

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Revolution was first step toward women's equality in Cuba'  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 78/NO. 14 APRIL 14, 2014

## Free Cuban 5! Back workers in Ukraine! Sell 'Militant'!

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The *Militant's* spring international subscription and books campaign will celebrate the coming together of the political opportunities opened by Ukrainian working people, who have burst onto the world scene, and the new forces being drawn into the campaign to free the Cuban Five — and through that learning about the socialist revolution in Cuba.

The drive will run from April 5 to May 14 with the goal of winning 1,800 readers, and for as many of them as possible to take advantage of books on revolutionary, working-class politics offered to subscribers at a steeply discounted rate.

The effort to win subscribers and get some of them to join in expanding the paper's circulation is strengthened by the *Militant's* on-the-scene reports from Ukraine as well as by the recent publication of two new books on the fight to free the Cuban Five — *I Will Die the Way I've Lived* and *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*.

At opening events of watercolor exhibits of Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five, in Philadelphia and Chicago March 21, participants

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## Deathtrap in Wash. set by profit-driven tree cutting

BY DOUG NELSON

Key portions of the plateau above Snohomish County slope near Oso, Wash., were stripped bare by logging barons, setting a deathtrap along the banks of the Stillaguamish River below.

At 10:37 a.m. on March 22, an entire community was wiped out in a few minutes, buried under as much as 70 feet of mud and debris. As of April 2, 28 people are confirmed dead with another 20 reported missing.

The likelihood that cutting down all the trees in a certain area above Snohomish County slope would lead to one of the deadliest landslide disasters in U.S. history may be impossible to calculate. What's clear, however, is that the owners of Grandy Lake Forest company considered the profit worth the risk. Government officials, for their part, sought a "balance" between the logging bosses' thirst for profit and the possibility of fatal disaster.

Not only did Grandy Lake Forest cut beyond the boundaries set by the Department of Natural Resources. But DNR officials approved cutting beyond limits drawn by scientists —

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## Ukraine workers resist pressure to demobilize IMF 'offers' more debt, Moscow hikes gas price



The Maidan — Kiev's Independence Square — remains a center of resistance for working people fighting for democratic and political rights in Ukraine. Above, March 30 demonstration.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

KIEV, Ukraine — Thousands assembled in Independence Square here March 30 to mark the 40th day since the killing of the "heavenly hundred," a reference to the demonstrators murdered by Berkut riot police under the government of President Viktor Yanukovich days before it was overthrown in a popular rebellion.

"What motivated me to come to Maidan recently was the police violence against the people. I also came

to stop the attacks from Russia and stand with Ukraine," said Sergey Nikolayevich, a mason and former brick factory worker from Sumy in northeastern Ukraine. "I've been working, but unemployment in my town is around 40 percent."

"Our main worry is the attempt by the government to dissolve Maidan," said Oleksei Kuznitsov, a former truck driver, who came from Donetsk last December. But the Maidan remains

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## Truckers win raises, payment for waiting times at port in Canada



Despite threats including back-to-work legislation, 1,500 truckers at Port Metro Vancouver, Canada, defeated government and bosses' attempt to bust strike. Above, March 21 rally.

BY MIKE BARKER  
AND STEVE PENNER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Standing up to government threats to force them back to work, 1,500 truck drivers at Port Metro Vancouver won a victory here March 26 after shutting down the port for four weeks.

The agreement includes a pay raise for drivers who work for an hourly

wage, a rate hike for owner-operators who are paid by the load, and for the first time compensation for long waiting times.

"We've had problems for years with long waiting times to unload our trucks, low rates and rising fuel and maintenance costs but nobody listened to us," Jas Power, an owner-

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## 'Cuban 5 art will reach those interested in fights for dignity'

BY ILONA GERSH  
AND LAURA ANDERSON

CHICAGO — "This could introduce the frame-up of the Cuban Five to many people," said machine operator David Cornejo, one of several

workers at the Electro-Motive Diesel factory who came to the opening reception for Antonio Guerrero's "I Will Die the Way I've Lived" art exhibit. "You can see how it can reach those interested in this kind of dignity and fight."

Fifty people turned out for the March 22 event at the Beverly Arts Center on the South Side here to view and discuss Guerrero's 15 watercolors,

Continued on page 4

## 'Ukraine workers are beginning to see they are actors in history'

BY JOHN STUDER

DNEPROPETROVSK, Ukraine — "Workers are beginning to see that they are actors in history," said Aleksei Oleksiyevych, leader of the Independent Trade Union of Miners, at a March 28 meeting with *Militant* correspondents at the union's office here.

The meeting included four members of the miners' union, a leader of the city's teachers' union and Yuriy Semenov, who has been part of orga-

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# Report shows Metro-North puts profits ahead of safety

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — A recent federal report on the Metro-North Railroad confirms what many working people already know: that rail bosses put profits well ahead of safety. The investigation was undertaken after a Dec. 1 train derailment in the Bronx killed four passengers and injured more than 70 commuters and workers.

“Metro-North has emphasized on-time performance to the detriment of safe operations and adequate maintenance of its infrastructure,” the March 14 report by the Federal Railway Administration said.

Metro-North, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is the second largest commuter railroad in the country, serving New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, with an annual ridership of almost 83 million people.

There have been several other so-called accidents over the past year. In addition to the Dec. 1 disaster, they include a July 18 freight train derailment on the same curve; a May 17 derailment and collision with another train in Bridgeport, Conn., that injured more than 50 people; and the death of a maintenance worker struck by a train 11 days later in West Haven, Conn.

Just days before the report was issued Metro-North maintenance worker James Romansoff was hit by a train and killed in New York while restoring power to the tracks.

Most of the tracks used by Metro-North in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut were built more than a

century ago, and little has been spent to upgrade them. The railway bosses’ drive for profit has led to crew size cuts, speedup and skimping on maintenance.

The report said Metro-North management pushed workers “to rush when responding to signal failures” and didn’t organize to have necessary track repairs done in a timely manner.

Instead of hiring additional workers, the company has been reducing its workforce, while pressuring employees to work “extensive” overtime, the report said. In February the company “had more than 100 vacancies owing to the retirement of maintenance-of-way employees.”

In a statement responding to the report March 14, Metro-North Railroad President Joseph Giulietti admitted that “safety was not the top priority.” He sought to shift focus away from the company’s culpability, calling for “installing cameras in all our trains.” He also pledged Metro-North will put in place Positive Train Control “as quickly as possible,” a move the rail line has resisted for years. According to a federal law passed six years ago all freight and passenger companies are required to put this more extensive automated safety system in place by 2015.

## Workers, peasants join one-day strike in Paraguay



Reuters/Jorge Adorno

Tens of thousands of workers, peasants and students joined a 24-hour protest strike in Paraguay March 26. Among the demands: a 25 percent increase in the minimum wage; a reduction in bus fares; the repeal of plans to privatize public utilities and allow multinational corporations to plunder the country’s natural resources; price controls on basic necessities; and land reform.

“The strike took place because of the actions of President Horacio Cartes,” Mirtha Maldonado, a leader of the Recoleta Front, a neighborhood organization in Asunción, said by phone March 28. “The bus fare hike hits hard at the already degraded economy, the price of products in the family basket has increased, and peasant leaders that are resisting the soy landlords have been murdered.”

Paraguay, with a population of 6.5 million, is the world’s sixth largest soy producer. About 77 percent of arable land is owned by 1 percent of landowners.

“The strike brought together all the different union federations, peasant groups, community groups and opposition parties,” Fabricio Arnella, general secretary of the Communist Youth, said by phone from Asunción.

— SETH GALINSKY

## Workers greet bosses’ bonus with bag of peanuts

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Three workers at United Airlines in San Francisco recently turned over a total of \$189 to the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund from a profit-

sharing bonus. The check was accompanied by a note from the manager, saying, “Thank you for your support throughout the year making this check possible,” Eric Simpson, one of the three, wrote when he sent in the check Feb. 22.

“But I’m a member of the Machinists union and I don’t ‘support’ the United Airlines or the bosses,” Simpson wrote. “And I’m not the only one reacting this way. A fellow worker put a big bag of roasted peanuts on a counter at work the day we got the checks to express his contempt for United’s ‘profit-sharing’ payout. I’m so happy to have a way to put this check at the service of the international working

class.”

From Greensboro, N.C., hospital worker Diane Shur contributed \$25 to the fund from a company gift card.

Bribes and bonuses from bosses — blood money — are designed to make us accept wage cuts, dangerous working conditions, speedup and concession contracts. They take various forms: safety, attendance, production and “profit-sharing” bonuses; contract-signing incentives; and holiday gifts.

Donations of this blood money are a cornerstone of the SWP Capital Fund, which finances long-range work of the communist movement. To make a contribution, contact a distributor on page 8 or the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899.

# THE MILITANT

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Militant/John Naubert  
Rally at detention center in Tacoma, Wash., March 11 in solidarity with hunger strikers.

## The Militant

Vol. 78/No. 14

Closing news date: April 2, 2014

Editor: Doug Nelson

**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Frank Forrestal, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Paul Pederson, Gerardo Sánchez, John Studer, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in July, one week in August and two weeks in September.

**Business manager:** Lea Sherman  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899  
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

Website: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

# Sell 'Militant' subscriptions

Continued from front page  
picked up 14 copies of *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*, 13 copies of *Voices From Prison* and four of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, one of 11 books on special offer with a subscription (see ad below).

"I know people who think that with the Russian troops going into Ukraine, Marxism is reviving. But I see from the *Militant* that this is not true," said Iyad Kouteich, who got an introductory subscription at the March 28 Montreal Militant Labor Forum.

Kouteich attended the forum along with a friend, who had met *Militant* supporters as they went door to door the previous weekend in his apartment building. Kouteich also bought the French-language edition of *The Cuban Five* and volunteered to help build the upcoming showing of Guerrero's paintings in a Montreal café.

Michel Prairie, a leader of the Communist League in Canada, gave the presentation at the forum on "The Capitalist Crisis in West Africa and the Revolutionary Legacy of Thomas Sankara."

Sankara was leader of the 1983-87 popular revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso.

Among 30 participants were five Burkinabès, who joined the discussion, describing what they had experienced in Burkina during and after the revolution.

On March 29 and 30, a team of *Militant* supporters from Seattle went to Arlington, Wash., a town just west of Oso, where extensive logging caused a mudslide March 22 that buried a whole community. Going door to door they talked to volunteers collecting food and supplies for displaced families and rescue workers.

"I think I would like this newspaper and the book of paintings too. Thank you for stopping by today," Karee Damm, a food service worker who is also an artist, said as she got a subscription and a copy of *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*. The team signed up five new readers and sold 10 copies of the paper.

"Former President Viktor Yanukovich sent troops against the people. It is very bad now, but we can't accept Russian troops controlling the country," Halyna Sukhovinska, a house cleaner who is originally from Ukraine, told John Naubert March 30.

She was one of four new subscribers in an apartment complex with many Ukrainians, Russians and Moldovans in Renton, Wash., just south of Seattle.

"I've been fighting poverty my whole life," said Henry Kuy, an assembly worker originally from Cambodia who lives in the same complex. Kuy decided to try out the *Militant* for 12 weeks and was excited to see the article about workers in Cambodia protesting for higher

**NY rally demands 'Free Oscar López!'**



VirtualBoricua.org

NEW YORK — "This is year 33, Oscar López must be free," chanted 75 people here March 30 to demand that the U.S. government release Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera. The protest lasted 33 minutes to symbolize the number of years López has been in prison. April 29 will mark the 33rd anniversary of his arrest on trumped-up charges that included "seditious conspiracy" to bring about the independence of Puerto Rico.

"He has never been accused or convicted of committing a violent act or causing harm or death to anyone," said a statement from the group 33 Women NYC x Oscar, which organized the protest. The newly formed group plans to keep holding protests around the city on the last Sunday of each month.

— SETH GALINSKY

wages. "There was a rally recently at the Federal Building in Seattle," he said. "I took my whole family to it. It was to let the world know that what Cambodian workers are going through is unfair. You have to fight."

From San Francisco, Joel Britton reported that supporters there sold 13 subscriptions over the last 10 days, including at a March 29 protest of 500 against the March 21 cop killing of Alejandro Nieto, at a rally of 300 workers demanding increased minimum wage and at a vigil honoring the

100 people killed in February protests in Kiev, Ukraine.

"A March 22-23 team to the Central Valley signed up four new readers and got two renewals," Britton said. "Several of these were to farmworkers. We also sold a subscription at a March 29 special showing of the new *Cesar Chavez* movie attended by 200 farmworkers."

Join the campaign to expand the readership of the paper and of books on revolutionary working-class politics. Contact a distributor listed on page 8 or the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Why All Workers Have a Stake in Stopping Deportation of Immigrants.** Speaker: Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**'Fracking,' the Keystone XL Pipeline and Oil Spills — Why the Working Class Must Fight for Control of Industry.** Speaker: Dean Hazlewood, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Korea Is One! End Imperialist Sanctions Against Pyongyang!** Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

### IOWA

#### Des Moines

**Stop Deportations Now! No E-Verify Checks! Why the Fight for Immigrant Rights Strengthens the Working Class.** Speaker: Ellen Brickley, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

### NEBRASKA

#### Omaha

**The International Fight to Defend a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion.** Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 3302 Q St., Upstairs. Tel.: (402) 779-7697.

### TEXAS:

#### Houston

**Texas Oil Spill: How Capitalism Undermines the Seas and Labor.** Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 476-0733.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**'Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women': New Pathfinder Edition in Spanish is Presented at Book Fair in Havana. Lessons for Working People Around the World.** Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League. Volunteer at Pathfinder booth at Havana International Book Fair. Fri., April 11, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 188a Onehunga Mall. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

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by Vilma Espín, Arela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer  
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by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, Mary-Alice Waters  
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See distributors on page 8



### The Cuban Five

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from pages of the 'Militant'  
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# 'Part of struggle to defend Cuba from US imperialism'

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — Sixty people attended an event here March 21 featuring reproductions of "I Will Die the Way I've Lived," a watercolor series by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five.

"I had to be here for this occasion," Tre Guevara, a 21-year-old art student told the *Militant*. "This is a transnational effort as part of the fight to protect Cuba from U.S. imperialism. Antonio's art is creating another level of consciousness in that fight."

## Showings of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*



### Exhibits

#### Atlanta

March 17-April 6

Spelman College, Cosby Building, 3rd Floor, in the Cloister. 350 Spelman Lane SW.

#### Chicago

March 21-April 13

Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. Tel.: (773) 445-3838. Exhibition schedule: Mon.-Fri., 9AM-9PM (closes at 5 p.m. if no evening event); Sat., 12PM-5PM.; Sun., 1-4PM.

#### Lincoln, Neb.

April 22-23 & 25-30

Clyde Malone Community Center, 2032 "U" St. Opens April 22, 10AM. Reception, 7-9PM. April 23, 10AM-6PM. At Meadowlark Café, 1624 South St., April 25-30, 8AM-11PM. Reception, April 25, 7:30PM. For more information: (402) 475-4620.

#### New York

April 1-29

Opening program: Fri., April 4, 7PM, Bronx Library Center, 5th floor, 310 East Kingsbridge Road. Call (718) 579-4257 for exhibit hours and tours. Closing program, Fri., April 25, 5:30PM, Room C21 on concourse level.

#### San Francisco

May 4

Exhibit and reception: 2-4PM. Program at 2:30PM. San Francisco Public Library, Bayview Branch, 5075 Third Street.

#### Auckland, New Zealand

April 5-24

Opening program: Sat., April 5, 5-7PM. Artstation, 1 Ponsonby Road. Tel.: (09) 376-3221; (09) 303-1755. Exhibition schedule: Mon.-Fri., 9AM-5PM; Sat., 9AM-4PM.

"Tonight is a wonderful example of why we opened this space to the community," said Renny Molenaar, co-director of the Imperfect Gallery in Germantown, which hosted the evening event that included a program and refreshments.

"All these images have one thing in common: They were memories of the unjust and cruel treatment given to us since the very first day of our detention," Guerrero, who learned to paint in prison, wrote about the exhibit. "After I finished painting 15, I decided to stop. That number coincides with the number of years of captivity we will complete on Sept. 12, 2013."

"The courts were forced to lower some of their sentences because, as one judge put it, 'there's a little too much noise about this case,'" said Chris Hoepfner of the Socialist Workers Party, who chaired the program. "Well, we want to make a lot more noise. And tonight we celebrate



Militant/Barb Graham

Students at Temple University in Philadelphia helped put together exhibit of Antonio Guerrero's watercolors for event at Imperfect Gallery to draw attention to campaign to free Cuban Five.

the return of Fernando González, who like René González left prison as he entered it — as a revolutionary," he said to applause from participants.

Katherine Mejia, a student at Temple University and member of the campus group People Utilizing Real Power, helped put together the

displays and spoke as part of the program. "We are fighting against everything that's oppressing us, and holding us back in life."

Roger Zepernick, Urban-Ministry Director of the St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, called on participants to join

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## Watercolors 'make people curious about Cuban 5'

Continued from front page

illustrating the first 17 months of incarceration he and his four comrades shared in the "hole" at the Miami Federal Detention Center in 1998-99. The arts center is a well-known nonprofit community center with galleries, classes, theater and concerts.

"I was very impressed with the graphic strength of the work and was very glad to show it because of that alone," said gallery curator Carla Winterbottom, who opened the program. "But it's also important that this work is honest. For someone who is in prison to find such a clear way of expressing himself is special."

The exhibit "will get maximum exposure here," said Winterbottom. The paintings are hung in a well-traveled hallway where they will be seen over the next three weeks by the hundreds of people who come to the arts center for classes and performances. A closing celebration is scheduled for Sunday, April 13.

"The hole and solitary confinement that they were subjected to exist in every prison in this country," Alyson Kennedy, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, told participants. "Tonight we are celebrating the release of Fernando González, and René González. We need to reach out and build the jury of millions that will free the other three."

"Fernando was released after serving every minute of his sentence," said Gisela López, a Chicago resident who was part of the Fidel Castro-led July 26 Movement before the revolution in Cuba. "We celebrate his dignity and his perseverance."

Lourdes Lugo López, niece of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López, spoke about the fight to free him and the Five. She noted that Oscar Lopez, the longest-held Puerto Rican political prisoner in history, shared a cell with Fernando González in Terre Haute, Ind., federal prison.

Among the participants were artists and members of local political organizations, including the Southeast Environmental Task Force, which has been fighting to get toxic petroleum

coke out of their neighborhood in Chicago.

As they moved from painting to painting, reading the artist's descriptions, those who hadn't heard of the Cuban Five before mingled with those who have been active in the international fight for their freedom. Many had questions about who they are, why they were framed up, and the political defense campaign.

"The show makes people more curious to find out about the case and it brings home what happened to them and how they stood up to it," said Al Barraza, a union painter.

"It shows how solitary confinement tries to break you, but it also shows the artist's humanity," said William Brown, a Chicago Public Schools worker who learned about the exhibit after renewing his subscription to the *Militant*.



Militant/Laura Anderson

"I Will Die the Way I've Lived" is displayed in well-traveled hallway at Beverly Arts Center in Chicago's South Side neighborhood through April 13.

### Who are the Cuban Five?



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue aircraft that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana's repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. His wife Adriana Pérez is barred from entering the United States.

René González returned to Cuba in May 2013, halfway through his parole. Fernando González was released Feb. 27 and arrived in Cuba the next day.

# NY man gets 16 years in cops' 'terror' entrapment frame-up

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — The frame-up of Jose Pimentel smelled so bad even the FBI washed its hands of it.

Pimentel, 29, was nevertheless sentenced to 16 years in prison March 25 after accepting a plea bargain. His alternative was to go to trial as a media-branded “terrorist” facing conspiracy and other “terrorism”-hyped charges and take a chance on spending the rest of his life behind bars.

Pimentel became a target of the FBI-New York Police Department Joint Terrorism Task Force based on his Internet activity.

The frame-up rested on years of entrapment by undercover provocateurs who were paid to pin whatever they could on Pimentel. “The government, including the federal government, investigated Pimentel for more than two and a half years using paid informants before bringing any charges of criminal activity,” Susan J. Walsh, an attorney

representing Pimentel, said in a March 28 phone interview. Much of what they got Pimentel to say took place as “informants and my client were high on marijuana while law enforcement watched.” The “smoking gun” finally came when a cop informer goaded Pimentel into helping him build a pipe bomb.

Excerpts from hundreds of hours of recordings made public in 2012 showed how agents constantly egged Pimentel on and sought for years to drag him into wild fabricated plots. “I’m going to build an atomic bomb ... Like Einstein,” one of the informers told Pimentel.

Immediately after Pimentel’s arrest in November 2011, Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave a press conference in which he labeled Pimentel a “lone wolf” terrorist and “al-Qaeda sympathizer.”

Like 97 percent of other working people who face criminal charges in the U.S., Pimentel agreed to a “deal,” under threat of much harsher punishment — in this case a life sentence. In exchange for



Associated Press/Jefferson Siegel

Government framed up Jose Pimentel based on years of entrapment efforts by cop informants.

pleading guilty to attempted criminal possession of a weapon in the first degree as a crime of terrorism and waiving his right to appeal, Pimentel was given a 16-year prison term and five years of probation.

The FBI declined to file federal charg-

es against Pimentel, citing misuse of confidential informants and overreaching by law enforcement. The case was then pursued under a seldom used New York state anti-terrorism law. “The FBI refused to turn over any documents, even under court subpoena,” said Walsh.

# ‘Part of the struggle to defend Cuba from US imperialism’

Continued from page 4

in the international campaigns to free the Cuban Five and Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López.

During the evening, several participants spoke informally about why they had come to the event. Mia Reed, a student at Temple, said, “The Cuban Five is one of the greatest injustices of my time. I was 8 years old when they were arrested, and now I am 24.” Samantha Heywood, a 21-year-old worker, said, “I have interest in revolutionary groups and think of myself as a prison abolitionist.”

“I want to know more about the three of the Cuban Five who fought in Angola against the South African

apartheid regime,” translator Paul Horner, 27, told the *Militant*.

“The Cuban Five are heroes to me, as they are to my own father, who is half-Cuban,” said Lorenzo Cannon-Umstad, 21, an athletic coach for youth at community centers and mentor programs, as he looked attentively at Guerrero’s “Fishing” painting, which shows a common method prisoners surreptitiously use to exchange reading materials and other items. “My father was in prison in upstate Pennsylvania for three years, two months in ‘the hole,’ and he used that same fishing line method with his fellow prisoners.”

“I spent a long time looking at Antonio’s painting [“The Rec”] of the shadow of a bird and the fence,” said Jim Sullivan. “It reminded me of a poem by Bobby Sands about a bird he could hear from his prison cell.” Sands

died during a hunger strike of Irish political prisoners he led in 1981 at Long Kesh, a Northern Ireland prison.

“Capitalism has failed us,” said Kashara White from the Black Student Union at Temple. “We must start making plans for our future as human beings knowing that capitalism will not be in that future.”

Participants bought eight copies of *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*; three copies of *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*; and one each of *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own*; *Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity*; and *Socialism and Man in Cuba*. Fifteen signed up to help with the campaign to free the Five.



“A fence for ventilation turns the cubicle into a cage,” writes Guerrero about this watercolor titled “The Rec.”

## Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five

The dignity and integrity of the Cuban Five has won them the respect of thousands around the world as well as fellow prisoners. Here three who have known them behind bars speak out. Also accounts of prison life and resistance by Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Elizabeth Palmeiro and Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda. Also in Spanish.

\$7. Special publication offer \$5

## ‘I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived’

Fifteen watercolors by Antonio Guerrero for the 15th anniversary of the imprisonment of the Cuban Five. With text by Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino. Also in Spanish.

\$7. Special publication offer \$5

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## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 14, 1989

The decision of United Nations officials to use South African-led troops to stop what it claimed to be a massive incursion into Namibia by fighters of the South West Africa People’s Organisation (SWAPO) shows the enormous political battle that will have to be fought to ensure an independent Namibia.

The UN’s use of the South African forces amounted to deputizing Namibia’s colonizers.

An enormous victory was won for working people around the world when the South African government was forced to sign an agreement last December. That action was made possible by the military successes of Angolan, Cuban and SWAPO troops in the spring of last year. An effective mobilization of Cuban internationalist fighters, along with the most advanced military equipment, resulted in the decisive defeat of South African forces at the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale.



April 13, 1964

The leaders of the AFL-CIO unions have been generally silent about the dangers to the entire labor movement in the federal conviction last month of Teamster President James R. Hoffa. At last, however, one member of the AFL-CIO executive board, National Maritime Union President Joseph Curran, has publicly denounced the conviction.

Curran urges “that the leadership of the AFL-CIO immediately declare its full support to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters against any efforts to raid or divide that union. We owe it not only to the members of that union, but to our own members, to make that position clear. The people behind this drive against the Teamsters and the labor movement have no intention of stopping with the conviction of James Hoffa. Their target is the labor movement.”

Curran’s statement is quite correct.



April 14, 1939

The sparks of war came closer to the European powder barrel when Mussolini, chief bandit of Italian fascism, acting in apparent concert with his axis-ally, Hitler, virtually completed the forcible annexation of Albania without bothering too much to offer a pretext for the armed invasion and the bombing and shooting of the resisting population.

Rival imperialists with headquarters in London and Paris were concerned over the seizure of Albania being only one step in the direction of Italian occupation of the Greek island of Corfu, which would give Italy a dominant position not only in the Adriatic but also in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Anglo-French war with the Berlin-Rome axis has as much to do with democracy, the independence of small nations and the freedom of nationalities — as it has with the theory of relativity.

# Ukraine: 'Actors in history'

Continued from front page

nizing rallies here in solidarity with the mobilizations in Kiev's Maidan (Independence Square). While most people in this eastern city are Ukrainian, their main language is Russian.

"Today we are taking steps forward," Oleksyevych said. "We brought down the [President Viktor] Yanukovich regime and are making gains against bosses in our plants and mines because of the power of the Maidan and Maidans across our country."

As Oleksyevych presented a slide show of recent protests here, he said the most important demand was for freedom of speech and action. "We need this above all," he said.

One photo included a banner raising demands the union is fighting for and seeking to recruit around: "For a European standard of living; 3,000 euros a month in pay; a seven-hour workday; and improvement in working conditions."

"Currently we get the equivalent of 100 euros (\$138) a month," Oleksyevych said. "And though we're supposed to have an eight-hour day, most workers try to get overtime because they can't live on their regular pay."

"Legally it says we have the right to strike," said Igor Vitalyvykh Parhomenko, the union's regional vice president. "But in fact that 'right' is wrapped up in so much red tape that we can't use it. We filed to strike, but the government kept saying we missed this or that requirement. It was only after a year and a half that they said we could strike."

"We know it will be a long and difficult road to truly win our freedom," Oleksyevych said, "but we are determined to continue fighting to the end."

Dnepropetrovsk is the center of steel pipe production in Ukraine. The biggest pipe works are run by Interpipe, owned by Victor Pinchuk, the country's second biggest capitalist. Pinchuk is also the son-in-law of former President Leonid Kuchma. (The Russian government of former KGB Colonel Vladimir Putin recently imposed sharp tariffs against Interpipe products as part of its efforts to economically squeeze Ukraine.)

Pinchuk is part of a relatively new

Ukrainian capitalist class that was formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. State industrial property was privatized and sold off at rock-bottom prices to those with funds and political influence, creating a layer of what are commonly called oligarchs.

Parhomenko and Alexander Karpen, one of the other unionists at the meeting, worked at the Interpipe factory complex. When Parhomenko came home after work one night in January 2013 three men had broke into his apartment. They told him to stop his union activities or "your mother, your family will have problems." They beat him with a chain, knocking him unconscious.

Parhomenko was then refused treatment at a company medical facility, where doctors said he was a drug addict. Company agents called police and sought to frame him on criminal charges.

## Union defends framed-up workers

The union organized his defense. It proved the cops and hospital staff acted under company orders. Doctors were punished, but Parhomenko was fired nonetheless.

Workers continued to fight and eventually won his job back. "I credit the Maidan," Parhomenko said. "We are fighting to build unions in as many plants as possible now."

After the Yanukovich government passed a law in January gutting free speech and the right to protest, unionists joined a protest of some 3,000 in the center of Dnepropetrovsk.

"The Right Sector played an important role in holding back the regime's riot police in Maidan," Oleksyevych said. The political party is one of the rightist, ultranationalist groups active in Ukraine. "But Ukraine is multinational, with Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians and Russians. Trying to divide the Ukrainian people is an obstacle to our struggle. It's like giving a present to Putin."

Recently, members of the Svoboda party, another rightist group, stormed into a television studio that featured pro-Russian news, beating the station manager until he signed a letter of resignation.

The unionists responded by carry-



Independent Trade Union of Miners Members of Independent Trade Union of Miners join "Maidan" protests in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. In addition to pressing for greater freedom of speech and action, they're demanding higher pay, seven-hour workdays and improved working conditions.



ing a banner at the local Maidan reading, "You cannot shut up the journalists, Ukraine needs freedom without regulation."

## 'Didn't get paid for a year'

"We didn't get paid for a year at our plant," said Evgenii Derkach, who works at a plant of 7,000 that makes military rockets. Under the Soviet Union, it produced many of the large intercontinental ballistic missiles designed primarily to carry nuclear warheads. For years, Derkach said, Soviet officials officially denied that the city of Dnepropetrovsk existed. "But it was hard to hide a city of 1 million people."

"People were fired illegally for organizing protests against the lack of payment," he said. "I survived by living with my parents. Other workers got second jobs."

"One week ago we won all our back pay," Derkach said. "We believe the protests all over the country made this possible."

"The oligarchs who have taken over the plants say 'we're private,

so the laws don't apply here,'" said Oleksyevych. "But we're waking up and fighting back."

"The school administrators try to fire union activists," said Lariss Kolesnik, a leader of the Teachers Union. "They pay special attention to their work, looking for excuses to get rid of them."

"Our union was born six years ago, when the local government wanted to turn our school into a shopping center," Kolesnik said. "No one thought we could stop them, but we talked to the leaders of the miners' union and they helped us. And we won."

"Our union is still small. Many teachers are afraid," she said. "But we have been able to win a number of fights for back wages, including for teachers who are not members of the union."

"The new temporary government in Kiev is pushing to dissolve the Maidan," Oleksyevych said. "But this is not the answer. We need to transfer the power to the people. We will organize as many Maidans as we need to get there."



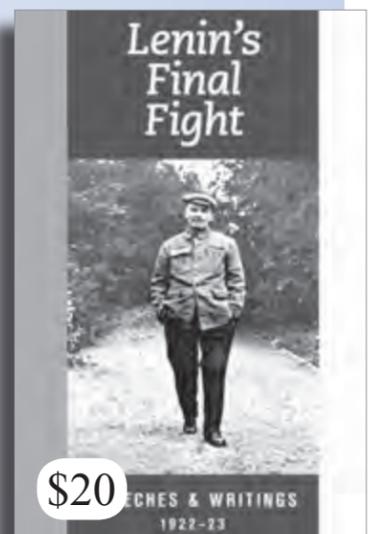
Miners and other workers meet with *Militant* reporters at hall of Independent Trade Union of Miners in Dnepropetrovsk, eastern Ukraine, March 28 to discuss openings to advance workers' struggles since overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovich in February.

## "I declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism."

"It must be absolutely insisted that the union Central Executive Committee should be presided over in turn by a Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, etc. Absolutely!"

— V.I. Lenin, 1922

Programmatic and strategic matters in dispute in the communist workers movement in the early 1920s once again weigh heavily in prospects for the working class worldwide.



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# 'Revolution was first step toward women's equality'

Federation of Cuban Women leaders speak in New York

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — “The first step forward for women’s equality in Cuba was the triumph of the 1959 revolution itself,” said Surina Acosta Brooks, a leader of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).

“The FMC was born in 1960 at the request of women who wanted to participate in the revolutionary process. Its most important task has been defense of that revolution.”

Acosta was one of three FMC leaders who spoke March 21 at a meeting of some 40 people organized by Lakou New York, a Haitian organization based in Brooklyn’s Flatbush community, to discuss the struggles and social conquests of women in Cuba. The speakers were part of a FMC delegation here to participate in the March 10-21 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

The four members of the delegation — Acosta, Maritzel González, Yanira Kúper and Yamila González Ferrer — also addressed some 60 people at the National Black Theatre in Harlem at a program organized by the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization and a gathering in the South Bronx of more than 30 people organized by the Bronx Center Grail, an international ecumenical women’s organization. They also spoke to several classes at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and a class at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

## Lakou New York meeting

The Lakou New York meeting, conducted in Haitian Creole with Spanish translation, was held in the offices of the Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project and Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees. Directors of the two organizations, Darnell Benoit and Ninaj Raoul, opened the meeting.

“Those big blue barrels in the hall are aid we collect for the Cuban doctors in Haiti,” said event chair Dahoud Andre of Lakou New York.

Acosta pointed out that one of the FMC’s first projects was the yearlong literacy campaign in 1961, which eliminated illiteracy among adults. “More than 50 percent of the young volunteer teachers were women,” she said. “That made possible everything that came later”—women’s incorporation in all areas of employment and social and political life.

“Our international collaboration to-

day includes Cuban doctors who provide health care in Haiti and around the world, as well as the Latin American School of Medicine,” which trains doctors from 120 countries, said Acosta. “We consider this work to be paying a debt to humanity.”

Dahoud Andre introduced two Haitian doctors trained in Cuba, one of whom spoke about his experience and then volunteered to help translate the meeting.

One meeting participant noted the importance of the 1988 battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola, where invading South African troops were decisively defeated by Cuban, Angolan, and Namibian combatants. He added that the Cuban government respects freedom of worship, including Voodoo and Sante-ria, religions brought from Africa to the Americas, including Haiti and Cuba, by slaves.

## Cuban women volunteers in Angola

Maritzel González pointed to a photo of Cuban women volunteers in Angola in 1976, during the initial phase of a 15-year internationalist combat mission that helped crush South African invasions of that country, gain independence for Namibia and weaken the racist apartheid regime. “The operation to send the first volunteer soldiers to Angola was named Operation Carlota, after a Black woman slave who led a rebellion in 1843,” she said.

“What is the situation with gay rights in Cuba?” another person asked.

Gays have the same protections as all other Cubans against discrimination in all areas of life, Acosta said. “But that doesn’t mean that there is no homophobia.” She pointed to steps the Cuban leadership is taking to combat antigay prejudice, from education to an annual march in Havana and others.

“But do gays have the right to marry,” the participant pressed. “There is no law recognizing same-sex marriage,” Acosta said. “But gay couples have a right to live together and enjoy the same rights and social benefits of all Cubans.” And the government is discussing amendments to the Family Code, she said.

At the end of the program Huguette Dejean sang “Malere Toupatou,” a Haitian song of rebellion.

Acosta opened the meeting in Harlem by noting that the focus of this year’s U.N. Commission on the Status of Women was progress being made on eight “millennium development goals.”



Photos by Dahoud Andre

Haitian group Lakou New York in Brooklyn organized meeting March 21 for leaders of Federation of Cuban Women. **Above**, Audience at event. **Inset**, From left, FMC leaders Maritzel González, Surina Acosta Brooks and Yanira Kúper; Dr. Wallace Thomas, graduate of Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, currently practicing in Brooklyn; and Huguette Dejean.



These include education, gender equality, maternal health, reducing child mortality, eliminating hunger, combating disease and environmental sustainability.

“We’re lucky,” she said. “In Cuba we made a revolution that made these things a priority. Women have played a central role in the revolutionary process from the beginning.”

The Harlem event was chaired by Nellie Bailey, director of the Harlem Tenants Council.

The delegation emphasized the extensive integration of women into the Cuban workforce and all levels of decision making, including in agriculture, technology, science, medicine and education.

“Today women and men are different since it has been shown in practice that women have the same capacity as men,” Yanira Kúper said in answer to a question on how men have responded to these changes in Cuba. “Of course, the social transformations always go faster than changes in consciousness. But we keep working to transform the mentality of both men and women.”

“I’m from South Korea and I grew up not knowing about North Korea, let alone Cuba,” said Soobok Kim, one of several Koreans at the event who have organized protests here against Seoul’s attacks on democratic rights. “It’s amaz-

ing to me that both countries have survived decades of attacks by the American empire. How have you done this?”

Welcoming the comments from “our Korean brother,” Maritzel González said that in Cuba the revolution’s progress is “due to the fact that we have a revolutionary leadership that has been able to unite our people.”

Participants in these events bought 27 copies of the *Militant*, three subscriptions and 25 books. They included nine copies of *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*; five of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*; four of *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*; four of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*; and one of *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women in Spanish*.

At both New York events, the FMC leaders called special attention to the international fight to free the Cuban Five. “René González and Fernando González are back on Cuban soil,” said Maritzel González in Harlem. “But we should remember,” she emphasized, “that they were forced to complete *their entire sentences*, and there are still three brothers in prison.

“We must continue the campaign of solidarity until they are all out,” she said, pointing to the “5 Days for the 5” events coming up in Washington, D.C., in June.



Dahoud Andre

“We’re lucky. In Cuba we made a revolution that prioritized these things,” said Surina Acosta, referring to U.N. goals related to education, gender equality, maternal health, infant mortality, hunger, disease and environmental sustainability. **Above**, March 20 panel at National Black Theatre, New York, from left, Yamila González, Acosta, Yanira Kúper and Maritzel González.

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

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# Resist calls to demobilize

Continued from front page

popular and “many continue to bring us potatoes, meat, bread, everything we need,” he said. While talking to Kuznitsov, a water tank truck was filling gallon jugs for camped protesters.

The demobilization of working people is one thing the capitalist rulers of Ukraine and Russia, as well as the U.S. and its imperialist allies, would all like to see.

“The U.S. and Russia have differences of opinion about the events that led to this crisis,” U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said in a press conference following a March 30 meeting in Paris with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. But the two sides agreed, Kerry said, “to work with the Ukrainian government ... to assure the following priorities: the rights of national minorities; language rights; demobilization and disarmament of irregular forces and provocateurs; an inclusive constitutional reform process; and free and fair elections monitored by the international community.”

Moscow has deployed some 40,000 military troops and has been establishing supply lines along Ukraine’s eastern and southern borders, including in Transnistria, a pro-Russia breakaway region of Moldova southwest of Ukraine. Another 25,000 Russian troops occupy Crimea to the south.

In a March 15 speech, Russian President Vladimir Putin defended Moscow’s annexation of Crimea on the basis that up until six decades ago the

peninsula had been part of Russia, a possession of the czarist Russian empire before 1917. And he made similar claims to other regions in Ukraine. “After the [1917] revolution, the Bolsheviks ... may God judge them, added large sections of the historical South of Russia to the Republic of Ukraine,” Putin said.

Under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, the Bolshevik Party brought to power in 1917 fought to reverse centuries of “Great Russian” chauvinism. But the Soviet Union’s policy of backing the rights and national aspirations of the many peoples oppressed under the czarist empire was reversed as part of a counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin that began in the 1920s.

The Ukrainian military today — reduced to some 140,000 troops, only 6,000 of whom are considered ready for duty — has been seeking money from big Ukrainian capitalists and organizing collections from Ukrainian working people.

And the government has sought to end the Maidan protest by recruiting young demonstrators to the National Guard. “We have to disarm them, because they simply cannot have arms,” said Ukraine’s new defense chief and First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Yarema.

Meanwhile, working people are organizing their own defense guards. In a recent trip to the eastern city of Krivii Rig, union members showed a flyer calling on “all who are not indifferent to the fate of their families and our country” to “organize voluntary local people’s self-defense detachments.”

“We organized self-defense units here, starting with members of the miners’ union,” said Samoilo Jurij Petrovych, the local leader of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine at the big iron ore mine in Krivii Rig, March 26. “We were facing attacks from what they call Tatushka, which are groups of thugs recruited from among unemployed, lumpen elements. Here they were organized by the guard detachments of the mine owners.

“Now we’re building on this to organize to meet whatever challenges to come — from the cops, the thugs or Russian forces.

## Montreal march demands Russia out of Ukraine



Militant/John Steele

MONTREAL — Some 200 people, mostly of Ukrainian descent and from other countries in eastern and central Europe, marched through downtown here March 30 to demand an end to the Russian occupation of Crimea and support for the Ukrainian people’s struggle for national sovereignty. “We are against the Russian occupation of the Crimea, against war and we stand against [Russian President Vladimir] Putin,” nurse Nataliya Pazish told the Militant.

— JOHN STEELE

Effective April 1, the Russian government raised by 80 percent the price of natural gas imports into Ukraine. Russia’s union of milk producers is asking for a ban on Ukrainian dairy products, and Russian steel companies are pressing for protectionist measures against Ukrainian ore.

### Imperialist ‘aid’ increases debt

The International Monetary Fund announced in Kiev March 27 an agreement to loan up to \$18 billion to the Ukrainian government over two years. The deal, subject to approval by the IMF board, is designed to prevent Kiev from defaulting on interest payments on its foreign debt. By the end of 2003, the country’s foreign debt had climbed to more than \$17 billion. By 2012 it had soared to \$135 billion.

Ukrainian Interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told Ukraine’s parliament that “gross domestic product could drop 10 percent this year unless urgent steps were taken,” reported the *New York Times*. Steps include freezing the minimum wage and raising gas prices by more than 50 percent by May 1, followed by further increases under a fixed timetable through 2018.

Since the Russian occupation of Crimea, thousands of Tatars have left the peninsula. Temporary shelters have been organized in several Ukrainian cities, including here in Kiev.

On March 20, the Ukrainian parliament, after decades of foot dragging, adopted a resolution recognizing the Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people with the right to self-determination in Ukraine. Mustafa Dzhemilev, a central leader of the Crimean Tatars and member of the Ukrainian parliament, said at a press conference in Kiev March 22 that the resolution was good, but “a shame that it was done so late.”

Dzhemilev also criticized Moscow’s ban on some 200 Crimean and other Ukrainian politicians from entering Crimea, including Dzhemilev, who voted for the dissolution of the Russian-imposed parliament there.

Putin recently told Dzhemilev that he would “do everything” to protect Crimean Tatars “from any possible aggression,” according to Monkey Cage, a blog of the *Washington Post*. But his wooing of the Tatars — who were brutally oppressed by the czars and Stalin — has largely fallen on deaf ears.

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# Deathtrap in Washington

Continued from front page

limits that were delineated to prevent water from saturating the mountain-side and causing mudslides.

A Department of Natural Resources factsheet posted to the agency's website after the disaster emphasized that a 1997 analysis of the area by the Department of Ecology "meets or exceeds all current rule requirements for harvest restrictions."

What the factsheet didn't say, and the *Seattle Times* uncovered, is that in 2004 the DNR approved a plan to remove all trees in a seven-and-a-half acre area, five of which were within the perimeter slated for protection under the 1997 study. And then Grandy Lake Forest — which had initially sought permission to cut down 15 acres — harvested about an acre beyond that approved by the DNR.

As for the 1997 analysis itself, one of the engineers quoted in a March 30 report by the *Times* gives a picture of the pressures under which it was put together:

Paul Kennard, a geologist who was working with the Tulalip Tribes during the 1997 watershed analysis, said he remembers a Grandy Lake representative arguing "very eloquently and hard" to protect the company's timber interests.

"Everything had to be argued to the nth degree if it involved leaving a stick of timber," Kennard said. ... The tribes saw the system as tilted heavily in favor of timber companies.

"It's David and Goliath, but you don't have the slingshot," Kennard said.

A 1999 report filed with the Army Corps of Engineers warned of "the potential for a large catastrophic failure." But as geologist and other scientists issued such warnings, government officials issued building permits. And those living in harm's way were kept in the dark.

Snohomish County officials "knew that this mountain was unstable and they let people build there," Robin Youngblood, one of the few known survivors, told Associated Press. "This shouldn't have happened."

"Eighty percent of the people who live in the area are struggling — working people and poor people," Doree Damm, a food service worker and

artist who lives in Arlington, about 20 miles southwest of the disaster, told the *Militant*.

Evidence of instability in the area includes decades of cautionary reports and a long record of smaller landslides: in 1949, 1951, 1967, 1988 and 2006.

Yet "it was considered very safe," was the assertion of John Pennington, director of Snohomish County Emergency Management, in a press conference two days after the catastrophe. "This was a completely unforeseen slide. This came out of nowhere."

*Clay Dennison contributed to this article from Arlington, Wash.*



Reuters/Tawny Dotson/Washington National Guard

Bosses considered profits from over-logging worth increased risk of landslides. Above, rescue workers search March 28 for missing persons after one of deadliest landslides in U.S. history.

## Canada truckers win raises and pay for wait times

Continued from front page

operator, told the *Militant* at a March 27 mass membership meeting of the United Truckers Association. "We finally made them listen."

The agreement was signed by trucking companies, the port authorities, and the federal and provincial governments with the Vancouver Container Truckers' Association, an affiliate of the Unifor union, and the United Truckers Association, which is not officially recognized as a union. The UTA represents about 1,200 drivers, but includes many Unifor members as well.

During the walkout truckers remained firm despite the introduction of back-to-work legislation by the British Columbia government, court injunctions against picketing and suspensions by the port of dozens of driver's licenses and permits.

"They kept threatening us," a driver who did not want to give his name said. "We knew they had to settle with us. They were losing too much business. Even if they only fired one guy nobody was going back."

In a March 25 editorial entitled "Enough Already with the Vancouver Port Strike," the *Globe and Mail*, Canada's main daily newspaper, complained that the strike "is severely hampering Canada's ability to export across the Pacific to Asia. ... [T]he loss to the Canadian economy was estimated to be \$885-million a week." (US\$801 million.)

The government soon dropped its back-to-work bill and the port agreed to restore all suspended truckers' licenses. The truckers had insisted this was a precondition for any back-to-work agreement.

"The main gains are on wait times," owner-operator John Rodrigues said.

"Before we could get \$42 a load and wait four or five hours without any pay for waiting," said Mohinder Dhaul, a Lally Brothers driver. Now, truckers will be paid \$50 for the first 90 minutes they have to wait, \$25 for each additional half hour up to two-and-a-half hours, and \$20 for each half hour after that. They will also get a 12 percent increase in the rate for each container.

Unifor British Columbia Director Gavin McGarrigle told *Truck News* that owner-operators are supposed to get between \$100 and \$180 per container, according to a 2005 settlement, but that the companies have gotten

around this with "a huge explosion in what they call company drivers, which are supposed to be hourly paid drivers." Some 54 percent of those drivers are paid by the trip, he said, but at less than the official container rate.

Under the agreement hourly drivers will be paid \$25.13 an hour their first year at work and \$26.28 after that.

Ranjit Chahal, a driver for AC Transport who has been working at the port six months, said he was getting \$18 an hour before the strike. "I'm very happy," he said. "Now I can make enough to live on."

Power said that the unity between the union and nonunion truckers, owner-operators and company drivers was key to their victory. "We stayed strong and we won our rights," he said. "I'm very proud of that."

Negotiations will continue on outstanding issues for 90 days through a government-appointed mediator.

## Rally slams jail conditions in NYC

BY CANDACE WAGNER

NEW YORK — "They tried to say my daughter was a bum," said Anita Neal, the mother of Kyam Livingston, who died in a Brooklyn Central Booking jail cell July 21 last year after her pleas for medical attention were ignored for seven hours. "My daughter was a hard-working woman. On the 21st of every month we're out demand-

ing justice. I'll be out in April, May, until we get justice."

Neal spoke at a March 21 meeting organized by the Justice for Kyam Livingston committee at the Flatbush Reformed Church in Brooklyn.

Terry Hubbard described how she went to the police precinct looking for her son who has a mental disability. "Never heard of your son," cops told her. It took her two days to find out he had been sent to Brooklyn Central Booking. After arriving there she waited for hours only to be told that her son had been taken before a judge and transferred to Rikers Island.

Program chair Djibril Toure, of the Malcolm X Grass Roots Movement, noted that Jerome Murdough, a homeless veteran, died Feb. 15 at Rikers Island from extreme temperatures in his cell. Cops arrested him for trespassing in an apartment building on a cold night.

"Kyam Livingston is not an isolated case at all," said Haley Fitzgerald, a spokesperson for the NYC Jails Action Coalition.

### Correction

The article "Miners in Ukraine Discuss Fight for Sovereignty Rights" in the April 7 issue incorrectly said Yulia Tymoshenko was a former president of Ukraine. She was a former prime minister.

### 'Militant' launches \$115,000 seven-week 'fighting fund'

The *Militant* has launched its annual Militant Fighting Fund. Our aim is to raise \$115,000 in a seven-week campaign between April 5 and May 27. The drive will go hand in hand with the *Militant* subscription campaign to win 1,800 new and renewing subscribers.

The \$115,000 is needed for the paper's operating expenses as well as reporting trips covering workers struggles and political developments around the world. Since the beginning of 2014, worker-correspondents have reported from Egypt, Burkina Faso, Mali, Cuba, Lebanon and most recently Ukraine. Contributions for the Ukraine reporting trip total more than \$2,000 so far.

To raise \$115,000 we must enlist the aid of our readers. With no capitalist advertising in its pages, the *Militant* is financed solely by our working-class readership who want to see the socialist paper continue to come out every week.

Socialist workers selling the paper door to door find people who want to chip in a few dollars "for the cause." Those contributions will go to the Militant Prisoners' Fund, which helps provide subscriptions to workers behind bars at a reduced rate or in some cases free of

charge.

Currently there are 96 subscribers in 53 different prisons across the U.S. — a number we are proud of and want to multiply. Prisoners tell us the paper gets passed around widely, which means many more than the 96 read it.

"Let me first salute you to indicate much respect and gratitude that you've earned," wrote a prisoner in California Feb. 8. "Presently I'm in solitary confinement and with no doubt I'm a worker. I'm requesting to be placed on your mailing list as a subscriber. At this time I'm with no funds but in the near future my financial situation will level out. I will graciously donate a bit of money your way, which in turn I know you will distribute in one way or another to our people."

To contribute, contact distributors listed on page 8, or send a check or money order made out to the Militant to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Send experiences, quotes and photos on winning contributors to the Militant Fighting Fund and the Prisoners' Fund to themilitant@mac.com.

— LEA SHERMAN