

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Capitalist rivalry, protectionism mark G-20 summit in London  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 15 APRIL 20, 2009

## U.S. gov't boosts aid to Pakistani military

BY DOUG NELSON

Washington is preparing to increase its military and economic assistance to Pakistan in an effort to boost the Pakistani military's ability to wage a counterinsurgency war against Islamist forces in the country's northwest.

Washington's top generals have stressed that they can make little progress in Afghanistan without dealing major blows to Taliban and al-Qaeda sanctuaries and bases of support in Pakistan.

"Afghanistan and Pakistan, while two countries, are a single theater," Gen. David Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command, said at a Senate Armed Services Committee meeting April 1. Accomplishing Washington's goals there will require a "sustained substantial commitment," he said.

The Pentagon proposes replacing the current military aid program for Pakistan with one designed specifically to bolster the military's counterinsurgency capacity. The new plan would allocate an average of \$600 million per year over the next five years—double the amount of the current program.

The plan is directed at training and equipping Pakistani troops, including its special forces and its 60,000-strong

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## Auto workers occupy plants in Ireland and England

BY PAUL DAVIES

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—Workers occupied the Visteon auto parts plant here March 31 when company managers informed them that the plant would close that day. The following day workers occupied Visteon's plant in Enfield and have kept up a protest outside another plant in Basildon—both just outside London. The workers are represented by the UNITE union.

Visteon UK was established in 2000 from existing Ford car parts plants. The company manufactured fuel rails, injection moldings, and other parts used in Ford's operations. Production will be moved to Visteon plants elsewhere in the world.

"We're demanding that the factory stay open, if not then Ford must honor their obligations to workers being laid off and make redundancy [severance] payments in full," explained John Maguire, the UNITE convener at the Visteon Belfast car parts plant.

Rick Pineda, a worker at the Belfast plant for 11 years, stated, "We weren't prepared, but when it came to it we didn't just accept losing our jobs. Nobody moved off the plant. We don't accept that Ford can use us and

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## Legalization now! No raids, deportations! L.A. workers build May Day actions



Militant/Naomi Craine

Some 1,200 people march through downtown Los Angeles April 4 to build upcoming May Day actions there to demand legalization for undocumented immigrants.

BY ELLIE GARCÍA AND NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—Recent and upcoming meetings, conferences, and protests here are building toward May 1 actions for immigrant rights. About 1,200 people marched through downtown to the convention center for a rally titled, "Reforma migratoria ahora!!! in commemoration of the

Grand March of March 25, 2006."

The action was organized by the Coalition for Full Rights for Immigrant Workers. Rally slogans demanded "Immigration reform," "Stop the raids," and "Yes to family unification," a reference to the separation of families when one or both parents are deported and separated from their

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## U.S. auto bosses, gov't press for deep concessions from workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Barack Obama administration has called on auto workers at General Motors and Chrysler to accept deeper cuts in their wages and benefits, with the alternative being a government-organized bankruptcy for the two companies within the next month or two.

"What we are asking is difficult," stated Obama in a March 30 White House talk. "It will require hard choices by companies. It will require unions and workers who have already made painful concessions to make even more."

The president's comments come in response to the auto bosses' demand for additional federal bailout funds. General Motors has already received \$13.4 billion and has asked for an additional \$16.6 billion. Chrysler has received \$4 billion and is seeking another \$5 billion.

To obtain these funds, the government told each company to submit a "restructuring" plan by the end of March, shrinking their size and reducing their expenses. This included

cutting jobs, reducing wages and benefits, and altering work rules so the companies could become more "competitive" with nonunion plants in the United States owned by companies from other countries. GM promptly announced plans to eliminate 47,000 jobs worldwide, shutting 14 factories.

In February United Auto Workers (UAW) officials agreed to grant concessions that lowered labor costs by up to \$1.1 billion, GM officials told the *New York Times*. These included changes in overtime pay, eliminating the jobs bank, which pays the wages of workers waiting to be recalled to work, and cutting back supplemental unemployment benefits that provide laid-off workers with close to full-time pay.

However, auto bosses are now demanding much bigger concessions. GM and Chrysler insist that tens of billions of dollars they owe to a union-run trust fund for retirees' health-care coverage be paid not in cash but with their stocks, the value of which has declined precipitously. The UAW

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## 'Militant' subscription drive wins 536 readers in 2 weeks

BY BEN JOYCE

In the first two weeks of the campaign to win new *Militant* readers, distributors have sold 536 subscriptions. While slightly behind schedule, supporters of the paper are in a good position to bring home the international goal of 2,150 over the next five weeks. The seven-week campaign ends May 12.

*Militant* supporters around the world are getting out to protests, picket lines,

political meetings, and joining socialist candidates in talking to working people about the unique working-class perspective that the paper offers in face of the attacks on our standard of living, working conditions, and rights by the bosses and their government.

Supporters in Australia have sold 32 subscriptions in these two weeks toward their goal of 55. "The high-point of the campaign here was the Celebration of African Cultures festival," reports Bob Aiken. The April 4 festival attracted several hundred

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## 'Militant' Fund raises \$13,613 in first week

BY SAM MANUEL

The campaign to raise \$105,000 for the *Militant* is on schedule at the end of the first week, with \$13,613 sent in. However pledges are about \$4,000 short of the goal.

To help spur collection of pledges, supporters of the *Militant* are organizing public meetings where workers and youth involved in a wide range of struggles can raise funds and discuss getting the paper out

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# Officials lead split from UNITE HERE union

BY CINDY JAQUITH

A group of officials in UNITE HERE, the union representing many garment, hotel, restaurant, casino, and distribution center workers, has organized a split and formed a new union, Workers United.

Some 450 delegates attended the founding convention of Workers United in Philadelphia March 21. Officials reported that 15 joint boards of UNITE HERE, representing 150,000 members, had voted two weeks before to start a new union. Members of Workers United come from most parts of the United States, Puerto Rico, and four provinces in Canada, they said.

Prior to the split, UNITE HERE reported a membership of about 450,000.

Two days after the Philadelphia convention, Workers United president Edgar Romney announced the union had affiliated to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

UNITE HERE was formed in 2004 by a merger of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees and the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union. The following year UNITE HERE, together with SEIU, United Food and Commercial Workers, and other unions, left the AFL-CIO to form a new labor federation, Change to Win.

John Wilhelm, president of UNITE HERE's hotel and restaurant division, condemned the recent split, saying it violates the union's constitution. Both sides have gone to court over that issue.

Wilhelm said that SEIU president Andrew Stern "has seized upon the inherent weakness of the splinter group as his opportunity to reach into UNITE HERE's hotel, gaming and food service jurisdictions."

Wilhelm also charged that "Stern plans to take the Amalgamated Bank in the bargain."

Amalgamated Bank is the only union-owned bank in the country, with assets of some \$5 billion. Originally established by a predecessor of the UNITE garment union, it became the joint property of both UNITE and HERE when they merged.

Leading up to the split, some 75,000 workers signed petitions for disaffiliation that were circulated in some UNITE HERE shops, according to Workers United officials. A flyer distributed along with the petitions in New York garment shops was signed by the board of directors and officers of the New York New Jersey Regional Joint Board of UNITE HERE. It accused officials from the HERE wing of the union of "trying to silence the voices of 150,000 workers. *Just like the boss.*" It said they "want to sell off everything and in the words of one of them, *spend it down until it's gone*, that's a plan that will bankrupt the union. *Just like the boss.*"

The split marks the further fracturing of the labor movement as the officials' class-collaborationist strategy has failed to protect workers from the deepening capitalist economic crisis. Only 12.4 percent of workers were in unions in 2008; among manufacturing

## Farm workers march for immigrant rights



Militant/Carole Lesnick

SAN FRANCISCO—Some 2,000 people, mostly farm workers and their families, walk four miles through working-class communities in Salinas, California March 29 to honor Cesar Chavez, the longtime leader of the United Farm Workers union, and to call for "immigration reform."

Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city treasurer here, joined a parade and street fair honoring Chavez in this city's Mission District April 4. The Socialist Workers campaigners called for immediate legalization of all immigrants and an end to raids and deportations. They also demanded U.S. troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan now and pointed to the need for workers to take political power. Sánchez was among the speakers March 29 in Santa Rosa, where hundreds of farm workers and their supporters rallied.

Flyers announcing a May Day march in Watsonville for "immigrant and worker rights" were passed out at the Salinas action.

—JOEL BRITTON

workers it was 11 percent. In 1983, 20 percent of the workforce was union.

Seeking to recover their dues base, union officials have promoted mergers of unions representing workers in very different occupations, which have only weakened the industrial character and potential power of the unions. Their infighting has more and more degenerated into raiding operations against unions seen as rivals for dues-paying members.

Just days before the Workers United split, the AFL-CIO and SEIU announced the formation of a Gaming Workers Council made up of casino unions. UNITE HERE, which organizes many casino workers, was not invited to participate. D. Taylor, the Culinary Workers union secretary treasurer, told the *Las Vegas Sun*.

In mid-March the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) rejected the formation of a new union by 14,000 workers in California who belonged to United Healthcare Workers-West, an affiliate of the SEIU. The NLRB ruled that the SEIU contract with the employer, Catholic Healthcare West, prevents the formation of a new union.

The SEIU had earlier placed United Healthcare Workers-West in trusteeship. Sal Roselli, former president of that local, charged that the SEIU agreed to inferior conditions in contracts in order to convince employers to accept unionization. The SEIU officials accused Roselli of financial misdealings. Roselli now heads the new union trying to win recognition, which is called the National Union of Healthcare Workers.

## THE MILITANT

### Jail cops who killed Oscar Grant!

*The Bay Area cops and courts are trying to exploit the deaths of four cops recently to slow down the prosecution of Johannes Mehserle, the cop who shot Oscar Grant in the back, killing him on New Year's Day. Keep up with the fight to win justice in this case.*



Militant/Eric Simpson

Demonstration in Oakland, California, to protest killing of Oscar Grant.

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



# Support grows in visa fight for wives of Cuban 5

BY SETH GALINSKY

April 8—A letter signed by 170 prominent individuals from 27 countries demanding that the U.S. government grant visas to the wives of two Cuban revolutionaries unjustly held in U.S. jails for a decade was delivered to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana April 2.

Adriana Pérez, along with other family members of five imprisoned Cubans, will go to another appointment at the U.S. Interests Section to request permission to travel to the United States.

For Pérez this will be the 10th time she requests a visa to visit her husband Gerardo Hernández.

Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, and Fernando González—known internationally as the Cuban Five—have been imprisoned since 1998, when they were arrested in Miami on frame-up “conspiracy” charges.

The five had been gathering information on rightist groups based in Florida that have a history of carrying out violent attacks against Cuba.

Pérez has not been allowed to see Hernández for 11 years. In 2002 after being granted a visa and flying to Houston she was stopped, detained for 11 hours, and returned to Cuba.

Olga Salanueva last saw her husband, René González, in August 2000, when she was arrested in Miami and taken to see him on her way to jail. By arresting her the cops hoped to pressure González into signing a confession and testifying against the other defendants. He refused and received a 15-year sentence.

Salanueva was jailed for three months and deported six days before the trial of the five began. In July 2008 officials at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana told Salanueva she is “permanently ineligible” for a visa.

The U.S. State Department Web site claims that Salanueva was deported for “engaging in activity related to espionage” and that Pérez was a “candidate for training” as a spy as the reasons for refusing to grant visas.

The FBI spied on the five, stole information from their homes in “black bag” jobs, and then arrested them

in September 1998 on trumped-up charges of being part of a “Cuban spy network.” The trial took place in Miami in an atmosphere of open intimidation from right-wing opponents of the Cuban government. In a further violation of their democratic rights, the court denied the five access to “evidence” used against them that prosecutors claimed was secret. They were convicted in 2001 and handed harsh sentences ranging from 15 years to life in prison.

While the wives and family of Labañino, Fernando González, and Guerrero have been allowed to visit, Washington has often delayed their visa requests for up to a year and a half. The signers urge Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to grant immediate visas to Salanueva and Pérez and multiple-entry visas to the other family members of the five.

Among the 170 signers of the letter are Eloi Glorieux and Kurt De Loor, members of the Flemish parliament; Marco Rizzo, Bart Staes, Eva-Britt Svensson, Glenys Kinnock, and Ignasi Guardans, members of the European parliament; Gayle McLaughlin, mayor of Richmond, California; author Alice Walker; actor Danny Glover; musician Danny Rivera; Sixto Sánchez Lorenzo, professor at the University of Granada, Spain; Puerto Rican independence activist Rafael Cáncel Miranda; and Pedro Goldfarb, a professor at Hebrew University in Israel.

On January 30 lawyers for the five petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case and overturn the convictions.

The April 6 Cuban daily *Granma* printed an article by María Eugenia Guerrero, the sister of Antonio Guerrero, after her visit to the maximum security prison where Antonio is being held. Below are excerpts from that article. Translation is by the *Militant*.



Since March 17 I have been in Colorado, with my nephew Tony to visit my brother at the prison in Florence. During the visits I am the one who keeps notes in my head, because we are not allowed even a piece of paper or a pencil, because of the atmosphere and tensions there. My brother looks very good, his health is good, and he has a lot of optimism and fortitude.

The max prison at Florence has a very strict regime and since last year it’s been even tougher due to serious incidents of indiscipline. According to the rules, the just pay the price for this alongside the sinners.

Tony, of course, has a record of good conduct and he keeps up his job of teaching classes in mathematics, English, and Spanish to help other prisoners who need them. He’d like to be transferred out of this prison, based on his conduct, but that does not depend on him. As you know the probabilities of this are low since this is a case where neither law nor logic applies; instead it is governed by hate and political revenge.

He also is continuing his painting projects and writing poems full of love and strength, which helps him to keep his mind occupied. He also an-



Antonio Guerrero, left, one of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in U.S. jails since 1998, with his son Tony during a prison visit.

swers, little by little, hundreds of letters from Cuba and many parts of the world that arrive every day.

In every one of our prison visits, you, our friends who have accompanied us in this more than 10-year struggle, are always present. You are the biggest hope for winning justice. We speak of the activities and actions that take place. If we did not have so many friends who offer solidarity, we would have no hope that justice would be done. In these moments when we are still waiting to see if the Supreme

Court will or won’t accept reviewing the case, we need to redouble these efforts.



Letters urging the U.S. government to grant visas to Pérez and Salanueva can be sent to: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20520 and to Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C., 20528.

## ‘Militant’ fund raises \$13,613

Continued from front page widely.

Dean Hazlewood, organizer of the fund campaign in Los Angeles, reported that 35 people attended a special fund event April 4. The featured speaker was Socialist Workers Party leader Norton Sandler, who discussed the challenges facing working people in the deepening economic crisis and the role of the *Militant* in telling the truth—that the heart of the problem is the capitalist system itself.

Sky Owens, a student at the University of Southern California, also spoke. Owens said he has been reading the paper for several months and it has helped him get deeper into political discussions with other students. He said his favorite feature in the paper is the “Books of the month” column.

Two day laborers from San Diego attended and brought with them copies of their newsletter *El Mosquito Zumbador* (The Buzzing Mosquito), so named, they said, because “it bites the bosses.” Also attending was a young man who picked up a *Militant* subscription earlier in the day at an action in support of legalization of undocumented workers.

“The event was also successful financially,” writes Hazlewood, “collecting \$2,840 that evening.” Several of those attending made new pledges or raised previous pledges, totaling \$1,560.

Supporters of the *Militant* in Vancouver, British Columbia, held a very successful fund-raising dinner and program April 5, reports John Steele. Communist League leader Michel Prairie spoke about the recent Havana International Book Fair, which he participated in as a volunteer at the Pathfinder booth along with communist workers from other countries. Prairie is the Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal in elections this November.

The event raised \$1,665 in contribu-

tions and pledges, exceeding the organizers’ goal of \$1,500. They are now confident they can reach the \$2,000 mark.

Funds raised in the eight-week campaign help cover basic operating expenses like printing, mailing, rent, and equipment, as well as travel. The chart on this page shows the current pledges and amounts collected so far. To make a contribution or to find out about a fund meeting in your area, contact a distributor listed on page 8 or write directly to the *Militant* at the address on page 2.

### ‘Militant’ Fund Drive Spring 2009 ♦ Week 1 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	8,000	2,125	27%
Twin Cities, MN	6,600	1,810	27%
New York	15,500	2,253	15%
Des Moines, IA	1,900	225	12%
Newark, NJ	3,200	337	11%
San Francisco	13,000	1,375	11%
Miami	3,300	281	9%
Seattle	7,000	600	9%
Houston	3,000	160	5%
Chicago	9,000	315	4%
Los Angeles	8,800	320	4%
Boston	2,800	0	0%
Philadelphia	3,300	0	0%
Washington, D.C.	4,500	0	0%
TOTAL	89,900	9,801	11%
Canada	5,000	3,200	64%
New Zealand	2,500	0	0%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	1,500	248	17%
Edinburgh	500	0	0%
TOTAL	2,000	248	12%
Australia	1,050	364	35%
Sweden	400	0	0%
INT’L TOTAL	100,850	13,613	13%
SHOULD BE	105,000	13,125	13%

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### NEW JERSEY

**Newark**  
**Halt Militarization of U.S.-Mexico Border!**  
Speaker: Mike Fitzsimmons, SWP. Fri., April 10, 8 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Fl. Tel.: (973) 481-0077.

### NEW YORK

**Manhattan**  
**Halt Militarization of U.S.-Mexico Border!**  
Speaker: Luis Madrid, SWP. Fri., April 10, Dinner, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. 307 W 36th St., 10th Fl., near 8th Ave. (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland**  
**Charles Darwin Anniversary: Why Workers Celebrate His Scientific Revolution.**  
Speaker: Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., April 17, 7 p.m. Donation \$3. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Tel.: (09) 276-8885.



Quebec professors, students go on strike



MONTREAL—Nine hundred and eighty professors at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) have been on strike since March 16. They are demanding income parity with other Quebec university professors and the hiring of 300 new teachers to reduce class sizes.

UQAM professors earn 10 percent less than the other university professors in Quebec. Student associations representing more than 30,000 students have gone on strike in support of the professors. A judge granted UQAM an injunction limiting the strikers’ ability to reach out for support.

The strike is a first test of Quebec unionists’ capacity, in the middle of the deepening crisis of world capitalism, to defend not only their working conditions but also the quality of social programs, particularly in education and health. Hundreds of thousands of Quebec government employees are preparing to negotiate new collective agreements in 2009.

—MICHEL DUGRÉ

Bay Area judge orders delay in killer cop’s trial

BY ERIC SIMPSON

OAKLAND, California—In the wake of the killing of four Oakland cops, an Alameda County judge ordered the delay of a pretrial hearing for the cop charged with killing Oscar Grant, an unarmed young Black man on New Year’s Day. At the March 23 hearing the attorney for the cop argued that under the circumstances antipolice passions might be inflamed by his plan for an “aggressive defense” of his client.

In the week leading up to the funerals for the four cops, government officials have blanketed local newspaper and television coverage with statements mourning the deaths and calls for support to the cops.

Grant, a 22-year-old apprentice butcher, and several friends, were taken off a Bay Area commuter train by transit cops while returning home after celebrating the New Year. He was struck by one of the cops and thrown face down on the transit station. With police lieutenant Anthony Pirone kneeling on his neck, Officer Johannes Mehserle stood above Grant

and shot him in the back. After weeks of protests, the Alameda County district attorney ordered Mehserle’s arrest January 13. He is free on \$3 million bail. No charges have been filed against the other cops who were present.

“I don’t want this to get put off over and over again,” Wanda Johnson, Grant’s mother, said outside the courtroom after Judge C. Don Clay granted a delay. “I think that justice needs to be served.” Family attorney John Burris said the hearing “will be based on the evidence that’s heard by the court. . . . We should have gone forward.” The hearing, which will determine whether Mehserle goes on trial for murder, is now scheduled for May 18.

Grant’s uncle, Daryl Johnson, told a local TV station, “He shot him in the back. There’s no defense for murder. Everyone sees it, everybody knows it. This is a joke.”

The postponement came at the request of Michael Rains, Mehserle’s defense attorney, whose firm is under contract to the Oakland Police Officers Association. Rains said he was unable to prepare for the hearing because of the shooting deaths of four Oakland cops two days before. Rains said he was personally close with two of them. “I don’t want to stumble or fumble through this case,” he stated.

Rains said the police department was not prepared to handle protests that might result from aggressive defense of his client. “To say that members of that department are not hard-pressed right now is an understatement,” he asserted. The prosecuting attorneys did not oppose the postponement.

The capitalist news media and government officials have taken advantage of the opportunity created by the killing of four Oakland cops by Lovelle Mixon, who was on parole, to portray them as heroes. Mixon, 26, was killed on the scene.

A featured column appearing in the *San Francisco Chronicle* entitled “Oakland—it’s time to back the badge” encouraged people to attend a candlelight vigil for the cops at the site where two of them were killed. It also called on those who have protested the killing of Grant to join in or “nothing they have said or done to seek justice for Grant will amount to a hill of beans.”

The funeral for the cops March 27 was attended by thousands of police officers in uniform from around the country and broadcast live on local television. A delegation of Royal Canadian Mounted Police attended from Canada. California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, state attorney general Edmund Brown, Jr., congressional representatives, and other politicians addressed the 19,000 people reportedly in attendance in front of the four flag-draped coffins. President Barack Obama sent a letter of condolence. The U.S. Congress on April 1 passed a resolution “honoring” the cops by a vote of 417-0.

U.S. auto bosses, gov’t press for concessions

Continued from front page

approved such an arrangement with Ford Motor Company in March. GM estimates it owes \$20 billion to the health-care fund.

Chrysler, Ford, and GM have also offered buyouts to more than 100,000

auto workers, hoping to replace them with new hires making about \$14 an hour, half the wages of many UAW members. The union agreed to this two-tier wage structure in its 2007 contract.

But by the end of March this year,

GM said only 7,500 hourly employees had accepted the buyout, far below the number of better-paid workers it had hoped to cut. There are some 132,600 workers currently employed at GM, Ford, and Chrysler, and 550,000 retirees and surviving spouses.

The White House auto plan stipulates that Chrysler will receive bailout funds and avert bankruptcy if it forms a joint partnership with the Italian-based car company Fiat by May 1. In a protectionist move, the plan demands Fiat agree to build new cars and engines in the United States, noted the *Financial Times*.

GM has until June 1 to present its new plan for “restructuring.” The company is already preparing to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. This filing is now “certainly more probable,” Fritz Henderson, newly appointed GM chief executive, told the media March 31. He also said the company may not wait the full 60 days to make this decision. Such a move “could tear up labor contracts with benefits the UAW has won over 73 years,” noted Bloomberg News.

The government is also working with GM on dividing up the company’s “good” and “bad” assets through a more “controlled” bankruptcy. “The administration would like to see the ‘good’ GM, comprising brands such as Chevrolet and Cadillac, remain an independent company,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Under this plan, GM’s tens of billions of dollars in retiree and health-care obligations would be transferred to the bad “old GM,” which would include less profitable brands such as Hummer and Saturn and would remain in bankruptcy court much longer. The sell-off of parts of this company would be prioritized towards paying bondholders and other creditors. The government would spend tens of billions of dollars to finance this bankruptcy proceeding.

‘Militant’ subscription drive

Continued from front page

people, mainly African immigrants.

The subscription campaign in Boston has had success reaching out at political

events on campuses. Five subscriptions were sold at a March 28–29 conference on “One State for Palestine and Israel” at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. One student at Brandeis University decided to buy a subscription after reading the article in the April 6 issue headlined “Israel boycotts and divestment serve as cover for anti-Semitism.”

In Atlanta 22 subscriptions were sold in one weekend, bringing the local total up to 45. *Militant* supporters report selling nine subscriptions in less than two hours in Doraville, a largely Asian and Latin American immigrant community near Atlanta.

The international goal is slightly higher than the sum total of local goals, currently at 2,106. The remaining five weeks in the drive present continued political openings to get a working-class perspective into the hands of those who need it. Actions in defense of immigrant rights on May 1 in various cities are examples of some of these important opportunities.

We encourage readers of the *Militant* to tell us what you think about the paper and to help circulate it. To find out more, visit or contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Eddie Beck in Atlanta and Kevin Dwire in Boston contributed to this article.

‘Militant’ Subscription Drive

March 21 – May 12, 2009			
Week 2			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
<b>Boston</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Newark, NJ</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33%</b>
Atlanta	160	45	28%
San Francisco	150	39	26%
Twin Cities, MN	140	36	26%
Miami	150	38	25%
New York	280	69	25%
Los Angeles	125	27	22%
Seattle	101	21	21%
Chicago	120	22	18%
Des Moines, IA	130	24	18%
Houston	95	14	15%
Philadelphia	75	10	13%
Washington, D.C.	70	8	11%
Other		4	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1731</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>23%</b>
Canada	115	25	22%
UNITED KINGDOM			
<b>London</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>53%</b>
Edinburgh	35	7	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Should Be</b>	<b>2150</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>29%</b>

THE MILITANT

online

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# 2,000 in N.Y. rally against Iraq, Afghanistan wars

BY BEN JOYCE

NEW YORK—Some 2,000 people turned out to protest the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in a lively march here April 4. The demonstration, called by United for Peace and Justice and Bail Out the People Movement, also condemned Washington's bank bailouts and demanded cuts in war spending.

Organizers said the action commemorated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s April 4, 1967, speech against the Vietnam War and his assassination exactly one year later.

Participants in the march came mainly from the New York area but were joined by contingents from as far away as Michigan and Tennessee. Contingents of unionists in the Service Employees International Union, United Auto Workers, and United Federation of Teachers were among the marchers.

Supporters of the New York Socialist Workers campaign joined the march, carrying a banner that read "All imperialist troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq now: Not one penny, not one person for Washington's wars!"

Dan Fein, the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor, marched in the contingent along with Tom Baumann and Maura DeLuca, the party's candidates for Manhattan borough president and public advocate respectively.

Patricia Garay, a sophomore at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, was among some 50 people who bused from that state. "The facts speak for themselves," she told the *Militant* when asked why she opposes the war. "It's important for people to come out to these things because war is not a one-time thing and it won't just go away because there's a new president. We have to work for it," she said.

"We came out here to meet other people who are against the war," said Sara Weathers, a student from the University of Michigan who also came on the bus. "What we do here has a real impact."

"What do we want—Troops out! When do we want it—Now!" was a popular chant during the day. Many in the crowd prominently displayed signs demanding an end to the wars and military funding.

The rally began in Lower Manhat-



Militant/Ben Joyce

Protesters march in New York April 4 against U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. At right with megaphone is Tom Baumann, SWP candidate for Manhattan borough president.

tan and marched about a mile through the city's financial district, passing by the New York Stock Exchange, where protesters organized by Bail Out the People joined in. They had been rallying on Wall Street against bankers at financial institutions that have re-

ceived federal bailout money, blaming the current economic crisis on them.

The march ended in Battery Park, where people gathered for a few hours to browse literature tables and engage in political conversation.

Alex Ellefson, a bartender from New York, stayed after the march to discuss politics. "You can't make a difference on your own," he said. "If you want to make a difference, you have to be part of something bigger, like a cog in a machine."

After the march socialist candidate Fein spoke to a gathering of protesters. "Working people need to take power out of the hands of the war makers," he said. "The working classes in the United States, Iraq, and Afghanistan have a common enemy—the capitalist class. We need to build a revolutionary movement that can take political power and use it to build a society based on the needs of the majority, not profits."

The day before, another demonstration took place in the financial district to protest bank bailouts and "corporate greed." The action was sponsored by the Bail Out the People Movement and drew several hundred people.

## Court rules 3 can sue for release from Bagram jail

BY SETH GALINSKY

In spite of opposition from the White House, a federal district court ruled April 2 that three prisoners held at the U.S. air base in Bagram, Afghanistan, can sue for their release in U.S. civilian courts. John Bates, the judge in the case, is still reviewing the request of a fourth prisoner.

The suit was brought on behalf of Fadi al-Maqaleh, a Yemeni citizen who was detained outside of Afghanistan in 2003; Amin al-Bakri, a Yemeni taken into custody by U.S. forces in Thailand in 2002; Redha al-Najar, a Tunisian who was arrested in Pakistan in 2002; and Haji Wazir, an Afghan citizen who was grabbed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2002. The judge delayed a decision on Wazir, citing potential "friction" with the Afghan government.

The administration of President Barack Obama argued that the four men have no right to habeas corpus and can be detained indefinitely because they are in a "war zone." This is a position first argued by the George

W. Bush administration and adopted by the Obama administration.

The decision of the judge does not apply to most prisoners at the base, still considered "enemy combatants" by Washington. Citing a 2008 Supreme Court decision in relation to some prisoners at Guantánamo, Bates said that only those prisoners at Bagram "who are not Afghan citizens, who were not captured in Afghanistan and who have been held for an unreasonable amount of time—here over six years" have the right to sue in U.S. court.

He also ruled that the right of habeas corpus does not become available immediately upon capture but only after a "reasonable amount of time" in U.S. custody. Three of the prisoners have been detained by Washington for sev-

en years and one of them for six years.

Judge Bates noted, "The only reason these petitioners are in an active theater of war is because" the U.S. military brought them there.

Claiming the three prisoners are beyond the jurisdiction of U.S. courts "resurrects the same specter of limitless executive power" that the Supreme Court rejected in 2008 during the presidency of George W. Bush, Bates said in his decision.

The U.S. military currently holds some 600 prisoners at the Bagram base, all but 20 allegedly seized inside Afghanistan. A \$60 million expansion of the Bagram prison is planned to increase its capacity to 1,000, four times the 240 currently held on Guantánamo.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 20, 1984

UNITED NATIONS—In a news briefing here, Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations Hoang Bich Son denounced the recent intense shelling of Vietnam's northern border area by Chinese forces and Thai army artillery attacks against Kampuchean territory.

In what Vietnam described as a "very serious act of war" Peking sent several battalions of infantrymen to invade a Vietnamese province on April 6. Local armed forces repelled the attacks.

Ambassador Bich Son charged that the purpose of this attack was to undermine the trend towards dialogue between the Indochinese countries with other Southeast Asian countries that belong to ASEAN. The attacks are also meant to boost the morale of the Pol Pot forces, upon whom the Kampuchean army has inflicted military defeats recently.



April 20, 1959

The workers and peasants in Iraq are continuing the revolutionary advance they began six weeks ago when they rallied behind the regime of Premier Abdul Karim Kassim to quickly smother an attempted counter-revolution.

The unsuccessful counter-revolution proclaimed itself pro-Nasser. Its leaders were high-ranking army officers and great land-owning sheiks. Its aim was to stop the Iraqi revolution, which had begun eight months before and particularly to prevent the land reform promised by the new regime.

But the great outpouring of the masses onto the streets and the militancy of the Peoples Resistance Force—a temporarily armed militia composed primarily of revolutionary youth—caused other army officers to hesitate, waver, and finally decide not to join Colonel Shawaf's rebellion.



April 21, 1934

The deportation of [Leon] Trotsky by the reactionary government of France and the campaign of hounding and incitement which puts his life in imminent danger at the hands of Russian White Guards or inspired Fascist assassins, raises sharply before the advanced workers of the United States the question of a fight to secure the right of asylum for him here.

In view of the sweep of reaction in Europe which compels thousands of working class militants and opponents of fascism to live in emigration, the question of the right of asylum in the United States becomes an issue of direct concern for every political tendency in the labor movement. We can be true to the proletarian spirit of comrade Trotsky only if we join with other workers' organizations and fight as resolutely for their partisans as for our own comrades.

### For further reading

#### FBI on Trial

by Margaret Jayko

How the 1987 victory by the Socialist Workers Party in its lawsuit against U.S. spy agencies expanded use of the Bill of Rights and increased the confidence of working people that you can be political, hold convictions against the government, and it's your right to do so and act upon them. **\$18.95**



#### Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation

by Larry Seigle

In New International no. 6 **\$16**



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# G-20 powers meet amid mounting economic crisis

## Conference marked by rivalry, protectionism

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—A declaration adopted by the Group of 20 meeting here was described by its host, UK prime minister Gordon Brown, as a “new world order.”

Within hours, news emerged—if it were needed—that gave the lie to this and other similar claims made about the event. Rather than growth, what lies ahead is further contraction in industrial production and trade; rather than “international consensus,” sharpened international rivalry and conflict; rather than order, growing disorder.

The G-20 includes the leading imperialist powers—the United States, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, and Australia—as well as Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, and Turkey. These countries account for 85 percent of worldwide production.

Meeting April 2, the G-20 leaders heralded the summit as the day the

world “fought back against the recession.” But closer inspection revealed that even the main concrete measure agreed to—that they would pump \$1.1 trillion into the International Monetary Fund to aid government bailouts—was in large part a repackaging of commitments already made or deals only half-done. As to providing stiffer international regulation of the banking and finance sector, the *Financial Times* reported sharp behind-the-scenes disputes as to what this entailed and “little new on monetary policy action or efforts to clean up bank balance sheets.”

Within 24 hours of the event more than 3,000 job cuts had been announced in the United Kingdom, with workers in aerospace and other manufacturing and insurance companies especially affected. Forecasts published this week by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) suggest that Britain’s economy will continue to shrink for the rest of the year, pushing gross domestic product down by 3.7



Jim Shannon

“Put People First” demonstration March 28 in London’s Hyde Park to protest G-20 summit. Action was organized by Trades Union Congress and sponsored by 150 other organizations.

percent in 2009, easily the biggest decline since the Second World War.

The same week the U.S. government announced that bosses there had cut 663,000 jobs nationwide in March alone, bringing total U.S. job losses in the last 16 months to more than 5 million. Unemployment in the United States now stands at 8.5 percent, according to official figures, the highest since 1983. In a telltale sign of what the future holds, the new chief executive of General Motors, Fritz Henderson, refused to rule

out bankruptcy for the auto giant.

In direct contradiction to the G-20 decision to tighten international regulation over banks and other financial institutions, the U.S. Financial Accounting Standards Board softened rules for banks that would allow them to massage their bottom line by down-valuing their bad debts, often referred to as “toxic assets.” The move, taken the day after the G-20 summit, will inevitably prompt other countries to do likewise, to safeguard the competitiveness of their banks.

### Growing protectionist measures

In the wake of a strongly worded declaration against protectionism adopted by the G-20 meeting in Washington last November, no fewer than 17 of the G-20 countries have already adopted protectionist measures. The auto industry is the sector most protected by national governments, with the United States, Canada, France, Germany, United Kingdom, China, Argentina, Brazil, Sweden, and Italy providing direct or indirect subsidies. Australia is giving support to its car dealers and South Korea and Portugal support to their component suppliers. A report by the World Bank stated that the 47 protectionist measures adopted by the 17 governments is threatening food provisions in the semicolonial countries.

Negotiations on international trade—known as the Doha Agenda, after the town in Qatar where they began eight years ago—remain stalled, sunk by continued disagreements over trade tariffs.

In a post-G-20 interview, José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, told the *Daily Telegraph* that tensions among EU members under the impact of the sharpening crisis had threatened the single market. Different European countries had taken unilateral action to bail out banks, national politicians turned toward protectionism, and governments embarked on national “recovery paths” without reference to European Union rules, the EU leader said.

The UK government’s business secretary, Peter Mandelson, said that Gordon Brown had been “excessively ambitious” in his aims for the summit. Brown and U.S. president Barack Obama failed in their efforts to secure any further promises for more government fiscal spending in an attempt to combat the deepening world recession, largely in the face of opposition from the governments of Germany and France.

## Thousands protest G-20 summit in London

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON—Thousands took to the streets in various protests here around the G-20 summit to express their anger over the economic crisis and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In leading the actions trade union leaders and middle-class radicals mixed appeals to the “conscience” of governments in the United Kingdom, the United

States, France, Japan, and other imperialist countries with anti-banker demagoguery.

“People are looking to the G-20 to deliver the justice that the world is crying out for,” Brendan Barber, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), told more than 10,000 demonstrators in Hyde Park on March 28. Headlined “Put People First,” that

demonstration, called by the TUC and sponsored by 150 other organizations, was the largest of the protests. Participants came from across England and a number of other European countries.

Mary Turner, president of the GMB union, said unions had long ago called for tighter financial regulations. She called for “taking all the ill-gotten luxuries from the bankers and locking them up.” A speakers’ platform at the end of the march was chaired by actor and TV presenter Tony Robinson. It included Bianca Jagger of the World Future Council, Father Joe Komakoma of the Zambian Episcopal Conference, comedian Mark Thomas, and environmentalist Tony Juniper. Susan George, author of books on the Third World debt, led demonstrators in chanting, “The banks are ours!”

Other demonstrations drew several thousand people on April 1. One called by the Stop the War Coalition demanded, “Troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan” and “End the siege of Gaza—free Palestine!” Organizers of the action called for abolishing nuclear weapons and creating “jobs, not bombs.” The protest also demanded that the British and U.S. governments stop all military aid to Israel. At another action there were pockets of violence as baton-wielding police penned in and assaulted demonstrators. A small number of protesters trashed a Royal Bank of Scotland premise.

Supporters of the *Militant* got a good response as they campaigned for the perspective of working people overthrowing the capitalist system as the only way of ending the economic crisis and war. Nineteen subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold along with £110 of revolutionary books (US\$160), including five copies of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*

### More class-conscious workers turn bosses’ blood money bribes against them



“You can put this ‘blood money’ to better use than I can,” wrote Eli Green. He and Michele Smith, oil workers in California, sent in checks for \$1,400 and \$1,500 respectively from “contract-signing” bonuses.

“Despite raking in tens of billions of record profits over the past three years,” Green said in a note, “the oil bosses offered us a ‘take it or leave it’ contract that was in no way an improvement over the old inadequate contract that had been twice extended! They then threw in a cheap ‘bribe’ to discourage us from voting the contract down.”

Workers in the revolutionary socialist movement call such “gifts” from the bosses “blood money,” because the bosses use them to try to buy our silence about speedup, long hours, and unsafe working conditions. The bribes come with our blood and that of our coworkers on them.

Green and Smith have joined the contingent of those turning these bribery attempts by the bosses against the employing class. They have contributed these bribes to the Capital Fund to support the long-term publishing program of the communist movement.

Cecelia Moriarity, a sewing-machine operator in Seattle, sent in a \$50 Christmas bonus and \$2 in “lucky money” for the Chinese Lunar New Year she received from her boss. The company she works for produces gloves for the U.S. military. After completing a large order Moriarity was laid off along with nine of her coworkers without notice.

Dave Ferguson, a sewing-machine operator in Atlanta, sent in \$75 from a “productivity” bonus and \$50 from a food-shopping card. From the same city Vivian Sahner has contributed \$1,730.73. This month she sent in \$890.34—the second half of an “incentive” bonus. She sent in the first half last month.

Class-conscious workers have a proud tradition of turning over these bribes—large or small—to the Capital Fund to further the movement’s publishing program. The money helps in the production of books and educational materials needed in workers’ fight to take power out of the hands of the wealthy rulers, end the wages system, and reorganize society based on human solidarity. Join them.

—SAM MANUEL



# Chicago student fights deportation to Mexico

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHICAGO—"These are the charges against me—being a citizen of Mexico and not a citizen of the U.S.; entering the U.S. when I was six years old; and not being admitted into this country by an immigration officer," explained Rigoberto Padilla. He was the featured speaker at an April 2 meeting of more than 80 students held at Harold Washington College in downtown Chicago.

Padilla, 21, is a student at Harold Washington and a leader of the Organization of Latin American Students. He said that if he is still in the country on May 1, when protests are planned in support of legalization of all undocumented workers, "I will be marching. I'm on the committee that is organizing students for the march," he said.

Thirty students from some six college campuses attended a meeting of the Chicago May Day Students, held at DePaul University on March 30. They discussed building a big student contingent in the May Day march in Chicago.

"I believe that the march is part of something bigger and in that sense we can learn something from history," Padilla continued. "We need to put on more pressure and keep participating actively in this fight." He added, "I don't want to give up. I've tried to do something with my life and I've struggled a lot."

On January 19 Padilla was pulled over by the Chicago police for a traffic violation and taken to the Cook County jail. He described how the public defender assigned to his case walked out of the room when he learned Padilla was born in Mexico. Ten minutes later an agent from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrived and interrogated Padilla about his immigration status.

Padilla was then transferred to a detention center. He was soon released, but forced to wear an electronic ankle bracelet to track his movements at all times. He faces a hearing in early April that could lead to his deportation to Mexico.

During the discussion at the meeting Olga Cunningham said, "Segregation is happening today. These are unjust laws. You are limited because of your status. This is supposed to be the land of the free, but it makes you question, are we free? This is not just for Mexicans. It is

not right and we should do something about it."

Several other people in the audience talked about the importance of marching on May 1 this year. Tania Unzueta said, "Chicago passed a law that says that you cannot be an employee of the city and act as immigration police. What happened to Rigo[berto] is a violation of this law. It is important we organize for May 1 this year. We're fighting for people's lives."

The Chicago city council passed an ordinance in March 2006 that prohibited any city official from acting as immigration police, shortly after more than 100,000 people marched here protesting the criminalizing of immigrants.

Carmela Garcia is a student at Northeastern Illinois University and attended the meeting with several fellow students. "May Day is for everyone," she said. "In this economic crisis everyone is being affected. Let's march on May Day."

## Los Angeles workers build May Day actions

**Continued from front page**  
children in the United States. Organizers of the march and rally made its main theme an appeal to President Barack Obama to promote the reform of immigration laws during the first 100 days of his administration.

"He has 16 days left to carry out this promise that he made," said Juan José Gutiérrez, one of the leaders of the coalition.

Laura Ortega, 29, a worker employed in the downtown Los Angeles garment district, left work early to participate in the march. About coming out to marches and protests, Ortega said, "It is very important more than ever for Hispanic people because this is the future of this country; it's the future for those who come behind us."

Chants included, "Si se puede" (Yes we can!), "Aquí estamos y no nos vamos" (We are here and we're not leaving!), and "Justice, now."

Hundreds, including many high school students, also marched April 4 through downtown commemorating the birthday of Cesar Chavez.

The Independent Port Drivers Association held a press conference April

### Illinois students protest Border Patrol



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

CHICAGO—More than a dozen students protest a recruiting session for the U.S. Border Patrol held at Northeastern Illinois University on April 7. The students chanted, "Out of our school!" and "What do we want? Legalization. When do we want it? Now!" The protest also encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming May Day march and rally here.

—ALYSON KENNEDY

3 to denounce the conditions truckers are facing. It also promoted participation in the May 1 demonstrations. A majority of the 80 people in attendance were truck drivers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The drivers were joined by activists in the March 25 Coalition and other organizations that are building actions for May 1.

The port truck drivers, most of whom are immigrants, "face racism, discrimination, and exploitation," said Walter Flores. He and other drivers described harassment by the highway patrol, rising costs for everything from insurance to diesel, and low pay.

"We have to wait two, three, four hours without pay," said Rosalinda

Hernandez. "Too many drivers just keep their heads down. We need to protest."

"On April 14 many of us will be gone because we don't have papers," said another driver, referring to the date that new federal "security" badges will be required for drivers to enter the port. "That's why May 1 is important."

On March 28, about 350 people participated in a march organized by the Southern California Immigration Coalition. Slogans included "Stop the raids," "Total legalization now," and "No to the Bracero program." The coalition is organizing a conference April 11 with the same slogans.

### All out for May Day actions!

This week the *Militant* launches a calendar of events celebrating May 1. We urge our readers to join these actions for legalization of undocumented workers and against raids and deportations. Are there May Day actions in your area not listed here? E-mail or fax the information along with a flyer advertising the event and contact information to themilitant@mac.com or fax to (212) 244-4947.

#### CALIFORNIA

##### Fresno

**May Day march**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 5 p.m., Eaton Plaza. March: 6 p.m.

##### Los Angeles

**Legalization now! Stop the raids!** Fri. May 1. Assemble: 2 p.m., MacArthur Park.

##### San Francisco

**May Day event**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, Dolores Park.

##### Santa Ana

**Legalization now! Stop the raids!** Fri., May 1. Assemble: 3:30 p.m., Civic Center Dr. between Broadway and Flower.

##### Watsonville

**For the rights of immigrants and workers**, Fri., May 1, 4 p.m.–9 p.m. activities in Watsonville Plaza. March: 6 p.m.

#### GEORGIA

##### Atlanta

**May Day march**, Sat., May 2. Assemble: 10 a.m., State Capitol.

#### ILLINOIS

##### Chicago

**Without legalization there will be no equal workers rights**, Fri., May 1. Rally: 10 a.m., Union Park, corner of Ashland and Washington. March: 12 noon.

#### MICHIGAN

##### Detroit

**Stop raids and deportations that break up families**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 10 a.m., W. Vernor and Woodmere. Rally: 12 noon, Clark Park. Tel.: (313) 580-5474 or 575-4933.

#### NEW YORK

##### New York

**March for our rights**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, Union Square, 14th St. and Broadway. March: 5:30 p.m. Tel.: (212) 561-1744.

#### TEXAS

##### Austin

**March for just and humane immigration reform**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 6 p.m., Texas Capitol south steps. March: 7 p.m.

#### WISCONSIN

##### Madison

**May Day march**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 11 a.m., Brittingham Park, W. Washington Ave. and Park St.

##### Milwaukee

**Statewide immigrant and labor rights march**, Fri., May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, 1027 S. 5th St. Followed by program and music at Veteran's Park. Tel.: (414) 643-1620.

### SPECIAL OFFER ON BOOKS FROM – Pathfinder Press –



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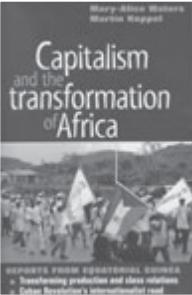
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# Cuban Revolution and fight for women's rights

Printed below is an excerpt from Women and the Cuban Revolution, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. The book contains speeches and documents by Fidel Castro, Vilma Espin, and others. It recounts women's changing role in Cuba since the triumph of the socialist revolution in January 1959, and the big advances that have been made in education, health care, and the general quality of life. The book discusses the nature of women's oppression, the gains made in fighting against this in Cuba, and challenges that still remain. The piece reprinted here is from a speech presented by Castro in December 1966 to the Fifth National Plenary of the Federation of Cuban Women. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY FIDEL CASTRO

If women in our country were doubly exploited, doubly humiliated in the past, then this simply means that women in a social revolution should be doubly revolutionary. [Applause]

And perhaps this is the explanation, or at least the social basis, for the resolute, enthusiastic, firm, and loyal support given by Cuban women to this revolution.



Women members of the Cuban militia in early 1960s. The socialist revolution "has really been two revolutions for women," who were discriminated against as workers and also as women, Fidel Castro explains in his speech to the Federation of Cuban Women conference in 1966.

This revolution has really been two revolutions for women; it has meant a double liberation: as part of the exploited sector of the country, and second, as women, who were discriminated against not only as workers but also as women, in that society of exploitation.

The attitude of Cuban women toward the revolution corresponds to this reality; it corresponds to what the revolution has meant to them.

And the support of the popular masses for the revolution is directly proportional to what the revolution has meant to them in terms of their liberation.

There are two sectors in this country, two sectors of society which, aside from economic reasons, have had other motives for sympathizing and feeling enthusiasm for the revolution. These two sectors are the Black population of Cuba and the female population.

I suppose you recall that in Cuba's old bourgeois constitution, there was an article which declared illegal any discrimination for reasons of race or sex. The constitution declared such discrimination illegal. But a constitution in a capitalist society, or such an article in a capitalist society, solves nothing, because discrimination for reasons of race and for reasons of sex existed in practice. And the basis for all of this was the existence of a class society which prac-

ticed exploitation.

In a class society, which is to say, a society of exploiters and exploited, there was no way of eliminating discrimination for reasons of race or sex. Now the problem of such discrimination has disappeared from our country, because the basis for these two types of discrimination which is, quite simply the exploitation of man by man, has disappeared. [Applause]

Much news reaches us from the United States, for example, about the civil rights struggle of Blacks. Nevertheless, racial discrimination in the United States will not disappear until capitalist society has disappeared.

That is, discrimination will never be wiped out within the framework of capitalist society. Discrimination with respect to race and sex can only be wiped out through a socialist revolution, which eradicates the exploitation of man by man. [Applause]

Now, does the disappearance of the exploitation of man by man mean that all the conditions are immediately created whereby woman may elevate her position in society? No. The conditions for the liberation of women, for the full development of women in society, for an authentic equality of rights, or for authentic equality of women with men in society, require a material base; they require the material foundations of economic and social development.

I described before the opinion held by many men concerning the functions of women, and I said that among the functions considered to belong to women was—almost exclusively—that of having children. Naturally, reproduction is one of the most important of women's functions in human society, in any kind of human society.

But it is precisely this function, relegated by nature to women, which has enslaved them to a series of chores within the home.

There is a sign here in front of us, for example, which says, "One million women working in production by 1970." Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have one million working in production by 1970. We feel that this goal may be reached, perhaps, within ten years but not within four.

We could propose it as a goal to be reached by 1975. Why can't this goal be reached in four years? Because in order to have one million women working in production, we must have thousands of children's day nurseries, thousands of primary boarding schools, thousands of school dining halls, thousands of workers' dining halls; thousands of centers of social services of this type must be set up, because if not, who is going to cook for the second- or third-grade child when he comes home for lunch?

Who is going to care for unweaned infants, or babies of two, three, and four years of age? Who is going to prepare dinner for the man when he comes home from work? Who is going to wash, clean, all of those things? [Applause]

In other words, in order to reach the social goal of liberating women from all these activities that enslave her and impede her from full incorporation into work outside the home and all these activities she can engage in society, it is necessary to create the necessary material base, to attain the necessary social development.

It is impossible to construct the required thousands of children's day nurseries, school dining halls, laundries, workers' dining halls, boarding schools, in four years. In fact, merely to meet present needs, great effort is necessary on all fronts.

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# Support the workers at Visteon!

Bosses at Visteon, the auto-parts supplier spun off by Ford Motor Company in 2000, abruptly told workers at three plants in the United Kingdom and Ireland March 31 that the plants would be closing at the end of the day. At the Enfield plant workers were literally given six minutes’ notice of the closure.

By moving swiftly the company hoped to scuttle its obligations for unemployment payments and other benefits. The bosses’ action is part of the increasing assault on workers’ wages, working conditions, employment, and the conditions of life that has been radically accelerated by the worldwide contraction of capitalist production.

Bailouts and tinkering with financial regulations will not resolve the crisis the capitalists face. To increase their profit rates the rulers must radically reset economic relations with the class that is the source of society’s wealth—the working class. That means accelerating layoffs, finding ways to scuttle or tear up contractual agreements, and curtailing workers’ rights with the aim of weakening our ability to fight back.

Along with this assault comes stepped-up use of the courts and cops. As we go to press the *Financial Times* reports a judge granted an order to evict workers from the Enfield plant April 9.

Last December workers at Republic Windows and Doors in Chicago were told the plant would close and that they had no choice but to leave—but they didn’t. They sat in and organized to reach out to fellow workers with whose help they won the pay and benefits owed them. Like their sisters and brothers across the ocean, Visteon workers in the occupations in Britain and Ireland have been disciplined, organizing shifts to maintain their protests, provide food, and keep the plant and surrounding areas clean and safe.

The workers in the United Kingdom and Ireland deserve the support of all workers fighting to defend their unions and working conditions. Their action is confirmation of the fact that working people will fight to find the road to resist these attacks. As Rick Pineda at the Belfast plant said, “We didn’t just accept losing our jobs. . . . We don’t accept that Ford can use us and dispose of us.”

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## U.S. gov’t boosts aid to Pakistani military

**Continued from front page**

paramilitary Frontier Corps. The program would supply night-vision goggles, helicopter gunships, and other equipment suited for mountainous terrain-based counterinsurgency operations.

Part of Washington’s strategy in Pakistan, according to U.S. officials, is to shift the Pakistani military’s focus and resources away from its eastern border with rival India, where most of its army is amassed, toward the fight against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces along the border with Afghanistan.

Islamabad built up the Taliban movement in the 1990s to establish greater influence and control over Afghanistan following the Soviet-Afghan war.

Under pressure from Washington following the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the Pakistani government launched a war against sections of the Taliban. Today Taliban forces control whole swaths of territory in the northwest.

Pakistani military officials say some 1,500 troops have died fighting Islamist forces in a war that has killed hundreds of civilians and forced roughly half a million to flee their homes, thousands of which were burned down by Pakistani paramilitary forces.

But U.S. officials say at least sections of Pakistan’s military intelligence continue to aid Taliban forces. Participants in the April 1 Senate Armed Services Committee meeting discussed their need to convince the Pakistani government that Washington is in Afghanistan for the long haul. Assuring the Pakistani rulers of this is part of convincing them that they no longer have an interest in maintaining relations with Taliban forces as a “hedge” in the event of a U.S. withdrawal.

The U.S. government recently announced it will send 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan and is discussing the possibility of sending about 10,000 more down the road to augment its current force of 38,000.

### Increase in nonmilitary aid

In addition to doubling its military funding to Pakistan, the White House is backing legislation to triple nonmilitary aid. A bill introduced by Sen. John Kerry and Sen. Richard Lugar calls for allocating \$1.5 billion per year over the next five years. The money is aimed at undermining the Taliban’s base of support and softening an acute economic crisis that threatens to accelerate social unrest throughout the country, as well as provide an incentive to the Pakistani government to fully cooperate with Washington’s course.

A recent report from the Asia Society, a U.S. think tank, titled *Back from the Brink?—A Strategy for Stabilizing Afghanistan-Pakistan*, estimates that such an effort “might require a five-year package of \$40 billion to \$50 billion” in addition to “Pakistan’s \$7.6 billion IMF bailout.” To this end, Washington has been pressing its imperialist allies as well as Islamabad’s allies in China and Saudi Arabia to pitch in.

Within the next couple of years, the report estimates, 70 percent of the population in Pakistan will be living on less than \$2 per day, and 40 percent on less than \$1.25 per day.

In Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along the Afghan border, a Taliban stronghold, per capita income is one-third that of the rest of the country.

Washington has been working to reduce its reliance on Pakistani territory for military supply routes to Afghanistan and has established alternative routes through Russia and several former Soviet republics in Central Asia. It is also encouraging its European allies to pursue possibilities for establishing NATO supply routes through Iran and seeking other fields of cooperation with Tehran.

The CIA carried out its 12th and 13th aerial drone strikes this year in Pakistan April 1 and April 4, killing 12 and 13 people respectively. Women and children were among those killed in the April 4 attack, reported *Dawn*, a Pakistani daily.

Pakistani government officials told Reuters news agency that about one-sixth of U.S. drone strikes killed only civilians. Many attacks kill both combatants and civilians.

The April 1 strike was the first time U.S. drones hit the Arakzai region of the FATA. Washington has been expanding its strikes to new areas of Pakistan in recent months.

### Baluchistan in U.S. sights

Washington is drawing up a new list of targets for drone strikes, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. Also under discussion is how to speed up the drone strike decision-making process and whether to expand these strikes to Pakistan’s southwest province of Baluchistan, where the former head of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammad Omar, is believed to operate.

Baluchistan is home to the Baloch, an oppressed nationality. The Pakistani military has put down five Baloch insurgencies since the country was founded in 1947.

Following the Soviet war in Afghanistan, the Taliban established a base among the newly arrived, massive Afghan refugee population in Baluchistan. The Pakistani government propped up the Taliban there to counter the secular nationalist Baluchi movement, including rigging elections in favor of pro-Taliban parties.

Pakistani president Asif Zardari visited Baluchistan for the first time in late March, where he promised concessions aimed at stabilizing the province. He said the government would move toward granting the province greater autonomy, construct dams and provide assistance for agriculture development, and increase the province’s share in revenue generated from its rich oil and gas resources.

## Plant occupations

**Continued from front page**

dispose of us.”

Patrick Logan, a production worker at the company for 12 years and a shop steward, said, “We wouldn’t let the shift-change security enter the plant and the next morning after working a double shift the remaining security guards left. Management were let out at 7:00 p.m. to a few jeers.” The company-appointed administrators, KMPG, left the following day. KMPG, which the company chose to run all three plants, immediately shut down production and announced that 560 jobs were being cut.

### ‘We won’t be letting them back in’

“We won’t be letting them back in,” Logan noted. He said that workers had established different teams to organize catering and cleaning of the plant and the surrounding area. The workers organize three shifts for the around-the-clock occupation and hold update meetings daily.

At the Enfield plant in north London, workers were given six minutes’ notice of the plant’s closure. “We went home and then heard that the Belfast Visteon workers had occupied, so we went back to the factory the next day and did the same,” said Phil Wilson a worker at the plant for 17 years. Initially, only 70 workers were able to get access to the factory. Ron Clark, the plant’s deputy convener, explained, “We’ve found ways to get others in.”

Now more than 100 are part of the occupation, while other workers bring food and drinks to those inside the factory. “Our spirits are high. There are people I didn’t expect to see in this kind of struggle, fighting together,” commented Wilson.

As the *Militant* goes to press, the *Financial Times* reported that a judge had ordered the eviction of workers from the Enfield plant April 9. Visteon workers appealed to other unionists to turn out that day to show support. A meeting between Visteon and the union was scheduled for April 8.

Scott Edmonds, a shop steward at the Basildon plant, said that since April 1 workers there have organized a picket at both plant entrances 24 hours a day. Motorists honk horns to show their support.

Some of the Basildon workers visited the Enfield site on April 4. The following day a banner was hung at the Belfast plant that read: “Belfast Supports Enfield’s Kevin Nolan.” The banner refers to a court order issued against Nolan, the union’s Enfield plant convener.

The workers in Belfast have received support from Members of Parliament, Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, and Jeffrey Donaldson of the Democratic Unionist Party. Adams addressed a meeting of workers and their relatives in the plant canteen on April 5. Robbie Williams, a steward at the Ford plant at Bridgend, South Wales, and Jimmy Kelly, regional secretary of UNITE, also spoke. Workers at the Waterford Crystal plant in the Republic of Ireland sent a donation of 5,000 euros (US\$6,630) to the unionists at the Visteon plant.

Workers at the Belfast plant described the different redundancy terms and conditions that result if Visteon declares bankruptcy, rather than the terms agreed to when the plant was established by Ford. Logan said, “They disregarded the 90 days consultation after announcing redundancies—that would be a further 12 weeks’ pay. Ford had redundancy payments based on the number of years worked. We will get the statutory minimum, thousands of pounds less. The government will now administer the pension fund. There are no guarantees for the workers.”

An article published in the *Sunday Times* April 5 noted that Ford had promised workers that their terms and conditions would remain for a “lifetime” if they worked at Visteon.

Further layoffs have recently been announced in Belfast, with just under 1,000 workers losing their jobs at aircraft manufacturer Bombardier. Among them the jobs of all 665 temporary workers are being eliminated. “There will be no redundancy package for the temps,” said Simon Lynch, a fabricator at the plant. “And there are no similar jobs to go to in Belfast.”

*Ólöf Andra Proppe, Ögmundur Jónsson, and Björn Tírsén contributed to this article.*