

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Case of Cuban 5 is case of Cuban Revolution'

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 34 SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

## Washington, Tel Aviv spar over moves against Iran

BY LOUIS MARTIN

A debate is heating up between the U.S. and Israeli governments, as well as within Israel's ruling class itself, on whether to take military action against Iran's nuclear facilities or maintain crippling sanctions and other pressure for now as part of an imperialist campaign to force Tehran to abandon its nuclear program.

In a move clearly aimed at furthering Tehran's international isolation, the Canadian government closed its embassy in Tehran Sept. 7 and expelled Iranian diplomats.

Both Washington and Tel Aviv maintain that Iran's program is intended for nuclear arms development and say they are determined to stop it by any means, including by force if they deem it necessary. The disagreement is over whether to launch an air assault at this time. Tehran asserts that its program is for producing needed electrical power and medical isotopes for the treatment of cancer.

The imperialist sanctions have had an impact on Iran's economy and

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## Shrinking labor force, discouragement mark 'recovery'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Contrary to what government figures portray, employment has not recovered in any meaningful sense since the official end of the recession in mid-2009. This has had a discouraging effect on working people.

Rather than a real decline in unemployment, what has taken place over the last few years is a contraction of those the government counts as part of the labor force, as millions who are unable to find work—and often give up trying—are no longer counted for the purposes of figuring the unemployment rate.

The latest figures, announced the day after the Democratic Party Convention, is a case in point. The August unemployment rate went down to 8.1 percent from 8.3 percent the month before, with the Labor Department reporting 96,000 more employed. But the only significant factor in the rate drop was the subtraction of 368,000 workers from the official labor force.

Among those not counted are mil-

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## 'US bosses' 2-party system provides illusion of choice'

SWP pres. candidate starts Pacific tour in Australia



Militant/Bob Aiken

James Harris, front right, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, at campaign event in Sydney, Australia, Sept. 8. "Only way for workers to advance is to fight, build organizations based on our own strength, and gain confidence over time on road to taking political power."

BY LINDA HARRIS AND RON POULSEN

SYDNEY—"Workers have much more in common internationally than we have with the ruling classes in our respective countries," James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, said at a campaign event here Sept. 8.

Joanne Kuniansky, Communist

League candidate for mayor of Canterbury, joined Harris on the platform.

"We are in the midst of a deep economic crisis, more worldwide than ever before," Harris continued. "Large parts of the world from China and India to Brazil are now integrated into the capitalist system whereas in

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## Chicago teachers strike in response to mayor's union-busting offensive



Militant/Ilona Gersh

Thousands of striking teachers march through downtown Chicago Sept. 10.

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO, Sept. 10—Some 29,000 members of the Chicago Teachers Union, American Federation of Teachers Local 1, went on strike here this morning in face of an anti-union offensive led by Mayor Rahm Emanuel. At 6:30 a.m., picket lines went up at the 675 public schools.

Chicago is the third largest U.S. school district. Major dailies from the

Wall Street Journal to the New York Times are prominently covering the battle and siding with the city government.

In the afternoon, teachers began picketing outside the Chicago Public Schools headquarters downtown. Before long they encircled the block and spilled out into the street.

When the block filled up, a river of

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## Newburgh, NY, rally: 'Broaden fight against killings by police'

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEWBURGH, N.Y.—This city of 28,000 people nearly 70 miles north of New York City became a rallying point Aug. 27 for fighters against cop

killings. Families from around New York state and New Jersey got together to share experiences and organize.

"We hope you will all be at the Bronx courthouse Sept. 13, when a hearing for the cop who killed my son takes place," said Frank Graham, addressing the rally. "We want this cop in jail. ... Wherever it takes us, we'll go there."

Ramarley Graham, 18, was shot Feb. 2 in the bathroom of his apartment by New York undercover narcotics cop Richard Haste. After fail-

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## Author pushes FBI 'snitch-jacket' allegations against deceased activist

BY JOHN STUDER

On Aug. 20 the San Francisco Chronicle published an article written by its former reporter Seth Rosenfeld advancing "snitch-jacket" charges

**OPPOSE FBI DISRUPTION OPERATIONS**

—See editorial, p. 9

made by a deceased FBI agent that long-time political activist Richard Aoki was an FBI informant.

Aoki, a Japanese-American, was a

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# UK protests condemn deaths in police custody

BY PAMELA HOLMES

BIRMINGHAM, England—"No more cover-ups," Kadisha Brown-Burrell told more than 200 demonstrators outside the convenience store here Aug. 18 where her brother, Kingsley Burrell, was taken by police before he died in their custody.

Kingsley Burrell phoned police when he and his young son were threatened by a group of men on March 27, 2011. Burrell was detained by cops, sectioned under the Mental Health Act and died in a hospital four days later.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission launched an inquiry but there has still not been an inquest. The IPCC's annual report for 2011-2012 for England and Wales shows 121 deaths during or following police contact.

The fight is "important so it doesn't happen to the next person's family," said Paul Morrison, who knew Burrell.

Supporters of the fight to prosecute cops who killed Anthony Grainger, shot dead by police on March 3 this year, came from Manchester. Wesley Ahmed, Grainger's cousin, explained they want "to reach out to more campaigns from people who are in the same boat as us. The police shouldn't be above the law, they should be accountable for their actions."

"If we don't continue fighting, we won't see the justice we deserve," Janet Brown, Burrell's mother, told demonstrators at the end of the protest.

Also present were Marcia and Samantha Rigg. On Aug. 1, a jury at a coroner's inquest ruled that cops used "unsuitable force" in the 2008 death of their brother Sean Rigg. Rigg was

schizophrenic and in need of care when cops arrested, beat and left him to die in London's Brixton police station.

Some 300 attended a memorial meeting for Rigg in London Aug. 21, the fourth anniversary of his death. The event was followed by a march to the Brixton police station.

The cops' "brutality is to intimidate us out of protesting," said Samantha Rigg at the Aug. 21 demonstration. "The only answer is to protest."

Both events ended with the call to build the United Family and Friends Campaign march Oct. 27 in London.

*Anne Howie from London and Hugo Wils from Manchester contributed to this article.*



March in Birmingham, England, Aug. 18 to protest death of Kingsley Burrell in police custody in March last year. "No more cover-ups," demanded Burrell's sister, Kadisha Brown-Burrell.

## Suit against FBI spying dismissed on 'security' pretext

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With the Barack Obama administration invoking its "state secrets privilege," a federal judge Aug. 14 dismissed a lawsuit over FBI spying on Muslims in southern California.

The suit sought to expose a broad FBI dragnet in the area from 2006 to 2007, dubbed Operation Flex, which included undercover FBI informant Craig Monteilh conducting surveillance on Muslims affiliated with about 10 mosques in Los Angeles and Orange County.

The suit was filed in February 2011 by three Muslims living in Orange County—Yassir Fazaga, a U.S. citizen born in Eritrea; Ali Uddin Malik, a U.S. citizen born in southern California; and

Yasser AbdelRahim, a U.S. permanent resident from Egypt. Attorneys for the plaintiffs—the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations—were seeking class-action status for the case.

Monteilh, who has since gone public about his FBI affiliation, filed a court declaration detailing aspects of his work as an FBI informant. Paid up to \$11,200 a month, he was instructed to record all conversations through audio and video equipment with a hidden camera placed on his shirt, all of which were then forwarded to FBI files.

FBI handlers told him to "immerse myself in the Muslim community" and "gather information on as many people and institutions as possible," his declaration stated.

This spying included filming layout of mosques, gathering information on Muslims' donations to charity, attending fundraising events, collecting information on travel plans, attending lectures by Muslim scholars and working out with Muslims in a local gym, summarized federal Judge Cormac Carney in his document ruling on the case.

Charges by the plaintiffs included an invasion of privacy, violation of their First Amendment right to free

speech, to equal protection under the Fifth Amendment, and unreasonable searches under the Fourth Amendment. They sought damages and destruction or return of any information gathered through Operation Flex.

While Judge Carney wrote that "plaintiffs allege many disturbing facts about Operation Flex and wrongdoing by Defendants," he nonetheless threw the case out of court on the basis that "the state secrets privilege may unfortunately mean the sacrifice of individual liberties for the sake of national security."

In August 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder asserted the state secrets privilege over the government's evidence in the case. This evidence was made available to the judge but not to the plaintiffs or their attorneys.

Holder's declaration said he "concurred with the FBI's determination that disclosure of the identities of subjects of counterterrorism investigations" and "disclosure that an individual is not a subject of a national security investigation could likewise reasonably be expected to cause significant harm to national security."

The plaintiffs plan to appeal the dismissal.

# THE MILITANT

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Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, member of punk band Pussy Riot, on her way to court Aug. 8.

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# SWP candidate in Australia

Continued from front page  
the 1930s, most people in these countries were subsistence farmers.

“Our politics start with the world,” he explained. “International issues such as defending the Russian punk rock band Pussy Riot as well as striking South African miners against government repression are important for the working class to take on and understand as our own.”

“It is becoming clearer that Australia is not immune to the international crisis,” Kuniansky said, pointing to recent reports on “the Chinese economy slowing down, the fall in iron ore prices by more than 25 percent in the last month, major investment projects in the mining industry put on hold, and growing plant closures and layoffs in manufacturing and retail.

“None of the capitalist parties have any solutions to this crisis of their system, except to keep going after our wages and working conditions,” she said.

“As the crisis deepens the rulers will drive more and more against their competitors around the world. This is what leads to war,” Harris said. “You can see this logic beginning to unfold in the current redeployment of the U.S. military against China.”

Kuniansky added that Australia’s rulers are deepening their military ties with Washington, with U.S. Marines now stationed in Darwin and an expanding U.S. use of air and navy bases across northern Australia.

“What is missing from the news here about the U.S. elections is the working class. But there are no issues that float above classes,” Harris explained. “In the U.S. there is a housing crisis from two different class outlooks: for the rulers there is too much housing; for us there is not enough.”

For several in attendance this was their first campaign event. A lively discussion followed the presentations focused on abortion rights, police brutality, the weakness of unions today and the rulers’ use of the two-party system.

During Harris’ tour in Sydney, he and Kuniansky were interviewed by Radio 2SER, a community station. Reporting on its Aug. 28 mayoral candidates debate, the *Canterbury-Bankstown Express*, a district weekly, summed up Kuniansky’s platform as

“looking to a future not based on profits but on human needs.”

On Sept. 7 Harris met with workers from Pharmapak, a pharmaceutical plant in north Sydney.

One worker from the Philippines said the company never gave them information about the dangers of the drugs they are working with. Harris responded that workers have to organize together to defend themselves.

Kuniansky came back to this at the campaign event, pointing to the example of a recent fight by construction workers in Melbourne against Grocon, a large building company, over the right to elect their own safety officers on the job. Cops attacked the union picket line and capitalist media vilified union officials.

“These workers are using union power to try to have more control over their dangerous working conditions,” she said.

“The working class is the class that produces all the wealth and controls none of it,” Harris added. “The only way for working people to advance is by building organizations based on our own strength, fighting and gaining confidence over time on the road to taking political power.”

## Obama, Romney conventions

“The Republican and Democratic Party conventions were just shows to put their candidates in the best light,” Harris told the *Militant* from New Zealand, following the tour in Australia. “They don’t actually nominate their candidate or decide anything.

# Fla. meeting answers denial of ballot status to SWP

BY DEAN HAZLEWOOD

MIAMI—“The state of Florida’s refusal to place the Socialist Workers Party candidates—James Harris for president and Maura DeLuca for vice president—on the ballot is an attack not only on our party, but on all working people. Our response is to step up our campaign,” said Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Florida, at a program at the party’s campaign headquarters here Sept. 8.

Craine related a discussion with Kirk Butts, a groundskeeper and campaign supporter in Brooksville.

## Chicago: Socialist candidate backs teachers’ fight



Militant/Betsy Farley

John Hawkins, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Illinois’ 1st District, campaigns at Labor Day rally Sept. 3 in Chicago in support of teachers’ strike.

“If you have any illusion about that, you can look at what happened at the Democratic convention on the party platform, where the drafters left out reference to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. But the platform can’t go against settled positions of the U.S. ruling class,” Harris said. “The chair called for a revote three times to put the reference to Jerusalem back in. Three times it failed, and he just declared it passed.

“Both candidates claimed they had the formula to ‘fix’ the economy. But it can’t be ‘stimulated’ or prodded by government policy,” he said. “It’s not a fiscal problem, or question of the right

tax scheme or government regulation. Their problem is a historic crisis of capital accumulation, of declining production and trade. For this they have no solution, no plan aside from the one thing they agree on: to go after the working class.

“Romney said Obama is responsible for the mess,” Harris said. “Obama said Romney would be worse. You pick the lesser evil.

“The Democrats and Republicans represent the rulers’ two-party system, which serves to give the illusion that we have a choice and say in the direction of the capitalist government.”

“He called to say he just received the campaign buttons and flyers he’d ordered. He started wearing the button to work, which started discussions with several coworkers. Some are now reading the candidates’ biographies.”

The week before, the state Division of Elections denied the SWP presidential ticket ballot status. (See accompanying article.) Many of those who had agreed to serve as electors for the party came to the meeting to protest this attack on democratic rights and to learn about the campaign’s next steps.

Rosario Martínez, an elector in Orlando and activist in the fight to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López, sent a message.

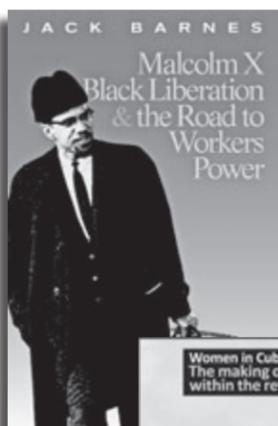
“The capitalist system uses so-called representative democracy as a cover for the dictatorship of capital,”

he wrote. “They call on us to participate in their game, but then when they see our participation as a threat to their interests they act in a brutally dictatorial manner. The SWP is prevented from participating in the Florida elections because of its stand in defense of the working class.”

Nicholas Marte, a health care worker, told the meeting that when he signed up to be an elector he noticed that the SWP is listed as a “minor” party. “We should fight to make them remove the word ‘minor.’ It should just be the Socialist Workers Party.”

“We ask working people to campaign with us, to help us get out the word about the working-class alternative and to vote for us,” Craine said, “whether you pull the party lever or write in the candidates’ names.”

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Available from  
distributors, page 8

## SWP argues for right to be on ballot in Florida

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MIAMI—The Florida Department of State informed the Socialist Workers Party Aug. 31 that it would not place the party’s presidential candidates on the ballot for the November election. A few days earlier, campaign supporters had filed a list of 29 electors and three alternates at the Division of Elections office in Tallahassee.

The SWP was on the presidential  
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### Literature on SWP presidential campaign



Campaign flyer: \$2.50 for 25  
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# Rally in Newburgh, NY

Continued from front page

ing to get into the house through the front door, Haste and his supervisor, Scott Morris, went into the building through the back, then kicked in the door to the apartment. The cops claim they shot because they thought he was armed. No gun was found anywhere in the house.

Constance Malcolm, Graham's mother, described to rally participants how the family has organized vigils, demonstrations and other activities on Thursdays since the Thursday her son was shot. They traveled to Chicago and Detroit to link up with fights against police brutality before coming to Newburgh.

The rally here was organized by the family of Michael Lembhard, who was killed by Newburgh cops March 7—shot with 15 bullets, eight in the back. After being chased by four officers, Lembhard, 22, fled into his sister's house. Cops claim they shot after he came after them with a knife. The rally was the culmination of a 15-day-vigil, 15 days for the 15 shots.

Convinced that the cops were lying, relatives decided to press for an indictment. Gov. Andrew Cuomo denied a special investigation requested by the Newburgh City Council. On July 10, a grand jury ruled the cops acted in self-defense.

"With the vigil and the rally we want to broaden the fight and reach out to others who've gone through the same thing," Arlene Lembhard, Michael's mother, told the *Militant*.

The date of the rally was Michael Lembhard's birthday. The family and supporters organized a barbecue and

set up tables and chairs under a picnic tent. The platform of a big flatbed truck functioned as a speaker's stage.

Omari Shakur chaired the rally. His son Antonio Bryant was killed by Newburgh cops in 2006 at the age of 23. Shakur has been active in the Lembhard fight from the beginning. He reported that a bus will be chartered from Newburgh to go to the Bronx Sept. 13.

"Police killings are a pandemic disease. It's all over the world," said Kenneth Chamberlain Jr., in his remarks.

His father, Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., from White Plains, N.Y., accidentally hit his cardiac alert system Nov. 19. The medical alert company asked the police to respond. When the cops arrived Chamberlain insisted he was fine and refused to open the door. After being kept out for an hour the cops took the door off the hinges, shot Chamberlain with a Taser and beanbag gun before fatally shooting him in the chest. On May 3 a grand jury cleared the cops of any wrongdoing.

## Cops paint victim as the criminal

Chamberlain Jr. pointed to a common tactic used by the cops—painting the victim as the criminal. "They claim my father was the aggressor, that he attacked them. But he didn't take down the door."

Margarita Rosario and Juanita Young came from New York. Rosario's son Antonio, then 18, and nephew Hilton Vega, 21, were killed in 1995 by city cops in the Bronx.

"I've fought ever since. Don't let them cover up what happened by being quiet. The way they're killing our children is getting crazier," Rosario said. "And don't do what the lawyers tell you to, all they ever told me was



Militant/Sara Lobman

Participants in Aug. 27 rally in Newburgh, N.Y., who have had a family member killed by cops in the greater New York area. Among them, first standing row from right, Margarita Rosario, (unidentified), Juanita Young, Frank Graham, Constance Malcolm, (unidentified), Arlene Lembhard; fourth from left, in white shirt behind children, Shirley Williams; last row, second from left, Omari Shakur, and third, Juanita King.

to give up."

Juanita Young's son Malcolm Ferguson, was killed at age 23 in March 2000. He had been arrested a week before, charged with resisting arrest while participating in a protest against the acquittals of the New York cops who killed Amadou Diallo in a hail of 41 bullets in 1999. Young got a conviction in a civil suit in 2007 and was awarded damages.

"But no criminal charges were ever brought," she told the *Militant*. "They won't touch that cop. He's still walking the streets of the Bronx." Young has joined the Graham family's fight.

Other speakers included Lembhard family lawyer Michael Sussman, Sundiata Sadiq from the Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, and Cynthia McKinney, former congresswoman from Georgia. Damon Jones, New York state representative for Blacks in Law Enforcement, and Carlton Berkley, retired police officer from New York, also spoke.

Shirley Williams came to the rally from Garfield, N.J., together with three other members of URGENT (United Residents of Garfield Engaged

in Neighborhood Transformation). The group was formed after Malik Williams, 19, Shirley's son, was killed by Garfield cops Dec. 10. A grand jury decided June 27 not to indict the cops. Members have held demonstrations and other protests since the killing.

"I thought this rally was amazing," Miguel Reyes, who is active in the group, told the *Militant*. "Just the stories all the people told, they were so real, all so different and yet all so much the same. It was really uplifting. I'm glad we came."

"We're really doing something. It was wonderful," Edith King, Arlene Lembhard's sister, told the *Militant*.

Juanita King, one of Michael Lembhard's cousins and a leader of the fight to indict his killers, closed the rally.

After reading a poem in his honor she said, "I wasn't here when Omari's son was killed. I wasn't here when other children were killed by Newburgh cops. But when it happened to us, it hit home.

"And now I'm here. And here I'll stay. I'm not going anywhere. I'll be here when the next family is hit."

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### IOWA

#### Des Moines

Workers Gain Political Space in the Middle East. Speaker: Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Iowa State Senate. Fri., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

Support the South African Miners! Speaker: Michael Fitzsimmons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 29th District. Fri., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

Our Politics Start with the World. Speaker: Mary Martin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Washington state. Fri., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

### CANADA

#### Montreal

Imperialist Sanctions Tighten, Israel Contemplates Bombing: Oppose Canada's Attacks Against Iran! Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Thurs., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### London

Hear James Harris, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. President. Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Donation: £3. First floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road, E2 6DG. Tel.: (020) 7613-2466.

## SWP argues for right to be on Florida ballot

Continued from page 3

ballot in Florida in 2000, 2004 and 2008. This year, officials used a new undemocratic election law, adopted in 2011, to declare the party ineligible.

To get on the presidential ballot, what the state calls "minor" political parties—that is anyone but the Democrats and Republicans—must either collect 112,174 signatures on nominating petitions or be affiliated with "a political party that is registered with and recognized as a qualified national committee of a political party by the Federal Election Commission."

Attorney Michael Krinsky, of the noted political rights firm Rabinowitz,

Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, wrote a letter accompanying the Florida SWP's filing of its candidates and electors, explaining why the candidates should be placed on the ballot.

The letter pointed out that the SWP is a "duly registered and recognized" party in Florida with a long history of running candidates and campaigning in the state and nationally. The party "has run candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States in every election since 1948, as well as numerous other candidates for state, federal and local offices between 1938 and today."

For 40 years, the SWP has fought for and won an exemption from having to file the names and addresses of its campaign contributors with the FEC to protect them from being targeted and harassed by government agents and rightists.

Based on this history, in 2010 the FEC advised the SWP campaign committee that "commission records indicate that your committee is a party committee."

However, in order to avoid onerous reporting and structural requirements, the committee is registered as a Political Action Committee and has not sought "national committee" status.

This is the basis on which the Division of Elections claims the SWP candidates are not qualified to be on the ballot.

The requirement to be recognized by the FEC as a "national committee" in order to have candidates on the ballot "is, itself, clearly unconstitutional under the governing decision of the Florida Supreme Court," Krinsky argued. In 2004 the court held that the "FEC's interest relates to the integrity of campaign fundraising access, whereas the state's interest lies in protecting the integrity of the ballot."

"Inclusion of the FSWP candidates on the ballot would not confuse or deceive voters," Krinsky said, "but rather would give them a choice to vote for FSWP's distinctive political positions, which are unlike those of all other parties presenting candidates on the ballot."

## —CALENDAR—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

An Evening of Nueva Trova Music Featuring Vicente Feliú. Thurs., Sept. 20, 8 p.m. Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. Tel.: (415) 641-7657. Sponsored by International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5.

# Longshore union confronts police frame-ups in Wash.

Member faces jail, int'l president to be retried

BY EDWIN FRUIT

LONGVIEW, Wash.—William “Sonny” Halliday, the last framed-up member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 to be prosecuted, agreed to a plea bargain Aug. 22 at the Cowlitz County Courthouse in Kelso.

Dozens of longshore workers were charged with various trumped-up charges as a result of protest actions held last September against the refusal of EGT Development to hire ILWU members at the grain terminal here in violation of the union’s agreement with the Port of Longview.

In face of the workers’ determination and widespread support for their fight, EGT in January agreed to hire ILWU members. They have been working in the terminal since February.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Dan Coffman, president of ILWU Local 21, explained what Halliday was doing during the Sept. 7 protest. “Halliday was using a log loader on the other side of a fence where protesters were gathering on train tracks near a grain train. He lifted a set of logs up so his view would not be obstructed.”

For that action, the Cowlitz County prosecutor charged him with five counts of “intent to do harm,” a felony assault charge. To avoid facing a possible three to five years in prison and the loss of his TWIC (transport workers identity card), Halliday decided to accept a plea bargain.

The felony charges were dropped in exchange for pleading “guilty” to delaying a train and three misdemeanors fourth degree assault charges, Coffman said. In an upcoming hearing with a judge, he expects to be sentenced to 120 days in jail—60 of which will be on work release—fined \$2,000 in court costs and serve two years probation.

While there are no other cases pending for members of the local, the Cowlitz County prosecutor’s office has decided to retry ILWU International President Robert McEllrath, who was acquitted following a hung jury in late June of charges stemming from the same protest, according to Coffman.

This trial is scheduled for late September.

Coffman also commented on the International Longshore Association pickets on the East Coast where longshore workers are protesting military work being carried out by non-ILA members.

“Here we go again,” Coffman said. “We were bolstered in our fight against EGT when ILA members Ken Riley from Charleston, S.C., and Mark Bass from Mobile, Ala., came out here to support us. We support them wholeheartedly. It is the same fight—an attack on our jurisdiction.”



AP Photo/Bill Wagner

Cops arrest International Longshore and Warehouse Union members and supporters Sept. 21, 2011, in protest at Port of Longview, Wash., against EGT Development union-busting drive.

## IAM accepts Caterpillar contract after 3-month strike

BY LAURA ANDERSON AND JOHN HAWKINS

JOLIET, Ill.—After three and a half months on strike, members of International Association of Machinists Local 851 voted Aug. 17 to accept the latest offer from Caterpillar. Union officials have not released the vote totals.

The six-year contract includes three provisions that differ from those in the original Caterpillar offer rejected twice by workers.

The approved agreement provides for a one-time wage increase for workers hired after May 2005—3 percent or a “market-based increase, whichever is greater.” For those hired before that date wages are frozen.

It limits the amount of time that bosses can change workers’ shifts or job classifications out of seniority to a 90-day period. It also includes a \$3,100 signing bonus.

The main contract provisions workers opposed from the beginning remain part of the agreement.

Caterpillar will be allowed to expand the use of “supplemental” workers to 20 percent of the workforce. Health care premiums will double. Defined benefit

pensions and cost-of-living increases will be eliminated and seniority rights significantly diminished.

“Nobody thinks this is a fair contract,” Corey Jones, a machinist for seven years and shop steward, told the *Militant* after voting against the proposal. “I don’t doubt we’ll overcome it, but we took a huge hit. Some people are very upset because of how close the vote was. Most wanted to stay out and fight but couldn’t because of financial problems.”

“I hate to give up a fight, but I don’t think there is anything more to get,” Bob Jessen, who has worked at the plant since 1974 and voted for the contract, told the *Wall Street Journal* Aug. 17.

“My savings are rapidly diminishing and with no health insurance it’s hurting my family, but I would never cross the picket line because of my coworkers. I never want bad blood between us,” John Donaldson, a machinist for two years, said to the *Militant*. He didn’t say how he voted.

Just over 100 workers out of 780 crossed the picket line during the strike.

“The majority of the local negotiating committee, five out of six, including myself, encouraged people to vote

the contract down,” Tim O’Brien, president of Local 851, said in a phone interview.

The international and district pressed for a “yes” vote.

During the battle with Caterpillar, which began May 1 when 780 members of Local 851 walked off the job, strikers organized 24-hour pickets. Unionists and other supporters visited the picket line daily to show solidarity and deliver donations. Strikers received more than \$90,000 in contributions and donations to their food bank.

“What Caterpillar’s contract proposals show is that this is a corporate-run country,” Jim Aagesen, a 38-year-old tool and die machinist, told the *Militant* as workers were waiting for the vote results to be announced. These corporations “want to get away from any form of responsibility for workers once they retire and from any sort of responsibility for helping cover the cost of workers’ health care.”

“This fight is beyond us, what’s happening needs to bring the working class together,” said Mike Kara, a machinist for over 17 years, who voted against the contract.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 25, 1987

TORONTO—Ten thousand auto workers walked off the job at Chrysler Canada September 15 to fight for their contract demands on the picket lines.

A central issue in the strike is the union’s insistence that pensions be protected from inflation. The Canadian Auto Workers want pension benefits indexed so that they rise when the cost of living goes up.

In negotiations with General Motors in 1984 and with Chrysler in 1985, Canadian auto workers rejected some of the concessions the auto companies were able to impose on United Auto Workers members in the United States. This included winning increases in the hourly pay rate instead of accepting lump-sum payments.

Chrysler Canada has put forward concession demands. They include changes in work rules, job classifications, and seniority rights, as well as cuts in medical and dental benefits.



September 24, 1962

President John F. Kennedy is planning new blows against the Cuban people while deferring outright U.S. military interventions in Cuba until he thinks he can get away with it.

The new anti-Cuba moves include increased pressure on Latin American governments to develop some form of diplomatic cover for U.S. intervention; pressure on Western nations to boycott Cuba; and giving the green light to counter-revolutionary Cuban groups in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to increase their hit and run raids.

There is not a single voice of fairness or reason, opposed to the preparation for crushing the Cuban Revolution, heard in the entire Congress. There is only disagreement over when and how it should be crushed.

The United Nations building in New York City was picketed Sept. 17 by over 500 persons protesting U.S. threats against Cuba.



September 25, 1937

The corrosion of the very foundations of the Soviet Union by the Stalinist police regime is increasingly exposed to view by the wave of trials. These trials occur with such almost monotonous regularity that one picks up the paper wondering only who Stalin’s next victims will be.

The bureaucratic methods of planning and the usurpation of special privileges by the Stalinist ruling caste have brought Russian economy to the brink of disaster.

The Stalinist bureaucracy acts as the greatest disrupter not only of the economic system but of the political and social system in the USSR. The completely democratic methods of the October Revolution in the handling of the national question served to tie the national republics firmly together in a close economic union. Stalinism acts as a centrifugal force, driving them apart.

JACK BARNES  
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# 'Recovery' of discouragement

**Continued from front page**  
 lions who want a job, including anyone who hasn't applied for work in the last year. Some 2.6 million of those not considered part of the labor force are categorized as "marginally attached" because they have not reportedly applied for a job in the last month. Among them are 844,000 labeled "discouraged" who have come to the conclusion they have no chance of gaining employment at this time.

The proportion of the population counted as part of the labor force has been steadily declining. Today it stands at 63.5 percent, its lowest level since 1981, and down from 66 percent in December 2007. For men the rate stands at 69.8 percent, the lowest ever since figures began being compiled in 1948.

Long-term unemployment remains at record-high levels. According to the Labor Department, 40 percent of all jobless workers have been out of work for more than six months.

Some 8 million seeking a full-time job are working only part-time, 3.5 million more than five years ago.

Recessions in the U.S. over the past several decades have taken place in the context of a longer-term decline in the curve of capitalist development. Each successive downturn in production and employment tends to be deeper, recovery shallower and more drawn out.

It is instructive to compare the trends of the last few recessions. A look at the employment to population ratio—a straight percentage of the total population that is employed—is revealing.

Several months after the official end

of the 1981-82 recession, the percentage of the population with a job rebounded, matching the pre-recession level in little over a year, and then exceeding it.

The employment to population ratio took more than three years to fully recover following the brief recession of 1990-91.

What has taken place this time around is starkly different. More than three years after the official end of the recession there is no sign that any recovery is beginning to emerge. The employment to population ratio dropped sharply during the recession. In June 2009, after the recession was declared officially over, the ratio continued its downward trend for about another half year before leveling off. Since 2010 it has hovered around 58 percent, 5 percent lower than before the recession began.

Of nearly 13 million workers laid off between January 2009 and December 2011, only 57 percent were employed at full-time jobs at the beginning of this year. One-third of them have had wage cuts of 20 percent or more.

Household incomes have declined more since the official end of the last recession than they did during the recession itself, according to a report by Sentier Research. From June 2009 to June 2012, real median household income fell 4.8 percent, after declining 2.6 percent during the recession.

The biggest impact has been on African-Americans, with a drop in median income of 11.1 percent. Also disproportionately hit are those between the ages of 55 and 64, who have experienced an income decline of 9.7 percent.

## Chicago teachers on strike

**Continued from front page**  
 strikers and their supporters in red union T-shirts began a slow march through the streets, stopping in front of City Hall, Daley Plaza, and the CPS headquarters.

At least 25,000 participated. They chanted, "What's disgusting? Union busting!" "We are union! We are proud!"

Last year the school board cancelled the scheduled 4 percent wage increase. Now the CPS is pressing a four-year contract proposal, which includes a pay raise of 3 percent the first year, with three subsequent 2 percent increases. The contract proposes that in five years, 50 percent of teachers' evaluations will be based on students' test scores and parent assessments.

When schools are shut down or downsized, teachers can be laid off based on these evaluations. The union is demanding that new teachers be hired first from

the pool of laid-off teachers. The CPS rejected any such guarantee.

City and state governments around the country—including Democratic administrations from Los Angeles to New York State—are going after teachers and seeking support among working people with demagogic claims their anti-union drive is about "improving" education for their children. "More than 300,000 school employees have lost their jobs since the recession ended," reported the *New York Times*.

For many decades, teachers union officials have pursued a "strategy" of backing Democratic Party politicians in hopes of influencing government education policy, but the assumed reciprocity is increasingly absent.

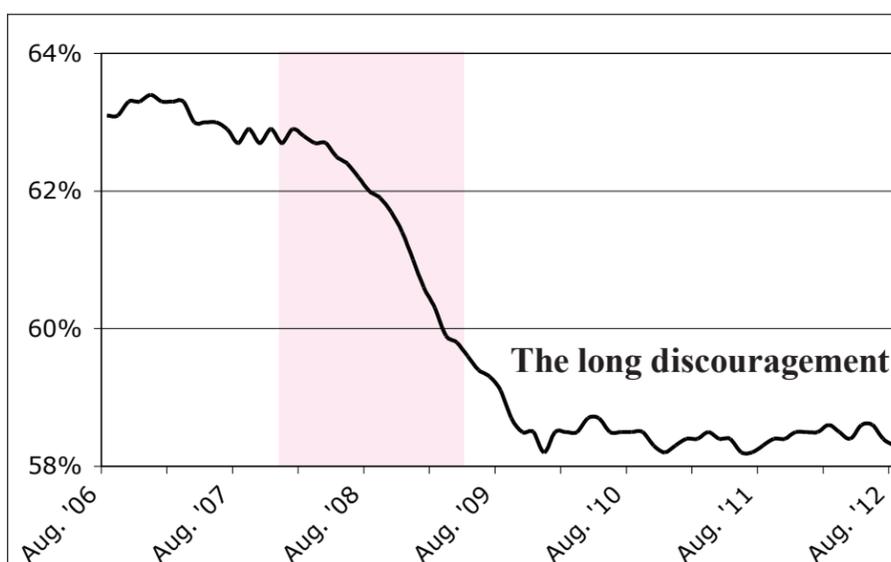
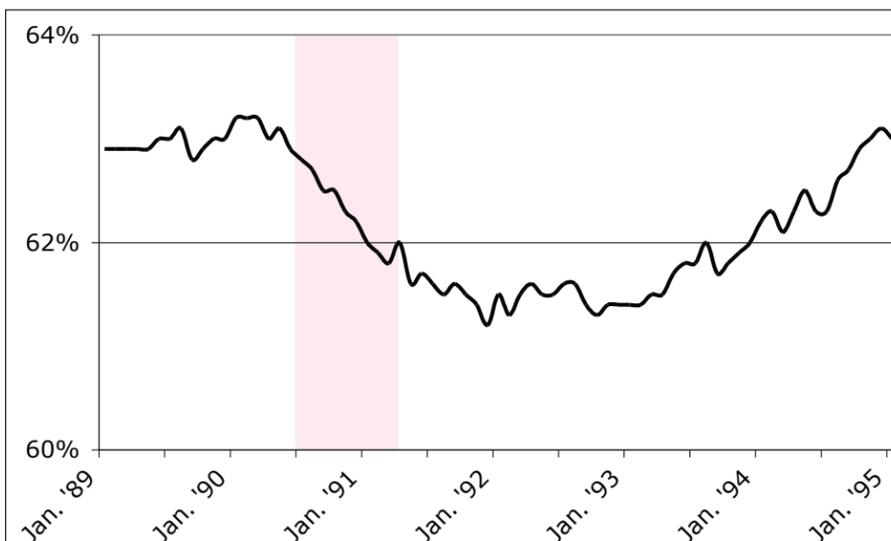
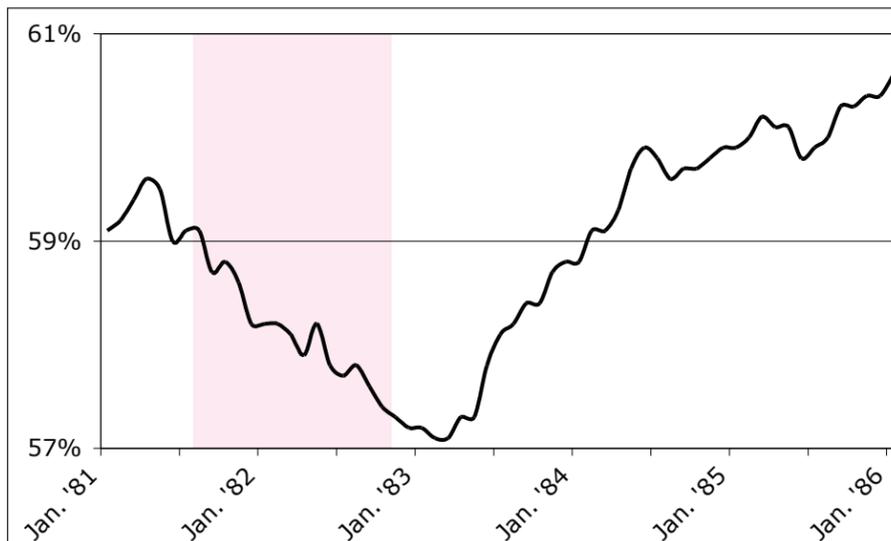
President Barack Obama backs the expansion of merit pay, of nonunion charter schools, and laying off teachers based on school "performance," such as the mass firing of teachers in 2010 in Rhode Island. But he has thus far cautiously remained silent on this major labor dispute two months ahead of the elections.

At the same time, Emanuel—co-chair of the Obama campaign—returned to Chicago after attending only the first day of the Democratic Party National Convention in order to preside over his anti-union offensive.

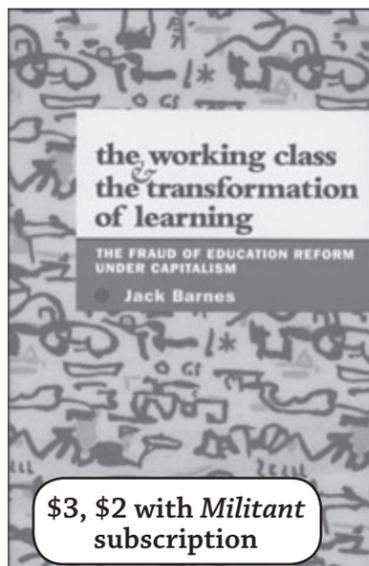
On the day of the strike, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney called for putting "our kids first and ... the teachers' union behind."

"We stand with Mayor Rahm Emanuel," said Romney's running mate, Paul Ryan.

## Employment to population ratios during 5-year periods for last 3 recessions



Graphs above show percentage of population that is employed during five-year period around three most recent recessions. Orange shading shows official start and end of each recession. Unlike the official unemployment rate, employment to population ratio is something government can't easily rejigger to obscure reality. Most recent drop in employment to population ratio is more than double that of previous two recessions and has remained flat since 2010.



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## A 'Peoples' Tribunal' for the Cuban Five to be held in Toronto Sept. 21-23

MONTREAL—As part of the international campaign to win freedom for the Cuban Five, a series of unions—including the United Steelworkers, the United Food and Commercial Workers, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees—and solidarity groups from across Canada, together with the Canadian Network on Cuba and La Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba, are calling a "Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly" to be held in Toronto City Hall, Sept. 21-23. A protest is scheduled at the U.S. consulate at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon, Sept. 22.

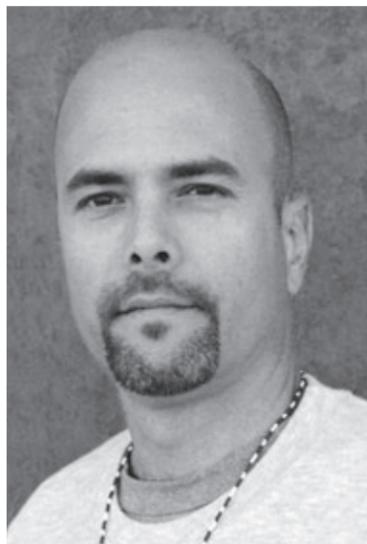
"It is now up to the international community to stand up and demand an end to the injustice and freedom for these five men," conference coordinator Heide Trampus told the *Militant* from Toronto. "We will hear brief reports from representatives of solidarity groups, unions and others about actions taken in the past, followed by developing plans for the future."

Participants are expected from five countries—Canada, Cuba, the United States, the United Kingdom and Venezuela—including relatives of the jailed Cuban revolutionaries, other Cuban revolutionaries, trade union officials, activists from the international campaign, a member of the Canadian parliament, and others. (For more information see: [canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/tribunal](http://canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/tribunal).)

—BEVERLY BERNARDO

# ‘Case of Cuban 5 is case of Cuban Revolution’

New, expanded edition of booklet is response to thirst for more information



Gerardo Hernández



Ramón Labañino



Antonio Guerrero



Fernando González



René González

Bill Hackwell

Below is the introduction to the third edition of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* now available from Pathfinder Press. Mary-Alice Waters and Martín Koppel, both active builders of the campaign to win freedom for the five, edited the book and are the authors of many of the articles, which originally appeared in the *Militant*. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BY MARY-ALICE WATERS AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

This new, expanded edition of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* is the third to be published in less than a year. That fact alone is a measure of the thirst for more information from those around the world who are learning about Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González and want to join the fight for their freedom. In addition to the English and Spanish-language editions produced simultaneously by Pathfinder Press, work is under way on translations into Farsi and French. We are confident other languages will follow.

Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René are five Cubans who were living and working in southern Florida in 1998 when each of them was arrested in coordinated predawn raids by the US government. At that time William Clinton was president.

They were framed up on charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage and, in the case of Gerardo Hernández, conspiracy to commit murder. More than two years later, the five—who proudly acknowledged they were working for the Cuban government—were brought to trial and convicted in federal court in Miami on all

counts. The judge imposed maximum sentences. Three were given life without parole.

On September 12, 2012, each of the five will begin serving his fifteenth year in US custody. For Gerardo, Ramón, and Antonio those years have for the most part been hard time in maximum security penitentiaries. Gerardo Hernández, handed two life sentences the court generously allowed him to serve concurrently, and René González, now out on parole, faced an additional arbitrary and brutal penalty. Throughout their imprisonment the US government has refused to grant visas to their wives, Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva, to enter the United States to visit them.

What were the alleged criminal activities of the Five?

They organized to infiltrate paramilitary and other counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups that have a fifty-year record of planning and carrying out bombings, assassinations, and other assaults on Cubans as well as other supporters of the Cuban Revolution—on the island, in the United States (yes, inside the US), in Puerto Rico, and elsewhere. Their assignment was to keep the Cuban government informed of those deadly operations in order to prevent as many as possible from coming to fruition.

*The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* tells this story as fully as possible. The articles reprinted here, along with dozens of photos and other graphic displays, are selected from almost 200 news reports and special features on the Cuban Five that have appeared over the last fourteen years in the pages of the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly published in New York.

The book has three objectives above all.

The first is to explain why “the case of the Cuban Five” is in fact “the case of the Cuban Revolution.” Why does the US government so hate and fear the men and women who made the Cuban Revolution and the younger generations who today join them in defending and fighting to advance it? Why are they holding these five—all exemplary products of that revo-

lution—hostage to the Cuban people’s refusal to renounce their socialist course and go down on bended knee before Washington?

The second aim is to help working people and youth in the United States recognize the common web of class interests connecting the “justice” meted out by the US cops and courts to the Five with our own life experiences at the hands of that same “justice” system. Especially whenever we resist, whenever we refuse to simply submit to the increasingly brutal exploitation imposed on us by a capitalist system in deepening crisis, whenever we say “enough!” and take up the struggle, whatever the odds.

The United States holds a higher percentage of its population behind bars than any other country on earth. For the US rulers that is not a choice but a necessary precondition for their continued domination at home and abroad. Today Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, and Fernando find themselves among the 2.3 million men and women in US prisons, and the nearly five million, like René, under some form of probation, parole, or “supervised release.” Through no choice of their own, they stand in the front ranks of the class struggle in the United States. And working people in the US who in increasing numbers are finding ways to fight back discover in them a worthy example.

The third goal is to provide information that will be a help to all those engaged in this fight worldwide. The new edition for the first time includes not only a presentation of the book made at the Havana International Book Fair in February 2012, but several recent *Militant* articles that continue to deepen our appreciation of the character and revolutionary caliber of each of the Cuban Five—and members of their families.

A number of special features have also been added. These include a political “timeline” of the case of the Five, a summary of charges each was convicted of and sentences each received, and excerpts from opinions by US appeals court justices who reviewed the trial record and would have thrown the convictions out if their rulings had been allowed to stand. Also included is a list of some among the thousands of organizations, institutions, and individuals in the United States and around the world who have voiced support for the fight to win freedom for the Five, as well as

statements by some of the most prominent of them.

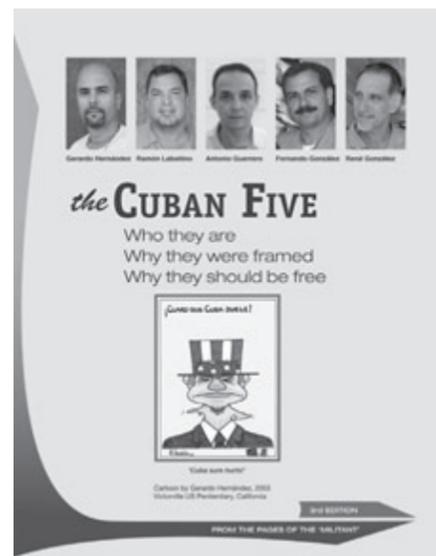
Credit for these additions goes to individuals and organizations in different parts of the world—from Indonesia and Iran, to France and the United States—who have insistently asked for further information and materials to help them understand and present the case to others who are just now learning about the Cuban Five and coming to support them.

Those requests prompted the preparation of answers in a form designed to be useful to all who are involved in this worldwide effort, including the 350 committees in 114 countries, and the thousands of individuals and hundreds of political organizations, that are working to build what Gerardo Hernández rightly described as the “jury of millions that will make our truth be known.”

September 1, 2012

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**“We’re five soldiers, conscious and proud occupants of a trench, five men who have chosen to stand up for something rather than fall for nothing.”**

RENÉ GONZÁLEZ  
JUNE 2009

Now includes timeline and other new features, articles and interviews reprinted from the *Militant*.

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Demonstration in support of Cuban Five revolutionaries outside U.S. Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 26, 2011.

# Jailed South African miners released, strike continues

BY SETH GALINSKY

One month after going on strike and three weeks after cops killed 34 strikers and wounded 78, rock drillers at British-based Lonmin's platinum mine in Marikana, South Africa, are still refusing to go back to work.

The Aug. 16 massacre by the cops and arrest of 270 workers sparked outrage across the country. Adding to the indignation, two weeks after their arrest the workers were charged with murder for the shootings by the cops. The National Prosecutor's office applied a "common purpose" law frequently used under the old white supremacist apartheid regime for persecuting its opponents, especially supporters of the African National Congress, which led the national liberation struggle and is now the ruling party.

On Sept. 2 the prosecutors office backed down in the face of public outcry. The common purpose charges are suspended until "all investigations have been completed," announced Nomgcobo Jiba, the acting director of the office.

The miners were released without bail but must go back to court in February to face charges of public violence.

More facts have come to light that contradict claims by the national chief of police that cops fired to protect themselves from strikers armed with machetes and spears. According to South Africa's *The Star*, "Post-mortem reports on miners shot by police at Marikana show that most of the men were hit from behind—an indication that they were



Associated Press

Striking miners celebrate their release from jail Sept. 3 in Pretoria, South Africa, the day after prosecutor's office, facing public outcry, backed down from trumped-up murder charges.

shot while fleeing."

More than 150 miners have filed charges against the cops, saying they were beaten, kicked and tortured after their arrests to force them to provide names of miners who allegedly killed two cops in the week prior to the police massacre.

Some 3,000 rock drillers are on strike out of 28,000 direct employees and 10,000 contract workers at Lonmin, the third largest platinum mining company in the world. But barely 6 percent of the entire workforce has shown up to work, according to Lonmin, which obtained a court order Aug. 11, the day after the strike started, declaring it illegal.

The strikers are demanding an increase in their base wage from about 4,000 rand (\$480) a month to 12,500 (\$1,500).

## 'Peace accord' fails

The South African press reported that a "peace accord" that would end the strike Sept. 10 under the auspices of the government-financed Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration; the South African Council of Churches; and the Department of Labour had failed. The accord stated that wage negotiations would conclude within 30 days and that all "stakeholders" agree

that carrying "illegitimate weapons" such as "knobkerries, pangas and knives is dangerous and unacceptable."

Along with Lonmin, the accord was signed by officials of the National Union of Mineworkers, which is affiliated to the governing African National Congress, and two smaller unions that also oppose the strike.

"Before there can be negotiations over wages, we need the miners back to work," National Union of Mineworkers spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka told the *Militant*.

Seshoka welcomed the dropping of the "common purpose" charges against the strikers. "It is the police that did the shooting. You can't just charge workers for being there."

Delegates of the striking workers and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union refused to sign the accord. Instead, some 10,000 strikers and their supporters marched from one shaft to another that same day, many wearing T-shirts with photos of their fallen comrades.

"Do you think we are worried because Lonmin is losing money?" striking miner Powell Dalibango told South Africa's news24 TV. "We are not. We have lost things worth more than money in this situation."

Lonmin spokesperson James Clark told the *Militant* by phone from London that "nobody has any interest in cutting off the road to the negotiating table" but insisted that talks can't take place "during an unlawful strike" because it would set a bad precedent. He accused the strikers of using "violence and intimidation" to prevent other miners from going to work.

Joseph Mathujwa, president of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, laughed at charges that 3,000 strikers had prevented 35,000 other miners from going to work. "Especially after the massacre support grew, even among those not on strike," he told the *Militant* by phone Sept. 11. "Their relatives and friends had been murdered."

"The workers face harsh conditions," he noted. "The machines they use to break the rock weigh 30 to 40 kilograms [66 to 88 pounds]. The safety records in many of the mines is appalling. The owners are getting away with murder."

"The workers live in corrugated shacks often without running water or electricity. The company says they are giving them 1,600 rand a month for accommodation, but a single room with a shower would cost more than 3,000 rand a month."

Mathujwa said AMCU did not get involved until after the workers had already gone on strike and had not been part of proposing the wage demands. "We went to talk to the workers at the invitation of the company after the strike began, as did the NUM. We said they should go back to work," he said. "We were the only union that stayed to talk with the workers without police protection or security and we won their trust."

Workers at other mines have been inspired by the struggle at Lonmin. Some 12,000 workers at Gold Fields KDC East mine went back to work Sept. 5 ending a one-week strike protesting a monthly deduction for funeral insurance. Five days later workers at the KDC West mine began a wildcat strike.

At Impala Platinum in Rustenburg a committee made up of workers from both the AMCU and the NUM presented the company with demands for 8 to 10 percent wage increases.

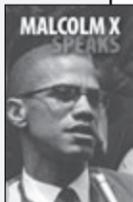
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# Oppose FBI snitch-jacket operations!

The FBI's attempts to fit a snitch jacket on Richard Aoki poses decisive questions for the working class. At stake is our ability to effectively engage in politics and resist victimization and disruption of our organizations by the class enemy.

The goal of government snitch-jacket tactics is to turn political organizations in on themselves in a destructive hunt for spies; breed distrust, suspicion, and infighting; and ultimately tear them apart.

Bourgeois governments have sought to use such methods from the earliest days of the workers' movement. They unsuccessfully attempted to use them against the Communist League founded by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and other working-class fighters who fought to break from conspiratorial traditions and organizational methods that had dominated the radical workers movement.

These lessons guided the Bolshevik party in making the Russian Revolution and has continued to guide the communist movement in the U.S. and worldwide. The Socialist Workers Party does not lie and does not spy. It openly explains its aims, does what it says, and welcomes into its ranks those who accept its program, actively engage in its work and agree to submit to its discipline.

This approach makes government disruption operations more difficult, minimizes the damage they can cause, and ensures attempts by government agents

and other enemies to generate agent-baiting suspicions within the party ranks will always fail.

The rulers and their cop agencies, however, have succeeded in disrupting groups in the workers' movement all too often, including the Communist Party, the Black Panther Party and others. The CP, for example, expelled its New York state chair, William Albertson, in 1964 after FBI agents fabricated material to indicate he was an informer and planted it for party members to find.

As the crisis of capitalism deepens so too do the propertied rulers' attacks on the jobs, wages, working conditions and social and political rights of the working class. More and more, they will employ their secret police and conduct spying, disruption and other operations designed to weaken vanguard forces who are fighting back.

Those who give any credence to Seth Rosenfeld's FBI-based snitch-jacket allegations, including with calls for "independent investigations" of FBI "evidence," create an atmosphere where agent-baiting stirs interest and gets a foothold—exactly what the enemy class is hoping for.

As the SWP statement distributed at the meeting in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 9 states, "The party stands with those who place no credence in charges and 'evidence' coming from the FBI" and joins with those who oppose the snitch-jacket campaign against Richard Aoki.

## Snitch-jacket charges against Richard Aoki

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prominent leader of the Black Panther Party and in the Third World Liberation Front strike in Berkeley, Calif., in the 1960s. Before joining those groups he had been a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. Aoki later became an educator and counselor in Bay Area colleges, and remained politically active.

Rosenfeld's charges come from discussions with a now-dead FBI agent, Burney Threadgill, who told Rosenfeld that he developed Aoki as an informant; the testimony of Wesley Swearingen, a retired FBI agent who says Aoki sounds like someone the FBI would use as an informant; and a heavily-redacted document on Aoki that Rosenfeld got from the FBI.

This FBI-generated snitch jacket follows a long-standing practice of government police agencies to disrupt and tear apart political organizations by fueling internal witch hunts, which have led to agent-baiting, infighting, expulsions and physical violence.

In addition to charging that Aoki was an FBI informant, Rosenfeld hints that Aoki may have been responsible for actions that set up cop killings of Panther members.

Aoki, who died in 2009, denied the charge when Rosenfeld confronted him with it during a 2007 interview. Rosenfeld's Aug. 20 article has been widely disseminated and discussed, especially in the Bay Area. A number of people have come forward to reject his use of FBI sources to smear Aoki.

Diane Fujino, who wrote a biography of Aoki, *Samurai Among Panthers: Richard Aoki on Race, Resistance, and a Paradoxical Life*, debated Rosenfeld Aug. 23 on National Public Radio's *Democracy Now*. Former Black Panther members, including Bobby Seale, Emory Douglas, Elbert "Big Man" Howard, and one of the few other Asian members of the party, Lee Lew Lee, have spoken out.

"We must remember that people were 'bad jacketed' all the time back in the day," Lee wrote, adding, "people must remember to check the SOURCE."

Ben Wang and Mike Cheng, makers of the documentary film "Aoki," also countered Rosenfeld's FBI-based charges.

But Rosenfeld's FBI sources were apparently enough for some liberal and radical groups to jump on the snitch-jacket bandwagon.

*Mother Jones* ran a story Aug. 21 by senior editor Dave Gilson entitled "The 'Japanese Radical Cat' Who Spied on the Panthers for the FBI."

On Aug. 29, *SocialistWorker.org*, the online publication of the International Socialist Organization, ran a story by author Bill Mullen saying it "examines explosive claims in a new book by Seth Rosenfeld that former Black Panther Richard Aoki may have been an FBI informant." The article declared that the allegations "demand to be taken seriously by activists and revolutionaries" and conjecture about the many damaging things Aoki could be responsible for "if true."

Two weeks later, on Sept. 8, the *Chronicle* published a second article by Rosenfeld in which he says the FBI had just turned 221 additional pages of files on Aoki over to him. The content of the files are almost completely blocked out, Rosenfeld says, but the fact they have Aoki's name on them and statements by FBI agents that they contain informant reports means they "confirm" he was a snitch.

Over 200 people attended "Richard Aoki, Black Panther and Asian American Activist: Cointelpro Attacks and Reclaiming the Legacy" the following day at the EastSide Cultural Center in Oakland. The featured speakers included Diane Fujino and former Black Panthers Emory Douglas, Tarika Lewis and Bobby Seale.

The meeting was organized to counter Rosenfeld's charges, the *Oakland Local* reported Sept. 11, pointing out that his justification amounted to "the testimony of a dead government agent and a stack of declassified documents."

"Anytime a sentence starts with 'FBI says,' you should question it," Greg Morozumi from the East Side Arts Alliance said.

Diane Fujino discussed Rosenfeld's recently-published book *Subversives: The FBI's War on Student Radicals and Reagan's Rise to Power*, in which his snitch-jacket charges against Aoki were first raised. Throughout the book, she said, whether he is taking up the Free Speech Movement or the Third World Student Strike at the University of California at Berkeley, or promoting the charges against Aoki, he always turns first to FBI sources for his facts, not to newspaper accounts or interviews with those who participated in the events.

"The Socialist Workers Party stands with those who place no credence in charges and 'evidence' coming from the FBI," a statement from the party distributed to participants at the meeting said. "We join with those who oppose the campaign Rosenfeld is leading."

*Willie Cotton contributed to this article.*

## Moves against Iran

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working people. Eighty percent of Iran's national budget relies on oil exports, which have been especially targeted by Washington's and the European Union's measures.

But Iran's rulers have thus far refused to comply with the imperialists' demands.

"Iran has never been after nuclear weapons and it will never abandon its right for peaceful use of nuclear energy," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, told delegates at the opening of the 16th Summit of the 120-nation Non-Aligned Movement Aug. 30 in Tehran, reiterating Tehran's long-standing stance.

Since the beginning of the year, the Iranian government has been engaged in two sets of talks on its nuclear program, one with the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, the other with the so-called P5+1 group. The latter comprises the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the U.S.—plus Germany.

But no concrete agreement has been reached. The imperialist powers use these talks to pressure the Iranian government.

Opponents of Iran's nuclear program seized on an Aug. 30 IAEA report as further proof that Tehran has maintained a course toward producing nuclear weapons. The document says that Iran has doubled to more than 2,000 the number of uranium enrichment centrifuges at its Fordow plant and produced 45 kilos of higher-grade enriched uranium since May, an increase of some 20 percent of its stock.

They downplayed the fact that less than 700 of Iran's uranium enrichment centrifuges are in operation at Fordow and much of the new enriched uranium has been converted to metal form for use in a nuclear research reactor. Once converted, this uranium is difficult to further enrich to weapon-grade material.

### Israeli rulers divided

In this context a flurry of statements and anonymous quotes to the Israeli news media has hinted that Tel Aviv is considering launching a unilateral airstrike against Iran's nuclear facilities. A similar debate occurred last fall but subsided after Washington and the European Union adopted a series of new sanctions against Iran.

The prime advocates of this course, according to the press, are Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak. Both argue that the time is coming when a military operation against Iran's Fordow nuclear facility, which is deeply buried under a mountain, would no longer be feasible without direct involvement of Washington.

The eruption of this discussion prompted the U.S. administration to send to Israel a steady stream of high-ranking U.S. officials and military officers during the summer, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, in order to persuade Tel Aviv to refrain from any attack on Iran at this time.

"Instead of effectively pressuring Iran, [President Barack] Obama and his people are pressuring us not to attack," Netanyahu was reported by Israel's newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* Aug. 31 as angrily saying to U.S. Ambassador Dan Shapiro.

But Netanyahu's and Barak's pressing for a tougher course against Iran has also created an open division inside Israel's ruling class. Since the beginning of the summer, Israel's army chief of staff, the commander-in-chief of the air force, the heads of the two main intelligence agencies (the Mossad and Shin Bet), President Shimon Peres and members of Netanyahu's own cabinet, among others, have publicly opposed a unilateral Israeli strike against Iran.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who initially claimed to have a tougher line on Iran, is now pushing a course of "crippling sanctions" that is very similar to the one his Democratic opponent Obama has been implementing.

Meanwhile, Washington is stepping up military preparations and pressure with a Sept. 16-27 mine-sweeping exercise involving more than 25 nations in the Arab-Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf of Aden. All these waters surround the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic sea passage for oil carriers that Tehran has threatened to close in retaliation for imperialist sanctions.