

# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

**INSIDE**Subscriptions to workers behind bars  
nearly doubles over last year

— PAGE 9

VOL. 76/NO. 31 AUGUST 20, 2012

## Production falls worldwide, crisis sharpens in Spain

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Manufacturing output is declining worldwide, including in the U.S. and China—the largest engines of world production and trade. From high unemployment to boss assaults on our wages and working conditions, working people are bearing the brunt of the economic contraction, and its accompanying financial constriction and fiscal tightening.

Both the unevenness and depth of the brewing social crisis are stark in Europe, where the less developed countries locked into the eurozone's currency and trade union are being hammered to no end—particularly Spain and Greece.

In China, industrial production expanded slightly but at its slowest pace in eight months. New export orders have also dropped. Manufacturing jobs have been cut at the sharpest rate in more than three years, according to an HSBC report.

In the U.S., industrial production  
**Continued on page 11**

## Anaheim: police try to intimidate protests against killings by cops

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

ANAHEIM, Calif.—Protests against police brutality continue here since Manuel Diaz, 25, was gunned down by Anaheim police officers July 21 and Joel Acevedo, 21, was killed by the cops the next day. Four days later, the Anaheim police shot another youth, who survived.

Anaheim police have responded by mobilizing a show of force in working-class neighborhoods, city council meetings and protests, and organizing to keep the protests from impinging on the profitable functioning of Disneyland, the city's largest source of tax revenue.

At a demonstration in front of the Anaheim police station July 29, police contingents included squad cars from Anaheim, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Westminster, three groups of police on horseback, two humvees filled with police in camouflage uniforms and a tank. There were snipers on the roof of the police station and  
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## 'We're fighting for a cause,' say Teamsters striking Davis Wire

BY CLAY DENNISON

KENT, Wash.—Strikers are keeping up the picket line at the Davis Wire mill here 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Some 85 members of Teamsters Local 117 went on strike May 21.

Workers had rejected the company's proposed contract, which included a steep increase in the cost of medical insurance and little change in hourly wages. Job safety is also a big concern.

"We turned down a bad contract," said Quang Tran, a 31-year veteran of the plant. "The company has just walked away from the table."

Davis Wire is just going through the motions of negotiating with the union, but there has been no progress, picketers said.

"The company is trying to keep the Kent (plant) competitive," Davis Wire attorney Harry Stang told the *Kent Reporter*. "But the union doesn't want  
**Continued on page 4**



Aug. 2 Teamsters' picket line at Davis Wire mill in Kent, Wash. Strike began May 21.

## 'Real change will be made by a fighting working class'

Socialist candidate speaks with Georgia farmers



Militant/Sam Manuel

**James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, right, talks with farmer Willie Head and Gladys Williams at diner in Valdosta, Ga., Aug. 3.**

BY JANICE LYNN

VALDOSTA, Ga.—During a three-day visit to Georgia in early August, James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, talked with farmers here about the fighting perspective the party's working class, labor, socialist campaign is putting forward to confront the proper-

ties rulers' assaults against the living standards and very dignity of working people.

"What I am doing in this campaign is talking to fighters who are resisting the effects of the economic crisis. This is where political change will come from—we explain that working  
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## Fla. protest at immigration jail slams arrests, abuse of workers

BY NAOMI CRAINE

POMPANO BEACH, Fla.—"No papers, no fear!" chanted 75 people outside the Broward Transitional Center here Aug. 5. Many were relatives and friends of inmates at this privately run immigration jail, about 30 miles north of Miami.

"We want a change, we want them to stop separating our families," Zuri Chávez told the rally. Her father, Jaime Chávez, has been jailed for four months. "I too am undocumented, but I'm not afraid because we're here to-

gether."

"It's not fair. Obama said low priority cases would not be deported," Nelson Reyes told the *Militant*. "We

## BACK FIGHTS FOR RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS

**—See editorial, p. 11**

would like to hold Obama accountable."

Reyes was referring to the Barack Obama administration's stated policy  
**Continued on page 2**

## 2 killed in W.Va. nonunion mines over 5-day period

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Two coal miners were killed in the last five days of July in West Virginia—both in nonunion mines. So far this year the mining bosses' profit drive and disregard for safety have taken the lives of 23 miners, 13 in coal mines.

On July 31, Greg Byers, 43, was  
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# Immigration jail protest

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that immigration cops would prioritize deporting workers convicted of crimes other than immigration violations.

Reyes's brother-in-law, Samuel Soto, has been held since May 16. "He was pulled over for no apparent reason on his way to work," said Reyes. "His driver's license had expired. Immigration found him in jail and brought him here. He had no criminal record and was working as a landscaper and handyman." Soto faces deportation to Honduras. His wife and four young children, all U.S. citizens, were at the rally.

Relatives of Vasiliy Melnikov said he was also detained after a traffic stop and are fighting to prevent his deportation to Russia.

Among those leading the action were Marco Saavedra, 22, and Viridiana Martinez, 25, activists with the National Immigrant Youth Alliance. Saavedra approached Border Patrol Agents on July 11 and Martinez presented herself at an immigration checkpoint on July 20, disclosing that they were undocumented in order to get arrested and be able to expose conditions in the Broward detention center. They were released Aug. 3.

"Saavedra and Martinez wanted to stay in the detention center and keep organizing" but immigration officials

wanted them out, Youth Alliance spokesperson Daniel Alvarado said in a phone interview.

"The 80 women I was detained with for two weeks are the boldest I have met in my life," Martinez told the rally. "Some have been there for months, some for years. The food here is no good. The guards treat us as if we were their property. And some of the women stand up, demanding, 'You don't need to treat us like that!'" They continue to fight, she said, "knowing every day their name could appear on the list" to be deported.

"We know that over 400 detainees refused to eat yesterday," Saavedra said, "a majority of those being held here."

After picketing on the sidewalk, many protesters stood in the street outside the jail. Police closed traffic for more than an hour and then arrested Saavedra and three others.

The wife and son of Claudio Rojas both addressed the crowd. Rojas, a landscaper, has been held here for six months after being detained in a traffic stop. "When my dad was arrested, he asked about Obama's policy" of supposedly not deporting those without criminal records, Emiliano Rojas, 23, told reporters. "The immigration officer told him that was a lie, it was just politics."

"My dad was helping organize inside," Rojas told the *Militant*. "He's been on a hunger strike for the last 15 days. A couple days ago they separated him from the other prisoners. He is only allowed 30 minutes a day outside his cell, at times when everyone else is locked up. They say it's for his protection, but it's to isolate him."



Militant/Dean Hazlewood

Demonstration outside immigration jail in Pompano Beach, Fla., Aug. 5 where more than 400 inmates were refusing to eat as part of protest against arrests and treatment.

## Bus ride for immigrant rights begins crisscrossing 10 states

BY SETH GALINSKY

Some 30 undocumented workers and youth began a 10-state "No papers, no fear" bus ride for justice Aug. 1 in Phoenix to promote the fight for immigrant rights.

"The more politicians talk about the possibility of immigration reform and at the same time we see how our community is still being deported the more we wanted to take action," Tania Unzueta, an organizer of the UndocuBus, said in a phone interview from Austin, Texas.

The riders are joining immigrant rights actions in each state they visit. A few days before the trip began, Phoenix participants joined a protest against Sheriff Joseph Arpaio, who boasts that he is "America's toughest sheriff" and is notorious for going after immigrants.

Among the bus riders are day laborers, students, domestic workers, home care workers and housewives, said Unzueta, 28, a University of Illinois graduate who came to the United States 18 years ago from Mexico.

The ride will end in Charlotte, N.C., at the Democratic Party national convention, which "will be a pivotal moment for the President ... who has promised reform and thus far produced record deportations," says the group's website.

Unzueta has supported passage of

the Dream Act, a bill before the U.S. Congress that would allow undocumented youth and young adults who meet certain requirements, including going to college or serving in the U.S. military, to apply for legal residency.

"When the Dream Act failed to pass in 2010, we realized we can't put too much of our effort into fighting for laws that we know are imperfect," Unzueta said. "The important thing is getting organized. The current elections show how much they talk about immigrants, all this rhetoric about what they should do with us, but we're not hearing from the undocumented. We want to make sure our stories are heard."

Unzueta said her personal risk in traveling on the bus is low because under a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy starting Aug. 15, youth who meet Dream Act criteria may receive "deferred action."

Bus rider Gerardo Torres, 41, does not fit those criteria. A carpenter, Mexico-born Torres has been living and working in Phoenix for 18 years. "I'm tired of the police harassment of our community," Torres said. "We want papers. We want to be able to travel back and forth across the border without problems."

For information on upcoming stops visit: [nopapersnofear.org](http://nopapersnofear.org).

## THE MILITANT

### The myth of overpopulation

**The 'Militant' explains why capitalism, not overpopulation, is the source of hunger, underdevelopment, environmental destruction and more. By taking power out of the hands of the capitalist class, working people can begin to resolve these problems.**



Jide Odukoya

Fuel price protest, Lagos, Nigeria, Jan. 11. Capitalist exploitation and imperialist domination are source of underdevelopment and onerous conditions of life for toiling majority.

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# Thousands are locked up in modern-day debtor prisons

BY SETH GALINSKY

Jail time as punishment for not paying debts or court fines is on the rise in the United States.

The practice varies widely throughout the country and there are no centralized records to measure the clear trend.

According to a report released this month by the Brennan Center for Justice, "increasing numbers of states are creating new pathways to imprisonment based solely on criminal justice debt."

In Florida 20 court fees have been added since 1996. The North Carolina government instituted a surcharge in 2009 for payment plans. Inmates in Pennsylvania are kept in jail even if otherwise eligible for parole, unless they pay a \$60 fee, the report notes.

A 2010 report by the American Civil Liberties Union states that "pay-to-stay programs have proliferated," where convicted prisoners are charged for their jail time. In one of the latest additions in November last year, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in California approved charging prisoners there \$142.42 per day.

In at least 13 states, courts even impose fees for requesting legal counsel despite the Miranda rights provision that "if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you." In Georgia, the "application fee" for a public defender is \$50. Those who can't afford that are pressured into giving up their right to an attorney and pleading guilty. In Virginia the accused who are assigned a public defender can be charged more than \$1,000 per felony charge.

Often, large fees are imposed for late payments of court fees and fines, which "effectively penalize people solely for being poor," notes the Brennan Center.

"Modern day debtors' prisons, that's exactly right," said Georgia attorney John Long in a July 20 phone interview. Long has helped win the release of several people jailed in Augusta, Ga., for inability to pay court fines and fees. Some owed money to privately owned probation companies assigned to "supervise" their probation, which was imposed because they couldn't immediately pay their fines. These probation company fees can amount to double or triple the original fine.

Incarceration for nonpayment of court debt is often carried out on the pretext of charges such as contempt

of court, failure to appear or "willful refusal" to pay. Long has also filed a lawsuit challenging the practice as a violation of the U.S. Constitution, including the 14th Amendment right to equal protection.

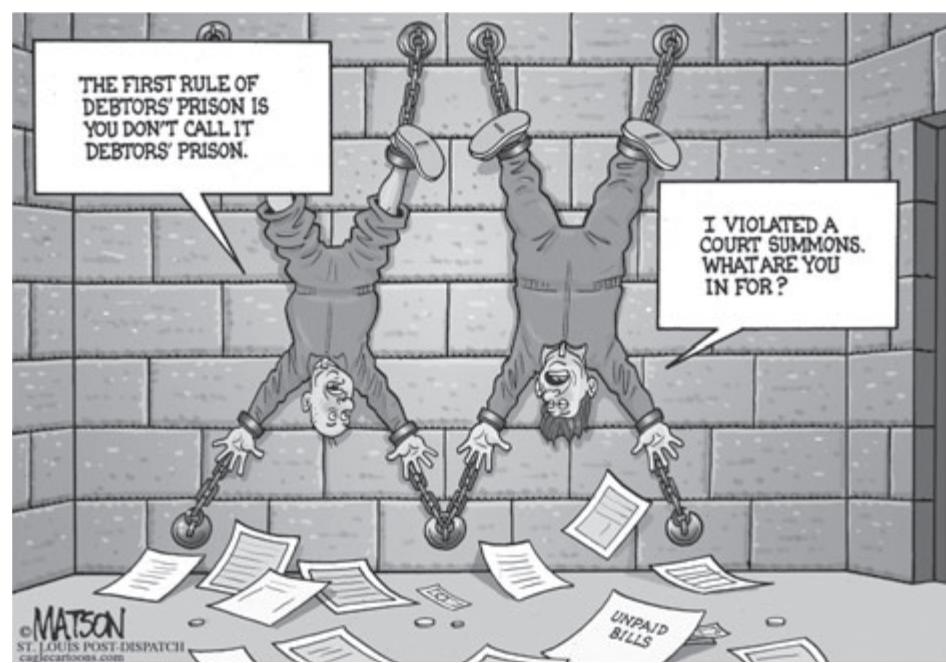
## Private probation companies

In Georgia, private probation companies also administer electronic monitoring and boast that it doesn't cost the government because the person being monitored pays.

Over the last decade these companies have mushroomed in the U.S. In Georgia, there are three dozen private probation companies operating in hundreds of courts. In Augusta alone, Long said, at any one time there can be 175 people charged with misdemeanors in jail for falling behind on payment to one of these outfits.

"The probation companies are nothing but bill collectors, but they can lock you up if you don't pay," notes Long. "They make payday lending look cheap."

A judge in Alabama temporarily shut down operations of a private probation company and the imposition



of fees by the Harpersville Municipal Court July 11, saying it was a "judicially sanctioned extortion racket."

## Jailed for outstanding bills

Working people are also being jailed across the country for unpaid bills to private companies.

"More than a third of all U.S. states allow borrowers who can't or won't pay to be jailed," according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Officials in McIntosh County near Tulsa, Okla., issued 1,500 debt-related arrest warrants in 2010, although most

don't result in jail time, the *Journal* said.

A March 2011 article in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* reported on several Minnesota residents jailed for alleged outstanding bills, ranging from \$300 owed to a lumber yard to unpaid credit card debt.

"Laws allowing for the arrest of someone for an unpaid debt are not new," the *Tribune* reported. "What is new is the rise of well-funded, aggressive and centralized collection firms ... that buy up unpaid debt and use the courts to collect."

# Colo. bosses sue to tailor health benefits to their beliefs

BY JOHN STUDER

U.S. District Court Judge John Kane handed down a temporary injunction July 27 ordering the federal government not to penalize the owners of Hercules Industries in Colorado for refusing to cover contraception in the health care they provide to the 265 workers employed by the company. At issue is whether bosses' religious views give them the right to deny certain benefits to workers.

On Aug. 1, provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, went into effect. One of the provisions requires companies with more than 50 employees to offer health care plans that cover contraception or face government penalties of about \$100 per day per worker.

Hercules builds heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, sheet metal forms and other related goods. It is run by four siblings—Bill, Jim and Paul Newland, and their sister Christine Ketterhagen—who say the Obamacare provision violates their "religious freedom" because they are devout Catholics.

After Obamacare was signed into law in March 2010, the family filed suit seeking exception from providing contraception coverage. In preparing their legal challenge, they received backing from church-related groups and lawyers from the Alliance Defending Freedom.

Judge Kane issued what he called an "ad hoc" ruling, giving the family an exemption until the lawsuit is settled. He wrote that the issue posed questions "so serious, substantial, difficult, and doubtful as to make the issue ripe for litigation and deserving of more deliberate investigation."

Pointing to the administration's own figures, Kane states that exemptions are already provided for bosses with less than 50 workers, bosses with

grandfathered health plans, and certain nonprofit strictly religious organizations—denying coverage to more than 190 million workers and their family members.

While Hercules is the first for-profit, privately owned company whose bosses have reached for the same exemption, several dozen businesses run by Catholic institutions, including hospitals, schools and colleges, have also filed similar lawsuits.

But what these employers are demanding has nothing to do with the right to worship free of government interference. The foundation of this right has always been the separation of church and state, not the right of bosses to deny certain health benefits to workers because they don't approve of them.

But under the banner of "freedom of religion," supporters of the bosses in this debate turn the entire question on its head. In a July 30 article in the *American Spectator*, for example, au-

thor David Catron backs Kane's decision and said the family's lawsuit seeks to ensure the government "cannot force families to abandon their faith just to earn a living."

Adopting arguments made by Hercules' bosses and their conservative Alliance Defending Freedom lawyers, Kane says there is a better way the government could provide workers with health care without burdening the bosses—"creation of a contraception insurance plan with free enrollment."

Ironically, the judge makes a case for what would be a step forward from any of the so-called health plans, put forward by Republicans or Democrats today—government-funded single payer health care paid out of general revenue. That would certainly be far better than President Obama's bureaucratic nightmare, which imposes regressive taxes on workers, while providing a profit bonanza to parasitic insurance companies.

## NEW INTERNATIONAL

A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY



"The acceleration of the world capitalist crisis today is also bringing an intensification of economic conflict among the rival imperialist powers. These can result over time in catastrophic trade and currency wars, not just protectionist skirmishes..." — Jack Barnes

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## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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#### Atlanta

**The Politics of the 99% vs. the Class Struggle Road Forward.** Speaker: Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in 4th District. Fri., Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 476-1/2 Edgewood Ave. Tel.: (404) 525-5200.

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# UK farmers fight price cuts by capitalist dairies

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—For the second week in late July dairy farmers around the United Kingdom have protested cuts in the prices they receive from big capitalist dairies. The prices have been cut twice in the past three months.

Dozens of dairy farmers and other rural workers demonstrated July 23 outside the Arla milk processing plant in Hatfield Peverel, in Essex. Farmers came from a number of counties around the southeast of England and East Anglia.

John Smith, 25, has taken over running his father's family farm. It has 100 cows. "There's only 10 dairy farmers left in Essex now. We were just breaking even before," he said, "but the price cuts have wiped us out."

Hundreds of farmers have mobilized at other milk processing plants. Three of the largest processors—Arla, Dairy Crest and Wiseman—have reversed a 2 pence a liter price cut they were due to introduce in August following protest blockades at their plants (1 pence=US 2 cents).

"A reversal in the earlier cuts of

May-June is a top priority," said Andrew Hemmings, vice chair of Farmers For Action, which organized many of the protests. FFA called a temporary halt to protests at dairies but resumed them Aug. 2 outside the Iceland and Farmfoods supermarkets.

"This has shown what we can accomplish," Surrey dairy farmer and FFA leader Youleitte Parkes told the *Militant* following a protest at Hatfield Peverel. "Now we get 27 pence a liter, not 25 pence, but this is still under our costs of production, so the fight goes on.

"We're also hit by rising production costs. Despite having a bigger herd today we get a smaller yield than before because bad weather has affected the grass quality."

"In 1995, supermarkets had a 10 percent margin on milk. Today it's 35 percent," Stephen Frankland, a dairy farmer from Ripon, Yorkshire, told the *Guardian*. "The consumer doesn't have to pay more for their milk, the supermarket just has to cut its margins."

Tony Hunt contributed to this article.

## Teamsters battle Davis Wire

Continued from front page  
to cooperate."

Many strikers on the picket line say that a combination of old machinery, speedup, and incentives, where workers boost their pay by surpassing production quotas, have made the plant a dangerous place to work. Davis Wire, owned by Heico Wire Group, also has plants in Irwindale, Calif., and Pueblo, Colo.

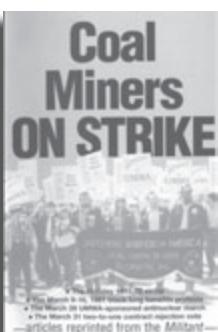
"From my head to my toes I have cuts all over," Tran told the *Militant*. "In my department there are four people who have lost fingers." He showed four of his fingers with the tips cut off. Two were missing the entire last joint.

Working people in the area regularly stop by to drop off food, drinks, ice and other supplies to the picket line. Strikers—and sometimes visitors—prepare meals at a barbecue grill in front of a banner that says, "Thank you for your support," covered in signatures and messages from well-wishers.

Davis Wire has tried to keep the plant running with about 20 replacement workers. Strikers say that just one union member has crossed the picket line.

The scabs are also getting injured on the job, shop steward Robert Bruner said. "A young kid who was hired from Irwindale and sent up to Kent left injured on Saturday. He was wincing with pain," Bruner told the *Militant* at the picket line Aug. 4. "He said, 'They told me to go home this weekend and take it easy and if it was still hurting Monday they would take me to the clinic.' It makes you wonder how many others up here have been injured."

"I try to explain to these replacement workers crossing the picket line that we are out here fighting for a cause, about the way we are being treated," Chet Sherman, a 15-year veteran of the plant, said. "I don't think it's helpful to use hateful words against these people. It doesn't help to open their minds to the union point of view. Some of them are in bad shape too as far as needing a job."



### COAL MINERS ON STRIKE

by Andy Rose, Nancy Cole

Articles on the 111-day 1977-78 miners' strike, the 1981 strike and contract rejection vote, the fight for health benefits and compensation to black lung victims, and more. —\$7

### NEW INTERNATIONAL no. 4

The shared exploitation of workers and working farmers by banking, industrial, and commercial capital lays the basis for their alliance in a revolutionary fight for a government of the producers. —\$14

### The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the U.S.

by Jack Barnes

### The Crisis Facing Working Farmers

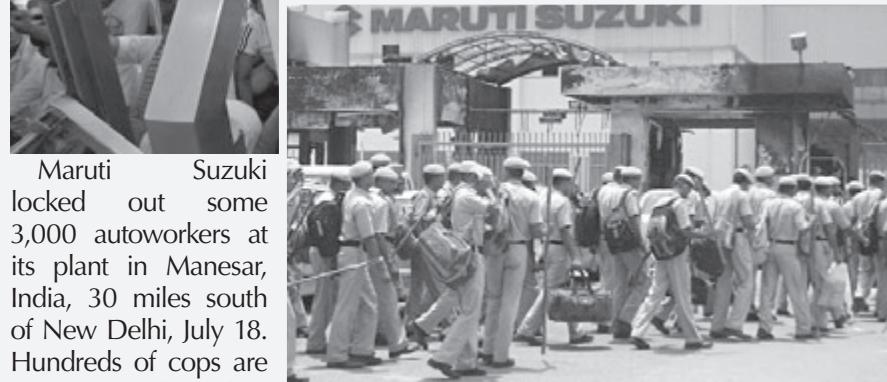
by Doug Jenness

### Land reform and farm cooperatives in Cuba

by Fidel Castro

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## India autoworkers locked out since July 18



Maruti Suzuki locked out some 3,000 autoworkers at its plant in Manesar, India, 30 miles south of New Delhi, July 18. Hundreds of cops are occupying the plant (inset). The company claims that workers rioted inside the plant, beating supervisors and setting a fire that caused the death of the general manager.

But union leaders say that clashes occurred after a supervisor insulted union member Jiya Lal on July 18, making deprecating remarks about Lal being a dalit (outcaste) during a heated argument over a workers' boycott of preshift meetings. According to India's Economic and Political Weekly, management then suspended Lal.

Some 1,200 day shift workers stayed inside the plant after their shift ended while union representatives met with the company about the suspension.

A statement by the Maruti Suzuki Workers Union charges that while the negotiations were taking place, company management called in hundreds of "antisocial elements" who attacked workers inside the plant.

Police have arrested union president Ram Meher and other officials as well as 114 workers.

In October last year workers held a 13-day sit-down strike (top photo), forcing the company to deal with their independent union and bring back 1,200 temporary workers. A major part of their fight centered on overcoming divisions between permanent and temporary workers.

Thirty trade unions in the region have urged the company to end the lockout and called on the government to release "all innocent workers."

—SETH GALINSKY

## Two miners killed in W.Va.

Continued from front page

struck by a battery-powered coal scoop at International Coal Group's Beckley Pocahontas Mine in Raleigh County. Five days earlier Johnny Bryant, 35, was crushed to death between a mine wall and the boom of a continuous mining machine. He was working at Coal River Mining's Fork Creek No. 10 Mine in Boone County.

Out of the 23 miners killed on the job this year, 20 worked in nonunion mines.

Some 25 percent of coal miners are union members, according to the *New York Times*. Declining unionization

has given coal bosses freer reign to make further inroads against safety, jacking up methane levels, scrimping on ventilation systems, speeding up production, extending working hours, etc.

In addition, recent reports show that black lung, also known as coal workers' pneumoconiosis, is on the rise. Black lung is a preventable disease resulting from exposure to coal dust. It's irreversible, debilitating and often leads to premature death. An increasing number of younger miners are affected. After plunging 90 percent during the 1970s and '80s, it started going up again in the mid-90s.

The government's Mine Safety and Health Administration has put the coal industry's profits ahead of workers' lives. A recent report from National Public Radio about black lung says that between 2000 and 2011 "MSHA data show that 53,000 valid samples contained more dust than standards permit, but the agency issued less than 2,400 violations."

Meanwhile, production in the industry is declining after reaching a peak in 2006. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that annual coal production in Central Appalachia will decline more than half from 2010 to 2018.

Kentucky has seen a number of layoffs and shutdown of mines since the beginning of this year. Between March and May 3,000 jobs were eliminated.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Illinois Steelworkers fight to defend union

METROPOLIS, Ill.—Members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669 who work at Honeywell's uranium conversion plant here face another hurdle in their fight to defend their union.

Steelworkers fought a 14-month battle against a lockout by Honeywell, which ended Aug. 15 last year after workers voted to approve a new contract. Not one member crossed the picket line and workers were able to push back some of the company's concession demands on seniority, wages and pensions.

Just as the workers were beginning to get back into the plant after an extended shutdown, Honeywell announced July 11, without any prior notice, that it would not resume production after completing upgrades ordered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"The first we heard about it was in the press. News reports said it could take from one to one and a half years to complete the upgrades," Steven Lech, USW Local 7-669 president, told the *Militant*. "Now they're saying it could be as little as nine months."

On July 19 plant manager Larry Smith sent out a letter saying the shutdown would affect 228 of the plant's 332 employees.

The union's position is that the layoff is not necessary, Lech said. "It's true that Honeywell received what the NRC calls a Confirmatory Action Letter outlining the steps the company has agreed to take to make sure its Emergency Response Plan is adequate. But the NRC didn't order Honeywell to lay anybody off.

"The fact of the matter is," continued Lech, "a lot of the concerns the NRC raises about possible UF6 releases during natural disasters, the union has been talking about for years." UF6 is a form of uranium used for nuclear enrichment.

"There's lots of work to be done to make the improvements the NRC is demanding. But our members could do that work," Lech said.

"Since the closing of [Japan's plant in] Fukushima," he added, "the price of UF6 has been free falling. Honeywell wants to slow production until the price begins to rise again and they're using the NRC order to do that. But they're also trying to use it to weaken the union."

When the company finally met with the union July 17, no mention was made of compensation for lost wages or extended benefits.

"Given the long-term character of the proposed closure that's something that had to be addressed," said Christian Musselman, Local 7-669 recording secretary.

"That was important to do because some of our members are hurting more from these shutdowns than the lockout," Musselman said. "The majority of workers have no health insurance. For some their houses are close to being on the line. A lot of people put a lot of things on hold for 14 months during the lockout and now this."

Two days after the meeting, Honeywell announced that Local 7-669 members to be laid off will receive either 60 days wages and extension of benefits or, for those currently working, 60 days notice of intended layoff.

—John Hawkins

### Seattle: Recycle workers end walkout; accept new contract

SEATTLE—After eight days on the picket lines, recycle drivers, represented by Teamsters Local 117, voted Aug. 2 to accept a six-year agreement with Waste Management.

More than 150 drivers walked off the job July 25. Some 350 garbage haulers, members of Teamsters Local 174, honored the picket lines, bringing trash collection to a halt in Seattle and surrounding communities. Teamsters Local 231 members in Skagit County, north of Seattle, who also haul garbage, honored the picketing and did not haul trash during the strike.

One of the key issues in bargaining was the disparity in pay between the two driver classifications. Recycle drivers said they received from \$6 to \$7 an hour less than garbage drivers.

The union had also filed unfair labor practices charges with the National Labor Relations Board.

The company was facing huge fines by Seattle and other municipalities for not collecting trash.

After the strike vote, one recycle driver, who asked not to be identified, said, "It is what it is. We didn't get everything we wanted, and no one wanted a prolonged strike."

In an interview with the *Militant*,

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

August 28, 1987

In a signal victory for democratic rights, a federal judge has issued an injunction barring the FBI and other government agencies from using illegally obtained information about the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The order, made public August 20 by Judge Thomas Griesa, bars use of information obtained by government informers or by government burglaries of SWP or YSA offices.

The order also includes the stipulation that names of members and supporters of the SWP and YSA in the hands of the government shall be presumed to have been illegally obtained since neither organization makes such information public. The injunction was won in a suit by the SWP and YSA against the attorney general, the FBI, and other government agencies.



Militant/Ted Leonard

Picket line in front of Newington Health Care Center, Newington, Conn., Aug. 4. Some 600 members of Service Employees International Union District 1199 struck five facilities in state.

Brenda Wiest, an organizer for Local 117, said that while the disparity in pay was not narrowed, the union was able to get \$500,000 more in the benefits package from the company's "last and final" offer.

She also said that the agreement held down rises in health care costs and increased company payments into the pension fund. She also said the union withdrew its unfair labor practices charges.

—Edwin Fruitt

### Connecticut: 600 workers strike five nursing homes

NEWINGTON, Conn.—"We have to do what we need to do," explained Indu Moktan, who works at the Newington Health Care Center, as she joined other strikers on the picket line outside the Healthbridge nursing home here.

Some 600 members of Service Employees International Union District 1199 went on strike July 3 at five Healthbridge facilities in the state. At issue are "unfair labor practices after the company unlawfully ended negotiations and unilaterally implemented what it claimed was its 'last, best and final' offer," according to the union website.

"They took away the pensions, sick time and raised the insurance," Jeanette Ortiz, who has worked at the Newington facility for 17 years, told

the *Militant*. She added that the company cut part-time workers' hours so they would not have to give them benefits.

Healthbridge is operating the nursing homes with replacement workers.

Spirits were high among the 40 strikers on the picket line, the vast majority women. They had set up tables of food and coolers of water.

On Aug. 1 the state Department of Labor ruled that the Healthbridge strikers are eligible for unemployment payment retroactive to the first day of the strike.

The same day a judge ruled in a National Labor Relations Board case that Healthbridge Management committed "a blatant violation" of labor laws when the company terminated housekeepers and forced them to reapply at a lower wage rate in May 2010.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, "The ruling describes how when housekeeping workers protested the cuts in pay and benefits, they were told they had to fill out the job applications to be rehired, and if they didn't do so and instead continued to complain, the administrators would call the police."

In December Healthbridge locked out 100 union members at the West River Health Care Center in Milford, Conn. Workers there were on the picket line until the company ended the lockout April 4.

—Kevin Dwire

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

August 27, 1962

ALBANY, Ga.—The sustained movement against segregation by Negroes here continues to build up pressure on the racist city officials. The threat of continued mass demonstrations finally forced the U.S. Department of Justice into token intervention on behalf of civil rights. And a revival of sit-in tactics by the integrationists has put the Albany police in the position of having shut down the city's two public libraries and three public parks to prevent their desegregation.

The spirit of the civil-rights fighters is kept up by almost nightly mass meetings sponsored by the Albany Movement, the coalition of integration groups which has led the protests here since they began last December. From 1,500 to 2,000 persons attend these meetings. Simultaneous meetings take place outside in the warm night air.

### SOCIALIST APPEAL

August 21, 1937

Goaded by an internal economic crisis that has become intolerably acute, Japanese imperialism has struck again at continental China in a desperate effort to find a way out by establishing its mastery over all Asia. Coming late upon the scene of the capitalist world and lacking the natural resources vital to the development of the basic industries, Japanese capitalism found it necessary to embark upon the path of imperialist expansion. The Japanese bourgeoisie has been depending on the exploitation of China to bolster up the frail economic structure on which Japanese capitalism rests.

Japanese capitalism has not the resources to make concessions to the workers. At the same time that an intense campaign of pro-war propaganda was launched, strikes were prohibited.

JACK BARNES  
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# Harris talks with farmers

Continued from front page  
people need to take political power," Harris said.

"I think both parties are on the same page," corn farmer Melvin Brown told Harris. "I don't see either one bringing in any jobs. They're not concerned with everyday people. One may be chocolate and the other vanilla, but they're both ice cream." Brown has been farming part-time for 35 years.

"I'm struggling to just stay up," farmer Willie Head said. Head farms peanuts, corn, peas and beans. "Everything is going up—gas, food, fertilizer, seeds, irrigation. Farmers only get three or four cents on every dollar. I think we're going backwards. My son can't find a job."

Head participated in the 1990s fight of farmers who are Black to get compensation for years of discriminatory practices by the Department of Agriculture.

"In Los Angeles, where I am from, the official unemployment for Blacks is 21 percent," Harris said. "The two parties have no jobs program. Our campaign calls for a national, government-funded jobs program that would put millions to work building schools, day care centers, hospitals, things workers need."

"Instead of more jails," Brown interjected.

"Farmers in the U.S. alone could produce enough food to feed everyone in the world," Harris said. "But if it is not profitable this doesn't happen."

Instead, the rulers say there are too many babies."

Head agreed. "The government pays farmers not to produce. You also see all these empty houses, yet you have homeless people sleeping under bridges."

Head raised his concerns about the rising cost of medical care. "Obama's health care plan will not solve this," Harris said. "They have us fighting about medical *insurance*, but what we want is medical *care*. This plan will mean 30 million more customers for the insurance companies. We will need to wage a fight for universal health care available for all. We create all the wealth, so we need to be the ones who will decide how to use it to serve human needs,"

Gladys Williams described her experiences on a trip to Cuba in 2000, when she was a member of the South Georgia Vegetable Producers Cooperative, and learned how a society could be run in the interests of working people. Workers and farmers waged a revolutionary struggle there and took political power in 1959.

"Farmers there can keep the title to their land as long as they live. They don't need to pay for their education or for water, and medical care is available to all. I found out how many lies are told about Cuba," she said. Williams introduced Harris to a member of her church who was passing by and sold him a *Militant* subscription.

Head said every time he has these discussions he comes to understand

## Communist League runs in Quebec elections



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

MONTREAL—Michel Dugré announced his campaign as the Communist League candidate in the Montreal electoral constituency of Laurier-Dorion in the Sept. 4 Quebec provincial election by joining striking Hyatt Regency hotel workers here Aug. 1. In photo Dugré is talking with striker Anthony Gentile, 19, who has worked at the hotel for about a year. The 300 workers responded to a July 25 lockout by the Hyatt Regency bosses, who are demanding severe concessions in working conditions, with an overwhelming strike vote. Currently 5,500 other hotel workers at 35 hotels in Quebec are in negotiations for a new contract.

—JOHN STEELE

capitalism better. He asked if the Socialist Workers Party had a timeline for when working people would take political power.

"We can guarantee that the working class will fight. Whether we win will depend on the kind of leadership we build and the kind of connections we can make with fighters like you," Harris replied, "and build confidence that workers and farmers will join in struggle together to transform this society."

While Brown, Head and Williams are still considering how they will vote, each of them signed endorser cards encouraging fellow farmers and workers to give the socialist campaign a hearing.

The previous day Harris visited the city of Newnan, about 35 miles south of Atlanta.

"Harris and Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for the fourth congressional

district, came to Newnan on Thursday in order to meet and talk with workers at the local Yamaha plant," wrote the local *Times-Herald* newspaper, which interviewed Harris and Fruit.

Harris and campaign supporters met with several workers at a restaurant near the plant.

The SWP presidential candidate addressed 30 people at a campaign forum in Atlanta Aug. 4. He was joined on the platform by Fruit; David Ferguson, SWP candidate for Congress in the 3rd District; and Elizabeth Hennig, a sophomore at Emory University who has been active in building support for school workers fighting to win unemployment payments denied them during the summer break.

Hennig urged everyone to attend a protest Aug. 18 where food service workers, bus drivers, teachers and others will be demanding compensation.

## Literature on SWP presidential campaign



Campaign flyer: 25 for \$2.50

Buttons: \$1 each

Endorser cards: 20 for \$1

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New York, NY 10018. Tel: (212) 736-2540;  
email: socworknatcamp@sbcglobal.net

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\* petitioning for Deborah Liatos for Congress in 13th District

To volunteer to help with the campaign see list on page 10

# Agenda? ‘Unite workers, build movement to transform society’

Maura DeLuca, SWP vice presidential candidate, tours LA

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES—“What is the main agenda of the Socialist Workers Party?” asked Rolando Nichols, one of two reporters from Mundo Fox 22, who conducted an Aug. 1 prime time interview with Maura DeLuca, SWP candidate for vice president.

“To unite the working class, construct a movement that can change society completely to a system not based on profits but on human needs,” said DeLuca.

Nichols asked if the SWP was “anti-American.”

“Here in this country under capitalism and in other countries in the world the majority of people are struggling every day,” DeLuca replied. “Many have lost their jobs, their homes, their health benefits. Things are getting worse and will continue to worsen until we unite with confidence that we can change these things.”

“We have examples in U.S. history,” she added, “like the revolutions against slavery and Jim Crow segregation.”

DeLuca met with a dozen port truck drivers in Wilmington Aug. 4, including some who were part of a successful Teamster union organizing drive at Toll Group in April.

DeLuca discussed their fights and related her experiences meeting with tomato farm workers in Madera, Calif., who had just won representation by the United Farm Workers union, and with immigrant taxi drivers in Miami, fighting against cop abuse and conditions on the job.

That evening, DeLuca joined Arlene Rubinstein and Ellie García, the party’s candidates in California’s 33rd and 34th Congressional Districts, at a citywide public campaign meeting.

She related her experiences talking with the port truckers and with workers resisting the employers’ assaults as she has toured around the country.

“The discussions workers are having and the SWP campaign is joining,” DeLuca said, “seek to address the root cause of the capitalist crisis of production and trade, and the way workers can

organize and fight against it, linking up with each other, seeing ourselves as a class—this is the starting point of building a vanguard movement that can lead the fight to take power out of the hands of the bosses and their government.”

García told those at the meeting that she and Rubinstein joined protests in front of the police station in Anaheim the day after the cops killed Manuel Diaz on July 21, and again on July 29. They spoke with members of Diaz’s family and the families of others who have been killed by the Anaheim cops in recent months and years.

“We have to understand the role of the cops,” DeLuca said. “Who they are there to ‘serve and protect.’ You see this in Anaheim sharply now, but it’s true all over, in working-class neighborhoods and on workers’ picket lines.”

At the July 29 action, García was interviewed by Telemundo, a major Spanish-language TV station.

“Our campaign calls for the cops who shot and killed Manuel Diaz to be prosecuted and jailed,” she said.

The morning before the Aug. 4 program, DeLuca had a chance to meet with Theresa Smith, one of the leaders of the fight against police brutality in Anaheim. Smith’s son, Caesar Cruz, was killed by Anaheim cops in 2009. She told DeLuca she has been protesting every Sunday in front of the police station “since the Sunday after he was killed.”

They also talked about the Cuban Revolution and the fight to win freedom for the Cuban 5, five revolutionaries imprisoned by the U.S. government for monitoring plans by counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups with a 50-year history of deadly attacks on Cuba.

DeLuca showed Smith the Pathfinder Press book *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and explained how the day-to-day work of the workers and peasants there transformed them as their revolutionary struggle transformed Cuba. “I have always liked Cuba,” Smith said, “but just didn’t know much about it.”



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein  
Ellie García, SWP candidate for Congress in California’s 34th District, being interviewed by Telemundo TV station in Anaheim, Calif., at July 29 protest against killings by cops.



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein  
Maura DeLuca, SWP candidate for U.S. vice president, showing book *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* to Theresa Smith over lunch in Anaheim, Calif., July 29. Smith’s son, Caesar Cruz, was shot and killed by police there in 2009.



Militant/Glova Scott  
Omari Musa, SWP candidate for nonvoting delegate to House of Representatives from Washington, D.C., speaks with Kimmy Jones while campaigning in northeast D.C., Aug. 5.



Militant/Bernie Senter  
Róger Calero, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, speaks with construction worker Henry Domingo Aug. 5 in Morningside Heights neighborhood, Manhattan. Domingo said he works with immigrants who “get only \$8 an hour while I get a lot more. That’s not right.” Calero responded, “The bosses superexploit immigrant labor as part of pressing down wages across the board. That’s why the labor movement needs to champion fights of undocumented.”

## Socialist Workers candidates across US

### California

Gerardo Sánchez, US Senate  
Carole Lesnick, Congress, 12th CD  
Arlene Rubinstein, Congress, 33rd CD  
Ellie García, Congress, 34th CD

### Florida

Naomi Craine, US Senate  
Tom Baumann, Congress, 17th CD  
Anthony Dutrow, Congress, 20th CD  
Dean Hazlewood, State Atty, District 11

### Georgia

Rachele Fruit, Congress, 4th CD  
John Benson, Congress, 5th CD

### Illinois

John Hawkins, Congress, 1st CD  
Laura Anderson, Congress, 3rd CD  
Dennis Richter, Congress, 7th CD  
Alyson Kennedy, Cook County Atty

### Iowa

David Rosenfeld, Congress, 3rd CD  
Maggie Trowe, State Senate, District 18  
Helen Meyers, Iowa House, District 36

### Massachusetts

Laura Garza, US Senate

### Minnesota

Frank Forrestal, US Senate  
Tony Lane, Congress, 5th CD

### Nebraska

Joe Swanson, US Senate  
Callie Miaoulis, 29th District Neb. Legis.

### New York

Róger Calero, US Senate  
Seth Galinsky, Congress, 8th CD  
Deborah Liatos, Congress, 13th CD  
Nancy Boyasko, Congress, 15th CD

### Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate  
Chris Hoepner, Congress, 1st CD

### Texas

Jacquie Henderson, US Senate  
Steve Warshell, Congress, 18th CD  
Cindy Jaquith, Congress, 19th CD  
Mike Fitzsimmons, Congress, 29th CD

### Washington

Mary Martin, Governor  
John Naubert, US Senate

### Washington, DC

Omari Musa, Delegate, US House of Rep.

# Newburgh, NY: cops who killed youth walking free

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The cops who killed Michael Lembhard in Newburgh, N.Y., on March 7 are loose on the streets again. A grand jury decided July 10 that they had acted in self-defense and will not face criminal charges.

Lembhard, 22, fled into his sister's house when four cops in the city's anti-crime squad were chasing him. They forced themselves into the house, where they pumped 15 bullets into him, eight in the back. The cops claim he threatened them with a knife.

From the beginning Lembhard's family and relatives didn't buy the cop's story and decided to put up a fight. They have been demanding an independent investigation, that District Attorney Frank Phillips step down, and that the police responsible be taken off the streets and indicted for murder.

They have pressed these demands through demonstrations, press con-

ferences and at virtually every city council meeting since the shooting. This pressure forced the city June 13 to release the report from the autopsy, conducted more than three months earlier, detailing the number of bullets and their entry points.

The findings of the grand jury changes nothing for the family.

"Yes, they found them not guilty," Edith King, Lembhard's aunt, said in a phone interview. "But the fight is not over. On Aug. 13 we start a 15-day vigil outside where he was killed—15 days for 15 shots."

The vigil will end with a rally Aug. 27. King says they are working to get a panel of speakers backing their demands, which includes someone from the family of Ramarley Graham, 18, who was shot by cops in Bronx, N.Y., in the bathroom of his apartment Feb. 2. After continuous demonstrations, a grand jury June 13 indicted the cop who killed him for first- and second-



Protesters march in Newburgh, N.Y., March 29 against killing of Michael Lembhard, 22, by local police three weeks earlier. At right is Arlene Lembhard, Michael's mother.

degree manslaughter.

"We also plan to contact others in the Hudson Valley who have had family members killed by cops," Omari

Shakur, a community activist who is part of the fight, said in a phone interview. Shakur's son was killed by Newburgh cops in 2006.

## Seattle rally protests FBI raids of homes, grand jury subpoenas

BY CECELIA MORIARITY

SEATTLE—About 75 people protested outside the federal courthouse here Aug. 2 during a federal grand jury investigation.

The demonstration, organized by the Portland-based Committee Against Political Repression, was called to protest FBI raids of homes in June and July and grand jury subpoenas related to an investigation into May Day vandalism here. More than 200 groups signed a solidarity statement against the raids and the grand jury probe.

Five people—two from Portland, Ore., two from Olympia, Wash., and one from Seattle—had been subpoenaed to

testify. The FBI raided the homes of three people in Portland July 25. Similar raids had been conducted in Olympia and Seattle in June.

Two of the three people whose homes were raided in Portland—Dennison Williams and Leah-Lynn Plante—refused to testify. According to Williams, federal agents broke down his door with guns drawn and he was handcuffed when they hauled out clothing and computer equipment.

According to KATU News in Portland, the grand jury testimony was postponed until Aug. 30. Williams and Plante said they would invoke their Fifth Amendment rights on that date as well.

## Protests in Anaheim, Calif.

Continued from front page

other nearby buildings. Police distributed fliers calling on protesters to disperse shortly after they assembled.

Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait is calling for a federal investigation into the shootings. There have been seven police shootings in 2012, of which five were fatal.

Family of those killed by California cops in recent years are involved in leading the protests.

"They want to stereotype us as marginal, as dangerous," Damion Ramirez told the protesters. "Well, we are dangerous to the status quo that fears the working class that they prey on. But what they haven't counted on is the solidarity that we have found."

Ramirez, a union plumber, was a childhood friend of Michael Nida, killed by the police in Downey, a working-class suburb of Los Angeles in 2011. The 31-year-old carpenter was out with his wife buying gas when he was shot five times, two times in the back, once in the chest, once in the shoulder and once in the wrist, according to Nida's mother. Police claim that Nida fit the description of an al-

leged bank robber. The officer who shot him has not been prosecuted.

"The officer that killed my grandson just made sergeant in the Anaheim Police Department, and we are still demanding justice," Barbara Kordiak told the *Militant* at the protest. She carried a handmade sign that read, "Stolen life by APD," and a picture of Justin Hertl, her grandson killed in nearby Yorba Linda in 2003 as he walked her to her car. Police answer that they were responding to a call about a stolen car.

Corie Cline was taunted at the protest by the Anaheim police officer who killed her brother, Joe Whitehouse, on July 16, 2007.

"The Anaheim police are not judge, jury and executioner," said Theresa Smith, whose son Caesar Cruz was shot by the police in 2009. Smith urged participants to be disciplined in the face of police provocations.

"We need to show the Anaheim Police Department and the world that something needs to be done," said Smith. "I am not asking, I am demanding that the protest stays peaceful, out of respect for the families."

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO—More than 50 people, mostly Mexican immigrants, gathered at the Centro Autonomo here July 26 to celebrate the accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution and advance the fight to free five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. since 1998.

The evening of food, film and discussion, conducted in Spanish with English translation, took place on the 59th anniversary of the 1953 attack led by Fidel Castro on the Moncada and Bayamo army garrisons. That action opened the armed struggle against the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in Cuba, which culminated five and a half years later in its January 1959 revolutionary overthrow.

The meeting was organized to focus attention on the struggle to free Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René González—known internationally as the Cuban Five. The five Cuban revolutionaries accepted assignments during the 1990s from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in South Florida.

These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity and the complicity of Washington, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both in Cuba and against those in the United States and Puerto Rico who oppose Washington's efforts to

overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

The five were arrested by the FBI in 1998. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government, possession of false identity documents, conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder. They were given prison terms of up to double life plus 15 years.

The political cartoons of Hernández are currently on exhibit at Centro Autonomo.

Peggy Valdes and Pedro de la Riva welcomed those in attendance on behalf of the Chicago Cuba Coalition and Centro Autonomo, the sponsors of the event.

After a delicious meal prepared by members of Cleaning Power, a women's house-cleaning cooperative headquartered at Centro Autonomo, those in attendance viewed the 2004 documentary *Mission Against Terror*, many for the first time.

Following the film Jesús Rodríguez-Espinoza, Venezuelan consul general in Chicago, spoke about solidarity between the peoples of Cuba and Venezuela today. "Cuba and Venezuela," he said, "share important values, like sovereignty and self-determination."

Chicago Cuba Coalition activist Steve Eckardt updated the meeting on the fight to free the five and urged all those in attendance to help get out the word about the frame-up and become involved in future activities in their defense.

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



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# Prisoners in Ga. and NC protest solitary, brutality

BY JOHN STUDER

Hunger strikes by prisoners protesting conditions in solitary confinement have taken place in Georgia and North Carolina over the past two months against longstanding abuse, denial of basic rights and the brutality of solitary itself.

On June 11, 20 inmates started a hunger strike against conditions in solitary at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson. The fight dates back to December 2010, when a hunger strike broke out across the Georgia prison system. It was met with a crackdown by prison authorities. Thirty-seven prisoners involved in the protests were shipped to Jackson and thrown into solitary.

One of the central leaders of the strike is Miguel Jackson, a participant in the 2010 protests. He was beaten on the head with a hammer in retaliation before being transferred to Jackson and placed in solitary, according to his family.

"They have no rights to anything," Cowanda Jackson, Miguel's sister-in-law, told a rally outside the state's Department of Corrections in Forsyth July 16, reported the Black Agenda Report, an online newsletter. "We can't see them, we can't write to them, they are not allowed to brush their teeth or sleep on a bed... they need to be treated like human beings and not animals."

The prisoners' central demand is for release from solitary and that prison officials conduct monthly review of their status, as required by law. They also demand restoration of family visits, which have been shut down; access to their mail; and medical attention.

Dozens of prisoners in three prisons in North Carolina—Central Prison in Raleigh, Bertie Correctional Institution in Windsor and Scotland Correctional Institution in Laurinburg—began hunger strikes July 16, according to Solitarywatch.com, a website that covers prison conditions.



Bruce Dixon

July 16 protest at Georgia's Department of Corrections office in Forsyth. Holding bullhorn is Delma Jackson, wife of inmate Miguel Jackson, one of 37 targeted for role in hunger strikes.

## Subscriptions to prisoners nearly double over year

BY LEA SHERMAN

The *Militant* is getting around in prisons across the country. Sixty workers behind bars currently subscribe to the socialist newsweekly—nearly double the number compared to this time last year. Many got their first glimpse of the paper from a fellow inmate and are themselves now using it to help spread the voice of working-class resistance.

Nineteen inmates subscribe to the paper in Florida alone. One new subscriber at a prison in that state recently sent in a \$15 donation.

Some subscribers are in solitary confinement, including in the notorious SHU (Security Housing Units) in California—windowless, 8-by-10-foot cells where prisoners are held for at least 22 hours a day, sometimes for decades at a stretch, with little human contact.

Last year thousands of prisoners in California joined in hunger strikes in July and September demanding relief from this barbarous treatment.

Last year in the Sept. 19 issue, the *Militant* printed a letter from a hunger striker imprisoned in Pelican Bay, Calif. "I enjoyed the coverage you gave of the California hunger strike. I felt the need to give thanks to you for the support on this issue and to give an account of the protest from one of the participants here," it said.

Following a description of the conditions in the SHU and the fight against it, the letter concluded: "As each day passes, more poor people are crammed into

these tombs. Yet in these dark gulags, clenched fists are being raised in greater numbers, and these tombs are being transformed into schools for revolution."

More recently, in the June 18 issue, the *Militant* printed a letter from another inmate who has been in the SHU for the last 15 years. "I would be most grateful if I was added to your mailing list. Reading material is like gold in here. I'll be sure to share with the rest of the fellow comrades," he wrote.

The *Militant* is most grateful to have partisans like these fighters behind bars and looks forward to expanding our circulation in prisons across the country.

Subscriptions to prisoners are made possible by contributions from *Militant* readers to our Prisoners' Fund. The fund makes it possible for inmates, often with help from friends or family, to order subscriptions at reduced rates of \$6 for every six months. Six-month subscriptions are also offered free of charge for those who have no means to pay.

We always appreciate hearing from fellow workers behind bars. Below are some of the letters the *Militant* has received from prisoners since June.

*Lea Sherman is the Militant business manager.*

❖

### A means to push stricter laws

Since the enactment of the Patriot Act, we've lost our identity, the incentive to be able to learn from our mistakes. We've become gang members, terrorists, criminals—a lost cause. We are not represented either in class or politics. We've become propaganda, news, a means to push for stricter laws, more law enforcement, less freedom in exchange for the appearance and sense of "safety."

At this very moment, if you possess any form of a criminal record, you are being targeted, entrapped, set up or just picked up and charged with conspiracy.

I'm facing a guideline range of 360 months to life on a trumped-up charge

that carries a five-year mandatory minimum. The extra 25 years to life constitutes enhancements due to my prior criminal history. A history I've paid my dues for.

This is what we are facing as citizens of a free nation. Morning raids, breaking down the doors of your house, pointing guns at your family, your children, ripping you from your home, throwing you into a detention center, charging you \$10 for a twenty-minute phone call, restricting you from being able to touch your family on visits, put on the judicial assembly line with federal public defenders who neglect to, or more commonly, refuse to advocate your case, coercing you to accept a plea bargain while intimidating you because the feds have a 97 percent conviction rate. ... I could go on but the bottom line is: no choice, no rights, no representation.

*A prisoner  
Rhode Island*

### Seeking knowledge of struggles

I'm interested in your Pathfinder books and any other material that expresses sympathy towards the struggles that be. I'm trying to make it in the prison system day by day. I'm working basically for free and I don't have the proper funds to obtain knowledge of the struggles, but I would like to obtain it if I could. Your help is needed in this matter to increase my enlightenment.

*A prisoner  
Florida*

### Recently came across paper

I recently came across a copy of your newspaper and enjoyed reading it very much. I would like to start a subscription to it, but I am in prison and can't afford it at this time.

Do you have a reduced rate for persons like myself?

Thanks in advance for your help.

*A prisoner  
Florida*

### We need stronger unions

Thank you for the six-month sub-

scription to the *Militant*. It's a great newspaper and I will be looking forward to getting it every week. Thank you for keeping folks informed about prisoners' struggles and for fighting for the rights of all working people.

Recently I saw an article in my hometown newspaper from Stockton, Mo., about candidates for Missouri State Representative and noticed that Mr. Warren Love seems to be against unions.

Being from that area, I know that it is one of the poorest parts of Missouri, maybe if we had stronger unions, workers wouldn't have to settle for low-paying jobs.

Thanks again. Keep up the good fight.  
*A prisoner  
Florida*

### Just a short note ...

... to let you know that I continue to receive your publication and thank you for it.

*A prisoner  
California*

### 'Militant' needed for study groups

Greetings of Solidarity! I write as a Revolutionist to inform you of my change of address. I have been receiving your paper for sometime and the subscription has stopped. I am indigent and not able to pay for a subscription. So if you could, I ask that you please add me back to your mailing list.

Throughout the months, myself and others have been using your newspaper in study groups I have put together concerning social issues. I would like to continue receiving your paper. It would be a blessing.

*A prisoner  
Pennsylvania*

### Passing paper around in yard

I love what the *Militant* is putting out to the masses. I've been passing your paper around the yard to share with others what is really going on in the world.

*A prisoner  
Virginia*

## 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions.

To donate, send a check or money order payable to the *Militant* and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

# History of European Jewry, roots of anti-Semitism

*Below is an excerpt from The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation by Abram Leon, a leader of the communist movement who was active in underground factory committees in Belgium during the Nazi occupation. He was arrested by the Gestapo in 1944 and died later that year in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz at the age of 26. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted with permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ABRAM LEON

### 1. Precapitalist period

This was also the period of the greatest prosperity of the Jews. Commercial and usurious "capital" found great possibilities for expansion in feudal society. The Jews were protected by the kings and princes, and their relations with other classes were in general good.

This situation lasted up to the eleventh century in Western Europe. ...

Feudal economy continued to dominate Eastern Europe till the end of the eighteenth century. And the center of Jewish life shifted more and more to that area.

### 2. Period of medieval capitalism

From the eleventh century on, Western Europe entered a period of intensive economic development. The first stage of this evolution was characterized



Belgium Radio & TV

Jews loaded onto truck in Antwerpen, Belgium, before being deported. Between April 1942 and April 1944, an estimated 50,000 Belgian Jews were killed in Nazi's Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Abram Leon, author of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*, was a central leader of Belgian communist movement. He was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944.

by the creation of a corporative industry and a native merchant bourgeoisie. The penetration of mercantile economy into the agricultural domain determined the second stage.

The growth of cities and of a native merchant class brought with it the complete elimination of the Jews from commerce. They became usurers whose principal clientele consisted of the nobility and the kings. But the mercantile transformation of agricultural economy resulted in undermining these positions as well.

The relative abundance of money enabled the nobility to throw off the yoke of the usurer. The Jews were driven from one country after another. Others became assimilated, being absorbed mainly by the native bourgeoisie. ...

In general, the period of medieval capitalism was that of the most violent Jewish persecutions. Jewish "capital" came into conflict with all classes of society. ...

Medieval capitalism was practically unknown in Eastern Europe. There was no separation between merchants capital and usurious capital. ... Whereas the Jews were progressively eliminated from the countries of the West, they constantly strengthened their position in Eastern Europe. It was only in the nineteenth century that the development of

capitalism (it is no longer corporative capitalism this time, but modern capitalism, which appears on the scene) began to undermine the prosperous condition of the Russian and Polish Jews. ...

### 3. Period of manufacture and industrial capitalism

To the extent that the Jews survived in Western Europe—and only a few were left there—they took part in the development of capitalism. ... Precisely because the Jews represented a primitive capitalism (mercantile and usurious), the development of modern capitalism could only prove fatal to their social position.

This fact does not at all exclude—from it—the individual participation of the Jews in the creation of modern capitalism. But wherever the Jews were integrated into the capitalist class, there *they were likewise assimilated*. ...

If Judaism did not completely disappear in the West, it was owing to the mass influx of Jews from Eastern Europe. The Jewish question, which is now posed on a world scale, therefore results primarily from the situation of Eastern Judaism. ...

While the disequilibrium between the crumbling of feudalism and the development of capitalism was disappearing in Western Europe, it

was growing worse in the backward Eastern European countries. The destruction of feudal economy and primitive forms of capitalism proceeded there much more rapidly than the development of modern capitalism. Increasingly greater masses of peasants and artisans had to seek their road of salvation in emigration. ...

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Jewish masses sought new roads of immigration. But at first it was toward the interior of Russia and Germany that they headed. The Jews succeeded in penetrating the great industrial and commercial centers where they played an important role as merchants and industrialists. Here we come upon a new and important fact: For the first time in centuries a Jewish proletariat was born. ...

The Jewish proletariat, however, remained concentrated mainly in the sector of consumer goods industry. It was primarily of the artisan type. In the same measure as large-scale industry expanded its field of exploitation, the artisan branches of economy declined. The workshop was superseded by the factory. ... Jewish masses streamed in ever larger numbers from Eastern Europe to the West and to America. The solution of the Jewish question, that is to say, the complete absorption of the Jews into economic life, thus became a world problem.

### 4. The decline of capitalism

By socially differentiating Judaism, by integrating the latter into economic life, and by emigration, capitalism has laid the bases for the solution of the Jewish problem. But capitalism has failed to solve it. On the contrary, the fearsome crisis of the capitalist regime in the twentieth century has aggravated the plight of the Jews to an unparalleled degree. ...

Everywhere is rife the savage anti-Semitism of the middle classes, who are being choked to death under the weight of capitalist contradictions. Big capital exploits this elemental anti-Semitism of the petty bourgeoisie in order to mobilize the masses around the banner of racism. The Jews are being strangled between the jaws of two systems; feudalism and capitalism, each feeding the rottenness of the other.

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## EDITORIAL

# Legalize undocumented workers!

Several articles in this issue of the *Militant* bring to the fore how the fight for the legalization of undocumented workers is key to unite workers in our struggles against the bosses and their governments—from the United States to Greece and beyond.

The Greek government recently rounded up 6,000 immigrants. The Public Order minister says that by the end of the year up to 10,000 will be detained, and most deported.

Under the current U.S. Democratic administration, firings, arrests, detentions and deportations of undocumented workers have increased.

The capitalist rulers need immigrant workers. They use them as a source of cheap labor and superprofits. In so-called normal times, this helps them to drive down the wages, working conditions and rights of all workers.

In periods of economic crisis, the boss class needs them less for work and more as scapegoats to obscure the real source of joblessness and other burdens foisted on workers and to divide us, in order to weaken our ability to mount united struggles against their relentless assaults on our rights, living conditions, unions and dignity. The government assaults are meant to decrease the net flow of immigration and deepen the pariah status of those who remain.

Everywhere but revolutionary Cuba, the bosses use patriotic and nationalist arguments to convince working people that we have common interest with them against our working-class brothers and sisters in other countries, and to back them in trade conflicts and the shooting wars they lead to.

Meanwhile, capitalists invest their capital where they find the cheapest sources of labor within and outside national borders.

Today, like never before, the capitalists' reach encompasses all humanity, as does the crisis of their system, as does the resistance to it by the toiling majority. We can either let our common enemy pit us against each other in a global race to the bottom, or recognize and act on the basis of our common interests.

Working-class politics start with the world. For the workers' movement, defense of workers without "proper papers," and internationalist and working-class solidarity are life and death questions.

That's why the working class, labor, socialist campaign of James Harris and Maura DeLuca is building solidarity across the country and abroad—from workers engaged in strikes and lockout battles to struggles by immigrant workers to live, work and fight wherever the conditions created by capitalism bring them.

## World production falls, Spain crisis deepens

### Continued from front page

slowed to its weakest level in nearly three years, according to the *Financial Times*. Manufacturing contracted for a second consecutive month in July and export orders fell to the lowest level since April 2009.

Germany's export-driven economy, the largest in Europe, has also experienced a manufacturing decline and the steepest drop in new export orders in July of any country within the 17-nation eurozone. Chinese factories buy much of their machine tools and equipment from German firms. At the same time, Germany's unemployment rate stands at the relatively low figure of 6.8 percent.

Throughout the eurozone, factory production has dropped to its lowest level in more than three years.

As they target the working class with unrelenting demands for cuts in living standards, the propertied rulers are advancing various financial schemes to put off defaults on the massive government debt owed to banks and other bondholders in hopes of averting breakdowns in finance, on which modern capitalist economic activity depends.

### Impact of crisis in Spain

In Spain, nearly one-quarter of all workers are unemployed, and for those under age 25 the figure is more than 50 percent. To survive, many workers have moved back with their parents. "Spain has the highest rate in Europe of multi-generational families bunking in together," reported the *Los Angeles Times*. "Two-thirds of Spaniards under age 30 still live with their parents."

A survey conducted earlier this year by Simple Lógica, Gallup's partner in Spain, reported a sharp rise in adults 65 and older supporting younger relatives. In February 40 percent did so, up from 15 percent two years earlier. Pensions for the elderly are among the few benefits that have thus far not been slashed, though they have been frozen since last year, noted a *New York Times* article.

Among more than 5 million immigrants in Spain, the official unemployment rate stands at 37 percent. In the first half of this year about 230,000 immigrants as well as more than 40,000 other Spanish workers left the country, according to the National Statistics Institute. Spain's population is declining for the first time in decades.

In mid-July, in response to the Spanish government's demand for \$80 billion in spending cuts for jobs and social services and higher taxes on working people, thousands of workers rallied in Madrid. They were joined by thousands of miners who had marched some 250 miles over 20 days from the Asturias region of northern Spain against cuts in mining subsidies that

will result in mine closures and job losses.

### Housing bubble collapse

Spain's earlier period of ostensible economic growth was based in part on massive investment in housing construction, reaching its peak in 2006. The collapse of the housing bubble has sent real estate prices tumbling. The country's housing price index dropped 8.3 percent from a year earlier reported the *Wall Street Journal* in mid-July, with no indication it's bottoming out.

"In the entire recorded history of capitalism there has never been a property crash that hasn't been followed by a banking crisis. Spain has a huge property crash, and it's not likely to be the first exception to that rule," stated a May 30 MarketWatch article titled "6 Reasons Spain Will Leave the Euro First."

In May, the Spanish government bailed out Bankia, the country's third largest bank, to the tune of \$24 billion. Two months later, eurozone authorities approved a \$123 billion bailout to be directly funneled to additional Spanish banks.

This move includes a scheme to set up a "bad bank," where worthless assets can be placed under government ownership, cleaning up on paper Spain's banking books.

Shoring up Spanish bonds is now also being discussed. In response to interest rates hovering around 7 percent on 10-year government bonds, Prime Minister Rajoy is considering asking that "Europe's rescue fund buy its sovereign bonds to bring down its borrowing costs," the *Financial Times* reported Aug. 4.

Preparing for a euro breakup, U.S. banks are engaged in "work behind the scenes to ensure that if a country leaves the eurozone they will not have to receive payments in a devalued [Greek] drachma or [Spanish] peseta," the paper noted Aug. 6.

In Greece, the government approved Aug. 1 a new round of austerity measures of \$14 billion that include targeting pensions. Coalition government leaders from the Socialist Pasok and the Democratic Left parties, both of which had been urging these cuts be spread out over four years, decided to back the proposal of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, leader of the New Democracy Party, to implement them in half that time.

Amid high unemployment, the government has been tightening its borders and scapegoating immigrants, whose labor is no longer in great demand by bosses. Authorities detained 6,000 people in immigration raids in Athens August 4-5. "Officers across the city were seen stopping mostly African and Asian people in the street for identification checks," reported AP.

## NY mayor: just say no to soda and baby formula

### BY SETH GALINSKY

When New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced plans, not yet approved, to ban the sale of soft drinks in cups larger than 16 ounces in fast food restaurants and delis regulated by the city—for our own good—many working people shook their heads in disbelief and amusement.

What will the liberal do-gooders and promoters of big-brother government come up with next, many thought, in using laws and regulations to help guide us in making "better" decisions in every aspect of our lives?

With the announcement of the city government's expansion of an initiative to "encourage" women—translation: badger, pressure, guilt-bait, penalize—to breast-feed their newborn infants instead of using infant formula, we found out pretty quick.

## COMMENTARY

The billionaire mayor—who acts more like a liberal wannabe meritocrat—has jumped on the latest fad to mount social pressure on women to first and foremost be "good mothers," and accept whatever sacrifices that entails. The new campaign dovetails with the growth of an obsessive "parenting" trend most prevalent among middle classes.

At the heart of this program is the enforcement of New York State "hospital regulation to not supplement breast-feeding infants with formula feeding unless medically indicated and documented on the infant's medical chart," the city health department says. In addition, the hospitals must "restrict access to infant formula by hospital staff."

Twenty-seven of the 40 area hospitals that handle childbirths are on board.

Before the mother can get the first bottle of formula, "there's an education, the nurse explains the benefit of breast-feeding," Christian Preston, spokesperson for Staten Island Hospital told the *Militant*. "But if the patient still wants it, it will be provided."

Asked if this means that infant formula would be handled like prescription medicine, Preston replied, "It's not being locked up with a key, but it must be disbursed and tracked. It won't be right there in the room."

The *New York Post* reports that nurses' aides at Staten Island Hospital don't have automatic access to formula, it must be signed out by a registered nurse. Many hospitals, especially those that cater to working people, are understaffed and the nurses overworked. Will women who request formula get it when they want it?

Bloomberg and the social engineers who promote "Latch on New York City" are pitching the plan as a way to counteract greedy corporations who seek to make money off parents of newborns. As part of signing on to the program, hospitals will ban advertising of infant formula and free sample giveaways.

Most doctors believe there are health advantages for mothers and infants from breast-feeding, although how much is a matter of some debate.

While women from the upper classes can find a way to organize their life so they can breast-feed if they so choose, for working-class women who hold down a job, it's not so easy. According to the New York Health Department, 90 percent of women who give birth in New York start out breast-feeding. Within two months only 31 percent are doing so exclusively.

Instead of arrogant lectures and regulations to "help" women do what the government thinks is best for themselves and their infants, women should have access to day care centers, medical care regardless of their ability to pay and paid maternity leave—and be left alone to make their own decisions.

### 'Militant' holiday schedule

The next issue of the *Militant*, mailed out on Aug. 16, will be a two-week issue, as we will be taking a one-week break.