

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

NY forum takes up crisis facing workers, farmers in Nicaragua
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 31 AUGUST 20, 2018

‘Militant’ files appeal against ban by Illinois federal prison

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The fight continues against the move by prison authorities at the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ medium security facility in Greenville, Illinois, to ban the *Militant*. Authorities there have prevented a subscriber from getting the paper since the June 11 issue.

The *Militant* is banned because it “is a newsweekly journal associated with the Socialist Workers Party and encourages change by protesting and striking,” Warden Tom Werlich wrote in his July 12 notice of rejection. “Such publication can encourage inmates to protest and conduct work strikes which become a institution security matter.”

“It would be difficult to conjure up a more clear, explicit, indeed stunning admission of government censorship based purely on political and ideological disagreements,” *Militant* attorney David Goldstein of the prominent civil liberties law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman wrote in the paper’s appeal filed Aug. 7. The ban “violates the

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Workers have nothing to gain in US moves on China trade

BY TERRY EVANS

Claiming Beijing has been “cheating,” Washington imposed a series of tariffs on Chinese goods, seeking to use its superior clout to gain concessions to aid U.S. bosses in trade between the two countries. The Chinese rulers, so far, have responded in kind. Washington is engaged in similar disputes with the capitalist rulers in Canada, Mexico and the protectionist trade bloc called the European Union. President Donald Trump says their offensive seeks gains for “American jobs.”

But the administration’s demagoguery obscures the fact that there are no such thing as “American jobs.” There are two “Americas” — one of the bosses and the other of the working class. All the rulers’ trade policies have one and only one purpose — dog-eat-dog competition with their capitalist rivals abroad over who can appropriate ever more of the wealth produced by the labor of workers and farmers both here and worldwide.

The labor movement in the imperialist world needs to start from the fact

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SWP takes campaigns to workers’ doorsteps



Militant/George Chalmers

SWP candidate for US Senate Alyson Kennedy, right, discusses fight against police brutality, for amnesty for workers without papers with Victoria Dominguez in Waxahachie, Texas, July 30.

Socialist Workers Party says workers need to take power

BY EMMA JOHNSON

“I know all about Santos Rodriguez! I grew up in southwest Dallas,” Victoria Dominguez told Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, when she knocked on her door July 30. “You need to meet my mother. She was a machine operator and stood up for her rights on the job. She was forced to drink from the ‘Blacks only’ fountain in 1954.”

Dominguez lives in Waxahachie, Continued on page 3

SWP: Build fighting alliance of workers and farmers!

The following statement by Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, was released Aug. 8.

SWP STATEMENT

The crisis facing working farmers and ranchers and the pressing need for the unions to mobilize solidarity with their struggles was highlighted by the conditions described at a July

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New round of protests in Iran oppose impact of rulers’ wars



Iran Labour News Agency

Track workers near Nayshabour, Aug. 7 protest effects of Iranian rulers’ counterrevolutionary wars. Banner says, “We have not been paid wages for several months. We have no job security. We have no future. We have no honor. We have no bread. We have no social benefits.”

BY TERRY EVANS

A new round of protests and strikes are unfolding across Iran, following the working-class-led protests that took place in late December and early January. They’re fueled above all by the impact on the working class of the wars conducted by the country’s capitalist rulers.

For years the capitalist regime in

Tehran has recruited workers from Iran, and offered inducements to refugees from other countries, to fight and die in bloody conflicts it is waging in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Through these wars Tehran extended its counterrevolutionary military and political influence, dealing blows to working people in Iran, in countries across the

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US, NKorea denuclearization moves good for working class

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington and Pyongyang continue to take steps to implement the agreement for the “denuclearization” of the Korean Peninsula reached at the June 12 summit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The agreement is good for working people in Korea and around the world. Ratcheting down the rhetoric, lessening the possibility of military conflicts, getting nuclear weapons off the peninsula and opening more travel and economic relations between North Korea and other countries, opens up space for workers in the region to discuss what they face and to press demands in defense of their class interests.

But Washington still maintains severe economic sanctions on North Korea — saying it won’t relent until Democratic People’s Republic of Korea leaders take decisive steps to get

rid of its nuclear weapons. For its part, the North Korean government says Washington needs to sign a peace treaty finally bringing an end to the

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Locked-out Quebec aluminum workers win solidarity

British Columbia workers strike casino bosses over pay, dignity

Debate in UK deepens over Jew-hatred in Labour Party

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN
LONDON — “Jewish Trump fanatics” are responsible for a raft of made-up stories about Labour Party anti-Semitism, national executive member Peter Willsman charged at the committee’s meeting July 17. This explosion of Jew-hatred, recorded and publicly released, is part of a growing debate here over rampant anti-Semitism in the Labour Party. Party leader Jeremy Corbyn sat silent during Willsman’s rant.

With attacks against Jews rising internationally — recent figures show record numbers of anti-Semitic attacks in the U.K. over the last three years — prominent Labour members have variously condemned Jews for “controlling the media,” being the “chief financiers of the slave trade” and as collective agents of the Israeli government. Two party leaders who objected to these remarks have themselves faced disciplinary charges.

This has prompted protests. The *Jewish Chronicle*, *Jewish News* and *Jewish Telegraph* newspapers published a common “United We Stand” front-page editorial July 25. If a Corbyn-led Labour Party government were to be voted into office, it would pose “an existential threat to Jewish life” in the U.K., they said.

Corbyn was elected party leader in 2015, saying Labour had to turn left. Hundreds of thousands have joined since, including large numbers of middle-class radicals who call for the destruction of the state of Israel and support for bourgeois Islamist

organizations in the Middle East like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Corbyn’s own record leaves little to the imagination. He blocked the expulsion from Labour of former London Mayor Ken Livingstone, who had said that Hitler had been a Zionist until he “went mad” and killed 6 million Jews. Livingstone also attacked a journalist who was Jewish, saying he was acting like a Nazi prison guard; and said he couldn’t be called a real anti-Semite, because someone like that “doesn’t just hate the Jews in Israel,” but all Jews.

Corbyn defended a mural that was criticized for depicting a cabal of conspiring businessmen and bankers, with grotesquely racist Jewish caricatures, counting money around a Monopoly-style board balanced on the backs of the oppressed and exploited. And he described Hamas and Hezbollah as his “friends,” who he was “proud” to host. These organizations advocate killing Jews and the destruction of Israel.

He has associated with a number of Holocaust deniers, including Paul Eisen; Raed Salah, who propagates the blood libel slander that Jews kidnap and murder gentile children to use their blood in religious rituals; and Jew-hating Anglican preacher Stephen Sizer.

Danger to the working class

These views are a deadly danger to the working class.

Corbyn has retracted some of his anti-Semitic comments, Facebook



Collage above, with front pages of *Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Times*, leading bourgeois papers in the United Kingdom, illustrates growing debate over rampant anti-Semitism in Labour Party and how party leadership, including Jeremy Corbyn, in the middle, has refused to take it on.

postings, and his former political associations. Willsman “apologized” for his outburst at the Labour Party executive. But newly found contrition — often many years later — followed by further acts of Jew-hatred doesn’t cut it.

Corbyn is defended by a British left that claims to be the vanguard of the fight against racism. Len McCluskey, general secretary of the Unite union, said that party anti-Semitism is “only a problem because the right wing media try to make it a problem.”

But if there’s no problem, why does it keep cropping up? Why do Labour spokespeople acknowledge that the party has a mountain to climb to gain “trust and confidence” from Jews in the U.K.?

Corbyn’s so-called defense — asserting he’s a socialist and anti-racist — fails to address *anti-Semitism*, which is always bound up with scapegoating Jews as money-grubbing bankers, businessmen and traders. Jew-hatred under the guise of “anti-capitalist” demagoguery always rises in times of capitalist crisis, as it did with the Nazis in the 1930s.

Today it often takes the form that “globalization” is the work of Jews, opening up avenues for usury worldwide. “If I told you I thought the world was controlled by a handful of capitalists and corporate bosses, you would say I was a left-winger,” one “anti-globalist,” who described himself as an anarchist, told *Pravda* at a demonstration. “But if I told you

who I thought the capitalists and corporate bosses *were*, you’d say I was far right.”

Much of the rise of anti-Semitism is presented as defense of the Palestinians from brutalities of the Israeli government. In an article in the *Morning Star*, the daily associated with the Communist Party of Britain, John Elder argues no one has the right to complain about anti-Semitism unless they agree the root cause is “Israel’s criminal behaviour.”

This brought a challenge from readers Mary Davis and Phil Katz, who pointed out Jew-hatred has been a deadly scourge for centuries, long before the existence of Israel. This prompted an “editorial apology.”

Most of the left here prettify reac-

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Further reading. . .

Traces historical rationalizations of anti-Semitism to the fact that, in the centuries preceding the domination of industrial capitalism, Jews emerged as a “people-class” of merchants, moneylenders and traders. Leon explains why the propertied rulers incite renewed Jew-hatred in the epoch of capitalism’s decline. \$25

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THE MILITANT

‘Instead of making a living, we’re making debt’

Dairy farmers from New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania testified to the crisis they are facing at a recent all-day hearing. The more than 50 farmers and others at the event endorsed the demand for an immediate floor on milk prices.



Militant/Janet Post
Brenda Cochran, Farm Women United, speaks at July 24 hearing on dairy farm crisis.

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The Militant

Vol. 82/No. 31
Closing news date: August 8, 2018
Editor: John Studer
Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Terry Evans, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.
Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in September, one week in December.
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com
Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.
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SWP campaigns on doorsteps

Continued from front page

part of a farming and manufacturing area south of Dallas. She referred to a feature article in the *Militant* she had just seen about the 1973 cop killing of 12-year-old Santos Rodriguez. The protests after his killing were part of the rise of a powerful movement fighting against discrimination against Chicanos and Mexican immigrants, inspired by the movement for Black rights in the 1950s and '60s.

"The movement led by Black workers accomplished a social revolution, overthrowing the Jim Crow system of legal segregation," Kennedy said. "It broke down racist divisions the bosses and their government fostered between us."

Meeting workers and farmers on their doorsteps is the foundation of the SWP's work. It offers the party the opportunity to discuss the political issues and labor battles confronting working people today.

Dominguez works in an office that processes loans. She told Kennedy that a lot of the loans people come looking for are to pay for medicine and health care. "It really fumes me," she said, "when you're in your 50s, 60s or 70s and can't afford medication."

"My campaign stands for government-funded health care for all," Kennedy told her. "Working people produce all the wealth. We need to transform the labor movement to lead the kind of broad social struggles powerful enough to fight for and win retirement and health care for all."

Dominguez said she wanted to follow these kinds of discussions and signed up for the *Militant*. She also got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, one of five books on special with a subscription. (See ad below.)

Workers need to fight for amnesty

Kennedy met Willie Armstrong, 44, who works in a cabinet factory in Waxahachie when she knocked on doors in nearby Ennis. "The company has no break room," he told her. "We work near ovens in 130-degree heat every day."

Armstrong said that there are Caucasian, Black and Mexican workers in

the plant. The bosses create divisions by "giving promotions to workers with no green card," he said, "but nothing for workers who have worked there longer."

To defend the working class the labor movement needs to chart a course to unify the millions of toilers in independent political action, Kennedy said, regardless of where they came from or what "papers" they have. The SWP calls for amnesty for all workers who live here. This is essential to unite the working class against attempts by the bosses to divide us and drive down wages and working conditions for everybody.

"We are the only ones who will organize to fight to change the conditions we live and work in every day," she said.

Kennedy has decades of experience building the labor movement and is a 14-year veteran union coal miner. From 2003 to 2006 she was in the front ranks of a union-organizing battle at the Co-Op mine outside Huntington, Utah. The miners, in their majority immigrants from Mexico, fought to unionize with the United Mine Workers for safer working conditions, an end to abuse by the bosses and for higher wages.

Armstrong decided to sign up for a subscription and asked for extra copies of the paper to give to friends at work. He said he wants to introduce some of his co-workers to the SWP candidate.

'I'm looking for something like this'

"I have been looking for something like this," Peter Kim, an information technology worker, told Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor, when she came to his door in Richfield, south of Minneapolis, Aug. 5. "I'm not even considering the Democrats or Republicans. I had thought of maybe looking for the Greens, but really don't think they're much different. I had no idea there was anything out there for working people."

"You're right that the Green Party and other supposedly independent candidates aren't different," Henderson said. "They say we can reform the capitalist system to make it better. That's impossible. We need to unite together to overthrow capitalism, to fight for a workers and farmers government."



Militant/Kevin Dwire

"We need to unite together to overthrow capitalism, to fight for a workers and farmers government," Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor, told Peter Kim, introducing him to the party while campaigning in Richfield, Minnesota, Aug. 5.

On July 12 Henderson joined Teamster retirees and members on a bus to Columbus, Ohio, where thousands of union miners, Teamsters and other workers rallied to defend their pensions.

"I work up the street at Walmart," she told Kim. "We don't get any pensions, but several of my co-workers wrote messages to the rally supporting the fight for government-funded retirement pay at union wages for *all* workers. We are part of the struggle to rebuild the union movement to lead battles like this."

Kim got a subscription and *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*, another book by Barnes on special.

"I had no idea that the U.S. became the world's top jailer under Clinton," he said, browsing through the book. "Let me know about your activities."

Baskaran Appu and other members of the Communist League went door to door Aug. 4 in the Takanini suburb of Auckland, New Zealand. They met Jessica Brady, a student nurse. While

talking, the importance of defending free speech came up.

A public meeting scheduled the day before for two speakers from Canada, labeled "alt-right" by the media, was cancelled after left groups and liberals campaigned to deny them visas and a place to meet. Appu explained that the CL totally opposes this campaign.

"But what about 'hate speech'?" Brady asked.

"Laws against 'hate speech' don't eliminate racism. Who decides what is 'hate'? They just give the capitalist rulers a tool to use against us when we want to protest or go on strike," Appu said.

"Yes, or Maori fighting for their land," Brady added, as she signed up for a subscription.

To join the campaign, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

— CALENDAR —

CANADA

Build the Labor Movement and Fight for a Working-Class Alternative to the Capitalist System of War, Racism and Exploitation. Launching the Communist League election campaign. Sat., Aug. 18. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5.

Montreal

Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in Montreal Viau constituency in Oct. 1 election for Quebec National Assembly. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Vancouver

Speaker: Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Vancouver. 190 E. 48th Ave., Suite 201A (just west of Main). Tel.: (604) 322-4223.

— MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

CALIFORNIA

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Hear Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. Congress, 13th C.D. Fri., Aug. 24. Potluck supper, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$10 (program only \$5). 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

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British Columbia
Katy LeRougetel, Mayor of Vancouver

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Beverly Bernardo, Montreal Viau constituency for Quebec National Assembly

US rulers move on China trade

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that the working class is an international class, that's our "we," and not side with the U.S. rulers in their trade skirmishes. Our interests lie in opposing their use of protectionist barriers of any kind, regardless of where imported goods come from.

Addressing this question in 1848 in a "Speech on the Question of Free Trade," Karl Marx, the founder of the modern revolutionary working-class movement, explained that whether the rulers' policies are free trade or protectionist, either way the worker "goes to the wall." The stronger the capitalists get, the better position they're in to exploit our class.

In so far as it advances the development of capitalism and deepens struggles between the capitalists and the working class, Marx explained, free trade "hastens social revolution" and the working-class movement should favor it — on that basis alone.

Washington has sought for years to check the rising power of the Chinese capitalists. The massive growth of industry over the last three decades in the world's most populous country has driven Chinese bosses to seek markets and new sources of labor to exploit around the globe, driving them into sharper competition with the U.S. rulers. And the U.S. capitalist class is determined to defend its position as the dominant imperialist power for as long as it can.

The Trump administration imposed \$34 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods being sold in the U.S. July 6. It says it intends to reduce the U.S. rulers' trade deficit with Beijing and press the Chinese government to end requirements that U.S. bosses investing in Chinese businesses share the technology they use with them. Beijing denies they enforce such requirements. It retaliated by imposing matching tariffs of \$34 billion on goods U.S. bosses sell in China.

Washington announced Aug. 1 it would impose an additional 25 percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of goods sold by Chinese companies in September, if Beijing doesn't back down. While claiming they will prevail, the Chinese rulers know they face a challenge.

Although their economy has been growing faster, the Chinese rulers go into these trade conflicts with Washington far weaker than their U.S. counterparts. The U.S. bosses gross domestic product was \$19.4 trillion in 2017, China's total — though second highest in the world — was \$12 trillion. Chinese bosses are more dependent on access to the vast U.S. market, than U.S. bosses are on access to Chinese markets.

Beijing has already offered to increase its purchase of goods manufactured in the U.S., but so far Washington says that isn't enough.

Concessions from EU rulers

The announcement of the most recent U.S. tariff comes after the President Trump cut a deal with Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the Berlin-dominated EU trading bloc. Prior to meeting with Juncker, the U.S. government had imposed punishing tariffs on steel and aluminum exported by the bosses from Europe.

Trump got Juncker's agreement that the rival capitalist governments mak-

ing up the EU will work with Washington to challenge Beijing. Juncker also agreed that capitalist nations within the EU will import more U.S.-produced liquefied natural gas. This is aimed at undercutting Moscow's exports of oil and gas to Germany, a matter Trump scolded German Chancellor Angela Merkel about last month. Juncker also agreed the EU would work with the U.S. government to eliminate tariffs on all non-auto-related industrial goods. If implemented, such a move would be most beneficial to the strongest capitalists powers — especially Washington.

The liberal press moguls have greeted the trade conflicts with catastrophic warnings about what they claim is a "trade war." These claims are part of their hysterical efforts to paint Trump as dangerous who must be removed from office by any means necessary.

But real imperialist trade wars in his-

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New protests in Iran oppose impact of rulers' wars

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region and intensifying its decades-long conflicts with the rulers in Tel Aviv and Washington.

The Donald Trump administration is seeking to defend the U.S. rulers' interests in the Mideast by reaching out to Moscow for help in getting Tehran to withdraw its forces from Syria and back off from collaborating with Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthi militias fighting in Yemen's civil war. Washington in May withdrew from the nuclear pact that the Iranian government signed with former President Barack Obama, and the rulers in the U.K., France, Germany, Russia and China. Trump reimposed a series of economic sanctions Aug. 7, saying the punitive steps are aimed at forcing the Iranian government into negotiations.

These measures "will fall hardest on working people already shouldering the bloody consequences of the Iranian rulers' wars," Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, told the *Militant*. "Working people here should stand with fellow workers in Iran and against our common class enemy — the U.S. propertied rulers. The SWP demands the sanctions be lifted immediately."

Widespread unrest swept 90 cities and towns earlier this year after President Hassan Rouhani attempted to deal factional blows to opponents in the government by disclosing huge budget increases in military spending to fund the armed forces operating in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere.

Calls for the end of Iran's anti-working-class regime were raised in the new round of protests in Arak, Isfahan, Karaj, Shiraz, Tehran and many other cities and towns. Both men and women have participated.

Truck drivers in the Kurdish region who went on strike demanding a 20 percent wage increase in May restarted their strike in late July.

Some 7,000 rail track workers who haven't been paid for two months walked out July 20 in Arak, Azerbaijan, Isfahan, Khorasan, Lorestan and Zanjan. They are demanding payment of back wages, permanent jobs, the right to form a union and the right to protest.

Demonstrators blame the government for putting its resources into military operations in Syria, Lebanon, Ye-



Flickr/Keith Skipper

Chinese container ship CSCL Globe docks at Felixstowe, U.K., Jan. 7, 2015. Tariffs imposed on Chinese imports by Washington, like similar conflicts with other governments, aim to push Beijing into talks and get more favorable terms for U.S. bosses. Labor movement needs to start from workers common interest around the world, and oppose U.S. rulers' protectionist moves.

men and elsewhere, and ignoring the plight of workers.

Hundreds of workers at the Haf Tapeh sugar cane mill held protests outside the company headquarters Aug. 3 and 4, demanding unpaid wages.

"They say they have no money," Isma'eil Bakhshi said at an earlier protest, reported Radio Farda. "The workers have no money either. But the difference is that we are experts in sugar cane processing, and we will manage the operations ourselves." He was arrested along with a number of other workers.

Targeting the rulers' wars and support for Hamas — the governing party in the Gaza Strip — and Hezbollah in Lebanon, crowds chanted, "No to Syria!" "Not to Gaza, not to Lebanon. May my life be sacrificed for Iran," in addition to "Death to inflation! Death to unemployment!" shown in videos posted on social media. "Our enemy is right here. They lie when they say it's America," was chanted, according to Radio Free Europe.

Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader, claims that "foreign leaders" — meaning Washington and Tel Aviv — are behind the labor unrest. But the workers say otherwise.

"Why should we struggle with daily issues and risk our lives to fill the pockets of corrupt people?" a 61-year-old former Revolutionary Guard named Ali told the *Wall Street Journal*. The price of food has gone up by 50 percent since the start of the year while the rial, the Iranian currency, has fallen by 80 percent, adding to the mounting discontent.

Counterrevolutionary wars abroad

In response to Washington's decision to reimpose sanctions, Iranian President Rouhani boasted that through its military interventions Tehran's power now reaches "from the east to the [Indian] subcontinent, from the west to the Mediterranean, from the south to the Red Sea and from the north to the Caucasus."

The roots of these wars lie in the counterrevolution carried out by the country's capitalist rulers in the early 1980s. They sought to turn back gains

made by workers, farmers, women and the oppressed during a popular revolution that overturned the rule of the U.S.-backed shah of Iran in 1979. That massive uprising and the struggles it opened up boosted the courage and self-confidence of millions of toilers to fight for their interests.

The Iranian rulers consolidated their counterrevolution at home by extending it abroad into Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. More than 10 million people in Syria have been displaced, killed or maimed in the country's civil war, as Tehran and Moscow propped up the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship there. Hezbollah provided crucial ground troops for the weak Syrian army, and Tehran supplied weapons to Hezbollah. With the Syrian war winding down, these weapons are being turned to threaten Israel. Other militias Tehran recruits and funds are entrenched in Iraq.

Washington seeks to answer these advances and reinforce its position as the dominant imperialist power in the region. White House officials say they are organizing a new "security" bloc — the Middle East Strategic Alliance — with the governments of six Gulf Arab states, Egypt and Jordan "as a bulwark against Iranian aggression." The imperialist-backed bloc would deepen co-operation on military training and missile defense.

The Aug. 7 sanctions Washington has imposed aim to prevent companies from trading in dollars, gold, aluminum, steel and coal. It also ends imports into the U.S. of Iranian-produced food. A further round of U.S. sanctions are due to go into effect in November. As Washington threatens to vigorously enforce these measures, capitalist bosses across Europe, whose governments oppose the sanctions, largely say they will abide by them to avoid losing access to U.S. markets.

For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act

- For workers' solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

Socialist Workers Party statement

Download ready to print flyer at www.themilitant.com



‘New York should stop trying to overturn verdict in Bah killing’

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

NEW YORK — Seventy-five people attended a press conference and protest at City Hall here Aug. 1 held by Hawa Bah, whose 28-year-old son Mohamed was killed by New York cops in 2012. Bah demanded the city drop its attempts to overturn the \$2.21 million civil judgment she won against the New York Police Department last November. Mayor Bill de Blasio’s City Law Department filed an appeal of the verdict in June.

Jurors took only hours to find that Detective Edwin Mateo used excessive force in firing the shot that killed Mohamed Bah. Bah was a student as well as a taxi driver. Concerned that her son was suffering from depression, Hawa Bah had called 911 for an ambulance.

What she got instead was nine heavily armed cops. Rather than providing medical help, the cops broke into his apartment. When Mateo was hit by one of the cops’ own Taser shots, he fell to the floor. Mateo yelled twice, “He’s stabbing me. Shoot him.” Bah was shot eight times, the last fatal bullet by Mateo while Bah lay incapacitated on the ground. In a deposition for the trial, Mateo finally admitted that his claim that Bah stabbed him, justifying the shooting, was false.

“Last November some of the truth came out. Our family thought we could finally have some closure,” Bah told the press. “But Mayor de Blasio reopened the wound. We will keep fighting because we want the truth to be told.”

“By continuing to protect abusive police officers — like those who killed Saheed Vassell, Eric Garner and Delrawn Small — through hiding the names and information about the officers and delaying disciplinary processes,” Bah said, reading from a letter she delivered to City Hall after the press conference, “you send a message to the entire NYPD that they are above the law and can kill and brutalize New Yorkers with impunity.” She asked for a meeting with the mayor.

Joining Bah were family members of others killed by the police in this city. “I’m here to stand with Hawa Bah,” said

Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner. “For years the de Blasio administration and NYPD stalled the disciplinary process against Daniel Pantaleo, who put my son in a chokehold. And they are refusing to move forward with disciplinary processes for all but two of the officers involved in killing my son. We ask Mayor de Blasio to do the right thing and fire all of the officers in all of our cases.”

“There is no basis for appeal. The evidence against the cops is overwhelming. The fatal shot, after seven others, was from 18 inches away,” Randolph McLaughlin, a Bah family attorney said. “There can be no closure until the appeal is dropped or we win, and we *will* win.”

City Council member Antonio Reynoso, an NAACP Defense Fund representative, clergy and others joined Bah in demanding the city drop its appeal.

The city continues to try and shield the cops. In a May hearing, Judge Kevin Castel ruled against the city’s demands for qualified immunity for Mateo.

Earlier, federal prosecutors refused to indict the cops, claiming they didn’t have sufficient evidence.



Militant/Sara Lobman

Hawa Bah speaks at Aug. 1 news conference demanding Mayor Bill de Blasio end appeal of court ruling awarding her family \$2.21 million for cops killing her son Mohamed Bah in 2012.

So the civil trial was the only time the cops had to go to court. There the cops and the city had to back off a number of former claims about important evidence. For years they said that the clothes Mohamed Bah was wearing when he was killed had been destroyed by the hospital staff where his body was taken. Later they claimed the garments had been sent to the funeral home. Then they admitted at the trial that they had them in NYPD custody the whole time.

“It is unforgivable to me that either

through malevolence or incompetence this would not have been discovered,” Judge Castel said when the city admitted this at the civil trial.

City officials had said the knife that Mateo swore Bah threatened the cops with had been lost. Then they admitted to having it all along, but claimed it was “contaminated” from Hurricane Sandy.

All the missing evidence played a role in the federal and Manhattan prosecutors deciding they didn’t have enough evidence to indict the cops.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Locked-out Quebec aluminum workers win solidarity

“The company thought they could make us come crawling back on our knees. That will never happen,” Patrick Rochette, a member of United Steelworkers Local 9700, told Communist League candidate Beverly Bernardo and campaign supporters on the picket line at the ABI Bécancour aluminum refinery July 25. Over 1,000 local members have been locked out for seven months.

“The employer is proposing workforce reductions in the neighborhood of 20 percent,” Clément Masse, president of Local 9700, told reporters July 4. The day before over 90 percent of the union voted to continue the union’s fight against the bosses’ concession demands.

The trailer near where they picket has a “solidarity wall” filled with dozens of logos of unions that have given donations. The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) in Baie-Comeau recently donated \$30,000. Others making contributions include Unifor, the Congress of Democratic Unions (CSD), and USW locals. The 400 Micro Bird bus factory workers in Drummondville are donating \$1,000 a week.

Throughout the lockout the company has tried to maintain one-third production using management personnel, which is permitted under Quebec’s “anti-scab” law. But now, workers on the picket line explained, the union suspects the company is bringing in strikebreakers and has moved to have the company

charged for violating the law. So far the courts have claimed they don’t have time to hear the case.

“When the bosses ask, they get what they want right away,” Steelworker Constant Côté told us, “but it’s a different story when it’s us workers.”

Bernardo said that she would use her campaign to spread the word and build solidarity with the locked-out workers.

Send solidarity messages and donations to Métallos SL 9700 F.D.P. Attention Éric Moore, section locale 9700, 8310, rue Desormeaux, Bécancour, Quebec G9H 2X2. Credit card donations can also be made online at www.metallos.org/lockout-abi/.

— Annette Kouri

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 23, 1993

PERCY, Illinois — On July 27 another 1,000 miners joined the United Mine Workers of America strike for a contract.

This was the eighth expansion of the national coal strike, which began May 10. There are now 17,000 UMW members on the picket lines in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Dan Spinnie, a striking coal miner who just returned from a speaking tour in the West, said the news media was surprised to see the overwhelming solidarity he got from other workers.

“What in the world could flight attendants and coal miners have in common?” a reporter asked him after he addressed a meeting of Alaska Airlines flight attendants fighting for a contract.

“I told him we’re all working people,” Spinnie said.



August 23, 1968

BERKELEY — GIs and veterans of the Vietnam war held a successful “GI-Teach-in” here attended by 800 people, including about 100 soldiers. The teach-in was held in response to a call by the Student Mobilization Committee for demonstrations on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. After speeches against the war by several veterans, the microphone was opened to GIs and veterans in the audience.

Of 17 servicemen who took the mike, only one spoke in favor of the war.

Dennis Steele was a sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam two months ago. Steele is one of several GIs and veterans who have begun publishing a free antiwar newspaper for GIs.

“The war is causing the destruction of a civilian population by the United States of America,” Steele stated, “for no other reason than to advance America’s political and economic interests.”



August 21, 1943

The rising cost of living, which lines the pockets of the profit-mad capitalists, has struck hardest at the 4,000,000 American workers who earn less than 40 cents an hour. These people — “white collar” workers, retail clerks, food workers, etc. — work in industries that have no union organizations.

Price rises have lowered living standards for 20,000,000 more.

The capitalist class, responsible for the plight of these millions of people, is attempting to take advantage of the situation to drive a deep wedge between the white collar and the industrial workers in order to better exploit both.

The labor movement can win the leadership of these millions of white collar people only if it adopts a comprehensive and bold program of action which shows these people that labor has both the program and the will to resolve the crisis.

British Columbia workers strike casino bosses over pay, dignity

PENTICTON, British Columbia — Members of the British Columbia Government and Service Employees’ Union struck four casinos in the Okanagan region June 29. Over 675 cashiers, dealers, kitchen staff and others are demanding higher wages. This worker correspondent and two other Walmart workers traveled from Vancouver’s Lower Mainland to bring solidarity to the picketers at the Gateway Casino here July 26.

Strikers told us the government says a so-called living wage here is at least \$18 an hour. “Prior to June 1 when the minimum wage went up to \$12.65 an hour, the dealers’ starting wage was \$11.40,” said Candy Diffin, shop steward and a guest service representative. A dealer on the picket line said, “My wage was \$12.50, so it went up to \$12.65 — that’s my raise for the year.” His placard read, “I’m a prisoner of minimum wages.”

We picketed along with the casino strikers, meeting nurses who brought doughnuts, unionized government workers who distributed ice cream, and workers from two other unions who displayed their own union’s placards.

— Katy LeRougetel

NY forum takes up crisis facing workers, farmers in Nicaragua

FSLN government has no continuity with 1979 revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Although Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega still drapes himself in the symbols of the 1979 Sandinista Revolution, the government he heads is a capitalist government, Socialist Workers Party leader Róger Calero told participants at the Militant Labor Forum here Aug. 4.

Ortega was elected president in 2006, 16 years after the ruling Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN), Ortega's party, was voted out of office. That electoral defeat was a registration that the FSLN had ceased being a revolutionary party, explained Calero. Well before that election took place, the government headed by Ortega and the FSLN was no longer a workers and farmers government and the FSLN had become a bourgeois party. Its policies today are a continuation of the pro-capitalist course it adopted in the late 1980s.

"Since April 19 when FSLN supporters attacked senior citizens protesting cuts in social security, tens of thousands of people — largely working-class — have gone out in the streets to demand the end of government repression and the resignation of Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo," Calero noted. Calero and Maggie Trowe, SWP candidates respectively for governor and U.S. Senate from New York, were on a fact-finding tour in Nicaragua for several days in May.

The attacks on protesters by police and paramilitaries have left at least 300 dead, hundreds wounded, hundreds more in jail and have spurred further protests.

Workers and farmers take power

Workers and farmers in Nicaragua did more than remove the brutal, corrupt U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza on July 19, 1979. "They set out on an anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist course," Calero said. "Their struggle was guided by the political program and strategy charted by Carlos Fonseca — the central leader of the FSLN until his death in 1976 — and Nicaraguan workers and youth who were inspired to emulate the Cuban Revolution.

"They understood that the entire bourgeois apparatus and repressive army needed to be brought down and replaced with a popular government," he said. "And that could only be done through mass mobilizations around a political program advancing the interests of working people."

In the first years of the revolution, the FSLN and the new workers and farmers government began carrying out that program. "It encouraged the formation of unions," Calero said. "It expropriated land, factories and other properties belonging to the Somoza family and those close to it. It replaced Somoza's army with a popular army and police born out of the militia and guerrilla units that fought in the 1979 insurrection.

"It began a land reform and mobilized tens of thousands of workers, peasants and youth from the city and countryside to carry out social programs that benefited the worst-off sections of the work-

ing class," he said. "Women fighting for equality made gains. Before the revolution, for example, women and minors working as agricultural workers were not paid their wages directly. The head of their household received it. Women won the right to be paid directly and to be included in titles for land distributed by the revolution.

"In 1980 the revolutionary government launched a literacy campaign modeled on the one in revolutionary Cuba," he said. "Some 90,000 youth and workers went into the countryside to teach peasants to read and write, forging a link between rural and urban toilers. To this day, it's hard to find someone who was not transformed by that experience."

When Calero was a student in Managua during the revolution, "the teacher assigned us to bring in news clippings on national liberation movements," he said. "That's how I learned about the fight for independence for Puerto Rico and other struggles."

The revolution had a worldwide impact, including in the United States. Pointing to Nicaragua and the revolution in the Caribbean island of Grenada earlier in the year, Fidel Castro said that together with Cuba they were "three giants rising up to defend their independence, sovereignty, and justice, on the very threshold of imperialism."

'Militant' Managua bureau

Within days of the July 19 victory, the Socialist Workers Party set up a bureau of the *Militant* in Managua. The party and the bureau stayed there for more than 11 years, reporting on the rise and decline of the revolution for workers around the world.

"The party helped organized tours of Nicaraguan trade union and FSLN leaders to speak in the U.S., and trips to Nicaragua so that trade unionists, small farmers and youth from the U.S. could do the same," Calero said.

From the beginning, the U.S. government looked for ways to undermine and destroy the revolution. It financed and trained a counterrevolutionary army, which launched a bloody war against the workers and farmers government.

The land reforms from the early days



SWP NY governor candidate Róger Calero reported on fact-finding trip in Nicaragua.



Militant/Michael Baumann

Peasants celebrate land reform, Santo Tomás, Nicaragua, Dec. 11, 1983. In early years of revolution FSLN responded to peasants fight for land. But over next few years reversed themselves, promising "patriotic" landlords their property would be protected and land reform was dead.

of the revolution had stalled, leading to anger from many peasants. This aided the contras. Nonetheless, the workers and peasants were able to defeat the U.S.-led contra war.

FSLN turned back on program

But by the mid-1980s FSLN leaders began to retreat from their revolutionary course. "They rejected the example set by the Cuban Revolution and its leadership of building a communist party rooted in the working class and a government built on an alliance with small farmers," Calero said.

"Instead of mobilizing workers and peasants to deepen the fight against capitalist exploitation, they sought alliances with Nicaragua's capitalists," Calero said. In 1989 President Ortega announced that the government was not going to confiscate "one more inch" of land from so-called "patriotic producers," a euphemism for landlords and capitalists who remained.

After their 1990 electoral loss, the FSLN leadership, before handing over office to the new government, distributed among themselves state-owned farms, land, businesses and homes. Many became part of the capitalist class in the process.

Over the next decades much of the land that had been distributed to landless peasants has ended up back in the hands of big capitalist landowners, as they are driven off the land by the normal workings of capitalism.

The reconcentration of land has continued under the Ortega government. A far-fetched plan for a transcontinental canal through Nicaragua, Calero explained, has become a vehicle for pushing more peasants off the land. Leaders of the peasant movement against the 2013 law approving the canal have been harassed and jailed over the years. Most recently, the government jailed peasant leader Medardo Mairena under "terrorism" frame-up charges stemming from his role in the protests since April.

Today's FSLN government is a capitalist government, "a Bonapartist regime," Calero said. "It pretends to rule above classes and serve as an arbiter between workers and bosses" but in reality it is subordinate to the capitalist class.

"The policies implemented since 2006 were not the whim of Ortega and Murillo, his wife and vice president," Calero noted. "They were policies supported by the main capitalist associations and families" and were considered

acceptable by Washington and capitalist investors. By focusing on "Ortega" as the problem, or the "presidential couple," capitalist sections who are part of the opposition — including those who had been in alliance with Ortega and switched sides when the protests exploded — and other political parties try to hide the fact that the problems facing working people in Nicaragua are the result of capitalism.

"There are different class forces involved — workers and farmers who are fighting for rights and better conditions, and capitalists who want to keep their system of exploitation intact, but without the baggage of Ortega, whose growing unpopularity has made him a liability for them."

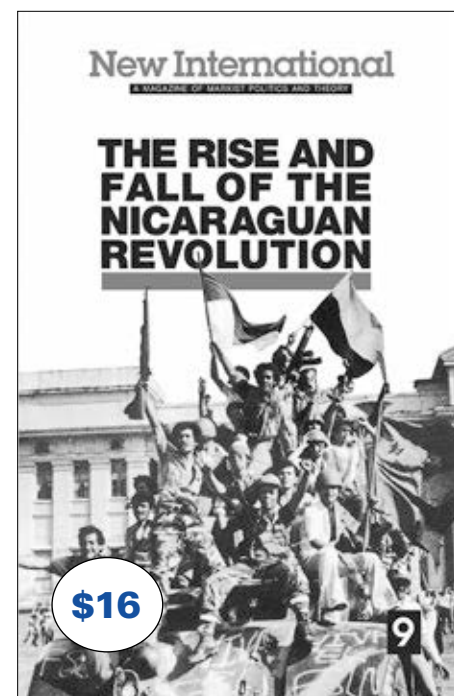
Some on the left who defend the government claim that Washington is behind the protests. "While there is no question that U.S. agencies have funneled funds to opposition groups," Calero said, "that's not the reason for the massive protests."

Countless programs organized and financed by Washington to overthrow the Cuban Revolution since its triumph in 1959 have failed, Calero said, because workers and farmers have confidence in what they see as their own revolution and leadership. "The FSLN government has dug its own hole with its anti-working-class policies and course."

Many of the protesters, Calero said, are workers who were part of the 1979 revolution and their sons and daughters.

Continued on next page

Recommended



See distributors page 8 or pathfinderpress.com

Who were the combatants who began Cuba's revolution?

The article below by Marta Rojas Rodríguez, a veteran Cuban revolutionary, journalist and writer, was run in Granma July 25. In July 1953, Rojas, then a 25-year-old journalism student, covered the trial of Fidel Castro and other revolutionaries who had attacked the Batista dictatorship's Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba. She wrote an eyewitness report for Bohemia but the magazine didn't publish it, for fear of government reprisals, until after the revolution triumphed on Jan. 1, 1959. Rojas' books and articles on these and other historical events are well known in Cuba. The excerpts give a vivid description of the Cuban revolutionaries who attacked Moncada. Translation is by the Militant.

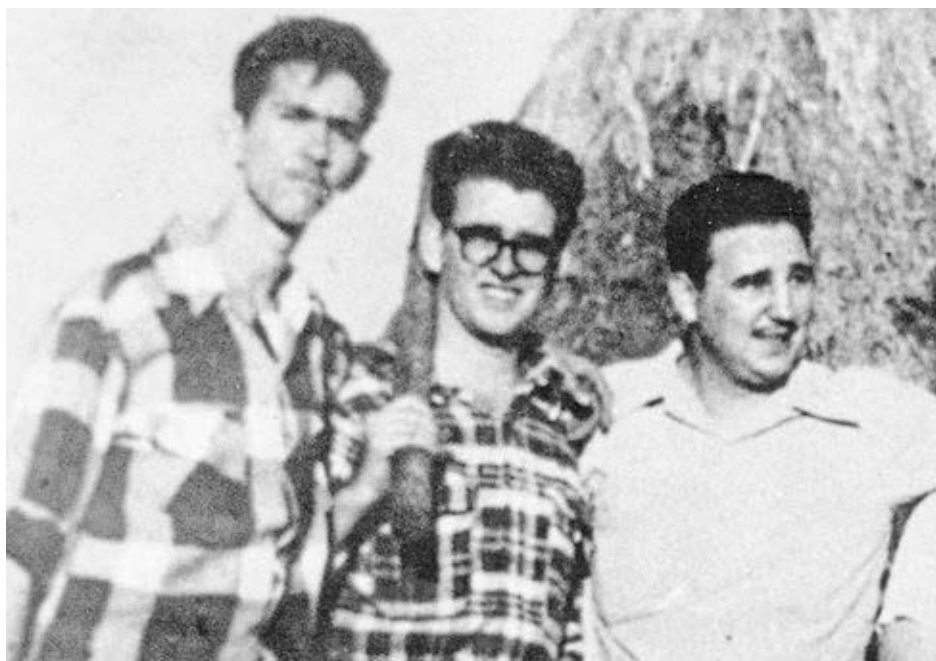
BY MARTA ROJAS RODRÍGUEZ

The fact that the Cuban people were politically prepared and full of patriotic fervor in 1953 is shown by the social composition of the revolutionary movement that the young attorney, Fidel Castro Ruz, was able to pull together following the military coup of March 10, 1952, carried out by Fulgencio Batista, and promptly recognized by the Yankee government.

The members of what would become a transformative, revolutionary movement knew how to size up the critical moment in which they were living. They reflected the conception of the people that Fidel would later define in his defense statement following the Moncada assault known as "History will absolve me."

It was among the majority of Cubans — peasants, workers, unpretentious professionals, unemployed youth and those with temporary and seasonal jobs — that the spark of the true revolution was lit. The insurgents were not only audacious. They understood and wanted to achieve more than a simple change of government.

The organization's program was outlined by Fidel. Part was spelled out in



Council of State Office of Historical Affairs

From left, Níco López, Abel Santamaría and Fidel Castro in Havana, 1953. July 26 assault on government's Moncada barracks was defeated, but revolutionary leadership emerged.

the 1940 Constitution, suspended by Batista during the coup. Among other provisions, it abolished large estates or excessively large land holdings, but laws to implement this were never approved. Fidel's proposal included this as a fundamental point, in addition to rejecting domination by U.S. companies such as the United Fruit Company, and all kinds of companies, including the electric, telephone and gasoline companies.

Also among its fundamental elements were the development of public education, a health care program that would reach the entire people, and many other social demands that were made reality after the Jan. 1, 1959, triumph of the revolution. ...

Without a doubt the number of illiterates was growing in the 1950s, and education and health care were of little concern to the governments of the moment. But political culture, in the most advanced sense of the term, finally won out in our society, thanks to the patriotic tradition.

It's enough to look at the social origins of a number of the July 26 combat-

ants who died, the majority murdered, and some of the survivors. This is a representative list. Fidel was able to recruit more than 1,000, most of whom later joined the July 26th Movement and carried out heroic tasks, joining the list of heroes and martyrs. They represent, as he said, the people of Cuba, if you are talking about struggle.

The brothers Horacio and Wilfredo Matheu Orihuela, and Remberto Abad Alemán Rodríguez, bricklayers, masonry workers; Lázaro Hernández Arroyo, Pedro Véliz Hernández, Armando Mestre Martínez, Tomás Álvarez Breto, and Juan Almeida Bosque, bricklayers; Rafael Freyre and Hugo Camejo, tile workers; Flores Betancourt Rodríguez, worker in gem cutting shop; Pablo Agüero Guedes, bricklayer assistant; Emilio Hernández Cruz and Manuel Saiz Sánchez, carpenters; Armando del Valle López and Juan Domínguez, furniture builders, woodworkers; René Bedia, house painter.

Alfredo Concha Cinta, Manuel Isla Pérez, Marcos Martí Rodríguez, Carmelo Noa Gil, Manuel Rojo, Gerardo Antonio Álvarez, José Labrador, and Ismael Ricondo — all peasants or farmworkers.

José Luís Tasende de las Muñecas (cell leader), and Vicente Vázquez, refrigeration mechanics; Juan Manuel Ameijeiras, Mario Martínez Ararás, drivers; Francisco Costa Velásquez, drivers assistant; Jacinto García Espinosa and Antonio Betancourt Flores, longshoremen; Virginio and Manuel Gómez, cooks (working at the Belén Jesuit School); José Ramón Martínez, leather tanner; José de Jesús Madera, laborer; Félix Rivero Vasallo, bartender; Pablo Cartas Rodríguez, restaurant worker; Andrés Valdés Fuentes, baker; Ángel Guerra García, sheet metal worker; Pedro Marrero worked in a brewery; Víctor Escalona, shoemaker.

Abel Santamaría Cuadrado, employed in a major commercial office and a student, as was Boris Luís Santa Coloma, also a trade union leader; Julio Reyes, bank worker; Oscar Alcalde, owner of a pharmaceutical laboratory; Ramón Méndez Capote and Elpidio Sosa, traveling salesmen; Miguel Oramas, worker and photographer, like Fernando Chenart Piña; Raúl de Aguiar, student; Raúl Gómez García, teacher, poet, and trade union leader; Renato Guitart Rosell, shipping agent at his father's company; Julio Trigo, student

and traveling medicine salesman; Oscar Alberto Ortega, store clerk; Gildo Fleitas student and professor, as well as office worker; Guillermo Granados and Roberto Mederos Rodríguez, commerce workers; Rigoberto Cocho, electrical worker; Gregorio Careaga, funeral home worker; Ciro Redondo, employee, traveling salesman; Ramiro Valdés, employee, like Pepe (José) Suárez, principal cell leader in Artemisa. With a few exceptions, all were members of the Orthodox Party or youth group in their hometowns.

The unemployed, or marginally employed, must also be added, including Osvaldo Socarrás and Humberto Valdés Casañas, who were day workers, earning just enough to eat as car parkers; or Giraldo Córdoba Cardín, who was making a debut as a boxer; Rolando San Román, occasional oyster salesman and José Testa Zaragoza, who sold flowers.

Antonio Níco López was a vendor in a Havana agricultural market. He survived, went into exile in Guatemala, and was the first of the revolutionaries to meet the young doctor Ernesto Che Guevara, who he later introduced to Fidel and Raúl. It was from Níco that Che learned the ins and outs of the organization and about the assaults on the Moncada and Bayamo garrisons.

Others who must be mentioned to complete the picture of "the people, when it comes to struggle," as Fidel said during his trial — Pedro Miret, engineering student; Raúl Castro, student; Mario Muñoz, doctor; Haydée Santamaría, self-taught and a homemaker; Melba Hernández Rodríguez del Rey, practicing lawyer, as was Fidel Castro Ruz.

All — mentioned or not — were imbued with knowledge of history, from the independence heroes to the most contemporary. They knew, and this was shown during the trials, about the value of the sugar workers leader, Jesús Menéndez, who Abel especially admired, since he had worked in the former Constancia mill in Villa Clara, where the Santamaría family lived. Abel, Haydée's brother, was the second in command of the Movement of the Centennial Generation. He was captured and vilely murdered in the Moncada Garrison.

Workers face crisis in Nicaragua

Continued from previous page

ters who have heard the stories about the transformation their parents went through. "They reject what the FSLN has become," Calero said, "but have not drawn the lessons of why the revolution was lost." There is no party or organization in Nicaragua today that is fighting to get back to the working-class course laid out by Fonseca.

Contra war took tremendous toll

SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters noted during the discussion period that the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary war took a tremendous toll — some 30,000 dead out of a population of just 3.5 million at the time. The war went on for five years.

The Cuban government did everything it could to aid the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions, Waters said. Against their strong advice, the FSLN-led government instituted the military draft in 1983. "The Cubans explained that you can't win a revolutionary war with a conscript army," Waters said.

During his presentation Calero had noted the impact of the FSLN's retreat from deepening the land reform.

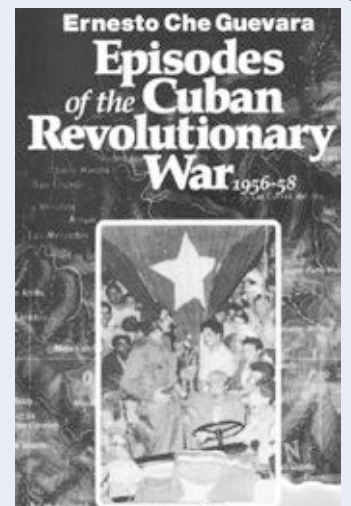
"Peasants and rural workers were alienated by the lack of response to their demand for land."

"After taking power, the Cuban revolutionary leadership immediately implemented the most sweeping land reform. They decisively 'crossed the Rubicon,' winning the support of the peasantry," Waters said. "The FSLN didn't do that in Nicaragua." In 1989, 10 years after the insurrection, there were 60,000 landless peasant families, while the best land was still in the hands of big capitalist farmers and ranchers.

Calero encouraged participants to read *New Internationalist* magazine no. 9 on "The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution," which was written in the midst of the struggle. That is "a good place to start" to get a better understanding of the evolution of the government headed by Ortega and the road forward to advance the interests of working people.

"The worldwide economic and social crisis of capitalism is deepening," Calero said. Workers and peasants in Nicaragua will be part of struggles through which they can build a revolutionary leadership in the years ahead.

Recommended reading



Describes how the struggle transformed members of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro, who forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$30

pathfinderpress.com

Denuclearization moves

Continued from front page
1950-53 Korean War.
Both governments occasionally hurl invective at each other, but this is mostly a negotiating ploy.

The North Korean government has not tested a nuclear weapon or long-range missile since last November. Leading up to the summit it destroyed its Punggye-ri nuclear testing site. It has also begun dismantling its Sohae Satellite Launching Station, according to media reports July 23.

Washington has made moves to de-escalate. Right after the summit, President Trump suspended annual U.S.-South Korean war games, which he admitted were “provocative.”

On Aug. 1, Vice President Mike Pence and Adm. Phil Davidson, top commander of U.S. forces in Asia, received 55 caskets containing remains of missing U.S. soldiers that were handed over by the North Korean military, 65 years after the signing of an armistice at the end of the Korean War.

The U.S. Defense Department announced the next day that talks are being organized to restart joint U.S.-North Korean teams to search for more remains. Some 5,300 missing soldiers are believed to have died in the North. The U.S. government suspended such teams in 2005.

In response to this, and a “nice” letter he received from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, President Trump thanked Kim “for keeping your word,” adding, “I look forward to seeing you soon!”

With the defeat of the Japanese empire in the second world imperialist war, working people in Korea accelerated their decadeslong revolutionary struggle against Japanese subjugation of their country. They fought for land reform, trade union rights, expropriation of factories and women’s suffrage. And they formed their own government.

U.S. imperialism split Korea in two
Washington rapidly sent troops, in collaboration with Moscow, to divide the country and occupy the South. They put the U.S. military in power and set out to crush the workers and farmers. While working people in the North took power out of the hands of the capitalist class, the U.S. government moved to install the bloody regime of Syngman Rhee in the South.

As the Korean War exploded, Washington used its massive airpower to level almost every building in the North — and much of the South. The war was unpopular among workers in the U.S. “I am for the withdrawal of our troops from Korea,” John Anderson, president of the Detroit Fleetwood local, told the 1951 United Auto Workers convention. The Korean War, he said, “is to a large extent a civil war, a revolutionary war, such as the American people fought back in 1776 and our American Civil War.”

To the surprise of the U.S. rulers, Korean fighters — who they initially dismissed as “ignorant peasants” and expected to defeat in a matter of weeks — fought Washington to a stalemate. With the help of Chinese volunteers, they dealt U.S. imperialism its first military defeat.

In 1953 Washington agreed to an armistice. Four million people had been killed, including at least 2 million civilians.

Since then the U.S. rulers — Democratic and Republican administrations alike — have kept tens of thousands of troops, planes, missiles and warships in the South.

White House course on negotiations
Some political pundits are skeptical about the talks, especially liberal media bosses devoted to “resistance,” aimed at bringing down Donald Trump. They argue that the president is being duped by Kim and selling out the U.S. They act as



U.S.-organized United Nations forces destroy bridge near Hamhung, North Korea, to prevent its use, Dec. 19, 1950. Imperialist troops were driven back by DPRK forces and Chinese volunteers. Washington used its massive airpower to destroy virtually every building in the North.

if a new war would be preferable.
In an Aug. 1 editorial, the *Washington Post* complains, “There is no evidence that North Korea has changed direction.” The paper’s editors claim the summit produced “nothing concrete on nuclear weapons, just vague statements and undefined promises.”

Meanwhile, Washington — with key assistance from Beijing, North Korea’s main trading partner — is continuing to squeeze Pyongyang with punishing sanctions. The Treasury Department imposed penalties on Russia’s Agrosoyuz Commercial Bank Aug. 3, charging it was handling transactions for North Korea in violation of United Nations restrictions.

Sanctions bear down on workers
“Our sanctions will remain in place until we have achieved the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea,” Treasury Secretary Steven

Mnuchin said.
The sanctions have increased the hardships for working people in the North, forcing the closure of factories and limiting the import of basic necessities. Since late July this has been exacerbated by a heat wave topping 104-degrees, threatening crops there.
Since the U.S. rulers occupied Korea in 1945, the Socialist Workers Party has demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces. Today the SWP demands Washington end all sanctions and get its “troops, ships, planes, and missile and radar systems out of Korea! For a Korean Peninsula, Japan and surrounding skies and waters free of nuclear weapons!
“Korea is one!”
As Washington-DPRK talks continue, these demands can win wider support from working people, who have no interest in being cannon fodder for U.S. imperialist interests.

Get Militant three-part series on Korea

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

Supplement
VOL. 77 2013

US out of Korea! An unknown history

History of Washington’s intervention in Korea

BY STEVE CLARK
The following article was originally published in three parts in the Militant in 2013 on September 23, September 30, and October 7.

Part I: How Korean workers and farmers began resistance to U.S. domination, forced partition of nation
This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean peo-

well, the vast majority of homes, hospitals, schools, factories and other structures were leveled. Only three major buildings were left standing in Pyongyang, and 18 of the 22 largest cities in the North were 50 to 100 percent destroyed.

After Chinese troops joined the DPRK’s fight against Washington’s war of conquest on the peninsula in October 1950, Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered destruction of every “installation, factory, city and village” in the North up to the Yalu River. Gen. Curtis LeMay, head of the U.S. Strategic Air Command at the time, later wrote, “We eventually burned

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Build fighting alliance of workers, farmers

Continued from front page

24 meeting of dairy farmers in Lairdsville, Pennsylvania. “Instead of making a living, you just make debt,” Lycoming County farmer Ben McCarty explained. Others said what they get from dairy processors for their milk simply doesn’t meet their production costs.

These conditions are not unique. Grain farmers have confronted plummeting prices from giant food monopolies for years. Most working farmers also work jobs off the farm to make enough income to make ends meet. They have to take out loans to pay for their inputs — seed, fertilizer and feed. Many are shackled with a mortgage and monthly loan payments on farm implement purchases. Farm debt has reached record levels at a time when the government is raising interest rates and farm incomes have plunged.

When ranchers fight for access to the land, especially in the west, they come up against the government, the courts and the cops. Ranchers in Oregon and Nevada are fighting the Bureau of Land Management’s efforts to restrict their access to grazing land that they’ve used for decades. And they’ve had to fight FBI harassment, frame-ups and imprisonment.

The problems working farmers and ranchers face are rooted in social conditions inherent to capitalism and perpetuated by the capitalists’ parties that rule. They face the monopoly position and cut-throat com-

petition among the handful of giant capitalist food processors that drive down the prices farmers and ranchers get; the banks that hold their loans and foreclose on their farms and ranches; the rising cost for machinery, seeds and other things they need to produce; and regulatory agencies in Washington that operate in the interests of the bosses.

With more working farmers facing ruin, the labor movement must demand the government guarantee they receive their costs of production, including adequate living expenses.

Millions of farmworkers — including many who face the threat of deportation because they are without papers the rulers consider proper — can be a key part of rebuilding the labor movement and forging a fighting alliance with working farmers.

Workers and farmers, who produce all the wealth, are exploited in different ways, but by the same capitalist families and their government. We have a shared interest in forging an alliance that can mobilize millions, overturn their rule and establish our own government.

There is much U.S. workers and farmers can learn from the revolutionary program and course followed by Cuban workers and peasants in overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. With leadership like they had, we can take our destiny into our own hands.

Debate on Jew-hatred in Labour Party in UK

Continued from page 2

tionary Islamist provocations and attacks on Jews. The U.K. Socialist Workers Party condemns Israel’s existence as a state “based on ethnic cleansing,” and paints Hamas as a “beacon” of resistance.

In sharp contrast to Corbyn and the left, the Communist League in the U.K. — as its members go door to door in working-class neighborhoods to discuss a way forward — explains the stakes in denouncing Jew-hatred and understanding the role it has played in dividing and weakening the working class.

League members widely distribute a statement issued by the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

“Negotiations to reach such an agreement must recognize the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred

and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war,” the statement says.

“It is along this road that working people of all national backgrounds, religious beliefs and political allegiances in Israel and Palestine can use and defend their space to speak, organize and begin redressing the blood-drenched legacy of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation. These historic outrages include ruthless colonial and national oppression across the Arab and Muslim countries, as well as the genocidal crimes of the Holocaust, the murderous pogroms preceding it across Eastern and Central Europe and Russia, and the enduring reality of Jew-hatred in today’s crises-ridden capitalist world.”

Workers gain nothing in US moves on China trade

Continued from page 4

tory have often been a prelude to real shooting wars, as was the U.S. rulers’ decision to blockade all oil and steel exports to Japan in 1941.

There is no reason to think that Washington’s trade dispute with Beijing is aimed at provoking a trade war, much less World War III. Trump’s moves — like his administration’s other recent foreign policy steps

— involve punishing sanctions or tariffs as a way to get talks on more favorable terms for the U.S. rulers.

However the trade dispute between the bosses in the U.S. and China ends, U.S. bosses won’t “reward” U.S. workers. Whether their victory leads them to pump up production for new trade, or if setbacks lead them to cut back, their profits depend on squeezing the workers.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka backs the administration’s tariffs, identifying workers needs with those of the bosses. But this course can only lead to disaster. Our problem isn’t workers abroad — it is capitalism. Our problem is the bosses and their government here in the U.S. We need to chart a course to overthrow the rule of the capitalist bosses who exploit us and take political power into our own hands.

The labor movement needs to start from the solidarity and common interests of workers in the U.S., China and around the world. We demand the unconditional lifting of all Washington’s tariffs and sanctions.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

‘Militant’ appeals ban

Continued from front page

Militant’s rights to due process and equal protection,” he stated. It “must be reversed, and the rejected issues delivered to the inmate subscriber.”

Articles featured in the banned issues report on a strike of rail workers in Canada, by truck drivers in Brazil, protests against the shooting of a Black youth in Pittsburgh, and a rally in Ohio against threats to the pensions of retired coal miners and Teamsters.

“The *Militant* has been delivered to inmates in the Federal prison system at least since the 1950s,” Goldstein wrote. “To our knowledge, no Federal prison has ever refused delivery of any issue of the *Militant* to any inmate (with one exception involving USP Florence, CO, in 2014, which rejection was reversed)” on appeal.

Federal Bureau of Prisons regulations explicitly state, Goldstein quotes, “The Warden may not establish an excluded list of publications.”

‘Flagrant attack on First Amendment rights’

“Banning the *Militant* is a flagrant attack on First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and the press,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “If not reversed it would set a dangerous precedent for impounding the *Militant* and other publications whose views prison officials dislike from the entire federal prison system.

“Workers behind bars have the right to read the political views they want, including about the struggles of workers and farmers,” he said. “It helps them be part of the world and their class.”

“By refusing to allow prisoners to read the *Militant’s* reports of current prison conditions and protests around the country,” Karin Deutsch Karlekar of PEN America wrote in a letter calling for overturning the ban, “Federal Bureau of Prisons is censoring the communication of facts and opinions which everyone has the right to consider for themselves.”

The *Militant* is asking supporters of free speech and the rights of workers behind bars to send letters demanding reversal of the ban against the *Militant* at the Greenville federal prison to Regional Director Sara M. Revell, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Gateway Complex Tower II, 8th floor, 400 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101-2492.

Censorship in Florida

In another move to censor the paper, two subscribers behind bars in Florida at the Union Correctional Institution informed the *Militant* they haven’t received any issues of the paper for months. Neither the inmates nor the *Militant* have received any notice or explanation why, a violation of state prison regulations.

“The *Militant* requests that the withheld issues be immediately delivered to the inmate subscribers,” *Militant* attorney David Goldstein wrote to the prison’s warden August 2, “or that Union provide the *Militant* with the required notices of impoundments or rejections, so that the *Militant* may appeal the decisions to the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee.”

The overwhelming majority of rejections of the *Militant* in Florida, Goldstein noted, have been overturned on appeal.

Among those who have spoken out against prison censorship of the *Militant* are the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild, Amnesty International, PEN America and prisoner rights, church and other organizations.

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