

LA workers, SWP speak out against toxic pollution

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

LOS ANGELES — More than 75 people turned out at a state “public comment” hearing here Jan. 28 on toxic contamination in the working-class communities surrounding the Exide Technologies battery recycling plant, which operated in the Vernon area of the city from 1922 to 2015.

The meeting, held at Resurrection Church in the Boyle Heights neighborhood, was the third organized by officials of the Department of Toxic Substances Control. They gave a Power Point presentation on their cleanup plan for the 1.7 mile radius around the plant, including work to remove and replace 18 inches of lead-contaminated soil. They answered no questions, saying they would review the comments and prepare responses at a later date.

“It’s frustrating that instead of answering our questions, you do a pow-
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‘Amnesty for immigrants! Stop the deportations!’

The following statement was issued Feb. 1 by Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

President Donald Trump’s executive orders preparing to deport thousands of workers without papers and barring refugees from entering the

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

U.S. are a threat to the working class as a whole. The Socialist Workers Party demands amnesty for all undocumented immigrants in the United States today.

The capitalist rulers depend on competition and division among workers to maintain their rule and keep filling their pockets from the wealth produced through our labor.
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Gov’t orders target refugees, immigrants, workers’ unity

Workers debate how to defend immigrants, jobs



Militant/Betsey Stone

Jan. 29 San Francisco airport protest, one of dozens nationwide demanding government release immigrants barred entry after Washington begins enforcement of anti-working-class executive orders issued by President Donald Trump, building on two decades of government attacks.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Thousands of people across the country took to the streets to protest a series of executive orders signed by President Donald Trump attacking immigrants and refugees in the name of “national security” in times of war. The orders lay preparations for expanding deportations of workers without papers.

They build on anti-working-class measures taken over the last 20 years by Democratic and Republican administrations alike that have broadened the powers of the immigration

police; built fencing along the Mexican border; stepped up deportations of immigrant workers accused of being “criminals”; expanded “E-Verify” document checks that keep workers without papers in a second-class, superexploited status; and targeted refugees in countries in the Mideast and North Africa where Washington’s wars, military actions and threats have led to deepening crises.

The White House decrees include an indefinite ban on refugees from Syria; a four-month ban on refugees

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Workers mobilize solidarity against deadly assault in Quebec mosque



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, Osborne Hart, center, and Communist League candidate for Montreal mayor, Philippe Tessier, right, visited memorial, above, to victims of mosque shooting, and went house to house talking with workers in Quebec City Jan. 31.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

QUEBEC CITY — A steady stream of people came by the Quebec Islamic Cultural Centre and mosque here Jan. 31 to offer support for the Muslim community two days after a gunman attacked worshippers gathered for evening prayers, killing six and leaving 19 injured, five critically. They joined in discussing and debating what led to the attack and what to do about it.

Expressions of solidarity have poured out to the Muslim community. The night before thousands of people

had come to a government-backed vigil here, thousands attended one in Montreal and similar actions took place across the country.

Police have charged Alexandre Bissonnette, a 27-year-old student at Laval University with a record of anti-immigrant online posts, with six counts of first-degree murder.

While we were here, a Quebec-born nurse from a nearby hospital stopped by to light a candle and add it to the growing mass of messages of solidar-

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Chinese rulers advance, Washington seeks to slow decline in Asia, Pacific

BY MIKE TUCKER

As it took office, the administration of President Donald Trump threatened trade sanctions against China, along with action to curtail expansion of Beijing’s deployment of military forces in the South China Sea.

The moves reflect concerns of the U.S. rulers at China’s capitalist rulers’ ascending economic and military weight in Asia and the Pacific. China’s rise comes at the expense of Washington, which saw domination of the region and its lucrative trade routes as the rightful fruits of its bloody victory in the second imperialist world war.

At the same time, Trump’s “America First” course and his decision for Washington to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal has fueled growing uncertainty among the U.S. rulers’ allies in the region.

Beijing’s massive growth of capitalist industry, investment and trade over the past 30 years has meant increasing

competition for U.S. imperialism. Capitalist bosses throughout Asia and the Pacific have become ever more dependent on economic relations with China.

Beijing’s new weight was reflected

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Spirits high as Honeywell lockout enters eighth month

‘Revolution made health care a right,’ Cuban doctors say

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — Three doctors from Cuba spent several days here touring health clinics in working-class neighborhoods as part of a collaboration project sponsored by University of Illinois and the Cuban Ministry of Public Health.

Their exchanges with medical workers and others during the Jan. 9-12 visit gave a glimpse of the difference a socialist revolution can make — treating health care as a right, not a commodity, and transforming the social relations among doctors and those they care for.

The Cuban delegation included Sonia María González Vega, director of primary health care in the municipality of Camagüey; José Armando Arronte Villamarín, provincial health director in Las Tunas; and Carlos Calvis Cabrera, coordinator of the island’s international medical brigades.

At the UIC Mile Square clinic in Englewood, a Black neighborhood on the South Side, Dr. Calvis explained how the government opened a network of polyclinics in 1963, four years after the Cuban Revolution. “It was truly a revolution,” he said. Today there are nearly seven doctors for every 1,000 people in Cuba, one of the highest rates in the world. Infant mortality is lower than in the United States.

“Cuba does not have an abundance of technological equipment,” Calvis said. “So we rely on being close to the people we serve to develop a comprehensive health prevention program that can stop major health concerns like diabetes before they develop. Each clinic serves 1,500 people, and 100 percent of the

community is served.” Each clinic has a doctor, a pediatrician, a midwife, a psychiatrist and a nurse.

All three Cuban doctors spoke proudly of their participation in international medical brigades — González and Arronte in Venezuela and Calvis in Namibia.

“We have 25,000 doctors in 67 countries, on all six continents,” said Calvis. “In 50 percent of those countries, we receive no financial compensation. Even with our economic limitations, we conduct all of our health care with this guiding principle: We have a debt to the people of the world. We try to open all the barriers that are closed to health care where there are few medical resources.”

At another clinic in Humboldt Park, the doctors described how they involve high school students as front-line health care workers by having them check in on sick patients in their neighborhoods.

Dr. Robert Winn, associate vice chancellor of community-based practice at UI Health and one of the organizers of the exchange, said he would like to emulate that practice, but gun violence in Chicago would make it difficult, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported.

That kind of violence is “not a thing that we really have that much experience with in our country,” Dr. Arronte replied.

Commenting on the involvement of Cubans in health care in their communities, Winn told the *Sun-Times*, “People will say, ‘Well, that’s a totalitarian society. They’re just doing what they’re told.’ Actually, I’ve been there enough now to know that’s not it. They take pride in it.”

1,000s protest Australia gov’t brutality against Aboriginals



Militant/Ron Poulsen

SYDNEY — Thousands joined Aboriginal people here as part of nationwide demonstrations against the rulers’ celebrations of “Australia Day” Jan. 26. The holiday marks the anniversary of the arrival of the British First Fleet in 1788 to start a convict colony at Sydney Cove and the beginning of frontier wars against the indigenous peoples.

Rejecting the rulers’ nationalistic festivities, numerous handmade placards included “No pride in genocide” and “No pride in stolen land,” referring to the dispossession of the indigenous people. Young Aboriginals leading the march in Sydney chanted, “Too many cops, never any justice!”

“The rate of Aboriginal deaths in police custody has doubled” nationally since a judicial inquiry 25 years ago, Ken Canning from the Indigenous Social Justice Association told the youthful Sydney rally. This is an example of the ongoing consequences of the frontier wars, he said.

Despite being only 3 percent of the population, indigenous men and women make up over 28 percent of the national prison population. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth comprise over half the numbers of juvenile prisoners.

— RON POULSEN

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes



The 1959 Cuban Revolution had a worldwide impact. As the proletarian-based struggle for Black rights was advancing in the U.S., the social transformation fought for and won by Cuban toilers set an example that socialist revolution is not only necessary — it can be made and defended. **\$10**

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The Militant

Vol. 81/No. 6

Closing news date: February 1, 2017

Editor: John Studer
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Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in December.

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

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THE MILITANT

Join protests against police killings, brutality

Ongoing protests led by family members have put a spotlight on police killings and brutality and exposed how cops conspire to cover up the facts. These fights can force the capitalist rulers to rein in their police. The ‘Militant’ covers and backs these struggles.



Justice Committee

Hawa Bah speaks at N.Y. rally Jan. 12 calling for prosecuting cops who killed her son.

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LA workers fight toxic waste

Continued from front page

er point program,” a resident named Isabelle told the officials.

“This is how working people are treated,” said Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, when he addressed the hearing. Richter said he had worked at a similar plant in Indiana, where many workers were poisoned by toxic chemicals. “It is very important that you are fighting. I have been invited to speak to the Service Employees International Union meeting later today, and I will talk about your fight. This is a question for the unions to take up.”

“You ask is the fruit in your trees safe to eat and they say purple dinosaurs have sweaters,” Terry Cano, who has lived near the plant many years, told Richter before the meeting.

Georgia-based Exide took over the 15-acre lead-acid battery smelter in 2000. It operated around the clock, processing some 25,000 batteries a day. The plant was repeatedly cited by local, state and federal officials for emitting dangerously high levels of arsenic and lead, and for violating hazardous waste laws.

State allowed decades of violations

The state allowed the plant to operate without a full permit for 33 years, even as inspectors documented more than 100 violations, including lead and acid leaks, an overflowing pond of toxic sludge, enormous cracks in the floor and hazardous levels of lead in the soil outside.

Demands to close the plant mounted by those who live and work in the area. In 2014 the company revealed it was under federal criminal investigation, facing charges that could land company executives in jail. In March 2015, Exide signed an agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office to pay \$50

million to demolish and clean the plant and surrounding communities, including \$9 million set aside for removing lead from homes. In return, the government agreed not to prosecute company officials for years of illegal storage, disposal and shipment of hazardous waste, and for arsenic emissions that posed an increased cancer risk to more than 100,000 area residents.

“When they sampled my property, they only sampled for lead, not for arsenic, benzene, cadmium or chromium,” said Cano, who is now disabled. “I’ve had multiple strokes and dizziness. Some family members moved away. But me and my brother who stayed are the sickest.”

“We tried like heck to close the plant for a long time,” Cano’s brother Joe Gonzalez, who has sino-nasal melanoma and brain cancer, told Richter.

“Workers need to demand an emergency public works program that provides union jobs doing things like immediately cleaning up Exide’s contamination,” Richter told the people present. “The layers of bureaucracy workers have had to face to get to this point is outrageous. Whether it is here or in Torrance, where workers who live near the oil refineries face releases of contaminants, the bosses make huge profits from our labor with no regard for our health and safety. We need to organize a fight for what residents and workers need, and as much money as needed should be spent. It is already too little too late.”

“I’m worried about my health and the health of all my co-workers,” Pedro Albarran, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 at the Farmer John meatpacking plant in Vernon, told those present. “The owners, bosses and politicians should be tried, because this is a crime.”

“You need to release a full list of



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

“It is very important that you are fighting,” SWP mayoral candidate Dennis Richter told workers at Jan. 28 hearing in L.A. demanding action on contamination from Exide battery plant.

chemicals, not just lead,” Cano told the hearing. “People need proper medical treatment. We have the right to know.”

Several of those who spoke said the radius of testing should be up to 4.5

miles. When the state analyzed blood test results from 12,000 children living within this radius of the facility in 2012, they found them twice as likely to have high lead levels as children countywide.

Protest hits midwife’s suit for religious exemption from performing abortions

BY EMMA JOHNSON

“We must protect the democratic right of every woman to decide over her own body,” newly graduated midwife Pinar Dal told a Jan. 26 rally in defense of abortion rights in the city of Malmo in southern Sweden.

According to the local press, some 300 people turned out for the action. It took place on the second day of a trial in the Labor Court, where midwife Ellinor Grimmark has sued a local government claiming discrimination. Grimmark was denied employment at three area hospitals after declaring that she would not participate in abortions, prescribe the morning-after pill or insert copper

intrauterine devices.

In Sweden abortion is a legal right through the 18th week of pregnancy. Abortion and contraceptive care are covered by general health insurance and performed in hospitals or other medical facilities. Licensed doctors, nurses and midwives are obligated to provide the services as part of their profession.

Grimmark is backed legally and financially by the U.S.-based Alliance Defending Freedom. Her case is part of an international campaign by abortion opponents to pressure governments in Sweden and elsewhere in Europe to give health care workers the right to refuse to provide care based on their religion.

A district court and the “equality ombudsman” have previously ruled against Grimmark. If the Labor Court rules against her, the ADF has said it will take the case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

“We should have equal care for all in Sweden,” Dal told the rally. “The patient needs to govern, not health professionals’ religious faith.”

Regional summit calls for end to US embargo of Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

A Jan. 25 summit in the Dominican Republic of representatives of 33 governments in Latin America and the Caribbean renewed the call for Washington to end its embargo of Cuba and return Guantánamo to Cuban sovereignty.

Cuban President Raúl Castro told the meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) that Cuba wanted to “continue negotiating pending bilateral issues with the United States on the basis of equality, reciprocity and respect for the sovereignty and independence of our country, and to continue the respectful dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest with the new government of President Donald Trump.”

“Cuba and the United States can co-operate and coexist in a civilized manner,” Castro added, “but it should not be expected that to do so Cuba will make concessions inherent to its sovereignty and independence.”

CELAC was founded in 2010, a counter to the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States. The OAS expelled Cuba in 1962 at Washington’s insistence to punish working people there for overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and their declaration in 1961 of the decision to build a socialist society.

The broad participation of Latin American and Caribbean governments

at CELAC’s founding was one sign of Washington’s increasing diplomatic isolation in the region and the failure of the U.S. economic embargo to undermine the Cuban Revolution. In December 2014, Castro and then U.S. President Barack Obama announced that the two governments were re-establishing diplomatic relations. But despite this and the opening of embassies, Washington still maintains its economic war against Cuba while seeking other means of destroying the revolution.

This year’s summit was attended by the heads of state of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Venezuela and foreign ministers from other member governments.

Along with the resolution calling on the U.S. president and Congress to end the embargo, CELAC called for the “return to the Republic of Cuba of the territory occupied by the U.S. Naval Base in Guantánamo.” The U.S. military has occupied the base since 1903 and used it both to intervene in Cuban affairs as well as in Haiti and the Caribbean to protect imperialist interests.

Since the 1959 revolution, the Cuban government has refused to cash the annual rent check of \$4,085 that the U.S. Treasury keeps sending.

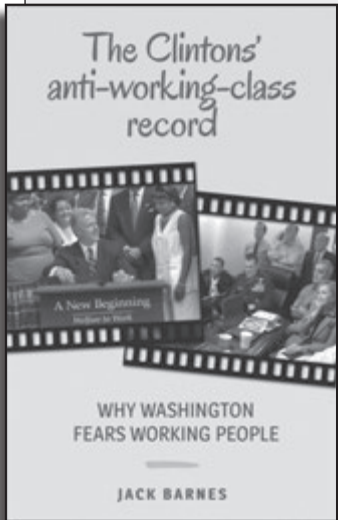
So far there are no indications that Donald Trump is planning to reverse the

re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. He has nominated former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue as secretary of agriculture. Perdue advocated more agricultural trade with Cuba during a visit to Havana in 2010.

For the first time in decades, the US rulers have begun to fear the working class

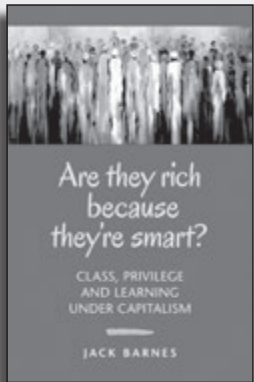
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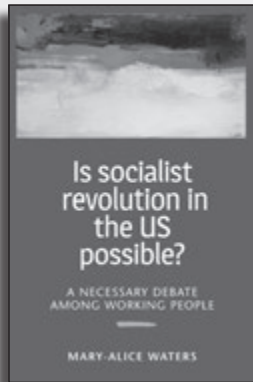


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Supporters continue to press for release of Oscar López

BY SETH GALINSKY

The people of Puerto Rico and supporters of independentista Oscar López Rivera have been celebrating, mounting ongoing public actions to keep the pressure on U.S. authorities and preparing for his release from prison — currently set for May 17.

López's sentence on frame-up charges of "seditious conspiracy" was commuted by former President Barack Obama just three days before he left office, in a victory for the decadeslong international campaign to win his freedom. López, now 74, has been in jail more than 35 years, more than 12 of them in solitary confinement.

"All the prisoners and prison staff are aware that Oscar is getting out," Alejandro Molina, a spokesperson of the National Boricua Human Rights Network and a leader of the fight to free López, told the *Militant* by phone Jan. 30.

Molina, López's daughter Clarisa, his brother José, his lawyer Jan Susler and U.S. Rep. Luis Gutiérrez visited López in prison Jan. 29.

There has been no change in how prison authorities treat López, Molina said. López was strip-searched before and after the visit, prison guards told each visitor where they could sit, and he was only allowed to hug his visitors at the beginning and end of the visit.

"Women, women, women for Oscar, a jailed patriot will soon be out," was one of the chants at the spirited New York action in Times Square Jan. 29 organized by 35 Women for Oscar López. Along with similar groups in Puerto Rico and Chicago, they are continuing their monthly protests, where they chant for 35 minutes — one minute for each year López has been in prison — until he is back in Puerto Rico.

The same day the group in Puerto Rico celebrated his coming release with a march across the Dos Hermanos bridge in San Juan.

Major events are being organized when López is released in Chicago, Puerto Rico and New York, Molina

said. The exact time and place will be set once the date and circumstances become known.

López moved to Chicago from Puerto Rico when he was 14. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965 and sent to Vietnam, which deeply affected his political outlook, along with the Cuban Revolution and the Black struggle in the U.S. Back in Chicago, López helped organize protests against the war, police brutality, discrimination in hiring and housing and the colonial status of Puerto Rico.

On May 28, 1981, López was arrested and accused of being a leader of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), a group that took credit for bombings of businesses with investments in Puerto Rico as part of a fight to win independence of the island, a U.S. colony since 1898.

"The evidence will not tell you anything regarding the racist organizations created by the FBI and the CIA that have killed labor leaders and independentistas," López said in a statement to the court, referring to murders by rightist paramilitary groups and cops on the island in the 1970s. "We will not hear anything regarding militarism in my country or how my country was conquered by force."

Washington ends 'wet-foot, dry-foot' Cuba program

BY EMMA JOHNSON

During President Barack Obama's last few days in office Washington and Havana reached an agreement that ended two unique U.S. immigration policies aimed at undermining the Cuban Revolution: the "wet-foot, dry-foot" policy that guaranteed U.S. residency to any Cuban who set foot on U.S. soil and the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program, which encouraged Cuban doctors and nurses to move to the U.S.

The scrapping of the programs is "an important step forward in improving bilateral relations," Cuba's revolutionary government said in a Jan. 12 statement. This removes what Havana viewed as an important obstacle to normalizing relations, a process begun with the decision announced by Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro in December 2014 to re-establish diplomatic relations.

At the same time, it signals a shift in tactics by the U.S. rulers, who continue to seek to overturn the revolution and reimpose capitalist rule on the island. U.S. imperialism has never forgiven working people in Cuba for overturning the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and then taking power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

The new policy makes Cubans who enter the U.S. without a visa subject to deportation. For the last two decades under "wet-foot, dry-foot," those intercepted at sea were sent back to Cuba, but those who succeeded in stepping on U.S. soil could stay.

Under previous agreements, Washington agreed to grant at least 20,000 immigrant visas a year to Cubans. But this was never done. In 2015 only 6,300 Cubans were given visas, in 2016 just 9,100.



National Boricua Human Rights Network

Actions by 35 Women for Oscar López took place Jan. 29 in Chicago, above, New York and Puerto Rico. Monthly protests by groups will continue until López is back in Puerto Rico.

Opponents of Lopez's release have been recycling old slanders. The online Washington, D.C.-based web news site Politico, for example, ran an article Jan. 24 titled "Why Did Obama Free This Terrorist?"

"There was strong circumstantial evidence of Lopez's participation in FALN attacks," Politico claimed, going on to quote FBI allegations for good coin. But there was no evidence that López was involved in a single bombing or act of violence.

López "will likely be treated to a hero's welcome when he returns to Puerto Rico," Politico complained, "a place he has not lived since he was a

child." Politico's real fear — and that of the rulers in Washington — is that his return to Puerto Rico will bolster the fight against the island's status as a U.S. colony.

Popular Puerto Rican singer/songwriter Kany García projected a photo of López with the title "Free May 17, 2017" on the main screen during a packed Jan. 28 concert at Coliseo de Puerto Rico in San Juan.

El Nuevo Día noted Jan. 28 that it is possible that López could be released to a halfway house in San Juan prior to May 17. Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz has guaranteed a job for López to facilitate his release.

Instead, Washington granted "dry-foot" entry to 40,000 Cubans in 2015 and 54,000 in 2016. Many of those wishing to leave risked their lives on flimsy rafts or dangerous trips across Central America.

The implementation of these policies "provoked migratory crises, hijackings of airplanes and boats, and the commission of crimes like trafficking in emigrants, in persons, migratory fraud, and the use of violence," the Cuban government said.

The Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program was just as insidious. Under this program, the U.S. government lured Cuban health care workers working abroad — mostly internationalist volunteers providing free medical care around the world — with the prospect of getting rich in the U.S. While the overwhelming majority are impervious to the imperialist bribes, Washington says several thousand were admitted to the U.S. since the program began.

In its Jan. 12 statement Havana called on the U.S. Congress to also repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966. This act grants Cubans permanent residency after one year in the U.S. Those who get a green card are also immediately eligible for government cash assistance and health coverage, unlike immigrants from the rest of the world. Thousands of Cubans on tourist visas take advantage of this law each year.

U.S. imperialism's tactics are changing, but not its goal. The U.S. embargo on Cuba remains in place and Washington still refuses to return the Guantánamo Naval Base to Cuban control.

Scrapping the "wet-foot, dry-foot" program will lead to more Cubans pressing for change in their own country, Ben Rhodes, who was Obama's

deputy national security adviser, told the *New York Times*.

Long-time enemy of the Cuban Revolution, Jorge Mas, chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation, agreed.

"This will significantly increase pressure on the regime by depriving them of an escape valve" to let discontented Cubans leave, Mas told the *Courier-Tribune* Jan. 12.

But the capitalists always underestimate the working class. Cuba's workers and farmers have stood up to imperialist pressure for nearly six decades without giving up a single one of their principles. There is no reason to think that they can't meet the new challenges posed by Washington's shift in tactics.

Since re-establishing diplomatic relations, a dozen bilateral agreements on cooperation ranging from air travel and health to the environment and the fight against drug trafficking have been signed, and a dozen more are in the pipeline. There are no indications that President Donald Trump plans to reverse this course.

A high-level Cuban business delegation visited the U.S. in January and met with port officials in Houston, New Orleans and in Florida.

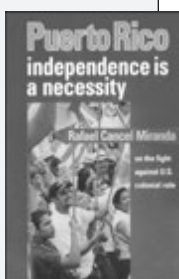
Officials of Port Everglades intended to sign a nonbinding memorandum of understanding with the National Port Administration of Cuba about future cooperation. They backed off when Florida Gov. Rick Scott threatened to cut off state funding to any port that entered into an agreement with Cuba.

Meanwhile, Florida ports have shipped more than 737,000 metric tons of food and other exports to Cuba since 2010, under approved exceptions to the embargo. This will continue.

Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity

— by Rafael Cancel Miranda

In two interviews, Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda speaks out on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination of Puerto Rico. \$6



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After 5 years, NYPD tries cop who killed Ramarley Graham

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Five years after police officer Richard Haste killed Black teenager Ramarley Graham in the youth's apartment, the New York Police Department finally got around to holding a disciplinary trial Jan. 17-23 to determine whether Haste should be punished for his actions.

The proceedings at NYPD headquarters were open to the public. Ramarley Graham's family and supporters packed the courtroom, calling for Haste to be fired. The decision will ultimately rest with Police Commissioner James O'Neill, and it won't be known for weeks.

"I'm not going to stop fighting. My purpose is to make sure Richard Haste is fired," Constance Malcolm, mother of Ramarley Graham, told supporters and the media outside NYPD headquarters Jan. 17. "This man murdered my son for no reason. He broke into my home."

On Feb. 2, 2012, Haste shot and killed Graham, 18, at close range in the bathroom of his house in the Wakefield neighborhood of the Bronx. Cops forced themselves into the Graham family's house by breaking down the second-floor back door. They claimed Graham had a gun. But now they admit he didn't.

In the public hearing, Haste gave his first public explanation for what happened. He insisted he acted flawlessly.

"We all know that Haste lied," Malcolm told the *Militant* in a phone interview Jan. 31.

Graham's 6-year-old brother and his grandmother Patricia Hartley were in the apartment when he was killed. Hartley said Haste threatened her as she tried to help her grandson after the shooting. "He tried to choke me and take away the phone from me and tell me he will f---g shoot me too," she told the *New York Daily News*.

Several months later Haste was charged with first- and second-degree manslaughter. But the criminal case was dismissed on a technicality. A new

grand jury was empaneled, but declined to indict Haste. In 2015 federal prosecutors also refused to file any charges.

Since the killing Haste has been on an NYPD desk job, with pay. "The main thing is that Richard Haste and all the officers involved in the killing of my son should be fired," Malcolm said. "Only Haste was tried, but there are two other officers in the department who should also be tried."

A rally marking the fifth anniversary of Graham's death, demanding Mayor Bill de Blasio fire these cops, will take place Feb. 2 at Foley Square in Manhattan from 5 to 8 p.m.



Justice Committee

Constance Malcolm, mother of Ramarley Graham, who was killed by cop Richard Haste in their home in 2012, speaks outside N.Y. police headquarters Jan. 23 on fight to get Haste fired.

Spirits high as Honeywell lockout enters eighth month

BY BETSY FARLEY

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — "After nine months on the line, our morale remains high," said Bob Beduhn, one of 300 United Auto Workers Local 9 members locked out by Honeywell bosses at their aerospace brake and wheel plant here.

The lockout began May 9 after workers voted down a union-busting contract that would drastically increase health care costs, tear up work schedules and ignore job classifications. When the locked-out workers' unemployment compensation ran out in November, Honeywell thought they would fold and presented them with a new, but similar, concession contract offer. Workers overwhelmingly rejected it.

Beduhn and Tom Simpson were on picket duty when Socialist Workers Party members from Chicago came to extend solidarity Jan. 29. "They want to get rid of our pensions and replace them with a 401(k)," Beduhn said. "We should have stopped them in 2011, when they took away the pensions for new hires. Now they want to take them away from everyone."

Several workers were at the union hall distributing groceries from the union's food pantry to locked-out

members and their families.

"We do everything from setting up the food bank to unloading the trucks, to carrying the food down the stairs," said Brenda Cochran, chairperson of the Community Service Committee. The food bank operates through contributions from other unions and discounts negotiated with local merchants.

"We've gotten close to \$40,000 in donations since we started in September," Cochran said. "We open the pantry every two weeks. So far today 50 families have come in to pick up groceries."

Cheri Northcutt, who works at the plant, and her husband Willis, a retired UAW member, were helping out. "This isn't just for me, but for the whole working class," he said.

The workers are planning a solidarity rally for Feb. 11 at the UAW Local 5 hall here. "It's a 'Return to our Roots' rally," said Rob Williams, Local 9's financial secretary. "This is the 80th anniversary of a six-day sit-down strike at our plant, then owned by Bendix Corporation, and of the 44-day sit-down strike by auto workers in Flint, Michigan."

"These strikes built our union, and we're still fighting today," he said.

"All unions and supporters are invited. We'll have speakers, hot dogs and a rally at the picket line."

Meanwhile, contracts covering 1,000 members of the Teamsters union at four Minnesota Honeywell plants expire Jan. 31. Members of Teamsters Local 1145 there voted down Honeywell's similar cutback contract offer Dec. 31 and authorized a strike.

Local 1145 Treasurer Dave Hedberg told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* about the Honeywell lockout of the UAW workers here and in Green Island, New York. Honeywell has already brought in about 200 replacement workers from an engineering firm in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, so they can take over the jobs of unionists if they get locked out.

Contributions can be sent to UAW Local 9, 740 S. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601.

— CALENDAR —

INDIANA

South Bend

'Return to Our Roots' Solidarity Rally With Locked-Out UAW Local 9 Members at Honeywell. Sat., Feb. 11, noon-6 p.m. 1426 S. Main St. Hosted by UAW Local 5.

New International

A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934-present
Intercontinental Press
International news magazine
1963-86

Online at themilitant.com
pathfinderpress.com

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ILLINOIS

Chicago

A Working-Class Response to Crime, Cops and Capitalist Anti-Crime Campaigns. Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. 2018 S. Ashland Ave. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Yassar Yaqub and Anthony Grainger Shootings: Prosecute the Police Officers Responsible! Speaker: Hugo Wils, Communist League. Fri., Feb. 17, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 14, 1992

Two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies have been fired for killing a mentally disturbed man. They had pumped eight bullets into his back, including several as he lay face down on the ground.

Earlier, a grand jury refused to indict the two deputies and the deputies involved in three other killings. The four victims — two Blacks and two Latinos — were all killed during one month last summer.

The killer of Keith Hamilton had responded to a call from his mother for assistance in calming him down after he failed to take necessary medication.

Hamilton was felled by a stun gun and then executed. Neighbors who witnessed the killing flatly contradicted the cops' claim that Hamilton had threatened them with a knife.

Except for the firing of the deputies who killed Hamilton, no penalties have been imposed in these cases.



February 13, 1967

MINNEAPOLIS — In the middle of a major strike at Honeywell Inc., young militants of Teamsters Local 1145 demanded the resignation of three top union officials and the 50-man negotiating committee of the local. Honeywell Inc. has 18 plants and offices in the Minneapolis area. This demand is the latest in a series of union revolts by members of Local 1145, the largest union local in the Twin Cities area.

The revolt started with the unanimous recommendation by the union negotiating committee of the contract proposal Jan. 27 by Honeywell. Every day since then there have been stormy meetings of union men and women opposing the proposed contract.

The contract's length of three years was a major objection. As Larry Watson, a Honeywell instrument laboratory worker said, "Without a cost-of-living increase clause, no contract is good beyond a year."



February 14, 1942

FLINT, Mich. — An enthusiastic audience of automobile workers meeting in the regional headquarters of the CIO last night heard a speech on "The Meaning of the Minneapolis Convictions" by V.R. Dunne, leader of Local 544-CIO of Minneapolis and one of those convicted for violation of the Smith "Gag" Act in the Minneapolis labor trial last December.

Dunne gave a short history of the union struggle for decent conditions in Minneapolis and for union democracy within Tobin's Teamsters International. He sketched the events which led up to the disaffiliation of Local 544 from the AFL and its affiliation with the CIO, and the resultant prosecution of Local 544 and Socialist Workers Party leaders.

Dunne showed that these convictions both violate the democratic rights of the labor movement and endanger the civil liberties of the American people.

‘Militant’ wins solidarity fighting prison censorship

BY SETH GALINSKY

While the *Militant* continues to garner support in its fight against censorship at Attica prison in New York, a prison in Illinois has decided to ban some of the same issues of the paper.

The impounding of the *Militant* at Attica “infringes prisoners’ rights to freedom of expression and violates the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, otherwise known as the Mandela Rules,” Margaret Huang, executive director of Amnesty International USA, told the Attica Media Review Committee in a Jan. 26 letter.

Attica officials impounded three issues of the paper sent to subscriber Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom). Muntaqim, a co-founder of the Jericho Movement, which fights for amnesty for political prisoners, has since been transferred to the Southport Correctional Facility, after he was accused by Attica authorities of violating prison rules for comments he made during a class on Black history he was teaching to fellow inmates. He was sentenced to four months of solitary confinement.

The first banned issue featured an article on the 45th anniversary of the 1971 Attica prison rebellion, an anniversary covered by news media across the United States and around the world. “While the language used may be strong,” Huang noted, “in no way does it encourage insurrection or even civil disobedience.”

The impounding of two subsequent issues of the paper that reported on the fight against the censorship “serve no purpose in regards to facility safety and security,” she noted.

Supporters of the fight against censorship include a wide range of organizations and individuals (see box below).

The *Militant*’s lawyer, David Goldstein, from the prominent civil liberties firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, has appealed the impoundments at Attica. A repre-

sentative of the Central Office Media Review Committee told Goldstein that a decision has been made, but despite repeated requests, officials have not provided copies of their decision, nor informed the *Militant* of what it is.

Meanwhile, the Illinois River Correctional Institute sent notices to the *Militant* that it had impounded for review three issues of the paper, all of which contain articles on the fight against censorship at Attica. The notices are dated Dec. 10, 2016, but were not sent to the *Militant* until Jan. 27, 2017. The notices have a check next to a box that says the paper could be “detrimental to security, good order, rehabilitation, or discipline or it might facilitate criminal activity or be detrimental to mental health.”

“We will appeal Illinois officials’ seizure of the paper and continue our fight against censorship at Attica,” *Militant* editor John Studer said Feb. 1. “The charge that the paper could spark rebellion is an out and out slander. Workers behind bars in New York,



AP Photo

Attica state prison inmates in yard during negotiations with prison officials Sept. 10, 1971. Attica officials impounded *Militant* with article on 45th anniversary of rebellion and subsequent issues covering protests against censorship. Now Illinois prison is also impounding paper.

in Illinois or wherever have a constitutional right to know what’s going on in the world, including in the rulers’ prisons, to consider a range of viewpoints and to think for themselves.

“I encourage our readers to help us win this fight by getting their unions, community and church organizations to send letters opposing the censorship of the *Militant*,” Studer said.

Beijing advances, Washington seeks to slow decline

Continued from front page

in the top billing given to Chinese President Xi Jinping at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 17-20. The forum is an annual gathering dedicated to “free market” capitalism and trade liberalization.

Xi, who is also secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party, gave the opening address, standing as the foremost defender of unbridled capitalism and “globalization.”

“We must remain committed to free trade and investment. We must promote trade and investment liberalization,” Xi told the heads of state, billionaire hedge fund managers, Hollywood glitterati and other privileged invitees. “No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.”

These developments reflect the sharpening competition between the masters of the first and second largest capitalist economies in the world.

Over recent years the Chinese government has carried out major dredging in the South China Sea, turning reefs and islets into islands, and building ports and runways that can host ships and aircraft. In response, then President Barack Obama said Washington would make a “pivot” to project more power in Asia, and the U.S. Navy has conducted ongoing “freedom of navigation” military patrols.

Trillions of dollars in trade passes through these waters every year.

“We’re going to have to send China a clear signal that, first, the island-building stops and, second, your access to those islands also is not going

to be allowed,” Trump’s secretary of state nominee Rex Tillerson told a Senate confirmation hearing Jan. 11.

The Philippine government won an international court ruling in July last year upholding its claims to territory occupied by China off its coast. But Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has refused to press the issue, instead seeking closer ties with both Beijing and Tokyo. He ordered an end to Philippine participation in U.S. naval patrols.

At a news conference Jan. 29 Duterte threatened to abrogate a 2014 security treaty with Washington that allows U.S. troops, warships and planes to rotate deployments at Philippine bases. Washington’s posturing against China was putting the Philippines at risk, he said.

Trump’s plans for the region revolve around seeking to stop the decline of the U.S. rulers’ competitive edge. Administration figures say a major naval buildup in East Asia is coming to counter China. U.S. trade officials have also threatened to impose hefty tariffs on Chinese goods.

Trump junked the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact, saying it would disadvantage U.S. bosses seeking trade and investment and that it didn’t go far enough to counter Beijing’s government-aided economic expansion.

The TPP was a 5,500-page agreement negotiated last year by the governments of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the United States. Its numerous regulations aimed to establish a web of economic and political connections that would enable Washington to “call the shots” in Asia, Obama had said.

At the same time, Trump named Terry Branstad, Republican governor of Iowa and long-time friend of Chinese President Xi, as his choice for ambassador to Beijing. Branstad says he wants to expand U.S. trade with China.

Trump’s moves have led to a new round of maneuvers by capitalist rulers

seeking to advance their competitive positions in the region.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull urged the other 11 signatories to push on with the TPP without Washington, and even suggested that Beijing itself could be invited to head the anti-China agreement. That was immediately rejected by Tokyo, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declaring the deal was meaningless without Washington. Japan’s capitalist rulers run the second largest economy in Asia.

Meanwhile, Beijing has said it will now forge ahead with its own alternative to the TPP, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The RCEP is a less regulated trade agreement that includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and China. Talks on the agreement are set for Japan in February. A number of countries in Latin America have indicated a desire to join.

One thing is sure — deepening competition, as Trump seeks “better deals” in Asia for U.S. capital and Beijing pushes its economic and political expansion, means increased attacks on the wages and working conditions of working people.

Join fight to end censorship at Attica

The following organizations and individuals have sent statements calling on New York state prison officials to end censorship of the *Militant* at Attica.

American Friends Service Committee

Amnesty International USA

The Gathering for Justice and Justice League NYC

Mothers and Families, New Market, Alabama

National Lawyers Guild

New York Civil Liberties Union

PEN America

Riverside Church Prison Ministry

Yusef Salaam, one of the Central Park Five

San Francisco Bay View newspaper

Heather Ann Thompson, professor of history, University of Michigan, author of *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*

John Zippert, co-publisher, editor Greene County Democrat, Eutaw, Alabama

Get your union, church group and others to send statements of support to themilitant@mac.com.

In New International no. 12 Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes \$16



pathfinderpress.com

Assault in Quebec mosque

Continued from front page

ity, candles and flowers in front of the mosque. A Guatemalan-born truck driver came straight from work to place flowers at the site. A Moroccan-born worker who had grown up in the area told the *Militant* he knew several of the victims.

Those killed were Karim Hasane, 41, an Algerian-born information analyst for the Quebec provincial government; Azzedine Soufiane, 57, a Moroccan-born owner of a small butcher shop; Aboubaker Thabti, 44, a pharmaceutical worker born in Tunisia; Mamadou Tanou Barry, 42, an accountant who hailed from Guinea; Ibrahima Barry, 39, also Guinean, who worked for Revenu Quebec; and Khaled Belkacemi, 60, an Algerian-born professor of agricultural science at the University of Laval.

Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, traveled to Montreal to join Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, at the Jan. 30 Montreal vigil. Both came here the next day to show solidarity and join supporters knocking on doors in the surrounding working-class Sainte-Foy neighborhood. They distributed a statement issued by Tessier and Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Calgary, Alberta, condemning the attack (see below).

"I had to come to pay my respects," Rollande Veilleux, a nurse, told Tessier and Hart outside the mosque. "When I went back to college after my kids grew up, I studied with several Muslim students. We helped each other on the tests and got very close." The Montreal vigil and others around the country were backed by the government of Liberal Party Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who claims "all Canadians" stand together, Tessier said.

"But this attack and others on Muslims and mosques — from Calgary to Sept-Îles — are the inevitable consequence of the climate created by the capitalist rulers in Canada and their government," he said, quoting from the statement he and LeRougetel put out. "They promote anti-Muslim hys-

teria to serve their war aims and to justify spying on mosques and Muslims."

Veilleux took a copy of the statement and bought a copy of the *Militant*.

Attacks on Muslims in Canada more than doubled from 2012 to 2014. A mosque in Lévis, a nearby suburb, closed for two days after the attack. Members of the mosque in the Montreal suburb of Dorval have organized volunteers in a nightly patrol since 2008, when the mosque was vandalized in the first of nine attacks.

"I walked by the vigil at the mosque last night," Tristan Rondeau, a university student, told Hart when he knocked on his door. "It was good to see such an outpouring of solidarity, and signs like 'Muslim Lives Matter.'"

"I was at the vigil in Montreal last night, together with Philippe Tessier and his supporters," Hart told Rondeau. "We came to offer our solidarity and to discuss our program for a way forward for working people out of the crisis of the capitalist system."

Rondeau told Hart he works at McDonald's and paints houses to get by, while he is also a student. "Workers have to take on multiple jobs to survive in the U.S. too," Hart said. "Our sister parties in both countries campaign to help build a movement of working people capable of taking power out of the hands of the capitalists, whose system breeds horrors like the killings here." Rondeau and his roommate both signed up to get *Militant* articles in French.

Quebec City factory worker Karine Morissette read the Communist League statement. She said she liked it, but told Tessier she thought it would be difficult to make the kinds of changes he proposed.

"The biggest challenge for the working class is to overcome what the capitalists tell us, that we can't do anything to change things," Tessier said.

He pointed to the example of the Cuban Revolution, which involved the vast majority of working people there. "The Cuban workers and farmers overthrew the dictatorship of capi-

ties — are the inevitable consequence of the climate created by the capitalist rulers in Canada and their government. They promote anti-Muslim hysteria to serve their war aims and to justify spying on mosques and Muslims by CSIS [Canadian Security Intelligence Service] and the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. The fact is that most victims of Islamist terrorism are Muslims. And the world capitalist crisis also provokes a rise in Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic attacks — a deadly danger for the working class.

Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau voted for Bill C-51, now known as the Anti-Terrorism Act, passed in 2015 by the previous Conservative government. He has yet to fulfill his campaign "promise" to change "problematic" sections of the law. We oppose police spying. History has shown it is aimed above all at the working class and our unions. For

100s protest attack on Islamic Center in Davis, Calif.



Militant/Carole Lesnick

DAVIS, Calif. — Several hundred people rallied at Central Park Jan. 27 in solidarity with the Islamic Center here, which was attacked the previous Sunday. Six windows were broken, two bicycles damaged and raw bacon was placed on a door handle. A woman was captured on security video carrying out the attack.

"Power in defense of freedom is greater than power in behalf of tyranny and oppression," said Ustadh Kamran Islam, speaking for the Tarbiya Institute, quoting Malcolm X, "because power, real power, comes from our conviction which produces action, uncompromising action." He asked for help to repair the damage.

Nida Ahmed, a vice president of the Muslim Student Association at the University of California Davis campus, said she and others had been raising money to build wells to provide clean drinking water for people in Flint, Michigan, when the next day, "we woke up to the news that our beloved place of worship, our mosque, had been vandalized."

"We are reminded that all of us, regardless of religion, have the right to worship as we choose," Rabbi Seth Castleman said, reading from a statement on behalf of the local Bet Haverim synagogue. "Attacks such as this one are a strike against all of us." In photo above Castleman, with sign, speaks with Islam.

"Add our voice to the outpouring of protest against the recent attack on your center," Eric Simpson, chairman of the Socialist Workers Party in Oakland, said in a Jan. 25 letter.

Members of the SWP joined the rally, holding signs calling for the U.S. rulers to withdraw all their troops from the Middle East and "No to scapegoating of Muslims, Jews and immigrants." Dozens of other area groups participated, including the Sacramento Central Labor Council.

— JOEL BRITTON

tal and built a new society based on values of human solidarity, totally different from the dog-eat-dog society we live in," he said.

Tessier told her about *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*, a pamphlet by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. "He describes

how education, like other institutions under capitalism, is organized to shore up the crisis-wracked system. To transform work and make lifetime learning a possibility for all is a good reason to make a socialist revolution," he said.

"I agree we have to build that kind of movement," Morissette told the communist candidate.

Communist League protests Canada mosque attack

The following joint statement by Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal and Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Calgary, was released Jan. 30.

The Communist League condemns the brutal massacre at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec City that killed six people and critically wounded five other worshippers at the mosque. We call on workers, farmers and defenders of democratic rights to condemn this vicious attack. We call for the arrest and prosecution of those responsible. We join with those in the streets across Canada and the world protesting this heinous act. We join those protesting the U.S. government's ban on citizens from seven countries with Muslim majorities from entering the U.S.

This attack and others on Muslims and mosques — from Calgary to Sept-

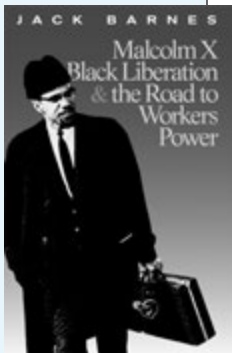
example, despite widespread support Mohamed Harkat, who was arrested in 2002 under an "anti-terrorism" act and spent years in prison and under house arrest, is still threatened with deportation to Algeria.

While talking peace, for more than 25 years the Canadian government has participated in and given support to the endless imperialist wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. As the worldwide capitalist economic crisis deepens with no end in sight, there will be more attacks on democratic and political rights and on workers and our unions at home, as the Canadian propertied rulers accelerate trade wars and shooting wars abroad.

Stop the attacks on Muslims and mosques! Stop attacks on Jews and synagogues! Oppose assaults on democratic and political rights! Canadian and U.S. troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria!

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— Jack Barnes

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Cuban women wanted to participate in a genuine revolution

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. The excerpt is from the chapter "With No Preconceived Structure or Agenda," a 1987 interview with Espín, a leader of the Cuban Revolution for more than 50 years and the president and principal leader of the Federation of Cuban Women from its founding in 1960 to her death in 2007. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY VILMA ESPÍN

The Federation of Cuban Women was launched on August 23, 1960. In reality, however, we had been laying the foundations for more than a year.

In 1959, the first year after the triumph, women wanted to organize to participate more effectively in the tasks of the revolution, and we responded to this pressure. I remember being struck, in the first months after the January 1 victory, by the large number of women, some carrying babies, who took part in demonstrations and street actions. There was strong support for the revolution, even before it had demonstrated its full meaning.

Women who were already organized in various small groups approached me. They wrote letters; they asked to



Above, Verde Olivo; inset, FMC Women training for Emergency Medical Response Brigades organized by Federation of Cuban Women in 1960. Inset, Fidel Castro and Vilma Espín at FMC founding in August 1960.

meet. These included people from the women's sections of the political parties that supported the revolution. Others came from religious organizations, such as groups of Catholic and Baptist women. There were trade union members — from the garment union, for example. There were peasant women. And, of course, there were women who had taken part in the war.

As you might expect, those of us who had participated in the war — whether in the urban underground or in the mountains — were approached by women who wanted to do precisely what we had done, to take part in the revolution. They looked to us for leadership.

"What can we do?" they asked. "How can we show our support for the revolution?"

"What's needed most?" They asked to be trained in emergency medical care, because of the threats and attacks from imperialism. So that became one of our first tasks, even before we organized the Federation of Cuban Women. It was these classes, in fact, along with the sewing classes we organized, that gave birth to the federation — not the other way around. ...

When I talk about how the federation was created, I always emphasize that at the time we didn't talk about women's liberation. We didn't talk about women's emancipation, or the struggle for equality. We didn't use those terms then. What we did talk about was participation.

Women wanted to participate. This included women who had taken an active part in the struggle, who had been in the mountains. They, like other women across the country, wanted to help in this new stage that was dawning, which was a genuine revolution. ...

Women had confidence in the revolution — because there was real proof, every day, that the revolution wasn't just hot air, it wasn't empty phrases of the kind people were used to hearing from politicians in the past. This was the genuine thing. And women wanted to be part of it, to *do* something. The more the revolutionary laws strengthened this conviction, the more women demanded a chance to contribute — and the more they saw how necessary their contribution was.

Sometimes I'm asked to give a one-word definition of the Cuban Revolution. I reply that it's about participation — the participation of the entire people in everything. Together, the population went through difficult years. For women, this had an impact right from the beginning. They began to understand the point Lenin emphasized over and over — that for a revolution to move forward, to develop, women had to participate.

This was the beginning of political consciousness for women. When Fidel on August 23, 1960, officially gave a name to this organization — an organization that was already function-

ing and carrying out work related to public health, education, sewing, teaching jobs skills, and emergency medical training — and when he gave it new responsibilities such as setting up child care centers, women were already convinced they had a growing opportunity to help push forward the revolution.

As we organized the local units, especially in 1960, we focused on the most urgent responsibilities, those that emerged with the revolution. As I mentioned earlier, one of the federation's first tasks was to provide crash courses to women who had more than a sixth grade education so they could become teachers. Before the revolution there were ten thousand unemployed teachers. They weren't working in any school. But immediately after January 1, these ten thousand teachers weren't nearly enough to meet our needs.

As we organized medical aid and sewing classes and began establishing more local units, it became clear that we had to take on more responsibilities in education and public health programs as well. We organized campaigns to eliminate unhealthy neighborhoods, "*barrios insalubres*," as they were known, where people lived in crowded shacks without water, electricity, or sewage disposal. We organized to wipe out malaria and gastroenteritis, to get rid of flies and mosquitoes, and to raise sanitation standards in general. For example, we needed to teach women how to boil milk and water — not just tell them to do it, but explain how, in detail.

Toward the end of 1959, planes from Miami started to bomb cane fields and sugar mills. Counterrevolutionaries began to sabotage factories. So in 1960, we instituted the Emergency Medical Response Brigades. These were more than just classes on a massive scale. They were intended for women who wanted to take an active part in defense. ...

All this work helped women believe even more in their capabilities, because they had to take on new responsibilities, without having any idea beforehand what their particular tasks would be. This willingness to take on whatever had to be done was what drove all the campaigns, including health and education. Those were truly heroic years, beautiful years, in which women grew tremendously.

February

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Amnesty! Stop the deportations!

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From unemployment and racist discrimination to maintaining pariah conditions for immigrant workers and refugees, their system of exploitation depends on keeping workers pitted against each other.

To advance the fight to overcome these divisions, the Socialist Workers Party calls for stopping all deportations and ending the criminalization and denial of civic rights to immigrants, those fleeing the effects of imperialist wars abroad and those seeking a better life here alike. Build solidarity and unity among working people. Fight for government-funded public-works programs to provide jobs at union wages for all — building infrastructure, schools, hospitals and other things working people need.

The bosses use their government to open or close the influx of immigrants as their capitalist economy expands or contracts. The one thing that never changes is their effort to force this section of the working class into a less-than-legal status — enforcing superexploitation and driving down the conditions of all working people.

For decades the nationalist-minded trade union officialdom has refused to take on this challenge. They say it's impossible to organize workers without papers. We say: organize the unorganized, regardless of what papers a worker has. The U.S. labor move-

ment was built by joining *all* workers in struggle — native-born, former slaves and wave after wave of immigrants.

Both Trump and his liberal bourgeois opponents say they speak for “we Americans.” But there is no such thing. To see clearly what workers face and chart a road forward, we need to start with the fundamental class division between the capitalist rulers and the working class.

The propertied rulers' capitalist system is in deep crisis today, facing declining profit rates, contraction in production and trade, and growing conflicts over resources and markets. The deepening competition between capitalist rulers worldwide has produced growing carnage, devastating economic crises and dispossession of millions of human beings around the world. Washington and other imperialist powers have engaged in nonstop wars since the turn of the millennium in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, Syria and elsewhere.

Workers need our own party to organize independent of the bosses and their political parties, to defend our interests on the road toward taking power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers. The Socialist Workers Party is your party.

Let's fight together: Unionize all workers! No deportations! Speak out against attacks on Muslims and mosques! All U.S. troops out of the Middle East!

Recognition of Israel key for toilers in Mideast

The article “Capitalist Rulers in Mideast Shift Allies While Toilers Face Catastrophe” in the Jan. 16 issue of the *Militant* concludes with a quote, with no comment, from former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki saying, “I tell you of the threat that surpasses terrorism which is the Zionist enemy. And we should all stand on one front against this threat.”

Any new reader would have to assume that *Militant* editors agree with the reactionary former Iraqi prime

minister on “the Zionist enemy.”

Regular readers must have been surprised, since the quote is the opposite of the political line of previous *Militant* articles, the Socialist Workers Party's program and its political course.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Al-Maliki's statement fits with the view of the entire middle-class left in the United States, across Europe, and worldwide. Not to mention the Iraqi, Iranian, and many other bourgeois regimes across North Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia — all of whom demagogically posture as defenders of the dispossessed Palestinian people to bolster their own class rule. All of whom oppress and exploit the workers and farmers in those countries.

That is the opposite of the internationalist working-class course of the Socialist Workers Party. As the global capitalist crisis intensifies, the resurgence of Jew-hatred and attacks on Jews and synagogues is a reminder that the Holocaust and what led to it are not matters of “history.” They are growing realities of the brutal imperialist world order *today*.

Revolutionaries must press for recognition of the

state of Israel, and for the right of Jews who wish to go there for refuge to do so. That's also a political precondition to rebuilding a movement capable of advancing a successful fight for a Palestinian state, and for a contiguous, viable homeland for the Palestinian people.

These steps are essential to break the cycle of bloodshed perpetuated by the reactionary Islamist Hamas regime in the Gaza Strip and its rocket attacks on Israeli civilians; by the bourgeois Palestinian Authority and its acquiescence to attacks on Jews; and by the brutal retaliation and “collective punishment” by Israel's capitalist rulers and their efforts to Balkanize the West Bank.

The article was also written in largely cross-class terms about states, regimes and religions — “Shiite-dominated forces,” “Sunni-led regimes,” “Iranian-trained Shiite militias,” “Tehran,” “Israel,” and so on. It didn't help readers see the sharply conflicting interests between the working class and its exploited allies on the land and the ruling classes and their middle-class apologists and political servants across the region.

Finally, the article mistakenly said, “Washington, responsible for decades of war and devastation in the region, increasingly finds itself on the sidelines.”

But the U.S. rulers hardly stand on the sidelines in the Middle East. The 2015 Iran “nuclear” pact reached by Tehran and Washington, along with Berlin, London, Paris, Moscow and Beijing, is the axis of imperialist foreign policy in the region, one the new Trump White House will not likely “tear apart.”

The propertied rulers in Washington are seeking cooperation by the counterrevolutionary rulers in Tehran to contain the class struggle and social explosions in the Middle East. Other capitalist regimes there are looking for alliances with Washington, Moscow, or both to defend their own class interests.

It's worth remembering that U.S. imperialism deploys more than 40,000 troops between Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan and dominates the region's waters with the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. Since August 2014, Washington's military has carried out the vast majority of nearly 18,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, and more across Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, and Pakistan.

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Immigrants targeted

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worldwide; and a three-month ban on travel to the U.S. from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen while the administration prepares a regime of “extreme vetting.”

Travelers from those seven countries were already subject to intensive “vetting” under the Barack Obama administration's “Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015.”

Demonstration organizers see the actions as part of a broader war against the legitimacy of Trump's presidency, falsely portrayed by many as fascist. Many of the signs and chants at the protests targeted the Trump administration as “illegitimate” and portrayed the president and those who voted for him as “deplorable” and racist bigots — often in very crude terms.

Like at the large bourgeois feminist marches Jan. 21, these protests were shaped by liberals and middle-class leftists who are campaigning to capture the Democratic Party and take back Congress in 2018.

Many workers around the country told interviewers they were put off by the inhumane way the orders were implemented, but remained concerned about competition for jobs in times of economic crisis for working people and fearful of the possibility of terror attacks.

“The bipartisan propaganda by the propertied rulers blaming undocumented workers for joblessness and Muslims for terrorism affects this debate,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in New York, told the *Militant*. “As our party goes door to door talking to workers we find an open hearing to our proposals to unite the working class in struggle for jobs, for an end to the criminalization of immigrants and for an end to imperialism's wars.”

Rulers label immigrants as criminals

One executive order issued by Trump on Jan. 25, titled “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements,” states that it is government policy to extend the wall on the Mexican border, speed up deportations, expand immigration detention facilities and add 5,000 Border Patrol agents.

The order traces its continuity to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, signed by then President Bill Clinton. The average daily population of men, women and children held in immigration detention centers soared from 8,000 before the law to 34,000 in 2014.

The other Jan. 25 executive order, “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States,” includes a threat to cut federal funds to any self-proclaimed “sanctuary jurisdictions,” which have been set up mostly by Democrats in New York, Los Angeles and elsewhere. Put forward as humanitarian moves, these “sanctuary” arrangements do nothing to address the illegal status that keeps undocumented immigrants in fear as a low-wage and unorganized labor force.

On Jan. 27, Trump signed another order dubbed, “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,” aimed at restricting entry of refugees and targeting Muslims.

Washington implemented the policy immediately, and dozens of travelers with visas to enter the U.S., including some with permanent residence status, were detained at airports across the country.

Thousands of protesters gathered at New York's Kennedy and other airports across the country Jan. 28, demanding release of the detainees. The New York Taxi Workers Alliance, which has 19,000 members, held a one-hour strike halting rides from Kennedy and joined the demonstration. “As an organization whose membership is largely Muslim, a workforce that's almost universally immigrant,” the alliance said, “we say no to this inhumane and unconstitutional ban.”

Several federal judges issued injunctions blocking deportations of detained travelers. The White House said Jan. 29 that the ban would not apply to green-card holders, reversing its earlier position.

Washington's existing policies already prevent the vast majority of those seeking refuge from entering the U.S. Only those approved by a United Nations refugee agency — less than 1 percent of those fleeing violence or persecution worldwide — can even apply to settle here. Applicants are then screened by at least four different U.S. government entities, a process that takes years. Washington allows entry for fewer refugees per capita than almost any other imperialist country.



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