Protests across south Iraq hit gov’t neglect, Iran intrusion

BY SETH GALINSKY

Tens of thousands of workers and farmers have joined weeks of protests in southern Iraq against the government’s failure to provide basic necessities and opposing Tehran’s military, economic and political intervention in the country. The actions took place in the midst of a drought and a heat wave where temperatures reached 122 degrees.

This predominantly Shiite area of Iraq provided the bulk of the militia fighters who were used as cannon fodder in Baghdad’s war against Islamic State in the north. With the end of the war seven months ago, working people are angry over government inaction in face of a lack of electricity, water and jobs.

An indication of the impact of the war runs along the road from Najaf to Karbala. Every 50 yards hangs a photo of a member of the Popular Mobilization Forces Shiite militias, some organized by Tehran, who died in the war.

A militia member who was wounded three times during the war spoke to Raw Poly.

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Socialist Workers Party launches 2018 campaigns

— Meet the working-class candidates —

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The Socialist Workers Party announced its slate of national candidates July 25, asking working people, farmers and youth to join them in campaigning for a working-class road forward out of the crises-ridden capitalist system. Those joining will campaign from within the labor movement with workers who have decades of experience of union battles and social struggles.

The party released the accompanying statement explaining how the SWP campaign takes place as historic changes in capitalist rule are unfolding today. Below we give a picture of some of the party’s candidates.

“We invite workers and youth to

Continued on page 3

New openings for working class as imperialist ‘world order’ unravels

BY TERRY EVANS

The political, economic and military institutions put together by Washington after the U.S. capitalist rulers emerged victorious in the second imperialist world war — NATO, U.N. and others were the instruments they used to impose their domination of the new “capitalist world order.” Today these institutions are increasingly coming apart at the seams. And so are the ones cobbled together in response by the U.S. rulers’ imperialist allies — and competitors — like the European Union.

This situation is a product of the capitalist rulers deepening economic, political and moral crisis, which is sharpening competition between Washington and its capitalist rivals in Europe and Russia and from the rising power in Beijing. The U.S. rulers worsened their

Continued on page 4

Protesters demand ‘release video!’ in cop shooting of Chicago barber

BY LAURA ANDERSON

CHICAGO — Harith Augustus — a 37-year-old African-American barber and father of a 5-year-old — known by friends as Snoop, was shot down and killed by cops on busy East 71st Street on Chicago’s South Side after he left work July 14.

Almost immediately, people in the area began to protest. Nataki Rhodes, a waitress and organizer who lives a couple blocks from where Augustus was killed, told this correspondent that she got a call about the protest shortly after the shooting. When she got there, more than 100 people were demonstrating, demanding answers about what happened.

Some in the crowd threw things at the cops. They responded by hitting protesting officers with their nightsticks and pulling people down onto the street.

Nader Isaa, a Chicago Sun-Times reporter, said he was hit by officers. “I have my press badge on and identified myself as a reporter,” Isaa tweeted. In a video Isaa posted online you can see

him get shoved and the phone he was using to videotape the police assault is smashed out of his hand by a cop.

There is a long history of cop abuse in Chicago’s Black communities. From the notorious Jon Burge who extracted false

Continued on page 9

SWP statement

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaigning around the country to build the labor movement and fight for a working-class alternative to the dog-eat-dog, crisis-ridden capitalist system of war, racism and exploitation.

The SWP campaign explains why workers’ defense of our class interests requires a course to unify millions of working people to fight to overturn the rule of the capitalist class, establish a workers and farmers government and reach out the hand of solidarity to workers fighting capitalist oppression around the world.

All the capitalist candidates — Democrats, Republicans and so-called independents — discount the capacities of working people to wage such a battle and transform ourselves along the way. Hillary Clinton and those leading the “resistance” against President Donald Trump view the working class as “deplorables” and aim to restrict our rights. But we can change the world and this perspective gets a greater hearing among working people today.

The SWP starts from the solidarity and common class interests of workers in the U.S. and around the world, against those who exploit and oppress us. We explain the crisis of the rulers’ capitalist system is tearing our

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Inside

Woman’s right to abortion is debated in Northern Ireland

Protests oppose Russian rulers’ moves to raise age for pensions

Protests across Nicaragua in making for over a decade

— On the picket line, p. 5

Locked-out National Grid utility workers rally in Boston

Striking silver miners rally at their Idaho headquarters
Woman’s right to abortion is debated in Northern Ireland

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÖNSSON
BELFAST, Northern Ireland — “What do we want? The right to choose! When do we want it? Now!” chanted hundreds demonstrating outside City Hall here July 7.

The youthful rally, organized by Alliance for Choice and Rally for Choice, was called to respond to an anti-abortion-rights “All-Ireland Rally for Life,” held at the same time at Stormont, the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The rival rallies are part of a growing struggle over a woman’s right to choose whether to have an abortion. On May 25 a decisive majority voted by referendum in the Republic of Ireland to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the constitution, which effectively prevented women’s access to abortion.

Posed now is whether women’s right to choose abortion, banned in Northern Ireland, will be legalized. According to The Times, the number of women traveling to other parts of the U.K. to obtain a termination rose from 624 in 2016 to 919 last year. Since June 2017 the U.K. government has covered the cost of abortions, though not travel costs.

“No more stabbings, no more health care,” protesters chanted. Many signs showed an “airfare” ticket with a red cross over it.

Communist League members traveled from London and Manchester to join in the rally and discuss this issue with workers in Belfast. We knocked on doors in two working-class areas of the city — New Lodge Road and Falls Road — to tell people about the rally. We found great openness to discuss the question of a woman’s right to choose and what should be done next.

While some were opposed to abortion and didn’t want to discuss it, a number said, “I’m pro-choice.” “My girlfriend and I are very pro-choice,” Francis Conlon, a young chef, told us. “It doesn’t make sense that people are going across the water for a procedure that could be done here,” he said. “This corner of the U.K. — or of Ireland, whichever way you put it — has to be more forward-thinking.”

Conlon described how he had opposed groups that used to harass women coming in or out of the Belfast Mary Stopes clinic. For five years it provided advice for women, including on how to travel to England and pay for abortions there. The clinic closed in December 2017 after the government decided to grant abortions free of charge to women who came from Northern Ireland.

One woman, who didn’t want her name used, said she was part of a group of midwives and midwifery students going to the pro-choice rally. After a discussion on the worldwide fight for women’s rights and working-class resistance against attacks from the bosses today, she got a subscription to the Militant.

Continued from front page

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Meet the 2018 Socialist Workers Party candidates

Continued from front page

Join us knocking on doors in cities, towns and farming areas, discussing how we can rebuild the labor movement and forge the unity that is necessary for us to fight effectively,” said Alyson Kennedy, candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas. “We will join workers’ picket lines, fights to defend abortion rights, actions demanding prosecution of killer cops and protests against deportations, calling for amnesty for undocumented immigrants.”

Kennedy was the party’s presidential candidate in the 2016 elections. She was among the first wave of women who broke the barriers that coal bosses used to exclude women from underground mining jobs. She has been part of numerous United Mine Workers union battles in the coalfields, from West Virginia to Alabama to Utah. From 2003 to 2006, she was among those in the front ranks of a union-organizing battle at the Co-Op coal mine outside Huntington, Utah. The miners there, a majority immigrants from Mexico, fought for UMW representation to win safe working conditions, an end to abuse by the bosses and improved wages.

Kennedy joined the teachers on strike in Oklahoma this spring — part of a wave of battles across the country — and the July 12 rally in Columbus, Ohio, where more than 10,000 union miners, Teamsters, bakery workers and others rallied to demand that the government fund their pensions.

In April, Kennedy was one of the speakers at a conference in Havana, discussing the conditions for the working class in the U.S. and why the rulers have begun to fear working people for the first time in decades.

Osborne Hart, who works at Walmart in Philadelphia, was Kennedy’s running mate in 2016 and is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania. Hart got involved with the civil rights movement as a teenager and has since been a fighter for Black rights, joining struggles against school segregation and police brutality. He was active in the 1970s in the movement to end Washington’s war against the peoples of Vietnam.

Hart has joined the fight for amnesty for undocumented workers, protests against deportations and backed efforts to organize the unorganized wherever they are from. Recently he joined demonstrations in New Brunswick and Trenton, New Jersey, demanding driver’s licenses for immigrants. He joined the SWP in 1971 and has been part of helping to build and strengthen the labor movement since.

For working-class unity

In April, Laura Garza, a rail worker in Los Angeles running as the SWP candidate for California governor, went to the town of Barstow after

and the July 12 rally in Columbus, Ohio, where more than 10,000 union miners, Teamsters, bakery workers and others rallied to demand that the government fund their pensions.

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Alyson Kennedy, US Senate

The Militant August 6, 2018 3

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Helen Meyers
pointed out book at left, $10 with subscription.

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Above, Walmart Charm Shir

Helen Meyers, left, SWP U.S. Senate candidate in Minnesota, talks with workers going door to door in Maplewood May 12.
Protests oppose Russian rulers’ moves to raise age for pensions

BY EMMA JOHNSON

When the Russian government announced plans to raise the retirement age for workers on the eve of the World Cup final, it was drowned out by the football euphoria.

But the proposal provoked widespread anger and protests across the country. In fact, the government of the president Vladimir Putin told a compliant media and the ruling United Russia party to stop using the words “pension reform.” Putin’s popularity rating dropped by 10 percent in one month and in a July 1 poll only 49 percent said they’d vote for him. This is his lowest rating in years.

In 2005 Putin persuaded not to touch the retirement age “as long as I’m president.” He has declared that he has “not been taking part in that process,” hoping this would “ease the room to deny any personal responsibility.”

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced the proposal June 14. It would raise the retirement age by eight years to 63 for women in stages through 2034 and by five years to 65 by 2028 for men. The State Duma approved it in the first hearing of the required three on July 19. The deadline for amendments was extended to Sept. 24.

Deputies of Putin’s United Russia voted in favor, while deputies from the Duma’s other parties — the conservative Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, the Communist Party and Fair Russia — voted against.

“The deputies should go to the cemeteries and see how many men there are who died at the age of 61 or 62,” Sergei Shatsky, 50, told the Moscow Times as he protested outside the Duma building. “If anyone is banded off elsewhere parliament July 19. Seven of my close friends have already died.”

Average life expectancy for women in Russia is 77 years, for men it’s 66. But the averages hide the class reality: workers and farmers die much younger. Many rural and urban working people will live to see their retirement age by eight years.

In October of the country’s 83 regions, especially in the Asian east, male average life expectancy doesn’t reach 65. More than 500 people came from the Kurgaz region, a coal-mining area, to a July 3 protest in Kemerovo, organized by the Federation of Trade Union Organizations, and “people, representatives of the Sibginskaya mine,” Sergei Balynin told Radio Svoboda. “The miners live approximately 62 years, so no one will survive until retirement.”

“Now I’ll go to everything,” she said. “Because I’m against it. Against our government, against Medvedev, against this cannibalistic policy. Yes, I went to the polls and voted for Putin. And I supported Putin because he said, ‘As long as I am president, there will be no increase in the retirement age.’ And now those words have disappeared. But we still hope. He has not yet spoken, and we hope Putin cultivates the image of a ruler standing aloof from domestic issues, leaving them to the ‘experts.’” That leaves room for him to maneuver if things go bad.

In the face of the protests, he spoke out July 20, saying no final decision has been made. “I do not like anything related to raising the retirement age, I assure you,” he told news agency TASS. “And in the end there are few people, if any, who like it.”

Most people working for as long as they can because the pensions are too meager to live on, averaging only $20 a month. The idea of raising the age means you won’t ever get one at all and this is making people mad.

The current White House maintains and seeks to embolden Washington’s massive military might, but is seeking an alternative to acting as if it can use that power to impose its will through military conflicts. Instead, it seeks to negotiate ways out in Korea and the Middle East, looking for Moscow’s help.

The rulers of Germany, France and the U.K. refuse to pay their way in NATO, in the futile belief they can continue as world capitalist players and depend on Washington’s military power. And Washington is increasingly unwilling to pay for them. For the U.S., the rulers’ military “alliance” is subordinate to their direct relations with the rulers of other nations.

Washington’s EU foe splinters

When Trump accurately described the EU as a “trade foe,” the Financial Times and other liberal and globalist media slammed him. But Washington’s weaker competitors created the EU as a protectionist bloc to compete with the U.S. bosses, including the use of tariffs against them. And the German rulers use the domination of the bloc to squeeze working people in the weaker capitalist nations in southern Europe.

With no end in sight to capitalism’s social and economic crisis, working people there — as in the U.S. — have sought ways at the ballot box to express their anger.

Continued from front page

position when they launched a series of wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere based on the illusion that they had won the Cold War. All the U.S.-run central banks in the country and opened the door to toppling capitalist rule there.

The Central Treaty Organization was established at the urging of London and Washington to bolster imperialist interests in the Middle East in 1955. It was composed of the governments of Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, the U.K. and the United States. Following the 1979 Iranian Revolution — which overturned the tyrannical rule of the U.S.-backed Shah and opened political space for millions of working people, women and the oppressed — CENTO too was dissolved by Washington.

Since the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1989 successive U.S. administrations have acted on the illusion that they won the Cold War. This has included incorporating 12 eastern and central European countries into NATO membership. Then the Washington-led organization in 2016 provocatively violated a NATO 1997 agreement with Russia, stationing 4,000 troops in permanent rotation near the Russian border, paving the way for new conflicts with its rivals in the capitalist class.

The U.S. imperialists have waged a series of ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan that have undercut rather than restored stabil-
ON THE PICKET LINE

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today — from teachers and school workers across the country, to miners, rail and factory and retail workers looking to stand and fight. Send in articles, photos and letters on picket lines and other labor protests to themilitant@mac.com, post them directly on our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Locked-out National Grid utility workers rally in Boston

By John Buonopane — “If we stay strong we will get what we want,” United Steelworkers Local 12012 President Joe Krylo told 1,500 locked-out Steelworkers and their supporters who marched from City Hall to dedicated rally sites organized by USW Locals 1200 and 12012 when their contract expired June 24.

One of the key reasons the workers refuse to accept a concession contract offer was their demand for big cuts in the pension plan for new hires.

“This lockout is about two things — protecting the next generation of workers,” USW Local 12012 President John Buonopane told the rally.

National Grid also wants to cut all workers’ benefits. It wants to change coverage for place union workers with nonunion subcontractors for jobs like swapping out meters.

After National Grid locked out its workers, the bosses demanded their insurance coverage.

The Greater Boston Labor Council called the lockout, which was endorsed by over 40 area unions from the building trades to the teachers.

“It’s important to support the National Grid workers,” Doris Reina-Lanham, a continuing stalwart to reject the latest contract proposal for increased pay, staffing and the silver premium and bonus pay, and the good of people. We can’t provide the care not just for money,” said Ashton. “It’s for public safety and the next generation of nurses, other health care workers and workers who can’t afford to lose their jobs. We marched through the central city here July 12. The demonstration was one of many around the country, part of a 24-hour strike by more than 20,000 members of the New York Nurses Organizations.

The health care workers and their union are demanding better pay and more staffing. “For too long we’ve been undermined and undervalued,” Auckland hospital nurse Megan Ashton told the Militant.

Staff shortfalls and resulting overcrowding are issues. “We’re on strike not just for money,” said Ashton. “It’s for the good of people. We can’t provide the care we want to for our patients.”

Strikers began picketing outside hospitals at 7 a.m. Workers had voted to reject the latest contract proposal by the government-funded district

on the picket line, said close to 50 percent of the 250 strikers now work out of state, and another 35 percent are working other jobs in northern Idaho.

Norman is part of a “Road Warriors” team that has traveled around the U.S. and Canada to confront Hecla bosses at meetings they attend.

Among those among the protest were members of the Teamstors; Laborers’ International Union; International Longshore and Warehouse Union members from Tacoma and Aberdeen, Washington; United Food and Commercial Workers; representatives from several USW locals from Spokane, Washington, Utah and Arizona; and members of the Democratic Socialists of America and Socialist Workers Party.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to USW 5114, P.O. Box 427, Mullan, ID 83846.

— Edwin Fruit

New Zealand nurses strike for increased pay, staffing

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Union nurses mounted spirited picket lines, several rallies and a march through the city as part of a two-day strike against University of Vermont Medical Center bosses here July 12-13.

The nurses, members of Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals Local 5221, which represents 1,800 workers at the teaching hospital, are demanding higher pay and better staffing levels to ensure adequate care for patients. They are also demanding a $15 an hour minimum wage for all hospital workers.

Striking Vermont nurses win widespread solidarity

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“Lucky Friday mine in Mullan, Idaho, by United Steelworkers Local 5114.

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By Róger Calero and Maggie Trove

Conditions leading to widespread protests against the government of President Daniel Ortega this year have been in the making for more than a decade. It was an explosion of pent-up grievances against what many working people and middle-class layers in Nicaragua see as a corrupt and authoritarian government. The worldwide capitalist crisis and the collaboration of Ortega’s ruling party — the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) — with the Nicaraguan capitalist class added to the tensions.

The wave of protests began April 19, following the attack by police and government-organized thugs on retirees protesting anti-working-class “reforms” in social security.

The government’s repression of the protests — resulting so far in over 300 killed, 2,000 injured and hundreds arrested — opened a struggle against Ortega who promises that his government is a continuation of the popular revolution led by the FSLN in the 1980s.

Once a revolutionary party with a working-class program, the FSLN since the late 1980s has turned back on the interests of working people and sought open collaboration with the country’s wealthy ruling families.

1979 Sandinista Revolution

In 1979 the FSLN led an insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza and inspired working people around the world.

Workers and farmers in Nicaragua and the Caribbean island of Grenada in 1979 “did more than oust corrupt and brutal tyrants who had sold these nations’ patrimony to Washington,” says the program to the “The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution,” in issue no. 9 of the Marxist magazine New International. “They displaced from political life the entire class of exploiting landowners and big businessmen, ushering in popular revolutionary governments.”

At the time the FSLN leadership pursued a course that promoted the organization and mobilization of workers and peasants to confront capitalist economic relations that deprive working people of the social wealth our class creates. The revolutionary government encouraged the formation of unions and peasant organizations. Women fighting for equality got support from the government. Indigenous people and Afro-Nicaraguans on the Atlantic Coast opened a struggle against discrimination and underdevelopment, and to wrest control of resources in the region, long plundered by U.S. and other foreign bosses.

The 1969 historic program of the FSLN is also available in New International no. 9. It guided the political work led by the Central Committee and the nucleus of Nicaraguan youth of his generation who, inspired to emulate the Cuban Revolution, formed the FSLN in the early 1960s.

That program called for distributing land to the peasants, “taking what was stolen by the big landlords and giving it back to small producers who labor on it,” and for toilers to mobilize to “create a Nicaragua that is free of exploitation, oppression, and backwardness.”

The confidence and anti-imperialist mobilizations by working people in Nicaragua during the opening years of the revolution incurred the wrath of the U.S. rulers, who organized a murderous mercenary war to destroy the revolution. Nicaraguan workers in city and countryside fought armed in hand and defeated the counterrevolution.

Gradually, however, FSLN leaders turned their back on their program. Instead of mobilizing workers and peasants to take control of production and the land, they sought “more pragmatic” alliances with Nicaragua’s capitalists, calling them “productive producers.” By the late 1980s the revolution had been lost. The regime that was defeated in the February 1990 election had ceased to be a workers and farmers government.

Ortega, a member of the entire top leadership of the FSLN now defended reliance on capitalist relations and integration into the world capitalist system as “a new course,” Ortega told the Iberoamerican Association of Chambers of Commerce in April 2017. “Here, we have a government of workers, businessmen, and the state,” he said, pretending that a government can serve the interests of both exploiting and exploited classes.

By 2006 Ortega had convinced many capitalist and imperialist investors that he was a “new Daniel” and the FSLN’s revolutionary road was a thing of the past. His election that year “marked a new course,” Ortega told the Iberoamerican Association of Chambers of Commerce in April 2017. “Here, we have a government of workers, businessmen, and the state,” he said, pretending that a government can serve the interests of both exploiting and exploited classes.

“It doubt it. They can’t find any cheaper labor,” he said. Nicaragua has the lowest minimum wage in Central America, about $180 a month. The minimum wage for rural workers is set at $125 a month. “When you have a basket of basic food items that costs $440, you can only cover a quarter of it,” admitted Yolanda Arias, a leader of the FSLN-led Rural Workers Association.

Ortega has been able to temper the impact of capitalist and imperialist plunder with social programs financed through Venezuela oil assistance, including distribution of bags of food to poor families, loans to small farmers and to workers starting cooperatives, subsidies for electric bills and public transportation. The government also increased spending on education and health care.

This helped Ortega retain a base among the peasantry and urban poor. But, it’s a base that is dwindling under the blows of the capitalist world economic crisis and the FSLN’s repression.

Many workers we spoke with expressed hatred of the patronage practices that demand political loyalty to Ortega — attendance at pro-government rallies, for example — in exchange for jobs and benefits. “I give you this in return for your family’s support,” they demand of us,” said Raymond González, a worker we met in Masaya in May.

The accumulated indignation, countless humiliations, arbitrariness, nepotism, abuses of authority by government officials and FSLN functionaries have all contributed to the discontent that blew up in April and continues against government attacks.

Pro-Ortega gang with mortars and other weapons prepares to attack anti-government protest in Managua April 21. Repression has deepened working-class opposition to the government.

The Militant/Michael Baumann

The government’s repression of the protests — resulting so far in over 300 killed, 2,000 injured and hundreds arrested — opened a struggle against Ortega who promises that his government is a continuation of the popular revolution led by the FSLN in the 1980s.

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May Day rally 1984 in Chinandega, Nicaragua. Revolution in 1979 gave birth to working and farmers government, but Sandinista National Liberation Front began to reverse course, and in 1990 formed bloc with bosses and pushed working people out of power.

Since 2009, only four of the 105 economic laws passed by the National Assembly were opposed by the High Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), the main organization of Nicaragua’s capitalist business owners.

Ortega’s policies have drawn praise from the International Monetary Fund and other imperialist financial institutions. Low wages, containing working-class resistance through FSLN-controlled unions and relative stability have made Nicaragua a preferred destination for capitalist investment in Central America.

More than 120,000 workers and their families depend on jobs in several free trade zones, manufacturing clothing and other items for foreign bosses.

Capitalist investors have loaded Nicaragua’s economy as a “success story,” averaging 4 percent growth in the last decade. But this “prosperity” hasn’t reached the vast majority of toilers.

During our visit to Nicaragua in May, we asked one worker what he thought about the government’s assertion that protests would drive away foreign employers and cause more unemployment.

“I doubt it. They can’t find any cheaper labor,” he said. Nicaragua has the lowest minimum wage in Central America, about $180 a month. The minimum wage for rural workers is set at $125 a month. “When you have a basket of basic food items that costs $440, you can only cover a quarter of it,” admitted Yolanda Arias, a leader of the FSLN-led Rural Workers Association.

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Recommended

The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution

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Wendy Lyons: ‘A political leader of the working class’

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — “Wendy Lyons was a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party for many years. She was a political leader of the working class movement in this country,” Norton Sandler, speaking on behalf of the SWP National Committee, told a meeting celebrating Lyons’ life and political contributions here July 15. One hundred and six people attended the meeting. Lyons, a member of the party for 55 years, died a month ago at 75.

The meeting was held at the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 Workers’ Center, the union Lyons was a founding member of. She worked in the production line at Farmer John’s meatpacking plant. Pedro Albarran, a shop steward for the UFCW at Farmer John, welcomed the SWP to the meeting. Lyons had been his co-worker.

“Wendy was both a leader of the party’s practical work,” Sandler said, “and took important theoretical initiatives in the theoretical and programmatic debates that steered the course of the party in the world at a decisive time.”

Sandler noted a number of figures and supporters, co-workers from factories where she worked, and many who joined her in working-class struggles over the years came to the meeting. Her companion A. Duncan, her two brothers and sister, and numerous other family members attended. Dennis Richter, organizer of the Los Angeles SWP branch, chaired.

“Like many men and women of a generation that tore down the system of Jim Crow segregation in the South,” Sandler continued, “Wendy was especially interested in building a new society — that was her life.”

Lyons had been his co-worker when he met the party in the late 1970s. In a letter he described meeting Lyons:

“Wendy was especially interested when I shared a recent experience of my railroad union local taking a stand in support of women recently hired and being treated as equals on the job,” Swanson said. “I explained that the local voted women to be represented on its committee, they would not throw a switch, then you as a man, a union brother, cannot either, and the switch crew better call out the track workers to fix the switch.”

Lyons won many to back the party

“Shanique Irby, one of Lyons’ granddaughters, said while looking at the display panels on her life. “It’s fascinating,” Shanique Irby, one of Lyons’ granddaughters, said while looking at the display panels on her life. “I knew she spent her life doing this but not all these things. It inspires me to do something. It made me think about what I would do about something.”

Rachel Bruhnke remembered meeting the Socialist Workers Party when Lyons came knocking on her door in San Pedro. “She put the Militant in my hand and I said, ‘Are you kidding? This is great.’” Bruhnke said. “I learned today about how much she was involved in the movement. I wouldn’t have guessed that this unpretentious woman who sat in my living room and discussed politics with me.”
1979 Nicaraguan Revolution posed road for workers power

Establishment of workers and farmers government in 1979 gave impulse to struggles by the toilers. Above, 30,000 peasants and agricultural workers led by Association of Rural Workers rallied in Managua in February 1980, for radical land reform and improved conditions.

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SWP Campaign 

SWP 2018 campaign statement

Continued from front page

“World order” unravels

Prime Minister Abadi, al-Sadr and other bourgeois leaders offered to meet with the protest organizers, but were refused. At some of the July 20 protests, protest signs read “The people want the downfall of political parties.”

Abadi promised that he would increase funds for electricity and water projects in Basra, where tap water is often brown because of dirt, and immediately create 10,000 jobs.

“The promises they make are all lies,” Khaled Hassan, 42, a health care worker in Basra, told Reuters July 20.

Protests continue in Iran

Meanwhile, protests continue in Iran. At the end of five weeks of protests, several thousand people were killed, including its Grand Bazaar, as well as other towns and cities around the country, including Bandar Abbas, Tabriz, Mashhad and Isfahan.

Nearly half of Iran’s crops were erupted in Abadan and Khorramshahr over the shortage of drinking water. Police arrested hundreds of participants.

Khorramshahr is in the mostly Arab province of Khuzestan, just across the border from Basra. In October 1980, during the Iran-Iraq war, the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq succeeded in capturing the city after bloody fighting. The Iranian army retook the city in May 1982, suffering heavy casualties.

The Iranian rial has fallen drastically against the U.S. dollar in recent months sparking renewed infla-
tion, making life more difficult for working people.

Like the protests that swept Iran at the end of last year, the demonstrations were marked by opposition to Tehran’s counterrevolutionary intervention in the war in Syria and its financing and backing of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Along with slogans of “Death to high prices,” some protest-
ers chanted, “Let go of Syria, think about us.” “Our enemy is right here, but they falsely claim [our enemy] is the U.S.” “No to Gaza, no to Lebanon,” “Death to Palestine” and “We don’t want the ayatollahs.”

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