

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
'To U.S. capitalist rulers, workers are presumed guilty'
 —PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 23 JUNE 13, 2011

Workers power—not a bigger, better welfare state

BY STEVE CLARK

Heading into the last week of the campaign to expand the *Militant's* readership by more than 2,000, the subscription drive is well ahead of schedule. While 83 percent of the international goal should have been met by this point, we stand at 90 percent as this issue goes to press.

Door to door with the Militant Army

Over the next week, teams of Militant Army volunteers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom will join others from across the U.S. Midwest to push the campaign over the top. On their way to a June 9–11 socialist education and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, teams will stop in towns and cities in that state as well as Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin to go

Continued on page 9

'Legalization for all undocumented now!'

Georgia law is blow to workers' solidarity



Militant photos by Alex Huinil
March 24 protest in Atlanta against Georgia anti-immigrant bill. Top, Workers from H-Mart grocery in Duluth, Georgia, fought for and won time off to join action. Inset, contingent from El Rincón restaurant.

BY RACHELE FRUIT

ATLANTA—Gov. Nathan Deal signed an anti-immigrant bill May 13 aimed at weakening the unity and combativity of the working class. The new Georgia law is similar to recent measures adopted in Arizona and Utah.

The law, known as HB 87, is set to go into effect July 1. It would punish people convicted of using false identification to get a job with up to 15 years in prison and as much as \$250,000 in fines. The law authorizes local and state cops to enforce immigration laws and makes it illegal to transport or “harbor” undocumented immigrants or encourage them to come to the state.

Phased in over the next year and a half, the law will require businesses with more than 10 employees to use

the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new hires.

Some 100 students at Cobb County's Pebblebrook High School walked out of school in protest May 17. The students, most of them Latinos, stood

Continued on page 3

White House renews broad spy powers of Patriot Act

BY CINDY JAQUITH

President Barack Obama renewed several Patriot Act provisions May 26 giving government snoops wide latitude to wiretap, search personal papers, and spy on individuals they claim are connected to “terrorism.” All without having to provide a single fact to back their accusations.

The Patriot Act is “an important tool for us to continue dealing with an ongoing terrorist threat,” Obama said. The act—a frontal assault on the Bill of Rights—was adopted with only one vote opposed in the Senate in 2001.

During a brief Congressional debate on the renewed provisions, the most controversial was Section 215, giving the FBI access to any individual's bank records, medical histories, and personal papers such as diaries and letters. All the federal cops need to do is have a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court rubber stamp the spying as necessary “to protect against international terrorism.”

The use of secret courts to provide legal cover for systematic violations

Continued on page 4

Illinois miners organize union to fight for safety and pensions

BY JOHN HAWKINS

EQUALITY, Illinois—Going in and out of work at the Willow Lake coal mine just north of here May 27, workers proudly wore their union hats and buttons. On May 19 and 20, a majority of miners voted in the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

Although the vote was close—219

for the UMWA to 206 for no union—supporters of the union said they had improved their capacity to fight. Safety and pensions are among the main issues of contention between the workers and Big Ridge Company, owned by Peabody Energy.

Until April miners at Willow Lake had been working under a four-year agreement ratified in 2007 between Big Ridge and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers Union. The company stalled for two years before signing the con-

Continued on page 9

Imperialists step up air assaults in Libya, talk of protracted war

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With the imperialist-led assault against Libya into its third month, Paris and London are escalating airstrikes in a drive to kill head of state Moammar Gadhafi.

Rather than taking the lead in combat operations, as it did during the opening weeks, Washington since early April has focused on air surveillance, flying 25 percent of all missions. U.S. aerial drones are flying over Libya, including armed drones unleashing Hellfire missiles. French foreign minister Alain Juppé is pressing Washington to once again play a bigger role.

Since February, the Gadhafi regime

has responded to a popular uprising against its 41-year rule with bloody assaults against working people and others. Imperialist capitals, led by London, Paris, and Washington, took advantage of the ensuing civil war to militarily intervene with the goal of putting in place a government more to their liking.

Since airstrikes began in mid-March, under the rubric of a UN-sanctioned “no-fly zone,” there have been more than 2,600 sorties.

Most recently the heaviest airstrikes have been unleashed in Tripoli. According to NATO officials, 28 bunker-busting bombs were dropped

Continued on page 9

Spring Militant subscription campaign				
April 23–June 6 (week 5)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,000
UNITED STATES				
Los Angeles*	160	151	94%	1,797 should be
Miami*	85	76	89%	
Twin Cities*	150	132	88%	
Houston*	65	56	86%	
San Francisco**	175	150	86%	
Chicago*	150	126	84%	
Philadelphia**	100	84	84%	
Seattle*	160	124	78%	
Atlanta*	165	123	75%	
Des Moines*	160	117	73%	
New York	330	221	67%	
Washington	110	72	65%	
Boston*	60	39	65%	
Total U.S.	1,870	1,471	79%	
Canada*	70	54	77%	
New Zealand*	65	68	105%	
Australia*	60	57	95%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
Manchester**	45	35	78%	
London**	120	112	93%	
Total UK	165	147	89%	
Total	2,230	1,797	90%	
Should be	2,000	1,667	83%	
*Raised goal ** more than once				

Also Inside:	
Texas rally protests new antiabortion law	2
U.S.-Chinese relationship marked by military rivalry	5
Supporters monthly appeal is invaluable to party work	6
Interest in U.S. class struggle, Cuba high at Iran book fair	7

New Zealand meeting protests gov't frame-up

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—“This case is about all of us. What they’ve done to us they will do to you,” was the message Tame Iti brought to a meeting here May 20 to demand the dropping of all charges against 18 people arrested in “antiterrorism” raids in 2007.

Iti is a longtime advocate for Maori rights. The 18 were framed up on firearms charges. Iti and four others are also falsely charged with “participating in an organized criminal group.”

Joining Iti on the speakers’ panel were John Minto, of Global Peace and Justice Auckland; David Clendon, Green Party Member of Parliament; and Syd Keepa, the vice president Maori of the Council of Trade Unions. Held at the University of Auckland, the meeting of 100 people was co-chaired by Pania Newton and Daniel Haines, officers of two students’ associations.

On the day of the raids, Iti’s house was surrounded by armed police “in what seemed like a bad dream,” he said. He was forced to the ground and handcuffed with guns trained on him and a police dog at his head. Cops subjected him to grueling interrogations. “I didn’t say a word,” explained Iti. “I was brought up that you don’t say anything to anyone” in such situations.

Days later, from behind prison walls, Iti learned that 60 homes around the country were simultaneously raided and his home town of Ruatoki in Te Urewera national park,

a center of the Tuhoe tribe, was sealed off and stormed by cops.

Police had spied on the targets for 18 months leading up to the raids. “I found out my car, phone, bedroom, kitchen, work phone, and *wananga* [teaching sessions] had all been bugged,” Iti said. “The bedroom is a *tapu* [sacrosanct] place where you talk to someone close to you.”

The raid “was the greatest attack on civil liberties in my lifetime,” said Minto. “It was the end result of a decade of laws tightening the right to dissent in New Zealand and around the world.”

Originally the police and government sought to lay charges under the Terrorism Suppression Act, but the Solicitor-General ruled against this. “It was the big protest marches following the raids that set the political climate” for this victory, Minto pointed out.

The trumped-up weapons charges are based on allegations that defendants participated in training camps in Te Urewera park. For decades, including as part of government-funded projects, Iti has taken people to camps in the Urewera hills, a well-known hunting area, to teach them traditional Maori practices and survival skills.

Iti described the history of unjust land confiscations in the region, and the Tuhoe people’s resistance to this. Growing up in the 1950s and ’60s, “Maori were said to be lazy, dirty, dumb. I thought, ‘Maybe I am that,’” Iti said, until as a teenager he began questioning these stereotypes.

Texas rally protests new antiabortion law



Militant/Angel Lariscy

AUSTIN, Texas—More than 100 people attended a spirited march and rally at the state capitol here May 29 to protest recent state government restrictions on the right to abortion. Many passing cars honked in support.

On May 19 Texas governor Richard Perry signed into law a measure requiring a woman who seeks an abortion to get a sonogram and wait 24 hours before she can have the procedure. The doctor is required to describe the fetus to the woman and offer her the option of listening to the heartbeat.

Sarah Downing, 19, president of the Feminist Majority Alliance at the University of North Texas in Denton, said her group came because “in this climate, the right to abortion needs to be defended.”

As she saw the march go by, Carrejo Smith, 22, joined in. Smith said the question of the right to abortion “is near and dear to my heart.” Having grown up in rural southern Indiana where there are no abortion providers, she has been bothered by the increasing erosion of a woman’s right to choose.

—ANGEL LARISCY

The Supreme Court will hear two appeals by the defendants—one on the admissibility of certain evidence presented by the prosecution, the other to reverse a decision to have the case heard by a judge instead of a

jury. The trial will likely begin some time next year.

“We’re going to win this!” said Iti, as he thanked people for their support and called for continued united actions until the charges are dropped.



Militant/Baskaran Appu

“What they’ve done to us they will do to you,” Maori rights leader Tame Iti told May 20 meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, on government frame-up against him and 17 others.

THE MILITANT

Defend women’s right to abortion!

Opponents of women’s rights are stepping up their campaign to undermine the right to abortion. Learn why defending legal abortion is a fundamental question not only for women, but the entire working class. Read the ‘Militant’!



“Walk for Choice” rally in Tallahassee, Florida, February 26 opposes withdrawal of government funds for Planned Parenthood.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £18 • France, 12 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 75/No. 23

Closing news date: June 1, 2011

Editor: Steve Clark

Circulation director: Paul Mailhot

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Harry D’Agostino, Seth Galinsky, John Hawkins, Cindy Jaquith, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, and one week in September.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above

address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £75 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

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

Meeting pays tribute to Leonard Weinglass

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK—Some 350 people gathered at the Ethical Culture Society here May 13 to pay tribute to Leonard Weinglass, an attorney who defended the rights of dozens of individuals who became targets of the U.S. government. Weinglass died of cancer March 23.

Among those represented by Weinglass were the Chicago Seven defendants charged with disrupting the Democratic Party convention in 1968; Mumia Abu-Jamal; Puerto Rican activists targeted for supporting independence; anti-Vietnam War protesters; and many others.

Up until weeks before his death, Weinglass was working on defense briefs on behalf of the Cuban Five for whom he was lead attorney and spokesperson in the appeals court fight to win their freedom.

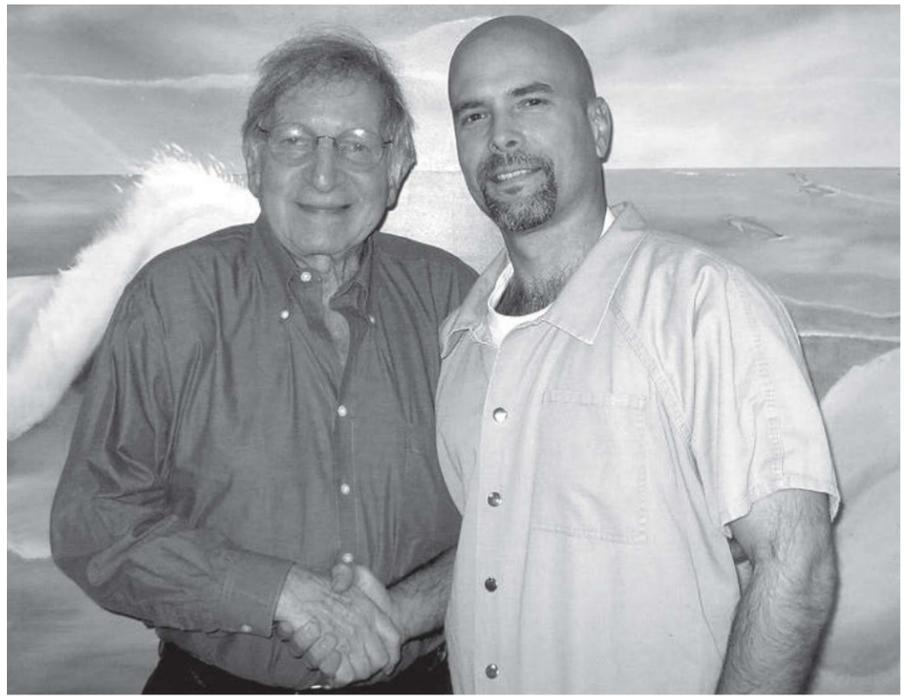
The meeting was chaired by Michael and Debby Smith, long-time

friends of Weinglass; Scott Franzblau, his nephew; and Kathy Boudin, daughter of prominent civil liberties attorney Leonard Boudin. She was released on parole in 2003 after serving 22 years in prison on charges stemming from an attempted heist of a Brink's truck and murder of a guard. Weinglass was her defense attorney.

Speaking at the meeting were colleagues of Weinglass and people he represented, including Ramsey Clark, Tom Hayden, John Gerassi, Martin Garbus, Juan Enrique Segarra-Palmer, and Linda Backiel.

In a video tribute, Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, described Weinglass's collaboration in defending the five Cuban patriots who came to the United States to help expose plans by counterrevolutionary Cubans living here to attack targets in Cuba.

Another video featured Daniel



Leonard Weinglass (left) visiting Cuban Five prisoner Gerardo Hernández in jail. Weinglass served as attorney and spokesman for the five, who were framed up and railroaded to prison by U.S. government on fabricated "conspiracy" charges for the "crime" of working to expose violent counterrevolutionary attacks planned against Cuba from south Florida.

Ellsberg, whom Weinglass defended. Ellsberg was charged by the U.S. government for leaking the "Pentagon Papers," which exposed government lies rationalizing the imperialist war

against the Vietnamese people. A highlight of the program was a videotaped interview with Weinglass describing the Pentagon Papers case.

Another of Weinglass's victories was the successful defense of the "Los Angeles Eight" activists who supported the Palestinian people's fight against Israeli oppression.

At the time of his death, in addition to his work on the appeal of the Cuban Five, he had begun to organize defense efforts for Julian Assange. Assange was threatened with U.S. government charges as a leader of "Wikileaks," which released thousands of U.S. government communiqués about its operations around the world.

Weinglass was for many years associated with the firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman. Weinglass made himself available for consultation on the successful Socialist Workers Party lawsuit challenging decades of government spying and disruption against the party, and reviewed the appeal of the frame-up conviction of Iowa packinghouse worker and SWP member Mark Curtis.

Bringing home Militant Fighting Fund

BY DOUG NELSON

One week left to go. Supporters of the *Militant* are poised to blast over the goal to raise \$116,000 for this year's Militant Fighting Fund, an annual fund-raising campaign the paper depends on to meet its operating expenses and to field reporting teams from the Midwest of the United States to Cuba to Egypt.

Partisans of the paper in Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Australia, and France have already well surpassed their goals. "When it became clear that we would reach our goal of \$300 we sent out a second appeal to give another boost to the drive,"

wrote Nat London from Paris. "As a result three contributors raised their pledges. An autoworker originally from Mauritania gave to the fund for the first time."

Checks are in the mail from cities across the United States where *Militant* supporters have just completed a final push to meet or exceed their local quotas. Those contributions will be counted when they arrive in the *Militant* office. To allow adequate time for postal delivery, money received by June 6 will be included in the last scoreboard. These final results will be printed in the next issue of the *Militant*, which will be mailed out June 23.

This year's fund-raising effort is marked by a notable increase in new contributors compared to recent years—the result of increased responsiveness among workers hammered by

three years of capitalist crisis to a paper published in their interests. A number of areas made a concerted effort to win new contributors and developed political relationships with *Militant* readers in the process.

Militant supporters in Twin Cities, Minnesota, are among those reaching out for new contributors. "We recently made a trip to Wisconsin to follow up with recent subscribers there and win new readers," said Frank Forrestal. "In Rice Lake we visited Robert Jensen, who has a one-year subscription to the paper. He said he likes the *Militant* and passes it on to his friends. He had just finished reading *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* by Jack Barnes. A couple days after our visit he sent us a \$25 contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund."

Georgia anti-immigrant bill blow to workers

Continued from front page

in front of the school and chanted "Undocumented and unafraid!" and "Education, not deportation!"

"To win this fight we need to take to the streets," said Arturo Perez, who helped build and organize a May 1 rally here demanding that the governor not sign the bill. The Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights has announced protests for July 1.

Supporters of the *Militant* visited Dalton, a city in the northwest part of the state, May 28 to talk with workers about how the capitalist crisis and attacks on workers' rights are affecting their lives.

Dalton, known as the "Carpet Capital of the World," is a city of about 30,000 with more than 150 carpet plants. More than 90 percent of the functional carpet produced in the world today is made within a 65-mile radius of the city. Half the population is Hispanic.

Workers from Dalton were among the largest groups participating in the May 1 rally.

Isela Chavez, who bought a subscription to the *Militant* in Dalton, gave an example of how the new law undermines

workers' solidarity. "The person who gives me a ride to work says he won't be able to do so when the law takes effect," she said.

Chavez also said taxi drivers fear they will violate the law if they transport undocumented passengers. "Cleaning workers and factory workers are going to lose their jobs."

Alex Huinil told her that the *Militant* calls for immediate, unconditional legalization of all workers in the United States. "The bosses go to every corner of the world to exploit workers, but they try to force us to stay in one country. We must have the right to go wherever we can find work and to have our rights wherever we are."

Reflecting the views of big sections of the employing class whose profits depend on exploiting immigrant labor, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* said May 27 that the agricultural industry was reporting a severe labor shortage among fruit and vegetable growers in Georgia, potentially putting hundreds of millions of dollars in crops in jeopardy, as migrant workers decide to avoid Georgia and look for work in other states.

On May 26 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Legal Arizona Workers Act, which requires employers in that state to run new employees through the government's E-Verify database. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Civil Liberties Union had filed suit on the basis that federal law prohibits states from making E-Verify mandatory. The decision did not directly address the recent Arizona law, which in some circumstances requires police there to question people they stop about their immigration status. In April a U.S. appeals court blocked enforcement of another Arizona law obliging cops to determine the immigration status of anyone they arrest before that person can be released.

Opponents of the Georgia law say they will file a legal challenge before the law goes into effect July 1. Attorney Charles Kuck told the *Journal Constitution* they are not challenging the E-Verify requirement similar to that upheld in Arizona, but other aspects of the bill that relate to transporting or harboring those without papers and use of false papers to get a job.

<i>'Militant' Fighting Fund</i>			
April 2–May 30 (week 7)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Houston*	\$4,000	\$4,176	104%
Miami	\$3,000	\$2,964	99%
Boston	\$4,000	\$3,804	95%
San Francisco*	\$15,000	\$14,184	95%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$7,092	91%
Washington	\$8,500	\$7,582	89%
Seattle*	\$8,800	\$7,566	86%
New York	\$21,000	\$18,043	86%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$8,405	84%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$5,569	80%
Des Moines	\$3,400	\$2,696	79%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$6,083	72%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$2,261	57%
Other		\$600	
Total U.S.	\$105,000	\$91,025	87%
Canada*	\$7,000	\$7,922	113%
New Zealand	\$3,500	\$4,513	129%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$1,600	\$2,500	156%
Manchester	\$300	\$435	145%
UK Total	\$1,900	\$2,935	154%
Australia	\$1,500	\$2,008	134%
France	\$300	\$378	126%
Total	\$119,200	\$108,781	94%
Should be	\$116,000	\$101,500	88%
* Raised goal			

FBI probe against Somalis targets rights of workers

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

MINNEAPOLIS—Pretrial proceedings for two women charged with supporting “terrorism” are being used by the government to further its assault on political rights.

Hawo Mohammed Hassan, 64, and Amina Farah Ali, 34, originally from Somalia, are U.S. citizens who live in Rochester, Minnesota.

They were charged last year with raising money for al-Shabab, an armed Islamist group fighting the U.S.-backed government in Somalia. Both have pleaded not guilty. If convicted they face up to 15 years in prison.

The two are charged with “conspiracy” to provide material support to al-Shabab through door-to-door collections and with making false statements to the FBI.

One of the women, Ali, faces 12 additional counts of providing material support to al-Shabab for allegedly sending it \$8,600 between 2008 and 2009.

The case is part of a broader probe of the Somali community in Minnesota that has resulted in charges against 19 people in the state.

The FBI claims the women sometimes made open appeals for support of “violent jihad in Somalia,” and that fund-raising was merely a ruse.

Defense attorneys argue that the two women were carrying out activity protected by the First Amendment. Federal prosecutor Jeffrey Paulsen responded that “fund-raising for a designated FTO [Foreign Terrorist Organization] is conduct, not speech.”

Government lawyers are citing the U.S. Supreme Court 2010 ruling that “even material support meant to promote peaceful conduct ‘can further terrorism in multiple ways.’”

The government’s case rests largely on wiretaps, in most cases the FBI’s summaries of translations.

The eavesdropping was massive. Defense attorney Daniel Scott, who represents Ali, wrote in a motion that agents tapped Ali’s phone for 10 months, intercepted 30,000 calls, and searched her garbage two times a week.

Scott recently wrote a memorandum asking the federal judge to stop the government from using the wiretapped conversations that were gathered under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act,

also known as FISA. Under FISA, FBI agents send a request to a secret FISA court that rubber stamps warrants for wiretapping and other spy operations.

“The government sits secure in its knowledge that it can now wiretap, video tap, search and invade the privacy of anyone in the United States for months if not years on end for basically any purpose, so long as at least a ‘significant’ purpose is to search for foreign intelligence,” wrote Scott.

Scott compared the FISA proceedings to the Star Chamber, the judicial authority established under the British monarchy in the 1400s that was not bound by common law and had no juries.

“The evidence is brought in secret, its significance is determined in secret and the verdict is arrived at in secret,” wrote Scott.

U.S. states cut funding for AIDS medications

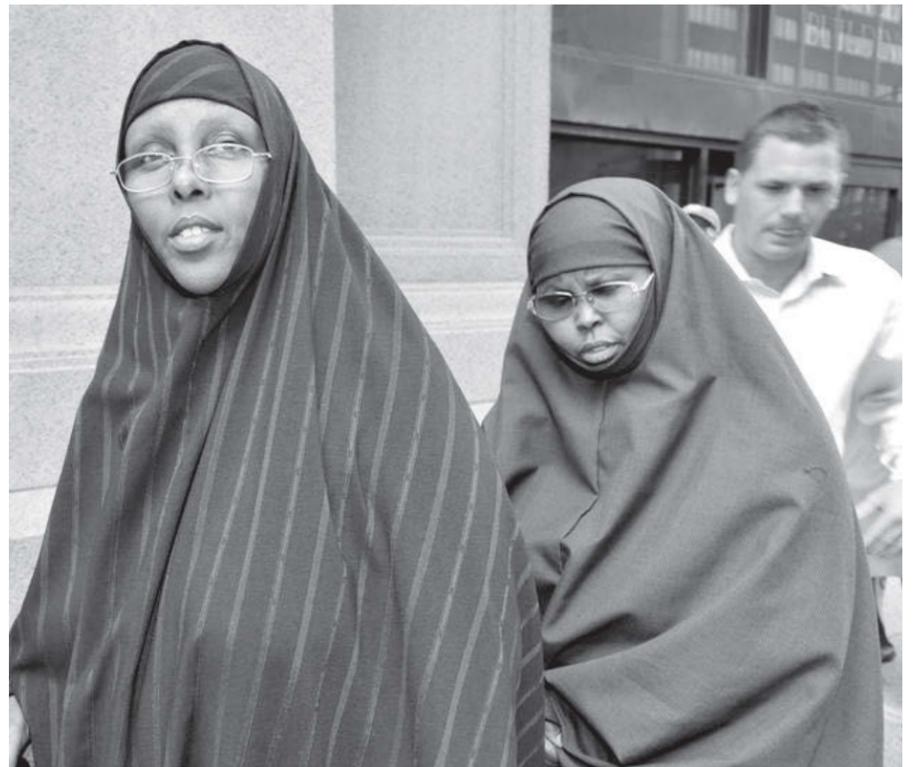
BY HARRY D’AGOSTINO

At the same time that many workers are losing their health insurance through layoffs or cuts to benefits by employers, state governments are reducing access to medications for those with HIV.

Nearly 174,000 people in the United States receive antiretroviral drugs through AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). The programs cover low-income patients who cannot afford the drugs and don’t have insurance that covers these medications.

Many states are chopping those who are eligible by lowering the income threshold that qualifies. Illinois is set to cut eligibility from 500 percent of the federal poverty line (\$54,450 a year) to 300 percent (\$32,670 dollars). Officials in Florida are considering halving the state’s income limit to \$21,780 a year. Those who lack insurance and have to buy AIDS medications out of pocket spend an estimated \$18,000 annually.

The state of Georgia has cut its funding for AIDS drug assistance by \$100,000. Virginia has implemented medical criteria that judges some people “too healthy” to receive subsidies for antiretroviral drugs. Thomas Decker, for example, was laid off from a print shop, bought insurance



Somali defendants Hawo Mohammed Hassan (left) and Amina Farah Ali leave St. Paul, Minnesota, courtroom after August 2010 hearing. They were among targets of massive spying and frame-up operation by FBI, all justified on pretext of combating “terrorism.”

through COBRA as long as he could, and then turned to Virginia ADAP. He lost his subsidies because his immune system improved!

In Cuba, where workers and farmers made a revolution and replaced the wealthy families in power, work-

ing people have access to expensive antiretrovirals without charge. Although Caribbean countries have a high rate of AIDS, Cuba’s infection rate is among the lowest in the world, and only a sixth that of the rate in the United States.

Broad spy powers renewed

Continued from front page

of constitutional protections came at the initiative of liberals after the Watergate scandal of the 1970s. Self-proclaimed “civil libertarians” pushed to create these special snoopers’ courts as a way to help the government spy on workers by setting up phony “checks and balances.”

An FBI request to the FISA court need not include even a pretense of factual justification. The “court” cannot deny an investigation “certified” by the FBI as having to do with “terrorism” or “espionage.” A person targeted by Section 215 has no right to legally challenge it. Any entity forced to turn over records, a public library or doctor’s office for example, is prohibited even from telling anyone about it.

The FBI applied for—and was granted “permission” for—more than 1,500 electronic surveillance operations and other searches last year.

Democratic senator Ron Wyden, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the Justice Department “interpretation” of Section 215 is even more sweeping and invasive in practice than its language would lead one to believe. “When the American people find out how their government has secretly interpreted the Patriot Act, they will be stunned and they will be angry,” he said. Sen. Mark Udall, who is also on the Intelligence Committee, made similar remarks.

The two senators notwithstanding, “the American people” have no way to “find out,” since the Justice Department’s interpretation of Section 215 remains classified.

The Obama administration had no comment.

A second Patriot Act provision that was renewed sanctions roving wiretaps, allowing the police to listen in on an individual’s phone conversations no matter what phone they’re using.

The third provision is known as the “Lone Wolf” section. It authorizes spying on anyone the government brands a “terrorist” even without evidence of connection to a government-targeted group or foreign government.

In the Senate, the vote was 72 to 23 in favor of the bill. Among those opposed was Republican senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. Paul demanded a full debate on the Patriot Act, which he said is an invasion of privacy. He backed two amendments to the act that failed. One would have exempted gun purchase records from the documents the police can request a business turn over. The other would make the police, not banks, responsible for “suspicious activity reports” on individuals’ financial activities.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, “We would be giving terrorists the opportunity to plot attacks against our country, undetected,” if the measures were not renewed. Attorney General Eric Holder said, “We never want to see these acts, these provisions, expire.”

Communists open center in Manchester, UK

MANCHESTER, England—The Manchester branch of the Communist League in the United Kingdom celebrated the opening of its new hall May 28. Some 20 participants heard presentations by league leaders Jonathan Silberman and Pete Clifford, which were followed by discussion. Attendees included three new *Militant* subscribers and a number of workers who volunteered to help construct the hall. “The opening of this center couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Silberman. “It coincides with increased responsiveness among broad layers of working people deeply impacted by three years of the capitalist crisis.” Clifford talked about experiences selling the *Militant* door to door in working-class neighborhoods in the city, where volunteers sold 21 subscriptions in the last 10 days. “One woman said, ‘I’ll tell you bluntly, there are too many immigrants.’ Following some sharp debate on the question in which we explained the need to fight for legalization for all undocumented immigrants as part of defending the unity and fighting capacity of the working class, she decided to subscribe to the paper. ‘I’m telling you bluntly, we need a revolution!’ she said.”

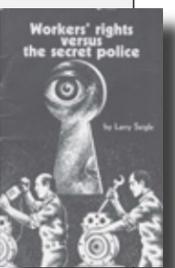
Having already achieved its quota of 35 subscriptions, the Manchester branch decided to raise the local goal to 45, the second increase during the six-week drive. The branch in London increased its quota, for the third time, from 100 to 120.

—Caroline Bellamy

Workers’ Rights versus the Secret Police

by Larry Seigle

Since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups.—\$5



pathfinderpress.com

U.S.-Chinese relationship marked by military rivalry

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In mid-May Gen. Chen Bingde, chief of staff of China's People's Liberation Army, took part in what was the highest-level military visit to the United States since Beijing had suspended such exchanges in January of last year following Washington's \$6.3 billion arms deal with Taiwan. Although presented as a warming of relations between the two, the visit underscores above all that the U.S. imperialist rulers view China as their most formidable economic and military rival—today and evermore so into the foreseeable future.

U.S. admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he hoped the visit would lead to more regular exchange and “a bit of a relationship” with “some trust and transparency.” Amid building tensions both sides seek to avoid open conflict. Reuters paraphrased Mullen as expressing concern that any “miscommunications or mishaps do not inadvertently spin out of control.”

At the same time, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Republican chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee, objected to the decision to allow General Bingde to tour what she called sensitive U.S. military facilities.

The U.S. rulers nervously watch as Beijing accelerates its military development, projects its navy further from its shores, and expands its economic and diplomatic influence from Africa to Latin America.

One place the two competing interests intersect is in Pakistan, both a longtime close ally of Beijing and a key war ally of Washington, which it depends on for massive military and economic aid. The Beijing-Islamabad alliance is marked by their shared rivalry with New Delhi. Washington, for its part, seeks to de-escalate tensions on the Indian subcontinent and wield its alliance with the governments of both India and Pakistan as part of its grand strategy to contain China's growing influence in the broader region.

General Bingde sought to downplay China's military advances during his trip. “China does not have the capability to challenge the United States,” he insisted at a May 18 joint news conference at the Pentagon. The Chinese official said Beijing's military is technologically at least 20 years behind Washington. But recent Chinese advances give reason to assume its development track will not run parallel to that of Washington. The Chinese military has taken advantage of U.S. advances to leap over stages.

China's draft military budget this year is 12.7 percent higher than its spending last year, while Washington is looking to cut its military budget.

In April Beijing conducted the second flight of its J-20 stealth fighter jet, unveiled in January. Following the most recent test, the Jamestown Foundation, a Washington-based think tank, described the J-20 as “a high-performance stealth aircraft . . . superior in most, if not all, cardinal performance parameters against the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.” A U.S. F-117 stealth bomber shot down in Serbia in 1999 is believed to have ended up in China, according to *Investor's Business Daily*.

Beijing is building up its navy and increasingly conducting naval operations

farther from its shores. Chinese scientists have developed the world's first antiship ballistic missile, known as the “carrier killer,” capable of carrying out accurate strikes against aircraft carriers from a great distance. These steps mean that for the first time since World War II Washington's naval predominance is challenged.

The Chinese government claims the Yellow, East China, and South China seas as part of its economic territory, despite objections from Vietnam, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, which also claim parts of that region. Washington, too, asserts its “right” to sail throughout the Pacific and continues to arm the island of Taiwan off China's coast.

Contest over Pakistan

Pakistan's parliament condemned the May 2 assassination of Osama bin Laden on Pakistani soil by U.S. Navy SEALs as a violation of the country's sovereignty. One Pakistani official “joked” that they might let Chinese military experts “take a look” at the wreckage of the U.S. high-tech stealth helicopter that crashed at bin Laden's compound.

Following a visit to Pakistan by John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Islamabad agreed to return the remains of the helicopter.

Chinese premier Wen Jiabao welcomed Pakistani prime minister Yousef Gilani to Beijing May 18, where Wen announced the Chinese government will provide Pakistan with up to 50 JF-17 fighter jets. Taking on U.S. accusations that Islamabad had been shielding bin Laden, Wen praised Pakistan's “huge sacrifices” in the “war against terrorism” and denounced Washington's raid.

Almost half of all the arms exported by China in the last decade—\$3.13 billion worth—went to Pakistan, which has the world's fifth largest army.

Upon returning to Pakistan, Gilani said that Beijing agreed to take over operations of Pakistan's Chinese-built Gwadar port in Baluchistan Province, close to the Straits of Hormuz. Islamabad has requested that Beijing also build a naval base there, although it is



January test flight of Chinese J-20 stealth fighter, considered by some military analysts as a formidable challenge to U.S. F-35 Joint Strike Fighter being developed by Lockheed Martin.

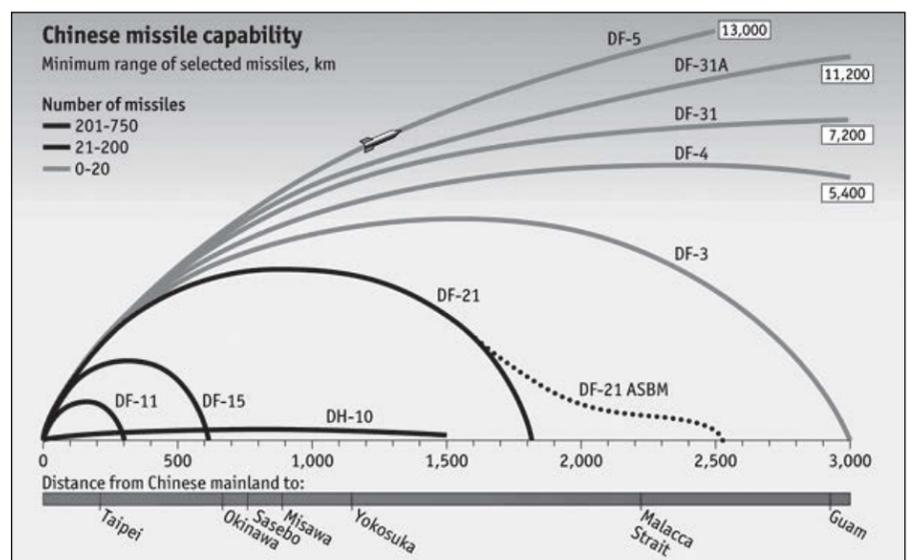
unclear whether Beijing is interested and capable of doing this now. This “would be the first overseas location offering support to the People's Liberation Army navy for future out-of-area missions,” note the *Financial Times*.

In another recent show of expanding military capabilities, China dispatched four military transport planes and a guided-missile frigate to Libya in March to evacuate some Chinese nationals working there. The *Investor's Business Daily* called the operation “unprecedented.” It said, “China has never had the will or capacity to project naval power this far—5,400 miles—from its capital.”

Meanwhile, Beijing continues to claim more market share in Latin Amer-

ica. China's Development Bank is building a railroad “dry canal” in Colombia to ship commodities from the Atlantic to the Pacific, thus competing with the U.S.-dominated Panama Canal. China is already Colombia's second-largest trading partner. The dry canal could push U.S. companies out of top place. China became Brazil's largest trading partner in 2010. It now ranks as the third biggest investor in Latin America.

According to the semiofficial People's Daily Online, China has become Africa's largest trading partner. The value of that trade grew from \$10 billion in 2000 to \$127 billion last year. China is also the number one trading partner for Australia, Japan, and New Zealand, as well as Asian semicolonial countries.



The Chinese military has what the U.S. Defense Department calls “the most active land-based ballistic- and cruise-missile program in the world.” Under development is a modified version of the DF-21, whose range is illustrated by the dotted line above. The designation ASBM—“antiship ballistic missile”—denotes its function to take out aircraft carriers, posing the first major challenge to U.S. naval worldwide supremacy.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 13, 1986

TOLEDO, Ohio—On May 20 arsonists broke into a downtown abortion clinic here and set off a firebomb that destroyed the clinic. Damage at the Center for Choice was estimated at \$160,000.

The clinic's director immediately announced the determination of her staff to continue providing abortion services to women. Within hours, they were set up again, sharing the facilities of another clinic, the Toledo Medical Services.

The response from local supporters of abortion rights was swift. A newly formed coalition, Responsible Choice—Northwest Ohio, has called a rally June 26 to mobilize support for abortion rights and to demand the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of those responsible for the attacks.



June 12, 1961

NEW YORK, June 6—Yesterday's five to four Supreme Court rulings requiring the Communist Party to register under the McCarran Act and upholding the “membership” clause of the Smith Act are the most dangerous legal blows yet delivered to the political freedom of the American people. For the first time in this country, a political party has for all practical purposes been outlawed. Sweeping new latitude has been given for the criminal prosecution of holders of dissident ideas.

The rulings were denounced as “a savage attack on the Bill of Rights” by the Socialist Workers Party in a statement here today. “These cruel and unconstitutional rulings are a culmination of 20 years of cold war against domestic civil liberties.”



June 6, 1936

The Socialist Party today is no longer what it was under the domination of the Old Guard. Into its ranks have entered a new generation of class-conscious militants, inspired by the spirit of the class struggle. The Workers Party, formed to advance the interests of revolutionary internationalism, cannot stand apart from this movement.

The National Committee of the Workers Party decides to dissolve the Workers Party as a separate organization and calls upon all its members to enter the ranks of the Socialist Party of America. We enter the Socialist Party as we are, with our ideas.

With our entry into the Socialist Party the press of the Workers Party suspends publication. The editorial staff will contribute to the Socialist Party press.

Supporters Monthly Appeal — invaluable to party work

BY SCOTT BREEN

“We’re well on our way to go through the \$700,000 mark in July, coming out of the international socialist education and active workers conference in June!” reports Carole Caron, a leader of the Supporters Monthly Appeal from Montreal.

Through the appeal, some 470 people across North America today give \$57,200 a month to support the political work of the Socialist Workers Party. So far this year, 243 contributors have raised their pledges, for a net increase of \$2,400 per month. In addition, 20 new contributors have been won to the effort. That brings the annual total to \$686,000.

These monthly contributions are a mainstay of the party’s activity, as they have been for more than a decade. Today—with a marked increase in political responsiveness to a revolutionary perspective among workers and farmers, in face of the consequences of three years of the world capitalist crisis—the need for the funds is growing in step with the political opportunities.

Organizers of the Supporters Monthly Appeal in 20 cities across North America have set plans to win \$1,100 a month in increases in June and July to surpass \$58,300 in regular monthly donations. That will bring the yearly total to \$700,000.

The appeal got a boost in New York and New Jersey in early May. Organizers met with more than 60 contributors, and 49 raised their contributions. That’s an increase of \$731 a month.

As part of the New York effort, many contributors, including organizers of the appeal visiting from elsewhere in North America, took part in a Saturday, May 7, dinner and program sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. Steve Clark, editor of the *Militant*, spoke about the capitalist crisis and the political response communist workers are finding as they reach out broadly in the working class to win new subscribers to the paper.

Contributions to the appeal, Clark said, “are indispensable to the work of the Socialist Workers Party today, and to the place of the *Militant* in the

weekly political activity of party members. Week in and week out, what the funds make possible politically comes through in the pages of the paper.”

“The discussions we had with contributors at their apartments, in coffee shops, and elsewhere made a big difference,” said Jane Harris from Newark, New Jersey. “We were able to talk politics, point to articles in the *Militant* about what the party is doing, and in that way explain the need to increase monthly contributions to meet new openings. People responded. That’s why supporters contribute—communist politics.”

Raises by contributors in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Chicago totaled \$770 a month. Most recently, six contributors in Toronto, five in Vancouver, two in Atlanta, and eight in San Francisco raised their pledges a total of \$276. Party supporters in Montreal, Boston, and Miami are setting



Militant/Rachele Fruit

Atlanta socialist Lisa Potash (left) and farmer Gladys Williams (center) talk with new *Militant* subscriber Frances Mathis in Morven, Georgia. Monthly contributions to Socialist Workers Party by supporters make it possible to take advantage of new political opportunities.

an example by organizing to meet with every contributor by mid-July.

If you would like to make a regular monthly contribution or increase your pledge—in order to help build the com-

munist movement and bring closer the day when the working class ends the dictatorship of capital—contact a local appeal organizer through the closest center listed on page 8.

‘Bosses don’t want us to have this paper’

Below are brief reports from volunteers organizing to expand the readership of the Militant. They help paint a picture of the political responsiveness by working people to the revolutionary working-class perspectives presented in the paper.

HOUSTON—We’re finding that a number of people we meet door to door want to talk with us again. We’re getting better results from callbacks to people who expressed an initial interest in the *Militant*’s revolutionary perspectives.

One woman, who works at a grocery chain, told us she “pretty much read the whole issue” before deciding to have us come back to pick up the subscription.

“I like that you are going out and talking with working people across the county,” she said. “Nobody is doing that, but you are.”

She said she saw a column by the editor saying the paper wants more new readers, and decided she could be one of them.

A new reader in Houston bought a subscription for her husband who is in jail and asked us to come back again with more books.

—Jacquie Henderson

SEATTLE—We stopped by the house of a couple who recently subscribed in the Georgetown neighborhood. One of these new readers remarked that when she subscribed she had not seen a paper like the *Militant* since the *People’s Weekly World*, the newspaper associated with the Communist Party, went out of print. (She called it the *Daily Worker*, the name the CP used for many years. The CP stopped publishing its paper in 2009 and told its readers to go online.) She said she might know other people in the neighborhood that would be interested in the *Militant*.

This time we talked to her husband, who has started reading the *Militant*. He said they had received a couple of issues and that it’s a great paper, and a great deal for \$5. He, too, said they probably know some people who would like the *Militant*. He said he and his wife would “talk about this together and see what we can do.” Cecelia Moriarity and I left him three back copies of the paper and subscription blanks, and we will follow up with them.

A hairdresser who subscribed explained how she had sold her house and her business just before the economy nosedived in late 2007. “I work for someone else now, and I rent a place to live. It’s less pressure for me, but it doesn’t solve everything,” she said. “There are still all the other people losing homes and already homeless. I’ll give that paper a try.”

—Mary Martin

MINNEAPOLIS—Socialist workers from here traveled to Marshfield, Wisconsin, recently to talk to subscribers and to knock on doors to see if we could meet other workers interested in becoming readers of the *Militant*.

We sold a subscription to a young

meat packer at a ConAgra plant in Abbotsford, a small town of 1,500 north of Marshfield. He’s had a job there three years and hates the way the bosses treat workers. When we explained what the *Militant* is about, he signed up. He said he wanted to learn about a revolutionary movement that will change conditions for working people.

—Frank Forrestal

SYDNEY, Australia—We had a successful trip to Cessnock, a town in a coal mining and farming district north of here. Six new readers signed up for subscriptions. Two of them are hospital workers who told us about the moves by the new conservative state government in new South Wales to restrict the bargaining rights of public sector workers, the same kinds of laws being passed in Wisconsin!

Three other subscriptions were sold during doorknock sales in working-class areas in western Sydney. A workmate at a Sydney meatpacking plant also bought a subscription.

—Ron Poulsen

MINNEAPOLIS—A recent subscriber in Keokuk, Iowa, told us she “was very happy to meet a revolutionary.” She is a laid-off Machinist union member who regularly joins the picket line for the locked-out Roquette workers in Keokuk.

When I showed her the paper, she said, “Oh yes, I’m familiar with the *Militant*. It is the only intelligent paper I know.” The bosses and the government “don’t want us to have this paper.”

She bought a subscription, a copy of *Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, and paid an extra \$5 so a friend of hers who is locked out by Roquette could also start receiving the *Militant* every week.

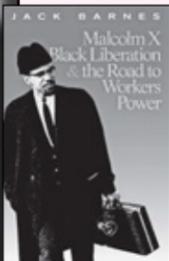
“There are some big fights to come,” she said, discussing what capitalism is doing to working people and how solidarity can be won for workers in struggle. “This is just the beginning.”

—Natalie Morrison

Special offers with *Militant* subscription

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
by Jack Barnes ~~\$20~~ **\$10 with subscription**

This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.



Changing Face of U.S. Politics
Working-class politics and the unions
by Jack Barnes ~~\$24~~ **\$10 with subscription**

A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist



Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?
by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ **\$5 with subscription**

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning
by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ **\$2 with subscription**

Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2

Pathfinder Press

Interest in U.S. class struggle, Cuba high at Iran book fair

BY TONY HUNT

TEHRAN, Iran—"I want this book," said a man at the Pathfinder Books stand at the Tehran International Book Fair. He was pointing to an ad for *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* that he saw in another book, *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution*, which his son had bought the previous day.

Twenty copies of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters were sold at the May 4-14 book fair. Twelve visitors to the stand also picked up *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution: From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces*, by Cuban revolutionary leader Luis Alfonso Zayas.

The Tehran fair is one of the largest cultural events in the Middle East. Large numbers of people came from all parts of Iran, often travelling many hours on buses. Pathfinder Books from London has brought its books here for close to two decades.

Two young men from the city of Shiraz came looking for the Pathfinder stand. A friend back home had sent them text messages with Pathfinder titles he wanted: *The Long View of History* by George Novack, *The Working Class*

and *the Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes, and *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* by Frederick Engels.

A young woman studying civil engineering picked up *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Engels and *Lenin's Final Fight*. "I don't need these books for my studies, but I need these books," she said.

A man from Tabriz bought *The Case of Leon Trotsky*. "All we know about is Lenin and Stalin; I want to know what Leon Trotsky was about," he said.

Top seller at the stand was *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, with 24 copies sold. An Arab woman from Khuzestan Province, bordering Iraq in the south, was attracted to the book's description of the stance of the Russian Bolsheviks on the national question under V.I. Lenin's leadership.

One young man who had bought the *Workers Power* book in 2010 came to ask, "What's next?" He decided to get *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, also by Barnes. Two young men who had read Farsi translations of Pathfinder titles on women's emancipation decided to buy the English edition of *Woman's Evolution* by Evelyn Reed.



Farsi-language hall at Tehran book fair held in May. Top sellers among Pathfinder titles translated into Farsi included *The Communist Manifesto*, *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*, *Their Transformation and Ours*, *The Stewardship of Nature*, and volume 1 of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Two volumes of a three-volume Farsi translation of this title were on sale at the fair at the stand of its publisher, Nashre Gôlazin.

An Afghan youth, 18, came by with his father and younger brother. He wanted books to help him find out

about the world outside of Iran and Afghanistan. He said he had little money but bought the pamphlet version of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

Talaye Porsoo, which has published a number of translations of Pathfinder titles, reported selling more than 700 books, almost twice that of last year. Their top seller was *The Communist Manifesto*. They also reported good sales of new titles, such as *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*, *Their Transformation and Ours*, *The Stewardship of Nature*, and the first volume of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Subscribers in Egypt write to the 'Militant'

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The *Militant* recently sent a mailing to 22 new readers in Egypt who subscribed to the paper at the Tahrir Book Fair in early April. We wanted to know if they were receiving the paper, and if they had any comments. The *Militant* received about a dozen replies.

Heidi Hisham Hanafy from Cairo responded, "I do receive the *Militant*, usually on Thursdays. The paper in general is quite interesting. I read some news that I don't find on TV so it's a good opportunity for widening my knowledge."

Hanafy was disappointed that recent issues had no coverage of events in Egypt. "Not because I'm an Egyptian," she wrote, "but because the situation is still intense, and since you've been writing about it I think you should update what you started."

"Much to my surprise, the *Militant* has been showing up regularly at my apartment," wrote Jason Youmans. "Thanks for checking up."

Most of the new subscribers say

they are receiving the *Militant* regularly, although some report the paper is occasionally late. Three subscribers said they have not yet received anything. We've fixed two of those addresses, and are trying an alternate address for the third.

"I have just received the latest issue of the *Militant*. It's coming on time now!" wrote Alaa Murad, who helped the paper's volunteers while we were in Egypt get the story on the textile workers struggles in Mahalla.

"I really enjoyed the previous issues, especially the articles on Cuba and the Bay of Pigs. But more than anything I really like what the *Militant* offers compared to the liberal media. How different its discourse. It is really admirable. Also, I love the '25, 50, & 75 Years Ago' section!"

Many generous financial contributions were made by workers in the United States to help get the team of *Militant* volunteers to Egypt. In all, 29 contributors sent in a total of \$4,000 to help get

the *Militant* and books about the lessons of the working-class struggle for power into the hands of students and workers in Egypt following the uprising that toppled the hated Hosni Mubarak regime.

Workers counter rail bosses' 'blood money' payments

BY SETH GALINSKY

Railroad industry bonuses are a good illustration of what many class-conscious workers call "blood money," payments designed to convince working people to accept speedup, wage cuts, concession contracts, and dangerous work conditions instead of standing up to the bosses.

Communist workers and others turn the tables on the bosses by contributing this blood money to the Socialist Workers Party's Capital Fund, which helps finance long-range plans of the party.

For the last 25 years, the rail bosses have been cutting crew sizes in their drive for profits. Prior to 1985 most train crews had four workers: an engineer, a conductor, and two brakemen. In 1985 the bosses got top union officials to agree to contracts that included slashing crew size. Today most crews have only an engineer and conductor—some trains are operated with only one! Crew size cutbacks have also been imposed on passenger trains.

The fatality rate for railroad brake, signal, and switch operators—among the most dangerous jobs in the United States—has been climbing.

Jim Altenberg, an Amtrak worker in the San Francisco Bay area, contributed his \$1,000 bonus to the Capital Fund.

"This represents an annual bit of blood money that some conductors on Amtrak get after the union agreed a few years ago to cut the number of conductors on many passenger trains from

three to two," Altenberg explains.

"Everyone now works with a two-person crew every day. You just hope nothing happens along the way."



Dan Fein in New York contributed \$118.32 to the fund.

"After my employer, Perrigo, fired me last month for missing work to go to Egypt, they mailed me this 'bonus' check!" Fein says.

Fein was one of several communist workers who participated in a book fair in April across the street from Egypt's Tahrir Square, selling subscriptions to the *Militant* along with books on revolutionary, working-class politics published by Pathfinder Press. The team also joined a demonstration by working people in the square.

"I gladly turn over this bonus check to the communist movement," Fein writes. "On my firing—what job could be worth saving at the expense of not going to the book fair in Cairo to meet fighting workers and youth who overthrew Mubarak and are now looking for the way forward—some of them along revolutionary lines? Building the revolutionary workers movement in Tahrir Square, as I now do in New York, was truly a 'bonus.'"



Workers who want to contribute blood money to the party's Capital Fund can do so by writing or calling distributors of the *Militant* listed on page 8.



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Militant volunteers Natalie Morrison and Dan Fein (left) sell paper and Pathfinder books at April 1 demonstration in Tahrir Square demanding political rights in Egypt.

'To U.S. capitalist rulers, workers are presumed guilty'

Below is an excerpt from *A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. The booklet tells the story of the victorious eight-year battle waged against the political frame-up of Mark Curtis, a union activist and socialist sentenced in 1988 to 25 years in prison on trumped-up charges of attempted rape of a Black teenager and burglary. Curtis,

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

a meat packer, was arrested and beaten by Des Moines cops in March of that year. At the time he was involved in a fight to defend 17 coworkers at the Swift packinghouse who had been arrested in an immigration raid. The excerpt below explains what Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, said about the assault on presumption of innocence involved in the frame-up and the stakes for working people. Curtis won his freedom in 1996 through the efforts of a broad international defense campaign. Copyright © 1996 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



BY NAOMI CRAINE

On the eve of Curtis's trial, the breadth of solidarity with his international defense effort was reflected at a September 4, 1988, rally at the Des Moines Civic Center. More than four hundred



Above, Militant; Inset, Militant/Student Singer
Above: Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, speaks at Sept. 4, 1988, rally to demand charges be dropped against Mark Curtis a few days before his trial. Seated from left, Curtis; defense committee activists Ellen Whitt and Nan Bailey; Hazel Zimmerman, treasurer of defense committee. Inset: March 12, 1988, demonstration in defense of 17 meat packers arrested in immigration raid at Swift packinghouse where Curtis worked. Curtis was active in defense when he was arrested on trumped-up charges of attempted rape and burglary.

people turned out to hear a wide array of fighters discuss Curtis's case and how it related to their own experiences in struggles.

Among those speaking at that meeting was veteran civil rights and political activist Edna Griffin, who was then seventy-eight years old. . . .

The international speakers panel also included Susan Mnumzana, at the time secretary for women's affairs at the United Nations observer mission of the African National Congress of South Africa; novelist and poet Piri Thomas; and Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

"Mark Curtis will not get a fair trial," Barnes told the meeting. "The courtroom is not where innocence and guilt will be decided and it is not where justice will be found."

"No one in the world is obligated to prove Mark Curtis's innocence," Barnes said, pointing to the key political considerations that Curtis's backers needed to keep in mind when the trial opened September 7. "The presumption of innocence has taken hundreds of years for working people to win. It is not a legal fiction. It is not something that you have the right to pick or choose, depending on what you like, what you identify with,

the individual involved.

"This is very recent in human history," Barnes said. "We shouldn't take it for granted, because the Des Moines police department, the Polk County prosecutor, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the liberal newspapers, all are trying to take it away. Not only from Mark, but from everyone."

From the point of view of the U.S. capitalist rulers, Barnes continued, working people *are* guilty. That's the presumption. Workers, farmers, and all supporters of democratic rights, on the other hand, cherish the right to presumption of innocence. This is a right that the toilers have fought to wrest from the ruling classes over hundreds of years.

The presumption of innocence, said Barnes, "is one of the most important milestones on the march to human solidarity and to the ability of the great majority of the world to act as fully human beings. No one, I repeat, is obligated to prove Mark Curtis's innocence."

For serfs under feudalism, for Blacks under slavery, and for women during most of the history of class-divided society, Barnes noted, there was no such thing as the presumption of innocence. There was, simply, the lord's, slavemaster's, or husband's property.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4025 S. Western Ave. Zip: 90062. Tel: (323) 295-2600. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 719 NE 79th St. Zip: 33138. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381063 Zip: 33238-1063. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 476 1/2 Edgewood Ave. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 525-5200. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 806 W. Washington Blvd. Suite 202. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 455-0111. E-mail: Chicagoswp@att.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwestoffice.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Bos-

ton. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 3701 Pulaski Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 225-1270. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA: Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing

"It's not that you are innocent until proven guilty. You are innocent. *Innocent*," Barnes said. "This is a country where everything is the opposite. It's the presumption of guilt that dominates in the 'democratic' United States. Saturday night is open season on any young Black man in the United States, on every young Puerto Rican. It's open season on women much of the time. It's not the presumption of innocence but the horror of guilt."

The rulers' goals in this case are large ones, Barnes explained. "They want cities like Des Moines not to be places where people will fight for social change. They want people like Mark Curtis to quit moving to Des Moines to look for a job.

"But on that they will fail. They want workers in the packing industry, paperworkers, miners, workers of all kinds who will fight, to get the message that there are limits on your fighting."

The conflict over this frame-up has grown into something bigger than the ruling class was bargaining for, Barnes said. "There are two sides forming on a world scale. This truly will win or lose as an international battle in which the stakes are: Can this frame-up be gotten away with? Or will the attempt to do this to working people at this stage in history cost them more than it's worth?"

The ruling class didn't believe that the Curtis defense effort would be able to rally, in a unified way, workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, women, elected officials, socialists, communists, and religious figures.

They also misjudged the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, Barnes said, assuming the socialists would simply view defending Curtis as their own fight, which others could support. "But I think we have found out something in this fight," Barnes emphasized. "Mark is *part* of all these supporters. Fellow workers in New Caledonia, fighters in Central America, miners in Nottinghamshire turn to Mark as a brother, as one of them."

Barnes concluded by explaining that if the international defense effort continues and increases, "There is no way on earth they will succeed in their goal. They will not put Mark Curtis in prison for twenty-five years. They will not get him down on his knees."

June BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25%
DISCOUNT

A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice The Mark Curtis Story
by Naomi Craine
Story of the victorious eight-year battle to defeat the political frame-up of Mark Curtis, a union activist and socialist sentenced in 1988 to 25 years in prison on trumped-up charges of attempted rape and burglary.
\$8. **Special price: \$6**

The Challenge of the Left Opposition (1923-25)
by Leon Trotsky
\$30. **Special price: \$22.50**

Revolution and the 20th Century Novel
by Paul Siegel
\$18. **Special price: \$13.50**

America's Revolutionary Heritage
by George Novack
A historical materialist analysis of key chapters in U.S. history, from genocide against Native Americans to the American Revolution, the Civil War, and rise of industrial capitalism.
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Our History Is Still Being Written The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution
by Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, Moisés Sio Wong, Mary-Alice Waters
\$20. **Special price: \$15**

Intensifiquemos la lucha (Intensify the Struggle)
by Nelson Mandela
\$15. **Special price: \$11.25**

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL JUNE 30

Workers power—not welfare state

Continued from front page

door to door having political discussions with workers and selling subscriptions.

On the conference's opening day, team members and others from the United States and elsewhere will fill in their final subscription figures with magic markers on a banner-sized blowup of the scoreboard on the front page, hanging at the front of the hall.

* * *

During the six-week drive, supporters of the *Militant* have gained experience talking with thousands of working people, whose receptivity to the need for a revolutionary fight for workers power is growing under the cumulative blows of joblessness, rising prices at the gas pump and grocery store, higher rents, burdensome mortgage and other debt, and more.

"We met workers who are struggling with trying to make ends meet, working two or three jobs, not going to the doctor because they can't afford it," reports Militant Army volunteer Natalie Morrison from a recent trip to Eveleth, a small town in Minnesota's northern iron-mining region.

Talking with three young men in the yard in front of an apartment building there, Morrison commented that it's becoming the norm "for workers to make eight or nine dollars an hour. One of them said, 'Really? Where can I find a job that pays that much?' and they all laughed."

More challenging than talking about the devastating consequences of the dictatorship of capital, however, is presenting a road forward for workers and farmers to overturn it. How do we explain that the struggle for workers power is not a fight for "big government." That working-class revolution has nothing to do with establishing a welfare state to beat all welfare states—contrary to how it is often presented both by wings of the capitalist rulers and by middle-class radicals of social-democratic, Stalinist, and other stripes.

Explaining how workers and farmers, once we've conquered power from the capitalist ruling families, can join together to begin transforming both social relations and ourselves—starting in our neighborhoods and workplaces, not by creating massive, bureaucratized state institutions—will be central to presentations and classes at the socialist conference in Ohio.

Through the door-to-door subscription effort, supporters of the *Militant* are also gaining experience in how to explain the stakes for working people in defending women's right to abortion. That, too, is a topic there's sometimes a temptation to steer clear of with a fellow worker who opposes abortion rights, or has questions about it, for religious or other reasons.

But having that discussion is essential to explaining the "interconnections between the workers' struggle against class exploitation and women's struggle for economic independence and full equality," as Jack

Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, says in *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*—one of the four books on special offer with an introductory subscription to the *Militant* (see ad on page 6).

For instance, describing a recent sales trip to Marshfield, a town of some 18,000 people in northern Wisconsin, Frank Forrestal of Minneapolis reports discussions about "layoffs at the big hospital in town" and in "the lumber and modular home industry" in the area; worsening job conditions and abusive bosses at a ConAgra packinghouse; and tornado destruction in Joplin, Missouri, and across the Midwest. Despite a front-page headline in the local paper about a Marshfield resident indicted that weekend on charges of planning to kill a doctor at a Madison abortion clinic, Forrestal says, "We were surprised that we didn't run into much discussion on this going door to door."

But if the Marshfield report is any indication, members of the *Militant* subscription team didn't talk about abortion rights either. Less reason to be "surprised"!

According to the report on the Minnesota Iron Range trip, team members there had at least one discussion on this important working-class question. Militant Army volunteer Tom Fiske sold a subscription to a young woman who works a job in the area and is married to a mine worker. "She is for abortion rights and is looking forward to any fights to defend them," Natalie Morrison reports.

Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing this medical procedure, efforts by Democratic and Republican politicians on a state and federal level to push back this victory have fallen heaviest on working women, especially those living in small towns and rural areas—such as the Iron Range and Marshfield. Today 87 percent of U.S. counties—where 35 percent of women live—have no hospital or clinic that will perform abortions.

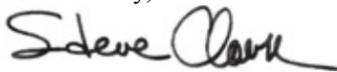
One of the main presentations and a class at the upcoming socialist conference will focus on the political weight and place of the fight for women's rights in building a revolutionary working-class movement in the United States and worldwide.

* * *

By this time next week, the banner-sized scoreboard at the Ohio gathering will record, in big handwritten numbers, how Militant Army volunteers did in making—and going over—the international subscription goal. To find out the results, check the more unassuming chart in our next issue, which will be printed and mailed June 23.

On to well over 2,000!

In solidarity,



Editor

Illinois miners

Continued from front page

tract, and only did so following a 175-1 vote by miners to go on strike.

Willow Lake miners explained that the 2007 contract did not provide for a pension plan. Instead, it contained a 401(k) savings plan to which the company and individual workers made contributions. A special concern among miners is that there is no union safety committee.

When the contract expired in April, the Boilermakers union agreed to step aside, opening the way for miners to petition for a new union election. Miners at Willow Lake contacted the UMWA, gathered enough support for an election, and went on to win a majority.

The Willow Lake mine, which opened in 2002 and produced 3.4 million tons of coal last year with 444 workers, has a long record of safety violations. Since 2008 Peabody has been fined \$230,000 for dangerous conditions at Willow Lake, including inadequate roof support and excessive coal dust. In 2009 the mine had an accident rate more than double the national average.

In June 2010, two months after the disaster at A.T. Massey's Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia, where 29 miners were killed, the Mine Safety and Health Administration threatened legal action against Big Ridge and Peabody, citing numerous instances of disregard for miners' safety. Peabody responded that its safety record was improving. A month later, in July 2010, a supervisor at the mine was killed when a shuttle car hauling coal struck him—the first death at the mine.

While workers who voted for the union spoke proudly of their victory, many also said the fight was far from over. Most anticipated that Peabody would challenge the vote (which it did May 26) and that winning a new contract with real pension and safety provisions would be a battle. The union also has the challenge of winning over nearly half the miners who voted not to have a union.

UMWA communications director Phil Smith told the *Militant*, "We expect the National Labor Relations Board to uphold the election."

The UMWA election victory has sparked a big discussion among miners and other workers throughout the area about how workers can defend themselves. Willow Lake is one of close to a dozen mines in the area. All the others are nonunion, and there is only one other union mine in the entire state of Illinois.

This reporter along with another *Militant* volunteer sold 10 subscriptions—five to miners—and more than 20 single issues of the paper during a two-day reporting trip. One subscription and 14 single issues were sold to miners at the Willow Lake mine portal.

One coal miner approached our team at a nearby McDonald's to say, "Workers didn't need unions." He was quite agitated about the *Militant's* support for miners joining the UMWA to better defend themselves. He later returned to talk more and apologized for being so strident in the discussion earlier. "Maybe you don't want to hear my opinion," he said.

After we explained we were interested in his views, and a couple other workers joined the discussion, we talked about what was happening to working people under the capitalist crisis and how workers need to organize and fight to sweep away this exploitative system. The miner left the discussion with a *Militant* under his arm, saying he would think more about the questions we had been discussing.

Correction

The article "Abortion rights curbed by Indiana state gov't," which appeared on the front page of the June 6 issue, inaccurately reported that the Indiana law requires abortion providers to tell women seeking the procedure "that abortion causes infertility" (emphasis added).

The text of the law says that the person performing the abortion must inform the patient of: "The risk of infection and hemorrhage; the potential danger to a subsequent pregnancy; and the potential danger of infertility."

The patient must also be informed that "human physical life begins when a human ovum is fertilized by a human sperm" and that "objective scientific information shows that a fetus can feel pain at or before twenty weeks."

Imperialists talk of long war on Libya

Continued from front page

on Gadhafi's compound May 24, with further bombardment the next few nights. NATO attacked eight Libyan ships in the port of Tripoli and other coastal locations May 19. Britain's top military commander, Gen. Sir David Richards, has called for expanding bombings of electrical grids and fuel depots. The civil war will remain stalemated if NATO forces "do not up the ante," Richards warned U.S. and other imperialist governments. London and Paris have approved deploying British Apaches and French Tiger attack helicopters, most often used to target and kill individuals in urban areas.

President Obama in a state visit to the United Kingdom told both houses of Parliament that imperialist military operations in Libya "could be a long slog," as a *Wall Street Journal* headline put it. This is a shift from Obama's initial stance that military intervention in Libya would be short and limited in scope.

Sections of the U.S. ruling class are criticizing the Obama administration's pullback, arguing it runs counter to Washington's long-term strategic interests. "We are denying NATO the aircraft that will tip the balance on the battlefield," wrote Leon Wieseltier in the May 26 *New Republic*. "We are . . . neither recognizing the rebel government nor releasing the funds

with which they may adequately arm themselves."

The Gadhafi regime's disregard for the conditions facing working people, combined with the imperialist assaults, have resulted in thousands of migrant workers, many from sub-Saharan Africa, fleeing in rickety boats for Europe. Hundreds have drowned along the way.

Although 21 NATO ships are patrolling the Mediterranean enforcing an arms embargo against Libya, they have hardly lifted a finger to help out. Some 250 refugees drowned off the Italian coast April 6. Another ship carrying 600 sank near Tripoli May 6. Nearly 500 people on two boats were never heard from again after leaving the Libyan coast in early May.

See you in two weeks!

The *Militant* will be taking a two-week break after this issue, which will be mailed out June 2. We will resume publication with issue number 24, which will be mailed out Thursday, June 23.