

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Five years after 9/11: Oppose U.S.-led wars, curbs on rights

—EDITORIAL, PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 36 SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

## 5,000 rally in Washington: 'Legalize all immigrants!'

BY DOUG NELSON

WASHINGTON—"U.S. Congress, legalization now!" read a banner facing the U.S. Capitol held up by 25 participants in a September 7 march and rally at the National Mall. The protest drew some 5,000 workers, unionists, and immigrant rights activists demanding legalization for undocumented immigrants and an end to deportations.

It was one of a series of immigrant rights demonstrations held during the week of Labor Day in a number of cities. Among the participants were labor union contingents from UNITE HERE, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the Laborers union.

Speakers at the rally included NAACP president Bruce Gordon, Janet Murguia, president of the National Council of La Raza, UNITE HERE president John Wilhelm, and Eliseo Medina, international vice president of SEIU. Several prominent Democrats also gave speeches, including Sen. Edward Kennedy, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, and Congress-

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## Pennsylvania town passes new, harsher anti-immigrant law

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA, September 12—At a hastily scheduled special meeting on September 8, the city council in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, passed on first reading a revised and revamped "Illegal Immigration Relief Act." The aim of the ordinance, according to Mayor Louis Barletta, who has championed the measure, is to "rid the city of illegal aliens and protect legal American workers."

Another special meeting took place today to hold both the second and third readings of the ordinance and pass it into law.

While no protest was planned at the September 12 city council meeting, Anna Arias, a leader of the Hazleton Area Latino Taskforce, told the *Militant*, "We are determined to keep fighting to overturn this mean-spirited attack on an important part of our community."

Efforts to adopt and put into effect an anti-immigrant measure in Hazleton have been widely reported across the United States and copied in a number of smaller cities, where local officials have attempted to place blame for the social crisis in the country on the back of undocumented workers.

These moves have been met with both political and legal challenges. Hundreds have demonstrated in

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## San Francisco Chinatown celebration: 'Socialist revolution brought equality for Chinese-Cubans'

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO—People from San Diego to Vancouver, British Columbia, filled an auditorium in the heart of Chinatown here September 9 for a panel discussion of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, a book-length interview with Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sio Wong.

The program was sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of America together with Pathfinder Press, the book's publisher, and Eastwind Books of San Francisco.

The audience of 180 people brought together students, workers, academic figures, and activists in Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino-American organizations. Some 40 percent of the audience were of Asian origin, and translation into Cantonese and Spanish was available for

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## 400 subscribe to 'Militant' at start of circulation drive

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The *Militant's* fall circulation campaign is off to a good start. We began counting subscriptions on August 24, when the issue came off the press featuring the letter by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes on Israel's murderous war on Lebanon (see "We are for whatever strengthens the confidence and capacity of the toilers" in September 4 *Militant*). Between then and the September 9–10 weekend, when the eight-week drive began, nearly 400 people subscribed.

These include 66 people renewing their subscriptions, some 17 percent of the total. *Militant* supporters are working to keep this rate up or increase it. That would mean winning nearly 500 renewals as part of the international goal of 2,600 subscriptions. Achieving the renewal quota would be an important step in expanding the *Militant's* long-term readership.

Reports on how this effort is combined with signing-up new readers are beginning to come in.

"On Sunday, September 10, several of us set up a table at 207th Street and Broadway, a working-class neighborhood in upper Manhattan," said a note from Alyson Kennedy, a *Militant* supporter in New York. "At one point, Manuel Sánchez and I went door-to-door to visit readers whose subs had expired

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## Imperialist war in Afghanistan intensifies

British general: Fiercest combat since Korean War

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON, September 10—Eight British soldiers were killed in combat in Afghanistan in August, and another 20 in the first 10 days of September, bringing the year's toll to 36. Lt. Gen. David Richards, commander of the NATO forces in the country, called the combat under way the worst sustained fighting the British military has faced since the 1950–53 Korean war. The casualties are the highest the British armed forces have suffered since the 1982 war against Argentina to maintain colonial control of the Malvinas islands off the South American coast.

NATO forces are engaged in the largest military operation since the imperialist alliance took command from Washington of the occupying forces in southern Afghanistan in July. The battle is raging in the southern province of Kandahar against the Taliban, the former ruling party that was toppled in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. The Taliban have reportedly taken control of at least one town in the area.

On September 7, James Jones, the U.S. general who is NATO's supreme allied



Crown Copyright via Getty Images/Cpl. Mike Fletcher  
British soldier watches the aftereffects of airstrike during fighting August 24 in southern Afghanistan.

commander, called for reinforcing the 19,000-strong NATO force in Afghanistan by an additional 2,500 soldiers. Washington has another 20,000 troops

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## Majority in Iraqi parliament propose a federated state

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—The majority bloc in Iraq's government—the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA)—has submitted legislation that would divide the

country into three autonomous regions within a substantially weakened federal state. Pressures in this direction have mounted steadily since 2003, when the U.S. military toppled Saddam Hussein's Baath Party regime.

The plan would divide Iraq into a Kurdish region in the north, a Shiite Arab region in the south, and a Sunni Arab region in central and western Iraq. Kurds

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## Tel Aviv lifts naval blockade of Lebanon

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The Israeli government ended its naval blockade of Lebanon September 8, as Lebanese Army troops and contingents of soldiers under the United Nations banner expanded their presence in the southern part of the country and the Italian navy began patrolling the coastline.

The UN force in southern Lebanon has grown to 3,500 and is expected to reach 5,000 within a week, with the arrival of hundreds of Spanish and French troops, according to press reports. The Israeli government has pledged to withdraw its remaining

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# Equatorial Guinea graduates its first class of Cuban-trained doctors

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL  
AND ARRIN HAWKINS

Seventy-three students received their medical diplomas at an August 1 ceremony in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea. They were the first class to graduate from the medical school in that nation in central Africa. The teaching facility, part of the National University of Equatorial Guinea, is directed and staffed by Cuban internationalist medical personnel.

The 73 included 20 youths who had studied five years at the medical school in the city of Bata, in the country's continental region, and spent their final year studying and doing practical training in Cuba at hospitals in the western province of Pinar del Río. The other 53, after studying five years in Cuba, completed their medical program working alongside Cuban doctors in clinics and hospitals in Equatorial Guinea.

At the ceremony one of the students, Beltrán Ekuá Pasialo, speaking on behalf of the graduating class, thanked the Cuban teachers who trained them. He said the duty of the newly graduated doctors was to promote the health and welfare "not only of the sons and daughters of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, but of all of humanity," citing Cuban independence fighter José Martí's words. "Our homeland is humanity."

Some 600 people attended the graduation, including students, family members, and top government officials of Equatorial Guinea headed

by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema. Other speakers included Health Minister Justino Obama Nve, university rector Carlos Nsé Nsuga, Cuban vice minister of health Roberto González Martín, and Cuba's ambassador to Equatorial Guinea, Víctor Dreke. Also part of the Cuban delegation attending the ceremony was Dr. Alexis Díaz Rodríguez, dean of the Ernesto Che Guevara school of medicine in Pinar del Río, where the Guinean youth studied. Díaz himself was the first dean of the Bata medical school.

Present for the day's celebration were many of the 144 members of Cuba's volunteer medical contingent in Equatorial Guinea, headed by Dr. Leonardo Ramírez. The doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel work alongside Guineans in each of the country's seven provinces and 18 districts, from the hospitals in Malabo and Bata, the two largest cities, to communities in remote rural areas. They play a vital role in helping confront the country's health problems, such as malaria, typhoid fever, intestinal parasites, river blindness, and outbreaks of cholera.

In an interview with the *Militant* in October 2005, Ramírez explained, "We don't just offer our medical services." Cuba's "goal is to strengthen Equatorial Guinea's own health-care service, run by Guineans and for them. We collaborate in their training. This is a principle behind all our medical missions in countries around the world."

Some 1,200 Cuban doctors were



Cuban internationalist medical volunteers, together with university and government officials from Equatorial Guinea, at graduation of first class from Cuban-run medical school in Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Víctor Dreke, Cuba's ambassador to the West African country, is in front row, third from the left. To his right is university rector Carlos Nse Nsuga.

working in countries throughout Africa at the end of 2004. Cuba currently has about 20,000 doctors serving in 68 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Ninety-five Guinean students are currently being trained by Cuban teachers at the medical school in Bata, and a larger number are studying in Cuba.

## Group formed in Canada to demand redress for gov't anti-Chinese head tax

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—More than 120 people packed the Carnegie Centre September 10 to hear speeches outlining the next steps in the fight for full compensation for families of head tax payers.

Ottawa imposed the racist tax on all Chinese immigrants between 1885 and 1923. On June 22, Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized for the tax but refused to give more than "symbolic payments" of \$20,000 to the 35 surviving head tax payers and 360 surviving widows.

In 1923, the Canadian government replaced the head tax with the Chinese Exclusion Act, which effectively banned all Chinese immigration until it was repealed in 1947.

A new organization, the Head Tax Families Society of Canada, was launched at the event. A campaign to sign petitions and a protest letter to the Canadian government was introduced.

"More than four thousand families of Head Tax payers, whose parents and grandparents are now deceased, remain excluded," the protest letter states. This, it says, "is due to over 20 years of intransigence of successive governments unwilling to deal properly with the issue."

"We've outlasted many prime ministers of this country—Trudeau, Turner, Mulroney, Campbell, Chretien, etc.—and we'll continue until redress is complete and equality is achieved," said Sid Tan in opening the event. Tan is a member of the British Columbia Coalition of Head Tax Payers, Spouses and Descendants.

The meeting was also addressed by Colleen Hua, president of the Chinese Canadian National Council.

Co-chair Grace Schenkeveld said the June 22 compensation package from Ottawa is incomplete. "Future generations will feel that they don't deserve justice as the Canadian government is only offering compensation to head tax payers and spouses," she said.

Grace Schenkeveld said the June 22 compensation package from Ottawa is incomplete. "Future generations will feel that they don't deserve justice as the Canadian government is only offering compensation to head tax payers and spouses," she said.

**New 'Militant' e-mail address:**

The *Militant* has a new e-mail address, which is:  
**themilitant@mac.com**

## THE MILITANT

### Independence for Puerto Rico!

The *'Militant'* describes how a successful fight for Puerto Rico's independence is in the interests of the vast majority of people in the United States. As long as Puerto Rico remains a U.S. colony the fighting capacity and solidarity of the U.S. workers' movement is weakened. Don't miss a single issue!



Independent truckers in Puerto Rico strike in 2005 to demand relief from rising prices of gasoline and diesel fuel.

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

# Gov't of Iraqi Kurdistan strengthens its autonomy

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Measures taken at the end of August by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq to strengthen its autonomy from Baghdad highlighted momentum building in the country toward a federated state. On August 7 the KRG published a draft oil law giving it full control over exploration, production, and revenue in Iraqi Kurdistan and the disputed area of Kirkuk.

An Iraqi government spokesman announced the country may adopt a new flag after KRG president Massoud Barzani ordered the current flag of Iraq removed from all official sites in Iraqi Kurdistan, reported Reuters.

Turkish government officials reacted harshly to Barzani's decree, calling it "dangerous." Ankara also stridently opposes a referendum slated for 2007 that could result in Kirkuk, along with its oil, being incorporated into the Kurdish autonomous region.

Some 25 million Kurds live in a territory spanning the intersection of the borders of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Armenia, and Syria. More than half, or up to 15 million, live in southeastern Turkey. Baghdad, Ankara, Tehran, and Damascus fear that any move toward independence, or even formal autonomy, by Iraqi Kurds could be a mortal threat to their states, as it would inspire national struggles for self-determination among their Kurdish populations.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Barham Salih, announced that a basic agreement on sharing oil revenues had been reached but that differences remained over how responsibility for oil and gas reserves are to be divided between the central and regional governments, according to an August 27 Reuters dispatch.

Salih noted that the constitution gives the central government primary control over currently producing oil fields but it is unclear regarding new fields.

Under the agreement, oil revenues would be divided up at the federal level

and redistributed to the regions. But it would also limit the central government's control and micromanagement of the industry, Salih said.

Following a meeting with an Iraqi Turkmen delegation in Ankara, Turkish foreign minister Abdullah Gul called a referendum on the status of Kirkuk "unproductive."

Nearly 100,000 Kurds have resettled in Kirkuk since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Thousands of Kurds were forcibly removed from Kirkuk by his Baath Party regime in the early 1980s. Their lands and homes were taken by Arabs, also forced to move to Kirkuk, in an "Arabization" campaign to ensure Baathist control of the region's huge oil reserves. Kirkuk accounts for 40 percent of Iraq's proven oil reserves

Iraq resumed pumping oil through a pipeline to an export facility in Turkey on August 29, reported Reuters. Iraq pumped 8.5 million barrels of crude through the line before it was sabotaged on July 9. Iraqi oil officials had hoped to pump 300,000 barrels per day, which highlights the importance of Kirkuk's oil to the country's export earnings.

Gul also demanded that the Iraqi government take action against the decree by the KRG replacing the Iraqi flag. "If Iraq is willing to accept a flag that is not its own to fly over its own territory, it's over," Gul said, according to AP.

In response, Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki issued a statement saying, "The Iraqi flag is the only flag that should be raised over any square inch of Iraq."

But Iraq's president, Jalal Talabani, a Kurd and leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, defended the removal of the flag, calling it "the Saddamist flag."

The current flag is a Baathist design adopted after the first Baath Party government was installed in a military coup in 1963. Hussein in 1990 added the words Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest) to the flag in his own handwriting. That wording has been maintained but with a neutral typography.

## Communist League in Sweden launches new issue of Marxist magazine, election campaign



Militant/Ola Nordin

September 2 Militant Labor Forum in Stockholm. Speakers (from right) Catharina Tirsén, Paul Davies, Anita Östling, Filip Tedelund, and Greg McCartan.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—The Communist League announced its campaign in the Swedish parliamentary elections at a September 2 Militant Labor Forum here. The meeting also included the launching of *Ny International* no. 4, the Swedish translation of the Marxist magazine *New International* no. 12, which features "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun" by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

*Ny International* editor Catharina Tirsén chaired the meeting. Speakers included Filip Tedelund, a student here and a Young Socialist, and Anita Östling, a meat packer. Both are CL candidates for the Stockholm city council and for parliament in the September 17 elections. Also on the panel were Paul Davies of the Communist League in the United Kingdom and Greg McCartan, one of the more than 200 supporters of the communist movement worldwide who, as members of the Printing Project, make production of these books possible.

"I have sold *New International* no. 12 on the streets of Stockholm and at the world youth festival in Caracas last year," Tedelund said. "Finally it is available in Swedish so I can understand it even better."

Östling said *Ny International* no. 4 is a major tool in the Communist League election campaign since it explains the crisis of world capitalism and points to a road forward for working people. She noted that the central planks of the CL election campaign platform include: "No to Swedish troops in Afghanistan or Lebanon. Organize all workers, Swedish- and foreign-born, including those who are from countries in Eastern Europe. They are our co-workers and new forces that can strengthen the labor movement."

At one meatpacking company in the slaughterhouse area near the Militant Labor Forum hall, Latvian workers get lower pay than Swedish-born workers, work longer hours, and have a special break room to keep them separated from the rest of the workers, Tedelund said. "The capitalists use these divisions to lower wages for all," he said. "Working people need to unite to fight these divide-and-conquer tactics."

The conservative coalition led by the Moderate Party has a chance of winning the election and replacing the Social Democrats, the ruling party for decades.

Östling said whatever bourgeois party wins the election what matters for the working class and its allies is struggles to unionize all workers and mobilize union power to fight attacks by the bosses and government on wages, job conditions, and social programs. "We are for anything that increases the self-confidence and fighting capacity of working people," she said. "Voting for any other party is a waste! Vote Communist League and support our election campaign!"

—DANIEL NORDSTRÖM AND DAG TIRSÉN

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Malcolm X, the Black Struggle, and the Working Class.** Fri., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Middle East, Capitalism's World Disorder, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change.** A special forum to benefit the \$90,000 Militant Fund. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, former editor of the Militant. Sat., Sept. 30, 4:00 p.m. Both events at: 8365 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 206. Tel.: (305)756-4436.

### IOWA

#### Des Moines

**Lumumba: Lessons of Imperialist Intervention.** A film showing. Fri., Sept. 22. Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; program: 7:30 p.m. 3737 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

### MINNESOTA

#### Twin Cities

**The Cuban Revolution Holds Strong: Defend the Five Cuban Revolutionaries Jailed in U.S. Prisons! Cuba Moves Forward Despite Fidel Castro's Illness!** Panel discussion. Fri., Sept. 22. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 113 Bernard St. E., West St. Paul. Tel.: (651) 644-6325.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Middle East: Capitalism's World Disorder and Prospects for Revolutionary Change.** Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, former editor of the Militant. Sat., Sept. 23. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5

program. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 869-6550.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**The "War on Terror" and Democratic Rights.** Speaker: Barry Wilson, president, Auckland Council of Civil Liberties. Fri., Sept. 22, 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$3. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.

## CALENDAR

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**New York Welcome for Cuban Vice President of the Council of State Esteban Lazo Hernández.** Wed., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. Church of the Intercession, Broadway at 155 Street. Donation: \$5. Advanced tickets required. Sponsored by the New York Welcoming Committee. For tickets or information: IFCO@igc.org. Tel.: (212) 926-5757.

## Free the Cuban 5

### WASHINGTON, D.C. September 23

Gather at U.S. Justice Department at 11:00 a.m. and march to White House. For more information, contact National Committee to Free the Cuban 5 at: (415) 821-6545. Email: freethefive@freethefive.org

visit [www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org)

## Iraq may split into autonomous regions

### Continued from front page

and Shiites were brutally oppressed under the Hussein regime. They constitute roughly 20 percent and 60 percent of the population, respectively.

The main forces in the UIA are the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the Islamic DAWA Party, and the bloc led by Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. The UIA fell 10 seats short of an outright majority in elections last December. It has formed a coalition government with the Kurdish Alliance, which won the second largest bloc of seats in parliament, giving it political weight in the government.

Kurdish leaders are backing the UIA proposal for a federated Iraq. An autonomous Kurdish region, known as Iraqi Kurdistan, has already existed for 15 years. An unexpected consequence of the U.S.-led war in Iraq has been an acceleration of the aspirations of the Kurds for national independence (see article above).

"We ourselves have a federal region, and we want more authority," said Mahmoud Othman, a Kurdish member of Iraq's National Assembly, according to the September 11 *Washington Post*.

The Iraqi Accordance Front and the

Iraqi National Dialogue Front, the two main capitalist parties based largely among Sunnis, have opposed the federal plan. "The establishment of a federation would mean civil war," threatened Saleh al-Mutlak, chairman of the National Dialogue Front.

These two parties rejected the proposal and boycotted the parliamentary session at which it was to be presented, according to press reports. They were joined in the boycott by political forces loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr and to former Iraqi premier Iyad Allawi.

Militias loyal to al-Sadr fought fierce battles with U.S. troops in southern Iraq in 2004. Al-Sadr's supporters now head several ministries in the U.S.-backed Iraqi government.

Allawi is a wealthy Shiite who served as prime minister in the Iraqi interim government, which was handpicked by Washington.

Control of vast oil reserves in Iraq's north and south are at the center of opposition by Sunni capitalists to a federated Iraq. Wealthy Sunnis made up the backbone of support for Hussein's Baathist regime and enjoyed a broad range of privileges over Kurds and Shiites.

# 5,000 rally in Washington

Continued from front page  
man Luis Gutierrez.

"The NAACP is here to fight with you and for you for justice," Gordon told the crowd. "Too many people want to divide us, pit Black against brown. We can't let that happen."

Like a number of speakers, Kennedy emphasized electing politicians who can reform immigration laws. "If we can't get this Congress to pass fair immigration reform now, we'll elect a new congress in November that will pass it," he said.

Jaime Contreras, president of the National Capital Immigration Coalition (NCIC), which organized the march and rally, said, "We can achieve immigration reform like Senator Kennedy said. Even if it means paying a fine."

Macrina Alarcon of Mexicanas Sin Fronteras (Mexicans Without Borders) spoke about fights against harassment and anti-immigrant city ordinances

from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, to the recently defeated ordinance in Palm Bay, Florida.

"We will not accept the carrot as long as it comes with a stick," said Alarcon. Several bills that have been proposed as "pro-immigrant" alternatives to HR 4437 include further measures aimed at criminalizing undocumented immigrants, a range of restrictions and fines, construction of a wall along the border, and measures to beef up the immigration police.

HR 4437, passed by the House of Representatives in December, would make it a criminal offense to be in the United States without proper papers.

"We believe this is only the beginning of our fight," said Carlos Lopez, a day laborer from Virginia who spoke at the rally.

*Maura DeLuca, Seth Dellinger, and Sara Ullman contributed to this article.*

## 'Militant' subscription drive

Continued from front page

or were about to run out. A seamstress who works in a factory in Manhattan's midtown garment district, originally from the Dominican Republic, said she's been reading the paper and likes it. She readily agreed to renew."

"Another five workers who walked by the literature table bought introductory subscriptions," Kennedy continued. "They included a worker from Jamaica. He said one of this favorite books was *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and Cuban president Fidel Castro. Another worker from Mexico wanted to subscribe and a couple of people met him at work the next day after he got paid, and he signed up. They

then sold three more subscriptions going door-to-door in the area. We also sold several in the Black community, Harlem and Mt. Vernon.

"Overall we've sold 45 subs, including 5 renewals, since August 24," she said. "These include 16 that supporters of the paper sold at the September 7 rally for immigrant rights in Washington (see front-page article), a number of which were sold on the buses on the way to D.C."

A total of 47 people subscribed and more than 200 bought copies of the *Militant* at that rally of 5,000, said Doug Nelson, a supporter of the paper there.

Partisans of the paper are reaching out to workers on the job and through sales outside factories or other work-sites. This is part of expanding and maintaining the *Militant's* subscription base in the working class and labor movement.

This reporter was part of teams distributing the *Militant* outside a building in midtown Manhattan full of garment shops, where about a dozen workers bought copies of the paper over the last two weeks. Some are beginning to buy a copy twice in a row, laying the groundwork for more subscriptions.

All readers are urged to send in reports about similar outreach efforts by Monday nights.

## Republicans take 'guest worker' bill off table and push for tighter border

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Republican leaders in Congress have announced they are taking off the table until after the November mid-term elections—that is, until some time next year—discussion on the main "immigration reform" proposals, variants of which have been passed by the House and Senate. "House Republicans say that a Senate measure backed by Bush to create a guest-worker program is unacceptable to their party's core constituency," said a September 6 news dispatch by Bloomberg News.

The Republican leader in the

## Socialist candidate for governor of Florida: 'Immediate, unconditional legalization for all!'



Militant photos by Bernie Senter

MIAMI, Florida—"I urge the entire labor movement to support immediate legalization for all undocumented workers," Omari Musa (above, right, speaking, with rally chairman Francisco Portillo) told a September 10 protest here. Musa is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Florida. "This struggle is in the interests of all working people," he said.

About 200 people attended the rally, march, and vigil to demand residency for all immigrants (above, left, with sign saying in Spanish, "Residence, Yes! Deportations, No!"). Among the chants were, "What do we want? Legalization! When do we want it? Now!" A coalition of immigrants' rights organizations called the action.

Other speakers included Blanca Mendoza of the Association of Guatemalan Americans; Citlali Blandino, an organizer of the student group SWEAR; and Enrique Pacheco, a pastor who is fighting his family's deportation to Ecuador.

—ERIC SIMPSON

## Two new 'Militant' editorial volunteers

BY PAUL PEDERSON

With this issue, the *Militant* is welcoming two new editorial volunteers.

Olympia Newton is one of them. Newton joined the socialist movement in 1997 in Washington, D.C. Since then she has lived in Los Angeles; Price, Utah; and New York. She worked in the garment industry and coal mining and has shouldered a range of leadership responsibilities for the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party. She has been a regular worker-correspondent for the *Militant*, participating in international reporting teams in north Korea and Venezuela.

Róger Calero is the second. Calero served in this capacity before, from 2001 to 2005. He has written extensively for the paper on union struggles, battles for immigrant rights, and the class struggle in Latin America.

U.S. immigration agents arrested Calero in December 2002 while he was returning from a reporting trip to Mexico and Cuba for the *Militant*. The government sought to deport him based on a 1988 conviction, while Calero was in high school, on the

charge of selling an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop. Through an international defense campaign, Washington's efforts were defeated. A federal judge declared Calero "not deportable" in May 2003.

Calero was the SWP candidate for U.S. president in 2004 and is currently the party's candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.

Arrin Hawkins, who was an editorial volunteer since the beginning of 2005, has moved to Pittsburgh to help build the communist movement there. Hawkins joined the Young Socialists in 2000 in the Twin Cities and then the Socialist Workers Party. She was the SWP candidate for vice president in 2004.

### Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive September 9 – November 7

Country	Quota	Sold	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	50	13	26%
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
Edinburgh	35	8	23%
London	80	10	13%
<b>UK Total</b>	115	18	16%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
San Francisco	75	25	33%
Chicago	100	24	24%
Twin Cities	160	38	24%
Philadelphia	130	30	23%
Newark	150	30	20%
Boston	120	22	18%
Miami	170	31	18%
Houston	100	16	16%
New York	300	47	16%
Atlanta	100	12	12%
Des Moines	175	21	12%
Los Angeles	145	17	12%
Washington, DC	105	11	10%
Seattle	80	8	10%
Albany, NY	20	2	10%
Amherst, MA	10	1	10%
Birmingham	115	10	9%
Pittsburgh	60	2	3%
Detroit		1	
<b>U.S. Total</b>	2115	348	16%
<b>CANADA</b>	130	14	11%
<b>ICELAND</b>	18	2	11%
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	60	5	8%
<b>SWEDEN</b>	37	0	0%
<b>OTHER</b>		1	
<b>Int'l totals</b>	2525	401	15%
<b>Int'l goal</b>	2600		

### \$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive Sept. 9 – Nov. 7, 2006 ♦ Quotas

Country	Quota
AUSTRALIA	1,200
CANADA	3,500
ICELAND	450
NEW ZEALAND	2,500
SWEDEN	500
UNITED KINGDOM	1800
UNITED STATES	
Albany	120
Amherst	60
Atlanta	4,750
Birmingham	3,500
Boston	3,500
Chicago	5,000
Des Moines	2,200
Houston	3,200
Los Angeles	8,200
Miami	2,500
Newark	3,500
New York	13,000
Philadelphia	3,000
Pittsburgh	4,200
San Francisco	8,500
Seattle	7,000
Twin Cities	4,800
Washington, D.C.	2800
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>79,830</b>
<b>Int'l totals</b>	<b>89,780</b>
<b>Goal</b>	<b>90,000</b>

**Australia: rallies oppose fining of construction workers**

SYDNEY, Australia—Some 500 union members rallied here August 29 in solidarity with construction workers who were appearing in federal court in Perth, Western Australia, to face fines of up to A\$28,600 (US\$21,560) for taking strike action in February. Workers then marched on the office of the Australian Building and Construction Commission, which is prosecuting the unionists.

That day more than 2,000 marched through the streets of Perth and joined the rally outside the federal court where the construction workers appeared. The workers were ordered to appear again in court October 18. Solidarity rallies also took place in Melbourne, Adelaide, Newcastle, and Wollongong.

The 107 workers on the Perth to Mandurah railway, members of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, walked off the job February 24 over the sacking (firing) of their union delegate. This is the first time rank-and-file workers have been individually targeted under the building industry laws that were introduced last year.

—Linda Harris and Joanne Kuniansky

**Supermarket workers in New Zealand strike for contract**

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Workers at four Supply Chain distribution centers in Palmerston North, Christchurch, and Auckland began strike action August 25. The 500 workers supply dry goods to 193 supermarkets owned by Progressive

Enterprises, one of the two large supermarket chains in the country. Three days later all the workers were locked out.

Chanting, “Who’s got the power? We’ve got the power! What kind of power? Union power!” some 250 workers marched and rallied September 9 through Mangere Town Center in Auckland. Among those attending the rally were nurses, garment workers, firefighters, maritime workers, meat workers and teachers.

“We want one single collective agreement for all the sites, with the same rates,” explained Daniel Patea, a National Distribution Union delegate, at the 24-hour Auckland picket line. The pay gap between different plants can be as much as NZ\$2.50 an hour. The union is demanding an 8 percent wage raise.

Workers are setting up flying pickets outside different supermarkets when they hear of trucks arriving to deliver supplies, noted striker Lasitani Misinale.

—Janet Roth

**Steelworkers in West Virginia ratify new contract**

WALTON, West Virginia—After a nine-day strike members of United Steelworkers Local 37 voted 231 to 147 to ratify a new contract with Steel of West Virginia September 3. According to local union president Craig Knight, there was no reduction in benefits, though workers now have to pay insurance premiums for the first time—\$20 per month for a single person and \$40 for family members. More than 400 unionists walked out August 25 after rejecting



Militant/Felicity Coggan

Supermarket workers on strike march through Mangere Town Center in Auckland, New Zealand, September 9, one of the actions in their fight for a nationwide contract.

a proposed contract that included cuts in health-care benefits. During the strike, the union organized a strike assistance committee, food bank, and cooks, and the union hall was open 24 hours a day. Picketers wore T-shirts that proclaimed, “United we bargain, divided we beg.”

—Linda Joyce

**Judge rules flight attendants at Northwest can’t strike**

A federal judge on August 25 blocked an impending strike by flight attendants against Northwest Airlines, hours before random walkouts were set to begin. The workers, members of the Association of Flight Attendants, had twice rejected \$195 million in concessionary demands Northwest said it would impose. A bankruptcy judge approved putting this contract into effect that cuts pay 21 percent, reduces benefits, and lengthens

workhours for the 7,300 attendants employed by Northwest.

—Brian Williams

**Unionists in Brazil strike Volkswagen over layoffs**

Members of the metal workers union at Volkswagen’s largest assembly plant in Brazil walked out August 29 after the company announced the layoff of 1,800 workers as of November 21. A week earlier, the company informed the 12,000 workers employed at this plant near São Paulo that they either accept the elimination of 3,600 jobs over the next two years and a 25 percent wage cut, or Volkswagen would shut down the entire plant and fire at least 6,000 workers. In Puebla, Mexico, Volkswagen’s 9,600 workers have been on strike since August 18 over wages.

—Brian Williams

**Hazleton city council passes new, stronger anti-immigrant measure**

Continued from front page

Hazleton demanding legalization for all immigrants. The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union, and a number of local attorneys have filed a challenge to the anti-immigrant measure. Because of the lawsuit, implementation of the act was postponed by the city last week to allow for the revisions.

Barletta has received support from a number of national figures opposed to immigrants’ rights to revise the act and defend it in court. Michael Hethmon, from the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), rewrote the bill. Kris Kobach, an aide on immigration to former Attorney General John Ashcroft, has joined the city’s legal team, along with the Mountain States Legal Foundation. ProEnglish, another national right-wing group, has volunteered to defend the English-only bill from legal challenge.

The revised ordinance divides the measure into three separate bills. One establishes a city Code Enforcement Agency, charged with investigating any complaint charging that an area business or landlord has hired or is renting to undocumented workers. If the agency finds a violation, the business or landlord has a few days to file an answer or “correct” the situation—by firing or evicting the “alien,” or providing proof they are in the country legally—or face fines and loss of their business license.

The revised measure adds a section allowing workers who are laid off because an employer is closed down for hiring undocumented workers to sue to recover lost wages.

The second measure makes English the “official language” of Hazleton, mandating that all city documents be

published in English only.

The third ordinance adds additional penalties against landlords who rent to people who do not have an official city “occupancy permit.”

“How much of [the city’s problems] could be blamed on illegal immigration,” said an editorial supporting the anti-immigrant measures in the September 8 Hazleton *Standard-Speaker*. “To be honest, Mayor Barletta never provided a good answer to that question.”

“It’s also unclear how or even if the city will ever enforce the ordinance,” the editors added. “Interestingly, it may

never have to.”

“While no one has dependable numbers, it’s clear that many people have left town and it’s a fair assumption that many of the departed weren’t contributing anything to the community,” they say.

Speaking before the special council meeting, Allentown attorney David Vaida, one of the lawyers involved in challenging the measures, said that it would “create a climate of fear,” pitting “neighbor against neighbor.”

“Ultimately they will end up in the Supreme Court,” Vaida added. “In our opinion this will not stand.”

“The fight to defeat the anti-immigrant ordinance in Hazleton is part of the broader struggle for unity for the working class,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, said as he campaigned in Philadelphia’s Black community September 9. “Labor must fight for the legalization of all immigrants and throw the power and resources of the union movement into this battle. We urge working people and others to join those in the Hazleton area fighting to defeat the anti-working-class ordinance the Hazleton city council passed.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 25, 1981

A war is raging in the small Central American country of El Salvador.

Twenty-six thousand people have been killed in less than two years. Systematic terrorism by ultrarightist death squads, which operate in collusion with the military high command, have forced some 700,000 Salvadorans into exile—14 percent of the country’s population. An even greater number of refugees has been created within the country by army massacres and indiscriminate destruction of peasant villages. Those who speak out against these crimes are marked for death by the military junta and its agents.

The Salvadoran junta represents a corrupt oligarchy. Twenty families in El Salvador control more than 70 percent of the country’s private banks, sugar mills, coffee production, and exports, as well as the television and newspaper.



September 24, 1956

The Socialist Workers campaign headquarters is being flooded by mail as a result of the TV and radio broadcasts of [SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates] Farrell Dobbs and Myra Tanner Weiss. The office staff and corps of volunteer helpers are hard put to answer all the letters and to mail out the requested copies of the SWP’s 1956 election platform. And it looks as if there is no relief in sight. More, and still more, broadcasts are scheduled.

It is not only in the campaign headquarters that the impact of the fighting socialist speeches of the SWP banner bearers is being felt. From the field there are reports of these speeches being discussed on the floor of NAACP meetings and in college classrooms.



September 26, 1931

The heaviest single blow dealt in the national wage-cutting campaign of the capitalist class has just been delivered by the United States Steel Corporation, which announced that, effective October 1st, wages of all its employees, approximately 220,000, would be cut ten percent. The second largest steel corporation in the country, Bethlehem, announced a similar cut, effective the same day, for its 50,000 workers. The so-called independent steel barons have already announced that the cut will be universal throughout the industry. The president of the Pittsburgh Steel Company expressed the sentiments of the “independents” by saying that “we could not ignore such a handicap as a 10 percent wage reduction by other firms. It will be necessary for us to take similar action to keep our operating costs at the general level.”

# Celebration in Chinatown

Continued from front page  
the entire program.

Originally scheduled to take place at the Historical Society itself, the event was clearly going to be too large for those premises, so organizers shifted it across the street to the historic Gordon J. Lau elementary school. That nearly 150-year-old institution was long known as “The Chinese School,” since for many decades Chinese students were not allowed to attend any other public school in San Francisco.

Speaking on the panel were L. Ling-chi Wang, professor emeritus and former head of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of California at Berkeley; documentary filmmaker Felicia Lowe; Steve Wake, a leader of the Japanese-American organization Tsukimi Kai; and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and president of Pathfinder Press.

Waters brought greetings to the meeting from the three Chinese-Cuban authors and presented a copy of the book signed by each of them to the Chinese Historical Society of America. Jimmy Park Li, a well-known San Francisco radio personality who chaired the panel, accepted the autographed copy on behalf of the society.

As with other events sponsored by the historical society, the meeting had been publicized by an attractively designed color postcard—this one in a run of 2,000, featuring the cover of the book. Leaflets in English, Spanish, and Chinese were distributed in Chinatown, on area campuses, and at local factories and other workplaces.

## ‘What can be learned’

“Through this book we can learn about the history of Chinese in Cuba,” said Ling-chi Wang, the opening speaker, who had met the three authors when he helped organize a conference on Chinese in Latin America at the University of Havana in 1999.

“We can learn a lot about the Cuban revolution,” he said, “and we can learn a lot about the Cuban role in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism.”

Wang pointed to the importance of the Chinese Historical Society sponsoring an event that looks at the Chinese in the United States as part of the broader Chinese diaspora in some 140 countries. “Most people think that San Francisco

Chinatown was the first Chinatown in the Americas,” he said, “when in fact the one in Havana was established first.”

Between 1847 and 1874 approximately 200,000 Chinese were “recruited” and transported to Cuba as indentured laborers, Wang explained. Many, in fact, were “shanghaied,” he said—pointing to the origins of that expression—and taken to Cuba by force. In the 1870s thousands more Chinese came to Cuba from North America “during the mounting anti-Chinese agitation against the presence of Chinese in the United States.”

Wang was referring to what was often called the “yellow peril” campaigns, organized by the bosses and supported by the skilled-trades union bureaucracy and the large right wing of the Socialist Party in the United States.

The Chinese in Cuba played an important role in two revolutions, Wang said: the wars of independence from Spain in the 19th century, and the revolution that brought down the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in the 1950s.

Wang noted that next year will be the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the first shiploads of Chinese indentured laborers in Cuba. He invited those interested to join him in the activities being organized in Cuba to commemorate this event.

Wang pointed out that unlike the racist treatment still experienced by Chinese in many countries, including the United States, the generals explain in *Our History Is Still Being Written* how “only under the kind of socialist revolution in Cuba were the Chinese able to succeed in achieving equality, real equality.”

All three generals speak “very passionately” about their participation in the second Cuban revolution, Wang said, as well as in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, especially in Africa. By reading the book, he said, including Nelson Mandela’s speech when the South African leader visited Havana in 1991, you can see the Cuban sacrifices and contributions “to getting rid of the apartheid system.” The three Chinese-Cuban generals “participated and played very key roles in those efforts in Africa.”

## Video from Havana’s Chinatown

Video footage of Havana’s Chinatown was shown by filmmaker Felicia Lowe from her forthcoming documentary, *Chinese Couplet*. Lowe has traveled to Cuba twice trying to find out more about her grandfather who migrated from China to Cuba in the 1920s and stayed there for 15 years.

Cubans of Chinese descent and others are working to revitalize Havana’s Chinatown, Lowe said in her remarks introducing the film clips. There is an interest in Chinese culture, reflected in classes on the Chinese language as well as the practice of martial arts.

“It’s an interesting notion,” she said, that in “a socialist society where race presumably is not an issue, that there is a lot of pride expressed by those who say, ‘I had a



Militant photos by Ellen Haywood

Top: Ling-chi Wang, professor of Asian Studies at U.C. Berkeley, speaks at September 9 meeting in San Francisco on *Our History Is Still Being Written*, sponsored by Chinese Historical Society of America. Seated (from left), are moderator Jimmy Park Li, and panelists Felicia Lowe, Mary-Alice Waters, and Steve Wake. Bottom: Some 180 people attended event.

Chinese grandfather,’ or that somebody down the road is Chinese.”

Steve Wake explained that Tsukimi Kai has organized trips to Cuba by Japanese-Americans to establish contact with Cubans of Japanese ancestry. He described the impact visiting Cuba had on him, showing what human solidarity makes possible.

Following Pearl Harbor and Washington’s declaration of war against Japan, Wake said, adult males from the small Japanese community in Cuba were rounded up and incarcerated by the Batista regime on the Isle of Pines. This was carried out even before the U.S. government sent Japanese-Americans on the West Coast of the United States to concentration camps, he noted.

“In Cuba soldiers actually went to Japanese homes and dragged away the men,” Wake said. But the Japanese in Cuba received a lot of solidarity from ordinary Cubans. “Many of the Japanese women who had been left to fend for themselves received help from their Cuban neighbors.” Cubans of Japanese origin later participated in the revolutionary struggle against Batista, he said.

In the lively discussion period after the talks, Wake described what he learned in Cuba about the contrast between the U.S. government’s response to Hurricane Katrina, where many lives were lost unnecessarily, and how the government and people in Cuba—which “is not a rich country”—organize to prevent loss of life in hurricanes.

## How the book came about

Mary-Alice Waters described how *Our History Is Still Being Written* came about. Like its three authors, she said, it had “a humble beginning.”

Over the past 15 years, Waters said, Pathfinder has published an increasing number of books built around interviews with men and women in Cuba “who have weighty responsibilities in the government, armed forces, leader-

ship of women’s organizations,” and other tasks. One thing all these Cuban revolutionists “have in common is that they came from that generation of young people, students and workers, who in the early 1950s—most of them still in their teens—simply refused to accept and bow down before the indignities and brutalities of a military coup carried out by General Batista,” a dictatorship backed by Washington.

“That was the generation that Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong were part of,” she said. When she first met Chui—a leader of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution—and learned a little bit about his history, they discussed doing an interview. “‘I have an even better idea,’ he suggested. There are three generals of Chinese ancestry in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Chui said. ‘Let’s make it an interview with the three of us.’ And the book grew from there.”

The generation of Cubans who made the revolution in the 1950s, Waters said, fought for land reform, to end racism, to

Continued on page 7



September 10 issue of *Ming Pao*, main Chinese-language San Francisco daily, carried an article on the book launching.

## Our History Is Still Being Written

THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong—three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry—threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation. They became combatants in the clandestine struggle and 1956–

58 revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened the door to the socialist revolution in the Americas. Each became a general in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces. Through their stories the social and political forces that gave birth to the Cuban nation and still shape our epoch unfold.

Also available in Spanish. \$20

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)  
or from distributors listed on page 8

# Government of Sri Lanka wages war on Tamil Tigers

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

September 11— Since late July, the Sri Lankan government has carried out military attacks against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The fighting, which has killed hundreds and displaced more than 100,000, is the deadliest since a 2002 cease-fire ended a two-decades-long civil war.

On September 4, the government captured the town of Sampur from the Tigers. Sampur overlooks the port of Trincomalee, the deepest natural seaport in the world. The Tigers control a large portion of the northern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka, an island nation located just southeast of India.

The government of Pakistan has provided substantial military aid to the Sri Lankan rulers. The government of India, which in 1987 sent thousands of troops there to enforce a “peace settlement,” has refused to provide military assistance in the current battle.

Pakistan’s interior ministry secretary, Kamal Shah, told a group of Sri Lankan journalists in early September that the Pakistani government is ready for “enhanced and intensified” military cooperation between the two countries. Some 200 Sri Lankan officers train at Pakistani military institutions each year. In addition, intelligence officials in India have said that Pakistani air force officers have been advising the Sri Lankan army in its air campaign against the Tigers.

“Sri Lanka represents a wonderful opportunity” for the rulers of Pakistan to “undermine India’s influence in South Asia,” stated an August 31 Strategic Forecasting Inc. (Stratfor) article. The government of Pakistan has been supplying weapons to the Sri Lankan regime in its offensive against the Tamil Tigers, Stratfor reported. Stratfor, a private “think tank” describes itself as providing for a fee “global intelligence, analysis, and forecasting” to businesses,

government agencies, and others.

Tamils make up about 18 percent of Sri Lanka’s population, while 74 percent in the former British colony are Sinhalese. In the 19th century London introduced large numbers of Tamils into the colonial administration. At the same time, the British colonialists built large tea plantations on lands previously belonging to Sinhalese peasants, and brought Tamils from southern India to work there as virtual slaves. Such moves fostered divisions among working people and enabled the colonial masters to maintain control of the country.

Since the island nation won its independence in 1948, successive administrations have sought to keep working people divided along national lines. In the last 40 years especially, the Sri Lankan government has passed laws to institutionalize

## Celebration in San Francisco’s Chinatown

Continued from page 6

eliminate illiteracy, to provide employment for everyone. In the process, they defended themselves against assaults by U.S. economic interests and against the efforts to block such measures by Cubans who owned the land and factories. “Working people in Cuba simply refused to cede to these interests and kept driving ahead. That was the beginning of the socialist revolution in our hemisphere and the source of the implacable hostility to Cuba by the U.S. government,” a hostility that continues to this day.

Waters pointed to comments in the book by General Sio Wong about the 1999 conference of overseas Chinese held in Havana that Ling-chi Wang had described. Some participants there had asked what was different in Cuba that allowed individuals of Chinese ancestry like themselves to become generals and assume the kinds of leadership



AP/Gemunu Amarasinghe

Sri Lankan soldiers hoist national flag in Sampur, after capturing it from Tamil Tigers.

the national oppression of the Tamil people, including the denial of language rights and discrimination in employment and university admissions.

A civil war broke out in 1983 between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE. At that time, the Tigers were calling for an independent Tamil state. In 2002, the group instead began calling for provincial autonomy in Tamil-domi-

nated areas.

The Tigers organize air and naval wings, known as the Air Tigers and Sea Tigers. The Sea Tigers, with an arsenal that reportedly includes speedboats, mini-submarines, and satellite communications technology, pose a significant military challenge to the Sri Lankan navy. More than 65,000 people have been killed in the civil war since 1983.

## Imperialist powers intensify war in Afghanistan

Continued from front page

in the country under its own command.

The brunt of the combat has fallen on 4,500 British troops, according to the September 8 *Financial Times*. London has already announced it is dispatching another 1,000 soldiers to Afghanistan, but NATO officials say it seems difficult now to muster additional troops from other countries.

Led by Canadian forces and known as “Operation Medusa,” this is the first brigade-level battle NATO has ever fought. Over the past month NATO “has been engaged in the toughest fighting since it was formed in 1949,” said the *Financial Times*. The operation involves air strikes, artillery barrages, and ground troops. NATO officers claim their forces have killed 420 people in the course of the operation since September 2.

“The intensity and ferocity of the fighting is far greater than in Iraq” and involves hand-to-hand combat, according to Brigadier Ed Butler, commander of the British forces in Afghanistan. In the town of Sangin British paratroopers reportedly resisted 44 attacks in 25 days, and Brit-

ish forces had to abandon attempts to re-supply their garrison at Musa Qala, as it came under heavy attack. Taliban forces were able to retake the town of Garmser on September 7, reported the *Daily Telegraph*.

Since September 1, five Canadian and 19 British soldiers have been killed. British prime minister Anthony Blair declared that Britain must “stand firm” and be “proud” of its forces in Afghanistan. Col. Tim Collins, who commanded British forces during the 2003 Iraq war, and Gen. Patrick Cordingley both criticized what they called the lack of resources to sustain London’s role in the imperialist operations in Afghanistan.

Gen. Jones, NATO supreme commander in Europe, took the unusual step of voicing in public his dismay that the 26-member military alliance had failed to provide the troops and equipment needed for such a mission. NATO chiefs say another 2,500 troops would allow them to rapidly deploy a mobile reserve to “trouble spots.”

The German, Italian, and Turkish governments have expressed reluctance to move their troops from safer parts of Afghanistan to the south.

responsibilities they were shouldering there. “And Sio Wong’s reply was that it was the socialist revolution that made this possible,” she said. “That’s what distinguishes the Chinese community in Cuba from those in the rest of Latin America.”

Waters said that *Our History Is Still Being Written* also helps those who read it get more interested in our own history here in the United States—“the history of the Chinese and other Asian exclusion acts of the 1880s and 1920s, the property exclusions, the pogroms, the laws against intermarriage, the head taxes. Above all, we learn about the resistance against these brutal forms of racism and exploitation, resistance that is part of a proud tradition of struggles by working people in the United States.

“This book is not just about the past,” Waters said. “It’s about the present and it’s about the future. It’s about under-

standing the past in order to be able to act today and tomorrow.” That’s why the book is important here in the United States, where Pathfinder has published it in English and Spanish, she said.

Waters’s announcement that a Chinese translation is now under way, with plans for publication in 2007, was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

“The book’s purpose is not to understand Cuba and the Cuban revolution alone, but to understand ourselves, our own history, and our future,” Waters explained. “It’s about the millions of us who are in the streets today demonstrating and demanding legalization for all immigrants. It’s about the working people of this country. Who we are, where we came from, why we are growing in numbers and strength, and why we’re not going away.”

### In the audience

A number of prominent individuals in the audience were introduced by chairwoman Gimmy Park Li. Among them was Him Mark Lai, “the father of Chinese-American history.” Lai is adjunct professor of Asian-American Studies at San Francisco State University and author of *Chinese-American Voices*, among other books. Also introduced were Judy Yung, author of *Unbound Voices, Unbound Feet* and other works; Chizu Iiyama, former vice president of the National Japanese American Historical Society; and Jim Hirabayashi, former chair of Ethnic Studies at U.C. Berkeley.

After the program participants continued the discussion at a reception back at the Chinese Historical Society. Thirty-three copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* were sold by the society’s bookshop, including eight in Spanish. Many enjoyed the displays of photographs and drawings from the book, reviews it has received, and photos of the Tsukimi Kai visit to Cuba. Participants also visited the historical society’s museum featuring the history of Chinese in the Americas, including a special exhibit on the effects of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake on Chinatown.

A photo and article on the meeting appeared in the September 10 issue of *Ming Pao*, San Francisco’s main Chinese-language daily (see illustration on p. 6).

# Trade unions: their past, present, and future

Below is an excerpt from *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month in September*. The articles in this collection explain the fundamental dynamics of trade unions, which have served since the onset of the industrial revolution two centuries ago as the elementary organizations for defense of workers' conditions and rights. Among the articles printed below in its entirety is "Trade unions: their past, present,

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

and future," by Karl Marx. It was written as a resolution adopted by the 1866 Geneva congress of the International Working Men's Association. Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY KARL MARX

### (A) THEIR PAST

Capital is concentrated social force, while the workman has only to dispose of his working force [labor power]. The contract between capital and labor can therefore never be struck on equitable terms, equitable even in the sense of a society which places the ownership of the material means of life and labor



Union militants of the Minneapolis truck drivers move to defend picket lines against police assault during one of 1934 strikes. Photo above shows scene of heavy fighting between pickets and police reinforced by deputies in city marketplace.

on one side and the vital productive energies on the opposite side. The only social power of the workmen is their number. The force of numbers, however, is broken by disunion. The disunion of the workmen is created and perpetuated by their *unavoidable competition among themselves*.

Trades' unions originally sprang up from the *spontaneous* attempts of workmen at removing or at least checking that competition, in order to conquer such terms of contract as might raise them at least above the condition of mere slaves. The immediate object of trades' unions was therefore confined to everyday necessities, to expediencies for the obstruction of the incessant encroachments of capital, in one word, to questions of wages and time of labor. This activity of the trades' unions is

not only legitimate, it is necessary. It cannot be dispensed with so long as the present system of production lasts. On the contrary, it must be generalized by the formation and the combination of trades' unions throughout all countries. On the other hand, unconsciously to themselves, the trades' unions were forming *centers of organization* of the working class, as the medieval municipalities and communes did for the middle class. If the trades' unions are required for the guerrilla fights between capital and labor, they are still more important as *organized agencies for superseding the very system of wages labor and capital rule*.

### (B) THEIR PRESENT

Too exclusively bent upon the local and immediate struggles with capital,

the trades' unions have not yet fully understood their power of acting against the system of wages slavery itself. They therefore kept too much aloof from general social and political movements. Of late, however, they seem to awaken to some sense of their great historical mission, as appears, for instance, from their participation, in England, in the recent political movement, from the enlarged views taken of their function in the United States, and from the following resolution passed at the recent great conference of trades' delegates at Sheffield:

"That this conference, fully appreciating the efforts made by the International [Working Men's] Association to unite in one common bond of brotherhood the working men of all countries, most earnestly recommend to the various societies here represented, the advisability of becoming affiliated to that body; believing that it is essential to the progress and prosperity of the entire working community."

### (C) THEIR FUTURE

Apart from their original purposes, they must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interest of its *complete emancipation*. They must aid every social and political movement tending in that direction. Considering themselves and acting as the champions and representatives of the whole working class, they cannot fail to enlist the nonsociety [unorganized] men into their ranks. They must look carefully after the interests of the worst-paid trades, such as the agricultural laborers, rendered powerless by exceptional circumstances. They must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions.

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## Amnesty! Stop the deportations!

We join with those in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, who have vowed to fight uncompromisingly to defeat the latest version of the anti-working-class “Illegal Immigration Relief Act.”

The tug of war that has led to the trouncing of similar reactionary measures in Palm Bay and Avon Park, Florida, and the massive working-class actions in the spring that shelved the House bill that would have criminalized all the undocumented, show that those who want to turn millions of immigrant workers into social outcasts to fatten the bosses’ profits won’t get their way easily.

The first-ever U.S. nationwide political strike on May Day, when millions declared, “We are workers, not criminals!” showed that immigration has permanently and irreversibly strengthened the working class.

The recent new immigration waves are transforming the United States and other imperialist countries. All the wealth of finance capital is produced by the exploitation of labor. In addition to exporting capital in order to capture markets and exploit lower-wage labor around the world, the propertied families have come to rely more and more on sucking labor power into the metropolitan centers themselves. This global expansion of capitalism’s reserve army of labor is replenished by peasants and workers driven off the land and fleeing urban slums in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in search of jobs and livable conditions for themselves and their families.

The U.S. capitalist economy would stagnate if the bosses had to rely solely on the exploitation of U.S.-born

workers, whatever their skin tone. All the hue and cry about “illegal aliens” by many among the U.S. rulers has to do with the changes in the working class at home. Immigrants are not meek, suffering victims. They are fellow workers who bring their class-struggle experiences, help broaden the horizons of co-workers, and in the process themselves shed anti-Black and other prejudices.

We stand with the thousands of working people and others who took to the streets this month across the United States to demand amnesty, permanent residency, and an end to discrimination and persecution of any kind.

At the same time, the size and scope of the recent actions for immigrants’ rights show there is a conjunctural slowdown in the struggle. The de facto decision of the U.S. Congress to take off the table the “guest worker” bill the Senate passed in May, and put off decision until next year, is a factor. Working people are now bombarded by “friends of immigrants,” largely liberal politicians and their middle-class radical hangers-on, that the important issue is to get Democrats elected in November—detrimental advice given how bipartisan is the assault on working people, including on the rights of immigrants.

Class-conscious workers need to recognize this reality in order to shed false expectations and stay the course. Act on the fact that the composition of the working class puts us on a stronger footing, a new plateau, for the coming battles against the employers—for the fight to transform the unions into revolutionary instruments capable of waging such battles.

## Five years after 9/11: Oppose U.S. wars, curbs on democratic rights

*Below we use part of our editorial space to publish excerpts from a statement that first appeared in the Sept. 24, 2001, Militant. It was released on 9/11 on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party by Martin Koppel, who was the SWP candidate for New York mayor at the time. We are publishing it in response to the reactionary, patriotic fanfare that has dominated the big-business media over the last week, leading up to the fifth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.*

Waving the banner that “America is under attack,” that it has sustained “a second Pearl Harbor” in the wake of today’s assault on New York’s World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. government will seek to advance its “right” to launch military assaults on other countries, as it has done over the past few years against the peoples of Yugoslavia, Iraq, Sudan, and Afghanistan. The U.S. rulers will become even more brazen in their backing for the Israeli regime’s escalating war drive against the Palestinians.

Calls by capitalist politicians and apologists for stiffer measures to prevent future such “intelligence failures” are being played up nonstop by the big-business dailies, news agencies, and TV and radio networks. Anti-Arab and anti-Islamic bigotry is being cranked up to bolster this onslaught.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on workers, farmers, and all defenders of democratic rights to speak out against the U.S. rulers’ demagogic efforts, in the name of preempting “terrorism,” to rationalize restrictions on political rights. We must oppose the campaign by the U.S. government—Democrats and Republicans alike—to curb the constitutionally guaranteed space for political organization and activity and to legitimize the use of the U.S. armed forces at home and abroad.

During its final months in office, following several years of preparations, the Clinton administration established for the first time in U.S. history, a North American command—that is, the command structure for deployment of U.S. armed forces at home, aimed first and foremost at working people in this country....

The Bush administration is now deploying these forces in their first domestic military operations....

In coming days, as the administration acts on Bush’s vow “to hunt down and punish those responsible,” the labor movement and all democratic-minded organizations and individuals must be on the alert to protest government frame-up trials and oppose its trampling on the presumption of innocence; the right to due process; Fourth Amendment protections against arbitrary search, seizure, and wiretaps; and freedom of association with-

out spying and harassment by government informers and agents provocateurs. The last four years of the Clinton administration, and the opening months of the Bush White House, have been marked by stepped-up bipartisan efforts to strengthen the federal death penalty, erode the rights of the accused and convicted, and increase the room for commando-style operations by the U.S. Border Patrol and other Immigration and Naturalization Service cops, the FBI, and other federal assault agencies.

Whoever may have carried out the September 11 operations, the destruction of the two World Trade Center towers, and the air attack on the Pentagon—with the resulting deaths and injuries of thousands of men, women, and children—these actions have nothing to do with the fight against capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression. Revolutionists and other class-conscious workers, farmers, and youth the world over reject the use of such methods.

The U.S. government and its allies for more than a century have carried out systematic terror to defend their class privilege and interests at home and abroad—from the atomic incineration of hundreds of thousands at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the 10-year-long slaughter in Indochina, to the war against the Iraqi people in 1990–91, to the burning to death of 80 people at Waco on its home soil, to other examples too numerous to list....

By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live here.

The U.S. rulers know that as they press their assault on the living and working conditions of workers and farmers in the United States, they will meet growing resistance, as working people organize to defend their livelihoods and their rights. That’s why Washington is systematically strengthening its hand against the battles it knows are coming.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on workers and farmers in the United States and worldwide to speak out in defense of the struggle of the Palestinian people, the people of Western Sahara, the Puerto Rican people, the rights of the people of Cuba, and others the world over fighting for their national rights and against all the ways in which the world capitalist order presses humanity toward fascism and war. We must oppose U.S. military intervention anywhere in the world. We must oppose efforts by Washington to escalate an assault on the political rights of working people and the organizations of our class and its oppressed and exploited allies.

## Lebanon, Israel

Continued from front page

troops from Lebanon once the UN force reaches that size and 15,000 Lebanese troops are deployed.

According to the Beirut *Daily Star*, Lebanese Army troops have now been stationed in 80 percent of southern Lebanon.

Four Italian warships and one each supplied by the governments of the United Kingdom, France, and Greece began patrols along the country’s coast September 8, following the lifting of the Israeli blockade. The naval forces are mandated to stop and search vessels at the request of the Lebanese navy to prevent shipments of arms to Hezbollah—the Lebanese group that fought the invading Israeli forces and lobbed missiles into northern Israel during the war.

At home, the Israeli government still faces a storm of criticism for falling short in its objective of debilitating Hezbollah during Tel Aviv’s 34-day assault. Some 40,000 people turned out for a pro-war rally in Tel Aviv September 9 demanding an independent inquiry into the government and military leadership of the war. “Many in the crowd...were reservists who served during the war,” the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported.

“Among the speakers in Tel Aviv were leaders of both left and right-wing parties opposed to [Israeli prime minister Ehud] Olmert’s centrist Kadima,” *Haaretz* said. “They formed an odd alliance of those who supported the war and those who wanted to end it sooner.”

Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli premier and leader of Likud, the main opposition party, has seen his popularity rise, according to recent polls. In a September 7 speech in New York, Netanyahu focused his remarks on the need to prepare for war with Iran and for another assault in Lebanon aimed at defeating “a few hundred armed Iranian proxies,” as he called Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, with the Israeli offensive in Gaza going on three months, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) announced September 11 that a tentative agreement had been reached to form a unity government between Fatah and Hamas. It will replace the one led by Hamas, which calls for an Islamic Republic just like Hezbollah and won the largest number of votes in the national elections earlier this year.

“We’re trying to make a balance between the requirements of the international community and Palestinian factions,” Ghazi Hamad, a Hamas spokesman, told the press. The following day, a military court in Israel ordered the release of 18 Hamas lawmakers arrested by Israeli forces during the Gaza offensive. Tel Aviv, Washington, and other imperialist powers, cut off all aid to the PNA earlier this year to squeeze the Hamas leadership into a compromise. Thousands of Palestinian teachers and government workers struck in early September demanding unpaid wages.

## LETTERS

### Open letter to Steelworkers

To members of United Steelworkers Local 37 on strike against Steel of West Virginia:

Gentlemen, I admire your courage. My local just went through a battle with our company, and the support we lent the negotiating team was very important to them. As a result, we were able to keep our key sticking point, health insurance. We were eight hours from striking. I admire the fact that so many of you are sticking together. It takes guts to stand up and strike in the face of the unknown. God speed to you all. Together, we will prevail.

Jeff Schwendeman  
Pomeroy, Ohio

*The author, a member of USW Local 5668 at Century Aluminum in Ravenswood, West Virginia, sent this letter to the striking Steelworkers in Walton, West Virginia, and to the Militant on August 26. The strike was settled September 3. (See “On the Picket Line” story on p. 5.)*

—Editor

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