

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Fidel Castro: Cuba doesn't need nuclear arms
— PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 29 AUGUST 17, 2015

Black Lives conference: We have to fight together!

BY WILLIE COTTON
AND JAMES HARRIS

CLEVELAND — More than 1,000 people from around the country, the large majority Black youth, converged at Cleveland State University July 24-26 for the Movement for Black Lives Convening. Organizers brought together family members of individuals from around the country who have been killed by cops. These families have proven, by standing up and fighting, that Black lives do indeed matter, and that all lives matter.

Through their actions they have helped inspire protests against police killings across the country the last couple of years, resulting in the cops being pushed back, most recently with the indictment of University of Cincinnati cop Ray Tensing for the killing of Samuel DuBose (see article on page 4).

In a powerful opening session, members of more than 20 families affected by police and racist violence were brought together on stage.

Continued on page 7

Socialist Workers Party in Philadelphia files for ballot

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA — “Our campaign is a voice for working people, here in Philadelphia, the United States and for that matter around the world,” viewers of CBS Channel 3 News saw Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, tell the press as he filed for ballot status alongside running mate John Staggs, SWP candidate for City Council at-large Aug. 3. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* and WHYY radio also covered the City Hall filing.

As they turned in 2,950 signatures, the candidates were joined by a group of campaign supporters; Glova Scott, who ran as SWP candidate for City Council in Washington, D.C., earlier this year; and the campaign's lawyer, Larry Otter.

“The signatures, more than two times the required 1,325, were gathered going door to door in neighborhoods throughout the city,” petitioning director Janet Post said, “where working people welcomed the oppor-

Continued on page 6

Stop the murderous assault on Kurds!



Reuters/Osman Orsal

Rally in Istanbul Aug. 1 calls for halt to Turkish government bombing of Kurdish camps in northern Iraq and raids against those accused of ties to Kurdistan Workers Party in Turkey.

Washington, NATO back Turkish gov't bombings

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Turkish government's assault on Kurdish fighters, now into its second week, is being conducted with the support of Washington and NATO. Massive bombings on Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camps in northern Iraq have killed and injured hundreds. At the same time more than 1,000 Kurds accused of supporting the PKK have been arrested in Turkey.

The Turkish rulers are alarmed over advances made by Kurdish fighters in Syria in driving back Islamic State and the impact this has on the 15 million Kurds in Turkey, giving confidence to those fighting for Kurd-

Continued on page 9

Join protests to demand end to anti-Kurd attacks!

Turkish bombing — with Washington's full support — of fighters for Kurdish rights was met with protests last week in Paris, London, Berlin, New York and Turkey. These actions should be applauded, repeated and

EDITORIAL

emulated.

The airstrikes continue and the situation is critical. Hundreds have been killed or injured and more than 1,000 arrested in Turkey.

Kurdish fighters have shown time after time that they are the most effective force combating the advance

Continued on page 9

Steelworkers protest Allegheny Technology concession demands



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein

Steelworkers rally in Pittsburgh July 30 against demands of ATI, where contract expired June 30. Bosses at US Steel and ArcelorMittal are also seeking concessions in upcoming contracts.

BY JOSEFINA OTERO
AND ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

PITTSBURGH — Chanting “We are one,” and “No contract, no peace!” more than 800 members of the United Steelworkers, retirees, family members and supporters from other unions rallied at the Steelworkers International headquarters here July 30, and then marched to the door-

step of Allegheny Technologies Inc. corporate headquarters. They were protesting the many concessions the company has proposed for the new contract.

When the contract between 2,450 Steelworkers and ATI expired June 30, the union bargaining committee agreed to keep working on a day-by-

Continued on page 4

London, Paris stop refugees from crossing channel to UK

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Thousands of working people from Africa and the Middle East are making daily attempts to enter Britain from France. In Calais they try to stow away on trucks or directly board freight trains crossing

crushed by a truck, the ninth person to die this year while attempting the crossing.

“I want to get to Britain to find work and for my human rights,” an

Continued on page 2

COMMUNIST LEAGUE IN LONDON:

OPEN THE BORDERS!

— page 2

the English Channel through the Eurotunnel.

They are battling French riot police and heavy British border security — U.K. border controls are organized on the French side of the channel crossing — including 16-foot-high fences topped with coils of razor wire, infrared detectors and private guards. On July 28, a worker from Sudan was

Inside

Australia-U.S. exercises aim to counter Beijing influence 3

Cincinnati cop is indicted for killing Samuel DuBose 4

Townpeople angry about fatal fire at English mill 5

—On the picket line, p. 5—

California Steelworkers protest Phillips 66 refinery job cuts

UK gov’t blocks refugees

Continued from front page
immigrant named Samra told Sky News Aug. 1. Her situation is typical of many fleeing conditions of war, economic crisis and social dislocation in their countries of origin, especially Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan. They end up in what’s become known as “The Jungle,” a makeshift camp without food or running water housing some 5,000 people on the outskirts of Calais.

Thousands of others have died making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. Last year the body of Syrian student Mouaz al Balkhi washed up on a beach in the Netherlands. His attempt to reach Britain took him on an eight-month journey through Jordan, Turkey, Algeria, Libya, Italy and France.

No ‘safe haven’

Britain will not become a “safe haven” for immigrants and refugees, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron said July 30. Speaking to the press during a visit to Vietnam, he stated that more immigrants will be deported to deter the “swarm of people coming across the Mediterranean, seeking a better life.” The government will make Britain “a less easy place for illegal immigrants to stay” by restricting their ability to access bank accounts and public housing as well, Cameron said.

He reported that London was working in concert with the French government. Paris is sending an extra 120 police, while the U.K. government invests in fencing, razor wire, sniffer dogs and other security measures at the channel crossings in Calais and Coquelles.

The French government has already deployed 600 riot police to assist the lo-

cal cops, and the authorities have arrested 18,000 immigrants in the first half of this year.

“We have got to deal with that problem at its source,” Cameron said. The British military is being readied for deployment in Libya, where many of the refugees making the Mediterranean crossing start out. Its aim is to help stabilize the government there along with troops from Italy, U.S., France, Spain and Germany.

The measures taken by the British and French governments to block the refugees have disrupted tunnel traffic. Thousands of trucks have been stranded on a gridlocked motorway on the British side of the channel.

Promoting British nationalism

The Refugee Council said Cameron’s use of the term “swarm” was “irresponsible, dehumanising language.” Many Labour and Liberal Party politicians echoed the criticism, while promoting British nationalism, including Labour Party Acting Leader Harriet Harman. She called on the government to demand compensation from France for disrupted British businesses.

London “should be getting the French to assess the migrants, each one of them, to see if they are genuine refugees,” Harman told Sky News. “If not they should be deported. The French should sort it out on their side of the border. The ultimate job of the prime minister is to keep Britain in business.”

United Nations official Peter Sutherland said the demand for migrants to be kept out of the U.K. was “a xenophobic response to the issue of free movement.” Last year Germany received 175,000 asylum applications, while Britain re-



Reuters/Pascal Rossignol

French gendarmes block migrants trying to access train tracks leading to English Channel tunnel near Calais, France, July 29. About 1,500 people tried to reach tunnel that night.

ceived only 24,000, he noted.

The British Road Haulage Association called on Paris to send the French army to aid the Calais police “to contain, segregate and control the migrant threat.”

There have also been calls to send in the British army. Kevin Hurley, police

and crime commissioner for Surrey, called for deploying elite Gurkhas based near the U.K. end of the Eurotunnel. The U.K. Independence Party called for the army to be deployed at British ports, while Conservative Member of Parliament David Davies urged the British army to be sent to Calais.

Communist League: ‘Open the borders!’

Below are excerpts of a statement issued Aug. 4 by the London branch of the Communist League in the United Kingdom.

The labour movement must fight to open the UK’s borders to immigrants fleeing Africa and the Middle East. This is a life-and-death question for the working class, part of a class-struggle course of organising all workers, native- and foreign-born into trade unions, and using union power to defend our interests.

The anti-immigrant stance of the capitalist parties is aimed at keeping foreign-born workers down, and through competition drive down the wages and conditions of all.

Their divide-and-rule claim that there are insufficient resources is bogus. It’s government policy not to build houses, hospitals, schools. While all the wealth in this country is the creation of working people, irrespective of our nationality.

Workers need to cut through such arguments and forge independent working-class politics. This means rejecting the stand of the government and capitalist parties in defence of Britain’s borders — which they claim are “our” borders — against “them,” the foreigners. Just as they did in the 1930s when they refused entry into the UK of thousands of Jews in Germany fleeing Nazi terror.

Working people don’t have borders. A classless “British people” with common interests does not exist. The UK is class divided. “We” are working people, irrespective of where we’re born. Toilers in the oppressed nations are our allies against our common enemy: the imperialist rulers. “They” are the capitalist rulers and their government. Knowing who “we” are and who “they” are is the ABC of working-class politics.

The Militant

Vol. 79/No. 29

Closing news date: August 5, 2015

Editor: John Studer

On the Picket Line Editor: Maggie Trowe

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Frank Forrestal, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Gerardo Sánchez, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

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

Business manager: Lea Sherman

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

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 120 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

THE MILITANT

Defend Cuba’s socialist revolution!

On July 26 Cuba celebrated the 62nd anniversary of the opening of the revolutionary struggle. Washington conceded in December that its 55-year embargo had failed to break the revolution, a tribute to the determination of Cuban working people and their communist leadership.



Granma/José M. Correa Armas

Crowds celebrate July 26 in front of Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

Australia-US exercises aim to counter Beijing influence

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY — The largest military exercises ever held in Australia took place for two weeks ending July 20, involving forces from the U.S., Australia and, for the first time, New Zealand and Japan. Despite government officials' protestations to the contrary, the mock invasion in Australia's north and northeast is part of these imperialist powers' efforts to counter the emerging economic, political and military weight of China in the Asia-Pacific region, as the U.S.-led order imposed following Washington's bloody victory in World War II comes apart.

The Australian rulers are caught in a historic bind of trying to defend their interests by seeking closer military alignment with Washington while pursuing their largest export market and growing source of investment in China.

The large-scale amphibious and air assaults at training grounds near Darwin in the north and Rockhampton in the northeast involved 30,000 troops, 21 warships, 200 aircraft and three submarines. These included a U.S. carrier strike group and marine expeditionary unit. Forty Japanese soldiers were embedded with U.S. forces, while 650 New Zealand personnel were integrated with thousands of Australian troops.

"Era of US dominance in region 'coming to close'" was the main headline of the July 13 *Australian*, a national newspaper, as part of its coverage of the live-fire war games, called Talisman Saber 2015. The quote was from a joint report by official military analysts from Canberra and Washington released that day, titled "The ANZUS Alliance in an Ascending Asia." It noted that "the era of ... uncontested U.S. maritime supremacy" in the Pacific appeared to be ending. ANZUS is the 1951 security pact between the rulers of Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

A key part of the "pivot" by the Barack Obama administration to the Asia-Pacific is its push to expand U.S. access to facilities across Australia, which has a strategic location for Washington. Among other factors, it lies south of the Strait of Malacca, which channels one-third of world shipping between the Pacific and Indian oceans. The Australian rulers are trying to bolster their historic U.S. alliance while also allying with the governments of Japan, India and Indonesia to counter China's rise.

The report noted that "in higher intensity regional crises, access to air and

naval bases" across northern Australia and in the southwest near Perth were "important to overall U.S. strategy."

More than 1,000 U.S. Marines already on rotation through Darwin will be built up to a force of 2,500 next year. This would become an amphibious expeditionary group with warships and planes. The Australian naval base near Perth is proposed as a base for a large U.S. aircraft carrier group as well as nuclear submarines.

During a July 12 visit to the war games, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the Chinese government understands the U.S.-Australian alliance and "that has never stopped a very strong friendship with China."

In a more candid admission of the Australian government's contradictory relations with Beijing, Abbott said to German Chancellor Angela Merkel last November that Canberra was driven by "fear and greed."

The contradiction for Canberra between its main military ally versus its largest trading partner has surfaced in tensions over rival trade and financial pacts, intensified by the global capitalist crisis. The Australian government recently joined the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, a Beijing initiative. The ANZUS report notes this was despite pressure from the Obama administration against participation by its allies.

The Australian rulers have just signed a Free Trade Agreement with China, similar to those with other East Asian countries, while also joining the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact. Canberra has stalled on signing TPP over a disagreement with Washington on access to the U.S. domestic market for Australian sugar exports.

Georgia rally demands arrest of killer cop



Militant/Rachele Fruit

UNION CITY, Ga. — Some 80 people rallied at the Emmaus Baptist Church here July 20 to demand the immediate arrest of a cop who fatally shot a Black teen three years ago and the dismissal of the police chief for possibly covering it up. The next day protesters delivered some 200 signatures on petitions at a City Council meeting supporting their demands.

The signatures were gathered over two weekends going door to door. "We had a wonderful response," truck driver Cornell Friday, 39, told the *Militant*. "Everyone who came to the door signed the petition."

On Dec. 14, 2011, 19-year-old Ariston Waiters was shot twice in the back by Union City cop Luther Lewis, who is Caucasian. Lewis claimed Waiters attempted to take his gun as the youth was being handcuffed face down on the ground. The police chief backed Lewis' story.

In May, police officer Chris McElroy challenged the official story, saying he was the first to arrive on the scene following the shooting and that Lewis said nothing about a struggle for his gun. Alluding to the ongoing protests across the country against cop killings of mostly Black men, McElroy said he decided to come forth now because of all the distrust of police officers.

"The petition campaign will continue," Rev. Sedrick Hamner said after the City Council meeting. Supporters of the campaign to reopen the case "are shooting for more than 500."

Greg Fann, president of the Metro Atlanta Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, told the *Militant* his organization supports this fight because "it is in the interest of labor to support all working families whether they are in organized labor or not."

— SAM MANUEL

Calgary family: Investigate native youth's death

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

CALGARY, Alberta — "We're not stopping till we get answers," said Tanya Crowshoe, aunt of Colton Crowshoe, who was found dead in a pond on July 24, 2014, three weeks after his family reported him missing. She was speaking at a memorial event held here to mark the one-year anniversary of her nephew's death, which a police autopsy ruled a homicide, and to demand police pursue the murder investigation.

Their fight is part of the ongoing struggle by native peoples across Canada against discrimination.

Colton Crowshoe, 18, who had just finished high school and was pursuing welding training, was arrested and charged with trespassing and break and enter July 2, 2014, then released the same day. His family told the media Colton said he had been roughed up by the cops. A few days later, his family reported him missing. His body was found three weeks later in a city drainage pond.

In addition to Colton's aunts, who helped raise him, his father, Jimmy Crowshoe, spoke at the event, condemning the government for not taking them seriously when they reported Colton missing.

"They judged him — he was just another native kid," Tanya Crowshoe said. "They said, 'He doesn't want to be found.'" Police waited almost three weeks before issuing a missing persons

report.

Jimmy Crowshoe told the *Militant* his father was a survivor of the residential schools that many aboriginal youth were subjected to for decades. He described the situation facing native youth today, noting, "There are no jobs on the reserves." In 2011, only 35 percent of aboriginal reserve residents older than 15 were employed.

At least 60 percent of aboriginal people in Canada live off reserve, and face disproportionate unemployment. They were especially hard hit by massive job losses after the recession that began in 2008. In Alberta, where overall employment is high, one in two native youth are unemployed.

Systematic discrimination is evident in all aspects of life. Native people make up 4 percent of the total Canadian population, but more than 23 percent of the federal prison population. According to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 1,017 aboriginal women and girls were murdered between 1980 and 2012 — roughly 4.5 times the homicide rate for all other women in Canada. So far the federal government has resisted widespread calls for an inquiry into this.

Residential school abuse

In June the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — set up in 2008 as required by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest class action settlement in Ca-

nadian history — issued a report calling the residential school system "an integral part of a conscious policy of cultural genocide." The commission heard 6,750 submissions from residential school survivors, their families and school staff across the country. Roughly 150,000 aboriginal youth attended these schools between 1883 and 1996. At a conservative estimate, 6,000 died as a result of unhealthy conditions, neglect and abuse.

Sam Kautainuk was 12 years old when he was taken to the residential school in what is now Nunavut. He told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that on his first day of school in Pangnirtung, when the teacher overheard him speaking to a friend in Inuktitut, "He took a ruler and grabbed my head like this and then smacked me in the mouth with the ruler four times."

Many testified they didn't get enough to eat at the schools. "I was always hungry," Doris Young, who attended Anglican schools in the prairies, told the commission. "And we stole food. I remember stealing bread. And the pies that I remember stealing were lined up on a counter, and they weren't for us to eat, they were for the staff."

The fight that brought this history to light and ongoing struggles like that of the Crowshoe family strengthen the ability of working people to make progress against the rulers' divisive and discriminatory policies.

Their Transformation and Ours

Socialist Workers Party Resolution

Analyzes the most far-reaching shift in Washington's military policy and organization since the late 1930s. Class-struggle-minded workers must face this historic turning point for imperialism. And draw satisfaction and enjoyment from being "in their face" as we chart a revolutionary course to confront it.



in *New International* no. 12 **\$16**
Also in Spanish, French, Farsi,
Swedish, Greek, Arabic
pathfinderpress.com

Cincinnati cop is indicted for killing Samuel DuBose

BY DAN FEIN

CINCINNATI — In response to protests and outrage here and the cumulative impact of more than a year of protests against police brutality across the country, a grand jury indicted University of Cincinnati cop Ray Tensing on murder and manslaughter charges for the July 19 shooting death of 43-year-old Samuel DuBose, an African-American.

On July 30 Tensing, who is Caucasian, pleaded not guilty. Bond was set at \$1 million, which was posted later that day. His next court date is scheduled for Aug. 19.

DuBose was stopped by Tensing for not having a front license plate on his car. A video from Tensing’s body camera shows that after some back and forth discussion over the license plate and DuBose’s driver’s license, DuBose inches the car forward and Tensing pulls out his gun and shoots DuBose in the head.

After the shooting, the video records Tensing saying, “He was just dragging me. I thought I was going to get run over. I was trying to stop him.” Another cop is heard replying, “Yeah, I saw that.”

At a news conference, Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters played footage of the traffic stop shooting that contradicted Tensing’s version of what happened.

“People want to believe that Mr. DuBose had done something violent towards the officer — he did not. He did not at all.” When a reporter asked Deters if he thought Tensing tried to mislead investigators, he replied, “Yes. I think he was making an excuse for a purposeful killing.”

Rev. Ennis Tait, a pastor of the Church of the Living God, where DuBose’s funeral was held July 28, told the *Militant*, “There was no justification for the stop. There was no justification for the shooting. It is another case of racial profiling.” The funeral had 500 inside

the church and 300 outside, Tait said. “The demonstrations here raise the voice for justice,” he said, but a July 31 candlelight vigil and march “ended with cops arresting people for just yelling and screaming at the cops. Tensions are brewing between police and Blacks here.”

“If it were not for that video camera, Sam would be no different” than all the other unindicted police shootings of Black men, Terina Allen, DuBose’s sister, said at a press conference, “because the second officer was ready to corroborate every lie that the first officer said in the report.”

Two University of Cincinnati police officers, Phillip Kidd and David Lindenschmidt, who witnessed the shooting and backed up Tensing’s story, were not indicted.


“This was not right,” Mandy Rogers, 28, told the *Militant* at the memorial to Samuel DuBose at the corner of Valencia and Rice streets, the scene of the killing. “Mr. DuBose’s family needs to see justice. He didn’t do anything. He was stopped illegally.” Rogers was one of many who stopped by to pay their respects Aug. 2.

Tait told the *Militant* a little about DuBose. “He had 13 children, all of whom came to the funeral. Sam was a volunteer at a nursing home and a musician. He liked to ride motorcycles.”

“The justice system does not respect Black men,” Tait said. “Are the police above the law?”

Ebony Morris, 30, a health care giver, lives on the street where the killing took place. “When they released the tape,”

Contract expires, talks go on between Verizon, unions



Stand Up to Verizon

As the Northeast contract between Verizon and members of the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers approached expiration Aug. 1, union representatives announced their members, who recently voted 86 percent to authorize a strike, would work without a contract as negotiations continue with the communications giant. The contract covers some 39,000 workers in nine states from Massachusetts to Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Hundreds of CWA and IBEW members denounced Verizon’s proposed concessions at a rally in downtown Boston July 30, above, chanting, “When we fight, we win.” Members of the school bus drivers and hotel workers unions, Service Employees International Union and others joined in support.

Verizon, which had a net income of \$4.35 billion in the second quarter, is demanding increased health care contributions and concessions on pensions. “In case talks stall, Verizon has been training thousands of nonunion workers to fill in for the unionized workforce in the event of a strike,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported Aug. 2.

— MAGGIE TROWE AND SARAH ULLMAN

she said, “it brought tears to my eyes. He and Sandra Bland [in Texas] died over something so simple. The police do not protect and serve us. The two cops lied about the dragging.” Morris

said many people from all races have come to the memorial.

Alyson Kennedy contributed to this article.

Steelworkers protest ATI concession demands

Continued from front page
day basis while negotiations continued. In a plan ATI dubs “Countdown to D-Day,” the company has engaged scabs from Strom Engineering, a notorious strikebreaking outfit, who are standing by in nearby hotels.

Concessions proposed by ATI include slashing health care for active, retired and future workers; instituting 12-hour shifts; cutting pension agreements for current and future workers; reducing wages and overtime pay; and changing contract language to allow the company to contract out more work, a union fact sheet says.

Busloads and vans of USW members and retirees from ATI came to the rally from Brackenridge, Latrobe, Leechburg, Midland and Washington, Pennsylvania, and Louisville, Ohio.

“I will not be intimidated,” Karl Brendle, president of 120-member Steelworkers Local 1046, told the rally. Brendle and others who work at the ATI finishing plant in Louisville wore black T-shirts with a thick red line across the front. “ATI painted a red line at the employee parking lot entrance. They say it’s just to draw a property line,” Brendle said. “I think it is the line to be used to throw the union out. They can paint as many lines as they want to.”

“There are 72 scabs in hotels near the plant,” Brendle told the *Militant*.

Regina Stinson spearheaded Steelworkers Spouses of ATI Flat Roll Products, which was formed July 1 and had 278 members at last count. Her husband, Terry Stinson, is a member of

Steelworkers Local 1138 at the ATI mill in Vandergrift. At the rally she explained the devastating effect that the ATI proposals on health care would have. “It’s time to stand up for what we think is right. Solidarity doesn’t stop here. This is just where it begins,” she told a cheering crowd.

Big steel contract deadline Sept. 1

A large contingent of Steelworkers local officers from U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal mills around the country joined the rally in solidarity with their brothers and sisters at ATI. The contracts for 30,000 Steelworkers who work for those two companies expire Sept. 1, and negotiations are taking place here.

According to a union statement, U.S. Steel wants its 17,000 union workforce to contribute to premium costs for health care, add annual deductibles starting at \$2,600 and eliminate policies for Medicare-eligible retirees.

Luis Gonzalo Zaragoza, a member of the National Metals and Mining Workers Union at the ArcelorMittal plant in Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán, Mexico, participated in the rally and march. “We are just giving back to the USW for the support they give us,” he told the *Militant*.

“When we struck in 2006, and the state and federal government sent police to end the strike, they stood with us. Every year on April 20 they join with us to march and commemorate our martyrs,” he added, referring to the 141-day strike against Grupo Villacero, the owner before ArcelorMittal bought the

plant in 2007. Two workers were killed by police in that conflict.

The spirited rally and march included unionists from the United Mine Workers of America, Boilermakers, Service Employees International Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center health workers, UNITE HERE restaurant and hotel workers and fast-food workers involved in the fight for \$15 an hour and a union.

“The [ATI] proposals that are on the table are the same ones that are on the table for U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal,” Tom Conway, a Steelworkers international vice president and chief negotiator in talks with ATI, told the crowd. “This isn’t an ATI fight. It’s a Steelworkers fight.”

Josefina Otero is a retired member of Steelworkers Local 7139-05 at ATI in Washington, Pennsylvania.



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein
Members of National Metals and Mining Workers Union from ArcelorMittal steel in Mexico join USW rally in Pittsburgh July 30.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles
Black Lives Matter! Protest Killings by the Police. Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. 2826 Vermont Ave., #1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

FLORIDA

Miami
Greek Working People Pay the Price for European Capitalist Crisis. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 14. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 7911 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

NEBRASKA

Omaha
Speak-out Against Attacks on Planned Parenthood: Defend Women’s Right to Choose Abortion. Speaker: Ruth Robinett, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. 3302 Q St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (402) 779-7697.

NEW YORK

New York
Defend Women’s Right to Choose Abortion! Fri., Aug. 14. Dinner, 6:45 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 939 8th Ave., Room 2A. Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover steel, auto and other contract fights!

This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about the labor resistance that is unfolding today, to give voice to those engaged in battle and help build solidarity. National steel and auto contracts are expiring this summer and fall. I invite workers involved in fights against concessions to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Maggie Trowe

California Steelworkers protest Phillips 66 refinery job cuts

WILMINGTON, Calif. — One hundred people joined a July 29 rally called by United Steelworkers Local 675 outside the Phillips 66 refinery here, protesting the company's decision to eliminate jobs and increase the workload of existing employees.

"Three operators have two units each to watch," a console and field operator, who asked that his name not be used, told the *Militant*. "They want to cut that to two operators watching those six units plus the blowdown flares. They are increasing the workload and decreasing

the manpower. We are fighting because this is a safety concern for us."

"When they cut back jobs it makes it more dangerous to work," Jim Norris, first vice president of the local, told the crowd. Norris has worked 25 years as a field operator. "In 2005, an explosion in Texas happened because of not enough workers and they were working too many hours. We need more safety. If we can win in California, we can carry it around the country."

A few oil workers from the Tesoro refinery in nearby Carson joined dozens of Phillips 66 workers at the rally along with other unionists and people from the



Militant/Bernie Senter

Jim Norris, first vice president of United Steelworkers Local 675, speaks at July 29 protest in front of Phillips 66 refinery in Wilmington, California, against job cuts that erode safety.

community.

South Bay 350 Climate Action Group publicized the rally. A July 26 statement on their website noted that bosses want "longer and longer shifts, with little rest in between and fewer skilled workers on duty. This profits over policy will place

the refinery, its workers and surrounding community in danger."

Safety was a central issue in the nationwide selective strike earlier this year at 15 refineries and petrochemical plants. Unionists fought for the companies to hire more people and stop forcing them to work 12-hour shifts for weeks on end. The strike concluded with companies promising to review the problem of fatigue and forced overtime. The protest at the Wilmington refinery is an indication that the bosses have not altered the past practices that spawned the strike.

—Bernie Senter and Deborah Liatos

Townspeople angry about fatal fire at English mill

BY PETE CLIFFORD

BOSLEY, England — Grieving townspeople are angry after an explosion ripped through the Wood Treatment Ltd's mill in this town 25 miles south of Manchester July 17, killing three and injuring many of the mill's 50 workers. A fourth worker is missing and feared dead.

A police cordon surrounds the area of the mill. Eight days after the explosion firefighters' water hoses were still spraying the collapsed, smoldering wreck of the four-story building.

This nonunion mill made linoleum flooring out of finely ground sawdust, called wood flour, and highly flammable petrochemicals. The River Dane that runs past the plant turned blue after the explosion released 5,000 liters of kerosene.

According to the *Guardian*, there were fires at the plant in 2010 and 2012, and the owners had been warned of the risk of an explosion by the government-run Health and Safety Executive in 2013. That agency issued an "improvement notice" regarding the storage of liquid petroleum gas, telling the company the risk should either be "eliminated or reduced." Two weeks before the explosion local officials were on site responding to a complaint about saw dust.

Kelvin Barks, brother of William Barks, one of those killed, was interviewed by ITV News July 22. He said his brother told him that the factory was "a disaster waiting to happen." Barks said the plant dated "back to somewhere in the First World War." He said his brother had tried to get the bosses to order parts to make machinery safe, but they refused unless a machine stopped. He said the mill had no regular fire drills and the sprinkler system often wouldn't work.

When the factory exploded temperatures hit 1,000°C (1,800°F). "It was like a plane crashing," local pub owner Gwyneth Jones told the *Militant* during a July 25 visit.

In a nearby pub, the Harrington Arms, Susannah Lynn and other locals were counting out more than £11,000 (\$17,000) collected at a fundraising event the previous night to aid the



Militant/Hugo Wils

Susannah Lynn, top right, and other residents of Bosley, England, at Harrington Arms pub counting donations from July 24 fundraiser for families of victims of fatal July 17 mill explosion.

families of those killed. Some 1,000 people came, she said, many from the surrounding region of this tiny village with no more than 50 houses. "It shouldn't have happened," she said of the explosion.

Alison Tottle, warden at St. Mary's Church here, told the *Militant* how anger had mounted when the mill owners had initially stalled on making any statement or expressing sympathy with the relatives of those killed.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 10, 1990

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has claimed the lives of some 84,000 people over the last decade.

U.S. government officials have known since 1981 how the AIDS virus is transmitted. But an effective national plan of public health measures to save lives and provide care for people with AIDS has yet to be implemented.

The spread of AIDS did not just happen. It was and is being allowed to happen.

Working people need to champion the rights of those struck with AIDS no matter who they are. We must demand government funding for adequate medical care and for stepping up the research for better treatment and prevention of AIDS. The rulers' complacent attitude now shrouding the spread of AIDS should be forcefully rejected.



August 23, 1965

LOS ANGELES — The social explosion which rocked this city's black ghetto for nearly a week was elemental in its fury and revolutionary in its implication. The biggest uprising of U.S. Negroes in the Twentieth Century, it was ignited by unendurable white racist oppression.

Touched off by the strong-arm methods of two cops arresting a 21-year-old youth on charges of alleged drunken driving, the outbreak was met by savage police repression. Of the 33 reported dead, 29 are black people, victims of trigger-happy cops and national guardsmen. So far 3,352 residents of the ghetto have been jailed and they are being held in punitively high bail.

Watts has the aspects of an oppressed colonial people in revolt. They are in rebellion against the forces that oppress them.



August 17, 1940

The British retreat in Asia is taking on the semblance of a rout. On August 8 the British Viceroy of India announced a new and slightly more precise promise of dominion status for India ... after the war.

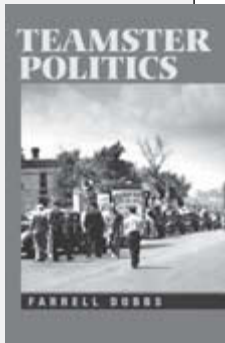
The new promise to India is no less empty than all those that have gone before. But it is clearly tinged with the desperation of an imperial regime that knows its end is drawing near. Lord Linlithgow's statement was clearly an appeal to the native ruling classes of India, promising "free partnership" in the British Commonwealth in return for support against the threat of complete submersion of British power implicit in the German march of conquest. Finally, he promised that after the war the Indians would themselves be permitted to draw up their own constitution.

For further reading Teamster Politics

by Farrell Dobbs

How Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544, guided by a class-struggle leadership in the 1930s, fought for unions to adopt a course of independent working-class political action — \$19

pathfinderpress.com



SWP files for ballot status

Continued from front page

tunity to hear about a working-class alternative.”

“There is a deep worldwide crisis of the capitalist system. Working people face a ruinous assault on our standard of living and social conditions,” Hart told the press. “Depressed wages, joblessness, speedup on the job, increasingly dangerous working conditions — this is what the employers put on us as they drive to push their profit rates up.

“There is growing working-class resistance to these attacks,” said Hart, who works as an overnight stocker at Walmart. He pointed to the importance of the fight by Steelworkers at ATI and workers at Verizon fighting against concession demands. “The growing social movement for a \$15 minimum wage and a union, which John and I are part of, is part of this resistance,” Hart said.

“Our campaign is part of these struggles. We call for workers to break from the two parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans, and build their own party, a labor party based on the unions,” he said.

“Workers struggles — from the fight for \$15 to the ongoing struggle against police brutality and cop killings of African-Americans and others across the country — and independent working-class political action,” Hart said, “open the road to taking power out of the hands of the propertied rulers and reorganizing society in the interests of the majority of humanity.

“We can learn from the example of the Cuban Revolution,” he said. “Cuban workers and farmers took power there 56 years ago and have built and continue to defend their socialist revolution, based on human solidarity.”

During the three-week ballot drive, Socialist Workers Party campaigners

participated in protests against the beating of Tyree Carroll in Germantown by 26 Philadelphia cops, petitioned outside the International Longshoremen’s Association hiring hall, joined a rally to celebrate 15 years of gains for equal rights won through struggles buoyed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and talked to workers on their porches from one end of the city to the other.

“After college I worked for a program for kids with autism,” Julia DeFalco, 26, told Staggs Aug. 1 on her doorstep in Northeast Philadelphia. “But then they told me I couldn’t remain their employee, I had to become an ‘independent contractor.’ I would have no guaranteed hours and have to pay my own taxes and liability insurance. I said no thanks.”

“Then I got a job in a day care center that promised \$10 an hour, but when I got my first check it was for \$7.25,” she said, signing the petition. “I had to quit that too.”

“More and more workers are pushed to be temporary workers or ‘independent contractors,’ like they tried to force on you, or to take lower wages,” Staggs said. “The bosses want to put all the uncertainty and burden on the worker, to boost profits. On the West Coast port truckers have organized to fight to be recognized as workers and for a union. And they are having success.”

Join fight against police brutality

“The accumulated public accounts of cops killing and brutalizing working people, building on the profound transformation in peoples’ social outlook produced by the victory of the mass Black-led movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, has put increasing pressure on the cops and the politicians,” Hart told a Militant Labor Forum here July 31. “When University of



Militant/John Studer



Inset, Militant/Mitchel Rosenberg

Inset, SWP candidates John Staggs, center, for City Council at-large, and Osborne Hart, right, for mayor, file for ballot status Aug. 3. Above, Staggs campaigning, collecting signatures July 14.

Cincinnati cop Ray Tensing shot Samuel DuBose dead during a traffic stop July 19, he was promptly arrested and charged with murder.”

This reflects progress forced by historic changes in popular consciousness and the growing Black Lives Matter protests that have drawn thousands into action, pushing the cops back, Hart said. The weekend before Hart participated in the Movement for Black Lives national conference in Cleveland.

“I want to thank Osborne, John and Janet for helping to do the battle to demand justice from the cops who killed my son Frank McQueen,” Delphine Matthews told forum-goers. Cops shot McQueen more than 20 times in June 2014 in Chester, south of Philadelphia. “I still haven’t received anything from the cops and city officials there, no coroner’s report, not even his personal belongings.

“I’m a fighter and I’ll fight to the end,” she said. “Not just for my son, but for everyone — African-American, Caucasian, everyone.” She invited the socialist campaign to join her the next day for a street corner speakout against police brutality.

Hart and other socialist campaigners joined Matthews and others near the Frankford Transportation Center in northeast Philadelphia the next day.

Before the protest, Hart took the campaign door to door in the surrounding neighborhood, telling people about the speakout. “I’m going,” Ikea Coney told Hart, saying her son Dar-

ring Manning was beaten by Philadelphia cops last year.

“The Philadelphia campaign is really the beginning of the Socialist Workers Party’s 2016 campaign for president and state offices across the country,” Staggs told supporters at City Hall. “We’ll be campaigning across the city and beyond. We’ll join in the fights against attacks by the bosses and their government.

“We’re campaigning to win people to the Socialist Workers Party,” he said.

Róger Calero contributed to this article.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters



“To think that a socialist revolution in the U.S. is not possible, you would have to believe not only that the ruling families of the imperialist countries have found a way to ‘manage’ capitalism. You would also have to

close your eyes to the spreading imperialist wars, civil wars, and economic, financial and social crises we are in the midst of.”

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

NY protest condemns bombing of Kurds



Militant/Andrés Pérez

NEW YORK — Some 50 people protested the Turkish government’s assaults on the Kurds at a rally in Union Square Aug. 1. Protests have also taken place in Berlin, London, Paris and elsewhere.

Edress Othman, 40, who originally is from Afrin in the northwestern corner of Syria, told the Militant Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is “using Islamic State as a cover to attack the real enemy — the Kurds.” He said Kurdish fighters in Syria are “the most effective force fighting Islamic State on the ground. They’ve made a lot of advances. The next step is to connect Kobani and Afrin.” The Turkish government “doesn’t want to see a strong Kurdish autonomous state or region there.” In Afrin, which a Kurdish civil administration organizes, “all minorities live in peace. People can go to school, to work. It’s a much different picture than the rest of Syria,” he said.

“The U.S. gives the green light for Turkey to bomb the Kurds, while the Kurds are the only ones on the ground fighting Islamic State,” said Newroz Samo, a court interpreter in New York, who grew up in northeastern Syria near the border with Iraq and Turkey.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

SWP candidates: U.S., Turkish hands off Kurds!

The following statement was issued July 30 by the Socialist Workers Party candidates in Philadelphia, Osborne Hart for mayor and John Staggs for City Council at-large.

Turkey’s bombing assaults against the Kurdish people in Iraq and Syria, backed by both Washington and NATO, are attacks against workers worldwide. We urge working people to join and initiate protests demanding that the U.S. and its NATO allies immediately stop these assaults.

Claiming they are attacking the terrorist Islamic State, Ankara in fact is raining terror on the very forces that have fought to free tens of thousands of Kurds, Syrians and Iraqis, from the murderous control of Islamic State. The Turkish government fears the mobilization of the tens of thousands of Kurds within Turkey itself, who are inspired by the successes of fellow Kurds pushing IS back. The Recep Tayyip Erdogan government seeks to contain and control the Kurdish people and intimidate and silence all opposition to its policies inside Turkey.

The Kurds comprise the largest nationality in the world with no state of their own. Hundreds of thousands reside as oppressed minorities in Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran. Washington, as well as the capitalist rulers of these countries, fears the impact of the advances of the Kurdish people in their just struggle for independence and control over their areas.

U.S. and Turkish hands off the Kurds!

Black Lives conference

Continued from front page

In short, moving presentations they spoke with a picture of their relative who was killed projected next to them. Each ended with the statement, “And this is why I fight.”

The first presentation was from the cousins of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955 for supposedly flirting with a white woman. The mass outpouring at his funeral in Chicago — with an open casket at his mother’s insistence — was a catalyst for the massive movement for Black rights that brought down Jim Crow segregation over the following decade.

Over the three-day conference participants heard from relatives of well-known victims killed by the police: Oscar Grant, from Oakland, California; Eric Garner, from Staten Island, New York; Ramarley Graham from Bronx, New York; Michael Brown Jr., from Ferguson, Missouri; Tamir Rice from Cleveland; Rekia Boyd from Chicago. And they learned about many cases that haven’t made national headlines, from Stockton, Oakland, and Vallejo, California; St. Louis; Dallas; Tampa, Florida; and Detroit.

Fighters exchange experiences

Those attending came from across the country, from Los Angeles to New York, with a handful of international guests. The conference drew many who have been involved in police brutality fights, as well as activists in the anti-discrimination struggles of les-

bian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Some 80 different workshops sparked wide-ranging discussions that bubbled over into meal breaks on all aspects of the struggle. There were sessions on electoral politics, the militarization of the police, the role of the union movement, the role of women, and community organizing.

“I am here because I just can’t be quiet anymore,” said Shannon Rice, a 19-year-old college student from Cincinnati. “We have to figure out how to stop these murders and make the police accountable.”

“I think the conference is amazing,” Arianna McCall, a young Cleveland teacher who is active in fighting for the rights of incarcerated youth, told the *Militant*. McCall said cops shot her friend’s father in the back, and this experience was part of her becoming politically conscious.

In workshops, conference sessions and informally the families of the victims exchanged information and strategies on how best to fight. They pledged solidarity and active support for each others’ cases.

The workshop “Justifiable Homicide: Building a Movement with the Families Affected by State Sanctioned Violence” was attended by more than 100 people and chaired by Cephus Johnson, Oscar Grant’s uncle. There was a lot of back and forth discussion



Movement for Black Lives Convening, held July 24-26 in Cleveland, was opportunity for relatives of victims of police brutality and others involved in struggle to exchange experiences.

among family members present.

The Justice Department “almost never comes up with a conviction. You have to push,” said Francot Graham, the father of Ramarley Graham, responding to someone who asked, “Is calling for a federal investigation helpful?”

“Numbers make a difference,” Graham said. “We need you in body.”

Expressing the determination of the family members, Gwen Carr, Eric Garner’s mother, said, “I have to be the voice of the voiceless and nameless. We have to fight and fight together.”

“Someone has to take accountability for my brother’s death. I am in it for the long haul,” said Cyndi Mitchell in the workshop “Mothers Cry for Jus-

tice.” Her brother, Mario Romero, was killed by police in Vallejo, California, in 2012.

At the conclusion of the conference, dozens of participants responded to the attempted arrest of a 14-year-old by Cleveland transit police at a bus stop near the conference center. After more than an hour standoff, during which protesters linked arms and encircled the entire block, the boy was allowed to leave with his mother.

A lunch-time rally of hundreds was held in a courtyard of the conference site July 25 to protest the death of Sandra Bland in police custody in Hempstead, Texas, July 13, three days after she was arrested in a minor traffic stop.

Cleveland event: Charge cops who killed Tamir Rice

BY WILLIE COTTON

CLEVELAND — “I sent two children to play that day, and only one came home,” said Samaria Rice, mother of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was killed by police here Nov. 22. She was speaking to a July 25 town hall meeting of more than 100 people at the True Light Missionary Baptist Church, called to support the fight to get charges filed against the officers responsible.

The meeting was reinforced by participants from the Movement for Black Lives conference taking place the same weekend.

Rice had been playing with a toy gun when he was shot by officer Timothy Loehmann within two seconds after police arrived on the scene. After shooting Tamir, the cops detained his sister, who ran to help him as he lay wounded. When Samaria Rice arrived, she told the town hall meeting, the cops gave her the option of going with her daughter to the station or her son to the hospital. The killing was captured on video, fueling protests against police violence throughout the country.

Eight months later, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty says his office is still investigating the case and will eventually send it to a grand jury.

Frustrated with this official heel-dragging, a group of clergy and activists calling themselves the “Cleveland 8” filed citizen affidavits in the Cleveland Municipal Court June 9 calling for the arrest of Loehmann and fellow cop Frank Garmback for their roles in Tamir’s death. Two days later Judge Ronald Adrine filed documents with the same court stating he believes

there is probable cause to charge the officers with murder and other crimes. His opinion is not binding.

On July 23 Tamir’s cousin Latonya Goldsby and other supporters of the fight delivered 60,000 petition signatures to the county prosecutor’s office demanding charges be filed.

The town hall event was moderated by the church’s pastor, Rev. Robert Aitken. Speakers ranged from Cephus Johnson, the uncle of Oscar Grant, to representatives of Generation Progress, an anti-gun-violence group founded by Vice President Joseph Biden.

Relatives of Oscar Grant, Michael Brown Jr., Emmett Till, Kendrick Johnson, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, and Andrew Joseph III — all victims of police or racist violence — came from the Movement for Black Lives conference and offered their support to the Rice family.

As word spread at the conference that the meeting was taking place, dozens of young participants changed their plans and made it to the event.

“I felt an obligation to come and help,” said Tia Byrd from St. Louis, one of the many volunteers who put the conference together and got people to the town hall meeting. “People came from all over the country to support us and protest the killing of Michael Brown Jr. last year. It was my duty to come and support them.”

During a discussion period, a woman who introduced herself as an activist attending the conference asked, “What would you like for young Black activists to do to support you and your communities?”

Deanna Joseph, mother of Andrew Joseph III, responded, “I would like to see actions.” In her son’s case, she said, there had not been Black Lives Matter protests or other actions. Her son was struck by a car Feb. 7, 2014, in Tampa, Florida, after being detained, transported and abandoned on the side of Interstate 4 by cops at the State Fair.

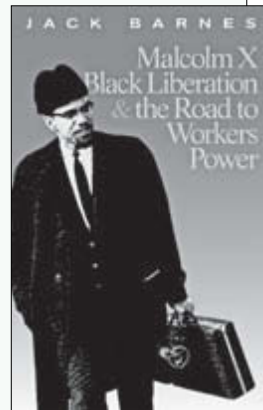
James Harris contributed to this article.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes

“This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States — from the Civil War and Radical Reconstruction to today — and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution.” \$20

pathfinderpress.com



Black Lives Matter Join upcoming actions

Sun., Aug. 9
Commemorate
Anniversary of Killing
of Michael Brown

Ferguson, Missouri
Silent March, 11 a.m.

Starts at Canfield Drive
where Brown was killed
Sponsor: Ferguson Action Council

Brooklyn, New York

Rally and March, noon
Starts at Barclays Center
620 Atlantic Ave.
Sponsor: Black Summer coalition

Sat., Sept. 5
Charleston,
South Carolina
Days of Grace, March, 9 am

Conference, Sept. 5-6
Sponsor: Int'l Longshoremen's
Association Local 1422

Sat., Oct. 10
Washington, D.C.
Justice or Else: 20th
Anniversary of Million Man
March, National Mall
Sponsor: Nation of Islam
Tel.: (866) 986-9333

Let us know about other
protests in your area

How ‘great migration’ brought Blacks into industrial jobs

W.E.B. Du Bois *Speaks: Speeches and Addresses 1890-1919* is one *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for August. Du Bois was a prominent leader of the struggle for Black rights in the first half of the 20th century. He spoke frequently on the causes and significance of the great migration. From 1910 to 1920 alone more than half a million African-Americans left the South for northern cities. In 1918, Du Bois incorporated the main points of his speeches in an article entitled, “*The Economics of the Negro Problem*,” published in the *American Labor Year Book*. The following portion is extracted from that article. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY W.E.B. DU BOIS

Since 1910, the most significant economic development among Negroes has been a large migration from the South. This has been estimated to have involved at least 250,000 and is still going on.

As to the reasons of the migration, undoubtedly the immediate cause was economic, and the movement began because of floods in middle Alabama and Mississippi and because the latest devastation of the boll weevil came in these



Union rally uniting Black and Polish packinghouse workers in Chicago, 1919. Later that year anti-Black riots led to defeat of unionization drive. “Nine-tenths of the unions are closed absolutely against them,” said Du Bois, despite the fact they “have in reality common cause.”

same districts.

A second economic cause was the cutting off of immigration from Europe to the North and consequently widespread demand for common labor. The U.S. Department of Labor writes: “A representative of this department has made an investigation in regard thereto, but a report has not been printed for general distribution. It may be stated, however, that most of the help imported from the South has been employed by railroad companies, packinghouses, foundries, factories, automobile plants in northern states as far west as Nebraska. At the present time, the U.S. Employment Service is not cooperating in the direction of Negro help to the North.”

The third reason has been outbreaks of mob violence in northern and southwestern Georgia and in western South Carolina.

These have been the three immediate causes, but back of them is, undoubtedly, the general dissatisfaction with the conditions in the South.

A colored man of Sumter, S.C., says: “The immediate occasion of the migration is, of course, the opportunity in the North, now at last open to us, for industrial betterment. The real causes are the conditions which we have had to bear because there was no escape.”

These conditions he sums up as the destruction of the Negro’s political rights, the curtailment of his civil rights, the lack of the protection of life,

liberty and property, low wages, the Jim Crow car, residential and labor segregation laws and poor educational facilities.

The full economic result of this migration and its extent in the future cannot be forecast at the present writing, but the chances are that the demand for labor caused by the European war will result in a large rearrangement of Negro laborers and accelerate all tendencies in the distribution of that labor along lines already noted.

Figures like these are beginning to place the so-called Negro problem beyond the realm of mere opinion and prejudice. Here we see a social evolution working itself out before our eyes. The mass of the freedmen are changing rapidly the economic basis of their social development. They have not given up their close connection with the soil, but they are changing its character tremendously, so that today a fourth of them are peasant proprietors. They are forcing themselves into the trades despite the long opposition of white labor unions. As small businessmen, purveying principally to their own group, they are gaining a foothold in trade. As more or less skilled employees, they form a considerable part of our transportation system and they are rapidly developing a professional class which serves its own group and also serves the nation at large. ...

Severe floods and the cotton boll weevil reduced Negro tenants in many parts

of the lower South to great distress during the winter following the declaration of war. They sold their cotton at a low figure or had none to sell. When the price of cotton rose, the plantation owners reaped the benefit and immediately began plans for the next season, calculating on labor at an unusually low price.

Meantime, a great foreign immigration of common laborers was cut off by the war, and there arose in the North an unusual demand for common labor. The Negroes began to migrate. In eighteen months 250,000 left the South and moved into the North. They were chiefly attracted by wages which were from 50 to 200 percent above what they had been used to receiving. And they saw also a chance to escape the lynching and discrimination of the South.

Every effort was made by the South to retain them. They were arrested wholesale, labor agents were taxed \$500 to \$1,000 or more for licenses, and the daily press of the South began to take on a more conciliatory tone. A slow rise in wages has begun. The migration of Negroes, however, continues, since the demand continues. It is probable that not for a generation after the close of the war will there be any great immigration to the United States from Europe. In that case, the American Negro will have a chance to establish himself in large numbers in the North. We may look for migration of two or even three million.

To offset this, the labor unions have used every effort. The argument was that these blacks kept down the rate of wages. Undoubtedly they did keep wages from rising as high as they otherwise would have, but if Negroes had been received into the unions and trained into the philosophy of the labor cause (which for obvious reasons most of them did not know), they would have made as staunch union men as any. They are not working for low wages because they prefer to, but because they have to. Nine-tenths of the unions, however, are closed absolutely against them, either by constitutional provision or by action of the local unions. ...

Thus, in his effort to escape industrial slavery, murder, riot and unbelievable cruelty have met the Negro — and this not at the hands of the employers but at the hands of his fellow laborers who have in reality common cause with him.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. E-mail: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. E-mail: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: **Miami:** 7911 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: **Chicago:** 2018 S. Ashland Ave. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. E-mail: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MASSACHUSETTS: **Boston:** 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: **Minneapolis:** 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Zip: 55414. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEBRASKA: **Lincoln:** Tel: (402) 217-4906. E-mail: swplincn@windstream.net. **Omaha:** 3302 Q St. (Upstairs). Zip: 68107. Tel: (402) 779-7697. E-mail: swpomaha@fastmail.net

NEW YORK: **New York:** P.O. Box 1233. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. E-mail: newyorkswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: **Philadelphia:** 3701 Pulaski Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 225-1270. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: **Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: clc_can@bellnet.ca **ALBERTA:** **Calgary:** 4909 17th Ave. SE, Unit 154. T2A 0V5. Tel: (403) 457-9044. E-mail: clccalgary@fastmail.fm

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Tel: 01 40-10-28-37 E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 636-3231. E-mail: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: **London:** 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston. Postal code: E8 2PB. Tel: (020) 3583-3553. E-mail: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. E-mail: clmanchr@gmail.com

August **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

W.E.B. Du Bois Speaks, Speeches and Addresses 1890-1919
by W.E.B. Du Bois, Philip S. Foner
Collection of speeches by one of the most prominent leaders of the Black struggle in the U.S. in the early 20th century.
\$23. **Special price: \$17.25**

My Life
by Leon Trotsky
\$35. **Special price: \$26.25**

Reform or Revolution
by Rosa Luxemburg
\$14. **Special price: \$10.50**

Capitalism's World Disorder
Working-Class Politics at the Millennium
by Jack Barnes
Social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression are the lawful workings of capitalism which can be changed by the united struggles of workers and farmers.
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy
by Fidel Castro
\$23. **Special price: \$17.25**

Che Guevara: Economía y política en la transición al socialismo (Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism)
by Carlos Tablada
\$21. **Special price: \$15.75**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL AUGUST 31

Stop murderous assault on Kurds!

Continued from front page
of the reactionary Islamic State. While the Kurds fight for their homeland — denied them by the imperialist powers and capitalist governments in the region for a century — and for a civil society where national minorities are respected and women’s rights valued, Islamic State jihadists carry out attacks on civilians and promote a repressive society based on Sharia law where women are treated at best as chattels and non-Sunni Muslims and Christians are killed or enslaved.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s bloody bombing offensive against camps of the Kurdistan Workers Party has the green light from the U.S. rulers. Like the Turkish capitalists, Washington wants at all costs to stop or slow down the march toward the formation of an independent, united and sovereign Kurdish homeland.

The Kurdish people are the largest nationality in the world without their own state. Every step toward the formation of an independent Kurdistan is an advance for the working class and a blow against imperialist domination in the region.

Ankara and Washington are threatened by advances made by the increasingly confident Kurdish people recapturing Syrian towns taken by Islamic State. And the gains of the pro-Kurdish People’s Democratic Party in the recent Turkish elections, which won support from non-Kurds and set back Erdogan’s ambitions to consolidate more power in his own hands, demonstrated growing solidarity with the Kurdish struggle in Turkey.

Defending the Kurds is in the interests of steelworkers and communications workers fighting boss concession demands in the U.S., of people fighting police brutality and insisting that Black lives matter, and of supporters of women’s rights defending the right to choose abortion. The same dictatorship of capital we are fighting here is attacking and undermining the Kurdish struggle in the Mideast.

We urge *Militant* readers to contact Kurdish organizations in your area and join protests. If there are no such actions planned, join with others to organize demonstrations, speak-outs and forums demanding Washington and Ankara stop their attacks on the Kurdish people.

Washington backs Turkish gov’t attacks

Continued from front page
ish self-rule.

The Kurds, some 30 million people residing in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey, have been fighting against national oppression and for a homeland for decades. This was denied to them by the imperialist powers of London and Paris a century ago when they carved up the region. The division has been backed by Washington and enforced by the local capitalist rulers ever since.

In a deal giving Washington access to the strategic Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced plans to set up a buffer zone in northern Syria. Ostensibly airstrikes would drive Islamic State from this border area. The zone, however, would be situated to prevent further advances westward by Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) in Syria toward the Kurdish-run area of Afrin. Erdogan is determined to block the unification of all of Syria’s Kurdish regions along Turkey’s border.

It is abundantly clear Ankara’s target is the Kurds, not Islamic State. “Between July 23 and July 26, 75 Turkish jets flew 155 sorties against 400 or so PKK targets,” reported *Time* magazine. “Number of ISIS [Islamic State] targets hit? Three.”

Police raids in Turkey

Erdogan also launched police raids that he claimed are aimed at Islamic State supporters and the PKK. Of the more than 1,300 people arrested in 39 provinces, however, nearly 85 percent were Kurds accused of being members of the PKK or its youth group and some members of the pro-Kurdish People’s Democratic Party (HDP). The Turkish government, which reached a cease-fire agreement with the PKK in 2013, brands the Kurdish group as a terrorist organization, as does Washington.

As residents of the Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, banged pots and pans from their windows and balconies to protest the airstrikes, “police used tear gas, sometimes fired from helicopters, to quell demonstrations,” reported the *Wall Street Journal* July 29.

As Ankara launched its assault on the Kurds it requested and received backing from the U.S.-led NATO military alliance. A statement issued at a special July 28 meeting condemned “the terrorist attacks against Turkey” and said that NATO member states “stand in strong solidarity with Turkey.”

About 260 members of the PKK were killed and some 400 injured through airstrikes in northern Iraq, reported the Turkish Anadolu Agency Aug. 1. The bombings have spread fires and destroyed a health clinic serving several villages.

A statement issued Aug. 1 by Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraqi Kurdistan, called for the Turkish military to stop the airstrikes. It also said the PKK should “keep the battlefield away from the Kurdish region, to ensure

the civilians of Kurdistan don’t become victims of that fighting and conflict.”

Several days earlier PKK fighters attacked an oil pipeline in southeast Turkey that the KRG uses to export oil through Turkey’s Ceyhan port on the Mediterranean Sea. A statement issued by the PKK Aug. 2 said its units “did not know to whom the pipeline belonged,” reported Rudaw, a Kurdish online news agency. Turkey has become the main trading partner of Iraqi Kurdistan, with some 1,200 Turkish companies operating there.

Erdogan seems “more alarmed by the prospect of Syrian Kurds establishing another self-governing entity on Turkey’s frontier, alongside the quasi-independent Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq,” than about IS, the *Financial Times* noted. When the YPG captured Tel Abyad in June, “clearing Isis from that part of the border and cutting its supply lines out of Turkey, Ankara did not celebrate but warned Syrian Kurdish fighters against moving any further.”

Ankara targets Kurds in Syria

The YPG accused the Turkish government of targeting its fighters at least four times over the past week. On July 30 Turkish aircraft flew over Kobani, Syria, as Islamic State attacked the nearby town of Sarrin that YPG forces had succeeded in taking from IS forces three days earlier. “We consider recent movements of the Turkish military as provocative and hostile actions” and demand they “immediately stop,” said an Aug. 1 statement from the YPG General Command.

Erdogan is seeking to strip People’s Democratic Party legislators of immunity from prosecution if they can be linked to PKK. The Diyarbakir Public Prosecutor’s Office has launched an investigation against Co-chair Selahattin Demirtas for his role in backing protests in October protesting the government’s refusal to help fighters in Kobani fend off the siege imposed there by Islamic State. If convicted he could be imprisoned for 24 years.

HDP’s other Co-chair Figen Yuksekdag is also being investigated for remarks she made at a June rally in Suruc, Turkey, about Kurdish fighters in Syria. “We lean back on YPG, YPJ and PYD,” Yuksekdag said, according to Firatnews. YPJ is the women’s militia fighting alongside YPG. PYD is the Democratic Union Party of which YPG is its military wing. “If you lean back on the terrorist organization, you are going to pay for it,” responded Erdogan.

Meanwhile, Washington is deepening its military role in Syria’s civil war beyond ongoing airstrikes against Islamic State. President Barack Obama has authorized use of airstrikes to back the relatively small core of U.S.-trained forces on the ground in Syria, setting up a potential military conflict with Syrian government forces or other groups, such as al-Qaeda-based Nusra Front.

Castro: Cuba doesn’t need nuclear arms

On August 6 and 9, 2015, events around the world will mark the 70th anniversary of Washington’s atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, the first and only use of nuclear bombs against human beings.

Below is an excerpt from a speech Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro gave at the University of Havana on Nov. 17, 2005, at a time when Washington and its allies were intensifying their campaign of economic sanctions and military threats against the government of Iran over its nuclear program.

Castro, then president of Cuba, takes a position reflecting the historic interests of the international working class, unconditionally siding with Iran in face of imperialist hostility and championing the right of nations oppressed by imperialism to develop nuclear power. At the same time he explains the Cuban government’s longstanding opposition to nuclear weapons. The rejection of military tactics that could lead to the slaughter of innocent people is a matter of proletarian morality, which has, without exception, distinguished the Cuban Revolution from its inception.

Castro’s speech has as much resonance today as it did 10 years ago. Translation is by the *Militant*.



BY FIDEL CASTRO

Right now the empire is threatening to attack Iran if it produces nuclear fuel. Nuclear fuel is not nuclear weapons; it’s not nuclear bombs. To prevent a country from producing the fuel of the future is like forbidding someone to explore for oil, the fuel of the present, which is due to run out in a very short time. What country in the world is prevented from seeking fuel, coal, gas, oil?

We know that country very well. It is a country with 70 million inhabitants bent on industrial development and believing, quite correctly, that it is a great crime to use its gas or oil reserves to feed the potential of thousands of millions of kilowatt hours urgently needed by this Third World country for its industrial development. And the empire is there wanting to ban this and threatening to bomb them. ...

Iran has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as has Cuba. We have never considered producing nuclear weapons because we don’t need them. Even if they were accessible, how much would they cost and what sense would it make producing a nuclear weapon in the face of an enemy who has thousands of nuclear weapons? It would mean joining the game of nuclear confrontation.

We have a different type of nuclear weapon: it’s our ideas. We possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear ones and it is the magnitude of the justice we are fighting for. Our nuclear weapon is the invincible power of moral weapons. That is why we have never considered producing them, nor has it crossed our mind to seek biological weapons, what for? Weapons to combat death, to combat AIDS, to combat diseases, to fight against cancer, that’s what we dedicate our resources to. That jerk — I can’t recall the name of that guy they appointed ... [former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton] — the man who is nothing less than the representative of the United States at the United Nations, a super-liar, shameless, who fabricated the idea that Cuba was doing research in biological warfare in the Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Center.

They have also accused us of collaborating with Iran, transferring technology for that purpose, when what we are doing is building a factory in partnership with Iran for anti-cancer products; that’s what we are doing. And if they want to put a stop to that as well, they can all go to hell or wherever they want to go!

Absolved by Solidarity

Prison paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of Cuban Five, on exhibit through Sept. 11

**Guild Gallery II, Hudson Guild Fulton Center
Sat., August 22**

*Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m.
119 9th Ave., by 18th Street, New York City*

**Speakers: Representative, Cuban Mission to UN;
Jim Furlong, Hudson Guild Director of Arts; others**

For information call Jim Furlong, (212) 760-9837