

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Prison paintings win support for Cuban 5 in Britain, Australia, & US
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 78/NO. 22 JUNE 9, 2014

Socialists build Active Workers Conference

BY JOHN STUDER

Workers and young people who value the *Militant* for its coverage of resistance and working-class politics — from the mobilizations to defend national sovereignty in Ukraine to the international campaign to free the Cuban Five — will be gathering for an Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, June 19-21. The conference is sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party.

Reports and discussion at the conference will look at the development of capitalist production on a world scale and the international character of the capitalist crisis is drawing workers together, as the circumstances and struggles of toiling humanity converge. And how the world today is one of increasing openness and possibilities for working-class struggle.

The conference will also look at the continuing ramifications of the fact that U.S. imperialism lost the Cold War when the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, no longer able to count on a Stalinist regime to keep workers out

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Workers across Ukraine back national unity, sovereignty

BY JOHN STUDER

Miners in Krivyi Rih and other eastern cities have been organizing to defend Ukraine's national sovereignty against pro-Russian-government separatist gangs as they also fight to advance their own class interests against bosses' attacks on their living standards, working conditions and rights.

Meanwhile, on May 25 the country's first presidential election took place since the popular overthrow of the pro-Moscow regime of President Viktor Yanukovich in February. Petro Poroshenko, billionaire owner of Roshen Chocolate, won a clear majority. He portrayed himself as a champion of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Following Moscow's seizure of Crimea in March, the Russian government sent operatives into eastern Ukraine to lead occupations of government buildings and other provocations. But in the last few weeks leading up to the elections, the Russian government backed off threats to split the region off from Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin announced

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Coal miners in Turkey fight for safer conditions

Thousands strike after bosses' greed kills over 300



Miners in Soma, Turkey, argue with government officials May 26. Workers from three mines went on strike after more than 300 miners were killed in May 13 fire at Eynesiz coal mine.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Coal miners in Soma, Turkey, walked off the job demanding bosses implement safety measures after more than 300 of their fellow workers died and 486 were injured in a May 13 fire in the underground Eynesiz mine there.

Workers at Soma Holding's Ata Bacasi and Isiklar mines held sit-ins for 10 days at local government offices until officials agreed that those mines would not be reopened until safety conditions are improved. As of May 28 the mines are still closed.

Supervisors from Soma Holding sent text messages to Eynesiz miners on May 25 ordering them to start work at the company's other two mines in Soma or be fired, reported Today's Zaman website. But no miners showed up for work the next day. The company sent shuttle buses to pick up workers, but they returned empty.

Hundreds of miners stormed the headquarters of the Maden-Is union in Soma May 26 after several days of sit-ins in front of those offices. "If [union officials] had done their jobs, these incidents might not have happened," miner Engin Tursucu told Cihan news agency.

"Whenever there are union elections, they put the name they want in an envelope and vote him in," miner Sevket Duman told Cihan. "Whoever the company says is voted in. If anybody objects, they fire him."

Regional Maden-Is President Tamer Kucukgencay resigned after he was repeatedly booed by the crowd.

Workers across the country have joined protests in solidarity with the miners, from Edirne in the northwest and Zonguldak on the Black Sea coast to Diyarbakir in Kurdistan and Anta-

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Steelworkers strike in Illinois: 'Us today, maybe you tomorrow'



Workers at Sloan Valve near Chicago have organized 24-hour pickets since they began strike May 18 over bosses' union-busting contract demands. Above, picket line May 24.

BY LAURA ANDERSON

FRANKLIN PARK, ILL. — Some 350 members of Steelworkers Local 7999 walked off the job at midnight May 18 at Sloan Valve here, west of Chicago. They had been working without a contract since Sept. 30.

They are fighting for respect and against the company's anti-union assault, including contract demands that would expand the use of lower paid

temporary workers and raise the cost of health care.

Sloan Valve manufactures plumbing fixtures and valves. This veteran workforce on strike has an average of 20 years working for the company.

The 24-hour picket line is spirited, with a food tent and a grill. Strikers take turns chanting while cars drive by. Ernestine Triplett, a machine op-

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Canadian gov't frames up workers for deadly profit-driven rail disaster

BY FÉLIX VINCENT ARDEA AND JOE YOUNG

LAC-MÉGANTIC, Quebec — Forty-seven people were killed here July 6, 2013, in a fiery train explosion as a result of the rail bosses' unbounded pursuit of profits. The government, backing the owners of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, is pinning the blame on three rail employees who were arrested May 12 and charged with 47 counts of "criminal negligence causing death," and face possible life sentences. The bosses walk scot-free.

Thomas Harding, the engineer of the train, and Richard Labrie, who was acting as the rail controller at the time of the disaster, are workers and members of the Steelworkers union. The third, Jean Demaître, was manager of train operations. The three have been released on bail of \$15,000.

Montreal, Maine and Atlantic, which faces fines for safety violations, has filed for bankruptcy and was sold to another company in January.

The rail bosses were running the

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Participants at Tehran book fair drawn to working-class politics

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

TEHRAN, Iran — The 27th Tehran International Book Fair, one of the largest in the Middle East, took place at the Mosalla praying grounds in the city center here April 30-May 10. Hundreds of thousands packed exhibition halls to check out books from some 1,300 Iranian publishers. Among the foreign publishers offering 132,000 different titles was Pathfinder Books from London, which sold 241 books and pamphlets in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Twenty publishers and 40 booksellers participated from Afghanistan, this year's country of honor. They exhibited on the mezzanine above the main hall for Iranian publishers. Farsi, the most widely spoken language in Iran, is also spoken in Afghanistan, the largest importer of Iranian books.

Large stands representing Turkey, Russia and Japan were present. A booth under the auspices of the ALBA trade alliance (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) featured books from Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and other Latin American countries. Publishers in Arabic shared two international halls with distributors of books in English and French.

"I want this book by Nelson Mandela. He is one of my heroes because he fought against racism," said a young man originally from Afghanistan who visited the Pathfinder Books stand and bought *Nelson Mandela Speaks and Two Speeches* by Malcolm X, whom he had not heard of before. "I am against all these divisions they create between people, including in my country." The

people of Afghanistan comprise a number of ethnicities, including Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek and several others.

Another customer who had travelled from Afghanistan with her family bought Pathfinder's *How Far We Slaves Have Come* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro after finding out how Cuban volunteers in Angola had been decisive in defeating the invasion there by the racist army of apartheid South Africa.

Many students searched out books. Book fair organizers gave out 151,000 subsidized debit cards students could use at the fair.

A medical student came to the fair looking for books about medicine. She ended up buying *Woman's Evolution* by Evelyn Reed, which provides a scientific explanation of how women came to be, and will cease being, "the second sex." That book, published in Farsi in three volumes, was displayed at the stand in the Iranian section by the publisher Gôlazin, which has published several other Farsi editions of Pathfinder titles.

A student of Spanish was happy to find titles of interest in that language at the Pathfinder booth. She got three books, including *Los cosméticos, las modas y la explotación de la mujer* (Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women).

A student of English literature asked for books that address "revolution today, such as in Egypt or Libya." After browsing the Pathfinder titles he bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, Lenin's Final Fight, Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* and *Che Guevara: Economics and*



Participants browse books at 27th Tehran International Book Fair, one of largest in Middle East.

Politics in the Transition to Socialism.

"I really liked the book I got here last year, *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*," said one customer. "I liked how Malcolm X changed. He went through several stages, and developed all through his life."

Three libraries bought books from Pathfinder.

Best-seller, with 20 copies sold, was the recently published *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*, which reprints 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero, one of five Cubans framed up and imprisoned by the U.S. government for monitoring plans by rightist groups in Florida with a record of armed attacks on Cuba. Other titles about this case accounted for another 19 copies. A total of 15 copies

of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism* were sold as well as eight copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. All five copies of Leon Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution* were sold, as were a similar number of *Art and Revolution* by the same author.

Talaye Porsoo, which publishes Farsi translations of many Pathfinder books, displayed six new titles and sold more than 700 books. *Feminism and the Marxist Movement* by Mary-Alice Waters and *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro were top sellers with 58 and 55 copies respectively.

Steelworkers strike in Illinois

Continued from front page

erator with 10 years at Sloan, told the *Militant* that this is her first strike. "Us today. Maybe you tomorrow!" she chanted, as she held a "Honk for support" sign. "If you don't stand up for something you'll fall for anything," is one of her favorite sayings. "These kinds of attacks are hitting so many people," Triplett said.

"Now new hires are temporary for 30 days. After that they may be hired on and brought into the union," said Loretta Tyler, Steelworkers District 7 staff representative. "The company wants to change this to have new workers as temps for six months. They won't have

to be hired on and could remain working for the temp service in the factory without health insurance.

"The company also wants to raise the cost of health insurance," she said. "Since August the proposals from the company have not changed."

Union officials on the picket line said that temporary workers start out at \$8.50 an hour, doing the same work as union members who make \$17 an hour or more.

Machine operator Domingo Ramirez described the insulting conditions on the job. "There are cameras everywhere, we can't talk on the line," Ramirez said.

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THE MILITANT

Back fights to raise minimum wage!

The 'Militant' covers fights to raise the minimum wage — from Los Angeles, Chicago and New York; to Cambodia, Bangladesh and Egypt. The fight benefits all working people, since workers wages are set from the bottom up.

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Militant/Janice Lynn
Fast-food workers rally in Atlanta May 15 demanding \$15 an hour and a union.

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

Socialist candidate in Wash.: 'Support Ukraine workers'

BY JOHN NAUBERT

"The *Militant* newspaper and the Socialist Workers Party campaign champion the fight by Ukrainian workers and farmers to defend their national sovereignty, push back Russian government-sponsored separatist paramilitaries in the east, and broaden openings for working people to defend their class interests," Mary Martin, the party's candidate in the 9th C. D. in Washington state, said when she campaigned door to door in Renton May 24. Among those she met were working people from Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

One woman from Moldova, which borders Ukraine on the west and where separatists have set up a rump regime called Transnistria maintained by Russian troops, signed up for a subscription when she saw an article on the Tatars in Crimea protesting Moscow's occupation and ban on protests. "We are worried that Russia will try to do the same thing to us in Moldova," she said.

Two Ukrainian women sitting on a porch asked for copies of the paper. They said they could not read enough English to get a subscription, but made a small donation and said they would get a family member to translate it for them.

"Shut down the Tacoma Detention Center, where immigrant workers have been engaged in hunger strikes since March to protest deportations and prison conditions," Martin told campaign supporters at a picnic May 25.

"My opponent Adam Smith visited

the detention center at the request of area immigrant rights organizations," she said. "He says he has drafted legislation for better government 'oversight' of the center, for a raise above the \$1 a day detainees are paid and for 'alternatives to detention' like home imprisonment with ankle bracelet monitors. My campaign backs the fight for equal status before the law for foreign-born workers. Organize the unorganized!"

"I announced my campaign to co-workers at the popcorn factory where I work when Smith came to shake hands with workers on a prison work-release program. 'This is a wonderful program' he told them," Martin said. "Under work release bosses get tax rebates for hiring workers out of prison. The bosses can dump them for any reason and they're sent straight back to jail."

"It's a wonderful program for who?" said Jim, one of my co-workers. 'He wants the support of wardens and business owners. I'd rather vote for you.'"

"I find real interest in the fight to free the Cuban Five among co-workers and knocking on doors," Martin said. The Cuban Five are five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the U.S. since 1998 for defending the Cuban Revolution. "When I show workers the prison paintings of Antonio Guerrero, which depict the conditions the Cuban Five faced in solitary after their frame-up, it strikes a chord, especially among those who have been in jail or have a family member or friend behind bars."



Militant/Jeanne FitzMaurice

Mary Martin, left, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Washington's 9th District, campaigns at vigil at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, May 10.

Militant Fighting Fund in Canada, 'Over the top, with more to come'

BY LEA SHERMAN

In its final stretch the Militant Fighting Fund has collected \$92,000 toward its \$115,000 goal.

Canada is over the top of its quota of \$7,000. "We received more contributions today so we're at \$7,550 with more to come," wrote Bev Bernardo, organizer of the fund there. "We're working to get 10 new contributors — we have five so far. We've turned to regular readers of the *Militant*, many of whom said they were inspired by the paper's firsthand coverage from Ukraine, the response to door-to-door sales of the socialist

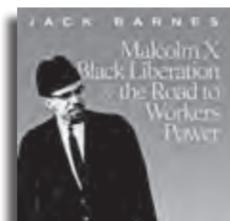
press, and recent articles on the historic strengthening of the working class in Canada as a result of blows dealt to national oppression against Quebecois."

Contributions are used to subsidize the *Militant's* operating expenses and make possible reporting trips. In the next week, the *Militant* will be fielding its second reporting team to Ukraine.

"The pledges tended to be higher than recent funds," said Paul Pederson, director of the fund in Los Angeles. "Many commented on the firsthand coverage of workers' struggles in Ukraine when we called them to ask for a pledge."

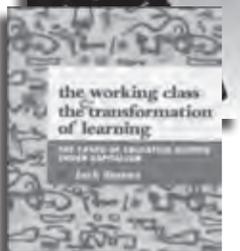
Contributions received in the *Militant* office by June 3 count towards the campaign. To help, contact distributors on page 8 or send a check or money order to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2472.

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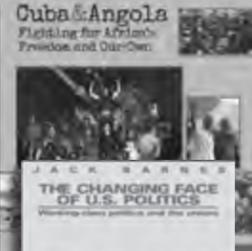
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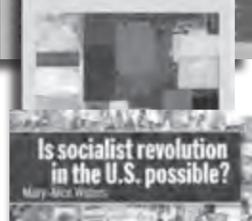
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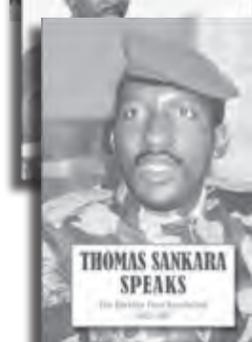
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Militant Fighting Fund

April 5 - May 27 (week 6)

Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	\$3,800	\$3,816	100%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$8,202	95%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$12,511	93%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$6,422	80%
Twin Cities	\$6,500	\$5,110	79%
Washington	\$7,800	\$6,120	78%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$7,225	76%
Des Moines	\$2,800	\$2,050	73%
Boston	\$3,500	\$2,430	69%
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,757	63%
Omaha/Lincoln	\$2,700	\$1,690	63%
Houston	\$3,500	\$2,085	60%
Seattle	\$8,400	\$4,810	57%
New York	\$19,000	\$9,280	49%
Other		\$1,250	
Total U.S.	\$100,400	\$74,758	74%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$7,550	108%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,000	\$5,108	102%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$1,500	100%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$2,160	108%
Manchester	\$750	\$940	125%
Total UK	\$2,750	\$3,100	113%
France	\$400	\$354	89%
Total	\$117,050	\$92,370	80%
Should be	\$115,000	\$98,571	86%

See distributors
on page 8

William Worthy told truth, fought US travel ban to Cuba

Defense of journalist part of '60s youth radicalization

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Journalist William Worthy, who fought government persecution for traveling to Cuba and accurately reporting on the revolution's gains for working people there, died May 4 at the age of 92. The fight to defend him was part of a radicalization of a generation of young people inspired by the 1959 Cuban Revolution and proletarian battle for Black rights in the U.S.

As a foreign correspondent for the weekly *Baltimore Afro-American*, Worthy traveled extensively abroad, on many occasions defying government travel restrictions. In the mid-1950s he went to Hungary and China. He reported first-hand on revolutionary developments from Cuba to North Vietnam, Algeria and Iran.

When he sought to renew his passport in 1957, the State Department refused on grounds that Worthy "would not feel obligated to restrict his travel abroad in any way."

Worthy, who was African American, traveled to Cuba in July 1961, three months after Cuba's revolutionary forces defeated the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion of the island at the Bay of Pigs. He interviewed Cuban President Fidel Castro and filed a number of articles reporting truthfully about steps the revolutionary government had taken to uproot racist discrimination there.

Three months later Worthy took a flight from Havana to Miami with a copy of his birth certificate. Six and a half months later on April 24, 1962, a Miami grand jury issued a criminal indictment of Worthy for entering the U.S. "without a valid United States passport," a document the State Department continued to refuse to issue.

"No other U.S. citizens have ever been indicted under the 1952 McCarran Immigration and Nationality Act for having returned 'illegally' to their native country," noted a May 7, 1962, article in the *Militant*, which reported extensively on his fight.

Worthy was arrested in New York and moved to Miami to stand trial. His defense attorney, William Kunstler, then filed motions for a change of venue to New York, arguing that a fair trial could not be obtained in Miami given the hostile atmosphere generat-

ed by rightist paramilitary Cuban exile groups there. The request was denied.

In a two-hour trial in August 1962, Worthy was convicted. The following month he was sentenced to three months in prison. The ruling was appealed.

The U.S. government targeted Worthy for his determination to get out the truth about the Cuban Revolution in face of Washington's lies. In an October 1960 cabled dispatch from Havana, "I scooped the entire U.S. press on CIA preparations for the invasion of Cuba," said Worthy in a statement after being convicted, the *Militant* reported at the time. "Subsequently, I repeatedly ridiculed the fantasy, nurtured by our press and government, that the Cuban people would rise up and embrace an invading force. Our law enforcement agencies promptly set out to 'get' and silence me."

Rallies back Worthy's fight

Once the indictment of Worthy was announced, a broad array of supporters of the right to travel and First Amendment rights joined protests demanding the charges be dropped.

"A carload of us from the Fair Play for Cuba Committee chapter at Carleton College in Minnesota drove up to the Twin Cities to demonstrate against the decision by the Anti-Defamation League to give President John F. Kennedy a 'democracy legacy' award," Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, said in a phone interview. "It was the first demonstration in the U.S. that I ever took part in. It was 20 degrees below zero and this was an important issue for us."

"Worthy was a founder of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Taking a stand on Cuba and the Fair Play committee was a good indication of Worthy's politics and how radical he was," Waters said.

That same day a similar picket occurred in Chicago. At the action, "I was part of a delegation that went to talk to the Anti-Defamation League to oppose granting this award," said Joel Britton of the Socialist Workers Party, who was then a student at Roosevelt University and a member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

"Actions like this weren't big mass actions, but part of a deepening radicalization of our generation who identified with the Cuban Revolution and the struggle for Black rights in the U.S." Waters said. "The impact of these things was a political education for our generation and gave us confidence that those forces were capable of making a revolution in the U.S. This affected us our entire lives."

Several months earlier in June 1962, the Negro Newspapers Publishers Association, in a rebuff to Attorney General Robert Kennedy, invited Worthy to address its annual convention in Baltimore the day after Robert Kennedy was scheduled to speak.

Pickets defending the right to travel to Cuba were put up



Picket in Minneapolis Jan. 15, 1963, protesting "democratic legacy" award to President John F. Kennedy. Pickets gave out flyers saying "President suppressed civil rights in the case of William Worthy," wrote local paper that ran photo. "Actions like this were part of a deepening radicalization of our generation who identified with the Cuban Revolution and the struggle for Black rights," said Mary-Alice Waters, shown here in front with sign.

at a number of public events attended by the attorney general. On Oct. 28, 1962, during the so-called Cuban Missile Crisis, a picket line of some 200 marched in front of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York to protest the American Jewish Committee's award to Robert Kennedy for "advancing human freedom." Among signs being carried were: "Free Travel to Cuba" and "Free William Worthy."

In the Harlem neighborhood of New York, two days before Worthy's sentencing, "some 750 heard 20 leaders of the Negro community speak in his defense," the *Militant* reported. Among the numerous supporters of the case were James Farmer, national director of CORE; Percy Sutton, president

Steelworkers

Continued from page 2

"They asked a lady to open her mouth to see if she was eating during work time — it was a piece of gum."

If Sloan Valve gets its way, workers said, bosses will replace their "no excuse" attendance program with an even harsher one that allows the company to fire workers after six "occurrences" in a year, instead of the current more flexible point system.

One respected co-worker was fired last year, said mill operator Valerie Green, after getting points for missing work because of two deaths in the family and a fire at his house. Green was recently given points for missing work to take care of a sick grandchild.

"UPS workers, postal workers, IAM representatives and others have dropped off water and joined the picket line in solidarity with the strikers," said Chris Penge, 38, a tool and die maker and member of the local's bargaining committee.

Sloan Valve did not respond to requests for comment.

"Staying united is key," Penge said. The vote was 289 for going on strike, he said, and 7 against.

Penge said that Sloan Valve is going after working union officials. "If you take time off for union business," he said, "the company wants to take it away from the annual vacation we won in past union contracts, instead of getting union time off."

"Our members are standing strong, they're united," said Jerry Mastny, Local 7999 president, who has worked at the plant for 37 years. "We'll be out here as long as it takes."

of the N.Y. NAACP; AFL-CIO Vice President A. Philip Randolph of the Sleeping Car Porters; Malcolm X; author James Baldwin; Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling; and the American Civil Liberties Union.

At a street rally in Harlem on June 1, 1963, Worthy raised the idea of organizing an independent Black political party. Later that year he collaborated with Rev. Albert Cleage Jr. and others in forming the Michigan Freedom Now Party, which ran candidates challenging the Democrats and Republicans in the 1964 elections.

In response to mounting protests, a federal appeals court in February 1964 overturned Worthy's conviction and declared unconstitutional the federal law that prohibits a citizen from leaving or entering the country without a valid passport.

"A Salute to William Worthy," headlined an editorial in the March 2, 1964, *Militant*. "When the Justice Department indicted Worthy it clearly did so because he had gone to Cuba in defiance of the travel ban and, on his return, insisted on telling the truth about the great progress of the Cuban revolution," the editorial said. "But for one reason or another, the G-Men decided to skirt a court test of the travel ban at that point and indicted him instead on the seemingly incredible grounds of returning to his native land without a passport.

"By insisting on exercising his constitutional rights despite the threat of jail Worthy had added to everyone's freedom."



William Worthy at N.Y. passport office, February 1957.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Their Morals and Ours: Why the Working Class Needs to Take Power Out of the Hands of the Capitalist Class. Speakers: Eleanor Garcia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California; Eric Simpson, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor. Sat., June 7. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Working Class in Canada Stronger as Quebec Oppression is Pushed Back. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

Canada gov't frames workers

Continued from front page

72-car oil tanker — laden with explosive crude — with one operator, Harding. Only decades ago, moving such freight would have been inconceivable without a full crew that included a conductor, two brakemen, an engineer and a fireman. But the federal government has allowed Montreal, Maine and Atlantic to run its trains with one-person “crews” in order to increase its profit margins. And, for the same reason, MMA has been allowed to continue using tanker cars that since 1991 have been known to be vulnerable to explode if derailed.

The night of the disaster Harding parked the train 11 kilometers (7 miles) from Lac-Mégantic with the brakes on and the motor running, in conformity with company regulations. At 11:30 p.m., July 5, MMA employees called firefighters to extinguish a small fire in one of the locomotives. They left when MMA officials told them the train was secure and didn't present any danger. At 1 a.m., the train with no one on board, started to roll with increasing speed until it derailed and barreled into the center of the town where several cars exploded, immolating 47 people.

The overwhelming reaction to the arrests among working people in this town of 6,000 has been one of anger that those who are really responsible have not been charged.

“Justice has not been delivered to the right people, it's the government that is responsible,” Karina Bilodeau, who was a waitress at the Musi-Café where most people were killed, told the *Militant*. Thomas Harding “is only a worker,” she said. “For sure he should not have left the train all by itself, but the orders came from above.”

“The central problem is the lack of regulation and the fact that they let a 72-car train run with just one engineer,” said Patrice Laframboise, a doctor who lives very close to where the explosion took place. “They should arrest the owner, the board of directors of the company and the politicians who decide.” And the massive contamination caused by the oil has yet to be cleaned up, he added.

“For the governments and the big bosses, it's dollar signs which count,” said resident Emmanuel Baillargeon.

Harding was arrested at gun point by a police tactical squad in the backyard of his home May 12 in front of his son and a friend. All three accused were brought in handcuffs to the Sports Center in Lac-Mégantic to be arraigned. Many townspeople were there, having been informed of the planned arrest in advance. But many were angry that the blame was being wrongly pinned on company employees.

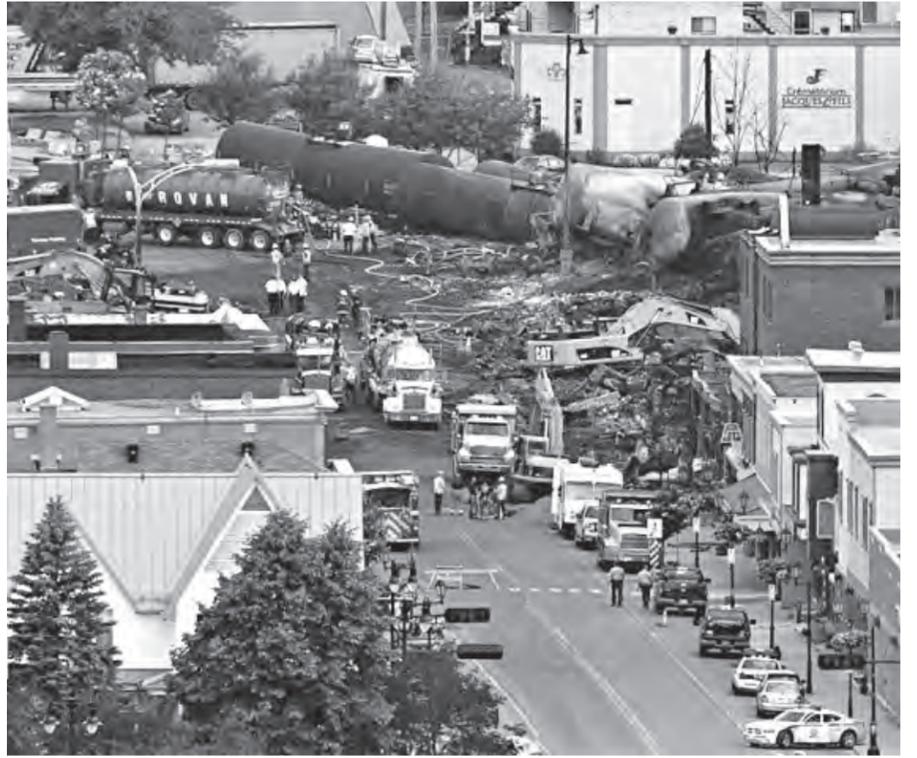
“We can't judge these people, they work for the MMA. These aren't the bosses of the MMA,” Danielle Champagne, who lost her daughter in the fire,

told CTV News at the scene.

“Thomas Harding is not responsible for the bad state of the railways,” Daniel Roy, the Quebec director of the Steelworkers union, told the Montreal daily *La Presse*. “The state of the bridges over which the trains pass is not the fault of Mr. Harding. The fact that oil is transported everywhere through the towns of Quebec, is not the fault of Tom Harding and the employees of the MMA. Those who are really responsible are the federal government with deregulation and ceding railways to little companies like the MMA.”

“One would think that we are in antiquity when the dictator brought the accused to be burned in front of everyone,” said Roy, referring to the way the workers were arraigned publicly at the sports center.

The union has established a defense fund for the two members.



Train derailment in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, killed 47 people July 6, 2013. Government is framing up workers, while bosses who cut back on safety protections to boost profits walk scot-free.

Canada court backs deportations based on secret evidence

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Algerian refugee Mohamed Harkat once again faces deportation to his native country, where he says he would face possible torture and death. The Canadian Supreme Court unanimously ruled May 14 that the federal government can deport permanent residents and other noncitizens suspected of organizing crimes or declared a threat to “national security” without a trial on the basis of secret evidence.

Harkat, who came to Canada in 1995 and lives in Ottawa, was granted refugee status in 1997. He worked as a pizza delivery driver and gas station attendant. Under Canada's security certificate laws Harkat was arrested in 2002 and spent four years in jail after the Canadian Security Intelligence Service accused him of being an al-Qaeda “sleeper agent.” Harkat, who denies the charges, has been living under various forms of house arrest since 2006.

Harkat and four others issued security certificates, commonly referred to as the “Secret Trial Five,” have been fighting arbitrary detentions and deportations threats for many years.

Security certificates, which have

been imbedded in federal immigration law for decades, are used to detain and deport noncitizens without trial. The decision to issue one is based on secret evidence that neither the accused nor their lawyers can see or challenge. In 2008 the federal government revised the security certificate laws after the Supreme Court a year earlier ruled them unconstitutional. To meet the court's objections, the accused can now assign “special advocates” to review evidence, but they are not allowed to divulge what they see.

Under the revised law, a federal judge in 2010 once again ruled Harkat a threat to national security. This decision was overturned in 2012 by the Federal Court of Appeal after it was revealed that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had destroyed the 13 wiretap recordings on which much of the secret evidence was based. But the May 14 Supreme Court ruling overturned that decision.

“We were shocked and devastated,” Sophie Harkat-Lamarche, Harkat's wife, said in a phone interview. “The court gave us absolutely nothing. Mohamed never got a chance to clear his name from being labeled a terrorist.

The decision opens a dangerous precedent for using secret trials against other people.”

We “regret that this decision leaves in place unequal protections for noncitizens' basic rights,” declared a May 14 press release by the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group and the Canadian Council for Refugees. “When these rights are at stake for citizens, such as in criminal proceedings, we do not tolerate the use of secret evidence.”

Over the past 22 years there have been 30 security certificate proceedings, according to Canadian Council for Refugees lawyer Barbara Jackman. Now the use of secret evidence and closed-door proceedings is on the rise in other civil and immigration cases. Since 2008, according to Jackman, the federal court has conducted secret proceedings in more than 100 cases of judicial review of decisions where Ottawa claims national security reasons to bar public hearings.

More than 6,000 people have signed a statement against the government's use of security certificates, which can be viewed online at: www.harkatstatement.com.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 9, 1989

Every defender of democratic rights should speak out against the drive under way in New York State to reinstitute capital punishment.

The New York State legislature is weighing a proposal to override Gov. Mario Cuomo's March 20 veto of a death penalty measure. The last execution in New York State, one of 13 states where there is no death penalty, took place in 1963.

Capital punishment is a weapon of intimidation and terror in the hands of the exploiters. New York should follow the lead of the Nicaraguan government, which outlawed the death penalty 10 years ago when it came to power as the result of a popular revolution. The death penalty should be abolished and not reinstated in New York or anywhere else.



June 8, 1964

NEW YORK — Arnold Goldwag, Brooklyn CORE [Congress of Racial Equality] leader who last week got out of prison on appeal bond, described in detail at his press conference the treatment of prisoners at the Rikers Island penitentiary where he was held for a month.

In the prison hospital, the inmate's health is the last concern. “The attitude is ‘you're not sick, you're faking.’”

The prison officials, Goldwag added, are now getting ready for the increased number of prisoners expected after July 1. This is the date when the notorious “no-knock” and “stop-and-frisk” laws go into effect.

The vast majority of those sentenced to Rikers Island are the poor. Most of them had been advised by their lawyers to plead guilty in hope of clemency.



June 9, 1939

There are few more harrowing stories of anguish and persecution than that of more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany — men, women and children — who are kept in the purgatory of the liner *Saint Louis* in Atlantic waters, between the inferno of fascist Germany, from which they were driven, and what they hoped was the paradise of Cuba, which has refused to admit them.

The *Daily Worker* feels rather embarrassed by the whole incident. Not so much for the sake of the refugees, but because it puts the new Stalinist hero, Col. Fulgencio Batista, military dictator of the “Cuban democracy,” in a dastardly light.

Why? Because Batista is one of Roosevelt's good boys. Why? Because Roosevelt is for a new War for Democracy and so are the Stalinists.

Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

by Nelson Blackstock

Describes decades-long covert counterintelligence program—Cointelpro—directed against socialists and activists in the Black and anti-Vietnam War movements.

\$15

Pathfinderpress.com

Miners community center hosts event to free Cuban 5

'Five are fighting for us, we need to fight for them'

BY HUGO WILS

MOSTON, England — The Moston Miners Community Arts and Music Centre, housed in a building of a closed coal mine, is hosting a two-week showing of "I Will Die the Way I've Lived," a collection of prison paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five. Some 35 people came to the launch meeting on opening day May 17.

"You can see that the paintings come from the heart, you can see their humanity through them," said Paul Kelly, one of the speakers at the event, organized by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign. "Real fighters for freedom in the West are often put away and locked up. During the miners' strike here you could see the brutality of the state."

Kelly worked at the Agecroft colliery in Salford outside Manchester and took part in the 1984-85 miners' strike in the United Kingdom. "Miners were jailed and brutally beaten for fighting for jobs" during that strike, he said.

"Victory for us can only be in struggle, you have to fight, otherwise you can't win. The Five are fighting for us, that is why we need to be fighting for them." Kelly announced an upcoming fundraiser for the families of the

301 miners recently killed on the job in Soma, Turkey, as well as a miners' memorial event on the 1984-85 strike where the paintings will be on display.

"This place was built for events like this that stand for the working classes and the way we all have to struggle for our rights," Lou Beckett, 46, who runs the community center, told participants.

"I like people standing up and questioning authority," Beckett told the *Militant*, pointing to a piece he painted on display at the center titled "Up on the Roof," which depicts the 1990 Strangeways prison uprising in Manchester against abusive treatment and overcrowding. "I was a trade unionist all my working life in manufacturing," he said.

A letter by Antonio Guerrero was read aloud by Jenni Ford, a member of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign who helped organize the event. She writes regularly to the Five. After describing some of the inhumane conditions prisoners face in the U.S., Guerrero ended his letter by saying, "Each day we are more determined, creative and serene."

"I heard René González talk about Guerrero's paintings at the international book fair in Havana in February," said event chair Catharina Tirsén, who cited González's comments at a Feb. 20 panel discussion at the book fair.

"As I studied Tony's drawings and read the stories recounted by my brothers, the first thing I noticed was something that surprises people — not me, because I went through the same experience," González said. "It's the lack of anger, the complete lack of hatred or resentment when they talk about the conditions in the hole. You might wonder, how can that be? They really did treat us badly and did everything possible to make us bitter. ...

"When you win you don't have to become bitter. And that's what happened — we won. We defeated them in the hole. We defeated them in the trial. And



Militant photos by Dag Tirsén

every day in prison my brothers are defeating the prosecutors, the judges and all those who organized the frame-up case against us."

"In Cuba the Five are heroes, imprisoned for defending the revolution there," said Tirsén. She encouraged participants to look over a "Who Are the Cuban Five?" display next to the watercolors. The display features a biography of each of the Five, the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters to the booklet on Guerrero's paintings *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*, and a quote by Nelson Mandela on the decisive impact that Cuba's 1975-91 internationalist combat mission to Angola had on the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and freedom from colonial domination throughout the continent.

Three of the Five — Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González and René González — were among the 425,000 Cubans who volunteered for the Angola mission, Tirsén pointed out.

"The reason the U.S. rulers don't like the Cuban Revolution is because they are scared, they don't want a revolution in their country," said Steve Bennett, a well-known supporter of the local football team FC-United. The team was formed in 2005 by football fans opposed to the big-business domination of the game. Bennett and a few other sup-

porters recently visited Cuba. "I have never seen anything like the May Day parade in Havana," Bennett said, pointing to the mass mobilization on International Workers' Day he saw there.

"I spent the odd night in a cell and know what it is like. This exhibit really appeals to my experiences," Dominic Morrison told the *Militant*. "Prison doesn't really help people, it stifles your life."

"The paintings are really inspiring, it takes you into the world that is imposed on them for fighting for a better world," said Adeeb Ahmed, another participant in the event. Ahmed and Morrison were amongst the three participants who picked up the book *I Will Die the Way*



Exhibits of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five

I Will Die the Way I've Lived

Omaha, Nebraska

June 4-7

Gallery 72, 1806 Vinton St. Reception, Wed., June 4, 7PM. Gallery Talk, Sat., June 7, 1PM

June 8-14

McFoster's Natural Kind Café, 302 S. 38th St.

Philadelphia

May 30-June 30

Opening reception: Fri., May 30, 5:30PM; program, 7PM. Exhibit hours: Wed., Thurs. 11AM-1PM. Sun., June 1, 1-5PM. Christ & St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, 3454 N. 6th St. Tel: (215) 226-1444 or (215) 848-2922.

Auckland, New Zealand

May 17-mid-June

Exhibit hours: Tues.-Sat. 10AM-4PM. Tivoli, 2/118 Ocean View Road, Pen-dragon Mall, Oneroa, Waiheke Island. Tel.: (09) 372 3361.

Manchester, England

May 17-31

Exhibit hours: Mon.-Sat. 9AM-5PM. Moston Miners Community Arts and Music Centre, Teddington Road, Moston. Tel.: 0161 682 6253.

London

June 15-July 13

Bernie Grant Arts Centre. Town Hall Approach Road, Tottenham.

Who are the Cuban Five?



Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González 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 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. Fernando González returned Feb. 28.

Atlanta students comment on

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA — "This has to be one of the most important exhibits on the campus. I stood there and read every word on the book by Sha Montague, commenting on Antonio Guerrero's genuine idea to instill history, art and knowledge. It should be praised. Please continue to do this. I'll be back."

The exhibit of Guerrero's 15 watercolors titled "I Will Die the Way I've Lived" in Cosby Hall at Spelman College, a historically black college, is on display twice as long as had been originally planned. Exhibitors are invited to leave comments in a book set up at the exhibit.

"Truly enjoyed the exhibit and the insight into the lives of the Cuban Five. Will continue to follow case."

Both Montague and Taylor bought books on the Cuban Five: *From Prison: The Cuban Five* and *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*. The developments in the fight through the pages of the book.

"Guerrero was reduced to a color and a number. The paintings entitled 'Number!' which she said, 'Speaks to the system.'"

Another student commented on the painting "The Night Watch" where the prisoners exchange magazines and many other items: "This piece involves a sense of community within the prison."

"It's sad that those who stand for what's right are punished," wrote another student, commenting on "The Little Ball." It shows, she wrote, that "proper health care was not allotted to the prisoners and how innocent people endure the worst conditions."

"The Night Watch" caught the attention of another student who wrote, "It shows the lack of privacy and control. The eyes represent the lack of privacy and the constant supervision that the prisoners have to deal with in the 'hole.'"

Another student wrote, "Their confinement in prison was a mechanism to oppress the ideologies of the Cuban Five but their creativity while imprisoned is represented" by the watercolors.

'Cuban 5, like Cuban Revolution, stay solid'

BY RON POULSEN
AND LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — More than 200 people came to view Antonio Guerrero's prison paintings May 9-11 at the StirrUp Gallery in the suburb of Marrickville. Organized by the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society, the exhibit introduced many to the campaign to free the Cuban Five for the first time.

Shown together with Guerrero's "I Will Die the Way I've Lived" collection was "Art From the Red Centre" — 20 Aboriginal desert-style dot paintings, which were auctioned to raise funds for an Australia-Cuba Friendship Society medical project in Cuba.

The purpose of the art showing is to advance the "liberation of the five Cuban heroes," Pedro Monzón, Cuban ambassador to Australia, told the audience of more than five dozen people at the opening of the exhibit May 9. From the point of view of the U.S. government, Monzón said, "the Five committed the sin of helping stop terrorist attacks against Cuba organized from U.S. territory."

Chela Weitzel, president of the Sydney chapter of the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society, chaired the event. "Cuba's internationalist missions have recently come to Australia," she said, speaking of the adult literacy program organized with help from Cuban volunteer teachers in the remote Aboriginal towns of Wilcannia and Bourke in New South Wales.

The Cuban ambassador introduced Jack Beetson, head of the Literacy for Life Foundation, who complimented Monzón for his "extraordinary efforts" in getting the literacy program off the ground. Beetson, who brought three Aboriginal teachers involved in the literacy campaign in Bourke to the meeting, said 16 Aborigines had graduated from the program in Wilcannia and another 46 from Bourke and the nearby Aboriginal community of Enngonia.

Some 65 percent of the adult indigenous population are functionally illiterate, Beetson said. Thanking the Cuban government for its contribution to the literacy effort, he said the program is providing "something which the government-run school system has failed to deliver in 220 years."

"To stick by those who stay solid is the most beautiful value. Solidarity



More than 200 people came to view Antonio Guerrero's prison paintings during May 9-11 exhibit at the StirrUp Gallery in Sydney suburb of Marrickville. **Top**, Literature table at May 9 opening event. **Bottom**, Jack Beetson, head of Literacy for Life Foundation, speaks at event.

Left, Miners Community Arts and Music Centre "was built for events like this that stand for the working classes and the way we all have to struggle for our rights," said Lou Beckett, head of center, right, at May 17 opening of Antonio Guerrero's "I Will Die the Way I've Lived" exhibit. **Below**, Participants at May 17 event view "Who Are the Cuban Five" display.



I've Lived, which many already had through the effort to promote the event. Two other participants bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

More than a dozen people left their contact details in a visitors' book, which allowed participants to comment on the showing and to get involved in the campaign to free the Five.

Starting June 23 the exhibit will be shown at the Manchester Central Library for three weeks. The Nexus Art Café in central Manchester is scheduled to show the paintings through August.

Guerrero's prison paintings

Most silent, profound things to take place on this wall," wrote Spelman College senior Kaneiro's paintings. "Whoever is responsible for this gets into the people who walk the halls of Cosby and also love to get involved."

"I Will Die the Way I've Lived" was displayed at the Black women's college, for two months — English professor Alma Jean encouraged viewers to see the exhibit.

"to prison life," wrote Mattie Taylor, an accountant with her cousin. "Very first time hearing of

the campaign to free the Five, including *Voices From the Way I've Lived*, and said they will follow the *Militant*.

"number," wrote one student about one of the paintings that depicts the dehumanizing effects of the prison

entitled "Fishing," which depicts how prison-



Spelman student Aries Brown gets literature on fight to free Cuban Five at March 20 campus event on Five.

takes guts," Beetson said, noting that many Aborigines have either spent time in jail or have a family member who has and can identify with the prison experience of the Five portrayed in Guerrero's paintings. Staying solid, he said, is what the Five and the Cuban Revolution they defend exemplify.

Speaking for the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society, Joanne Kuniandy explained how the Cuban Five were "railroaded to prison by the U.S. government and joined the ranks of 2.3 million working people in the U.S. behind bars, disproportionately Black and Latino, who know the true face of the so-called capitalist justice system."

The speakers were followed by music by Papalote, a well-known Latin group. Yanna Durnan-Silva, 22, a nurse and Sara Brown, 24, a public relations worker, spoke to the *Militant* afterwards. "The impact of Cuba in Australia was inspiring," said Brown. Durnan-Silva called it "the future of Aboriginal literacy."

Over the next two days, more than 150 additional people visited the gallery, many from the surrounding community markets. On the last two days the StirrUp Gallery

also showed *Maestra*, a documentary on the 1961 mass literacy campaign in Cuba.

After viewing the exhibit Felecia Smith, 36, a recent immigrant from Michigan in the U.S. said they reminded her "that the struggle is still going on between the U.S. government and Cuba." Because "Cuba stood up and survived, it is an embarrassment to the U.S. government, given what the U.S. has done in South America over and over," she said.

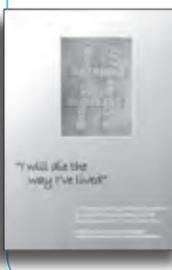
More than \$5,000 was raised through donations and the Aboriginal paintings' auction for the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society's projects.

Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five



The Cuban Five have won the respect of thousands around the world as well of fellow prisoners. Here three who have known them behind bars speak out. Includes accounts of prison life and resistance by Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Elizabeth Palmeiro and 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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'5 Days for the Cuban 5' Washington, D.C.

Thurs.-Fri., June 5-6
Conference: A New Era of US/Cuba Relations. Speakers, movies, panels, video messages from René González and Fernando González. Calvary Baptist Church 755 8th St. NW, Shallenberger Hall.

Fri., June 6, 9 p.m.
Concert with hip-hop duo Dead Prez and local musicians. Auditorium, Columbia Heights Educational Campus, 3101 16th St NW (corner of 16th and Irving). \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Sat., June 7, 1 p.m.
'Free the Cuban Five' rally at the White House.

Mon.-Tues., June 9-10
Lobbying and closing event.

For more info and complete schedule visit: www.5daysforthecuban5.com

United fight by Yugoslav toilers toppled capitalist rule in 1940s

The Truth About Yugoslavia is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. It was published in 1993 to oppose Washington's military intervention there. From the chapter "The Roots of the Conflict in Yugoslavia," the excerpt below reviews some of the history of the country up through the popular fight against Nazi occupation, which culminated in a workers and peasants government in 1945. Copyright © 1993 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY GEORGE FYSON
AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

Yugoslavia was united as a country at the end of World War I with the coming together of six republics under the Serbian monarchy. The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, established in 1918, took the name Yugoslavia in 1929. When World War II opened, there was little or no all-Yugoslav industrial infrastructure. Within this framework, the north and west were relatively more modern and advanced, the south more backward.

The legacy of colonial domination by the "European" Austro-Hungarian Empire or by the "Asian" Ottoman Empire — as the bourgeois press insists on designating these powers — left its mark in the form of different languages and alphabets, ethnic origins, and religions.



Workers in Zagreb greet resistance forces, known as partisans, who liberated city from German occupation, May 1945. Partisans' anti-capitalist course, propelled by revolutionary mobilizations of toilers, forged a workers and peasants government in Yugoslavia that year.

Serbia, home of the oppressive Kara-georgevich monarchy, dominated Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Vojvodina. National oppression was enshrined in law. There was no separation between the state and the church — between the state and the hierarchy of the Serbian-based Orthodox Church of Yugoslavia, that is.

The workers' movement was weak, beset by both the objective backwardness of the country and harsh repression. Many political oppositionists were imprisoned; some were executed.

Despite the weakness of the organized Communist Party and workers' movement, the 1917 Russian revolution had great prestige there. Yugoslav peasants and youth were attracted by the revolution's agrarian reform and by its broader democratic and social conquests. In the brief democratic interlude following the country's formation after World War I, the Communist Party grew rapidly. By 1920 it had 60,000 members and in the elections of that year the party came in third, winning 12 percent of the vote. But a period of severe repression followed. By the outbreak of World War II, the Communist Party — which was underground or semilegal from 1921 onward, and whose leadership spent

many years out of the country — numbered about 12,000, with 30,000 in the Communist youth organization. It had also gone through a qualitative political transformation through its adherence to the course of the Stalin-led Communist International.

This was the general condition of Yugoslavia at the outbreak of World War II. In April 1941 the Axis powers invaded — primarily German troops, assisted by Italian, Bulgarian, and Hungarian forces. ...

Workers and peasants poured into the ranks of the Partisans, who waged a courageous struggle that tied down thirty-three Axis divisions — some 500,000 troops. The fight was bitter and hard: nearly two million Yugoslavs, more than a tenth of the population, died in the war.

In the course of the successful struggle, popular committees were elected to administer liberated zones, organizing education, health care, and munitions production. Peasants seized the land of landowners who had fled or collaborated with the occupying armies. As liberated zones became linked, a newspaper began to be published three times a week, a railway system was organized, and a mail system established. ...

In uniting the toilers from every na-

tionality behind the antifascist struggle, the Partisans advanced a program that struck at the heart of national privilege and went a long way to overcoming national enmities. It called for equality and mutual respect for all nationalities and opposed chauvinism and the domination of one nation over others.

The Partisans combined this with the objective of implementing social and economic advances in the interests of working people. They also looked beyond old "Yugoslavia" and presented the perspective of a broader Balkan federation.

The success of this approach in uniting working people in the Partisan movement confirmed in life that defense of national rights and opposition to national privilege are not the path toward nationalism, but the only road to unite the working class in the internationalist fight for socialism. ...

[T]he revolutionary mobilization by the Partisans encroached on capitalist property relations more and more. A Partisan decree of November 24, 1944, ordered the confiscation of the property of occupiers, including extensive German capital, and their Yugoslav collaborators. This amounted to 80 percent of industry, most banks, and almost all large commercial enterprises. The subsequent nationalization law of December 1946 largely registered an already existing fact.

The new government also enacted a massive land reform in August 1945. It confiscated the property of the great landowners without compensation and put 95 percent of cultivated land into the hands of working peasants.

The government instituted steps toward economic planning, including a state monopoly of foreign trade. It took measures that during the initial years of the revolution substantially narrowed the gap between different parts of the country.

This increasingly anticapitalist course made clear that [Ivan] Subasic and the four other representatives of the capitalists and landed nobility had no real sway in the government. It was acting as a workers' and peasants' government on the momentum of the revolutionary struggle.

June BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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by George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis,
Jonathan Silberman

Examines the roots of the carnage in Yugoslavia during the 1990s, where Washington and its imperialist rivals in Europe intervened for their own interests, not the toilers in Yugoslavia. \$10. **Special price: \$7.50**



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Building Active Workers Conference

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of politics and disarm revolutionary-minded forces around the world. This opened space for workers to become actors in politics once again, as demonstrated by working-class struggles in Ukraine and fights for democratic rights in Russia.

The conference will discuss how the Cuban Revolution's unparalleled record over 60 years sets a moral and political example the world over for advancing the struggle for workers power.

Six different classes at the conference — organized so that conference participants can get to several over three days — will supplement the themes of political reports presented by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

Classes will include “There Are No ‘Laws’ of the Transition to Socialism,” which will discuss how after workers and farmers overthrow capitalism, the fight for socialism is rooted in the consciousness and actions of working people carving out greater and greater spheres of the economy from the capitalist law of value. It will discuss the sharp difference between the counterrevolutionary Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the course of the government that arose out of the Cuban Revolution of 1959.

Another will be “Chernobyl, Angola and the Cuban Revolution: the Subjective and Moral Factors in

Proletarian Politics.” As the USSR crumbled, revolutionary Cuba put its own needs aside in order to offer free treatment to anyone from Ukraine, Belorussia or Russia who had been affected by the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. And it sent hundreds of thousands of volunteer fighters from 1975 to 1991 to help the Angolan government fight off the U.S.-backed invasion by apartheid South Africa, regardless of the risk to its own defense.

A third class, “Defending the Party and Its Program: Reading from Two New Books,” will take up material from *Socialism on Trial* and *50 Years of Covert Operations in the U.S.*, newly released by Pathfinder Press. These books describe how the propertied rulers in the U.S. used their state and political police to target militant workers, including leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

A Saturday evening panel will feature reports on the international class struggle and the steps being taken to build the communist movement. The program will feature a report from the *Militant* newspaper's second trip to Ukraine and projections for the next steps in expanding the reach of the *Militant*, Pathfinder books, and the Socialist Workers Party and sister Communist Leagues abroad.

For information, contact *Militant* supporters in your area, listed on page 8, or write directly to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Ukraine workers defend sovereignty

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he would respect the results of the May 25 vote and began pulling Russian troops back from the Ukrainian border.

Among his first acts as president, Poroshenko on May 26 ordered attack helicopters and other military forces to repel separatist paramilitaries who were attempting to take over the Donetsk airport. Some 50 pro-Moscow separatists were killed; no deaths were reported among Ukrainian forces.

While many working people were inundated with a daily propaganda barrage from Russian media claiming the new government in Kiev was run by a “fascist junta,” they remained in their overwhelming majority committed to the unity of Ukraine. And they became increasingly repulsed by separatist armed thugs who, draping themselves with phrases and symbols from the Stalinist era, set up fiefdoms marked by kidnappings, beatings and torture.

While separatists took over a handful of buildings and amassed weapons, the actual business of running the region — including dispersing pension payments, managing water and fuel supplies and other services — continued to be administered by local Ukrainian government structures, which simply moved and functioned out of other facilities.

The Maidan protests — from the massive crowds in Kiev to similar actions from Donetsk to Lviv — energized working people all across the country, spurring political interest and activity.

One stark example of the power of the mobilizations is the impact on soccer fans. “Odessa was trailing Dynamo Kiev 4-0 in the semifinal of the Ukrainian Cup,” the May 24 *Wall Street Journal* reported, “but the usually partisan fans of the teams were coalescing around an issue entirely different from soccer: politics.”

“Fans have put aside their team rivalries and post-game skirmishes and coalesced into a national movement around a bigger idea: the unity of Ukraine,” the *Journal* said.

From Donetsk to Odessa, Kiev to Kharkiv, soccer fan clubs came together to join and organize defense squads for pro-Maidan rallies. At game halftime they joined in common chants for Ukrainian sovereignty.

Isolation, frictions roil separatists

As they become more and more isolated and demoralized, conflicts are cropping up among the hundreds of armed separatists who have seized some government offices and proclaimed — in a surreal caricature of the Stalinist Soviet Union — “people's republics” in a dozen cities in eastern Ukraine.

Vyacheslav Ponomaryov, the self-declared mayor of Slovyansk, a military center for separatist forces set in motion by Moscow, announced May 21 he no longer recognized the Donetsk People's Republic. He threatened to send in his paramilitary forces to “restore order” there.

Poroshenko's election, along with that of former heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko as mayor of Kiev, has also led to increased pressure to close down the tent city that houses more than 1,000 remaining Maidan veterans in the central square in Kiev.

But many camped there intend to stay. “The revolution is not finished,” Ivan Stratyenko, one of the defense commanders on Maidan, told Reuters. We don't want a state dominated by “leaders,” he said. “Maidan shows that people are starting to wake up.”

Miners fight for wages, sovereignty

Faced with soaring inflation and wage cuts by a Russian-based EVRAZ iron-ore mining company, miners in Krivyi Rih have been pressing demands for wages to be doubled, Yuriy Petrovych, leader of the city-wide Independent Trade Union of Miners there, told the *Militant* May 27.

“We've faced threats from company security forces, who told us our protests were a threat to the region,” Petrovych said. “But we have a strong self-defense organization, and we pushed them aside. We're asking workers everywhere to get out the word about our fight.”

At the same time, a few hundred miners in the east, organized by the old, discredited miners union were bused into Donetsk May 27 to protest the Kiev government. The union dates back to before the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and has kept aloof from the class struggle that has unfolded since.

In 1989 and throughout the 1990s, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian miners mobilized strikes and marches across the country for higher pay, better safety protection and political independence from Moscow.

In 1990, they broke from the old union and set up the Independent Trade Union of Coal Miners of Ukraine. This union, along with a sister organization, the Independent Trade Union of Coal Miners of Donbass, has continued to mobilize miners to defend their wages and working conditions.

They have organized miners across eastern Ukraine to form self-defense units, like the one in Krivyi Rih, and to battle to defend workers from separatist gangs that have attacked union militants, attempted to shut mines down and sought to close down political space.

Miners in Turkey

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lya province in the south. The protests were fueled by the open contempt of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who told miners that accidents “are always happening” and “death is the destiny of coal miners.”

While the cause of the May 13 fire has not been reported, more information has come out on the company and government's refusal to implement basic safety measures, despite numerous reports on safety violations prior to the disaster.

A 2010 “Work Accidents in Mines” report by the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects warned that the lignite coal in the Soma basin has a high methane level. “There should be no production before the necessary research has been completed,” the report said. “The lack of experience might lead to disaster.”

The mine did not have an alternative escape route, the report noted, and did not have an adequate ventilation system in place. The mine bosses and government ignored the warnings.

Sefa Koken, a former safety technician at the Eynaz mine, told freelance journalist Alexander Christie-Miller that his job was to put out frequent small fires in the mine and to seal methane leaks three or four times per shift.

Koken told CNN Turk that miners had no set meal-break times and that there were no bathrooms underground. Other miners reported that the company doesn't provide gloves. Miners work six days a week, earning a base rate of \$25 a day.

Labor Minister Faruk Celik denied that the mine was unsafe. “The mine in Soma was inspected eight times,” he told the Turkish press. “Inspectors would have immediately taken action if they found anything life-threatening.”

But miners report that the company received advance notice of inspections and the inspectors never visited the deeper mine shafts. “That is where they should be checking,” miner Allahverdi Elitog, told the *Financial Times*.

Not only did the mine not have a safe room, but the gas masks miners were issued were more than 15 years past their expiration date. According to CNN Turk, the cheap gas masks made in 1993 were designed to last only 45 minutes, while newer masks last two hours. The fire sent thick smoke and carbon monoxide throughout the mine.

Turkey has one of the highest rates of on-the-job injuries and fatalities in the world. According to the Economic Research Foundation of Turkey, on average seven miners die in Turkey every year for every million tons of coal extracted. In China the rate is one miner killed for every million tons.

Alp Gurkan, chairman of Soma Holding, the private company that has run the government-owned mine, boasted to the *Hurriyet* daily two years ago that he had reduced the costs of extracting coal from \$130 per ton in 2005 to \$23.80.

“C'mon, work faster,” “C'mon, produce more coal,” “C'mon, c'mon,” bosses shouted at miners every day, Today's Zaman reported May 22.

“Work safety? There is no work safety. They cut corners wherever they can,” one Soma miner, who asked that his name not be used, told the *Guardian*. “The foremen receive a bonus if we produce more coal than planned. So all they worry about is working faster and extracting more coal.”

Thousands of workers, including miners from Soma, demonstrated May 25 in Istanbul against the growing use of temporary workers — *taseron* in Turkish — in mining, industry and government. Many of the miners who died in Soma were taseron.

The demonstration was organized by the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey, the Confederation of Turkish Labor Unions, Confederation of Public Workers' Trade Unions, Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, Turkish Medical Association, and the Turkish Dental Association.

Trying to deflect blame away from the government for the miners' deaths, prosecutors have detained eight mine bosses and executives, including Soma Mining Chief Executive Can Gurkan, the son of the company owner, but no formal charges have been filed.