

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Is banning ultrarightists  
the way to fight them?  
—PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 44 NOVEMBER 16, 2009

## U.S. gov't expands role in Pakistan war

Speeds weapons for military offensive



Reuters/Nicolas Asfourti/Agency/Pool

**Pakistani soldiers patrol area in Sherwangi region of South Waziristan October 29. U.S. government stepped up delivery of weapons and equipment to Pakistani army following Pakistani military assault against Taliban in country's Swat Valley in the spring.**

BY DOUG NELSON

The U.S. government is playing a key role in Pakistan's current large-scale military offensive against a major Taliban faction in west central Pakistan. In recent months the administration of President Barack Obama has stepped up delivery of weapons and other materiel to the Pakistani army for the assault, which began October 17.

"We're really trying to accelerate everything we can to help the Pakistani military," Secretary of State

Hillary Clinton told *Dawn*, a Pakistani daily, just before Obama dispatched her on an October 28–30 trip to Pakistan. Her visit was intended to solidify the two government's strategic alliance and pacify widespread anti-U.S. sentiment in the country.

According to U.S. and Pakistani officials cited by the *New York Times*, Washington rushed delivery of arms to Pakistan in the spring when the Pakistani army launched an assault against a Taliban group in the coun-

**Continued on page 8**

## United Nations votes against U.S. embargo on Cuba 187-3

BY BEN JOYCE

UNITED NATIONS—For the 18th consecutive year, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution October 28 calling for an end to the U.S. economic and trade embargo against Cuba.

For the first time every nation represented at the United Nations cast a vote. A record 187 countries voted in favor. The United States, Israel, and Palau voted against. Representatives of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia abstained.

Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodríguez explained that while the administration of President Barack Obama has made some token change, the "economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba . . . remains intact."

Rodríguez reviewed more than a half-dozen examples of how Cuba is prevented from purchasing vital medical equipment and drugs, including from foreign companies that have U.S. subsidiaries. The U.S. government sanctioned at least 56 countries, many with heavy fines, in recent months, Ro-

dríguez said. Nearly 2,000 vessels that had called at Cuban ports between July 2008 and July 2009 were barred entry at U.S. ports for six months.

Responding to the claim by some that Cuba's shortages result from the

**Continued on page 5**

## Party-building fund picks up steam in week 6

BY JAMES HARRIS

The party-building fund for the Socialist Workers Party made big progress in week six and is on schedule.

In Philadelphia and Seattle supporters of the fund raised their pledges by \$500 and \$800, respectively. That brings the amount pledged to \$95,200, closing the gap that existed between the amount pledged and the fund goal. Around \$12,000 was sent in this week. This puts the amount collected

**Continued on page 3**

## Thousands rally in Iran for political rights

BY CINDY JAQUITH

November 4—Thousands of young people took to the streets in Iranian cities today to voice their demands for more democratic rights, despite a concerted attempt by the government to intimidate prospective marchers.

Protests by hundreds of thousands, especially students, erupted several months ago after the government announced that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won the June 12 presidential election. Many were arrested and scores were killed.

Faced with a government crackdown, government opponents have since taken advantage of official celebrations to continue their protests against the election results and for wider democratic rights.

November 4 is known as Students Day. It is the anniversary of the killing of student protesters in 1978 by the shah, the U.S.-backed monarch overthrown by a revolution of millions of working people a year later. The date also commemorates the takeover of the U.S. embassy in 1979 by students protesting Washington's attempts to undermine the revolution they had just helped to make.

Government-organized rallies at the site of the former U.S. embassy celebrate the anniversary annually. While featuring anti-imperialist rhetoric, the purpose of the yearly commemorations is to bolster support for a government that has become increasingly unpopular. According to the *Los Angeles Times*,

**Continued on page 8**

## Workers at Ford reject concession contract

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DES MOINES, Iowa, November 2—The United Auto Workers (UAW) announced today that its members rejected a concessions contract by a wide margin. Seventy percent of production workers and 75 percent of those in skilled trades voted no, according to a UAW news release. It was the first time in more than 30 years that UAW members voted to reject a contract with Ford. The last time was in 1976.

As voting on the contract was winding down, Ford posted a third quarter profit of \$997 million.

The contract proposals were arrived at through reopening the four-year 2007 pact for the second time this year by agreement of Ford management and union officials. The proposals included a wage freeze for new hires, a ban on strikes over wages and benefits until 2015, job combinations, and increased management flexibility to move workers around. Workers would have received a \$1,000 bonus in March 2010.

At the plant in Claycomo, Missouri, where the Escape SUV is produced, 92 percent of those voting rejected the contract. At the Chicago Assembly Plant, which makes the Taurus model, 75 percent voted no, and 80 percent rejected it at the Chicago Stamping Plant. At the Dearborn Truck Plant in Michigan 93 percent voted no. The

**Continued on page 3**

## Socialist election campaigns win new 'Militant' readers

BY TOM BAUMANN

NEW YORK, November 4—This issue of the *Militant* features a special Spanish-language supplement with the introduction by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes to the forthcoming Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Working out a plan in each area to take full advantage of this supplement, while continuing to use the English version, will boost the final couple weeks of the fall 2009 subscription drive.

Supporters of the *Militant* will want to continue to get out to Ford auto plants where union members this week voted down a concession contract by a wide margin. Workers at other auto plants and workplaces will also be interested in the *Militant's* reports on the vote.

Through the seventh week of the drive, local distributors are winning steady numbers of subscribers to the

socialist press. What marked this week's sales was interest in the paper by those first learning about the Socialist Workers Party's election campaigns.

Doug Nelson in New York reports  
**Continued on page 4**

### Also Inside:

Mary Lipman: SWP cadre over five decades	2
Poem by Cuban 5 prisoner Antonio Guerrero	3
U.S. gov't expands use of cops against immigrants	4
Tokyo balks at keeping U.S. base on Okinawa	5



# Mary Lipman: SWP cadre over five decades

BY ANDREA MORELL

SAN FRANCISCO—Some 50 people celebrated the life and political contributions of Mary Lipman in building the Socialist Workers Party at an October 24 meeting held at the party’s headquarters here. Lipman died in Santa Cruz, California, September 30.

Following a well-prepared dinner, Lea Sherman, on behalf of the SWP branch in San Francisco, welcomed those attending. Paul Mailhot, a member of the SWP National Committee, chaired and gave extended remarks.

“In paying tribute to some 50 years of Mary’s life spent participating in the class struggle and building the Socialist Workers Party, we also pay tribute to the party she joined in 1945 and then rejoined in 1961,” Mailhot said.

In 1945, at age 21 Lipman joined a party that “was deeply involved in the class struggle,” Mailhot said. The party had fought against the second imperialist slaughter leading up to and during the war. Its leaders were just getting out of jail after being locked up for 18 months because of the party’s principled stand and its working-class activity. The party and its members in the auto, steel, electrical, and other unions were then part of “the sweeping tide of labor revolt” in the aftermath of World War II.

Later as revolutionary developments in Western Europe and other parts of the world were derailed by Stalinist parties that supported Moscow’s accommodation to imperialism, and as U.S. capitalism established its dominance in the world coming out of the war, a period of reaction set in, Mailhot said. Most union leaders in this country suc-

cumbed to the relative economic prosperity and the McCarthyite witch hunt. In the early 1950s, Lipman and her husband Stanley, who had been in the SWP since its founding in 1938, resigned.

### Cuban Revolution

In 1961 Lipman rejoined the party, attracted by the SWP’s work to defend the Cuban Revolution and by its participation in the mass proletarian-led struggle for Black civil rights.

Also speaking at the meeting, Jacob Perasso, a member of the SWP National Committee, described how Lipman along with other party members helped to recruit a layer of students, including himself, to the Young Socialists at the University of California Santa Cruz. In 1998 the Young Socialists helped organize a protest at the campus in opposition to Proposition 227, which sought to eliminate bilingual education in California. And in 1999 they joined with other student groups and academic departments to organize a meeting on campus to hear two youths from Cuba who were touring the country.

Perasso said Lipman “kept up a consistent propaganda campaign” in Santa Cruz, selling the *Militant* and Pathfinder literature. She regularly invited young people to her home for informal discussion and snacks. “We browsed her library, and she never hesitated to lend us any book that we wanted to read unless she was reading it,” Perasso added.

Mailhot said he first got to know Lipman in 1974 in Boston. That year racist forces began mobilizing against the busing of Black students to all-white



Militant/Eric Simpson

**Left to right: Betsey Stone, Paul Mailhot (speaking), and Jacob Perraso at October 24 meeting to celebrate political contributions of Mary Lipman. Speakers pointed to her efforts over five decades in building the Socialist Workers Party and helping recruit younger generations.**

schools in the city. These mobilizations, organized out of city hall by well-known Democratic Party politicians, included violent attacks on Black students and other Blacks.

### Boston busing fight

To get out the facts about this fight, the *Militant* printed an expanded edition to explain the issues and make clear that the racists didn’t own the streets of Boston. Mailhot recalled the Boston SWP branch ordered 4,500 copies of the *Militant* one week and fanned out across the city to get the truth out about the racist violence and the need to desegregate Boston schools.

This exemplary propaganda campaign helped lay the basis for the party’s work with others to build the teach-ins, picket lines, and demonstrations that helped to turn back the racist assault against busing.

Nan Bailey, a Socialist Workers Party

member who was a leader of that fight, said in her message to the meeting, “We played a role unparalleled by any other organization calling itself socialist or communist that was on the scene. We participated in heated political debates and we stood up to physical threats and actions against us by political opponents on the right and left.”

“That was the branch,” Mailhot said, “that Mary Lipman was part of and contributed to.”

Betsey Stone, a member of the San Francisco branch, said that in recent years Lipman continued to be politically active. She helped raise money for national party fund drives, placed Pathfinder books in bookstores and libraries in Santa Cruz, and participated in Militant Labor Forums.

A fund appeal to honor Lipman’s party building efforts—a tradition of the communist movement at such meetings—raised more than \$1,700.



**Mary Lipman, right, sells *Militant* at rally to support one-day strike by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Santa Cruz, California, April 14, 2005.**

## THE MILITANT

*Working people need to take power!*

*During the campaign, the Socialist Workers candidates fought shoulder to shoulder with workers in struggle, explaining the need to take power to get rid of the crisis-ridden capitalist system. Join them as they continue to fight with the working class beyond election day.*



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Dan Fein, SWP candidate for New York mayor, campaigns August 16.

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# Poem by Cuban Five prisoner

Below is a poem written by Antonio Guerrero, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. jails for 11 years now on frame-up charges including “conspiracy” to spy.

Guerrero wrote the poem to supporters of the five around the world while waiting for his resentencing hearing October 13 in Miami. He had been serving life plus 10 years. His sentence was reduced to 21 years and 10 months. Guerrero could be eligible for parole in 7 years. Two others, Ramon Labañino and Fernando González, are scheduled to be resentenced on December 8.

Known around the world as the Cuban Five, the men were in the United States to collect information for the Cuban government about counter-revolutionary groups based in South Florida that have carried out armed attacks against Cuba with Washington’s complicity. The five were arrested by the FBI in 1998, convicted in a 2001 frame-up trial, and handed draconian sentences ranging from 15 years to a double-life term.

In 2008 a three-judge panel of a federal court upheld their convictions but ruled that the sentences of three of them were excessive.

✂

**From the hole**

I

Miami is before my eyes. I can’t sleep.  
An obstinate verse bounces  
between the luxury of a skyscraper  
and the tragedy of a broken shower.

Through the window I see the rising sun  
to light the green tinted windows,  
in every direction people, with whom  
I make an imaginary world, walk.

The Royal Caribbean cruises,  
the McDonald’s, the school, the banks,  
the homeless rummaging through the trash,  
the vendor under the umbrella  
still there and again I look at them  
from the “hole,” that is, “from my altitude.”

II

It is called Miami’s Down Town,  
a mass of steel, concrete, and glasses.  
During the day an authentic ant’s nest.  
During the night a dangerous and empty place.

Its each time highest buildings  
are symbols of power and opulence:  
banks with millionaire transactions,  
houses with few tenants.

In the cosmetic urbanization  
there are parking lots for countless cars.  
and I do not know how to say it in verse  
but what captures more my attention  
is to see that the public transportation  
basically is used by the black people.

III

Once again orange jumper.  
Once again solitude between bricks.



Antonio Guerrero, left, one of five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in United States, with son Tony during prison visit.

Once again broken mattress without pillow.  
Once again big noise in the hall.

Once again to change clothes once a week.  
Once again tiny yellow pencil.  
One again by a miracle a phone call.  
Once again to walk without destiny.  
Once again a cage to “recreate.”

This time even they don’t give coffee.  
Once again dirty floor, cold shower . . .  
Once again a “cop-out” to complain,  
and, of course, they don’t answer once again.  
Once again “hole” and once again “poetry.”  
*Antonio Guerrero*

## UAW workers reject contract

**Continued from front page**

concessions package was approved at the plants in Cleveland; Indianapolis; Wayne, Michigan; and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The 41,000 UAW workers at Ford had already accepted a round of concessions earlier this year. At the urging of UAW leaders, union members at Chrysler and General Motors, the two other companies in the traditional “big three” U.S. automakers, had accepted deep concession contracts in the spring as those companies headed into bankruptcy proceedings.

UAW tops had pushed for concessions to Ford as necessary to preserve jobs and help keep the company competitive with its two rivals. That argument became harder to sell after Ford posted profits in the last quarter and bragged about its improved financial standing.

Lynnett Henderson, a 20-year electrician at the Chicago plant, told the

*Militant*, “We’ve already given up so much that people are not in the mood to give up any more. All that’s being offered in exchange for the cutbacks is a \$1,000 bonus next spring.” She transferred to the Chicago plant from St. Louis when Ford closed its plant there.

Henderson explained that when Ford changed the work schedule for production workers from five eight-hour days to four 10-hour days with Fridays off, the skilled trades workers remained on the old five-day eight-hour schedule. This, she said, meant a cut of about \$30,000 a year for each worker, since work that used to be done on Saturdays at time and a half was now done on Fridays at straight time. “This came on top of the freeze in raises for all Ford workers,” she added.

*Ilona Gersh and John Hawkins from Chicago contributed to this article.*

## Party-building fund Fall 2009 ♦ Week 6 of 8

City	Quota	Paid	%
Seattle*	\$7,800	\$7,404	95%
Miami*	\$3,300	\$2,751	83%
San Francisco*	\$13,500	\$11,196	83%
Twin Cities, MN	\$6,600	\$5,465	83%
Des Moines, IA	\$2,400	\$1,929	80%
New York	\$16,000	\$12,178	76%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$6,972	73%
Washington, D.C.*	\$6,500	\$4,640	71%
Boston*	\$3,200	\$2,278	71%
Newark, NJ	\$3,000	\$2,115	71%
Houston	\$2,700	\$1,748	65%
Los Angeles	\$9,200	\$5,712	62%
Atlanta	\$7,500	\$4,488	60%
Philadelphia*	\$4,000	\$1,825	46%
Other		\$600	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,200</b>	<b>\$71,301</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>\$71,250</b>	<b>75%</b>
*raised quota			

## Party fund marks big progress in week six

**Continued from front page**

at \$71,301 or 75 percent of the fund goal.

The party-building fund is needed to help finance the work of the SWP as it reaches out to working people, students, and youth with a revolutionary perspective in face of the greatest economic crisis that the vast majority of working people have seen in their lifetime.

The SWP is funded by the contributions of workers, students, and young people who support the party’s work and wish to help strengthen its capacity to respond to union struggles, fights for abortion rights, defense of the Cuban Revolution, and protests against the expansion of imperialist wars.

In Los Angeles supporters of the *Militant* reported that a young Black man

donated \$5 to the fund after looking at the introduction to the book printed as a supplement in the socialist newsweekly. “Here’s five more dollars for the cause,” he said. “This book is really needed now.”

Supporters of the fund are also raising contributions on the job by talking to their coworkers.

Rebecca Williamson, who works at the JBS Swift meatpacking plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, writes, “So far, I’ve collected two contributions from coworkers in my department, loin boning. One is \$5 from a young Croatian woman who’s been on the job about four months working by me where we debone the sirloin. The other of \$7 is from a Mexican coworker that I’ve worked with many times blade boning

who’s also been a *Militant* subscriber for a while.”

In the last two weeks of the drive supporters in every area should emulate this example and expand the number of new contributors to the party-building fund.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

**NEW YORK  
Manhattan**  
**The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism.** Fri., Nov. 13, 8 p.m.  
**The Russian Revolution: Its Lessons for Workers Today.** Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m. *Both events at 307 W. 36 St., 10th floor (at 8th Ave.—use elevators on 37th St. side). Tel.: (212) 736-2540.*

### Socialist candidate speaks at N.Y. campus



Militant/Tom Baumann

NEW YORK, October 31—Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor here, at far left, speaks to students at Borough of Manhattan Community College. “We live under a dictatorship of the capitalist class,” Fein told about a dozen students attending. “I’m for the working class, those who create the wealth and are exploited by this system.”

—BEN JOYCE



# U.S. gov't expands use of cops against immigrants

BY DOUG NELSON

The U.S. government is expanding the use of local police and jails to round up and deport undocumented immigrant workers. An expanding part of the government's multipronged attack is a program, commonly referred to as 287(g), that grants local cops the authority to act as immigration agents.

The federal government's immigration agency spent \$54.1 million in the 2009 fiscal year, an increase of \$14.4 million from last year. The agency is requesting \$68.1 million for 2010.

A 1996 immigration bill established the legal precedent for granting immigration enforcement powers to police officers. However, the first cop agencies did not sign on until 2002, after the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The program mushroomed as the clouds of a brewing economic storm became clearly visible in 2007. That year the number of participating local agencies grew from seven to 33; by the end of 2008 there were 67. By October this year the total had reached 77.

However, the number of participating agencies is now in flux as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working to secure agreements with revised language purportedly to establish new "standards" and federal "oversight."

Sixty-seven cop agencies, as of October 28, had signed on under the new agreement and six others are in negotiations.

Hundreds of organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), NAACP, Episcopal Church, and the Anti-Defamation League sent a letter to President Barack Obama in August demanding the immediate termination of the program.

The ACLU Foundation of Georgia released a report in October that accuses police in Cobb County of "rampant racial profiling" and "committing egregious Constitutional and

human rights violations."

Residents who appear to be foreign-born, the report said, are "routinely picked up by the police for minor or non-existent violations." Nearly 70 percent of those arrested last year were stopped for traffic violations, such as driving without a license or insurance.

The report is critical of what it calls "minor changes" made by the DHS in July that make "no serious attempt at discouraging racial profiling." It describes the language in the new agreements as basically cosmetic.

Most importantly the report points out that the changes grant greater police powers to execute search and arrest warrants and "further shield the program from public scrutiny by declaring that documents related to 287(g) are no longer public records."

### Gov't curbs Arizona county powers

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Arizona is the most notorious cop agency endowed with immigration powers. Last year cops there turned over to immigration authorities more than 13,000 immigrants, 30 percent of the nationwide total, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement figures.

County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio drew nationwide attention and protests in February after he paraded more than 200 Latino prisoners through the streets of Phoenix in shackles and prison stripes from the jailhouse to a tent prison in the desert.

In a move that indicates the federal government may view Arpaio's sensational approach as counterproductive, the DHS informed him in early October that it was revoking his agency's powers to arrest people off the street on suspicion of immigration violations, restricting the county's official powers to checking the status of those arrested on other charges.

About 45,000 of the 220,000 people "identified" as "illegal" immigrants in

### Iowa socialist at forum speaks out against cops



Militant/Lisa Rottach

DES MOINES, Iowa—David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council at-large, addresses a candidates forum here October 30 sponsored by the African American Leadership Coalition. To a question about the role of cops in the Black community, several of Rosenfeld's opponents said they had ridden in police cars, cited cops by name as friends or relatives, and gave high marks to "community policing" programs.

"You can dress them up with 'community policing' but working people, especially Blacks and Latinos, know the daily abuse, contempt, and brutality that the police deal out," Rosenfeld said. "The Des Moines cops are cut out of the same blue cloth as the cops that beat Rodney King or Larry Milton."

In December 1991 Des Moines cops brutally beat Larry Milton, a Black worker, sparking protests in the city.

"It is not a question of bad apples," Rosenfeld continued. "It's a bad orchard."

After the forum several participants shook Rosenfeld's hand and thanked him for his remarks. "We need someone like you on the council," said one.

Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council in Ward 1, at far left, was the only other candidate to oppose the cops.

—MAGGIE TROWE

U.S. jails and prisons last year were a result of the 287(g) program; the majority were actually a result of a growing use of routine checks.

Six agencies have declined to continue the controversial 287(g) program. Officials at the Houston Police Department, one of those bowing out of 287(g), have announced that their agency will soon join the Department of Homeland Security's one-year-old "Secure Communities" program.

This program provides cops and prison officials with access to a massive fingerprint database, allowing them to

check the immigration status and arrest history of anyone in police custody, on probation, or on parole. A database of everyone caught up in the "criminal justice" system provides one way for the government and cop agencies to accomplish the same end with less controversy.

The DHS intends to deploy the system and procedures in all 30,000 local jails and booking locations by 2013.

## SWP campaigns win new 'Militant' readers

Continued from front page that seven people subscribed in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a largely Black and working-class area of Brooklyn, Sunday afternoon November 1 after hearing Socialist Workers mayoral candidate Dan Fein soapboxing with a bullhorn. "One man who had been listening to Fein while in a nearby restaurant came out and said he liked

everything he had heard. He got a subscription and made a \$15 contribution," Nelson said.

The previous day, Fein spoke to a political science class at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. One of the students got a subscription to the paper and four others bought single issues.

Four additional subscriptions were sold in northern Manhattan as residents met Tom Baumann, SWP candidate for borough president there. A student at Pace University in downtown Manhattan got a subscription after hearing Maura Deluca, SWP candidate for public advocate, speak on campus at a debate against her opponents.

The Socialist Workers campaign in Des Moines, Iowa, has also been getting a good response to the paper. Rebecca Williamson, SWP candidate for Des Moines City Council Ward 1, and David Rosenfeld, the party's candidate for city council at-large, participated in three local debates and campaigned in areas where meatpacking workers live. Five people bought subscriptions from campaign supporters going door-to-door in

Perry, Iowa, where a large Tyson plant is located. Three meat packers got subscriptions at the JBS Swift plant.

Selling subscriptions in industrial workplaces continues to be a highlight of the drive. In Los Angeles, a meat packer in the Farmer John plant subscribed, as did a garment worker in American Apparel, bringing the total number of subscribers in both plants to five and 11 respectively.

A large number of new subscribers are students who local distributors are meeting as they regularly sell the *Militant* on campus. Joe Young from Montreal reports that two students at Concordia University subscribed this week. Four people decided to get subscriptions from teams campaigning this week at campuses that are part of the City University of New York system: three at Hunter College and one at the City College of New York.

### 'Militant' Subscription Drive

Sept. 12 – Nov. 17, 2009  
Week 7

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle**	100	93	93%
Chicago*	115	101	88%
New York	230	201	87%
Newark, NJ*	80	67	84%
Twin Cities, MN*	145	121	83%
Los Angeles*	105	83	79%
Washington, D.C.	100	79	79%
Atlanta	130	97	75%
Boston*	65	48	74%
Des Moines, IA	110	80	73%
San Francisco	150	100	67%
Miami	110	68	62%
Houston	90	52	58%
Philadelphia	75	40	53%
Other		4	
TOTAL	1605	1234	77%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London**	90	87	97%
Edinburgh	35	27	77%
TOTAL	125	114	91%
Canada	100	63	63%
New Zealand	65	43	66%
Australia	50	44	88%
Sweden*	30	27	90%
Total	1975	1525	76%
Should be	2000	1556	78%

\*increased quota \*\*increased quota twice

### The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The fraud of education reform under capitalism  
by Jack Barnes  
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(regular price \$3)

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(regular price \$15)

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# Tokyo balks at keeping U.S. base on Okinawa

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Tensions are rising between Washington and Tokyo over the presence of U.S. troops on Japan's southern island of Okinawa.

The newly elected Japanese government is considering whether it will implement a previously signed agreement with Washington relocating U.S. forces on the island. The Obama administration has warned that any reversal of this pact could have serious consequences.

In 2006 Washington and the Japanese government, then led by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), signed off on a deal to move U.S. military operations from the Futenma Air Base, located in a densely populated urban area of Okinawa, to a rural coastal area of the island. A new air base would be constructed there by 2014. The deal, which took more than a decade of negotiations, also calls for moving 8,000 U.S. Marines from Japan to Guam.

Vowing to make Tokyo's alliance with the United States a "more equal relation-

ship," the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) won control of the government in August elections, ending more than 50 years of LDP rule. Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama has said he wants the U.S. base moved off Okinawa completely. Two-thirds of the 48,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan are on Okinawa. Their presence is unpopular among workers and farmers living there.

The DPJ "swept to power promising a wholesale cleanup of Japan's post World War II policies," noted the *Wall Street Journal*. This includes "beefing up ties with its Asian neighbors" and "reassess[ing] some aspects of Japan's bilateral relationship" with Washington. In an effort to pressure Tokyo to abide by the agreement, U.S. secretary of defense Robert Gates visited Japan October 20–21, meeting with government leaders. "It is time to move on," stated Gates, warning that if the Japanese government pulls apart the troop "realignment road map" it would be "immensely complicated and counterproductive."

Gates called on Tokyo to accept the



U.S. Navy/Specialist Ryan Delcore

**U.S. Navy guard at Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa. Two-thirds of U.S. troops in Japan are stationed on Okinawa, where their presence is resented.**

agreement before President Barack Obama visits Japan November 12–13. Hatoyama responded that such a decision cannot be rushed.

"If the disagreement on security continues for a long time then the alliance will loosen," warned the *Nikkei Business Daily*. "The Obama administration will start considering China

as a reliable partner rather than its ally Japan."

In January Tokyo will end its eight-year-old operation refueling warships in the Indian Ocean for the U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan. The Japanese government is reviewing other options to help the war effort, "including dispatching its self-defense forces" to Afghanistan, reported the *Wall Street Journal*.

Hatoyama has been promoting the idea of establishing an East Asian Community modeled after the European Union. It would include China but not necessarily the United States.

Further irking Washington is a fact-finding investigation the DPJ-led government has initiated into decades-old secret agreements between Washington and Tokyo over storage or transshipment of nuclear weapons in Japan.

"Under an understanding reached in the early 1960s, Japan agreed to look the other way when nuclear-armed U.S. ships used Japanese ports," noted the *Journal*. "A 1969 agreement allowed nuclear weapons to be stationed in emergency cases in U.S. bases on the island of Okinawa, after it was returned to Japanese control in 1972."

In his visit to Tokyo, Gates warned government officials to not let this investigation get too far out of hand.

## UN calls for ending U.S. embargo of Cuba

Continued from front page

failure of socialism, Rodríguez said, "Thanks to our system, we have been able to resist for 50 years. And we have developed despite the blockade. If they are convinced that our system does not work, what do they need the blockade for?" He also pointed to the refusal of the U.S. government to allow the sale of construction materials to Cuba following the devastating hurricane season last year.

Washington broke diplomatic relations with Havana in January 1961, two years after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. In February 1962 U.S. president John F. Kennedy imposed a total trade embargo. It was strengthened under the Clinton administration with the Helms-Burton Act, extending compliance with the embargo to other countries.

Each year since 1992, the Cuban delegation at the United Nations has introduced a resolution calling for an end to the embargo. That first year it received 59 votes in favor. Delegates voting against the resolution have never totaled more than four.

Cuba's long record of internationalist foreign policy was reflected by the comments of many delegates. "It is remarkable that even as Cuba struggles with a recent unfortunate string of natural disasters and the impact of a global economic crisis, it continues to assist other nations in the developing world," said Delano Bart, delegate from Saint Kitts and Nevis, on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

Bart pointed out that thousands of

students from the Caribbean have studied at Cuban universities free of charge, thousands in the Caribbean have received free surgery and other medical procedures in Cuba, and thousands more have been treated by volunteer Cuban doctors serving in some of the most remote working-class communities throughout the region.

Baso Sangqu, South Africa's representative to the United Nations, hailed Cuba's heroic internationalist record in Africa. In addition to recognizing Cuba's "outstanding work" in the areas of health care and education in developing countries around the world, he pointed to the important role Cuba has played "in support of the struggle for self-determination, freedom, and justice around the world."

"South Africa continues to recog-

nize Cuba's contribution to our own freedom and democracy," he said, pointing out that last year South Africans celebrated the 20th anniversary of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale. That battle was a critical blow to the apartheid regime's invasion of Angola, "which was a decisive turning point in the struggle against apartheid and opened the doors for the liberation of South Africa."

Several delegates, including those from Nicaragua and Venezuela, called on Washington to release the Cuban Five. The five are prisoners in the United States who were framed up on "conspiracy" charges while monitoring counterrevolutionary organizations based in Florida planning violent attacks against Cuba.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 16, 1984

Eleanor Bumpurs didn't want to wind up like tens of thousands of homeless people in New York City—hungry, hounded, and helpless. Bumpurs, a 67-year-old Black woman, owed five months' rent on her Bronx apartment in a city housing project, but she was damned if the city's Housing Authority was going to throw her out.

On October 29, Housing Authority officials called in cops to help them evict Bumpurs. Six cops broke through Bumpurs' apartment door. The cops claimed Bumpurs attacked them with a kitchen butcher knife. "When they busted the door open," explained [her] daughter, "of course she got terrified and picked up a butcher knife. What would any old woman have done?"

[A cop] pumped two shotgun blasts into Bumpurs, and the cops evicted her—dead.



November 16, 1959

On Nov. 5 the grand jury in Pearl River County, Mississippi, adjourned without even bothering to hear evidence or call witnesses in the lynching of Mack Charles Parker last April. This official endorsement of the lynching and contemptuous flaunting of national and international opinion moved the U.S. Department of Justice to announce that it would seek indictments against the lynchers.

This federal announcement, however, is no more than a hypocritical and empty gesture. It is designed not to put any of Parker's lynchers in jail, for all and one agree that now no Mississippi jury will even indict them, let alone convict.

Its sole aim is to cover up the complicity of the federal government in allowing the lynchers to get off scot free and in heading off a demand for the passage of a federal anti-lynch law.



November 17, 1934

After 18 long years the Supreme Court, cloaked in the mantle of "impartial" justice, has finally discovered the "Mooney Case." The whole world quivered with indignation over the brazen frame-up. The international working class marched in the streets shouting its protest. Every scrap of evidence used to send Mooney to life-long incarceration was proved perjured, trumped-up or deliberately false. Witnesses against Mooney confessed that they had sold their testimony for a few filthy dollars.

Having finally bestirred itself, the Supreme Court is not granting Mooney a new trial. The sum total of its munificent decision is a summons to Warden Holahan of San Quentin to show cause why Mooney should be denied a writ of habeas corpus.

The Supreme Court and every other court respond to one thing only when class war prisoners are involved. Action, protest, and strike by the working class!



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# Workers power and 1918–19 German revolution

*Below is an excerpt from The German Revolution and the Debate on Soviet Power, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. On Nov. 9, 1918, a revolutionary upsurge in Germany triumphed, overturning the German Empire and forcing the kaiser to take flight. In major industrial centers, mass strikes and demonstrations broke out. Joint workers' and soldiers' councils arose assuming de facto control in many cities. Sharp struggles broke out with the right-wing leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) seeking to reconsolidate capitalist rule. In December 1918, the Spartacists, a revolutionary current in the SPD led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, began constituting itself as a separate political party. The piece below is from a pamphlet explaining the group's program. Copyright © 1986 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ROSA LUXEMBURG

The World War has given society a choice: either the continuation of capitalism, with new wars, and rapid decline into chaos and anarchy; or the abolition of capitalist exploitation.

With the end of the World War, the system of bourgeois class rule has for-



"Brothers, don't shoot!" reads sign. Revolutionary workers win support of soldiers at barracks in Berlin, Nov. 9, 1918.

feited its right to existence. It is no longer capable of leading society out of the frightful state of economic collapse that the imperialist orgy left behind.

The means of production have been destroyed on a gigantic scale and millions of producers slaughtered, the finest and strongest sons of the working class. Those who survived are greeted on their return by the ghastly spectre of poverty and unemployment, while famine and disease threaten to cut off the nation's energy at its roots. National bankruptcy brought on by the enormous burden of war debts is inevitable.

There is no way out of the bloody confusion, no way back from the yawning abyss, no help or salvation, except through socialism. Only the proletarian world revolution can bring order into this chaos; provide work and bread for all; put a halt to mutual destruction of peoples; and bring peace, freedom, and genuine culture to tortured humanity. Down with the wage system!—that is the slogan of the hour. Cooperative labor shall replace wage labor and class domination. The tools of production must cease to be the monopoly of a single class; they must become the common property of all. No more exploiters and no more exploited! Regulate the production and distribution of goods in the interests of all. Abolish both the existing mode of production, which is exploitation and plunder, and the existing system of trade, which is nothing but fraud.

Instead of employers and their wage slaves: the free association of all workers! Work shall be no one's torment because it shall be everyone's duty. A decent, human existence for all who fulfill their obligation to society. Henceforth, hunger shall no longer be the curse of those who work but the punishment for those who do not.

Only a society such as this can eradicate bondage and hatred among nations. Only under a society such as this will the earth no longer be desecrated by killing. Only then will we be able to say,

*"That was the last war."*

[ . . . ]

Bringing the socialist system into being is the most momentous task ever inherited by any class or revolution in world history. It will require totally rebuilding the state and completely transforming the economic and social foundations of society.

This rebuilding and transformation cannot be decreed by any agency, commission, or parliament; it can be taken in hand and carried out only by the people themselves.

In all previous revolutions, a small minority of the people led the revolutionary struggle, set its goals, gave it direction, and used the masses as a tool to achieve its own interests, the interests of a minority. The socialist revolution is the first one to triumph in the interests of the vast majority and the first one that

can succeed only with the participation of the great majority of the toilers.

Not only are the proletarian masses called upon to act with clear understanding in defining the goals and giving leadership to the revolution, but they must also bring about socialism, step by step, by their own active intervention.

The essence of socialist society is that the vast, laboring masses cease to be ruled over and instead begin to experience every aspect of political and economic life for themselves—to run it and to acquire free and conscious control over their own destiny.

Therefore, from the highest state offices to the smallest community, the proletarian masses must replace the inherited institutions of class rule—federal councils, parliaments, town councils—with their own class institutions: the workers' and soldiers' councils. They must occupy every post, oversee every function, and measure every requirement of state by the standard of their own class interests and the goals of socialism. Furthermore, only constant, living interaction between the popular masses and their institutions, the councils, will enable them to imbue the government with the spirit of socialism.

By the same token, the economic transformation can be accomplished only if it is carried out by proletarian mass action. Mere decrees for socialization handed down by the highest revolutionary offices are in themselves empty phrases. Only action by the working class can turn words into reality. The workers can gain control of production and ultimately take over its management through intransigent hand-to-hand struggle against capital in every factory, through applying direct mass pressure, through strikes, and through creating their own, permanent, representative institutions.

The working masses must learn to transform themselves from lifeless automatons that capitalists insert into the production process, into free, thinking, self-activating administrators of that process. They have to acquire the sense of responsibility of functioning members of a community who as a whole are the sole proprietors of all social wealth.

November

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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6

The Militant November 16, 2009



# Is banning ultrarightists the way to combat them?

BY TONY HUNT

EDINBURGH, Scotland—What is the most effective strategy to defeat ultraright organizations like the British National Party (BNP) and the English Defence League (EDL)? Liberal bourgeois voices and those on the left have called for the British capitalist state and its police forces to ban these outfits from holding protests and that their spokespeople be denied platforms to speak. This is a dangerous trap.

The BNP opposes immigration to the

## AS I SEE IT

United Kingdom in order to preserve “British identity.” Its chairman, Nicholas Griffin, who in June was elected to the European Parliament, appeared October 22 on the BBC flagship program “Question Time.” Protests were held outside the London studios of the BBC and in other cities under the slogan, “No plugs for Nazi Nick.”

The *Guardian* newspaper said that Griffin’s appearance on the show would “lend him a spurious legitimacy.” Labour government minister Peter Hain opposed “giving racists and fascists a platform, treating them

as equals with democrats.” Weyman Bennett of Unite Against Fascism, which organized the protests, attacked the BBC for treating the BNP as “a normal political party.” Former London mayor Kenneth Livingstone of the Labour Party condemned the BBC for allowing the “far right” party to “enter the mainstream of political life.”

On November 14 the Scottish Defence League (SDL), an offshoot of the EDL, is planning a protest in Glasgow. An umbrella grouping called Scotland United, which is supported by the Scottish Trade Union Council, is organizing a counterprotest that same day. An October 16 letter from Scotland United calls “on the Leader of Glasgow City Council and the Police to ban the SDL/EDL action.”

The EDL held reactionary actions earlier this year, including one of hundreds in Manchester, England, October 10. The group says it is against “Radical Islam”—a reference to right-wing political organizations such as Islam4UK that call for an Islamic state and the imposition of sharia law. Claiming not to be racist, the EDL has used slogans such as “Black and White Unite.”

These incipient fascist forces will not



Militant/Alex Xezonakis

Hundreds rally against rightist English Defence League October 31 in Leeds, England. Counter-mobilizations against the ultraright is what’s needed today to prevent these forces from becoming emboldened and to defend foreign-born workers and others whom they target.

ultimately be defeated by putting trust in any part of the British capitalist state.

### Workings of capitalism

It is the national chauvinist, Britain first, anti-immigrant politics peddled by “mainstream” politicians of all the capitalist parties that open up space for the ultraright and their demagogy.

In an October 21 article calling for greater control of immigration,

Labour Member of Parliament (MP) Frank Field and Conservative MP Nicholas Soames blame immigration for “social strains” such as those on housing. But it is not immigrants that cause housing shortages—or rising unemployment—but the workings of capitalism and the policies of successive capitalist governments. It was Labour prime minister Gordon Brown who coined the slogan “British jobs for British workers” that became the rallying cry of reactionary strikes earlier this year, which were supported by the BNP.

Campaigning to deny platforms to the far right, making their “free speech” a central issue, merely plays into their hands. It allows them to portray themselves as victims. And the capitalist rulers ultimately use calls to ban the rightists against workers’ organizations.

Fascist-like groups are not a “cancer” in British politics but an inevitable product of the deepening capitalist crisis and the politics of resentment against a variety of targets stirred up amongst middle class layers especially, but also among sections of the working class. Whatever names they give themselves these outfits will continue to be bred by capitalism in the coming years. They will not go away by denying them “legitimacy” or be smashed by actions of small groups.

Nor are they simply an outgrowth of the right-wing of capitalist politics but a radical response to the market system in decay and the resulting devastation of different layers of society. This is why their demagogy targets the corruption of the “ruling elites,” as the BNP puts it, and is laced with anticapitalist demagogy.

Large *disciplined* counter-mobilizations against the ultraright are what is essential today—not reliance on our class enemies—to prevent these forces from becoming emboldened and to defend foreign-born workers and others whom they target. It is the Asian youth and others who have confidently stood up to these racist thugs who are the answer, not Westminster or its cops. Through such actions the forces will be assembled from which a mass movement will be built—with battalions of an increasingly multinational labor movement at its core to confront the fascists in the streets in the years to come.

## Iraqi Kurds seek new election laws for Kirkuk

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Sharp disagreements over how to conduct the vote in Kirkuk, Iraq, has placed a question mark over national elections currently scheduled for Jan. 16, 2010, and over how soon U.S. troops will be withdrawing from the country.

Provincial elections held in the rest of Iraq earlier this year never took place in Kirkuk because of differences between Kurds, who make up the majority of the population, and Arabs and Turkmen, who are minorities in the province, over who should control the regional government.

The Kurds are a historically oppressed nationality in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria. Originally Kurds were the majority in Kirkuk, which was viewed as the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. In the 1970s and ’80s under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein,

more than 100,000 Kurds were driven out of Kirkuk and replaced by Arabs. Hussein’s “Arabization” plan also targeted Turkmen and Christians in the province.

Following the U.S.-led 1991 invasion of Iraq, Washington and London established a “no fly” zone over Iraqi Kurdistan that allowed Kurds living there to achieve a measure of autonomy.

After Saddam was overthrown by the U.S. invasion of 2003, Kurds seized the opportunity to establish a Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in northeastern Iraq. It did not include Kirkuk and some other Kurdish regions pending further discussion. The issue has never been resolved.

Many Kurds have returned to Kirkuk Province, becoming the majority of the population again, and have been fighting for control of its

resources. Arab capitalist parties in Iraq are opposed to ceding Kirkuk, which has 13 percent of the country’s oil reserves, to the KRG.

The January elections are now thrown in doubt because the various parties cannot agree on who can vote in Kirkuk. Kurdish legislators boycotted the October 29 session of Iraq’s parliament, forcing those legislators who did show up to postpone a vote on a controversial election law for lack of a quorum.

The United Nations has recommended that voter registration records from 2009 be used in the voting in Kirkuk. The KRG backs this proposal as the majority registered now are Kurds. Arab parties have demanded that the 2004 voters’ list be used, which would give them greater weight in the outcome of the election. There is also a proposal to hold separate elections by nationality.

If the dispute is not settled in time to hold the elections in January then the timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops will also be affected. The current timetable calls for removing all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 2010. Fifty thousand troops would remain indefinitely.

The Rand Corporation, an imperialist think tank, submitted a July 2009 report commissioned by Robert Gates, U.S. defense secretary. According to a Rand news release, the report concluded that “the greatest threat to Iraqi stability and security comes from a possible Kurd-Arab armed conflict over contested areas, which in turn could result in armed intervention by Turkey.” Rand recommended that “U.S. forces depart at a slower rate from the part of Iraq where the Arab and Kurdish populations meet and where the danger of clashes escalating to open conflict are most serious.”

### For further reading

#### New International issue number 7

#### Opening Guns of World War III

Washington’s assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes

The murderous assault on Iraq in 1990–91 heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars.

Also includes:

“1945: When U.S. Troops Said ‘No!’” by Mary-Alice Waters

“Lessons from Iran-Iraq War” by Samad Sharif—\$14

#### Counter-mobilization

A Strategy to Fight Racist and Fascist Attacks

by Farrell Dobbs

A discussion on strategy and tactics in the fight against fascist attacks on the labor movement, drawing on the experiences of the Minneapolis Teamsters movement of the 1930s. In mobilizing labor, farmers, students, and others against assaults by racist and ultrarightist forces, says Dobbs, “the main thing is to educate a growing army of antifascists. The issue at stake for every fighter is: Are you going to be ready for the real thing when it comes? And it will come.”—\$8

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# U.S. military out of Pakistan!

Washington is steadily stepping up military operations in Pakistan, a theater of growing significance in the government’s “war on terror.”

The U.S. government delivered weapons and other military assistance to aid the Pakistani army in its assaults against a Taliban group in the country’s Swat Valley last spring. It is currently providing aid to the government offensive in the South Waziristan area in west central Pakistan. U.S. aerial drone attacks along the Afghan-Pakistan border have killed hundreds of civilians over the past year. These drones are also providing the Pakistani military with surveillance footage to aid their current assault. Meanwhile, according to one U.S. official cited in the *New York Times*, the number of U.S. special forces operating on Pakistani soil has reportedly doubled over the past eight months, to 150.

Since September 2001 the Pentagon has sent the Pakistan government nearly \$1 billion a year to finance paramilitaries operating along the Afghanistan border. Congress earlier this year approved another special fund to speed delivery of military equipment to the Pakistani army, with \$200 million worth of such equipment on its way in the next two to three months.

The Pentagon is planning to nearly double direct

military aid to Islamabad to \$700 million next year, U.S. officials say.

Those hardest hit by the Pakistani army assaults are working people residing in the areas that have become battlegrounds. The attacks in the Swat area earlier this year displaced more than 2 million people and led to the spread of disease and starvation. In South Waziristan today, more than 200,000 residents have fled. The government has given some displaced families a paltry \$60 per month stipend to live on while providing no camps or shelter. Countless others haven’t been able to get out of the line of fire.

The real target of the U.S.-backed Pakistani military offensive is the same as Washington’s antiterror war—working people. What the toilers need, from Pakistan to Afghanistan to Iraq, is time and political space to develop a leadership that can chart a way forward against their local capitalist rulers and foreign domination. That course would be greatly aided by getting all imperialist troops out of the region.

End all U.S. military aid and operations in Pakistan now! Withdraw U.S. special forces from Pakistan! U.S. and NATO troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq now!

## Hunter College workers win contract

BY TOM BAUMANN

NEW YORK—About two dozen students, professors, and cafeteria workers at Hunter College attended a UNITE HERE Local 100 reception October 29 to celebrate the union’s victory over AVI Foodsystems, a new contractor in the school cafeteria.

Since the beginning of the semester, workers at the cafeteria had been fighting for AVI to honor the terms of the agreement with Sodexo, their previous contractor. It included paid health-care benefits and pensions. AVI refused.

On October 30 cafeteria workers ratified a new three-year contract that maintains health-care benefits for full-time workers and their families, gives a \$500 lump sum payment for this year, and a 43-cent-an-hour raise for each of the next two years.

Workers will keep the pension funds earned under Sodexo, but in the new contract AVI will put money toward a union 401(k) retirement plan instead of a pension.

Many actions took place leading up to the agree-

ment. On September 3 the workers organized a 15-minute work stoppage during the lunch hour rush. In response, AVI began to hire temporary workers in fear of a strike.

On October 5 more than 100 students, faculty, staff, and other supporters joined a spirited rally in front of the college.

More than 1,000 students signed petitions supporting the workers’ demands. Debbie Johnson, cashier and member of the union negotiating committee, said her manager “turned beet red” when she handed him the petitions.

She also reported that fewer people were purchasing food at the cafeteria during the negotiations.

The union had called for a boycott for October 29, but the company backed down before the action could take place.

“It’s been a long road but we conquered. We stood strong and united,” said Johnson at the reception. She thanked the students and faculty for their support.

## Iran: Thousands rally for political rights

Continued from front page

tens of thousands joined the official rallies this year. Many carried signs that said, “Down with USA” or “Down with Israel.”

Opponents of the government who have been fighting for more freedom of the press and assembly, for the freedom of political prisoners, and for more rights for women circulated calls for separate actions November 4 to focus on these demands.

Associated Press reported that at least 2,000 opposition demonstrators gathered at Tehran University. Several thousand more, according to CNN, attempted to march toward the former U.S. embassy, but were prevented by riot police.

Riot police and paramilitary forces dispersed demonstrators in the capital using clubs and tear gas. There were arrests and unconfirmed news reports that some people had been shot.

The *Los Angeles Times* said, “There were also credible reports and video footage of a sizable demonstration on the campus of the main university in the northwestern city of Tabriz, the capital of Iran’s ethnic Azeri region and historically a hotbed of political activity.” Videos showed actions in Mashhad in eastern Iran, and in Ahwaz, a city in the oil region, which has a large Arab-Iranian population.

According to the London *Guardian*, thousands marched in Shiraz in the south, and in Isfahan in cen-

tral Iran, with smaller numbers in Rasht in northern Iran.

The government had warned that any protest November 4 other than the official ones would be illegal. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, the most powerful political figure in Iran, declared that challenging the results of the June elections was “the greatest crime.” Deputy Police Chief Ahmadreza Radan threatened that “those who intend to hold illegal gatherings as well as those who encourage people . . . to stage gatherings will have to answer for their actions.”

The opposition struggle for democracy and more political space has taken the form of backing the presidential election campaign of Mir Hossein Mousavi, a former prime minister of Iran who criticizes some of the regime’s censorship and its restrictions on women’s rights. He speaks for a substantial layer of Iranian capitalists who want an end to the imperialist-imposed sanctions against Iran and better relations with Washington.

Demonstrators November 4 chanted, “Down with the dictator” and “His leadership is over,” an apparent reference to Khamenei. Other chants included, “Obama, are you with us or against us?” and “No east, no west, a green government,” referring to the color of the Mousavi election campaign. In a video from Tehran, the *Guardian* reported, demonstrators chanted, “A green Iran doesn’t need nuclear weapons.”

## Pakistan assault

Continued from front page

try’s Swat Valley north of the current operation. Responding to Islamabad’s stepped-up war against the Taliban Movement of Pakistan, President Obama expedited delivery of 10 Mi-17 Russian-made transport helicopters requested by the Pakistani army.

The Pentagon has also rushed spare parts for Cobra helicopter gunships, infrared sensors for F-16 warplanes, hundreds of night vision goggles, day/night scopes, radios, thousands of sets of body armor, and eavesdropping equipment for intercepting cell phone calls.

A U.S. official told the *Times* that the number of U.S. special forces in Pakistan training Pakistani army and paramilitary forces has doubled in the last eight months to 150. Washington has also stepped up its training of Pakistani officers in the United States, according to the *Times*.

The Pakistani army’s current offensive in the Mehsud tribal region of South Waziristan involves some 30,000 troops. A tight cordon has trapped many residents in the battlegrounds and blocked news accounts of civilian casualties. More than 200,000 residents with means to escape have fled the area, but have been provided no shelter by the government.

The army is reportedly advancing toward the interior of the region with the goal of taking and holding the area before winter sets in. While a peace accord with Taliban factions immediately to the west and north of the Mehsud battlegrounds appears intact, the army has been bombing, imposing curfews, and expelling residents from tribal areas further north where large number of Taliban are reportedly fleeing toward the Tora Bora mountains.

Outside the tribal areas, the Pakistani government has responded to a stepped-up campaign of terrorist bombings with a crackdown on “illegal” Afghani, Uzbek, and Tajik immigrants throughout the country.

Clinton’s three-day tour of Pakistan

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wrapped up a three-day tour in Pakistan October 30 where she participated in meetings with top government, opposition party, and military leaders as well as major capitalists. She also took part in news conferences and photo ops, including praying at the shrine of Muslim saint Bari Shah Latif in the capital, Islamabad.

Clinton and other U.S. diplomatic representatives met October 29 with Pakistan’s top general, Ashfaq Kiyani, and Lt. Gen. Ahmad Pasha, head of the Inter-Services Intelligence agency, the powerful intelligence wing of the military. Among the topics discussed, according to Pakistan’s *Nation*, was intelligence sharing. Although not openly admitted by either side, U.S. aerial drones are reportedly providing the army with surveillance to aid its assault.

The Pakistani military representatives reportedly stressed that U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan foment hostility toward Washington in the country. Since the offensive began, Washington has conducted two suspected drone attacks in Pakistan. Both, however, were outside the area of the current offensive.

The Pakistani generals also reiterated their longstanding request for access to drone technology and other state-of-the-art weaponry, which Washington has thus far declined to provide.

One major theme of Clinton’s trip was Washington’s desire for the governments of Pakistan and India to reduce longstanding tensions between them.

As Clinton arrived in Pakistan, the Indian government announced the withdrawal of 15,000 troops from Indian-held Kashmir. While on a visit to the Indian Kashmir city of Srinagar October 28–29, Indian prime minister Monmohan Singh promised increased economic development in the Muslim-majority area, which remains under martial law imposed by a half million Indian soldiers. His visit was met with a general strike.

The moves by the Indian government are understood as confidence-building measures as the governments of the two nuclear-armed nations move toward a restart of negotiations, which were cut off following the Islamist terrorist attack in Mumbai last November.