





# Peasants organize land takeovers in Honduras

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of peasants and farm workers occupied farms across Honduras April 17 demanding land. Although most of the protesters were evicted by the police, the army and private guards of plantation owners, peasant leaders say they will be back.

“There were about 45 land takeovers nationally,” Marvin Morales, a leader of the two-year-old Peasant Movement of San Manuel, told the *Militant* in a phone interview. “We organized the largest with 1,500 families near San Pedro Sula.” The movement is one of 13 different peasant groups that organized the nationwide actions.

After a few hours the police and army came and ordered the peasants to leave, Morales said, arresting more than 100 people. But other land occupations lasted longer and some took place over the course of the next week.

Some of those involved in the takeover in San Pedro Sula have been employees of the big sugar plantations, Morales said. “They have to cut 200 meters [656 feet] of cane to earn \$4 or \$5, making at most \$15 a day.”

According to Morales, the land they are demanding in San Pedro Sula was given to the Honduran government by the U.S.-owned Standard Fruit Company in 1939. The Honduran government promised it would be part of a land reform. Instead, large capitalist landowners are using it to grow sugarcane.

“Sugarcane provides hard currency

for the owners,” Morales said, “but we want to grow what we need to eat: corn, rice, yucca, beans.”

The landlords are in violation of the agrarian laws, which in this region set a limit of about 600 acres per landowner, Morales said.

“We’re supporting the land takeovers,” stated Johnny Rivas, a leader of the Unified Peasant Movement of Aguán. MUCA organized a group of cooperatives in April 2010 for 3,000 families after occupying seven farms totaling some 11,000 acres that were part of the palm oil plantation of Miguel Facussé, one of the 10 largest landowning families in Honduras.

The group has been in negotiations with Facussé and the government over buying the land. “They want us to pay \$7,000 per hectare [1 hectare=2.5 acres] with 6 percent interest,” Rivas said, “but that’s just not possible.”

Under pressure of a 1954 strike by banana workers and fear of the example of the 1959 socialist revolution in Cuba, which inspired working people and peasants throughout Latin America, the Honduran government initiated a limited land reform in 1962. From 1962 to 1984 small parcels of land were given to some 52,000 peasant families.

More than half of Honduras’ population lives in the countryside. According to a July 2000 report by the U.S. Agency for International Development, 40 percent of the agricultural land is owned by 2.7 percent of farmers, while some 70 percent of farms are smaller than 10 acres.



COMUN-Noticias-Honduras

Peasants occupying land 155 miles north of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, April 17 in action organized by Peasant Movement of San Manuel, one of many protests demanding land that day.

In a phone interview from Tegucigalpa, José Lizardo, executive director of the Federation of Farmers and Cattle Ranchers of Honduras, the main organization of capitalist farmers, claimed the figures are false. He said accurate figures on land ownership don’t exist.

La Via Campesina, which works with peasant associations around the world, said some 27 percent of the rural population in Honduras—126,000 families—do not have any land or permanent employment. Thousands more eke out a living on tiny plots.

“We are open to dialogue with

peasant leaders,” Lizardo said. But the peasants have to “go through legal channels.”

Peasant leaders say they have tried going through the courts and to government agencies, without success. “More than 50 leaders and peasants have been killed because of their participation in land fights over the last two years,” Morales stated, mostly in the northern part of the country.

“The problem is that the courts and the ministers are not on the side of the peasants,” he said. “To be a peasant and ask for land turns you into a criminal.”

## Brazilian construction workers fight for better wages, conditions

BY JOHN STUDER

On May 4, 7,000 workers ended a two-week strike at the massive Belo Monte dam construction project for higher wages and more time off to visit their families after a labor court ruled the workers’ action illegal. Belo Monte will be Brazil’s biggest dam, one of dozens of power generating projects across the country.

At the end of April, 17,000 workers ended a 26-day strike after winning higher wages at the Jirau dam in Jaci Paraná. The government sent in hundreds of special forces troops to quell unrest after the strike.

Tens of thousands of workers in Brazil have struck against dam and other

major construction sites across the country. Often housed in remote areas, one of the workers’ key demands has been more time off to visit relatives in their home villages.

Starting wages at Jirau are about \$525 a month, while the cost of living roughly equals that in the U.S.

“The large concentration of workers at enormous construction sites scattered across the country seems to be fomenting worker unity and a more combative stance in search of improved wages and conditions,” said IPS press service.

Brazil is moving rapidly to meet soaring demand for electricity, which is predicted to surge 56 percent by 2021.

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Militant/Sara Lobman  
Shirley Williams, right, mother of Malik Williams, killed by cops in Garfield, N.J., last December, marches April 15.

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## The Militant

**Vol. 76/No. 20**  
**Closing news date:** May 9, 2012  
**Editor:** Steve Clark  
**Managing editor:** Doug Nelson  
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**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Maura DeLuca, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Louis Martin, Jacob Perasso, John Studer, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.  
Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, and two weeks in August.  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.  
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**Website:** [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.  
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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# ‘Militant’ subscriptions

**Continued from front page**  
borhoods, visited picket lines and other labor resistance, joined immigrant rights and other actions around May Day, and sold at plant gates, aiming to broaden the reach of the socialist newsweekly among working people.

“I can see these articles are for me, for everyday people,” Henry Lloyd, a construction worker, told Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, who was campaigning May 6 in the predominantly Black and Caribbean neighborhood of Wakefield in the Bronx, N.Y., where demonstrations have taken place against the Feb. 2 cop killing of 18-year-old Ramarley Graham.

Lloyd is right. The *Militant* speaks in the interests of working people and is written, circulated and financed by workers.

It prints articles that help arm us with an understanding of world politics and builds solidarity with others in struggle.

It draws on the continuity of the communist movement in this coun-

try and internationally, explaining the need to build a revolutionary movement of millions to take power out of the hands of the capitalist exploiters.

Lloyd also bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, a book offered at reduced price during the subscription campaign along with *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*, also by Barnes. (See ad below.)

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## Workers help fund ‘Militant’ to ‘get out the truth’

BY LEA SHERMAN

“Almost 30 participants packed into the Socialist Workers Party hall in Chicago for a dinner, program and social” to raise money for the socialist news-



George Rhynes, left, of Valdosta, Ga., signs up for a three-month subscription and picks up copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* on special offer.

weekly, wrote Ilona Gersh.

Joe Swanson, a leader of the SWP in Lincoln, Neb., spoke on “Our Politics Start with the World: Resistance to Capitalist Crisis Opens Prospects to Advance Revolutionary Perspective for Working-Class Power.”

Swanson shared the platform with Jorge Ríos, a 28-year-old factory worker in nearby Aurora, Ill. Ríos had just participated with other *Militant* supporters in a picket line of Machinists on strike against Caterpillar in Joliet, Ill.

“Marx and Engels talked about struggles like those in the 1800s. You keep their work alive,” Ríos said as he gestured to the books filling the walls. “Here we can find out about the strike by getting to the picket line in Joliet. But workers around the country need the *Militant* to get the truth.”

Participants donated \$2,405 at the meeting, and pledged an additional \$995 toward the Chicago goal of \$10,000, putting that city at the top of the chart.

“We went over the top on pledges,” wrote Chris Hoepfner about a fund event with 28 participants in Philadelphia. Louis Martin, *Militant* staff writer, gave a presentation on “Our Politics Start With the World,” where he described the world capitalist crisis, the coming apart of the European Union, growing unemployment and increased resistance to the bosses’ assault.

Philadelphia just raised its goal by \$400.

An event for the Fighting Fund in Montreal collected \$1,464. The main speaker, Michel Dugré, a member of the Communist League, spoke about the fight against the lockout by Rio Tinto Alcan in Alma, Quebec, and the *Militant* covering the fight.

Philippe Tessier, a student at Champ-

lain College involved in protests across Quebec against tuition hikes, spoke about cop violence against the students.

Participating in the discussion, Abdel Mounym, a food worker, said he subscribed to the *Militant* because “the editorial line of the dailies defends the powerful’s view of things. The *Militant* gives another point of view.”

The featured speaker at a fund meeting in Los Angeles was Maura DeLuca, also from Lincoln. DeLuca recently returned from a *Militant* reporting trip to the Havana International Book Fair.

Leading up to the meeting, a longshore worker pledged \$100 to the fund and a machinist, who is also contributing to the fund, took five *Militant* subscription cards to sell the paper at work.

With Philadelphia’s goal increase, the combined local quotas are still \$930 short of the global goal of \$120,000.

To contribute to the fund, contact distributors listed on page 6, or send a check or money order to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

## Trayvon Martin’s parents push fight against pro-vigilante laws

BY JANICE LYNN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The parents and other relatives of Trayvon Martin, the 17 year old who was shot and killed by neighborhood watch vigilante George Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla., visited this city May 3.

Sybrina Fulton, Martin’s mother, thanked some 100 people who gathered at Kelly Ingram Park for their support. “It is good to know other people are standing with us. It means a lot,” she said. The park is an historic site marking the 1963 battle against racial segregation here.

Among those welcoming the Martin family were Birmingham NAACP President Hezekiah Jackson IV; Sephira Shuttlesworth, widow of Black rights fighter Fred Shuttlesworth; and other community and civil rights figures.

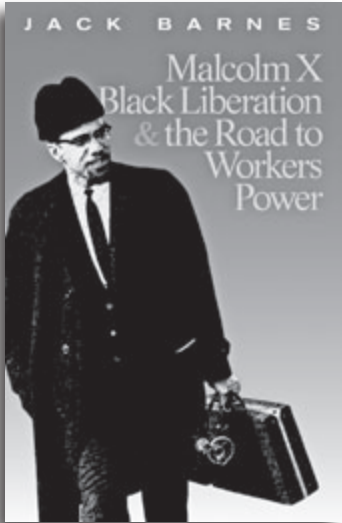
The family also appeared briefly at a Town Hall forum at Miles College in Fairfield, just outside Birmingham. About 300 students and others at this historically Black college attended. Several parents of daughters and sons who were killed by vigilantes spoke against Alabama’s pro-vigilante “Stand Your Ground” law, which sanction and encourage vigilante violence.

It was announced that Martin’s parents would be traveling to London to build support for the Justice for Trayvon Martin Foundation. Tracy Martin, Trayvon’s father, explained to the meeting that among its objectives the foundation aims to “advocate for the families of other victims of murder and injustice and build opposition to racial profiling and ‘Stand Your Ground’ laws.” Some 25 states have passed version of such laws.

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by Jack Barnes



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<i>‘Militant’ Fighting Fund</i>			
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Miami	\$3,200	\$1,194	37%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$2,851	33%
Des Moines	\$2,200	\$663	30%
New York	\$21,000	\$6,313	30%
Lincoln	\$375	\$107	29%
Philadelphia*	\$4,400	\$1,130	26%
Twin Cities	\$6,500	\$1,162	18%
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Seattle	\$8,800	\$870	10%
Boston*	\$4,000	\$265	7%
Washington, D.C.	\$7,600	\$320	4%
Houston	\$4,000	\$0	0%
Total U.S.	\$104,675	\$22,320	21%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$3,100	44%
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,500	\$1,130	25%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$406	27%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$700	\$0	0%
Manchester	\$375	\$0	0%
Total UK	\$1,075	\$0	0%
FRANCE	\$320	\$0	0%
Total	\$119,070	\$26,956	22%
Should be	\$120,000	\$34,800	29%



# Quebec Steelworkers rally in fight against Rio Tinto

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ  
AND KATY LEROUGETEL

QUEBEC CITY—Hundreds of Steelworkers locked out by Rio Tinto Alcan in Alma, Quebec, rallied outside the Quebec legislative assembly here May 3 to greet 24 fellow union members as they completed a several-day marathon from Alma to the provincial capital to present the government with a petition signed by 12,000 people. The petition demands an end to the government's buying of Rio Tinto's excess electricity during the lockout, boosting the company's union-busting campaign with more than \$50 million for its war chest.

Pauline Marois, leader of the provincial opposition Parti Quebecois, a bourgeois-nationalist Quebecois party, addressed the union rally before presenting the petition in parliament. The Liberal government lost no time in rejecting the petitioners' demands. Alma's mayor has maintained formal neutrality from the outset.

Rio Tinto locked out 780 Steelworkers Jan. 1. Workers are demanding a guaranteed minimum number of union jobs. The bosses are pressing to replace many union positions with subcontractors at half the pay as workers retire.

At the rally, Solène Boudrias and her mother Marlène Boudrias, both members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada union, told the *Militant* about their participation in an April 21 "wife picket," in which some 200 family and friends of locked-out union members took over picketing for the day. "It helped break our isolation. We learned that we all have the same experience," Solène Boudrias said. "It's hard to keep arguing with others. People think the guys are on strike and are doing this for more money."

Rio Tinto employs roughly 77,000 people in 40 countries. The international company mines, refines, and smelts aluminum, copper, diamonds, coal, iron ore, uranium, gold and other minerals. It's the world's second largest aluminum producer, with the bulk of its aluminum smelting operations in Canada.

"The company is looking at this long-term," locked-out Steelworker Martin Potvin told the *Militant*. "It's only in Canada that we still have defined-benefits pensions. In 2015, all company installations in the region will renegotiate the pension plans."

Currently operating at one-third of its normal production, the Alma plant has not been able to meet customer orders, company press liaison Claudine Gagnon told the *Militant*, but "our clients are aware of the situation."

The company broke off conciliator-initiated negotiations April 6. Gagnon told the *Militant* that Rio Tinto does not agree with the union's demand to maintain 900 guaranteed union jobs.

"People are getting sick of nothing happening," locked-out Steelworker Danny Bouchard said in a phone interview. "The company broke off negotiations when they saw that solidarity is still flowing in."

On April 20 Rio Tinto suspended two union members, effective once the lock-out ends, for alleged acts of sabotage last year.

"We firmly defend these workers," union President Marc Maltais told the *Militant*. "We went out with 778 members, we'll go back with 778 members."



Militant/Yannick Duguay, Inset, John Steele  
Steelworkers locked out by Rio Tinto Alcan in Alma, Quebec, rallied in Quebec City May 3, demanding government stop buying Rio Tinto's excess electricity during lockout.

There was no sabotage."

Picketing continues around the clock seven days a week in Alma.

For information on union actions planned in the coming weeks, or to send

messages of support, contact: Métallos local 9490, 830 rue des Pins ouest, Alma, Quebec G8B 7R3. Tel.: (418) 662-7055. Fax: (418) 662-7354. Email: syndicat@staalma.org.

## IAM workers strike Illinois Caterpillar plant

**Continued from front page**

six years, expand the use of "supplemental" workers to 20 percent of the workforce, double health care costs—already \$79 per month for single workers—and gut pensions, cost of living increases and seniority rights.

"I make \$13 an hour right now," Chris Griffin, 32, told the *Militant*. He was hired on as a supplemental worker in June of last year, and brought on as a regular "tier two" worker four months later. "When you deduct the increased health insurance costs I'll be down to \$8 an hour. If they're doing this to us, what are they going to do to the next generation that comes after us?"

First-tier workers make up to \$28, explained Jones. Second tier tops out at \$19 and supplemental workers, introduced in 2005, who have no benefits, are hired for up to 24 months, and can be terminated at will. They generally make \$13 an hour and Caterpillar often lays them off after 23 months to avoid hiring them as second-tier workers, said Jones. The company's contract proposal would eliminate the possibility of any more workers becoming first tier, which takes 10 years.

"I'm tired of feeling like a second-class citizen at Caterpillar," said John Andrew, who is a full-time supplemental worker. "You can be working next to someone doing the same job making \$8 more than you."

"We need everyone to come out and support us," Tucker said. "If you're driving down the street honk your horn. If you've got some time join us—you'll be wearing a sign for a reason."

Stephen Lech and Eric McClellan, members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669, joined the picket line May 6. "We know what you're going through," Lech told the striking workers. "We were locked out by Honeywell in Metropolis for 14 months fighting for a decent contract. We'll do anything we can to help."

Roger Zaczek, president of United Electrical Workers Local 506 at the General Electric plant in Erie, Pa., joined the picket line along with two other workers from that city. "This is a very important fight for all workers," he said.

Earlier this year Zaczek participated in a delegation to London, Ontario, to support locked-out Caterpillar workers there who refused to accept a 50 percent pay cut. The company shut down the plant about one month into the lockout.

Brian Cheaten, a member of United Auto Workers Local 719, who works at Caterpillar-owned Electro-Motive Diesel in LaGrange, just outside of Chicago, joined the picket line. "We should have gone on strike at EMD," he said. "We faced a similar contract."

"The 2005 contract gave the company the right to contract out a lot of the work," said Jim Hite, a 20-year worker at the Joliet plant. "All the forklift jobs are done by contractors. But the only union contractors, Ironworkers from Brieser Construction, packed up their stuff and left on Monday. They won't cross our picket line. UPS drivers are also refusing to cross."

"Now everyone enters as a supplemental worker," Hite continued. "Some

get as low as \$11 per hour. That guy over there makes \$13, and I make \$27 and we're doing the same job!"

The world's largest maker of construction equipment, Caterpillar reported a 29 percent increase in first-quarter profits, with revenues of \$15.98 billion.

"What the company is asking is sinful," Tucker said. "Shame on them! This young man is making \$16.33 per hour," he said, pointing to a 22-year-old worker on the line. "I make \$25 per hour and we're in the same labor grade. Who do they think they are to pay him two-thirds of what I get? How can they say he's only worth two-thirds? There shouldn't be two tiers."

Tucker, a hydraulic gear pump assembler, has worked in the plant since 1993. "This is my first time on strike. This is our family, not Caterpillar," Tucker said. "I'm proud to be standing out here with my brothers and sisters."

Workers are planning a solidarity rally for Friday, May 11.

### Union-busting bribe turned against bosses

Laura Anderson in Chicago recently sent in a "blood money" donation to the Socialist Workers Party's Capital Fund, which finances long-range work of the party. Blood money is a term communist workers use to describe "bonuses" and other bribes used by bosses as they press concession contracts, speedup, dangerous conditions and wage cuts. Below is a note Anderson sent with her check.

Industrial train workers in United Auto Workers Local 719 at Electro-Motive Diesel in Lagrange, Ill., recently received \$2,574 each in blood money after ratifying a union-busting contract.

The vote was the third in the last seven months, after our local voted down a contract twice. We watched Caterpillar, the owner of EMD, lock out our sister Canadian Auto Workers Local 27 in London, Ontario, in January after they voted down a contract that included a 50 percent wage cut. Local 27 organized round-the-clock pickets and a rally of 10,000 union supporters. Caterpillar shut the plant down and moved production to a nonunion plant in Muncie, Ind.

We were told that this bonus was a "reward" for increasing production and profits. The new contract includes: all new hires will be supplemental workers and will have no union backing for two years, nor paid holidays or vacation; higher skilled workers will take an \$11 pay cut; no more cost of living adjustments; overtime pay only after 40 hours worked; a 401(k) plan to replace pensions; an increase in insurance payments; and a new yearly 12-point attendance system that includes getting a point for going home sick or injured.

A coworker who voted down the contract said, "This bonus is nothing more than a spotted carrot. We're going to see some hard times until we start using our union."

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by Jack Barnes



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# Arson protest in Miami

Continued from front page

The fire occurred in the early morning hours of April 27. “Law enforcement officials told *El Nuevo Herald* that the fire was ‘deliberate.’ They declined further comment, and asked for anonymity,” the *Miami Herald* reported later that day. The FBI says it is working with local police to investigate.

Airline Brokers is one of eight companies authorized to charter flights to Cuba under tight U.S. government restrictions. The agency recently arranged travel for a delegation from the Miami archdiocese as part of the pope’s visit to Cuba. According to Reuters, owner Vivian Mannerud “said she had not received any recent threats to her business, but said she was targeted in the early 1990s by Cuban exile extremists.”

As recently as the 1990s, counterrevolutionary groups here carried out bombings and other violent attacks aimed at defenders of the Cuban Revolution and opponents of Washington’s economic embargo against that country.

A protest caravan of about 80 cars drove through the largely Cuban community of Westchester in southwest Miami May 5 opposing the attack. The response from drivers passing by and people on the street was overwhelmingly positive, with many honking and waving in support.

“We cannot allow these criminals to continue,” said Oliden Martínez, a 25-year-old student and shuttle bus driver, who participated in the caravan after hearing it announced on the radio. “I support travel to Cuba. I grew up there and was educated in the revolution. Not everything is perfect, but everything is equal. There’s a lot of good things in Cuba that you don’t hear about here.”

“I think it’s wrong,” Marla Rodríguez, a waitress at a restaurant here, told the *Militant* when asked about the fire.

One of the customers, airport worker Alejandro Muro, agreed. Both he and Rodríguez are Cuban. “I’m for freedom of expression,” Muro said. “If you want to go to Cuba, you should be able to go.”

“We know that the most recent action was not aimed against a travel agency but the right to travel to Cuba,” Andrés Gómez, president of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and an organizer of the caravan, told the *Militant*. “We affirm the right of all U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba, especially Cubans.”

“We demand from the responsible federal and local authorities the rapid and thorough investigation of this terrorist act, as well as the arrest and prosecution of the terrorists who committed it,” Gómez told reporters at a May 2 press conference organized by Alianza Martiana. He called on elected officials

to denounce the arson. “None of them has done it. Neither has the press in this city. This situation is truly shameful.”

Also speaking were Alianza Martiana President Max Lesnik, Elena Freyre of the Foundation for Normalization of US/Cuba Relations, and Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, District 17.

“Counterrevolutionary groups have a long history of carrying out deadly attacks against Cuba with the complicity of Washington,” said Baumann in his statement. “When five Cuban revolutionaries took assignments in the 1990s to defend their country and monitor these groups here in Florida, the U.S. government railroaded them to jail. The Socialist Workers Campaign calls for the immediate release of the Cuban Five, as these men are known today.”

Airline Brokers offices were boarded up two days after the fire. The building, which also housed some lawyers’ offices, was condemned.



Militant/Naomi Craine

Enrique Ros prepares for May 5 caravan in Miami to protest arson attack on Airline Brokers, a travel agency that books flights between the United States and Cuba.

In mid-April a billboard supporting the campaign to free the Cuban Five was removed the same day it went up after an adjacent restaurant received threatening phone calls.

As of May 6 the FBI has not an-

nounced any results of their investigation, and have declined to characterize it as a criminal act.

Tom Baumann contributed to this article.

## Illinois miners win reinstatement of union stalwart

BY BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO—One year after winning a union election at the southern Illinois Willow Lake coal mine, workers are still fighting to force the company, Peabody Energy Corp., to bargain with the United Mine Workers of America for a contract.

The miners scored a victory in that broader struggle April 30 when federal Judge G. Patrick Murphy issued an injunction ordering Peabody to rehire Wade Waller, a well-known and outspoken union supporter at the mine in Saline County north of Equality. Waller was fired by Peabody less than a week after the UMWA won a union representation election in May 2011.

The company had charged Waller with threatening to kill another miner, Ron Koerner. Peabody alleged that Waller threatened to run him over with a ram car. But the federal court found that the disagreement between the two men was nothing more than a routine work dispute. “Waller’s alleged threat to kill Koerner was simply the way Big Ridge chose to ‘spin’ the incident between Waller and Koerner as a pretext for dis-

charging one of UMWA’s strongest and most vocal supporters at the Willow Lake mine,” Judge Murphy wrote in the decision.

The injunction also ordered Peabody to halt “threatening employees with mine closure, job loss, or other unspecified reprisals because they support UMWA; promising employees benefits if they oppose UMWA” and “discharging or otherwise discriminating against employees” for supporting the union.

The court decision gave Peabody five days to offer “reinstatement to Wade Waller to his former position.” Waller, who has been out of work for nearly a year, was denied unemployment compensation as a result of the company’s challenge to his claim for benefits.

The question of safety, and in particular the right to a union safety committee, is among the top concerns driving the workers’ unionization effort.

More than 400 workers are employed at Willow Lake. Since 2008 Peabody has been cited and fined hundreds of thousands of dollars for dangerous conditions at the mine, including inadequate roof support and excessive coal dust.

In June 2010, two months after the disaster at Massey Energy’s Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia, where 29 miners were killed, the Mine Safety and Health Administration threatened legal action against Big Ridge Company, which runs the Willow Lake Mine, and its owner Peabody, citing many instances of unsafe practices. A month later a supervisor at Willow Lake was killed when a shuttle car hauling coal struck him.

The judge wrote in his 20-page order that failure to issue the injunction in the case would send a message to mine employees that Peabody “is too big for the law and not even the NLRB [National Labor Relations Board] can do anything to help Willow Lake employees.”

“Peabody has made no public comment on the recent decision, but has filed an appeal of the injunction to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals,” UMWA Communications Director Phil Smith told the *Militant* in a phone interview.

Meanwhile, the miners at Willow Lake, members of UMWA Local 5929, continue to fight for recognition of their union and a contract.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 22, 1987

LOS ANGELES—An immigration judge dropped all charges against seven Palestinians and one Kenyan facing deportation.

The eight were arrested January 26 and held for almost three weeks in solitary confinement on charges of violating the McCarran-Walter Act. This law turns constitutionally protected political activities into grounds for deportation if the government deems the activities subversive. The government claimed the eight are members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The government had sought their deportation on McCarran Act charges of association with an organization that advocates “destruction of property.” Not one shred of evidence of any illegal activity on the part of any of the eight has been produced.



May 21, 1962

Threats and arrests by Generalissimo Franco in Spain and Dictator Salazar in Portugal have failed to hold back the mounting wave of strikes and demonstrations by both workers and students.

In Spain the strikes, which began last month with the Asturias miners, have spread throughout the provinces. The small raises demanded by the miners were generally conceded to be justified.

Even the mine owners agreed to grant them when the government approved increases in coal prices. But the government stalled on the actual signing of new contracts, reportedly reluctant to lose face since all strikes are “illegal.” Instead it declared a state of emergency, saturated the area with police and jailed dozens of strike leaders.

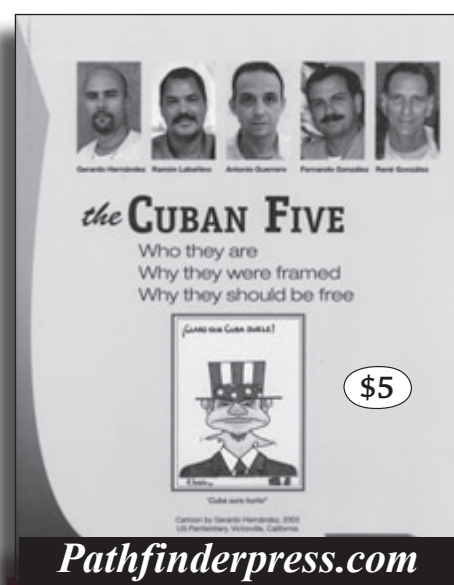


May 1, 1937

The sit-down strike implies a blow to the system of private ownership which is quite clear to the property owners and their puppets and protectors: legislatures and the law courts.

Those who are attacking the sit-down make heavy attempts to convince the public that they are great defenders of labor’s “right to strike” (with reservations, of course), but the sit-down gets them where it hurts—on their monopoly of ownership over the production of things man needs.

When workers will sweat long hours and allow the employer to take the major share of their wages without protest, they are “loyal employees.” When they organize an effective pressure to improve working conditions and increase their wages, they become “trespassers.”





# With Algerian Revolution, ‘Cuba was no longer alone’

*Below is an excerpt from Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. Barnes is the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The selection printed here is from the postface titled “The Cuban Revolution Was Not Alone” by Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the SWP National Committee and president of Pathfinder Press. Copyright © 2001 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Footnotes are by the Militant.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

In the world of the early 1960s, the deepening revolution in Cuba was not an isolated development. Other powerful anti-imperialist struggles were advancing too, from Indochina to the Congo to Panama. Mass battles to bring down Jim Crow segregation in the United States were an integral part of these international struggles and, at the same time, drew strength from them. There were new stirrings among Mexican-Americans and Chicanos as well. And in my own case it was the Algerian Revolution that had the deepest impact.

A few months after the Bay of Pigs, I headed to France on a university junior year abroad program. The Algerian in-

dependence struggle, paid for in blood by some one million Algerians, was rapidly approaching victory. The great movie depiction of this struggle, *Battle of Algiers*, captures much of the courage and determination of the Algerian people, as well as the immeasurable brutality of the French imperialist forces. No one should miss it.

In the fall of 1961 and spring of 1962 Paris resembled a city under siege. Following a failed coup attempt, the Secret Army Organization (OAS), a clandestine fascist group based in the officer corps of the French army, had unleashed a campaign of bombings and assassinations in the capital aimed at bringing down the French government before it conceded defeat and recognized Algerian independence. Paratroops armed with submachine guns stood guard twenty-four hours a day on every street corner, and plastic explosives went off nightly in mailboxes and other public locations throughout the city.

Student antifascist committees were active in every faculty. I joined in the regularly organized demonstrations challenging the prohibition on street actions. Facing off against the much-hated special police force, the CRS, injuries and arrests were inevitable. In February 1962 eight demonstrators were trampled and suffocated to death as those escaping a CRS attack fled into an abandoned metro station, the exit from which had been sealed. A few days later more than a million people poured into Paris streets to join the funeral cortege to the Père Lachaise cemetery, where the martyrs of the Paris Commune are also buried.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the casualties still to come, the war was over. The people of Algeria had won. A few months later the Evian Accords were signed, ceding independence to Algeria after more than 130 years of French colonial rule. A workers and farmers government soon came to power, with National Liberation Front leader Ahmed Ben Bella at its head. ...

The liberation struggle in Algeria had an impact on layers of young people and fighters against oppression far beyond North Africa and France, of course. Malcolm X was one of them. At a May 1964 meeting of the Militant Labor Fo-

rum in New York City, Malcolm pointed out that while only a few years earlier Ben Bella had been in the prisons of French imperialism, “today they have to negotiate with him because he knew that the one thing he had on his side was truth and time. Time is on the side of the oppressed today, it’s against the oppressor. Truth is on the side of the oppressed today, it’s against the oppressor.” During both of his trips to Africa and the Middle East in 1964, Malcolm traveled to Algeria to meet with fellow revolutionaries.

There were strong ties linking the Algerian and Cuban revolutions. The years immediately following independence from France saw close and growing collaboration between Havana and Algiers to aid anti-imperialist struggles from the Congo to Argentina and apartheid South Africa, and to defeat imperialism’s attempts to overturn the Algerian and Cuban revolutions themselves.

In the fall of 1962 Ben Bella came to New York City to address the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of Algeria being admitted to that body as an independent nation. From there Ben Bella traveled to Washington for a brief state visit with President John F. Kennedy, and then, despite the open threats of his hosts, demonstratively flew straight on to Havana, where he joined his comrades-in-arms on the very eve of the Cuban “Missile” Crisis.<sup>2</sup> In an account written thirty-five years later, Ben Bella recalled how he arrived in Havana on October 16, “amid inde-



From left, Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of Algerian Revolution, and Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticós in Havana, 1962. Ben Bella demonstratively went to Cuba despite pressure by Washington, which was then preparing a large-scale invasion of the island.

scribable scenes of popular enthusiasm” for the revolution and its solidarity with Algeria.

The first large-scale internationalist mission of Cuban volunteers was the dispatch of tanks and a column of troops under the command of Efigenio Ameijeiras, the head of the Revolutionary National Police battalion that had fought so tenaciously at Playa Girón.<sup>3</sup> They went to Algeria in October 1963 to help the revolutionary government repel a U.S.-backed invasion by Moroccan troops.

With the overthrow of the Ben Bella-led workers and farmers government in June 1965, the defeat of the anti-imperialist forces in the Congo later that same year, and the withdrawal from the Congo of the Cuban internationalist volunteers headed by Che Guevara, the era of that type of close revolutionary collaboration between Havana and Algiers came to an end.

1. In 1871 the insurgent workers and craftsmen of Paris established the first workers government in history, the Paris Commune. It was crushed in blood by the troops of the French bourgeoisie.
2. In Oct. 1962, the Democratic administration of President John F. Kennedy brought the world to the edge of nuclear conflict in what is commonly referred to in the U.S. as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Cuba’s workers and farmers and their revolutionary government blocked Washington’s plans for a large-scale military invasion involving some 90,000 troops, opening a way to resolve the crisis.
3. In April 1961 Cuban armed forces dealt a stunning defeat to a U.S.-organized mercenary invasion of some 1,500 at Playa Girón by the Bay of Pigs.

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# Ben Bella, leader of Algerian Revolution

## Defeat of French, 1962-65 workers and farmers gov't, reshaped world politics

BY JOHN STUDER

Ahmed Ben Bella, who helped lead the Algerian Revolution that overthrew French colonial rule in 1962 and established a workers and peasants government there that lasted until a 1965 military coup, died April 11 at the age of 93.

The Algerian Revolution was one of the deepest in the wave of anti-colonial struggles that broke out after World War II. While short-lived, it had a profound impact that strengthened the revolutionary movement.

French colonial troops invaded Algeria in 1830, and immediately faced fierce resistance from the Algerian people. “From the first occupation of Algeria by the French to the present time, the unhappy country has been the arena of unceasing bloodshed, rapine and violence,” Frederick Engels wrote in 1857.

By 1917, French settlers, called colons, owned 55 percent of all the nation’s land. French imports crushed any chance for Algerian industry; the nation’s agricultural produce and rich resources were carted off to aid the development of French capital.

In the 1920s, Algerian immigrant workers in France, inspired by the Russian Revolution, organized to fight for equal rights and Algerian independence. Their organization, the Star of North Africa, was banned by the French government.

Ben Bella, born into a peasant family, fought as a soldier of the French army in World War II, in a segregated, Moroccan unit.

On May 8, 1945, the day Germany’s surrender formally ended the imperialist slaughter in Europe, Algerians demonstrated in Setif calling for democratic rights and equality, leading to bloody clashes with the colons. The French military launched reprisals, slaughtering 45,000 Algerians over the next six weeks.

Outraged by the massacre at the hands of the French forces that had claimed to be fighting for democracy against German fascism, Ben Bella resigned from the army and dedicated himself to the revolutionary struggle for independence. He joined the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties and ran for office, but the party was banned.

Turning to armed struggle, Ben Bella was arrested and jailed. After two years, he escaped and helped organize the National Liberation Front, which led the eight-year struggle to oust the French.

Flying from Morocco to Tunisia for a meeting in 1956, his plane was forced down by the French and he was imprisoned in France for the next five and a half years.

### Algerian Revolution 1954-62

The French threw the full weight of their armed forces against the Algerian liberation struggle, using terror and torture. More than 1 million Algerians were killed and 300,000 children orphaned.

The murderous war sharply polarized France. Fascist organizations, aligned with a wing of the army and backed by the colons in Algeria, mobilized in the streets against concessions to Algerian insurgents. Students and young workers, increasingly appalled at the violence of the imperialist war, fought the fascist groups in the streets and many became sympathetic to the Algerian struggle.



AFP/Getty Images

Ahmed Ben Bella, at right, addresses demonstration in Kabylia, Algeria, in October 1963.

The Socialist Party government, which was running the war with the backing of the Stalinist Communist Party, became increasingly unpopular, and was replaced with a Bonapartist regime led by Charles de Gaulle in 1958.

In 1962, de Gaulle was forced to concede defeat and signed the Evian Accords granting Algeria independence. The liberation movement and the Algerian people had won.

The FLN adopted the Tripoli Program, which championed mobilizing of the masses of workers and peasants to carry out a sweeping agrarian reform; nationalization of basic industry, transport, banks and foreign trade; collaboration with anti-colonial struggles around the world; and projected “the conscious construction of the country according to socialist principles with the power in the hands of the people.”

### Workers and farmers government

Revolutionaries, including the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., hailed the victory of the Algerian people. In 1964, Joseph Hansen, a leader of the SWP, wrote a resolution on the character of the Algerian government, which was adopted by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, at the time an international organization of revolutionaries.

“For some time the course of the new regime in Algeria has shown that it is a ‘Workers and Farmers Government,’” Hansen wrote, “a possible forerunner of a workers state.”

The resolution noted that at the outset the new FLN-led government included both bourgeois figures and popular rev-

olutionary forces. The deepening mass mobilizations, backed by Ben Bella, led to the ouster of a number of the bourgeois figures and the establishment of a workers and peasants government, with many similarities to the course that led to the socialist revolution in Cuba a few years earlier.

The document pointed to the revolution’s biggest challenge—the lack of a working-class political party and a communist leadership like that grouped around Fidel Castro in Cuba.

Revolutionaries, especially in Africa, were attracted to the Algerian example. Nelson Mandela came from South Africa and Amilcar Cabral from Guinea-Bissau to discuss how to advance their battles against apartheid bondage and colonial domination.

Ben Bella developed close relations with Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other Cuban leaders who supported the Algerian Revolution—both before and after the victory of the FLN—with financial aid, military supplies, troops, doctors and more.

The first internationalist medical mission from Cuba went to Algeria. The Cubans sent troops and tanks to assist the Algerians in standing off military provocations from neighboring Morocco, prodded by U.S. imperialism.

Ben Bella collaborated with Cuban leaders to aid revolutionary movements across Africa—from the Congo to Angola, and helped aid revolutionary groups fighting in Argentina and other countries in Latin America.

In France, thousands broke with the class-collaborationist policies of the Communist Party because of its treach-

erous stance against the Algerian Revolution.

“The Party had as its slogan ‘Peace in Algeria,’ and its instructions were not to have relations with the Algerians,” wrote Alain Krivine in an article printed in 2004. Krivine was a leader of the French CP youth organization who in 1957 was among those who broke with the Stalinist party and became involved in support for the Algerian Revolution.

On Oct. 17, 1961, the police attacked 30,000 Algerian workers demonstrating in Paris, killing hundreds. *L’Humanité*, the Communist Party newspaper, closed and shuttered its offices, not lifting a finger to help those fleeing the pogrom. The cops, Krivine recalled, propped up wounded and dying workers on the newspaper’s shutters. “An image like this one is unforgettable,” he said.

Krivine, and many like him, forged relations with other revolutionaries worldwide, including the SWP.

### Impact on Malcolm X

The Algerian Revolution also had a deep impact Malcolm X, playing a role in his political convergence with other revolutionists.

“When I was in Africa in May, in Ghana,” Malcolm told Jack Barnes, now national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, in an interview for the *Young Socialist* magazine in 1965, “I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador [Taher Kaid] who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word.

“When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me very frankly: Well, where does that leave him? Because he was white. ...

“So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary,” Malcolm explained.

On June 19, 1965, Ben Bella was overthrown in a counterrevolutionary coup led by Minister of Defense Col. Houari Boumédiénne and Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Ben Bella was thrown in prison, where he was held for the next 15 years and then exiled from the country for another decade.

The coup was bitterly assailed by Fidel Castro. “We are not going to talk in diplomatic language,” Castro said in a June 27, 1965, speech.

“In the first place, the military insurrection that overthrew Ben Bella’s revolutionary government is not—nor can anyone classify it as—a revolutionary insurrection,” Castro said.

“Those who disregard the force of the masses and who may try to replace them with the force of the barracks, behind the people’s back,” can never be revolutionary, Castro emphasized.

There are invaluable lessons for today in the war of national liberation waged by the Algerian people and the historic defeat they inflicted on French imperialism, the betrayals of the Algerian struggle by the Stalinist and Social Democratic parties in France, how the workers and farmers government headed by Ben Bella was eroded and overthrown, and how these events continue to this day to shape politics in Algeria, in France and in the world.

## More reading

### EDUCATION FOR SOCIALISTS BULLETINS

#### The Workers and Farmers Government by Joseph Hansen \$10

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# May Day actions in US back immigrant rights

## Anarchist provocations used to smear workers' day

BY SETH GALINSKY  
AND WILLIE COTTON

Thousands of working people and youth joined May Day demonstrations across the United States. Like every year since 2006, many of the actions protested government attacks against immigration workers—a key question for labor. But many of this year's celebrations were different, reflecting in various ways the deepening crisis of capitalism.

Ferry workers organized by the Inland Boatmen's Union carried out a strike for one shift in their fight for a contract, shutting down ferries that shuttle commuters from Marin County to San Francisco. Thousands of nurses in the San Francisco Bay Area conducted a one-day walkout to protest demands by Sutter Health for more concessions. Some 300 airline contract workers picketed terminals at Los Angeles International Airport, and 780 Caterpillar workers went on strike in Illinois.

In a number of places, May Day demonstrations were stamped by the diffuse politics of Occupy groups under the banner of the "99 percent" and bombastic calls for a "general strike." In a few cities, anarchist forces carried out provocative actions that gave the press and politicians a handle to violence bait and smear International Workers Day.

More than 3,000 people marched in Chicago, demanding legalization and an end to deportations, a halt to the firing of workers without papers, and the elimination of the E-verify Internet system to check work papers. Supporters of the Occupy movement also joined the march.

"These companies are trying to turn workers into criminals," Robert Hines told the *Militant* at the Chicago march. "They use background checks to fire workers and for you to accept bad conditions." Hines was part of a mostly Black contingent from Warehouse Workers for Justice.

"We have to stand up against the treatment of immigrant workers and all workers," said Arturo Castro, who came with seven coworkers from a welding shop in Wheeling, Ill.

Some 4,000 marched in Salem, Ore., for the rights of immigrant workers. A letter from Governor John Kitzhaber was read there announcing state police will begin accepting Mexican government issued cards as ID during traffic stops.

About 400 marched in steady rain

from East Boston, Mass., to Everett. Immigrant workers were joined by members of Service Employees International Union Local 615 and airport contract workers fighting for better pay and working conditions. Several dozen people came from an Occupy Boston protest held earlier that day.

Among other immigrant rights actions on May Day: a march of 600 in Yakima, Wash., with many farmworkers; 200 in New Orleans; hundreds in Los Angeles; 200 in Houston; 250 in Minneapolis; about 100 in Montgomery, Ala.; and 200 in Atlanta.

Thousands of supporters of immigrant rights marched in Oakland, Calif. The March for Dignity started at the Fruitvale transportation station and marched to City Hall. It included several union contingents, including postal workers and Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 125.

"We need to organize and get together," Ana Castaño told the crowd at a rally during the midpoint of the march. "We are not criminals. We are workers." Castaño is one of 200 workers who were fired from Pacific Steel Casting in Berkeley, Calif., at the end of the year as a result of an immigration audit.

During the course of the day, some groups connected to Occupy Oakland blocked streets downtown and 39 were arrested by the police. As the immigrant rights march continued, more people associated with Occupy joined the action, including some who carried gas masks and shields made of corrugated steel.

A group of immigrant high school students decided to leave the march early as did some of the union contingents and other participants. By the time the march reached City Hall it was mostly an Occupy march.

In Seattle, some 1,500 took part in an immigrant rights march endorsed by a wide variety of immigrant rights, student and religious groups and more than a dozen unions.

### Provocative actions by anarchists

Earlier in the day, black-clad anarchists used sticks and bats to smash store and automobile windows.

Trial by Fire, an anarchist website, hailed these pointless and dangerous provocations as a sign of "a real challenge beginning to form" to "those in power."

Two days earlier El Comité Pro Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social (Immigration Reform and Social Justice Committee), the coalition that organized the march, issued a statement saying that the immigrant rights and Occupy organizations were organizing separate actions at different times of the day and distancing itself from any provocative actions.

"We are working with members of Occupy Seattle to make each of our events both safe and effective," the



Militant photos by Eric Simpson

Top, contingent of Pacific Steel workers, fired in immigration audit, at May 1 action in Oakland, Calif. Bottom, ferry boat workers during May 1 strike against bosses concession demands.

statement said. "We in no way encourage the dissemination of any information that encourages our participants to engage in reckless, poorly thought out activities. ... Contrary to reports that have been disseminated in the media, the vast majority of participants in May 1st activities do not have the intent of placing participants in danger."

In one of the largest May Day actions, more than 10,000 people marched in New York. The main banner on the stage read, "We are the 99%," with a subhead saying "legalize, organize, unionize."

"I came to support the Occupy movement," said Chris Reinsch, 28, who described himself as self-employed. "Things need to change."

Reinsch said he was sympathetic to those fighting for immigrant rights, but added, "I don't think it should be that easy for everyone to get papers."

The week before the march New York City cops visited several Occupy Wall Street participants to probe for information about the upcoming May Day action on the pretext that they had outstanding warrants for minor misdemeanors. According to the *New York Times*, the cops woke up Zachary Dempster, 31, at 6:15 a.m. April 30 and arrested his roommate for an open-container warrant. They then attempted to interrogate Dempster about plans for May Day.

A May 1 article in the *New York Post* began, "New York is braced for

May Day mayhem" that could "not only make it difficult for people to get to their jobs, but ... put angry demonstrators on a collision course with beefed-up police." It included several paragraphs on a police investigation into cornstarch-filled envelopes that arrived by mail the day before to six banks and an office building with a note saying, "Just in case you needed some incentive to stop working we have a little surprise for you." One of the letters was addressed to Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

In Cleveland, the FBI announced on May Day that they had arrested five men the night before for "conspiring to use explosives to destroy a bridge." The *Wall Street Journal* noted that the group had been infiltrated by a paid FBI informant for several months and that the fake explosives were "provided by an undercover FBI agent."

The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* ran an article May 1 titled "FBI Arrests 5 Accused of Plotting to Blow Up 82 Ohio Bridges In Cuyahoga Valley." After nine paragraphs on the FBI-manufactured plot, the piece concluded by saying, "May Day protests were also taking place in other U.S. cities today."

*Galinsky is reporting from New York and Cotton from the Bay Area. Betsy Farley from Chicago, Mary Martin from Seattle and Eric Simpson from San Francisco contributed to this article.*



Anarchists smash store windows in Seattle on May Day. Pointless provocations like these give capitalist rulers pretext to slander and attack working-class groups and movements.

## 8,000 join May Day rally for steel strikers in Greece

ATHENS, Greece—More than 8,000 workers, youth and others rallied on May Day at the gates of the Elliniki Halivourgia steel mill in solidarity with the 400 steelworkers on strike since Oct. 31, 2011. They closed down the national Athens-Corinth highway running in front of the steel factory in Aspropyrgos, on the outskirts of Athens.

Workers at the mill continue their more than six-monthlong strike against company demands to slash the workday to five hours, with a 40 percent cut in wages.

The rally was organized by the labor union federation PAME (All Workers Militant Front). Giorgos Sifonios, president of the striking steelworkers union, was the main speaker at the spirited gathering. "There are struggles that offer much more than immediate gains," said Sifonios. "They prepare for the next battles of the working class as a whole. They play a central role in its awakening, in dispersing fear, and they become milestones. Such is the struggle waged by the steelworkers."

Suzepe Larondina, a leader of the USB (Unione Sindacale di Base) at the Turin Fiat factory in Italy, spoke, offering solidarity to the steelworkers.

—BOBBIS MISAILIDES



# Tour in Australia discusses women's rights in Indonesia

Promotes Indonesian edition of 'Woman's Evolution'

BY RON POULSEN  
AND LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY—Two representatives of Kalyanamitra, an Indonesian women's rights organization, Rena Herdiyani and Hegel Terome, concluded a successful speaking visit here at the end of April. Herdiyani is the executive director and Terome the organizational deputy of Kalyanamitra. Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, joined them in their main speaking engagements.

The tour was co-sponsored by Pathfinder Books and Indonesian Solidarity. It was aimed at learning more in Australia about the fight for women's rights and other social and political struggles in Indonesia today, as well as promoting the recent publication by Kalyanamitra—in a handsome boxed-set—of Indonesian translations of the Marxist works *Woman's Evolution* by Evelyn Reed and *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Frederick Engels, co-founder with Karl Marx of the modern revolutionary workers movement.

Terome edited the Indonesian translations of the books by Reed and Engels, each published in English by Pathfinder. Waters, who has written and edited many works on the fight for women's emancipation, authored the preface for the Kalyanamitra edition of *Woman's Evolution* as well as the introduction to a recent Farsi translation of the same work published in Iran.

The tour opened with a meeting on "The Struggle for Women's Liberation from Indonesia to Iran to Cuba," held at the Militant Labour Forum hall April 28. Linda Harris from Pathfinder Books chaired the event. In addition to Herdiyani, Terome, and Waters, the audience also heard Eko Waluyo, a leader of Indonesian Solidarity, who spoke about the work of that organization.

The Australian leg of the tour, which has moved on to New Zealand, also in-

cluded two activities at Sydney University. About 20 people came to hear the guest speakers on Kalyanamitra and women's rights in Indonesia at an April 30 seminar hosted by the Indonesian Studies Circle. Earlier that afternoon Herdiyani—speaking in Bahasa Indonesian, the Malay-based national language of Indonesia—addressed a class of senior language students on the same theme.

Waters joined the seminar discussion, which was hosted and chaired by Adrian Vickers, head of the Asian Studies Department. She explained the importance of basic materialist educational books like *Woman's Evolution* being translated and published not only in Indonesia but in other countries with a majority Muslim population, including Iran and Turkey.

The Kalyanamitra representatives were also interviewed for two radio programs—on the Australian station SBS, which broadcasts programming in Indonesian, and 2SER, a university-based station in Sydney. They participated as well in a gallery talk led by Waters on the case of the Cuban Five at an exhibition of political cartoons of Gerardo Hernández, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries who have been imprisoned in the U.S. for nearly 14 years (see accompanying article).

## Kalyanamitra and women's rights

In each of her presentations, Herdiyani explained how women began to organize as part of the Indonesian independence movement against Dutch colonial rule.

In 1965, "[General] Suharto, supported by American imperialism, staged a



Militant/Bob Aiken

Above, speakers at Militant Labour Forum in Sydney April 28 on "The Struggle for Women's Liberation from Indonesia to Iran to Cuba." From left, chair Linda Harris, Kalyanamitra leaders Hegel Terome and Rena Herdiyani, and Pathfinder Press President Mary-Alice Waters. Inset, audience at meeting. Second from left in second row with glasses is Eko Waluyo of Indonesian Solidarity, a tour sponsor.



coup against the Sukarno government," she said, in which hundreds of thousands were killed. The military dictatorship banned all workers' and peasant organizations, including women's associations.

Kalyanamitra—the name is a Sanskrit word meaning "good friend"—was established in 1985. "It was involved in the movement by students and workers to topple the Suharto regime," Herdiyani said. One of its most important campaigns has been defending the victims of the mass rape of Chinese women that occurred during the 1998 riots that marked the final days of the dictatorship. Many have come to believe the anti-Chinese violence was orchestrated by the military itself, including the rapes.

Since the fall of Suharto, Kalyanamitra has organized around numerous issues facing women in Indonesia, including domestic violence; the wages, rights and working conditions of largely female domestic laborers; child marriage; access to medically safe abortion; and defense of "migrant women workers in countries like Singapore and Saudi Arabia, often domestic workers with no legal protection," Herdiyani said.

She explained that abortion is legal in Indonesia only in cases of rape or for

medical emergencies but not for "economic reasons, mental health, or family planning reasons." There are up to 2 million abortions every year performed under unsafe conditions, which contribute to Indonesia's high maternal mortality rate.

Herdiyani explained that under the present government of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono the influence of Islamic fundamentalists has grown. Sharia-based laws curbing women's rights have been adopted in some regions. These forces also oppose changing the 1974 marriage law, still in force in Indonesia, that allows polygamy and assigns wives a status subordinate

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## Australia art exhibit event wins support for Cuban 5

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY—Twenty people attended an event at the exhibit of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández here April 29. Hernández is one of five political prisoners, known internationally as the Cuban Five, who were framed up by the government in Washington and have been incarcerated

ated in U.S. jails since 1998.

Speaking at the event was Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book *The Cuban Five: Who They Are; Why They Were Framed; Why They Should Be Free* and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. Waters was visiting Sydney on a speaking tour together with Rena Herdiyani and Hegel Terome from the Indonesian women's rights organization, Kalyanamitra (see accompanying article).

Waters explained why, despite all the evidence to the contrary, Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, were convicted in 2001 on a range of charges, including conspiracy to commit espionage, and given maximum sentences. The reason, she said,

was the U.S. government's determination to overturn the Cuban Revolution.

"It is important to understand the kind of human beings created by their experiences in the revolution," Waters said. "They don't act as victims, but revolutionaries on the front line of the class struggle wherever they find themselves. Today that is in U.S. prisons." She pointed out that the United States has the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world.

"The five will not be released because of the good will of Obama," Waters said. "The U.S. government will not let them out without massive struggle. As Gerardo says, only a 'jury of millions' will free them."

Some of those attending had never heard about the case before but had come to visit the gallery. Others, including Herdiyani and Terome, came to find out more about the five revolutionaries. A lively informal discussion followed the question and answer period.



Militant/Linda Harris

SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters (right) discusses case of Cuban Five at exhibit of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández in At The Vanishing Point gallery in Sydney, Australia, April 29.

## Woman's Evolution

From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family  
by Evelyn Reed



An examination of prehistory from cannibalism to culture that uncovers the world of the ancient matriarchy. Reed reveals women's leading and still largely unknown contributions to the development of civilization, and offers fresh insights on the struggle against women's oppression and for the liberation of humanity. \$32

## Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State

by Frederick Engels



How the emergence of class-divided society gave rise to repressive state bodies and family structures that protect the property of the ruling layers and enable them to pass along wealth and privilege. Engels discusses the consequences for working people of these class institutions—from their original forms to their modern versions. \$18

Available in Indonesian (see below): Boxed set of and *Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* (left) and *Woman's Evolution*. \$35



In Farsi: Three volumes of *Woman's Evolution*—"The Matriarchy" and "The Fraternity." \$16 each. "The Patriarchy" \$15

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# US forces in Afghanistan

Continued from front page

that have served as a cornerstone of military tactics led by U.S. special forces.

Another 23,000 U.S. troops are slated to leave Afghanistan by the end of the summer, Obama said, on top of 10,000 that withdrew last year. This would leave about 68,000 U.S. troops in the country.

By the end of 2014 the Afghans will be “fully responsible for the security of their country,” declared the president. But “international troops will continue to train, advise and assist the Afghans, and fight alongside them when needed.”

Obama explained that an undisclosed number of U.S. forces would remain beyond 2014 to help with “counterterrorism” and training as part of a strategic partnership agreement with the Afghan government through 2024.

He also pointed out that the U.S. government has been in direct discussions with the Taliban, clearly with the intention of integrating them into the Afghan government. “We’ve made it clear that they can be part of this future if they break with al-Qaeda, renounce violence and abide by Afghan laws,” Obama said.

Both liberal and conservative media commentators have commented that Obama’s speech was vague and made contradictory pledges. A *New York Times* editorial called it “A Missed Chance” to “fully explain his exit strategy from a war Americans are desperate to see brought to an end.”

“Does anybody really understand the U.S. policy in Afghanistan?” wrote Eugene Robinson, a staunch Obama supporter, in a *Washington Post* opinion piece. “Can anyone figure out how we’re supposed to stay the course and bring home the troops at the same time?”

The day Obama gave his speech, The Associated Press reported that residents from the village Bolan blocked a key road in the Laghman province, carrying the bodies of two people killed in a nighttime raid conducted jointly by U.S.-NATO and Afghan forces.

Mohammed Aziz Khochi said soldiers stormed his house at 2 a.m. “My sister thought thieves had come to the house and started shouting. One of her sons came out and the American forces shot him and killed him. Then her other son came out, and they killed him.” Khochi said security forces detained seven other men.

Villagers demand Afghan President Hamid Karzai put a stop to the night raids. Marching with the bodies, protesters vowed not bury them until the release of the seven who were arrested and an explanation given on what served as a pretext for the raid.

NATO said one of the men killed was a Taliban leader.

William McRaven, head of the Special Operations Command and commander of the raid that killed Bin Laden, is drafting proposals that would give his commando forces a “more flexible posture,” reported the *Wall Street Journal* May 7. The proposals were requested by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey “based on the lessons of the past 10 years of war,” Col. Dave Lapan, a spokesman for Dempsey, told the *Los Angeles Times*.

McRaven—who oversees more than 60,000 military personnel and civilians operating in at least 71 countries—would be given the authority to move special forces quickly from country to country and go where “militant and terrorist networks are deemed a threat to U.S. interests” without any formal Pentagon approval, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Special Operations Command would also be able to order air power, surveillance equipment, intelligence specialists and other support to back up commando operations.

McRaven is scheduled to brief



Protest in Kabul, Afghanistan, May 1 against killing of two men in nighttime commando raid on home by U.S.-NATO and Afghan forces in Laghman province in eastern part of the country.

Dempsey some time next month.

The day before Obama’s touchdown in Afghanistan, White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan gave a speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., in which he defended the use of drone and special operation assassinations, with some nuanced official distinctions between foreign nationals who pose “a significant threat to U.S. interests” and U.S. citizens who “poses an imminent threat of violent attack against the United States.”

Brennan announced other official conditions, which essentially say the remote-controlled assassinations can

be carried out in two types of countries: those that allow them and those that don’t. “There is nothing in international law that bans the use of remotely piloted aircraft for this purpose or that prohibits us from using lethal force against our enemies outside of an active battlefield, at least when the country involved consents or is unable or unwilling to take action against the threat.”

Meanwhile, the Pentagon budget for 2013 increases expenditures in three areas: putting more forces in the western Pacific to counter China’s growing military power, expanding special operations worldwide and increased use of killer drones.

## ‘Anti-terror’ laws target workers in Pakistan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Six power loom union leaders in Faisalabad, Pakistan, in the country’s textile hub, have been framed up, convicted and sentenced to a combined 590 years in prison, under government “anti-terror” laws used to target workers. Other workers have been arrested on similar charges.

In July 2010 the unionists—Akbar Ali Kamboh, Babar Shafiq Randhawa, Fazal Elahi, Rana Riaz, Muhammad Aslam Malik and Asghar Ansari—were involved in leading a strike, organized by the Labour Qaumi Movement, of about 100,000 power loom workers, demanding a 17 percent increase in the minimum wage. The government had already agreed to the raise, but textile bosses refused to implement it.

On the day of the strike “a lot of tear gas was thrown at workers and some

were beaten by the police,” said Farooq Tariq, spokesperson for Labour Party Pakistan, in a phone interview from Lahore. Company thugs also started firing at workers. Some workers fought back, going back inside the plant.

The six workers, who are members of both the Labour Qaumi Movement and Labour Party Pakistan, were accused of burning down a factory during the strike. “This is a fabricated charge,” states the website of the Labour Education Foundation, an organization raising money to help sustain the six families of the incarcerated unionists. “If the factory had been burnt down,” commented an attorney for the workers at the trial, “then how was it able to operate again, three days later?”

Three months after their arrest they were slapped with terrorism charges, explained Tariq.

On Nov. 1, 2011, an anti-terrorist court judge sentenced the six unionists to a combined 590 years. The Lahore High Court has agreed to hear an appeal, but so far no hearing date has been set.

Three other power loom workers who have been incarcerated in Faisalabad for the past six months are about to be tried for similar charges. “These workers have been in jail for two and a half years,” stated Tariq. The bosses and their government “want to make this sentence an example for every worker seeking to fight for a wage increase. Never in the history of Pakistan has such a massive punishment been imposed on workers who went on strike for a wage raise.”

This case shows that the government seeks to use its “state machinery to suppress the workers movement in Pakistan,” stated Khalid Mahmood, director of the Labour Education Foundation, in a phone interview from Lahore. “It’s important for workers to fight back and get solidarity from other trade unions.”

One example of this were the dozens of May Day rallies organized in Faisalabad by various unions, reported the *Express Tribune*, and in other cities around the country.

Nine power loom workers in the port city of Karachi were also arrested on terrorism charges last month. “There was no strike going on at the time,” stated Tariq. “They were just arrested because the union has been active fighting for better wages and conditions.” Six are currently in jail and three out on bail, Mahmood said.

Faisalabad, the country’s third largest city, is the center of Pakistan’s textile production. Of the estimated 300,000 power looms in the country, 200,000 are based here and set up mostly in the form of small units in houses where workers are paid piece rate.



Above, Labour Party; Inset, Labour Qaumi Movement  
Above, textile workers in Faisalabad, Pakistan, demonstrate May 1 demanding release of unionists framed up on terrorism charges. Inset, three of six workers incarcerated by anti-terrorist court. From left, Rana Riaz, Akbar Ali Kamboh, and Fazal Elahi.

New International no. 12

### Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes



Today’s sharpening inter-imperialist conflicts are fueled by the opening stages of what will be decades of economic, financial, and social convulsions and class battles. Class-struggle-minded working

people must face this historic turning point and draw satisfaction from being “in their face” as we chart a revolutionary course to confront it.

*pathfinderpress.com*



# Workers need own revolutionary party

The election results in France and Greece highlight the depth of the crisis in Europe, which has only just begun, as well as the need for workers to have our own revolutionary party with a fighting course. The capitalist rulers, with their political parties from the left to the right, are united in their aim to target the living standards and rights of working people in an attempt to solve the crisis of their system. They differ only in how to approach their problem.

The electoral showing of the Golden Dawn in Greece—with 7 percent of the vote—is a reminder that fascist organizations rise in times of deep economic and social crisis by using radical anti-capitalist demagoguery, speaking for the “little man” against bankers and financiers, and by inventing scapegoats from immigrants to Jews.

In the absence of a revolutionary workers movement, some who look for radical solutions are attracted to demagogic nostrums of the ultraright.

The one example of a capitalist state reconquering profitability and competitiveness after being devastated by economic crisis and foreign intervention is that of Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Because of the lack of a mass revolutionary working-class party after Germany’s crushing defeat in World War I and the ensuing decade of deepening economic crisis, the capitalist rulers there backed the fascist Hitler regime to crush working-class resistance and obliterate political rights. On that basis they cranked up their war machine and challenged their imperialist rivals on a world scale.

Well before fascist rule can be posed, the working class will have its chance to wrest political power from the exploiters and put an end to the crisis of capitalism once and for all.

To accomplish this, workers need a revolutionary party—like the Bolshevik Party that led the mighty 1917 Russian Revolution and the movement in Cuba led by Fidel Castro that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and established a government of workers and farmers.

Today there are no revolutionary workers parties in Europe. The Communist and Socialist parties urge reforms to shore up capitalist rule. They no longer even maintain the pretense of a revolutionary perspective or speak about politics from a Marxist framework. “I’m not dangerous,” the SP’s François Hollande assured London investors before winning the election.

Nor do the “far left” candidates in the recent elections have a program to strengthen the unity, organization and fighting capacity of working people, much less a perspective for fighting for political power. In fact, their nationalist, anti-banker rhetoric mirrors the radical demagoguery of the ultraright.

Out of the resistance to the spreading attacks by the bosses and their governments, from Greece to the U.S., workers need to build a fighting proletarian party, a party that is steeped in the continuity of the past battles of our class with an international outlook and a nose for power.

# Tour discusses women’s rights in Indonesia

Continued from page 9

to their husbands in the family.

In his presentation Terome explained some of the basic economic and social facts about Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world. The archipelago has a population of 240 million people, making it the fourth most populous country in the world.

Terome is responsible for Kalyanamitra’s publishing work bringing out one book a year on average, he said—if funds are available. He explained why Kalyanamitra had decided to publish *Woman’s Evolution*, together with the “closely connected” book by Frederick Engels.

“We have a historical responsibility, a historical obligation,” to provide these weapons to “understand history,” Terome said.

Engels and Reed not only give us a scientific—a historical materialist—foundation to understand the origins of women’s oppression in the “rise of private property and class divided society as advances in the productivity of social labor made it possible for human beings to produce more than necessary for mere survival,” said Waters. “They also point us toward the road along which both class society and women’s oppression can be ended.”

In her talks, Waters noted the way the struggle for women’s liberation from Indonesia to Iran to the Cuban Revolution “has been converging.” That is because the path along which greater equality for women will be won, she said, is “totally intertwined with the struggles of the working class to take power.”

Speaking at the forum on “The Struggle for Women’s Liberation from Indonesia to Iran to Cuba,” the SWP leader explained how “the explosion of the global economic crisis of capitalism in 2008 has begun to generate a new level of resistance from working people in the countries hardest hit so far, from Greece to Spain to the United States.” The capitalist rulers have no way to resolve their growing crisis, which is still in its early stages, she said. They react in the only way they can—by accelerating assaults on our working and living conditions trying “to drive down the price of our labor power in order to continue to ‘accumulate, accumulate, accumulate,’ as Marx explained.”

In the U.S. today we are already seeing examples of “working-class resistance not seen for decades.” Throughout U.S. industry, “workers have stood up to the lockouts and bosses’ attacks on wages and work-

ing conditions,” Waters said. What’s ahead of us will be much more like the world of a century ago with expanding financial and economic crises, national competition and conflicts, wars, and revolutionary struggles, than anything we have seen since World War II. The “only thing that can prevent us from living with the devastating consequences of these unfolding crises is for the working class to take power,” Waters noted.

## A worldwide struggle

“Evelyn Reed’s *Woman’s Evolution* was originally published in 1975 as the women’s movement in the U.S. and elsewhere arose alongside other deep going social and class battles, such as the mass struggle to bring down the Jim Crow system of race segregation in the U.S., and the movement against the U.S. war in Vietnam,” Waters explained.

This was “the deepest, most brutal period of the Suharto dictatorship in Indonesia” she noted. But more than 30 years later “the gap is closing.”

“A whole new generation of young fighters in Iran brought the struggle for women’s participation to life when the Iranian Revolution exploded in 1979 and the Shah’s regime was overthrown,” Waters said. That is what has led to the publication in Iran of books like *Woman’s Evolution* and other Marxist works on the fight for women’s rights.

Waters also spoke of the recent publication by Pathfinder Press of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, which she edited. She pointed to the importance of the example of the unwavering commitment to the fight for women’s participation and women’s equality that has been a hallmark of the leadership of the socialist revolution in Cuba.

She closed by quoting from a letter Pathfinder recently received from Fernando González, another of the five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the U.S., after he read *Woman’s Evolution*. Calling it “one of the most interesting things I’ve read in recent years,” a work of “inestimable value” that “describes with very clear reasoning and scientific foundations the process through which” class society emerged.

“These are the struggles and the course of history that have brought us together on this platform today,” Waters concluded. The odds that the working class and its allies will prevail are better than ever before, “but only if we educate ourselves to learn from the lessons of history and organize ourselves to fight with discipline.”

# Depth of the crisis

Continued from front page

most heavily indebted countries. In both France and Greece, politicians and parties most closely associated with the austerity measures were rejected. These anti-working-class measures have devastated the lives of working people across Europe, especially in countries such as Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.

In France, Socialist Party leader François Hollande was elected by a narrow majority against incumbent President Nicolas Sarkozy, the main EU ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s austerity course.

In Greece, the two parties that had championed the EU austerity pact imposed on Greece, the New Democracy and Socialist Party (PASOK), suffered a major defeat.

In both France and Greece, the elections were marked by sharp political polarization.

In Greece, the Coalition of the Radical Left or Syriza, a coalition of leftist groupings, including Renewing Communist Ecological Left, Ecosocialists Greece and Coalition of the Left of Movements and Ecology, came in second with 16.8 percent of the vote. Golden Dawn—a fascist party—pulled in 7 percent, getting 21 candidates elected.

Golden Dawn bases its appeal on discontent with “world usurers” and their control over Greece, fear of growing crime, scapegoating of immigrant workers and strong-arm demeanor.

In the April 22 first round of the French elections, the rightist National Front of Marine Le Pen scored 18 percent of the vote and Jean-Luc Mélenchon’s Left Front, a coalition of various leftist organizations, garnered 11.1 percent.

The “far left” parties’ programs combine anti-German resentment with calls for more equitable sacrifice and increased government intervention in the capitalist economy.

At the time of this writing, no party in Greece seems able to put together a coalition government, raising the prospect of new elections in June. This brings closer a Greek government default on its massive debt, which would sever its trade and financial relations as part of the eurozone, the 17 countries that have adopted the euro currency. This would have cascading effects on capitalist finance in Europe, the United States and worldwide.

Frightened by the prospect of deepening class struggle, Hollande has put forward promises of what he has termed “growth.” He proposes increasing some government spending, tax breaks for smaller companies and the creation of a public savings fund to channel capital to business.

While saying that she was looking to “cooperate well and intensively” with Hollande, Merkel pledged to “stand firm on austerity,” the *Financial Times* reported May 8.

## ‘Call it a depression’

In an article titled “Call it a depression,” the May 2 issue of the British magazine the *Economist* depicted a stark picture of the economic situation in Europe. “Across the euro area,” it says, “the unemployment rate touched a new record high in March: 10.9 %, up a full percentage point from the prior year.”

But worse is coming, according to the magazine. “Manufacturing activity is slowing sharply across the euro area, and the core is no longer immune,” with manufacturing contracting in France and Germany in April. “New order inflows tumbled at the fasted pace since December” and job declines in manufacturing now impacts both countries.

Massive lending to banks by the European Central Bank, notes the magazine, “does not appear to have prevented a sharp slowdown in lending to the private sector,” evidence that efforts to prod and prop up the capitalists’ financial system are increasing less effective.

## Correction

The article “Other Fights Gather Strength in Wake of Trayvon Martin Protests” in the May 14 issue incorrectly stated that Oscar Grant “was shot in the back as he lay handcuffed on the ground.” Grant was shot and then handcuffed by Police Officer Johannes Mehserle.