

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Olga Salanueva, wife of Cuban 5 revolutionary, on her years in US
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 26 JULY 16, 2012

2,435 sign up for 'Militant' subscriptions in int'l drive!

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The *Militant* subscription campaign was a success! Over the nine-week international drive 2,435 signed up for the paper, a little over the international goal of 2,400. The victory puts the communist movement in a strong position to continue expanding readership of the working-class newsweekly as an integral part of the Socialist Workers Party's election campaigns now under way.

"A team of socialist workers from New York and Philadelphia sold 24 *Militant* subscriptions to workers and others who participated in a June 17 demonstration against cops' stop-and-frisk harassment here," wrote Candace Wagner from New York. "Twelve also got copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Two got copies of *The Working Class and the*

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Sugar workers reject bosses' demands for third time

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

DRAYTON, N.D.—On June 23, American Crystal Sugar workers rejected by 63 percent the company's concession contract demands for the third time after a nearly yearlong lockout battle.

Despite many workers moving on to new jobs, or being forced by economic pressure to retire, the workers' union, the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers, reported that 82 percent of the 1,300 eligible union members voted. "This was a good turnout after 11 months," Galyn Olson, president of the Hillsboro local, told the *Militant*. "I am proud of our union. The vote margin against the contract was high at the Hillsboro factory. And we have members who don't get unemployment, have lost homes, work low wage jobs, people really hurting."

American Crystal Sugar is the largest sugar beet processor in the country, with factories in East Grand Forks, Moorhead, Crookston, and Chaska, Minn; Hillsboro and Drayton, N.D.; and Mason City, Iowa.

The company is running its factories with scab labor and continues to run ads for replacement workers.

"I wasn't so sure whether the contract

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Socialist Workers 2012 'Join us, join with us' Working-class, labor, socialist campaign



Militant photos by Eric Simpson

James Harris and Maura DeLuca, SWP candidates for U.S. president and vice president.

BY JOHN STUDER

James Harris and Maura DeLuca have begun crisscrossing the U.S., campaigning as the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president. (See tour schedule on page 4.)

Harris visited Longview, Wash., June 28 to join with longshore workers from the West Coast, as well as from Japan, Denmark, New Zealand and Australia, to stand in solidarity with Robert McEllrath, president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, at his trial on trumped-up charges in connection with the battle to defeat the union-

busting drive by EGT Development there. (See article on page 4.)

"I went to Longview in solidarity with McEllrath and the ILWU," Harris said in a phone interview. "The Socialist Workers campaign wanted to be there, to talk to workers about their fight in order to spread the word, especially because the longshore workers stood down the company's union busting."

"I got a chance to do just that a few hours later when I joined the Teamster picket line at the Davis Wire strike in Kent," Harris added. "These work-

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Spring 'Militant' subscription campaign April 14 - June 17 FINAL

Country	quota	sold	%	2,435 should be
UNITED STATES				
Los Angeles*	170	179	105%	
Boston	60	63	105%	
New York	260	271	104%	
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Twin C'ties*	155	160	103%	
Atlanta**	200	206	103%	
Des Moines*	140	144	103%	
Seattle*	190	193	102%	
Washington*	75	76	101%	
Chicago*	170	172	101%	
San Francisco	175	176	101%	
Lincoln**	45	45	100%	
Pittsburgh†	6	6	100%	
Denver**	14	13	93%	
Houston	90	74	82%	
Miami	100	74	74%	
Total U.S.	1940	1945	100%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London*	140	150	107%	
Manchester*	60	65	108%	
UK Total	200	215	108%	
CANADA*				
NEW ZEALAND*	85	96	113%	
AUSTRALIA*				
Total	2397	2435	101%	
Should be	2400	2400	100%	

* Raised goal **Raised twice † New to scoreboard

Workers fight Con Ed lockout in NY: 'No more takebacks!'



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Members of Utility Workers Union picket Con Edison headquarters in Manhattan July 3.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK—More than 600 workers boisterously picketed Con Edison headquarters here July 3, chanting "No more take backs, we want a contract!" The electric company, one of the largest in the world, locked out some 8,500 members of Local 1-2 of the Utility Workers Union two days earlier.

"They want to take away our pensions and change our health benefits,"

said Samantha Turner, 35. "Health insurance for my family would jump from \$54 to \$133 a week." Workers on the picket line say Con Ed wants to replace guaranteed pensions with a "cash balance" plan.

"We're not asking for more," Turner said. "Just to keep what we have."

"Con Ed's looking to get more production with less hours and less manpower," said manhole worker Jason

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Africa: US rulers expand military, economic clout

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

While shifting its focus to the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. military is also strengthening its presence across Africa where Washington seeks to gain a competitive edge for markets and raw materials against rival powers in Europe and Asia, particularly Beijing.

Washington has been stepping up use of armed aerial drones in

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Newburgh, NY: Cops' story is falling apart

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEWBURGH, N.Y.—When Michael Lembhard, 22, was shot to death by cops here March 7, his family decided to put up a fight. They never bought the cops' story of what happened, nor their excuses for the killing.

Although the autopsy was conducted March 9-10 in the presence of medical examiners, state police, city cops and Orange County assistant district attorneys, the family didn't get the report on it until June 13. It confirmed their worst suspicions. It showed Lembhard was shot 15 times, eight in the back.

"They didn't do anything. They tried to sweep it under the rug, hoping we would go away," Arlene Coolidge, Michael's mother, told the *Militant*.

Chased by four cops in the city's anti-crime squad, Lembhard fled into his sister's house, closing the door behind him. The cops followed him inside, where they shot him, claiming he came at them with a knife.

At a June 18 press conference, members of the family talked about their fight and showed the report. It shows that 10 of the bullets fired went through Lembhard and five remained in his body. More than half of the shots had a downward slope. Eight hit him in the back of his torso, arms and legs.

"I wasn't surprised at the report," Mark Coolidge, Michael's uncle, told the *Militant*. I did a thorough investigation of the apartment where he was shot. I found 14 bullet holes, a couple of them in the floor."

Coolidge has compiled a book with

photos and drawings that documents what the apartment looked like after the shooting. He cleaned it, numbered all the bullet holes, indicated the direction of the bullets with arrows and showed the location of the doors.

"I checked it with the police version of what happened," he explained. "Nothing in their story adds up. Nothing. They murdered him."

Gosford Lembhard, Michael's older brother, said, "It's enough now. It needs to stop. They meant to kill him. And they killed him."

The family has won support from local community groups and other families whose relatives have been killed by cops here. They have demonstrated outside Orange County District Attorney Frank Phillips' office, calling for his resignation. They have spoken at virtually every city council meeting since the shooting, demanding a special investigation.

The Newburgh City Council has sent letters to the Orange County and state legislatures to have special prosecutors for all cases involving killings by the cops. "A special prosecutor in Michael's case," commented Edith King, Michael's aunt, "while it's a small thing, it means a lot to us."

At the council meeting following the press conference June 18 the family urged council members to fire the cops involved in the shooting and for the district attorney to indict them. The family's lawyer, Michael Sussman, has called on the city to bring charges against the cops and permanently remove them from the streets.

March protests 'Stop and Frisk' in New York



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

NEW YORK—Some 7,000 people marched down Fifth Avenue June 17 to protest the New York City Police Department's "Stop and Frisk" policy. Of the 685,724 stops by NYPD officers last year, nearly 90 percent were of Blacks or Latinos. Initiated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Action Network, and 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the action was endorsed by 300 labor, religious, and community organizations. Thousands of signs, many homemade, reflected growing resentment against the cop harassment.

—RUTH ROBINETT

Grand jury proceedings started the same day. Family members who were in the apartment where Lembhard was shot will testify.

"Their story is slowly falling apart," said Juanita King, Michael's cousin. "We've come this far, because we've pushed and not given up. They've done nothing. We've done far more than can be asked of us. I don't know where it's going, we can only hope. But we'll

keep pushing."

The killing of Lembhard followed two other police killings of African-American men in the Hudson Valley. Kenneth Chamberlain, 68, was shot dead by White Plains cops November 19. Herve Gilles, 48, was killed by Spring Valley cops December 14. Both cases were presented to grand juries. Both declined to indict the cops responsible.

Con Ed workers fight lockout

Continued from front page

Egger, 26. "The cost of living is going up and they want us to go back for less."

A supervisor was reported injured during the first 24 hours of the lockout, burned while repairing a substation in Brooklyn.

Con Ed spokesperson Allan Drury told the *Militant* via email that the company locked workers out not because of disputes over pensions or other benefits but because "the union leadership refused to provide adequate notice of a strike or other job action" while contract negotiations continued.

Con Edison wants the union to agree to a "seven days advance notice of a strike" before it will end the lockout, he said. A statement on the Con Ed website said the company "had been preparing" for the lockout for months.

According to the *New York Times*, union and company officials agreed to meet with federal mediators July 5 to discuss restarting negotiations.

Spirits were high on the picket line. Some Transport Workers and Teachers union members joined earlier in the day.

"It's a beautiful thing to be fighting for our rights," said Turner.

THE MILITANT

'Militant' backs immigrants' struggles

The fight against discrimination and government attacks against immigrants is a life-and-death question for the working class and labor movement.

The 'Militant' covers struggles by immigrant workers from the United States to Israel and beyond.



Oren Ziv/Active Stills
Immigrant workers march in Israel June 10.

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ON THE PICKET LINE

Mass. nuclear power workers reject concessions for 2nd time

BOSTON—About 200 locked-out workers and their supporters rallied on the steps of the state Capitol here June 28. Members of Utility Workers Union of America Local 369 at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, about 45 miles south of Boston, were locked out June 6 by Entergy Corp.

About 20 area unions took part in the rally, according to Rich Rogers, executive secretary-treasurer of the Greater Boston Central Labor Council.

It was held a week after members had rejected a second company offer by a vote of 137 to 89. The workers had voted down the initial proposal 174 to 34. The plant is being operated by management and replacement workers.

In a press release after the second vote, Local 369 President Dan Hurley said his members “will not accept cuts to their pay or health care from a company making record profits and paying executives in the tens of millions.”

The company told the union it would cut off health benefits on July 1.

“Entergy is short staffing the critical Pilgrim Nuclear fire brigade—forcing workers during the lockout to double up on responsibilities,” said a flyer passed out at the rally. “Fire hazards represent the single largest safety risk in a nuclear power plant.”

—Sarah Ullman and Ted Leonard

Minn. newspaper workers fight union busting by archdiocese

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Fifty workers at the *Catholic Spirit* newspaper and their supporters picketed and leafleted outside the large Catholic Cathedral here June 24 to protest the decision by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minnesota to end their union contract. The workers explained to the parishioners that this was a case of union busting and appealed to them to pressure Archbishop John Nienstedt to reverse his ruling. Most took the leaflets.

Since 1965 workers at the paper have been organized in the Minnesota Newspaper Guild and have worked in a building outside the offices of the archdiocese. Recently Nienstedt, citing con-

cerns about publishing costs, merged the operations of the paper into the Office of Communications of the archdiocese, which is replacing the union contract with so-called “Justice in Employment” contracts with workers individually.

According to Mike Bucsko, a leader of the Minnesota Newspaper Guild, recent decisions by the National Labor Relations Board have upheld these types of union-busting moves by religious institutions under the guise of First Amendment rights. The guild has decided not to appeal the decree of the archbishop for this reason.

The archdiocese has announced that three of the 13 union workers at the *Catholic Spirit* are to be laid off.

—Cameron Slick and Tom Fiske

Tesoro oil refinery workers ratify contract in Calif.

MARTINEZ, Calif.—Four months after their contract had expired with Tesoro Corporation’s Golden Eagle refinery here, members of United Steelworkers Local 5 voted June 6 to accept the company’s proposal.

The Golden Eagle workers were the last in Tesoro’s half-dozen USW-organized refineries to ratify the three-year contract after voting down an earlier version May 21. The pact includes an 8.5 percent wage increase and a promise of “no substantial reduction in benefits” before negotiations begin on a new contract in late 2014.

Seven Tesoro workers were killed in a refinery explosion and fire in 2010 and another four in 1999.

—Joel Britton

Rally in Paris protests closing of Peugeot auto plant

PARIS—About 1,000 workers rallied June 28 in front of Peugeot headquarters here to protest the threatened closing of the Aulnay assembly plant in the Paris suburbs with its 3,300 workers.

This would be the first closing of an auto assembly plant in France in 20 years. Peugeot has convened a meeting with union representatives before the end of July when it is widely expected that the plant closing will be announced.

Delegations of workers from Peugeot

Australia rally protests expansion of welfare controls



Militant/Bob Aiken

SYDNEY, Australia—Chanting “No income management, not here, not anywhere,” 70 people marched June 16 in Bankstown, west Sydney, to protest expanded “Stronger Futures” laws introduced by the Labor Party government and passed by the Senate June 29.

The laws extend so-called income management, imposed in the Northern Territory in 2007 as part of a federal takeover of almost all the Aboriginal communities there, for 10 years and expand them to working-class areas across the country. Under these measures, welfare agencies can “quarantine” up to 70 percent of welfare and pension payments onto “BasicsCards,” which can only be used for “essential” items at government-approved stores.

—BOB AIKEN

plants throughout France and from Madrid participated in the action, as well as a delegation from Opel in Germany.

“They couldn’t care less about people,” said Francisco Coelho, a worker in the stamping department of the Peugeot factory in Poissy, outside Paris.

Peugeot, the second largest European automaker, which also markets vehicles under the Citroën name, has claimed it is forced to reduce excess capacity because of the steep decline of car sales in Europe.

—Derek Jeffers and Jacques Salfati

Greece airport workers’ contract pushes back some boss demands

ATHENS, Greece—Workers at 35 airlines at the Athens International Airport pushed back some concession demands and signed a collective contract after organizing protest actions at the end of May. The pact began July 1 and runs until the end of 2014.

The employers demanded a 42 percent cut in wages and benefits. These demands by the bosses are part of measures the Greek government passed last February in order to receive more loans to stave off bankruptcy.

According to the labor department, from February 14 until the end of May, 84,772 individual contracts were registered with an average cut of 23.5 percent in salaries, and 400 enterprise contracts for 30,659 workers with an average cut of 24 percent.

The airport workers’ contract contains a 5 percent cut in some benefits and concessions on working conditions.

“We are satisfied with it since it retains the basic gains of our existing contract,” Eleni Patsouki, who was part of the Federation of Air Transportation Employees’ (OPAM) negotiating committee, told the *Militant*.

—Bobbis Misailides and Maria Plessa, OPAM members

Socialist backs union at ‘Catholic Spirit’

The following is a statement by Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Minnesota.

My campaign extends solidarity with newspaper workers at the *Catholic Spirit* fighting union busting by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. This is a labor issue. It has nothing to do with workers’ right to freedom of worship, which the socialist campaign backs to the hilt.

No boss should be allowed to twist so-called religious freedom to circumvent rights and other gains working people have won in struggle.

Workers in the U.S. have been standing up to assaults by the bosses on our wages, working conditions, unions and dignity. The fight against union busting at the *Catholic Spirit* is part of this important and necessary resistance.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 17, 1987

EL PASO, Texas—Nineteen undocumented workers hopped an eastbound Missouri Pacific freight train here on the evening of July 1. Within 12 hours, 18 of them died from dehydration and suffocation after being locked in an air-tight boxcar.

The deteriorating Mexican economy is forcing a growing number of Mexicans to try to get across the border to find work. But it is becoming increasingly dangerous.

The U.S. Border Patrol (*la migra*) routinely makes more than 20,000 arrests a month here. Recently *la migra* agents have been involved in the shooting and drowning of Mexicans.

The problem of insufficient oxygen was compounded by the fact that the train was held up for two hours in El Paso while *la migra* supposedly inspected it. By the time the work began on the escape hole, it was too late.



July 16, 1962

Unemployment, as expected, has risen sharply again with the end of the school year. A report of the Labor Department on July 5 stated that the number of jobless rose 744,000 in June to a total of 4,463,000, or 5.5 percent of the total labor force. It was up one-tenth of 1 percent from May.

The Labor Department also noted that more than 2,000,000 teen-agers entered the labor force in June but only a little more than two-thirds found jobs.

One of the most curious, if not to say suspicious, aspects of the employment report is that the labor force, i.e., those employed and those available for work, has declined from a year ago.

The decline in the labor force while the population increases has been a “puzzling” point to economic analysts ever since the Kennedy administration has been reporting a downturn in unemployment.



May 1, 1937

Military developments have a close and significant relation to the political realities of Loyalist Spain. To the degree that the workers’ militia has taken actual control and direction into their own hands, and to the degree that workers’ power is the political and military reality, while the dual power of the People’s Front capitalist-coalition is reduced to impotence or, at least, secondary importance—to that degree the Fascist ranks are flooded with appeals for worker-solidarity, there are wholesale desertions to the workers’ side, and the Fascists are hurled back.

Despite significant gains for the Spanish workers on the main battlefronts, the united front blockade of Spain by England, Italy, France, and Germany, with the blessing of the Stalinist bureaucracy, is the most serious threat yet raised against the Spanish revolution.

Rally backs ILWU president against trumped-up charges

BY EDWIN FRUIT

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Some 200 unionists and supporters gathered at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 headquarters here June 28. Others assembled at the Cowlitz County Courthouse.

They came to show support for ILWU President Robert McEllrath, who was tried on charges stemming from protests last September against the EGT Development Corp.'s refusal to hire ILWU workers in its facility.

The theme of the rally was "President McEllrath says, it shouldn't be a crime to fight for good jobs."

McEllrath and hundreds of workers stood on railroad tracks to stop a train from entering EGT's grain terminal. He was charged with obstructing a train, a criminal misdemeanor. After two days the jury came back without a unanimous verdict, resulting in a mistrial.

EGT and Local 21 reached an agreement in February allowing ILWU members to work in the grain terminal after nearly eight months of protests, rallies and picketing by the union.

Along with Local 21 members and activists of its Ladies Auxiliary from Longview, there were ILWU members present from Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, Wash.; Portland, Ore.; and Los Angeles.

International delegations stood outside the courthouse with banners and flags. They included nine members of the Maritime Union of Australia; two from the Maritime Union of New Zealand; nine from the ILWU in Vancouver, British Columbia; and

unionists from Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Afterward, Dan Coffman, president of ILWU Local 21, welcomed the international delegation at the union hall, where several spoke.

Gary Parsloe, president of MUNZ, spoke about his union's contract negotiations with the Port of Auckland. "The port wants the right to hire non-union contract workers and that will only split the workforce," he said. "In addition, they want what they call flex hours where you stay by your phone and wait for a call to work. You have no regular schedule and are at the beck and call of the bosses."

Karen East, a seafarer from Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia and member of the MUA, explained how the ILWU had backed them in their disputes and they were here to offer the same kind of solidarity.

During the jury selection the judge and prosecuting attorney for the state of Washington both tried to impress prospective jurors that their job was to make sure the law was followed, no matter how sympathetic they felt with the ILWU, and that people who broke



Militant/John Naubert

June 28 rally in Longview, Wash., to support ILWU President Robert McEllrath at start of trial on charges stemming from protest against EGT Development's union-busting campaign.

the law needed to be "held accountable."

Questions directed at the jury pool by the prosecution included, "Have you ever been a member of a union?" and "Have you ever taken part in a protest?" Many of the jurors admitted to being union members and several indicated they had been in protests. A retired Weyerhaeuser worker in Longview said, "I was a union man for 40 years and yes, I've stopped a few trains in my day."

During the union struggle, dozens of workers were arrested and charged, as local authorities backed the bosses.

Many of these cases resulted in acquittals or dismissals. There were also some plea bargain agreements where unionists pled guilty and received sentences of up to 30 days in jail, community service and payment of fines.

At least one more trial remains. In late August, Sonny Halliday will be tried on trumped-up felony charges of endangering a train and its crew during the September protests. Halliday was at work operating a log loader while the protest took place on the other side of the fence from where he was working.

Socialist candidates: Join us, Join with us

Continued from front page

ers face a ferocious campaign by the bosses—speedup on the job, longer and longer work hours, trying to squeeze every ounce of labor out of them to increase profits. They told me it's common for the foremen to try to intimidate them into skipping meals and breaks."

Workers at Davis Wire have been on strike since May 21. They said they have faced more and more injuries from cranked-up line speed and forced overtime and are refusing to accept the company's demands for large increases in health insurance costs.

"One worker I talked to told me he had been pressured to work 63 straight days," Harris said. "They were very interested in how the longshore workers had been able to force EGT to back down."

Harris, 64, is a long-time SWP leader and union militant and was the party's candidate for president in 1996 and 2000.

The propertied rulers have no control over the worldwide contraction of

production and trade and accompanying turmoil in banking and finance, the SWP candidates explain. They react by assaulting the wages, rights and very dignity of workers.

A fighting road forward

The party is running a working class, labor, socialist campaign. The candidates and their supporters are helping build solidarity with workers' struggles and engaging in discussions on a fighting road forward to combat the consequences for workers and farmers of the world capitalist crisis, which has only just begun.

The Socialist Workers Party is join-

ing the resistance with a program of struggle to defend the most immediate needs of the working class. This includes a demand for a massive, government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union scale wages, building high-quality housing and safe and convenient public transportation affordable for workers, as well as schools, child care centers, recreational facilities and other infrastructure to improve the living conditions of working people.

The campaign points to the need to organize unions and use union power, transforming them through struggle

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Sugar workers

Continued from front page

would pass or not in Drayton a week or two before the vote," said Paul Dahlman, a locked-out worker there. "But it was clear on the day of the vote the mood had shifted away from voting it up."

The company's offer is almost identical to their first offer, which was rejected by 96 percent of union members last July 30. It was rejected again by a 90 percent margin in November.

The bosses are demanding major concessions in health care, seniority rights, and contracting out of work, which workers see as a union-busting move.

"While we are disappointed in today's no vote by union members, American Crystal stands by our final offer," the company wrote on its website.

"The 63 percent rejection vote is a real strong vote after this much time," said Scott Ripplinger, a locked-out worker from the East Grand Forks plant. "We have made it crystal clear that a majority of us will not accept their terms. Workers everywhere must stand up to unacceptable concessions."

"I was glad it was voted down," said Russell Grandstrand, a locked-out worker from Drayton, while meeting with this reporter at the picket shack. "At the same time I want to let you know that I voted for it. I was sick of my \$12 hour job, but I would never cross the picket line, I am union all the way."

Randy Johnson, also from Drayton, said, "On the day of the vote I was going in to vote for it. But when I went to mark my X, I voted no."

Literature on SWP presidential campaign

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Thank you for making workers' voice heard

The message below was sent to Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice president, James Harris and Maura DeLuca.

Howard was a leader of a fight by 237 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 48G locked out from September 2010 to July 2011 by Roquette America at its corn processing plant in Keokuk, Iowa.

I would like to wish James and Maura the best of luck as they campaign across the country.

I hope you can get your message out to as many people as possible while competing against a stacked deck as corporations have already purchased the election. You will take your common-sense message out on the road and just about everyone you talk to will understand and agree with what you have to say. Then the billionaires will go to work and pound them with messages night and day and they will go out and do their patriotic duty by voting for the lesser of two evils.

You will be in a "third-party debate" somewhere and a worker will just by chance catch it on the radio and want to tell everyone about what they heard. It will go in one ear and out the other as their associates will not have heard the debate. Later he or she will wonder if a politician could have really made so much sense or did they just dream it because no one else seems to have heard it.

But then maybe this person will run into someone who has recently been locked out of their job or been on strike, or been marching in a rally for immigrant rights or gay rights or for a woman's right to choose. Maybe they will have seen the *Militant* and read about other struggles. Maybe they will realize they are not alone and will join the fight to take back our cities and our country from these greedy corporate bastards. This is what we have to work for and be patient for.

Thank you for taking on the task of making sure there is a voice for the millions of workers who aren't being heard.

In Solidarity,
 Buddy Howard

Join SWP campaign

Continued from page 4

into organizations that champion all the broader social and political struggles in the interests of the working class and its allies here and the world over.

The campaign will join in gatherings of small farmers, at protests against police brutality and “stop and frisk,” rallies against U.S. wars and use of killer drones from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Africa and elsewhere, against attacks on immigrant workers, with students facing unpayable debt loads, and families whose homes have been foreclosed.

If we are going to advance our interests against those of the bosses, the SWP candidates explain, working people and our unions need to organize independently of the capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans. The socialists point to the necessity of building a mass revolutionary movement led by the working class capable of wresting political power from the propertied rulers and transforming ourselves and all of society.

DeLuca attended the June 29-July 1 convention of the National

Organization for Women in Baltimore, Md., where she spoke with many of the 500 participants about how the capitalist rulers target women, seeking to reinforce their second-class status as a bludgeon against all working people.

“I’m a factory worker. I have worked in union and nonunion plants and have seen that our strength comes when we organize and come together, women and men fighting shoulder to shoulder, against speedup, cuts in wages, longer hours, whatever,” DeLuca said during the discussion at a convention workshop titled, “Women Workers of the World: Unite to Fight for Our Dignity and Our Rights.”

DeLuca, 33, worked as a welder at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing in Lincoln, Neb., making rail cars and farm utility vehicles.

DeLuca also spoke in a workshop on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, where the gains for women in the Cuban Revolution were discussed and debated. One of the three panelists for the session was scheduled to be Patricia Pego Guerra, First Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in



Militant/John Naubert
James Harris (left), Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, talks with Syd Coe (right), member of Teamsters Local 117 on strike at Davis Wire in Kent, Wash., June 28.

Washington, but the U.S. government blocked her from attending.

“The reason that Cuba is an example for women and men around the world is that millions of workers, peasants and young people fought together and got rid of the profit-based system of capitalism,” she said DeLuca.

“As this book explains,” she added, holding up *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, “change was in the air and women demanded to be part of it.” Seven copies of the book were sold at the convention. (See ad on page 7.)

DeLuca also told delegates who came to the campaign table about the fight to win freedom for the Cuban 5—Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino—framed up and imprisoned in U.S. jails for monitoring counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups with a 50-year record of deadly attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution.

Many women at the convention

were interested in the socialist campaign. Shirley Ann Rawls, an Air Force veteran, agreed on the need for workers to break with the Democratic and Republican parties. “The two parties are in cahoots with each other,” she told DeLuca. “They don’t represent working people.”

Rawls was one of 15 conference participants who picked up a subscription to the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper. She also got a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, and a couple of the campaign’s buttons, one of which she put on.

Over the next few weeks the socialist candidates will be joining campaigners in efforts to put the ticket on the ballot in Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Louisiana, New Jersey and Washington state. The party’s ticket has already been certified for the ballot in Colorado.

Join us, join with us. Help the working class, labor, socialist campaign reach the broadest layers of workers, farmers, youth and others.

‘Militant’ subscription drive

Continued from front page

Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism.

The two books by Jack Barnes are offered at a reduced price with a subscription.

A feature of the campaign has been regular sales of the paper door to door in working-class neighborhoods, in areas where African-American workers live, and to those engaged in the front lines of labor resistance.

Laura Anderson reported that Socialist Workers Party members in Chicago sold five *Militant* subscriptions the last week of the drive going door to door in Joliet, Ill., where members of the Machinists union at Caterpillar have been on strike since May 1. “Most workers we spoke with wanted to discuss the strike and its ex-

ample,” said Anderson.

“Six new subscriptions were sold the last week of the campaign to workers in plants where supporters of the paper work,” wrote Chuck Guerra from Des Moines, Iowa.

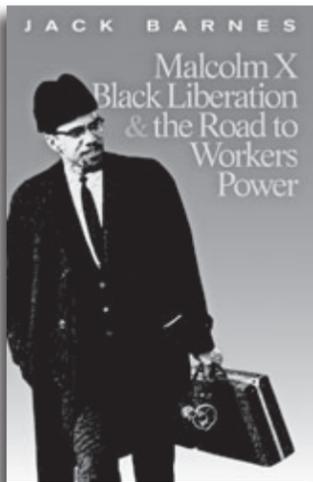
Guerra also reported that SWP candidates in coming federal and state elections in Iowa campaigned in Juneteenth celebrations in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 16 where they sold nine subscriptions and four copies of the *Workers Power* book.

“On June 17 members of the Communist League sold three subscriptions and a copy of the French-language edition of the *Workers Power* book to some 50 postal workers demonstrating here against new work procedures to be implemented the next day,” wrote John Steele from Montreal.

Special offer

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by Jack Barnes

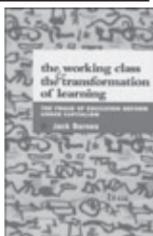


“Don’t start with Blacks as an oppressed nationality. Start with the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. From the Civil War to today, the record is mind-boggling. It’s the strength and resilience, not the oppression, that bowls you over.”

—Jack Barnes

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Presidential candidate James Harris

July 7 Des Moines, Iowa	July 19–21 Chicago
July 9–11 Houston	July 24–26 Lincoln, Neb.
July 13–15 Des Moines & Keokuk, Iowa	July 28–30 Atlanta
	Aug. 2–4 Philadelphia

Vice presidential candidate Maura DeLuca

July 7–8 New York	July 21–22 Washington, D.C.
July 11 Longview, Wash.	July 24–26 Miami
July 12–14 Seattle	July 28–29 New York
July 18–19 San Francisco	Aug. 1–4 Los Angeles

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Hearing at UN condemns Puerto Rico colonial status

Demands release of three political prisoners

BY SETH GALINSKY

UNITED NATIONS—The U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization called on Washington to allow the people of Puerto Rico to “fully exercise their inalienable right to free determination and independence” and to release three Puerto Rican political prisoners held in U.S. jails.

Nearly all of the three dozen speakers at the committee’s June 18 hearing—from supporters of independence to a handful who argued for a modified status quo—demanded that the U.S. government release Oscar López Rivera, imprisoned for 31 years on frame-up charges of seditious conspiracy, and two other Puerto Rican independence fighters, Norberto and Avelino González-Claudio.

The resolution was initiated by the Cuban government and backed by the governments of Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela. This is the 13th consecutive year the committee has called for the end of Puerto Rico’s colonial status.

U.S. colony since 1898

Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony since 1898, when U.S. troops occupied the island and seized control of Cuba, Guam and the Philippines, replacing Spain as master as these nations fought to throw off colonial domination.

In 1952 Washington signed a pact with the governor of Puerto Rico declaring Puerto Rico a commonwealth, in Spanish a “free associated state,” as part of efforts to obscure U.S. imperialism’s subjugation of the island. A year later, at U.S. insistence, the U.N. removed Puerto Rico from its list of colonies.

“Obviously, we are here today because Puerto Rico continues to be a U.S. colony and three men who have dedicated their lives to the independence of our nation are still in prison,” former political prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres testified at the U.N. commission. Torres was released in 2010 after 30 years in U.S. jails on frame-up charges for his pro-independence activities. “In the history of our nation since the U.S. invasion in 1898, thousands of men and women have been imprisoned for the noble cause of independence,” he said, pointing out that Oscar López has been held longer than any of them.

Torres described the hypocrisy of Washington, which “holds itself up to be the most democratic country in the world [and] demands other countries free their political prisoners” while “denying that it is holding political prison-

ers in its own dungeons.”

The U.S. government would have you believe we are “punished not for our beliefs, but for our ‘criminal’ conduct, and only after ‘due process’ in their courts,” Torres said. But, “we were charged with seditious conspiracy ... basically a thought crime. ... Colonialism is the real crime, not the efforts to end it.”

Imposition of English

Speakers exposed other sides of U.S. domination of the country, including actions by Puerto Rico’s governor, Luis Fortuño, who recently announced that at the start of the upcoming school year this August, more schools would be required to teach most classes in English with the goal of including the entire school system by 2022.

Fortuño and his New Progressive Party are for Puerto Rico becoming the 51st U.S. state, which independence supporters call annexation.

A similar attempt to impose English was made “during the first years of the military invasion of Puerto Rico,” said Héctor Pesquera, co-president of the Hostos National Independence Movement. “Every morning boys and girls were forced to swear loyalty to the invader’s flag and national anthem.” But the attempt failed.

U.S. Congress and U.S. courts impose laws on Puerto Rico that the Puerto Rican people have no say in. Among the affronts to the country’s sovereignty is Washington’s assertion of its right to impose a sentence of death on prisoners tried in federal court in Puerto Rico for alleged crimes on the island, despite the fact that it is banned by the constitution of the commonwealth.

“We have rejected the death penalty, fought its application for more than a century, legislated its abolition in 1929,” Edgardo Manuel Román Espada, from the Puerto Rican Coalition Against the Death Penalty, said. Popular opposition to capital punishment on the island has stayed the imperialists’ hand in actually carrying out any executions.

Debate over upcoming plebiscite

Differing views on a two-part plebiscite planned by the Fortuño government during the November elections—to choose between statehood, independence, or a modification of the nation’s colonial commonwealth status—were reflected at the hearing.

“You cannot choose freely if you are not free,” said Osvaldo Toledo Martínez, president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, opposing the plebiscite.

U.S. economic control of the island has resulted in “the destruction of the local agricultural, fishing, commercial, and entrepreneurial economy,” Martínez said, ensuring a “captive market” for U.S. companies. The U.S. domination of the market combined with “federal aid” programs, he stated, have fostered a “mentality of dependence” among many in Puerto Rico.

Juan Dalmau Ramírez, secretary general of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, told EFE news agency during the hearing that the plebiscite would be “an important step for generating a dynamic



(Right) Militant/Laura Anderson

Above, demonstrators in San Juan, Puerto Rico, demand end to colonial status of their country when President Barack Obama visited the island, June 14, 2011. Right, some protesters at May 20 Chicago rally against U.S. and NATO intervention in Afghanistan carried banners demanding freedom for Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, who has been incarcerated in U.S. for 31 years.



toward decolonization.”

Luis Delgado Rodríguez of the Alliance for a Sovereign Free Association called on the U.N. committee to back the upcoming plebiscite. He claimed that a modification of the current status of Puerto Rico “on the basis of a relationship of mutual respect with the United States” would be a step toward decolonization.

Washington will do what it wants regardless of any plebiscite, said Pesquera in explaining Hostos National Independence Movement “has denounced the process as a fraud and is making a call to tear up or damage the ballots in protest.”

‘We share a common struggle’

“The fight for Puerto Rico’s indepen-

dence is in the interests of workers and farmers in the United States,” said Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New York. “The reason is that the people of Puerto Rico and workers and farmers in the U.S. share common interests and have a common enemy—the capitalist rulers and their government in Washington. And we share a common struggle to get those exploiters off our backs.”

Pointing to resistance that has begun in the U.S. to the capitalist crisis, including labor battles by longshore workers in Washington state and sugar workers in the Midwest, Fein said that it is “among these workers that support can be won in the fight to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners and for the battle for the independence of Puerto Rico.”

“The U.S. colonial masters promote the lie that Puerto Rico cannot survive without dependence on Washington,” Fein said. “But the Cuban Revolution shatters that myth.”

In addition to demanding freedom for the Puerto Rican political prisoners, Fein called for the release of the Cuban Five, as did the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico.

“For over a century, Cubans and Puerto Ricans have been fighting together for the independence of its Latin American sister nation,” said Cuban Ambassador Oscar León González, after the U.N. committee adopted the resolution. “The 114 years of colonial domination have not been enough to deprive Puerto Rico of its culture, identity and national sentiment.”



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Carlos Alberto Torres, former Puerto Rican political prisoner jailed in U.S. for 30 years, testifies before U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization in New York June 18.

‘Militant’ articles in French now online

MONTREAL—*Militant* articles translated into French will be posted on the *Militant* website starting July 5.

Since last fall, supporters of the *Militant* in Montreal and Paris have been translating on average one article from the paper per week.

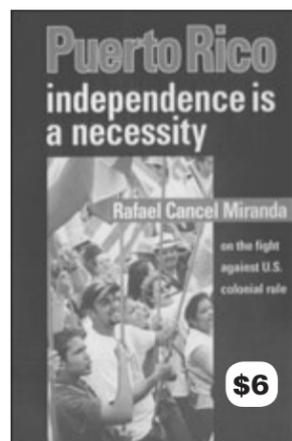
In both France and Quebec these articles have been emailed to those who request it. In Quebec those signing up for the articles are also offered a number of French-language Pathfinder books at reduced prices. The articles have made it possible to introduce the politics of the *Militant* to French-speaking workers and provide a useful tool for building the communist movement.

While 37 percent of French-speakers in Quebec are reportedly bilingual, this percentage drops outside the Montreal region.

Among those receiving the articles are several of the 780 aluminum workers in Alma, Quebec, locked out by Rio Tinto Alcan since the beginning of the year. The translation of articles on their fight has helped build solidarity with this important struggle.

Posting these articles on the *Militant* website will make them available to French-speaking workers around the world, including in the U.S.

—MICHEL DUGRÉ



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Olga Salanueva, wife of Cuban 5 revolutionary, describes her years as immigrant worker in US

In the following interview, conducted Feb. 27, 2012, in Havana, Olga Salanueva recounts some of her experiences as an immigrant worker in the United States, where she lived and worked for four years before being deported back to her native Cuba. Her story is one that millions of workers in the United States, immigrant and native-born, will identify with.

Salanueva's husband, René González, is one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by the U.S. government and fighting for their freedom. Incarcerated for more than 13 years, González was transferred in October 2011 from federal prison to "supervised release." He is ordered to remain in the United States under the control of the federal courts' probation office until October 2014.

During the 1990s René González, along with Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González, accepted

very difficult economic conditions on the island at that time, were seeking to reach the United States by crossing the Florida Straits on flimsy rafts or boats. González collected intelligence on the group's plans for actions against Cuba, which included, among other things, increasingly provocative flights into Cuban airspace and dropping leaflets over Havana.

In February 1996, after repeated warnings to Brothers to the Rescue to cease and desist, as well as repeated attempts to get Washington to stop the overflights, the Cuban air force shot down two of the group's planes that violated Cuba's airspace.

In September 1998, FBI agents arrested the five revolutionaries and others who were monitoring these counter-revolutionary outfits. U.S. authorities labeled them the "Wasp Network." The five were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, including failure to register as a foreign agent, conspir-

In April 2012, federal judge Joan Lenard in Miami allowed González to return to Cuba for two weeks to visit his brother Roberto, who had cancer and died June 22. It was the first time the couple had seen each other in nearly 12 years.

Together with the wives, mothers, sisters, children, and other relatives of the five imprisoned revolutionaries, Olga Salanueva has been a tireless campaigner in the international fight to free the men, speaking on platforms across Cuba and around the globe.

The interview was conducted by Mary-Alice Waters, Róger Calero, and Martín Koppel. The translation is by the *Militant*.



Prensa Latina/Emilio Herrera

Olga Salanueva speaks at Dec. 9, 2011, meeting in Havana about fight to free five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. René González, her husband and one of the five, was paroled in October 2011, but is forced to remain in the U.S. for three years of "supervised release."



SEIU Local 1991

Workers at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital protest layoffs and cutbacks they say will affect patient care, April 2011. U.S. hospitals "have tremendous technology. But if you don't have money, you don't have access to it," said Salanueva, describing her experiences in U.S.

assignments to gather information on the activities of Cuban American counterrevolutionary groups operating in South Florida and report to the Cuban government. These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations, and other deadly attacks against targets in Cuba, as well as against those in the United States and Puerto Rico who oppose Washington's efforts to destroy the Cuban Revolution.

González was born in Chicago in 1956 to Cuban parents who were immigrant workers escaping the military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista at the time. After the revolution his parents returned to Cuba, where González was raised. An experienced pilot and flight instructor, in December 1990 he flew a "stolen" crop duster from Havana to Key West, Fla., where he was welcomed by U.S. authorities and other opponents of the revolution as a "Cuban defector." He joined the counterrevolutionary Brothers to the Rescue operation when it was formed the following year.

Brothers to the Rescue masqueraded as a "humanitarian" campaign to help Cubans who, in response to the

acy to commit espionage, possession of false identity documents, and conspiracy to commit murder. They were given sentences of up to double life plus 15 years in prison.

René González, charged with failure to register as an agent of a foreign government and conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent, was sentenced to 15 years plus three years of "supervised release."

In August 2000, as the case of the Cuban Five was about to go to trial, federal cops arrested Salanueva, threatening to revoke her permanent resident status and deport her. It was a clear attempt to coerce González into testifying against his four comrades. Unable to break him, U.S. officials made good on their threat and deported Salanueva.

Since her deportation, Washington has denied each and every application by Salanueva for a visa to see her husband, accusing her variously of being a threat to U.S. "national security," a Cuban intelligence agent, or even someone tied to "terrorism." In 2008 U.S. officials declared her "permanently ineligible" for a visa. Salanueva lives in Havana with their two daughters, Irmita, 28, and Ivette, 14.

MARY-Alice WATERS: Olga, let's start by you telling us when you first arrived in the United States, and under what conditions.

OLGA SALANUEVA: I arrived on Dec. 28, 1996. René is a U.S. citizen because he was born there, so he was able to sponsor me and our daughter Irmita to gain legal residence.

René had left for the United States in 1990. After six long years of separation, we were happy our family was reunited and we could resume our plans, including having another child. Along with that happiness, however, I began a difficult, unforgettable stage in my life.

As with many immigrants, before I could enter the United States René had to sign an affidavit saying he would take responsibility for my expenses, that I wouldn't become a "burden to society."

It's ironic, but when you are sponsored by a U.S. citizen and immigrate to the United States through legal channels, you don't get the help that Cubans who arrive on a motorboat receive under the so-called Cuban Adjustment Act.*

If you come on a small boat with no

documents, the U.S. government provides you job offers, health coverage for a year, and money to live on. That's only for Cubans, of course.

I knew no English and was on my own to find a job. We lived in Kendall, in southwest Miami. I didn't have much luck at first. The employment office told me I wasn't qualified. That I didn't know the language. That all they had were jobs for men—construction jobs and such.

Selling burial plots in Miami

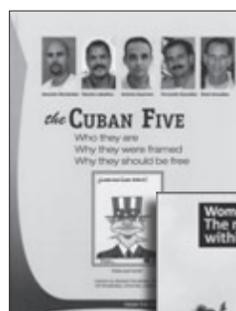
WATERS: What did you study in Cuba?

SALANUEVA: I have a degree in industrial engineering, and I also studied ac-

Continued on page 9

* Under the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, the U.S. government allows Cubans who say they are fleeing the revolution to obtain U.S. permanent residency one year after their arrival—a fast track to U.S. citizenship not available to immigrants from any other country.

More reading on the Cuban Five and the Cuban Revolution



The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free \$5

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer, \$15 (normally \$20)



United States vs. the Cuban Five: A Judicial Cover-up

by Rodolfo Dávalos Fernández, \$22

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US rulers in Africa

Continued from front page

Northeast Africa, targeting purported members and supporters of the Islamist group al-Shabab in Somalia as well as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen. Attacks are conducted out of the U.S. air base in Djibouti, where 3,500 U.S. military personnel are stationed. U.S. drones conducting strikes in Somalia also operate from an air base in southern Ethiopia and a recently reopened base in the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean.

About a dozen air bases have been established in Africa since 2007, an unnamed former senior U.S. commander told the *Washington Post*. Operating out of secluded hangars at African military bases or civilian airports, unarmed turboprop aircraft disguised as private planes conduct surveillance operations over wide swaths of territories in Africa, the paper said.

In the West African country of Burkina Faso Washington is deepening ties with the government of Blaise Compaoré. Compaoré came to power 25 years ago in a counterrevolutionary military coup in which Thomas Sankara, central leader of the 1983-87 popular revolution there, was assassinated.

A key hub for the Pentagon's spying network is based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital. In 2007 the U.S. Joint Special Operations Air Detachment began operating out of the city's airport. By the end of 2009, about 65 U.S. military personnel and contractors were in the country, according to the *Post*.

Out of Ouagadougou, "U.S. spy planes fly hundreds of miles north to Mali, Mauritania and the Sahara," searching for purported members of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, stated the June 13 *Post* article.

Last October the Barack Obama administration sent 100 special operations troops to four countries in Central Africa—Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—as part of a military action targeting the Lord's Resistance Army, a group of armed bandits operating in the region.

U.S. forces are deployed "in the operating areas" of all four countries, working to cement ties with their military forces, Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Africa Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in March. "The next steps," he added, are to establish a base for surveillance flights in Nzara, South Sudan.

The Pentagon is also upgrading a forward operating base and airstrip in Mauritania, near its border with Mali. A U.S. Navy engineering battalion is working on Kenya's Manda Bay Naval Base on the Indian Ocean so U.S. C-130 troop transport flights can land at night, the *Post* reported.

This year 14 major joint military exercises will be conducted between the U.S. African Command and militaries from African states. Next year starting in March a U.S. army brigade—some



Kenya Ministry of Defence Public Affairs and U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs
U.S. Army Africa Commander Maj. Gen. David Hogg, front at left, inspects honor guard during visit to Kenyan Army Infantry School in Isiolo, Kenya, last July.

3,000 U.S. soldiers—will be deployed to Africa.

'Seize investment opportunities'

Meanwhile, the Obama administration released its "U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa," which emphasizes increased openings for U.S. investments on the continent.

"Africa's economies are among the fastest growing in the world," wrote Obama in the document's introduction. "We will encourage American companies to seize trade and investment opportunities in Africa."

"Given the growing strategic importance of sub-Saharan Africa to the

United States," says the document, "over the next 5 years we will elevate our focus on and dedicate greater effort to strengthening democratic institutions and spurring economic growth, trade, and investment, while continuing to pursue other objectives on the continent."

Emphasizing this approach, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addressed the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum in Washington, D.C., June 14. "Africa offers the highest rate of return on foreign direct investment of any developing region in the world," she said. "In fact, it is the only developing region where the growth rate is expected to rise this year."

René González again requests return to Cuba

BY LOUIS MARTIN

René González's attorney, Philip Horowitz, filed a motion June 22 in the Southern District Court of Florida requesting González's parole conditions be modified so he can return to Cuba.

González is one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and jailed by the U.S. government. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. After 13 years incarcerated he was released on Oct. 7, 2011. The other four—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and Ramón Labañino—remain in prison.

(See article on page 7.)

This is González's second request to be allowed to return to Cuba. The first was filed in February 2011 and rejected in September as "premature" by U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard, the same judge that presided over the 2001 trial of the Cuban Five, as they are known.

The new motion highlights the fact that González has complied with all conditions of his supervised release. It also stresses the fact that "for a foreign national ... deportation is often a condition of supervised release." González is both a U.S. and Cuban citizen, but "absolutely for all practi-

cal purposes Cuban," says the request.

His wife Olga Salanueva, their two daughters Irma and Ivette, and his parents live in Cuba. So did his brother Roberto, who died from cancer the day René's motion was filed. After a protracted battle, René was eventually allowed to visit his terminally ill brother three months ago.

González's new motion also highlights some of the onerous conditions imposed on him as part of his supervised release in Florida. He is "essentially living in hiding because his conviction as an agent of the Cuban government puts him at risks of reprisals," says the motion.

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Salanueva on time in US

Continued from page 7

counting. But in the United States they don't recognize your degree. You're required to get a certificate of equivalency, for which you first have to learn English. You virtually have to start all over. I did take an accounting course and a computer science class to improve my chances.

My first job was in a nursing home, caring for the elderly residents who needed help. It was a private business, of course. I lasted three days. When René saw the conditions there—the dirty clothes, urine-soaked sheets, and long hours I worked—he said, “Let's get you out of there.”

Then I saw an ad for a telemarketing job with a funeral home and got hired. They'd give us a list of telephone numbers and we'd call them, one by one, to sell funeral services: wakes, cremations, burials, burial plots.

I learned that in the United States, in what they call a “democracy,” you must have money—or get it any way you can—so at the end of your life your remains can have a final resting place, without it becoming an added burden on your family.

When we made the phone calls, we were supposed to convince people to set an appointment for a salesperson to visit them. You had to get a certain number of appointments or they'd fire you.

It was a part-time job. We had no rights, no health insurance, and no vacations.

Most of the workers were Latinos. Some of the young women who worked with me had come from Cuba on rafts. Several told me they had made a mistake and were sorry they had left Cuba.

MARTÍN KOPPEL: You said you had no health insurance. How did that affect you?

SALANUEVA: After a year or so, I was pregnant with Ivette. As we had no insurance, we had to pay cash up front for all the doctor's visits.

I remembered my first pregnancy in Cuba, where under the maternity law I had the right to paid maternity leave for one year.

I began to have some health problems that often occur with pregnancy—constipation and other symptoms. The doctors paid no attention. It was normal, they told me: I should drink juice. Seven and a half months into the pregnancy, I wound up with hemorrhoids in which blood clots had formed and circulation was blocked. It was extremely painful.

René went with me to the Kendall hospital. I got the kind of treatment you often receive in the U.S. when you go to an emergency room but don't have insurance. There I was with my big belly. And in such pain that I couldn't

even sit.

As soon as we walked in the door they called René over: “Your credit card, please.” They took \$300, and told us to have a seat. But I couldn't sit. I paced, waiting for two and a half hours. If there had been others in the waiting room I would have understood. But there was no one. Then they sent me to gastroenterology. Once again it was, “Show me your Social Security card,” “What's your income?” “What are your expenses?” I was moaning in pain, while they were drawing up the bills.

Finally I was seen by a nurse, not a doctor. He gave me an ointment and some tranquilizers. I went home, furious, desperate.

Then René remembered he had given flying lessons to a proctologist who owned a clinic. They had become friends. When René called him, the doctor said what they had done to me was criminal. The clots needed to be cut out right away. When René told him we didn't have insurance, he said, “Bring her here.”

The clinic had already closed, but he said, “I'll try to do something.” I lay on a stretcher as he operated on me.

I will never forget that experience. People say there are good hospitals in the United States, and it's true, they have tremendous technology. But if you don't have money, you don't have access to it.

Medical personnel try to help you. But most hospitals are businesses. They are supposed to generate profits, and the health care workers are employees. They will get fired if they break the rules. It's the whole system that's a problem.

When Ivette was born

The same thing happened when Ivette was born, in April 1998. René was away at the time, taking a course in Texas. I had just dropped him off at the airport when the labor pains started.

I went to the hospital accompanied by a friend from work. Once again it was the same ordeal: “Take a seat.” “Give me all your information.” After a while they examined me and said, “You're not ready to give birth yet. Go home.” So I went back home, where I was alone with Irmita, who was 14. I remember spending the entire night in labor.

The next morning, with my friend, we returned to the hospital. I gave birth around 10:30 p.m. that night. I was alone practically the entire time, with monitors attached all over me. The doctor was taking care of three deliveries at once. A nurse would come to see me once an hour, examine me without a word, then leave. It was my co-workers who came to be with me, young immigrants from the Dominican Republic and Cuba. They practically delivered me.

I was 38 years old. I had high blood pressure. I was in labor for more than 24 hours. When Ivette was finally born the umbilical cord was wrapped twice around her neck. I had all the indications that an emergency caesarian section was required. But they left me there until I gave birth. It was a pure mira-



Reuters/Enrique de la Osa

Patient from abroad receives eye treatment at hospital in Havana as medical students observe, September 2006. Cuban program “Operation Miracle” has restored eyesight to tens of thousands of Latin Americans, free of charge. Despite limited resources, health care workers in Cuba “are trained to care for you as a human being,” Salanueva said.

cle we came through it.

Ivette was placed in intensive care as soon as she was born because she had oxygen deprivation.

I was put in the postnatal ward, alone. They gave me a bedpan and had me with an IV in one arm and a blood-pressure monitor on the other. I was like that for hours, unable to move. Finally a nurse came and helped me get up to go to the bathroom and bathe.

Contrast with Cuba

This was in Jackson Memorial Hospital. It's the only public hospital in Miami-Dade County, but it has many resources and is very well equipped. I thought: Wow, if we were in Cuba and had all this equipment, the things we could do, with our doctors and the training they have! And that includes the way doctors, nurses, and other health care workers are trained to care for you as a human being. That's why the U.S. government doesn't want Cuba to advance, that's why they've blockaded us.

I felt much better here in Cuba, where I gave birth to Irmita in the Ramón González Coro Maternity Hospital in Havana. It's a small hospital, with the equipment we can afford, but with incredible professional standards and ethical attitudes. I remember giving birth surrounded by so much love, everyone helping me.

RÓGER CALERO: What happened after Ivette was born?

SALANUEVA: Since she was born in the U.S., Ivette was eligible for Medicaid, and I took her to the clinic every month. When she was a little more than three months old, the doctors told us she had a heart murmur, that it could be serious. That it would have to be followed closely. Each time I took her for a checkup they said she needed a cardiac sonogram. Then, a few months later, they told me Ivette would need heart surgery; they would recommend a specialist.

I was stunned. What a situation!

By then René had been arrested. I had lost the house because I couldn't pay the mortgage, and was living in a small apartment. I didn't have a cent. The doctors told me not to worry, that the operation would be covered by Medicaid.

René's grandmother Teté had begun taking care of Ivette after René was arrested. She was a U.S. citizen and lived in Sarasota, Fla., four hours northwest of Miami. Teté said, “Look, there's a good children's hospital here and I'm going to take Ivette to be checked by a doctor there.”

That cardiologist turned out to be a very fine person. He adored Ivette, and they did all kinds of tests on her. Then one day Teté called me with the news. She'd just heard from the doctor.

He told her, “I'll start with the bad news: I'm not going to be able to see this pretty little girl anymore. The good news is: she's fine. She has no heart problem.”

The other doctors had lied. It was a fraud. What they wanted was to pocket the Medicaid money.

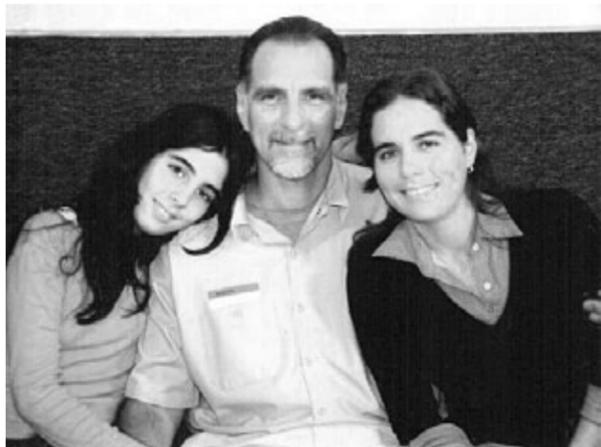
I asked myself a thousand times: Can this be true? As someone who grew up in Cuba, so different from capitalist society, I couldn't conceive of such evil.

After I was deported and got Ivette back, the first thing I did was to take her to a cardiologist because I still had doubts in my mind. The doctors in Havana confirmed there was nothing wrong with her.

Cuba is a country with limited resources that faces a U.S. economic blockade. We may face a shortage of a particular medicine. Doctors may have to substitute one for another, or a patient may remain seriously ill until the medicine arrives.

But the problem is never a lack of medical attention or government indifference. Everything possible is done to ensure people's well-being.

The second half of the interview will appear in next week's issue.



René González in Marianna federal prison in Florida in 2008 during visit by his daughters Ivette (left) and Irmita.

Where to write to

Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio and Fernando

(René González is on “supervised release” in Florida. For his safety his address is not available.)

Fernando González
Reg. #58733-004, F.C.I. Safford, P.O. Box 9000, Safford, AZ 85548
➤ Address envelope to “Rubén Campa”

Antonio Guerrero
Reg. #58741-004, Apache A, FCI Marianna P.O. Box 7007, Marianna, FL 32447-7007

Gerardo Hernández
Reg. #58739-004, U.S. Penitentiary, P.O. Box 3900, Adelanto, CA 92301

Ramón Labañino
Reg. #58734-004, FCI Jesup, 2680 301 South, Jesup, GA 31599
➤ Address envelope to “Luis Medina”