetización cuando tenía 13 años. “La gente estaba inspirada para 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 trabajo para monitorear a los grupos contrarrevolucionarios cubano-ameri- canos en Florida para prevenir ataques violentos contra Cuba. Actualmente González es el vicepresidente del ICAP.

“Me he unido a muchas otras madres por el fin de la brutalidad policial”, dijo Arnetta Grable a González. "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 el fin de la brutalidad policial en nuestro país". A uno de sus hijos, Lamar Way- ne 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 dele- gación participaron 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 ma- nos de la policía de Chicago y es la candidata para presidente de Estados Unidos del PST, y Nellie Bailey de la...
Puerto Rico

Viene de la portada haítre: es el capitalismo, específicamente a través del dominio imperialista de Washington.

Los capitalistas estadounidenses ex-tran superan a monopolizaciones de la economía colonial de Puerto Rico: las gigantescas corporaciones farmacéuticas que se benefician de los salarios e impuestos bajos; las corporaciones farmacéuticas que se be- den en Longview para enviar carbón pro- cedente de Wyoming y Montana hacia Asia.

Anthony Báez, que igualmente extiende "El militante" en el 2016! A lo que le teme la clase patronal es a los trabajadores que han ido a sus míseros, lo cual es una reflexión del potentado empresarial que son parientes del partido más cercana. Vea lista de los Trabajadores de la aerolínea United, la cual se fusionó con la Continental Airlines y Continental Micronesia en 2010, marchan en el aeropuerto de Los Ángeles el 19 de mayo para exigir un convenio laboral único que cubra a los obreros 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, nú- clear y de otras fuentes, a medida que sean practicables, mientras hacemos por empleos, salarios a escala sindical y el control obrero sobre la producción", dijo Martín.

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 colec- tar 1.600.

"Es el único periódico en el que confío". "Ese es el viaje. "Sin este viaje nunca hubiera conocido a Juanita Young al Militante! A lo que le teme la clase patronal es a los trabajadores que han ido a sus míseros, lo cual es una reflexión del potentado empresarial que son parientes del partido más cercana. Vea lista de los Trabajadores de la aerolínea United, la cual se fusionó con la Continental Airlines y Continental Micronesia en 2010, marchan en el aeropuerto de Los Ángeles el 19 de mayo para exigir un convenio laboral único que cubra a los obreros independientemente de la aerolínea en que trabajaban antes de la fusión.

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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 safety (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

AOR652
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.
DECLARATION

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New York
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**MAIL REJECTION NOTICE**

**MAIL TO OR FROM OFFENDERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:**

1. Mail unauthorized by DOC 450.100 Mail for Offenders or DOC 450.110 Mail for Work Release Offenders, as applicable
2. Mail to or from an individual with whom contact is rejected per the requirements of DOC 450.000 Prohibited Contact
3. Mail containing threats of physical harm against any person or any other threats of criminal activity
4. Mail containing blackmail or extortion threats
5. Mail that is or contains contraband, or relates to sending contraband in or out of the facility
6. Mail depicting or describing the procedures for constructing or using weapons, ammunition, bombs, or incendiary devices
7. Mail containing plans to escape, or mail depicting or describing blueprints or operational details of an existing facility's security devices (e.g., locks, electronics, facility grounds/buildings, etc.)
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)
9. Mail that is in code
10. Maps, charts (e.g., topographical, nautical), or visual photographs of any kind, with the exception of those received by the facility
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
12. Mail containing information that, if communicated, could create a risk of violence and/or physical harm to any person
13. Mail that is sexually explicit
14. Mail that is deemed a threat to legitimate penological objectives
15. Publications that have been altered after publication (e.g., pages or portions of pages removed, extraneous markings, etc.)
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, World War II 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
17. Mail purported to be legal mail, but upon visual scanning for contraband is determined to be general correspondence
18. Mail containing cash or personal check(s)
19. Mail containing markings of gang symbols or symbols of other unauthorized groups that may reasonably be thought to precipitate violence
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
21. Mail containing non-cancelled postage stamps
22. Mail containing another offender's correspondence or items, such as stickers/labels, stamps, or other envelopes
23. Mail containing blank greeting cards or postcards, and cards, posters, and calendars that are pasted, laminated/layered, and/or musical. For Prison offenders, mail that exceeds the storage dimensions noted in DOC 440.000 Personal Property for Offenders.
24. Mail containing cassette tape(s) or CD(s), except as allowed per policy
25. Mail containing more than a single magazine article or envelope of the magazine article violates any criteria established in policy and/or facility operational memorandum
26. Mail containing book clippings of any size
27. Publications and catalogs not mailed directly from the publisher or retailer
28. Mail containing items that were not ordered, paid for, and approved in advance through facility designated channels
29. Mail containing sweepstakes, contests, lottery tickets, or other mailings soliciting or offering games of chance, except publications containing sweepstakes/contest entry
30. Mail containing multiple copies of the same document, or mail containing copies that is being sent into a Reception Diagnostic Center
31. Standard mail, including catalogs, that is not addressed to a specific offender with the offender's name and DOC number
32. Mail contained in any type of metal binder
33. Mail containing items available for offender purchase through facility offender store operations
34. Mail without an identifiable author/sender
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
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 (CCSY designate or facility operational memorandums
37. Offender to Offender Correspondence not previously approved by facility superintendent

**NOTE:** The offender is responsible for making arrangements to return the item(s) of 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 137-68.
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. When an offender appeals a rejection(s), she is responsible for notifying the mailroom of the appeal to ensure that the rejected item(s) are kept secure until the appeal process is completed. The offender should include the file rejection number in the appeal and the notification to the mailroom.

The offender and/or sender may appeal the Superintendent/CCS's decision in writing, to the Assistant Secretary for Prisons or Statewide Programs/Work Release Administrator, as applicable, within 10 calendar days of the decision. Rejection of outgoing written correspondence is automatically reviewed by the Secretary's designee.

| Comments: Brief specific description of reason for rejection | Mailroom Staff Signature | Date |
| Superintendant/CCS designee review comments: | Superintendant/CCS designee Signature | Date |
| Secretary/designee review comments: | Secretary/designee Signature | Date |

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DOC 05-526 (Rev. 02/29/12)
ISSUES OF THE MILITANT REJECTED BY WASHINGTON STATE PENITENTIARY
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.

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 refused to comply with promises to meet prisoners’ demands — which included an end to group punishment, abolition of a snitch system that arbitrarily 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, adequate food, a weekly phone call and other demands.

“My son, Gabriel Reyes, has been locked in a tiny, windowless cell for 15 years at Pelican Bay,” said Connie Pedroza, who took part in a July 8 protest of some 150 outside City Hall here with her daughter, grandson, niece and nephew. “My son was part of the first strike in 2011. He is fighting again this time, and we stand with him. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will not rob him of his humanity.”

Another round of solidarity rallies is planned for July 13.

Millions celebrate ouster of Islamist gov’t in Egypt

Workers defend space to organize, fight

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

Sonye 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 get work. Only 58.7 percent of the adult population of 245 million was working at all last month.

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.

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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 newsmagazine during the April- June 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 Militant as the newspaper and fighting newspaper of the trade union and socialist movement.

Through the eight-week campaign, the Militant Fighting Fund goes over the top!

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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, continued 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 workers 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 while expanding the number of workers here “legally” but with few rights. In 1934, 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.

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 central to the “reform” is stepping up the crackdown on workers without papers. Within two years all businesses with more than 5,000 workers...
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: Why 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 support—er 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.

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Last week the Militant reported 12 subscribers were won among workers behind bars, just three shy of the goal.

“In Tahsin Square in Egypt two years ago, right after the massive mobilizations, and the Popular Muslim 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.

“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 newsmagazine 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
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 locomotive engineers, 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 tank cars that made up the 72 car train are “not adequate to resist the shock of a derailment.” The board said the federal government to demand that transporters use tanker cars with thicker steels 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.

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 the 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 8.3 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 part-time work.

Lowes’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.

The conference begins July 19 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 support 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.

Protests defend women’s rights

Continued from front page

“Will be a real burden on women, especially in rural areas across the state, if this bill is passed and clinics won’t be able to serve women,” said Janet Colm, CEO of Central North Carolina Planned Parenthood, in a July 9 phone interview.

Governor Kasich’s bill requires doctors working at abortion clinics to have admitting privileges at a hospital. Most rural areas in Ohio have no hospital. Abortion clinics have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood of America filed suit July 5 to block the provision. According to the legal complaint, two of the state’s four abortion clinics would be forced to close, leaving much of the state with no abortion provider.

On June 28 a federal judge blocked implementation of a similar law in Alabama.

One of the most stringent anti-abortion bills in the country was signed into law at the end of June by Ohio Gov. John Kasich. “Clinics must have an agreement with local hospital to transfer patients there in case of an emergency, but public hospitals are barred from entering into those agreements,” the Washington Post reported July 1. Some clinics have been granted exemptions, but the health department director has the unilateral power to revoke them.
Transit union officials suspend strike 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 refusal 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

**ON THE PICKET LINE**

**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 Nelsanie 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 41 patients in a unit.”

Workers at Telecare, who joined the SEIU a year ago, say contract negotiations collapsed between the Union and the company. They report the starting wage is $9 per hour and that wages have stagnated between the Union and the company. They report the starting wage is $9 per hour and that wages have stagnated between the Union and the company.

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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 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.

“They don’t have to hit teachers all the time,” said Katie Redford, a language teacher at Parrs Wood, Didsbury. “Pay has been frozen for several years.”

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.

— Paul Davies and Oliver Jones

**25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO**

Julie 22, 1988

FENTON, Mo. — Thousands of auto workers stopped production at two Chrysler Corp. assembly plants here in a series of walkouts in 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. Supervisors had ordered workers 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 startup, 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 ‘re- groupment camps,’ and 500,000 refugees who came from Tunisia and Morocco with absolutely nothing, scarletly clothed, lacking especially anything with which to work in their fields.”

— Militant

July 23, 1938

AKRON, Ohio — A campaign to provide supplementary relief for WPA and industrial employees was begun here this week by the Akron CIO 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 running 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.

— Militant

Correction

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 Louisiana. Eagle Ford subcontractors 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 Holle, who was quoted in “Poison at the Strike Shut Down Rail Transit System,” in issue no. 27, is a man, not a woman.
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 and side 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. We in the U.S., among fellow workers railroaded to prison.

Participants in the meeting reported that while most workers they talk with haven’t heard about this fight, it resonates with many, particularly among the million workers who have been run through the U.S. “justice” system. By filling meetings, 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 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 to 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 17th 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, apackinghouse worker and SWP candidate for New York City Public Advocate, selling the Militant and remains of the party’s work today.

The work of capitalism takes 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. While 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 workers 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

The SWP has national candidates and supporters on the ballot in every state this year. The SWP campaigns stands as a vehicle for SWP candidates to discuss the party’s program among workers 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 workers 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.

This weekly rhythm of door-to-door efforts to win new subscribers to the Militant 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 they can do about it.

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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 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 counterrevolutionary groups; leaving family behind and comrades who thought he had betrayed 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 anti-Castro 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 rights groups, González explains, was to provoke a military confrontation between Havana and Washington.

The excerpt below centers on González’s time in prison, more likely to 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.ca). 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 it 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. I was then taken to a room 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 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 days are when you can’t sleep; they didn’t give us even 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, shaving or brushing your teeth. On Monday they dress you up like a clown and take you down to the courthouse. 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 people...

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 Cuban Five, remodeled 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.

Continued on page 9
In Bolivia, Che sought to lay ground for broad revolutionary movement

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 outline 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 royals. 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 guerilla movement 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 on an international 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 (Nacional Líbero) 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 contact points would inevitably 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, when restrictions on contacts and communications had been put in place.

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 that received arms and equipment from the United States and aided by the CIA—starting with the country’s president René Barrientos and extending to phony journalists, officials, soldiers, and terrorist 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, and developed as far as possible throughout Latin America. One of the virtues he acquired from combat 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 ripe and that this perspective was realizable, Commander Che Guevara in Bolivia 1966-68, one of the most historic events of the 20th century. The excerpt printed here is from Villegas’ introduction to his diary. Copyright © 1997 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.
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 hold back 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 1. “We can’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,” 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 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 its 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 struggle among the protected 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 tollers 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, 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.

Morsi, still the same old prince,” said Mason. “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.”

“arly December Mason 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.

The Militant 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 Wadi newspaper at a protest last October.

Capitalists factiously jockey for power

After Morsi was arrested and his government dispersed, the military high command appointed Adly Mansour, 91, 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 bourgeois parties, including the Muslim Brotherhood, the Social Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, the Freedom and Justice Party and Wasat Party, opposed Morsi, and added their signatures to a call from the IMF, the World Bank and the U.S. for Morsi’s immediate resignation and a new government to be installed. The IMF, the World Bank and the U.S. are major creditors to Egypt.

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 collaboration with the Morsi’s 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 Financial 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 U.S. and 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 is put in place — with the military as the perpetual main pillar of bourgeois rule.

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, who have no foundation will be able to win a majority to eliminate such slanders from futures 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 struggle for the fight against 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. If they are not edited, they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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 were very nice.

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 Mariana, 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 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 a communist of a different kind than me. Sometimes I would laugh — “hey brother, give people a break, you can’t argue with everybody.”

There was a white supremacist [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 become thinking 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, Olguina was the one who made the decisions in the family. I don’t like the direction Cuba has been going since 1991. I went to Cuba; you can’t paint the symbol of the Five on a T-shirt even knew existed! Keep up the struggle for the fight against all working-class struggles. A prisoner Pennsylvania

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With Detroit bankruptcy, rules 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 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 increases October 14, 1953, peace treaty ended the Korean War.

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 got away with murder.

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belonging 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.

Washington farmworkers’ strikes win wage raise, better conditions
BY CLAY DENNISON
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Socialist Workers in Omaha respond to political break-in
Organize campaign to defend workers rights
BY CLAY DENNISON
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 July 16 break-in at his house. Perasso was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for the 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.

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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 Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey, which has waged a 30-year armed struggle against the Turkish government.

The Kurds are an oppressed national minority of some 25 to 30 million, concentrated in an area that spans eastern Turkey, northwestern 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 conflict 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 in an area that spans eastern Turkey, Syria and Iraq, drawing support from Kurdish towns in those countries.

A major factor in the new rise of the Kurdish national struggle is the establishment of a largely autonomous Kurdish government in northern Iraq following the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein’s regime by Washington.

“The Kurdish 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 Kurdistan Regional Government said. The congress will be devoted to “the Kurds’ right to determine their future and the establishment of a Kurdish state.”

The Kurds are an oppressed nationalist people from the region’s predominantly Kurdish districts of northeast Syria with little representation in the government. In mid-July 2013, the Kurdish town of Ras al-Ayn had seen clashes with the regime of Bashar al-Assad, reported the Kurdish newspaper Nusrolat.

In Britain, the Muslim Brotherhood has had support from some of the country’s Kurds. A government-appointed Kurdish council to work with the British government was established in 2007 by the Turkey-based Kurdish Democratic Party.

“The Muslim Brotherhood did nothing to revive the economy and divided the country,” Agence France-Presse quoted an unnamed Kurdish oppositionist as saying.

Christian leaders in the region have put out a call for a day of prayer on July 24 against the Turkish government. “Our history is just beginning,” Elshwaidi said. “We’ve moved from dictatorship to democratic openings over a very short time. Workers are starting to become active now.”

— PAUL MAILHOT

US socialist candidates talk with fellow workers in Egypt

Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, Dan Fein (right), speaks with Rael Elshwaidi in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, July 28. Elshwaidi, 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.

Elshwaidi said he supported the recent overthrow of the Morsi government.

“His Brotherhood did nothing to revive the economy and divided the country. But most Muslims do not agree with those positions,” Elshwaidi said.

“We working people in the U.S. and Egypt face common problems,” Martin said. “The time has come here to learn about your struggles.

“We are all here to talk and to listen to workers’ struggles around the world.”

— SUSAN LAMONT
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.

“I then 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 in a barbershop in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn.

“Fein is in Cairo, Egypt, part of a team of worker-correspondents for the Socialist Workers Party, I told 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.”

“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.

“It’s important to be united. That way we can put an end to what’s happening.”

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. – canvas noon-3 p.m. – canvassing

3707 Douglas Ave.
Tel: (515) 707-1779

Seth Calinsky, 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 Beuzzy 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.

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“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 the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition.

Demonstrations in support of the strikers have taken place throughout the state.

Sylvia Rogokoff, 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: “I’m 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.”

Women in Cuba

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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)
Omaha political break-in

Continued from front page

OMAHA political group is garnering that it is doing work in 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 neighborhood. We’ll stay in touch with 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. Under capitalism, wages and 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 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 revolutionsaries 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 have rights they have been 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, an apartment, a computer monitor and a table, computer, Perasso said. And rather than conceal their intent, the culprit left clear evidence of a political purpose, pulling out documents and leaving them strewn about the house.

“The only thing taken was a cellphone that the defendants 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 one group is under attack, 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.

David Dogan, a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and an activist with the group 7th Continental, 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 Dogan and others since the spring to demand action against police caught on video beating and attempting to frame up Octavious, Jacquerius and DemePrince 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 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 tests to slash the UMW’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 and 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 arrested in February by a thug who told him, “You deserve to die, you com- munist bastard.”

In front of Forestal, 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, Forestal left.

“It is precisely to put pressure against those who target you that we need 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 continued 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 was an important victory for its campaign supporters and for the working class as a whole in April, when the FEC, which had threatened to strip the party of 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 bring the new defense campaign to the Aug. 3-8 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 v LaNgo, two Black Panther Party members who were fired 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 last July 24-27.

To find out how you can get involved in the free speech fight in Nebraska, contact the SWP, P.O. Box 7908, Omaha, NE 68107. Email: swpomaha@fastmail.com; telephone: (402) 779-7696.
Coal miners in Colombia strike over pay, safety and job security

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as well as the country's first major labor strike, were fought and won by a central leader of that battle. First in a four-volume series.

Also in Spanish, Swedish, Farsi, French.

Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs

U.S. and Canada, according to the company’s website.

For me, for everyone. I’m tired of waiting.

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‘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. Reproduced 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 (FMC), from its founding in 1960 until her death in 2007, Ángela 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 prepared by editor Mary-Alice Waters’s introductory notes and photographs.

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution is a genuine thing. And women wanted to be part of it (p. 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—the area of health and education. (Cuba has the largest collection of interviews with Vilma Espín, a cofounder of the FMC; and Yolanda Betancourt Schools for Campesinas.

Espín explained the philosophy that the women’s accounts of how Cuban women came to play such critical roles in the development of the new society. As they demonstrated what they could do, they increasingly won social respect. Prejudices began to lose ground.Espín explained the philosophy that women 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. Espín explained the philosophy that women 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.

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 subordinate themselves beyond the home, that made them aware of their own possibilities, capacities, self-worth, and rights...” 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 subordinate themselves beyond the home, that made them aware of their own possibilities, capacities, self-worth, and rights...” 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.

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. As they demonstrated what they could do, they increasingly won social respect. Prejudices began to lose ground. Espín explained the philosophy that women 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.

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.”

In fact, the title of the book is from a speech by the “Anitas.” “They hadn’t just learned to sew. They had learned 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 Backworth & Mantle, 2006; 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 monopo-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 social work was developed at the University of Havana, and a paraprofessional social work program for youth 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 ideology of 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 ugly in Cuba, then we would revolt. But we don’t want to be like the United States. We like our medical 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.

References:


July 26 protest in Tunisia 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.

**Rumors that Attorney General Eric Holder was considering civil rights charges were floated to the press immediately after the event 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 da- buctions 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 be shot by a peer than he was by someone else.”

The six-person all-black 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 evi- dence presented by the state, the diver- sity of the jury really didn’t matter in the end,” Larry Handfield, a prominent African-American Miami criminal de- fense lawyer, said, commenting on the trial in the July 15 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 ei- ther charge brought against him under the laws as written has not placated widespread indignation that the vigi- lante 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 be- ing violated.”

Dean Hazelewod in Miami contrib- uted 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 Labalino, 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, 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 Hernández 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, Irmita and Ivette.

Before leaving, you left Olga some money and the lyrics of a song by Pablo Milanes 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 in Santiago de Cuba and, when there’s no family behind you, it’s rough. I left Olga money I had saved along with that song — I didn’t even remember which one — inside a copy of Bohemia magazine.

I told Irmita 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 when I come back at the end of this year. This is a secret to surprise your mom,” I said.

“Mommy, mommy, daddy left this here!” — that’s how Olguía 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 were general 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 Cuban Five

Ramón Labalino, 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 accused of various 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 a civilian plane carrying the Rescue group to the island 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.

Martin saying that you felt like a verti-Table 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 your 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. White 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 hijacked the plane.” I didn’t go to the United States to fight people, Cuba property, our leaders. I went there to keep the countryalerted against such activities. In those circumstances you can’t allow yourself to dwell on the personal element that replies you — you have to detach yourself from it.

On these flights you took journalists from TV stations like Univision that were waging their anti-Cuba campaign when you shared the cockpit with that terrorist?

You joined Brothers to the Rescue in May 1991. You flew over Havana with Basulto, dropping pamphlets. How could you maintain your com-For the release of the Five is being waged internationally. Today all but Hernández 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, Irmita and Ivette. Trolle with that terrorist?

After the Rescue was created, I carried it. To advance in those circles, I had to spend much of what I earned on getting a lot of li- censes, which were very expensive. First I worked in a store for miserable pay. Then I had a job selling low-quality hunters, but I quit that because I had to use 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.

In the beginning Brothers to the Rescue was probably one of the most effective psychological warfare op-erations ever carried out. It was waged around the issue of the balseros [refugees], 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.

“We know that right is on our side, but we need a jury of ordinary people to make our truth known.” — Gerardo Hernández

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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.

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They saw the possibility of using the ballooners 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 the 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 Washington and Cuba signed the immigration agreements) in 1992 and 1993 along Cuba’s north coast, mainly in the area between the Vanadore and Cayo Coco resorts. A PUND commando group murdered a compatriot in Caibarien. 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 Carriiles [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 Gordo” [Fats], who was financing the PUND, to prison. They were left with no 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 calm. 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 Iris. To what degree did you have to achieve this? They say you even went to the U.S. Capitol. Many considerations came into play. (Cuban-American Congressional Woman) Ileana Ros-Lehtinen didn’t have the power to bring Olguina 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 reunions have two conflicting sides. Unfortunately I had to go there accompanied by a character who was not very … [Ramón Sánchez, leader of the Democratic Movement]. But it was as if Olguina 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 Irmíta had to go through. But love conquered. Ivette was born from that love. Hope was restored. 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 Irmíta’s arrival. Afterward he would turn up with a gift here, a kind thought, and at the same time toward Olguina. 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.

* 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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Venezuela hosts conference in solidarity with Cuba

-Wendy Chamberlain

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What a duty of every revolutionist is to make the revolution! Of wresting power by legal means—the futile and conciliationist illusion is to understand that it is neither fair nor feasible if the revolution itself had not 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 feasible to beguile the peoples with the futile and conciliationist illusion of wrestling power by legal means—

That which the Cuban Revolution teaches? That revolution is possible, that revolution is the duty of every revolutionist, that it is neither fair nor feasible if the revolution itself had not the peoples can make it, that in the contemporary world there are no forces capable of halting the liberation movement of the people.

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Detroit bankruptcy

Continued from front page

The July 15 seizure by Panamanian authorities of a North Korean cargo ship carrying weapons 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 vessel Chon Gang as it is prepared to cross the Panama Canal, heading for Cuba. Panamanian authorities forcibly took over the ship after a five-day standoff. The 35 North Korean crew members were arrested and put up facing 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 “share neighborhood security.”

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 weapons to countries under global arms embargoes.” The ship was carrying 240,000 rounds of ammunition, 10 short-range rockets, 14 machine guns plus ammunition, a Panamanian Navy spokesman reported.

As the U.S. prepares for a showdown over the weapons found in the ship, South Korea and Japan announced that Vela’s “aircraft missile complexes Volga and Pechora, nine nuclear-armed submarines here. More next week.

Continued from front page

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Continued on page 3

Under pressure, Bangladesh parliament amends labor law

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 companies.

BY EMMA JOHNSON
Bangladesh’s parliament amended the country’s labor law July 15 in re-
sponse to mass protests and mounting political pressures after more than 1,200 garment workers were killed on the job — sacrificed on the altar of profit as a result of the bosses’ dis-
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To win recognition, unions still
Continued on page 4

‘Workers in Egypt are more confident today’

‘Militant’ on-the-scene following Morsi ouster

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.

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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 Elgizani, an organizer of a tent city of several hundred camped out in Continued on page 6

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 Chica-
go’s busy downtown Loop business district here Aug. 1, chanting and
Continued on page 5

Also Inside:

Toronto march condemns killing of youth by cop

Rallies protest Australia gov’t closing door to refugees

Calif. prisoners’ hunger strike

Bosse respond to ‘Othamacare’

by cutting workers’ hours

See page 7

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See page 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 Samny 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.

Fourthteen seconds later Forcillo fires nine shots at Yatim in 12 seconds. Another video taken from a nearby security camera released to the public shows Yatim crumbling 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 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” demon- stration has been called for Aug. 13 at a scheduled Police Services Board meeting.

Demonstrations protest Australian govt’s closing door to refugees

BY LINDA HARRIS
SYDNEY — Thousands joined demon- strations 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 announced 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 immi- gration 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 toward federal elections later this year. Last year the government of Prime Minister Julia Gillard — who was re- placed June 26 by Rudd as leader of the Labor Party — reopened detention centers on Manus Island and the Pacific island of Nauru. There have been esc- alating protests by refugees on Nauru against their indefinite detention. On July 10 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 seek- ers are from Afghanistan, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Since Rudd’s July 19 announcement, L267 people have arrived on 16 boats, Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare an- nounced 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 territo- ry nearly 1,000 miles from the mainland and about 2,000 miles from Indonesia. Refugee advocates say the figure is much higher, as some boats have disap- peared without a trace and have not been counted.

“Attacks on refugees and immi- grants are part of the wider assault on the working class,” said Rom Poulsen, Communist League candidate for sen- ate in New South Wales, in a press re- lease. “The Australian rulers are tight- ening 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 any- lum-seekers have been called in the lead up to the federal election.

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Continued from front page

Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription

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, allowing 208 to be transferred out of the system.

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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 5,000 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 on Elected Officials.

Canales and Maria Levin, whose brother is one of the leaders of the hunger strike in Pelican Bay, carried 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 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 2 death, which the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation termed a suicide.

Under pressure, Bangladesh amends labor law

By Lauren Harris

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.

Under pressure, Bangladesh amends labor law

Continued from front page

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 subvert union organizations 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 whose workers are not allowed to form unions.

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.”

“Maturity 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 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 work places, 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 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,” StephanieISTER 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 Bangladeshi factories are regularly tortured and killed. In a report released in May 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 factories.

Amnil Islam, a union leader, was tortured and killed in April 2012. No one has been charged with his murder.

Kalpona Akter, along with Babul Akther, 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 with the U.S. and Europe,” Kalpona Akter said.

Police have reopened an investigation into the TamirBin incident. An earlier investigation blamed “unidentified miscreants,” and no one was charged. Arrests have been made, but no charges filed.

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Join the International Campaign to Free the Cuban Five! Speaker: Gerardo Sanchez, Socialist Workers Party, attended recent VII Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba in Caracas, Venezuela. Sat., Aug. 17, Dinner: 6:30 p.m.; registration: 5:30 p.m. 5842 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

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(Continued on page 11)

EXHIBIT B
Fast-food workers press for $15

Continued from front page

Read “Fight for $15,” a slogan of the Workers’ and changing attitudes of Chicago, which initiated the protests there. Woman 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. “We are unhappy with a return to work, and they’re asleep by the time I get home. We’re not looking for bonuses tied to angry kids and want a better life.”

Jersica Cogle, 22, in an August 25 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 change that would bring to a union worker. 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.

Sonia, 38, who did not want to give her last name for fear of reprisal, is a 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 the July 26 in response to the fast-food workers’ latest round of protests. Raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour “would have negative conse-

quences 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 pay-

ment devices.”

The ad was paid for by the Employment Institute, a research institute that focuses on issues that affect entry-level employment, according to its website.

Earlier this year President Barack Obama called for increasing the mini-

mum 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.

Counts strike down discriminatory marriage laws

BY JOHN STUDE

Anti-gay discriminatory laws are being pushed back in one state af-

After the last demonstration, they gave us two paid 15-minute breaks. Before, we had only one paid break. 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 Ses-

a three-month family. I have two children who are

8, a 2008 California voter initiative 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 marriage

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 aware-

ness!” Cuban President Fidel Castro told a congress of the National Union of Construction Workers in Havana.

Castro described some of the condi-

tions that had developed in the construc-

tion industry that are beginning to be corrected. They included, “indiscrimi-

nate start of projects to give the impres-

sion that a lot was being done in terms of

value, but they were never finished, in con-

trast to other projects, such as schools,

highways, and factories had been built.”

The minibridges, made up of volun-

teer workers, were first organized in the early years of the Cuban revolution, but were permitted to decline in the 1970s and early 1980s. Today they are being organized to build housing, child-

care centers, clinics, and other badly needed social facilities.

August 19, 2013

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 un-

employed 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.

Fast-food workers strike rally at Navy Pier in Chicago Aug. 1, demanding $15 an hour and union.

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 nec-

essary to have the utmost unity of the working class but also correct policies.

There are those who do not see the over-

whelming importance of correct policy but demand unity. We ask them to con-

sider: 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 demoralize them into their ranks and to prepare the ground for the victory of the fascists.

That is what the Loyalist government, under the presiding 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 during the course of the successful struggle against former dictator Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Instead, Morsi added to the numbers in jail for political protest.” Elgaliani 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 Elgaliani. “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, was the broad-based 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 who were part of the Militant 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 Mahmoud Salama, 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 subsidizes on basic food items was ended it would be a disaster for millions.” Egyptian workers also need health care and social security that covers 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. If 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 (EFTU).

“There are a growing number of struggles involving workers in Egypt,” said Fatma Ramadan, a member of the EFTU 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 are not available to independent unionists.”

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

“We 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’ rights,” 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 salaries 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 full 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 EFTU President Kamal Abou Elta 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 Abdal Gaweel, 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 farmers and farmers demands will soon come to the fore again.”
Socialist candidates from US meet fellow fighters in Egypt

BY PAUL MAILHOT

CAIRO — “What does Egypt have — what are the connections?”

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 erode.

BY PAUL MAILHOT

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 and greater profits to the health insurance giants, which were both eager to make “suggestions” on the law to help run through its passage in 2010.

The law provides incentives for many employers to offer some basic insurance. But many workers who are not “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 sur- gery, X-rays or prenatal care,” or hospital stays.

Obamacare is based on insurance companies reaping 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, which “cover minimal requirements such as preventive services, but often little more. Some of the plans wouldn’t cover sur- gery, X-rays or prenatal care,” or hospital stays.

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 workers’ 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, 3.6 million of these part-time jobs were 360,000. Since the recession began at the end of 2007, 3.6 million of these part-time jobs were

The Millitant

August 19, 2013

EXHIBIT B
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’s going to stop the 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.

“There’s only one way we 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 Barret, president of the Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba.

“We want to take 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,” he said.

A highlight of the conference was the live July 26 broadcast from Santiago de Cuba of the event 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 capitalistic 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 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 panels 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 economic, political and military pressures from Washington and other imperialist powers.

A long 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 preferential access to Venezuelan crude, including the strangulation 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.-oriented Organization of American States.
The first event featured an inaugu-ral cultural gala, which included a bened-ictory performance by the youth orches-tra 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 impe-rialist military boots.”

Dario Vivas, vice president of Ven-ezuela’s National Assembly, invited the conference to hold a session in the assembly chamber, where he ad-dressed participants along with Ser-\n
U.S. economic war vs. Cuba

“Despite the whole history of war, there are commercial relations today between Washington and Caracas. Let’s use this win-\nam,” 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 im-pact the U.S.-backed-dictatorship of Fulgen-tio Batista in Cuba that began with the July 26, 1953, attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba led by Fi-del Castro.

“There are some medicines that carry a U.S. patent which no one will sell to Cuba, because of fear of the ex-\ntraregional reach of the blockade,” explained Aleida Guevara, a practic-ing pediatrician in Cuba and daughter of revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. She described the case of a child who died of a drug that the U.S. government imposed an embargo on.

“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 Cuba” actions in Washing-ton, D.C., at the beginning of June, and urged delegates to begin plan-\n
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“We have been together for 15 years in one of the most important struggles in the world,” said Ana Sehwerert. “We will continue to fight against the U.S. government’s embargo 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 Militant August 19, 2013

EXHIBIT B

Cubans celebrate 60th anniversary of July 26 assault

Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar and barracks in Santiago de Cuba led by Fi-del Castro here July 27 celebrated the opening pact of Washington’s decades-long event featured René González, the only turn to their homeland.”

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“While the means of production are owned by a small minority of people, the means of distribution end consumption are owned by everyone,” said Jurgen Trachtman, president of the Institute for Friendship with the Peoples. “It’s not state capitalist,” he began. “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 Cuba” actions in Washing-ton, D.C., at the beginning of June, and urged delegates to begin plan-\n
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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 2013. It is the second of four books on the 1930s strikes, organizing drives and political campaigns that formed the Teamsters union in Minnesota and the Midwest into a fighting industrial union movement.

Victorious celebrities celebrate in front of first truck to move following Aarons Motor Freight’s signing of a closed-shop agreement with the union, June 1937. Trucking bosses hoisted 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 unmitigating 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 ‘laborer, assest, 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 . . . not others 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 isolated 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 trucking 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. 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 north of 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.”

“If we tied up Watson in Kansas City, then the 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 man had, with no union behind him.”

“Tom Watson, who had charge there, told us we couldn’t do that to him. He answered: ‘They ain’t rolling, Watson. You’re the boss and you’ve got to do something 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 on was ‘I’ve 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 strike began, the Watson bosses were all back in town, they marched in to the Labor Temple. There they located Local 554 leaders and got arranged to arrange a meeting at which they elected new local officers. After that Watson and the other trucking employers agreed to negotiate union contracts, the strike was over, the strikers returned to their jobs.

In the talks that followed the bosses offered little and they 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, with above all well-traveled routes. That the workers, along with other concessions. They also agreed to reinstate eleven workers who had been fired during the strike.

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 Malcolm X, an accusation from another inmate in exchange for a book is being used to broaden knowledge about the prisoner—his history of revolutionary activity—and set a course toward independent working-class political action.

Wages under capitalism are set from the bottom up, where bosses are in a position to hold down the minimum wage, it drags down the wages of all. The property 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.

Workers sign to put socialist candidates on ballot in NYC

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party collected 7,324 signatures by Aug. 7 to put three SWP candidates on the November ballot in New York City. This is a record number of signatures in one year. Petitioners fanned out across all five boroughs, gathering more than twice the signature required. Talking to workers on street corners, at shopping centers and door to door in working-class neighborhoods, campaigners signed up 350 people in a couple of hundred cities of the Militant.

—JOHN STUDER

Prison hunger strike

Continued from page 4

held in isolation for long periods in small, windowless cells.

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 a book. Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator of the International Committee to Free the Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free from Pathfinder Press, provides a basis of information about the Five and the fight for their freedom. There are 120 copies of the book were purchased by conference participants, including small bundles by delegates from Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, and Lebanon to take home for use in their own countries.

Tania Blanco, 40, a cleaning worker at a school in Aragua state, Venezuela, is typical. She said she had been in prison for three months. She is a defender 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 the struggle. “Black and Latin American sisterhood is a project, serving as teachers, doctors, and organizing recreational activities.

Other visits included a predominantly Cuban-staffed and run restaurant in the working-class neighborhood of Caracas, as well as the national José Gregorio Hernández Medical Genetics Center in Miranda. —Alicia Jrapko

Continued from page 4

Cuba solidarity conf.

Continued from page 9

The five 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 Ana Castillo, Ingrako, coordinator of the National Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. They reported ongoing efforts, and plans for future actions to broaden support for the Five.

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 for actions to encourage the Obama administration to be included 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 the freedom of Cuba, a good many others were learning details about the case and about the Five and 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 fight for their freedom.

Some 120 copies of the book were purchased by conference participants, including small bundles by delegates from Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, and Lebanon to take home for use in their own countries.

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 Caribú, which when completed will include 20,000 modern apartments, along with schools, medical and sports facilities, factories, and shops. Many of the living in the more than 1,500 units already completed are people who lost their homes in 2010 during torrential rains and massive flooding. Those who fled the collapsing homes in 2010 are working-class neighborhoods.

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; and a second meeting to be organized in Washington, D.C., next year; and the III World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba to be held Oct. 27, 2013.

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11
Public outcry, protests force arrest of killer cop in Toronto

BY FÉLIX VINCENT ARDEA

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

Continued on page 11

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 less than two weeks well over the required 100 signatures to put the communist candidate on the ballot in the Sept. 7 national elections.

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 to improve working conditions. “The fight and actions we’ve had

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Also Inside:

Support for Obama was focus of event marking 1963 march 2

Colombia peasants, workers strike over conditions 3

‘Important there’s a paper that supports workers’ struggles’ 3

Calif. inmates press hunger strike in fight against solitary 6

EXHIBIT B

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 Washing-

ton, London, Paris and elsewhere are trying to build a bandwagon to launch a military assault against the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Such an attack would be a blow to the interests of the working class and toilsers — 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 dredging croc-

odile tears over the slaughter of hun-

dreds of civilians in an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack in the Damascus sub-

urbs 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 lat-

est massacre is simply being grabbed

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Conti...
Support for Obama was focus of event marking 1963 march

BY SETH GALINSKY

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 by the civil rights groups and trade unions.

The March included many workers looking to discuss what is happening to their jobless and to work. And attorney General Eric Holder, who spoke at the rally, has done nothing to put any of the millions of workers back on the job.

Overwhelmingly Black in composition, most of those attending were work- ers, including substantial Black union members.

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 criticism of President Kennedy and the Democratic Party.

The 1963 march registered the con- tinuing expansion of a powerful pro- letarian movement to overthrow Jim Crow segregation. It also brought to the fore two opposing class trajec- tories. On one hand were those who censured Lewis’ speech and looked to the Kennedy administration and Democratic party to launch the Freedom Now Party. On the other were proletarian forces pressing for in- dependent 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.

“The tables were a real magnet for hundreds of workers looking for Lit- erature 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

Turnout Shows Negros Ready for Action

BY GEORGE LAVAN
WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 29 — The marchers — a quarter of a mil- lion people is the best estimate — was the outstanding feature of yesterday’s March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. This was also the most important thing about the march. For both friend and foe we 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 — in- deed 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

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Workers sign to put Australia communist on ballot

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**Cuba and Angola**
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 Aguilarr, president of the Teachers Association of Colombia, told the Militant that farmers 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,” Aguilarr 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 knows the transnational mining companies, Ayded Moreno, human rights director for Fensuagro, said from Bogotá. —SETH GALINSKY

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**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,” retired worker Donald Lewellen told Clay Denniston 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 Pripp 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 daily struggles to survive,” Adamo Giraldó 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 supports struggles of working people.”

Giraldó, 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 newspaper, 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 reader-ship 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.”

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Artisanal miners are protesting government bans on small-scale mining and confiscation of their equipment. The government knows the transnational mining companies, Ayded Moreno, human rights director for Fensuagro, said from Bogotá. —SETH GALINSKY

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

**CANADA**

The Militant September 9, 2013 3
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 workers, to those wrangling their hands over the ouster of the elected president as a blow to “democra-
y” and called for his restoration or re-
conciliation with the severely weakened Brotherhood.

The New York Times, noting the im-
position of martial law and curfews by the interim government and the appoint-
ment of military officers as governors in many provinces, warned that a cut-
down on workers and their organiza-
tions would swiftly follow the actions against the Brotherhood. But theרכפ descargar el archivo de placa y seguir leyendo el manuscrito de manera natural.

On one hand is a sectarian bourgeois Islamism that miscalculated its real power. On the other are millions of workers who have carved out political space and gained confidence in strug-
gles 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 ri-
val, the Brotherhood is undergoing a profound change in Egypt now faces a more complex chal-
lenge — 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 government, backed by Brotherhood street thugs, that followed. Having dispatched its main capitalist rival, the Brotherhood is undergoing a profound change in Egypt now faces a more complex challenge — the unfolding class struggle and deepening crisis of capitalism.

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Bosses renege on agreements with farmworkers after strike

BY CLAY DENNISON

SEATTLE — “Sacuma is not horizon- ping the agreement,” said farmworker Francisco Enriquez, 38, 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 Sacuma.”

Field workers and supporters carried out similar actions in 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 Sacuma Brothers Farms management on wages July 25. But workers say the company stopped honoring the verbal agreement and started to bribe 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 strike won improvements in living conditions. Filty and bug-infested mattresses in the labor camps were replaced with new ones. The company paid for young workers who had been receiving less than the Washington state minimum wage and an agreement to hire guest workers to members to the picked produce.

“They negotiated with us, which was a big achievement,” and workers are pre pared to strike again if they don’t reach an agreement, said Rosalinda Guillén in a published interview. She is a farm worker organizer and director of Bell ingham, Wash.-based Community to Community Development, which works with the pickers. Guillén said the com- pany negotiated out of fear that their application for guest workers would be rejected.

The main demands of the workers are for higher wages, reimbursement of transportation costs for those who migrated annually from California and guarantees that workers who went on strike will be rehired next year without reprisals.

“The workers and financial contribu tions can be sent to Familias Unidas por la Justicia at P.O. Box 1206, Burlington, WA 98233.

Mine Workers ratify contract with Patriot Coal

BY ALISON KENNEDY

CHICAGO — Members of the United Mine Workers of America in West Vir ginia and Kentucky ratified a five-year contract with Patriot Coal Corp. Aug. 16 by 85 percent. The deal by some 1,800 active and laid-off miners followed a recommendation by union officials to approve the pact and take place amid new operating conditions.

In 2007 Peabody Energy spun off its UMWA-organized mines, forming Patri ot Coal as a separate company. This allowed Peabody to get out from un der union contracts and obligations af fecting benefits of thousands of retired Miners. The following year, Patriot Coal acquired Magum, 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 numer ous demonstrations in coalfield areas and other locations, including Peabody headquarters in St. Louis. They mobil ized repeatedly to protest the expected reorganization plan by-banner ru pty Judge Kathy Surratt-States, sanc tioning the company’s proposals.

The agreement imposes a $1 per hour wage cut with a 50 cents annual increase for three years starting in 2013. 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 would 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 in surance for some 20,000 retirees.

“We took concessions to help our re tired brothers and sisters,” said Darryl Hedgepeth, a member of UMWA Local 1793 andcoop operator at the Patriot’s Highland No. 5 Mine in Uintonion, Wyo.

“The day after they will still not close down the mines.”

The deal keeps the company “on track for reorganization — and not liquidation,” Patriot Coal President and Chief Executive Bennett Harfield 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 Associa tion 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 2014.

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 UMWA President Ce cil Roberts in a video address explaining the contract proposal ahead of the vote.

In a reversal of the May 29 court de cision, 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 rival 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 immigrant visa to the United States.

A national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and a leader of the struggle for immi grant 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 anti-capitalist 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 picketed outside the head of 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 dem onstration 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 a display of their feelings and their potential power.

But despite this tremendous outpouring, nothing concrete appears to have happened 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 unani mously voted to sign the agreement reached a week ago by committees representing the unions and the op erators, thus ratifying a pact that em braces more than 250,000 workers and brings union conditions and wages to a vast number of hightowered 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 se ries of minimum wages and working conditions. Seniority rights are estab lished for the whole area.

The Militant September 9, 2013

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**Calif. inmates press hunger strike in fight against long-term isolation**

BY ARLENE KUBERNITZ

LOS ANGELES — Some 45 days into a hunger strike that began July 8 California prison authorities have yet to negotiate with inmates who have said they have drawn attention to the practice of long-term solitary confinement and other inhumane conditions.

 Authorities in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s Pelican Bay State Prison have refused permission to remove her ovaries if cancer was found. Although no cancer was found, except for state medical review committees.

In an interview with CIR, Dr. James H. Zinger said he saw the sterilizations as an additional way for prisoners and other women. In 2006, after a U.S. district judge ruled that it violated constitutional protections for 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 14 women given tubal ligations, 10 other women told Justice Now that they were improperly sterilized for other reasons. 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 doc- tor 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...
**Continued from front page**

14th Avenue is one of those streets. It is a working-class area that is more than half Hispanic, with a substantial Black population, and is also experiencing the area's economic regeneration.

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 20 percent of stops result in arrest.

According to police figures, the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn has both the highest rate of violent crime in New York and the lowest rate of property crime, so it is not surprising that the rate of stop and frisk there is high. 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, 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 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 are afraid of being harassed by cops. They got to do their job. But it’s the way they do it.”

“Unmarked cars should be banned from doing that,” 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 get to stop the guns. These young guys don’t know how to shoot. They just shoot all the time. But the cops are just hostile — and then when you respond, you get set on.”

East Harlem, which is a working-class area that is more than half Hispanic, 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 works 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 and asked if I was a black American. “How can you be trespassing when you live right across the street?”

“I like stop and frisk,” said Lejuan Gabbonib, 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 times we don’t look like we belong. Cops should be calm.

According to police records, more than half of stops are followed by a frisk. However, the vast majority of frisks are the result of the sweeping, arbitrary searches — 729 in the course of 333,500 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 indicated 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 notify each stop and provide them 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 practices it amounts to racial profiling, the cops. Cops should be calmer.”

**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**


**New York City**


**Militant/Betsey Stone**

Free the Cuban Five! Protest 15 years of Unjust Incarceration! Thurs., Sept. 12, 12–3 p.m. Central Park West train station. Organized by The Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5. For more info call 718-665-4781.

**Washington, D.C.**


Workers celebrate on picket line with Háimka Arthab, far left, after she won her job back. 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.

Airport workers reinstated

AOR700

helped a lot to get this victory,” Háimka Arthab told the Militant at an Aug. 23 protest of concession workers outside an airport terminal here.

Subway management fired Arthab last April after she joined with UNITE HERE Local 2850 as part of a fight against overtime pay, vacation and sick days, breaks and work schedules.

“They did not fire me because they know I’ll continue to fight against company abuses,” Arthab said. “They offered me money. But I said no. I won my job back.”

The majority of concession workers at the airport here are members of Local 2850, the union that represents 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 outfits are nonunion and workers’ wages are fighting hard to keep that way.

Joining the Aug. 23 picket were workers facing a wage freeze, cuts in health care and other stuff, in 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.

**Judge orders New York officials to reform stop and frisk**

Continued from front page

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**Minneapolis**


**New York City**


**Militant/Betsey Stone**

Free the Cuban Five! Protest 15 years of Unjust Incarceration! Thurs., Sept. 12, 12–3 p.m. Central Park West train station. Organized by The Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5. For more info call 718-665-4781.

**Washington, D.C.**


Workers celebrate on picket line with Háimka Arthab, far left, after she won her job back. 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.
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 Société 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 Tun Abdul Rahman (U TAR), 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 panels 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 neighboring Indonesia and Singapore, as well as the Philippines, Japan, Canada, the United States, Europe, South Africa and Australia. Conference organizers especially pleased were 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. He described the experience 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 northeastern 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 following conflict between the United States and the Japanese. 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 Malaysian independence, as many had expected. Instead, a new period of British domination and warfare 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 and New Zealand, as well as from other British-dominated regions of Asia and Africa — were battling the independence movement in Malaya.

The imperialists launched an 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, he said. “It is a good place to understand questions” facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said. “It is a good place to understand questions” facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said. “It is a good place to understand questions” facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said. “It is a good place to understand questions” facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said. “It is a good place to understand questions” facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said.

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 Buy, a former member of the National University of Malaysia 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 did still today.

At another session, Aloysius Yap 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 described their efforts to encourage young Tsinoy, 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 Tsinoy 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 racial system and still suffer under its legacy. Before the court’s decision, Chinese were ineligible for affirmative action measures under South Africa’s current laws.

In his keynote address opening the day of the conference, Ling-chi Wang spoke 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 admission 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 whose 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 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-
pression, the U.S. Congress adopted the Chinese Exclusion Act, halting all im-
migration from China for 10 years. That bar was subsequently extended indefi-
nitely, made still more stringent, and expanded to include immigration from Hawai'i and the Philippines. It remained in force until 1943.

That experience of Chinese immi-
grants 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 Elena García; and Third Secretary Vanila Reyes.

In his closing address to the ISSCO gathering, conference convenor 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 Chi-
inese in Cuba," which was addressed on the panel "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 par-
ticipants. At an ISSCO membership meeting held at the conference's conclusion, Tan Chee Beng of the Chinese Uni-
versity of Hong Kong was elected the association's new president. Ongoing 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

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 discuss-

ion 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 piv-

otal three decades in U.S. history that included the 1848-58 California gold rush, the 1861-65 Civil War, the post-

war Radical Reconstruction govern-

ments across the states of the defeated secession and by, 1877, the bloody crushing of those popular democratic regimes.

This history was contrasted with the revolutionary struggle for independ-

dence from Spain and for the abolition of slavery and all forms of indentured servitude. The place of Chinese immi-
grants workers in the class struggle in both countries was highlighted.

The event was chaired by ISSCO board member Khun Eng Kueah Pearce. Leading off the five panelists was Setuksu Sonoda from Kobe Woman's University in Japan. Sonoda spoke about the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Associations formed in San Francisco and the island of Hawaii, both 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.

Chumie Ho and Bennet Bronson, both from the Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee, pre-

sented information on the history of Chinese women in Northwestern United States and Canada from 1860 to 1930. 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 China to escape poverty and exclude im-
grants from China.

Anti-Chinese agitation in California

Cao Yu, from Ivan 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 said the Workingmen's Party, with the Irish workers who supported it were the primary source of the violent racism faced by the Chinese. The "labor move-

ment," he said, "jeopardized Chinese immigration," with the "most severe impact" often coming from "the bot-
tom of society and the left-wing move-

ment." In his written paper distributed to conference participants, Yu advised Chinese "to try to prevent the labor force and left-wing parties from "tak-
ing power." He called for an "alliance with other possible parties and capital-

ists," 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 edi-
tor of Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution, pub-


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 in deep-going revolution-

ary struggles" in which the abolition of slavery and indentured servitude were settled in blood. In Cuba, Chinese indentured laborers by the thousands joined the armies fighting for indepen-
dence from Spain and for an end to all bimetalism, she said. However, those who had emigrated from China were far from the political and military battlegrounds of the 1861-65 Civil War.

"In both countries, the rising capi-
talist class, together with plebeian and middle-class forces, eventually emerged victorious," Waters said. "But the differences in the social and politi-
cal powers in those 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 class struggle for a large part of the world market, and did not have the opportu-

nity to be at the center of the revolution-

ary struggles.

Waters noted one exception. In Louisiana and Mississippi of the imme-
diate post-Civil War years, the defeated slaveocracy imported several thousand Chinese workers from Cuba, hoping they would be a "docile" replacement for their former slave workers. However, they would turn out differently, said Waters. Not only had these workers already experienced the hated con-
tact 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 uprisings that confronted the rising counterrevolutionary terror of the planters' White Knights and other armed squads.

It was precisely this kind of unity that continued on page 10

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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 point of the 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 the Democratic Party that led the bourgeois opposition to the revolutionary war that brought down the slavery. 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,

our History Is Still Being Written


the story of three cuban generals in the cuban revolution

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, Moisés Sío Wong

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong — three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry — threw themselves into the great proletarian class. It was not in the interests of the bourgeoisie 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 are blacks. 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 is very important to take this into account," Pérez emphasized. In Cuba, "your ancestors can come from Africa, from the Middle East, or Europe, or from wherever. The nationalization of discrimination in Cuba means justifying discrimination against ourselves!"

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-seizing 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.

Sío Wong had answered Wang Guangwu 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, Sío 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.

"If you really want to take this into account," Pérez emphasized. In Cuba, "your ancestors can come from Africa, from the Middle East, or Europe, or from wherever. The nationalization of discrimination in Cuba means justifying discrimination against ourselves!"

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EXHIBIT B
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 property 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 purported 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.

The civil war in Syria grew out of bloody repression against 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 class Islamist groups, including some also allied to 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 and for 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 US imperialism, from firebombing 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 US allies are the only ones in the world today to have ever used nuclear weapons, dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

At the same time, Washington maintains hundreds of thousands of tons of chemical weapons, the second largest stockpile in the world. The US 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!

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 out 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, social and exploitation. What political leader here can stand up and say “My party is the party of principles”? The party of Kennedy is the party of East Pakistan. The party of javis 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. As we must get in the revolution. Get in and stay 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 “scorcht 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 fight action and this will continue for a few more years. And I say to you, WAKE UP AMERICA!

Protests force arrest of killer cop in Toronto

Continued from front page

everything shoots 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 $150,000 bail Aug. 20.

The charges came a week after the second of two demonstrations here organized by the Yatim family and supporters.

The arrest 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 read “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

Washington threatens missile strike on Syria

WASHINGTON

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 neighborhoods the government 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 tooust him are responsible for the use of chemical weapons.

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 widespread attacks on laborers 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 Arab states.

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’re ready to go,” Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel told the media, referring to U.S. destroyers currently deployed in the eastern Mediterranean, as well as U.S. 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 used” 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.

Black Action Defence Committee, which has been campaigning since the first days of the Syrian “uprising” in Toronto, Reuben Abi, a leader of the group, told the crowd:

“I came to honor my son Trevor, who was killed by the police in 2007,” Kayrin 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 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 assistance.”

"Militant" publishing schedule

This is a two-week issue of this paper. The next issue will be mailed out on Sept 12.
EXHIBIT 10
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.

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   The instances include:

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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
‘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
EXHIBIT 11
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.

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Naomi Craine
New York
October 24, 2016
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. …
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inmate Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Cell Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The Publication:  
The Militant

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 Central Office 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: ___________________________
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...
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
‘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

Send a check to The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. Earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight” for fight against censorship or “Prisoners’ Fund” to subsidize prisoner subscriptions.
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
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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.

Seth Galinsky
New York, N.Y.
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
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
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 myself 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
July 22, 2016
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
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
October 8, 2016
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.

______________________________
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
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.


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
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
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.

[Signature]

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.

[Signature]

Joel Britton
October 22, 2016
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