

THE MILITANT

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Cambodian garment workers
renew minimum wage fight
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 78/NO. 36 OCTOBER 13, 2014

Ten areas raise goals in subscription campaign

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Militant supporters in 10 cities have raised their quotas, in response to interest in the paper at workers' picket lines, social protests and on doorsteps. The combined quotas now add up to 2,421, over the international goal of 2,400 for the subscription drive, which runs through Oct. 28. With 1,140 subscriptions sold, the campaign is on target.

The article in last week's issue on the climate marches in New York, San Francisco and other cities, along with articles that address how the de-

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Cuba triples doctors to fight Ebola in Africa

BY SETH GALINSKY

The revolutionary government of Cuba is nearly tripling the number of doctors, nurses and other health workers that it is sending to West Africa to combat the Ebola epidemic there, Havana announced Sept. 25.

Cuban Public Health Minister Roberto Morales had announced two weeks before that 165 volunteers were going to Sierra Leone in early Octo-

CUBA'S AID REFLECTS ETHICAL VALUES OF WORKERS IN POWER
 — Editorial, p. 9

ber. But in answer to calls for help by U.N. and World Health Organization officials in the face of the rapid spread of the deadly disease, the Cuban government increased the size of the contingent to 461 volunteers, and expanded its operations to include Guinea-Conakry and Liberia.

"Many countries have offered money, but no other country has offered such a large number of workers to go in and help do the most difficult jobs in this crisis," said Dr. Bruce Aylward, assistant director of the World Health Organization.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told a U.N. meeting on Ebola Sept. 25 that Cuba "considers that co-

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Canada rail car workers: Bosses failed to divide us

Strike pushes back Bombardier's two-tier plan



Unifor

Workers at Bombardier rail car plant rally in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on first day of strike.

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER
 AND DAVID ROSENFELD

THUNDER BAY, Ontario — After striking for two months, 900 workers at the Bombardier rail car plant here pushed back management's attack on

Honeywell, End the Lockout!

Stand with members of USW Local 7-669 locked out since Aug. 1 for rejecting bosses' demands to contract out jobs.

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March starts at Old Clark School, 619 East 5th St., Metropolis, Illinois
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the pension benefits of new hires.

"They wanted to divide us by doing pensions differently for newer and older workers, but the older workers fought for us and we all stuck together," welder Sarah Buchan, 21, told the *Militant*. "A lot of union members came by and donated money, food and school supplies. It was fantastic."

Members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) from

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Tatars in Crimea oppose Moscow's occupation, fight for political rights



AP Photo/Max Vetrov

Despite Moscow's ban, more than 20,000 Crimean Tatars rallied May 18 in Simferopol, Crimea, on 70th anniversary of Tatars' mass deportation by Soviet government of Joseph Stalin.

BY JOHN STUDER

"The Crimean Tatar people are proud to be able to resist, to use every opportunity to organize and express opposition to the Russian govern-

ment's occupation of Crimea," Mustafa Dzhemilev, a decades-long leader of the fight for the national rights of the Crimean Tatars, told the *Militant*

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Imperialist allies join US-led war in Iraq, IS threatens Kurds in Syria

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington has drawn the imperialist governments of the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Denmark into its bombing war against Islamic State in Iraq, though the U.S. allies

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Rally opposes frame-up of Boston school bus driver

NJ nursing home workers strike three days over pay, respect

Sign up 2,400 subscribers! Sept. 6 - Oct. 28

Country	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Washington*	110	75	68%
Chicago*	170	103	61%
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Boston	60	31	52%
New York*	210	106	50%
San Francisco*	165	83	50%
Brooklyn*	210	98	47%
Nebraska*	161	70	43%
Lincoln*	11	7	64%
Omaha	150	63	42%
Philadelphia*	120	50	42%
Houston*	115	47	41%
Seattle*	130	45	35%
Twin Cities	125	39	31%
Los Angeles	105	29	28%
Miami	105	28	27%
Total U.S.	1936	891	46%
PRISONERS	20	18	90%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	120	68	57%
Manchester*	95	59	62%
UK Total	215	127	59%
CANADA			
Calgary	50	19	38%
Montreal	60	30	50%
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NEW ZEALAND	70	26	37%
AUSTRALIA	70	29	41%

Total sold 1140 48%
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* Raised quota

Opponents of cop brutality keep up protests in Ferguson

BY JOHN HAWKINS

FERGUSON, Mo. — The Aug. 9 killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson in this largely African-American working-class suburb north of St. Louis sparked an outpouring of protest that continues more than a month after his shooting.

Street actions erupted Sept. 25 when a fire burned down one of two memorials to Brown. “When I got there, around 200 people were there,” Markese Mull, a member of The Mighty 13, a group of residents of the Canfield Green apartments that has sprung up in the wake of Brown’s shooting, told the *Militant*. “Most of us think the fire was set intentionally. Most importantly, the memorial has been rebuilt.”

The same day, Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson issued a public relations video apologizing to Brown’s parents. “No one who has not experienced the loss of a child can understand what you’re feeling,” Jackson said. “I’m truly sorry for the loss of your son.”

“Chief Jackson’s apology to the Browns and the St. Louis community shouldn’t be in the form of a scripted video,” St. Louis Alderman Antonio French responded on Twitter, “but in a resignation letter.”

The next day more than a dozen cops tore down a camp where a group of youth calling themselves LostVoices14 have been staying since Brown’s killing. “They came in grabbing our stuff and yelling at us,” Ned Alexander, 25, from Ferguson, told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

The Department of Justice released

a letter Sept. 26 sent to the police chief, urging him to prohibit Ferguson police officers from wearing “I am Darren Wilson” bracelets while on duty.

Protesters are demanding the arrest and prosecution of Wilson, as well as the removal of St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch from the case and the appointment of a special prosecutor. They also have targeted the widespread use of traffic citations, buttressed with exorbitant fines and administrative fees that hit working people the hardest, disproportionately those who are African-American, often leaving them hundreds of dollars in debt and subject to imprisonment. Court fines are Ferguson’s second-highest source of income.

“I just did a week in jail for that,” said Rodney Martin, a worker at Home Depot who was visiting the memorial. “They kept me locked up for 72 hours in the first municipality. They came and said I’d only be there for 24 hours maximum, then they changed it to 48, then again to 72. And after that I went to the next town jail and then the next one.”

Two Ferguson City Council meetings since the killing have been packed. The first was Sept. 9, with 600 people crammed into the Greater Grace Church.

“I spoke at that meeting,” Mull told the *Militant*. “The day before the newspaper announced that the council was going to propose some changes in policing and the traffic ticket situation. But they didn’t propose anything real.”

Before the meeting, Brown’s parents,



Militant/Laura Anderson

Memorial to Michael Brown — killed Aug. 9 by cop in Ferguson, Missouri — is still guarded by residents and visited by supporters of fight against police brutality from around country.

Lesley McSpadden and Michael Brown Sr., led a march to the Ferguson police station demanding Wilson’s arrest.

One hundred twenty people came to the next meeting Sept. 23, where some traffic fines and fees were lowered. Some at the meeting came to complain about the demonstrators. “How many times do I have to go through this civil rights thing,” Larry Weber, an older area resident, said, to gasps from the majority of the crowd.

People visit the memorial to Brown at 2900 Canfield Drive daily. It is guarded by residents of the Canfield Green Apartments, among them David Whitt,

and a group he organizes called Canfield Watchmen.

“People from all over the country have been coming here to learn more about what happened and show their support for us,” Whitt, who had just returned from participating in a panel at the National Lawyers Guild Convention in Chicago, told the *Militant*.

“There are about a dozen of us and we take shifts around the clock. We educate our neighbors about their rights,” he said. “We have cameras and record any encounters with the police. That helps make sure the police don’t violate our rights.”

‘Blood money’ from bosses given to revolutionary party

Three workers from Chicago recently turned over a total of \$5,488 to the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund from a contract-signing bonus they received at a United Auto Workers-organized Electro-Motive Diesel plant in the area.

“I voted against the contract,” wrote Alyson Kennedy, a “supplemental worker” at the plant. “The contract is for four years and four months with no wage increase. Supplemental workers receive no health insurance, no holiday pay, no vacation pay. If the company fires us, we cannot be represented by the union. This blood money goes to the Capital Fund.”

By “blood money” Kennedy is referring to bonuses and other bribes bosses use to press us to accept wage cuts, speedup, dangerous working conditions and concession contracts. These donations help finance the long-range work of the party.

In addition to Kennedy, John Hawkins and Laura Anderson each sent in \$1,836. From Des Moines, Iowa, Morrie Dietrich sent in \$60 he received from Walmart. “If you have no reported injury for a year, the company gives you the day off with pay. It’s blood money,” he said by phone Sept. 12. Full-time workers are eligible, but not the increasing numbers Walmart hires part-time.

To make a contribution, contact *Militant* distributors listed on page 8.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Fight capitalist destruction of nature and labor!

More than 300,000 people joined the People’s Climate March Sept. 21. The ‘Militant’ was there, covering discussions among unionists, students and other participants protesting the destruction of life, limb and land as a result of the capitalist drive for profit.



AP Photo/Jason DeCrow
Climate March, New York City, Sept. 21.

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'Militant' subscriptions

Continued from front page
fense of nature and labor is part of the working-class struggle against the ravages of capitalism, struck a chord with many people.

"I like that idea," Dionicio Aguirre, a truck driver in Houston told *Militant* supporter Steve Warshell, a worker in a plant that rebuilds marine transmissions, who was taking the paper door to door. "It's true, both working people and the environment are hurt at the same time by the same companies who couldn't care less about either of us." Aguirre got a copy.

"I'm glad you came by today," Aguirre's neighbor Rose Aguayo told Warshell. "I really think I learned something from your paper and talking to you." Aguayo — who hasn't

found full-time work since she was injured in a factory four years ago — got two copies and said she'd get a subscription as soon as she could put \$5 together.

In Savannah, Georgia, Charles Smith, 29, was killed by cops Sept. 18 while he was handcuffed in the back of a police car. Dave Ferguson reports that *Militant* supporters from Atlanta drove there for Smith's funeral and joined other people at the site of the shooting, where many protests have taken place. "Afterwards we knocked on doors nearby," Ferguson said. "Fourteen people subscribed to the *Militant* and three got copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*," one of nine books from Pathfinder Press that are on special with a subscription. (See ad below.)

Back in Atlanta Janice Lynn visited Gaspar Maya, a meat cutter and his wife Frances, who first subscribed to the paper at an immigrant anti-deportation rally last spring. "Frances said she especially appreciated reading about the fight to win freedom for the Cuban Five and the articles on Ukraine," Lynn said. They bought a copy of *Voices from Prison: The Cuban Five* in Spanish with their renewal.

'We must stand together'

Sara Lobman, a member of the United Auto Workers who works at an electronics plant in Brooklyn, knocked on the door



Militant/Ruth Nebbia
James Harris (left) shows *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes to participants at Baltimore Book Fair, Sept. 27.

Socialist candidates campaign in Midwest



Militant/Alyson Kennedy
Above, Ilona Gersh, second from left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Illinois, joined picket line in Chicago of Teamsters Local 705 members on strike against Golan Moving and Storage, Sept. 20. Cuban-born striker Javier Menendez, wearing cap, a supporter of the Cuban Five, looks at prison paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Five, in the book *I Will Die the Way I've Lived*.

Militant/Jacquie Henderson
Inset, Dennis Richter, right, SWP candidate for governor of Nebraska, attended the "Harvest the Hope" concert featuring country singers Willie Nelson and Neil Young in Neligh, Nebraska, Sept. 27, organized to protest the proposed construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

— ALYSON KENNEDY AND JACQUIE HENDERSON

of Gleny Rosario, in the Marble Hill neighborhood of New York. Rosario, a medical assistant and member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, told Lobman she and her co-workers organized a picket line and threatened to strike two months ago when their contract expired. "It's true if we stand together and fight we get better results," she said, signing up for

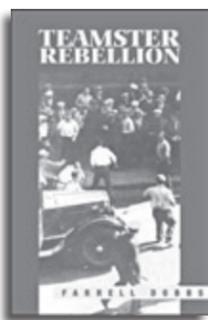
a subscription.

Candace Wagner joined a picket line of nursing home workers in Jersey City, New Jersey, Oct. 17. Members of 1199SEIU were on a three-day strike for a contract and higher wages at four Alaris nursing homes. (See article on page 5.) Three workers signed up for a subscription. "If you hadn't come, we wouldn't have found out about the *Militant*," striker Ella Motton told Wagner.

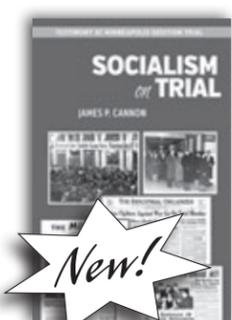
Eighteen workers behind bars have signed up for the *Militant* since Sept. 6 in prisons in Arizona, California, Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Texas. Half are new readers. "Thank you for your paper. Without it I would be clueless," wrote one prisoner from California.

If you would like to join with *Militant* supporters getting the paper around, or invite them to take part in union struggles, protests against police brutality, actions to fight destruction of the environment or other activities, contact distributors in a city near you. (See list on page 8.)

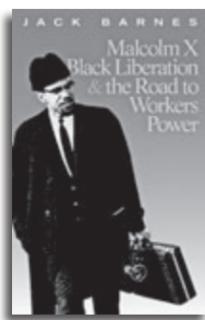
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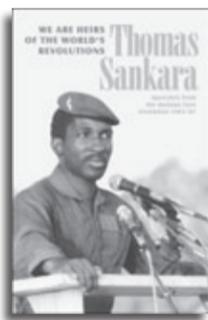
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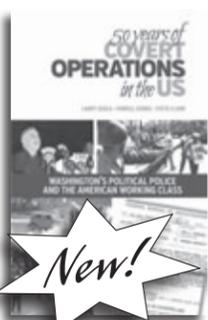
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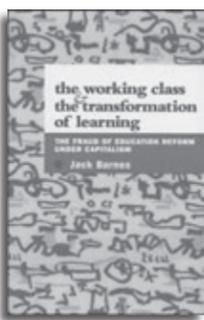
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This deal applies to any book in any language advertised in the pages of the *Militant* or www.pathfinderpress.com.

If you have a subscription to the *Militant*, these special offers are for you. Contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Union fights frame-up of Lac-Mégantic rail workers

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — The United Steelworkers union has launched a “justice fund” for train engineer Tom Harding and traffic controller Richard Labrie, who were framed up for a train disaster last year that killed 47 people.

On July 6, 2013, a runaway 72-car train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded in downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, a town of 5,900 near the Quebec-Maine border. The vast majority of rail workers, as well as other working people in Lac-Mégantic, see the derailment and explosion as the result of company policies that increasingly put the lives of workers and those who live near the tracks at risk for profit. As part of the cover-up, however, Harding and Labrie were charged with 47 counts of criminal negligence.

“On May 12, 2014, two unionized workers of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway (MMA) were arrested in connection with the July 2013 tragedy in Lac-Mégantic,” says a Steelworkers leaflet titled “Justice for USW Rail Workers — Scapegoats and the Truly Responsible,” available online in French and English. “Tom Harding, Richard Labrie and a company manager were charged with criminal negligence. The next day they were publicly paraded in handcuffs into a makeshift courtroom in the vicinity. Lac-Mégantic citizens witnessing the spectacle were not fooled. They knew that ‘the real culprits were still free.’

“Ex-MMA owner and president Ed Burkhardt was not placed in handcuffs,” the flyer adds. “Nor were there charges against the Harper government that joined with corporations to deregulate the rail industry and allow single-worker train crews.” In 2012 the federal government’s regulatory agency Transport Canada approved the MMA using one-man crews on the rail corridor between Farnham, Quebec, and Lac-Mégantic.

Rail bosses in the U.S. have also been pushing to run some freight trains with only an engineer. But on Sept. 9, SMART-organized rail workers overwhelmingly rejected — by a vote of 3,056 to 623 — a one-person “crew” proposal promoted by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway bosses

and a section of the union officialdom.

The MMA train was parked about seven miles above Lac-Mégantic. After a fire broke out on a locomotive, firemen shut down the lead engine, which slowly released the train’s air brakes. The hand brakes failed to hold the train.

Harding, who was arrested at gunpoint in his home, is viewed as a hero by many in the town. When he learned about the derailment, Harding rushed to the site and risked his life to help firemen depressurize brakes on some of the cars that had not yet caught fire so they could be moved.

Tom Harding’s lawyer, Thomas Walsh, requested that charges be dropped following an Aug. 19 report by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. The Quebec provincial prosecutor opposed the request.

While the report sought to absolve the government of responsibility, it pointed to the company’s lack of adequate safety procedures and its refusal to enforce government rail regulations. Among other things, the report explained the cause of the fire that led to the disabling of the air-brake system: “inadequate money-saving repairs ... led to an oil fire in the locomotive after the engineer left the train.”

On Sept. 11 the prosecutor presented in court 53,000 computer files seized by U.S. investigators at the request of Quebec provincial cops. The pros-

‘Militant’ names On the Picket Line editor

Regular readers may have noticed that the “On the Picket Line” column has grown recently, reflecting the uptick in labor resistance, and that the *Militant* has begun advertising the column on the front page. Starting this week the paper is taking a step to strengthen and expand the column as a voice of workers’ struggle with the assignment of staff volunteer Maggie Trowe as its editor. Readers can expect to see more coverage of labor skirmishes and battles.



Trowe, 66, who recently came onto the *Militant* staff, is a long-time unionist in the auto, meatpacking and garment industries. She has taken part in strikes and mobilizing solidarity with workers’ fights here and abroad.

Readers who are involved in or know about a contract battle, organizing effort or fight for safety on the job should contact Trowe. Keep her informed on developments so we can let other readers know about the challenges you face and the outcome of your struggle. This way workers elsewhere — from Boston to Bangladesh — can share the lessons from your experiences, fight more effectively and extend solidarity.

As the column’s editor, Trowe will from time to time comment on aspects of the week’s coverage, particularly where it shows trends or provides lessons for militant workers.

Contact Trowe at the *Militant* by postal mail, email or phone: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; themilitant@mac.com; or 212-244-4899.

— JOHN STUDER

ecutor claims the evidence could put Harding in prison for life.

Harding’s next court appearance is Jan. 15, 2015, where a date will be set for a preliminary hearing.

As of Sept. 30 more than \$160,000 from Steelworkers locals and other unions has been sent to the defense fund. Steelworkers officials have ad-

dressed local union meetings about the defense campaign. Donations can be made by check to: Syndicat des Métallos. Please note “Justice for USW Rail Workers” on your check. Send to Syndicat des Métallos, 565, boulevard Crémazie Est, bureau 5100, Montréal, Québec, H2M 2V8. Credit card donations can be made at www.justice4US-Wrailworkers.org. For more information or to request a speaker call 514-382-9596.



Downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, after train derailed and exploded July 6, 2013.

Help communist movement in US, give to SWP Party-Building Fund

BY TED LEONARD

“A check for \$2,200 is in the mail for contributions we garnered in the first week of the SWP Party-Building Fund drive. More to come,” wrote Joel Britton, from San Francisco. The Socialist Workers Party’s annual fund drive will help the party meet growing opportunities to join the labor resistance and social protests today and build the communist movement.

Members of the SWP and other readers of the *Militant* are using the socialist paper to spread solidarity with union battles; to back fights against cop brutality, attacks on women’s right to abortion and other protest actions; to learn from each other’s struggles and to discuss the need for a fighting, political course along the

road to the conquest of political power by the working class.

As part of organizing a successful drive, SWP members will be working to win new contributors among readers of the *Militant* who see the need for a revolutionary workers party in the U.S.

The accompanying chart shows that after two weeks \$4,795 has been collected for the fund so far, below the \$25,000 needed to be on time to raise \$100,000 by the Nov. 11 deadline. Establishing a weekly rhythm of collecting and sending in new pledges will be essential. Send your contributions to the SWP office nearest you (see directory on page 8) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Bombardier

Continued from front page

the Bombardier rail car plant in La Pocatière, Quebec, visited the picket line, said Dominic Pasqualino, president of the strikers’ union, Unifor Local 1075. Unions that organize paper mill workers, health care workers and others also donated money, Pasqualino said.

Workers followed the developments in the strike closely in this town of 100,000, where the Bombardier plant and several paper mills are the largest employers.

Workers at the Bombardier plant have a “defined benefit” pension, which guarantees a certain monthly payment for the life of each retiree. Union members saw the company’s attempt to change the pension plan for new workers to a “defined contribution” plan, similar to a 401(k) plan in the United States, as the most important issue in the strike. “The company’s intention was to attack the union, impose a direct-contribution plan here, then do the same in other plants,” said Pasqualino.

Five weeks into the strike — on the eve of a government-mandated vote on the company’s “final” offer — company officials hand-delivered a letter to all strikers. Misjudging workers’ sense of solidarity, Bombardier Vice President Aaron Rivers emphasized in the letter that the defined contribution plan is “for new employees only.” Strikers resoundingly rejected the company’s ploy Aug. 26 by a vote of 81 percent. On Sept. 12, workers approved a contract that keeps the pension intact for all workers.

Party-Building Fund Week 2

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Boston	\$3,500	\$600	17%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$2,200	16%
Washington	\$7,800	\$1,190	15%
Twin Cities	\$5,000	\$420	8%
Miami	\$2,800	\$210	8%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$175	2%
Atlanta	\$8,600	0%	0%
Brooklyn	\$10,000	0%	0%
Chicago	\$9,000	0%	0%
Houston	\$3,300	0%	0%
New York	\$10,000	0%	0%
Omaha	\$2,900	0%	0%
Philadelphia	\$4,200	0%	0%
Seattle	\$7,600	0%	0%
Other			
Total	\$96,700	\$4,795	5%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$25,000	25%

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This week's "On the Picket Line" column features Boston school bus drivers framed up for a job action; New Jersey nursing home workers fighting for a contract, some of whom have been locked out; and solidarity actions in Australia with fighting garment workers in Cambodia, some of whom have been framed up. Another piece on page 4 reports on the United Steelworkers defense of rail workers framed up for deaths that resulted from the bosses' profit drive. The challenges some of these battles confront help demonstrate how capitalist governments — their cops, courts and prisons — represent the political rule of the employers and why each strike is not only an economic struggle, but at its heart part of the political struggle between capital and labor.

— Maggie Trowe

Rally opposes frame-up of Boston school bus driver

BOSTON — School bus drivers and their supporters packed a pretrial hearing at the Dorchester District Court here Sept. 15 for framed-up union officer Steve Kirschbaum. Afterward 100 rallied on the courthouse steps.

Kirschbaum is grievance chairperson of United Steelworkers Local 8751, which organizes some 700 Boston school bus drivers who transport 30,000 children to school.

Charges were brought against Kirschbaum June 30, the last day of the bus drivers' contract with Veolia Bus Company, now called Transdev.

That day 200 members of the local rallied outside company headquarters, then entered the drivers' room inside the building that their contract guarantees access to for union activity. Management claimed workers were trespassing on company property.

According to the company's account, a table was pushed into Angela Griffin, Transdev's assistant terminal manager. Kirschbaum was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a table), trespassing, breaking and entering to commit a felony, and malicious destruction of property.

In October 2013, four local union officers, including Kirschbaum and Andre Francois, were fired for instigating an "illegal strike" when bosses locked them out for one day after refusing to meet to discuss union grievances over contract violations.

"It is a 21st century version of what has been going on since Joe Hill. It is a trade union frame-up," Kirschbaum told the *Militant* after the rally.

Following the hearing, Francois led those on the steps of the courthouse in the chant, "Transdevil you should know, union busting has got to go."

"The courts are being used by the company to gain leverage in a labor dispute. The charges should be dismissed," Kirschbaum's lawyer, Barry Wilson, said during the hearing.

Samir Stanley, 60, a bus driver for 32 years, urged rally participants to turn out for Kirschbaum's next court date. "I know the charges are a frame-up. I was there," he said.

— Ted Leonard

NJ nursing home workers strike 3 days over pay, respect

UNION CITY, New Jersey — "With the way they treat us, you'd be a fool not to come out and fight," Tasha Sangare said at a rally here Sept. 17 to support a three-day strike of 450 workers at four Alaris Health nursing homes in New Jersey. The nursing aides, kitchen staff and housekeeping attendants, members of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East,

have been working without a contract for more than five months. Several hundred workers from all four nursing homes attended the spirited rally, along with other workers from the area.

Sangare, a certified nursing assistant at the Castle Hill facility in Union City, said the company uses threats to intimidate workers from participating in union activity. "We did a three-day strike five years ago," she said. "When we tried to go back they locked some of us out."

Workers danced around a block-long picket line to live music performed by the group "To the limit."

"We play for the residents in the nursing homes and got to know the workers and the union," said singer Linda Curtis. "When we heard they



Militant/Ted Leonard

Boston school bus drivers rally Sept. 15 at Dorchester District Courthouse after pretrial hearing of trumped-up charges against union officer Steve Kirschbaum. Kirschbaum (left), Andre Francois (speaking) and two other unionists were fired last October after job action.

were going out, we volunteered to come today."

Following the rally, workers went back to picket at each facility.

"This is my first strike," said Dante Brown, 22, a nursing assistant at Alaris' Harborview facility in Jersey City. "They're offering us a 7 cents raise over five years!" Brown said the company offers a higher wage for those who forego sick pay, vacation pay and health insurance. "A lot of us take it because we don't get enough to live on."

"We need better pay, better working conditions, and better medical insurance, but most of all we are fighting for respect," said striker Roselyn Gibbs, who works at the Alaris nursing home in Castle Hill.

"Without a strike, the company wouldn't give us anything," said Harv e Casseus, a four-year veteran at the Rochelle Park facility.

When the striking workers returned to work, bosses locked out some two dozen. The union is planning a rally Sept. 30 to protest the lockout.

— Sara Lobman



Militant/Sara Lobman

Some 450 members of 1199SEIU, working without contract for five months, struck Alaris nursing homes for three days. Above, strike rally in Union City, New Jersey, Sept. 17.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 13, 1989

MIAMI — More than 100 people — most of them Cuban-born — demonstrated here September 30 to demand a halt to Television Mart ı and for the normalization of relations with Cuba.

"This is the first of many such activities we hope to hold," Andr es G omez told the protesters. G omez is the editor of the Spanish language magazine *Areito* and a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a group of young Cubans who support the revolution and work to promote normal relations between the United States and Cuba.

TV Mart ı is part of the U.S.-sponsored Voice of America and is scheduled to begin broadcasting to Cuba in November. It is also backed by the right-wing Cuban-American National Foundation.



October 12, 1964

OCT. 7 — Racist violence against Negroes in Mississippi continues in the absence of adequate law enforcement — local or federal. Despite indictment of some police officials of Philadelphia, Miss., scene of this summer's slaying of the three civil-rights workers, on federal charges carrying a maximum penalty of ten years, and despite the arrest of some bombers in McComb, racist terrorists in Meridian Oct. 3 shot at civil-rights workers sleeping in a Negro home. The next day a church in Vicksburg, which had been used by voter-registration workers, was bombed.

In McComb, where there have been months of wholesale bombings, church-burnings and attacks on Negroes, federal authorities have been forced to take steps against the wave of terror.



October 13, 1939

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wartime boom profits, corresponding to the 150% returns obtained by American industry during the last imperialist bloodbath, and a quick emergence from its ten-year depression are now an immediate and happy prospect for American capitalism. Government officials, scanning financial reports, already note a ten-year high in industrial activity with the future of more than a score of basic industries more auspicious than at any time since 1927.

All important labor legislation will be scrapped and labor's voice in democratic decision will be annulled "for the sake of the nation," while the industrialists and financiers, deprived of exorbitant profits during the last eight years, will be appeased by the same profit-making spree that they had from 1915-1918.

Cuban doctors combat Ebola

Continued from front page

ordination by the United Nations and the leading role of the World Health Organization are essential in guaranteeing collective, coordinated and effective action.”

Rodríguez said that Cuba’s response to the humanitarian crisis “is part of our spirit of solidarity with Africa, which has prevailed for more than five decades.”

French-based Doctors Without Borders has more than 240 foreign health workers fighting the epidemic in six treatment centers in West Africa, along with 2,800 locally-hired staff. Most of them are involved in “health care, water and sanitation in the centers, logistics (supplies) and health promotion activities,” Tim Shenk, Doctors Without Borders press officer, told the *Militant*. Volunteers with the group, from more than two dozen countries, comprise the main international help on the ground until the Cuban volunteers arrive.

Ebola grows exponentially

As of Sept. 26, more than 6,500 people are known to have been infected with Ebola Zaire, the most deadly of five Ebola strains, and more than 3,080 have died. Because many deaths are not reported, the total number is unknown. In Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, many bodies have “simply been thrown into the two nearby rivers,” according to the World Health Organization. “The current epidemic has been growing exponentially for at least 16 weeks, since May 2014. ... The number of new cases has been doubling every 20-30 days.”

Ebola is a virus that is spread primarily through direct contact with body fluids. It impairs kidney and liver function and can cause severe hemorrhaging.

“In this epidemic, each Ebola patient is infecting around 2 other people,” WHO reports, “which means that just a twofold reduction in transmission will be enough to eliminate the virus.”

Traditional burial practices in West Africa — where mourners bathe or touch the deceased — and lack of

modern sewage disposal helped lay the basis for the epidemic. There were at most one or two doctors per 100,000 in the three most affected nations prior to the onset of the epidemic. The virtual absence of any public health care system allowed the disease to spread largely undetected for several months.

Overwhelmed clinics in Liberia

In Monrovia, “much of the city’s health system has shut down over fears of Ebola among staff members and patients, leaving many people without treatment for other conditions,” Doctors Without Borders reports. The group has been overwhelmed, turning away patients from its 160-bed center in the Liberian capital.

Treatment for other diseases, births and traffic injuries have also been compromised. In the midst of the high season for malaria, stocks of anti-malarial medicines and bed nets have been depleted.

In Lofa County, Liberia’s breadbasket, nearly 170 farmers and their family members have died and their fields lie unattended.

Out of 15,000 Cuban health care workers who volunteered for the fight against Ebola, Cuban leaders chose 461 men. They will go as part of the Henry Reeve International Brigade, which was formed in 2005, when Cuba’s offer to send 1,586 health care workers to help victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana was snubbed by the U.S. government. They have been undergoing intensive training in coordination with Doctors Without Borders and the World Health Organization.

“I’m not afraid,” said Julio César Gómez Ramírez, a nurse who is going to West Africa with the brigade. “We’ve been taught to help others. Like many of my compañeros, I participated in the war in Angola [when Cuban volunteers helped defeat invasions by the South African apartheid regime], and we risked our lives there. This isn’t more difficult.”

President Barack Obama also addressed the U.N. gathering on Ebola

Cuban Five win support at NY Climate March



NEW YORK — Supporters of the Cuban Five took their case to the People’s Climate March here Sept. 21, winning new support for the fight to win their freedom. (See box below.)

“A lot of people saw our banner,” Nalda Vigezzi, a co-chair of the National Network on Cuba and a member of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, said in a phone interview Sept. 30. “We saw a lot of people we know, who came and marched with us for a while. We passed out leaflets in the march, but also to people on the sidelines. It was a phenomenal response,” Vigezzi said. “It was a two sided flyer. One side explained how Cuba is an example of sustainable agriculture. The other had the facts on the Cuban Five.”

“A lot of people know about the Cuban Five. But it was most rewarding to hand it out to people who did not know about the case and know they were going to read about it,” she said. “Some people said they had been to Cuba or ‘I want to go to Cuba’ or ‘I’m planning to go with my college.’ We had more than 2,000 flyers and we gave them all out.”

IFCO/Pastors for Peace, a group that opposes the U.S. embargo of Cuba, also had a contingent and the two groups managed to find each other in the sea of people and march together.

“A lot of people were shocked that the embargo was still happening,” said Ana Maria Cardenas, program coordinator for IFCO’s US/Cuba Friendship Caravan. “The more we can expose people to the facts, the more we can break through the information blockade in the media.”

— SETH GALINSKY

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, on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue planes 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 and Fernando González on Feb. 28 this year.

Sept. 25. He reiterated that Washington would “establish a military command in Liberia to support civilian efforts across the region,” and set up “a field hospital, which will be staffed by personnel from the U.S. Public Health Service, and a training facility.”

“None of the staff in the field are involved in direct patient care or working Ebola treatment units,” Kristen Nordlund, from the Centers for Disease Control Communications Office, told the *Militant* prior to Obama’s announcement.

Asked if U.S. Public Health Service workers will treat those infected, Kate Miglaccio, a spokesperson for the Health Service, told the *Militant* Sept. 29 that they would treat health care workers and “continue efforts to build capacity for additional care.”

“The 3,000-strong American mission will not treat patients,” the *New York Times* reported Sept. 25, “but will build as many as 17 treatment centers, with a total of 1,700 beds, and try to train 500 health workers a week.”

“It is unclear who will run” the centers once they are built, the *Times* said.

“We call on the international community, in particular the industrialized states that have great resources, to energetically respond to the call by the United Nations and World Health Organization to immediately provide financial, health and scientific resources to eradicate

this scourge,” Cuban Foreign Minister Rodríguez told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 27.

Cuba maintains medical cooperation with 32 African countries and decided to extend it to the countries most affected by Ebola, Rodríguez said.

Since making the revolution that overthrew the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959, 325,000 Cuban health care workers have given aid to 158 nations, including 39 in Africa, he said. “We also are training 38,000 doctors from 121 countries without charge, 3,392 of them from 45 African nations.”

“If small and blockaded Cuba can do this, how much more could be done to aid Africa with the cooperation of everybody, in particular the richest nations?” he said.

Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five



The Cuban Five have won the respect of thousands around the world as well as 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.

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‘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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Cambodian garment workers renew wage fight

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In the weeks leading up to a government decision on a new minimum wage, garment workers in Cambodia have stepped up pressure to raise it from \$100 to \$177 a month with strikes and protest actions. On Sept. 17 lunchtime rallies took place outside garment plants around the country.

The government responded by indicting the presidents of six union federations on trumped-up charges of inciting violence last year when government forces attacked strikers.

"I joined the action today at Canadia Industrial Park here in Phnom Penh," Ath Thorn, president of the Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers' Democratic Union, said in a phone interview from that city Sept. 17. "There were actions at 200 plants and tens of thousands took part. We came together to show that \$177 is what workers need. We sent this message to the employers and the government."

Some 500 took part in the rally, Thorn said.

"I really want to join, but I'm afraid something might happen like on Jan. 2 and 3, when authorities killed many workers," Si Neang told *Cambodia Daily* as she watched the protest from the sidelines. "How can we join them when there are soldiers here with AKs?"

Dozens of soldiers were deployed to Canadia as army helicopters flew overhead. The rally took place near the site of a government crackdown on a nationwide strike for a \$160 monthly minimum wage in January. Military police

opened fire on workers, killing five and ending the strike.

A new coalition of 11 unions is leading the fight now. "It's easy to break one chopstick, but you cannot break a bundle," Long Dy told the *Daily*.

The fight for higher wages has been going on for several years. Through strikes, demonstrations and other actions in the factories and streets, workers won an increase in the minimum wage from \$61 in 2010 to \$100 after the walkout at the end of last year. In 2013 workers in the industry conducted 131 strikes, a record.

In October, after a recommendation from the Labor Advisory Committee — comprised of representatives from the government, the bosses and the unions — the government will decide the annual minimum wage raise to take effect in January. The committee announced it had concluded that workers need a wage between \$157 and \$177.

Protests subsided after the January crackdown. But industrial actions began to take place at individual plants over the summer.

During the first week of September, presidents of six of the major independent union federations were served summons on charges of inciting vio-



Cambodian garment workers join lunchtime rally Sept. 17 in Phnom Penh industrial park. Workers organized by coalition of 11 union federations are demanding increase of monthly minimum wage from \$100 to \$177.

lence during the January crackdown.

"They intend to stop us from launching our new minimum wage campaign as well as taking a court injunction to repress all of us," Pav Sina, president of the Collective Union of Movement of Workers, told the *Militant* by email Sept. 17. Sina was summoned to Phnom Penh Municipal Court Sept. 12, where he was ordered to report to police every month and not take part in union actions until the case is settled. "Today we joined in the new campaign with local union leaders, activists and workers in all regions to push for a decent, living wage in Cambodia," he said.

In the January crackdown the government arrested 25 workers and supporters, who were jailed for five months. They were brought to trial May 30 as a result of a broad campaign demanding their release. They were sentenced to between one and four and a half years in jail, but the judge suspended the sentences immediately and released them.

"It was a victory that they were released, and it was because of the national and international campaign," Thorn said. "But the important thing for the government was the guilty verdict."

Since March anyone who wishes to register a union must prove to the government they do not have a criminal record. "I'm charged with four different counts. If I'm convicted I face 10 years in jail," he said. "The government is trying to stop the campaign for a living wage by going after the unions. But the workers need the wages and they won't stop fighting for them," he said.

Crimean Tatars oppose Moscow's occupation

Continued from front page

Sept. 29 in a phone interview from Kiev, Ukraine. "We have a long history, a lot of experience in this struggle. That is why we have been and will continue to be so organized."

Tatars in the Crimean Peninsula overwhelmingly support a united, sovereign Ukraine and have demonstrated by the tens of thousands against the Russian government's invasion and annexation of Crimea, as well as Russian military intervention and support to separatist paramilitary forces in east Ukraine.

The Crimean Tatars, the original inhabitants of the peninsula, have been an oppressed nationality since they were conquered by the Russian empire in 1783. In 1944, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin labeled the Crimean Tatars en masse as Nazi collaborators and deported them to Uzbekistan and Siberia.

More than 40 percent perished in the journey. Dzhemilev, then less than a year old, was deported with his family to Uzbekistan.

While working at the Tashkent Avia-

tion Factory as a teenager, Dzhemilev joined the Crimean Tatar Youth League to campaign for their right to return to their homeland. He was arrested on sev-

Continued on page 9

Australian gov't assaults rights, joins US war in Iraq

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY — Under the banner of "anti-terrorist" security, the Australian government has moved to boost police powers and curb political rights as it sends warplanes and commandos to join escalating U.S.-led air assaults targeting Islamic State forces in Iraq and Syria.

Some 870 cops in Sydney and Brisbane carried out coordinated pre-dawn raids on 27 residences Sept. 18. In the largest police operation in Australian history, state cops were joined by Aus-

tralian Federal Police and agents of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation.

Fifteen people were arrested in Sydney. Three were held under new police powers of "preventative detention." Another two — Omarjan Azari, 22, and Mohammed Baryalei, an alleged officer of Islamic State — were charged with conspiring to carry out on camera the beheading of a random person in Sydney.

A few days later two counterterrorism cops in Melbourne killed Abdul Numan Haider, 18, after he stabbed them. Police say Haider had been seen with an Islamic State flag.

The Australian media has carried sensational coverage of these cases with statements by government officials that some 70 Australians have joined the Islamic State army. The raids were conducted as federal parliament prepares to vote on new "anti-terror" laws promoted by Liberal Prime Minister Anthony Abbott and backed by opposition Labor party leader Bill Shorten.

Laws under discussion would consider travel to certain "designated areas" as proof of criminal intent and make it easier to ban organizations and jail their members for talking about "terrorism."

Expanded powers would allow government officials to cancel passports of "terror suspects" without their knowledge and issue secret warrants to search their property. Another bill would require communications companies to track and maintain records of customers' phone and Internet activity.

Other proposals would provide for house arrest of suspects without trial, as well as regulation of where suspects can work and live, and who they can associate with.

Preventative detention orders would permit secret detention without charges for up to two weeks and give agents of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation the power to jail anyone for refusing to answer questions.

The United Nations Security Council, with U.S. President Barack Obama presiding, passed a resolution Sept. 23 demanding countries strengthen laws to prevent the flow of "foreign fighters" to groups such as Islamic State.

The same day as the raids, eight Super Hornet fighter-bombers, a refueling plane and an AWAC radar control aircraft, left for the Middle East to join U.S.-led airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq. Some 600 Australian troops are being deployed to back the operations.

For further reading...

"The size of the hereditary working class, both in absolute terms and relative to other social classes, continues to expand on a world scale. ...As new layers of toilers are proletarianized, the class struggle in Asia will intensify in a qualitatively new way. ...Women continue to be integrated into the workforce, and barriers to women and men working alongside each other as equals, performing the same jobs, are progressively being breached in both imperialist and semicolonial countries."

— from "Their Transformation and Ours," included in issue 12 of *New International* magazine

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US war in Iraq and Syria

Continued from front page
have declined to join operations in Syria. President Barack Obama acknowledged the war is likely to last beyond his remaining two years in office.

In an interview on the CBS TV program "60 Minutes" Sept. 28, Obama said his administration had underestimated the capabilities of Islamic State, which he once described as a "junior varsity" team of jihadis, compared with those who remained allied under the al-Qaeda umbrella.

"America leads. We are the indispensable nation. We have capacity no one else has," he said in the interview.

While Obama insists he's opposed to putting U.S. boots on the ground, the Pentagon announced Sept. 25 it will dispatch 500 troops from the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kansas, to Iraq "and the region" this month, bringing the number of U.S. troops in the war zone to some 1,600.

The administration's war moves have broad bipartisan backing among the propertied rulers' two parties, the Republicans and Democrats. At the same time more and more government officials, including within the Obama administration itself, are pushing for use of more ground troops.

"There has to be a ground component," said Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a Pentagon news briefing Sept. 26.

"We need 12,000 to 15,000 to reclaim lost territory."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told the news briefing, "No one is under any illusions ... that airstrikes alone will defeat ISIL [Islamic State]."

Republican Speaker of the House John Boehner told ABC News Sept. 28, "At some point somebody's boots have to be on the ground." Asked if he would recommend U.S. troops, he replied, "We have no choice."

The Islamic State has an estimated 30,000 combatants, according to a recent assessment by the CIA.

The forces aligned against Islamic State comprise overlapping and conflicting interests. Washington says it's opposed to the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria but its actions have helped to strengthen it. The U.S. government has informed the Syrian government about plans for airstrikes there, which Assad backs.

The Assad dictatorship, which has been fighting massive popular mobilizations and a more than three-year-long civil war against its rule, has taken advantage of the U.S. bombings against Islamic State to escalate the regime's military attacks against other rebel forces — the Free Syrian Army and the Islamic Front, a coalition of seven Islamist groups that split from the FSA in November 2013. Both have been battling the Assad regime, as well as Islamic State, and have condemned U.S. airstrikes for not also targeting Syrian government forces. Assad's forces have targeted working-class areas for bombing and starvation sieges, killing more than 190,000 people and displacing 10.5 million, according to U.N. figures.

Gulf monarchies are US 'partners'

While joining in bombing Islamic State in Syria, the Gulf monarchies — Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia — have funded some Islamist militias and steered clear of involvement in attacks on al-Qaeda groups like the Nusra Front, an affiliate of which the Pentagon bombed Sept. 22.

Tehran and Moscow oppose Islam-



AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici

Kurds from Turkey, left, and Syria break down border fences near Suruc, Turkey, Sept. 26 as hundreds of Turkish Kurds join Syrian Kurdish fighters to defend Kobani from Islamic State.

ic State and are strong backers of the Assad regime.

The Turkish government is moving toward joining military action against Islamic State, but are foremost concerned about the growing fight by the Kurds on the Turkish-Syrian border around Kobani.

An oppressed nationality of some 30 million people, Kurds live in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey.

The Kurds are the most motivated and capable combatants fighting Islamic State as they simultaneously assert their control over Kurdish regions in both Iraq and Syria, to the chagrin of governments in Baghdad, Tehran, Ankara and Washington. The U.S. military has provided limited arms and training to Peshmerga forces in Iraq, but not Kurds in Syria.

Peshmerga, the Iraqi Kurdish army, drove Islamic State fighters out of Rabia, a strategic border crossing with Syria, Sept. 30. Members of the Sunni Shammar tribe in northwestern Iraq joined the Kurds in the fighting, reported Reuters. "Rabia is completely liberated. All of the Shammar are with the Peshmerga," Abdullah Yawar, a leading member of the tribe, told Reuters.

Kurds fight to defend Kobani

In northern Syria, fierce fighting continues as Islamic State forces

close in on the Kurdish-controlled city of Kobani. On Sept. 26 U.S. warplanes carried out airstrikes against Islamic State fighters near the city. More than 160,000 Kurds have crossed into Turkey, seeking refuge.

On Sept. 22 Abdullah Ocalan, imprisoned leader of the Kurdish Workers Party of Turkey (PKK), called "on all Kurdish people to start an all-out resistance against this high-intensity war."

"Supporting this heroic resistance is not only a debt of honor for the Kurds, but for all of the Middle East people," the PKK said in a public statement. "The youth of North Kurdistan must flow in waves to Kobani."

Hundreds of Turkish Kurds have joined Syrian Kurdish fighters in Kobani, overcoming obstacles put in their way by Turkish authorities. Turkish troops shot tear gas at crowds by the border Sept. 26 in an effort both to halt refugees from entering and to prevent Turkish and Syrian Kurds from crossing the other way to fight the Islamic State.

The same day on both sides of the border, Turkish and Syrian Kurds pulled down barbed wire and mesh fences, as well as concrete posts around the border crossing of Mursitpinar, Turkey, reported Agence France-Presse.

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Cuba's internationalist foreign policy

The revolutionary government of Cuba is sending hundreds of doctors and other medical personnel — selected from 15,000 volunteers — to treat people infected with deadly Ebola in West Africa and fight to roll back an escalating social disaster. They will join the more than 4,000 Cuban medical volunteers already serving across the continent.

This act of human solidarity, incomparable to the response by any other country, reflects the ethical and moral values of Cuba's working people, who took political power following the 1959 revolution that toppled a hated U.S.-backed military dictatorship. For more than five decades, Cuba's internationalist foreign policy has stood in stark contrast to the foreign policy of Washington, a government of the capitalist exploiters.

The mouthpieces of America's ruling families are disposed to brag, usually in dollar terms, about any supposed aid they dole out, although you rarely hear mention of what their money goes to or what effect, if any, their supposed aid has on the lives of human beings.

Speaking on "60 Minutes" Sept. 28, President Barack Obama boasted that Washington is the one "indispensable nation" that people worldwide turn to when in need. The context was U.S. "aid" to Iraq and Syria in the form of bombs and cruise missiles. "When there's an earthquake in Haiti, take a look at who's leading the charge making sure Haiti can rebuild," he said. "That's how we roll."

But the bombast is nothing but empty talk.

After the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the U.S. government allocated \$379 million to "relief." Some 5,000 military troops were deployed to maintain "order" as millions, left homeless, starving and vulnerable to cholera and other diseases, scrambled to survive. Washington stationed warships off the coast to prevent Haitians from attempting to migrate to the U.S. One-third of the \$379 million was used to "reimburse" the U.S. military deployment. Two years after the quake, 1 percent of the funds for reconstruction had been sent — to whom and with what results U.S. officials are suddenly too modest to say.

Cuba, on the other hand, already had hundreds of volunteer medical personnel in Haiti when the earthquake struck, providing health care free of charge. Cuba increased its medical mission to more than 1,400 volunteers and in the first two months treated more than 95,000 people and performed 4,500 surgeries.

"The major challenge begins now, when the press headlines abandon Haiti," Cuban President Raúl Castro said a month after the disaster. "Haiti doesn't need a fleeting and sudden gesture of 'charity.' It requires and deserves a major international effort for its reconstruction."

From December 1998, when Cuba was invited to open its first medical mission in Haiti, to August 2013, Cuban medical personnel treated 18 million people, performed 300,000 operations. As part of Cuba's worldwide Milagros (miracles) program, doctors restored eyesight to 53,000 Haitians suffering from cataracts, glaucoma and other forms of blindness.

Cuba's unbroken record of internationalism includes a proud history of combat missions and military aid to liberation struggles from Africa to Asia to Latin America.

Between 1975 and 1991 some 425,000 Cuban volunteers served in Angola where their participation was decisive in defeating the invading forces of the white-supremacist South African regime, strengthening the fight to bring down the apartheid system in South Africa. Washington sent aid as well — to the other side. And, according to recently declassified U.S. documents, U.S. officials were so incensed about Cuba's aid to African liberation that they not only abandoned the process of normalizing relations with Cuba, but prepared plans to invade the island and, in the words of then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, to "smash Cuba."

Working people in the U.S. and worldwide should join Cuba in calling on governments across the globe — starting with Washington — to provide real aid to the people of West Africa with no strings attached and, together with Cuba, fight to eradicate the scourge of Ebola.

Crimean Tatars

Continued from page 7

eral occasions, spending a total of 15 years in prison.

As the Soviet Union was coming apart, Dzhemilev and his family returned to Crimea, where in 1991 he was elected chair of the Mejlis, the national committee of the Crimean Tatars. He stepped down as chair in 2013, replaced by Refat Chubarov.

Since the Russian seizure of Crimea in March, there have been a series of repressive measures imposed on Tatar communities, including raids on mosques and schools, efforts to ban protests and attempts to silence leaders of the Mejlis. In May, the Russian government issued a five-year ban against Dzhemilev, barring him from returning to Crimea. Met by 5,000 Crimean Tatars who came to greet him, Dzhemilev attempted to enter and was physically stopped.

The attacks have escalated since Sept. 14 elections in Russia and occupied Crimea. "The Mejlis met July 6 and decided to call for a boycott of the elections," Dzhemilev said. "To have participated would have meant recognition of the occupation."

"The authorities responded by putting a five-year ban on Chubarov," he said.

Turnout for the election in Crimea was officially around 52 percent, although a jump of 15 percent in the last 46 minutes was seen by many as evidence of fraud. "The election returns were falsified by the officials," Dzhemilev said.

On Sept. 16, 20 members of the Russian Federal Security Service and other police forces raided the Mejlis headquarters in Simferopol, searching the offices for 12 hours. They hauled off laptops, computers, records and files, and broke into Dzhemilev's personal safe and removed money and all his belongings. As they left, they handed Riza Shevkiev, a Mejlis member and head of the Crimean Charity Fund, which owns the building, an eviction notice to get out within 24 hours.

Similar raids were carried out at the homes of Mejlis leaders Eskender Bariev and Mustafa Asaba. The next day raids on schools, mosques and homes of Tatar figures took place across Crimea.

On Sept. 22 the Russian-installed Crimean Prime Minister Sergey Aksyonov declared that the Mejlis "does not exist." He said that those who sow discord on an inter-ethnic basis will be expelled from Crimea or face criminal charges.

In a Sept. 24 statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that the offices were seized and the organizations evicted because the Crimean Fund was illegally founded by a "foreign national" and an "undesirable" — Mustafa Dzhemilev.

Dzhemilev and Chubarov represented the Mejlis at the first United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York Sept. 22-23. Moscow tried unsuccessfully to have them barred from participating. They succeeded in keeping Nadir Bekirov, another Crimean Tatar delegate, from attending. He was accosted by four armed and masked thugs who seized his passport as he was heading to the train station in Dzhankoi.

"Crimea Tatars are the people who suffered total deportation from their native land in 1944, their return to the native land became possible on the eve of the Soviet Union collapse and coincided with establishment of independent Ukraine," Chubarov said to the conference. He said they joined with millions of others who from November 2013 to February 2014 demonstrated to demand the overthrow of the pro-Russian government of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

"Our hopes to restore our rights were wiped out at the end of February-March 2014," he said, by "the occupation and annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation."

"We call on the U.N. to establish a special mission on Crimea," Chubarov said.

"We were seeking world attention and help in defending the rights of the Crimean Tatars," Dzhemilev told the *Militant*. "We found genuine interest in the situation of our people, and got our story out through press interviews with media from all over the world."

"But we fear that more attacks will come," he said, "more bans, more efforts to shut the Mejlis down and silence our press. But their efforts to stop the fight for democratic rights will not succeed."

"The Russian authorities are afraid of us," Dzhemilev said. "They know that if we have the political rights to organize and resist, they will have more and more difficulty installing their rule."

LETTERS

'Knowledge is power'

Will you sign me up for your free weekly newspaper. I was reading one my friend had, and man that was deep. I'd like to read more of that stuff. Knowledge is power.

A prisoner
Washington

Wants to learn about Sankara

I never knew anything about Burkina Faso or that a revolution happened there. Now I would like to learn more about Thomas Sankara. The book about Cuba and

Angola is also really cool but I already did know something about Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela. I will probably join the Pathfinder's Readers Club, because they do publish some re-

ally interesting books.

David Monmaney
Lebanon, New Hampshire

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