Protests in Dallas demand cop who killed Botham Jean be fired

BY GEORGE CHALMERS
RICHARDSON, Texas — “The sound of the gunshots did not have the resonance to be heard on our small island, but its impact was of nuclear proportions,” Ignatius Jean told the Greenville Church of Christ here Sept. 13 at the funeral service for his nephew, Botham Jean.

Sept. 13 at the funeral service for his nephew, Botham Jean.

Protesters attend Dallas City Council hearing Sept. 12, demanding Dallas cop Amber Guyger be fired, jailed for shooting and killing of Botham Jean, 26, in his own apartment.

BY TERRY EVANS
As the November midterm elections loom, liberals in the Democratic Party and media, and the middle-class left, are grabbing anything to try and advance their frenetic “resistance” against the Donald Trump presidency. They are driven by fear of the workers who voted for Trump, who they claim are racist and reactionary and have to be controlled. Their frenzy is deepening the splintering in the Democratic Party, as the Democratic Socialists battle the “progressives” to represent the “resistance” this November.

Trump and some of his supporters have responded by saying the liberals have the “Trump Derangement Syndrome.”

Join and build the Socialist Workers Party 2018 campaign!

The propertyed rulers organize their exploitation of working people, their wars and their class rule through the capitalist two-party system. Workers will be urged and badgered to choose between the lesser of two evils this November and subordinate our own interests to one of the parties that defends the rule of the exploiters.

The Militant urges workers to back the Socialist Workers Party candidates who

Iraq protests shake up moves to form new gov’t

Rulers in US, Moscow, Tehran vie to protect interests

Demonstrators Sept. 12 in Basra hold Iraqi flags and images of protesters killed at previous actions demanding water, electricity, jobs and an end to Iranian interference in the country.

BY TERRY EVANS
Following widespread protests by working people and others against the Iraqi government’s failure to supply basic necessities and the impact of the Iraqi rulers’ military intervention and assaults on Iraqi sovereignty, talks to establish a coalition government between U.S.-backed Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr collapsed.

Al-Sadr’s Sairoon bloc got the largest vote, on a platform that included opposition to Tehran’s and Washington’s intervention in the country. But it is now in talks to form a government.

Are frenzied liberals afflicted with ‘Trump derangement syndrome’?

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The Militant artists of 19th century and 1917 Bolshevik Revolution

BY DAVE PRINCE

On July 29 the Weekly Standard ran an article entitled “Pig and People,” by Gary Saul Morson, a professor of Russian art and literature at Northwestern University. The article is available online. Morson develops his view that “Russia’s greatest writers, painters, and composers [of the closing decades of the century] all reflected on, if they did not participate in, what one historian called ‘the agony of populist art.’”

He concludes his article: “If Russian history demonstrates anything, it is that nothing causes more evil than the attempt to abolish it altogether. The scarlet flower blooms in the Gulag. ... For Russians, faith in the people’s virtue is equaled only by another belief: in the moral glory of Russian literature. That belief is warranted.”

The great Russian writers and artists were uncompromising in their artistic integrity to the truth. But contrary to Morson’s view, the glory of what the Russian artists created was defended by the proletarian Bolshevik Revolution he opposes. That glory will be taken again.

The glory of what the Bolsheviks led by Lenin would unite in the proletariat of October 1917. In a March 1919 session of the Petrograd soviet, Lenin presented the following proletarian appreciation of Uspensky:

If you now read Gleb Uspensky — we are erecting a monument to him as one of the best writers about peasant life — you will find descriptions dating back to the eighties and nineties of honest old peasants and sometimes just ordinary elderly people who said frankly that it had been better under serfdom. When an old social order is destroyed, it cannot be destroyed immediately in the minds of all people, there will always be some who are drawn to the old.

This is in sharp contrast to Morson’s bourgeois pity for Uspensky’s character. A great artist and what his ideals bring: he writes that Uspensky spent his last years in an asylum. “With unrelied guilt for his ‘swinishness’ [‘the educated Russian’] Uspensky came to believe he really was a pig and tried to turn his face into a snout.” Thus the title of Morson’s article, “Pig and People.”

The article only makes small mention of Tolstoy. Lenin’s November 1910 appreciation of Tolstoy, on his death, in its entirety is a powerful presentation of the class dynamics of the closing decades of the 19th century and the defense by the proletarian revolution of the great artists of that period.

A couple of excerpts:

Tolstoy, the artist, is known to an infinitesimal minority even in Russia. His works have been held aloof from the vast majority of readers. But let flower blooms in the Gulag. ... For one year send $35 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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

Canada: For one year send Canadian $45 to the Militant, 710 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

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

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1645, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$70 for one year to Suite 22, 10 Bridge St, Granville NSW 2142, Australia.

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

SIGNED ARTICLES: contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.
‘We need to get a union’

Continued from front page

SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

These face-to-face exchanges in cities, towns and rural areas offer party members and supporters the opportunity to share experiences and discuss and debate the key political issues facing workers today. They give the best platform to respond to developments in the class struggle, on the job and in social protest actions.

“We need to build the labor movement. The unions are our basic instrument of defense, and can become leaders of broader class struggles,” Fruit said.

“With the growing economy and more hiring workers are a little more confident today to organize for better conditions and wages,” Fruit told Revill. “We see steelworkers, hotel workers, retail workers and others standing up against the bosses.”

Revill decided to subscribe to the party’s paper, the Militant, and make a contribution to the SWP campaign.

“The Militant looks out as a tribune of the people against all the capitalist rulers’ assaults — on jobs, wages and working conditions; on women’s right to choose abortion; the debt slavery forced on working farm families; and police brutality. The SWP also calls for amnesty for immigrant workers living in the U.S.”

Members and supporters stress the need for the labor movement to chart a class-struggle course independent of the capitalist rulers, their state and their parties. The heart of the discussions is what will it take for working people to gain the confidence and experience needed to overturn the capitalist system and take political power. And why should they join the SWP to pursue this course.

Do workers need our own party?

Steve Warshell, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, and Cindy Jaquith visited Lake Worth in Palm Beach County Sept. 8. The area is home to many farmworkers and is surrounded by sugar cane fields, vegetable farms and nurseries.

“We met immigrant workers who wanted to talk, but requested we not use their names, because some don’t have papers the authorities consider proper,” Warshell wrote.

A worker originally from Peru asked if Warshell would vote with the Republican or the Democratic bloc in the Senate if he was elected, and whether he supported President Trump or the “resistance.”

“We are not Democrats or Republicans — they are both parties of the propertied rulers. The president is a member of the boss class. We say workers need their own party, a revolutionary party, to overturn capitalist exploitation, oppression and wars,” Warshell replied. “Some of Trump’s actions, like the negotiations with North Korea, have reduced war tensions — and that’s in the interests of all workers here, and in Korea.”

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Why the Liberals’ ‘Resistance’ Campaign to Unseat Trump Presidency Is a Dangerous Diversion for Working People.

Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5. 875 Hegengerger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 614-1235.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Demand U.S. Troops Sign Peace Treaty with North Korea! Get U.S. Troops, Planes, Bombers Out! Fri., Sept. 28, 7-30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (404) 528-5252.

NEW YORK

New York


CANADA

Vancouver


—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

—CALENDAR—

CANADA

Montreal


Child care worker Venecia Acosta, right, invited Communist League member Beverly Bernardo to her house Sept. 17. Acosta signed up for the Militant back for political discussion Sept. 17. They met previous week when Bernardo knocked on doors in Acosta’s Montreal neighborhood. Acosta signed up for the Militant and got Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. 

“The bosses pay immigrants less to lower everyone’s wages and divide workers born here from foreign-born workers,” said Bernardo. “The Communist League calls for amnesty for all immigrants here without papers to unite the working class,” she said.

“About eight years ago my son was arrested by the police in Ontario and framed up for drug trafficking, and then deported back to the Dominican Republic, even though he grew up in Canada,” said Acosta, who is still fighting for her son to be able to return.

“Working people need to make a socialist revolution and take political power,” Bernardo said, pointing to the example of the Cuban Revolution, where the July 26 Movement under Fidel Castro’s leadership organized the working class and its allies in a broad popular struggle that overturned the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship there in 1959. Cuban workers and farmers built their own government and have extended the hand of solidarity to toilers worldwide.

Acosta signed up for the Militant and purchased the Spanish-language edition of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. It’s one of five books on special with a subscription.

(Caption to follow below.)

Join SWP/Communist League campaigns!

Califonia

Laura Garza, Governor

Dennis Richter, US Senate

Carole Leinick, US Congress, 13th CD

Florida

Steven Warshell, US Senate

Georgia

Radhika Frail, Governor

Illinois

Dan Fein, Governor

Laure Andersen, Lt. Governor

Maryland

James Harris, US Senate

Minnesota

Helen Mylers, US Senate

New York

Roger Daltry, Governor

Margaret Traver, US Senate

Harry D'Agostino, Lt. Governor

Jacobs Perez, Attorney General

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate

Texas

Alphonso Kennedy, US Senate

Washington

Edwin Fruit, US Senate

Henry Dennison, US Congress, 9th CD

Washington, DC

Ned Meesel, Delegate, US Congress.

Canada

British Columbia

Katy Loffhagen, Mayor of Vancouver

Quebec

Beverly Bernardo, Montreal-Vau constituency for Quebec National Assembly

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At left: $15, $10 with subscription.

See list of distributors on page 8

For full catalog visit: www.pathfinderpress.com

The Militant October 1, 2018 3
Pa. prison authorities curb letters, books, newspapers

BY SETH GALINSKY

Pennsylvania prison officials and liberal Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf announced new rules and regulations Sept. 5 that severely restrict prisoners’ access to books, magazines, newspapers, photos and letters.

The Department of Corrections imposed the rules — and a 12-day lockdown — after claiming that dozens of prison staff and some inmates had been sickened over the last few weeks by letters and so-called synthetic marijuana sprayed on letters and books sent to prisoners.

“They’ve wanted to implement more control over the content and in- narcoticated people’s access to books for a long time,” Jodi Lincoln, co-chair of Book ‘Em, told the Militant by phone Sept. 15. Pittsburgh-based Book ‘Em and Philadelphia-based Books Through Bars send thousands of used books free of charge to Pennsylvania prisoners, who are only able to buy books and magazines in limited quantities through the Department of Corrections Regional Bookstores.

The new rules were announced in the midst of the lockdown of nearly 47,000 prisoners in Pennsylvania this Sept. 10. During this time no visitors were allowed into the state’s 25 prisons, mail service and book delivery was halted, and inmates were confined to their cells.

“This is a stack of books that are on hold to send to Pennsylvania pris- oners,” Tom Haney, who has volunteered with Books Through Bars for six years, told Socialist Workers Party member Janet Post when she went to their office from Philadelphia to ex- press solidarity. “Next to that is an- other stack just sent back this month from the prisons.”

Haney said they are fighting to re- verse the new policy.

Starting immediately, all personal letters to Pennsylvania state prison- ers must be sent to Smart Commu- nications in Pittsburgh. The company, which was awarded a $4 million annual contract, will scan all the mail, including greeting cards, postcards and non-narcotics, and send them to prisons di- rectly. Each prison will then review the mail, and, if they deem it appropri- ate, print it out and deliver it to prisoners. The digital copies will be kept on file by Smart for seven years.

Authorities don’t say what those re- cords will be used for.

Correspondence with lawyers will still go directly to each prison, but will be opened by guards in the presence of the inmate and a lawyer and a photocopy given to them. This means prison guards will see every con- fidential letter between inmates and their lawyers will be opened.

Workers behind bars will no longer be able to order books directly from publishers, only through the Depart- ment of Corrections. And they won’t be able to request free books from or- ganizations like Books Through Bars and Book ‘Em that have been sending books without problems for years.

Prisoners will have to go to a kiosk in the prison to request a book. Then prison officials will decide whether or not to approve the request. They have no time limit for making a decision. If the answer is yes, they’ll inform the prisoner and report the price. The in- mate has two business days to pay for the book in full.

Prison officials say they offer an alternative: Buy e-books, which exist only for a small percentage of titles, to read on a special tablet that costs $147 plus tax. Pennsylvania inmates who work earn between 19 and 42 cents an hour.

The same procedure applies to newspapers. Inmates will still be given to prisoner sub- scriptors until their subscription ex- pires. After that prison officials say that they will change their approves in bulk and then distribute is- sues to those who have paid for them.

Constitutional rights threatened

The Militant has more than two dozen subscribes in Pennsylvania prisons, whose constitutional rights are being threatened by the new rules. Prisoners can also ask prison li- braries to purchase books and sub- scriptions. “The Department of Cor- rections says they are going to expand the libraries,” Book ‘Em’s Lincoln said. “But the libraries are in abysmal shape and they have no plan to im- prove them.”

Some doctors scoffed at Pennsyl- vania officials’ claims that employ- ees were sickened by touching pa- pers tainted in drugs. That’s not how you absorb the drug, they say, but by smoking or eating the drug-infused paper.

This is implausible,” Dr. Lewis Nel- son, chair of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, told the Philadelphia Inquirer. “‘Syn- thetic cannabinoid don’t cause the effects these folks are having, and certainly not by the route that they’re being exposed.”

Pennsylvania’s state prisons had set up a test program last year with similar restrictions, saying prisoners could only order books from a handful of approved vendors with a limited se- lection. They were forced to back down in the face of protests from civil liberties organizations, and other de- fenders of free speech and the rights of prisoners. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and Maryland prison officials also began and then rescinded similar rules.

Other prison officials across the country are watching closely what happens in Pennsylvania, Lincoln said. “If these restrictions are not challenged, it could have a ripple ef- fect,” she said.

Book ‘Em, Books Through Bars and the Amistad Law Project have encouraged supporters of prison- ers’ rights to call Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf and demand that he revoke the restrictions.

Send letters to Gov. Tom Wolf, 508 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, or fax him at (717) 772-8284. Send emails to Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel at ra-credopascorretary@pa.gov.

Militant wins round in fight against prison censorship

Continued from front page

others have often joined in demand- ing reversal of the bans.

The only thing the bans have in common is they are “arbitrary, ir- ratic, inconsistent, unlawful, and unconstitutional,” in the words of Militant attorney David Goldenstein from the well-known law firm Rabi- ne, Bouzidin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman.

Every impoundment notice so far has falsely claimed that the paper “presents a threat to the security, good order, and discipline” of the prison. Some point to specific ar- ticles prison authorities don’t like, others give no reason. What they re- ally want is control — a “road to- ward more arbitrary, costly and unconstitu- tional,” Studer said. “They are part of the broader fight to defend critically needed political rights today and help to break down barriers among workers. These are rights won in the Constitution and defended in blood by working people over decades.

“We encourage all those who back the Militant’s fight against censor- ship to keep up the pressure,” he said, “and to join with those oppos- ing the unconstitutional restrictions on books, periodicals and letters in Pennsylvania.”

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus $2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 126767, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2676. 30312-7267

Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info: www.pathfinderpress.com

Tom Haney, right, with Philadelphia-based Books Through Bars, points to stacks of books returned by prison authorities because of new rules restricting prisoners’ right to receive them.

Fight prison censorship

Get out the word. Distribute copies of Militant articles on this fight.

Get statements of support for the Militant’s appeal from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to: themilitant@mac.com.

Send a check to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”
ON THE PICKET LINE

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today — from teachers and school workers, to miners, steelworkers, 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.

SF hotel workers rally, say ‘One job should be enough’

SAN FRANCISCO — Chanting “One job should be enough!” some 1,000 hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2, and their supporters marched here on Labor Day Sept. 3. Actions took place that day at Marriott-owned hotels in seven other U.S. cities where contracts have recently expired.

Many workers told the Militant they had to work two jobs to make ends meet. Others said they could only pay their bills working lots of extra hours.

“I’ve worked so much overtime I had little time for my family,” said Jose Alvarado, a Hyatt restaurant worker for 45 years. His co-worker, Salvador Aviles, told the Militant that keeping his medical insurance and pension is his greatest concern.

“If workers can unite, all together we can make real change,” said Dishwash-tae Abernathy, a worker at the St. Regis Hotel, who was inspired by the protest.

“Marriott proposed a total dollar amount to be divided up between our medical benefits, pension and wages,” said a Local 2 flier issued after the action. That is “much less than our last contract.”

On Sept. 13 Local 2 members — cooks, servers, room cleaners, bellmen and others — from seven Marriott hotels here voted by 98.6 percent to authorize a strike.

— Joel Britton

Striking hotel workers in Chicago rally for yearlong health care

CHICAGO — “Every winter when the hotel business slows down, the lower seniority workers get laid off or our hours get cut. Then the hotel owners say we don’t work enough hours to get health insurance, and we’re without until business picks up. That’s the main reason we’re on strike,” said Laura McKinney, a housekeeper at the Holiday Inn with two years on the job. “We need year-round health insurance. Having no health insurance for months can be very expensive.”

McKinney was one of more than 3,000 striking hotel workers and their supporters marching and rallying here Sept. 13. The unanimous contract covering the workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 1, expired Sept. 1. The strike involves some 6,000 workers at 26 hotels.

Picketing is 24/7. This is the biggest strike in years in the Chicago area.

The march began in the downtown loop and ended up at the Palmer House on the North Side. There was real excitement in the air because this was the first time strikers from all 26 hotels gathered together.

Bennie Scott, who has worked at the Hilton for 16 years, told the Militant that he’d been on strike there before. “But this is much better, with all of us striking together, instead of hotel by hotel,” he said.

He said the bosses are really trying to speed up the work and to make workers do multiple jobs. “Everyone is tired of it,” he said, adding, “if it wasn’t for the union, half of us would be fired.”

Maria Barragan is originally from Guerrero, Mexico, and has worked as a housekeeper at the Hilton for eight years. “Over the years we took on more and more work. Since they laid off customer service workers a while back,” she said, “we now do some of that work also.”

“Not only do we want year-round health insurance, we want to maintain our vacation days, and our sick days pay,” said Lanita Payton, who works as a room attendant at the Palmer House. “We want to live better.”

Ahiarz Maher, originally from Sri Lanka, has worked five years at the Kinzie Hotel as a doorman. “We take luggage to and from rooms, do paperwork for the valet and other things that come up from the customers. We get $510 per hour pay and count on tips,” he said. “The problem is these days most people don’t carry cash. So our tips are down 80 percent.”

The strike is having an impact. Some hotel restaurants have been forced to close down and at least two conferences have relocated.

— Dan Fein

Industrial glass strikers in Montreal win solidarity

MONTREAL — “They want us to do overtime without overtime pay.” Oldcastle Building Envelope striker Bruno Zaviolette told the Militant on the Unifor Local 6000 picket line here Sept. 12.

“All we want is a wage increase to cover the rise in the cost of living and a bit more, but the bosses are playing with our hours, vacation days and other work conditions,” said Zaviolette, an assembler with 15 years in the plant. “They are pushing for more production too.”

The workers are pushing for better glass windows, skylights, storefronts and facades for the construction industry. The plant is located in the Montreal borough of Pointe-aux-Trembles. Some 100 unionists went on strike July 6 after their contract expired in March, setting up a tent and a trailer in front of the plant.

Strikers gave a warm welcome to Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in the Oct. 1 Quebec provincial election, when she joined the picket line to bring solidarity and to learn more about their fight.

The strikers are getting a lot of support.

“On Aug. 24, 250 Unifor members, mostly from other locals, including from across the country, turned out to a solidarity barbecue,” Local 6000 President Veronique Figliuzzi told Bernardo. That same day a Unifor rally in solidarity with the Quebec strikers took place at the Oldcastle plant in Vaughan, Ontario, near Toronto. Eighty-five of the strikers attended the Aug. 17-19 Unifor Canadian Council meeting and received a standing ovation from the delegates.

— John Steele

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

October 4, 1993

MARSHALL, Minnesota — Pdent up anger over months of racist abuse of immigrant workers from Somalia by bosses at Heartland Foods sparked walkouts and protests at the turkey-processing plant here in southwestern Minnesota farm country.

The actions, which began Septem ber 10, virtually shut down produc tion on the plant’s night shift, which is composed almost entirely of workers who are Somali. About 150 of Heart land’s 600 workers are from Somalia. The plant is organized by the Interna tional Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The walkout was touched off when the son-in-law of an operations manager hurled a turkey drumstick at a Somali worker. Grievances ranged from insufficient break periods and refusal by supervisors to allow work ers to warm their hands after working in ice, to line production speed.

October 1, 2018

On the eve of the Olympic Games in Mexico City, civil strife in the nation’s capital has flared into street fighting in a number of neighborhoods.

A Sept. 23 police attack on a demonstration near the National Polytechnic Institute led to an all-night battle between cops and students. The students, most of whom were of high-school age, defended themselves against police gun fire with firearms. The battle only ended when army detachments had been called to reinforce the police.

The cause of the flareup was a decision by the Diaz Ordaz government to use all the military forces necessary to end the student movement that has been building up around the central slogan, “Free Mexico’s Political Prisoners!”

The police violence has served only to broaden the protest movement, to calls for the immediate and unconditional independence of Puerto Rico.
Protests shake up Iraq govt’
Continued from front page
ment with Shiite militia commander Hadi al-Amiri, who is strongly linked to the Iranian revolutionary regime.
No new government has been formed since elections were held in May. Size-
bale working-class protests in Basra demanded Abadi's resignation. The protests had taken to the streets, occupied oil fields, formed workers councils and won gains for women and oppressed nationalities.

The Iranian capitalists sought to end this and extend abroad the assa-
sults they carried out on working people at home. They fought to estab-
lis h a corridor of military power, political influence and economic ex-
ploration across the region.

Attacks on Iraqi Kurds

By side by side with their intervention in Syria and Iraq, the Iranian government has stepped up its assaults at home. Over the Sept. 9-10 weekend it launched a bombing raid on Iraqi Kurds based just across the border in Iraq and executed six Kurdish political prisoners in Iran. Shopkeepers in several cities in Kurdistan parts of Iraq Sept. 12 orga-
nized a strike to oppose both the execu-
tions and the airstrikes. The Kurds have been fighting for de-
cades for their national rights.

Events unfolding today in Iraq are built on years of imperialist foreign

militias, all backed by Iran's cleric-led forces. The offices of three differ-
ent faction within the Iraqi state security

ed by Tehran, which is also the biggest

the largest Shiite armed group support-

quarters of the Badr Organization —

able to take the streets, occupied oil

killing in tens of thousands getting sick;

in the Mideast goes back to

militaries sharing power in the region. For Tehran,

mentation building in the cities.
The development that take place as

pleases against Sunni Muslims and

Tehran-backed militias also built a

creasing its widely despised influence in

further undermining Iraqi sovereign-

ty, bolstering the Iranian rulers' pred-

sider İçin and the Med-

in the early 1980s, aimed at crushing

Islamic Relations.

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As atividades financiadas por essas empresas têm um impacto significativo na economia local, mas também têm influência na política e na sociedade em geral. 

Referências:
1. Information from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2018.
2. Data obtained through interviews with local business owners, 2018.
3. Research conducted by local NGOs, 2018.

Assinatura: João dos Santos

Editoriais:

Os editores da Folha preferem não se expressar sobre este assunto.
Social catastrophe from storms are a product of capitalist rule

BY SETH GALINSKY
According to the liberal news media, nature’s inevitable storms and floods, exacerbated by rampant global warming, are the reason for the unfolding social disasters in North Carolina, the Philippines and Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Florence. (Photo: John Mangkhat and Hurricane Maria.)

The Washington Post went so far as to blame President Donald Trump because of his stance on climate change. “Another hurricane is about to batter our coast. Trump is complicit,” the Post editorialized Sept. 11 before Florence struck.

But when they’re not blaming global warming or Trump, the capitalist press blames working people for choosing to live in harm’s way.

But all this takes the fire off the real cause of the deaths and destruction — the profit drive and dog-eat-dog morality of capitalism.

The biggest damage from Florence came not from wind, but from flooding. But the dangers of flooding on the North Carolina coast and rivers is nothing new. Nonetheless North Carolina legislators in 2018 scrapped a code requiring new construction in flood zones to rise a foot or more above the Federal Emergency Management Agency base flood level.

Construction companies realized interests, land speculators and banks, backed by governments at every level, promote profit-generating construction in low-lying areas and flood zones.

The higher risk of flooding makes the land cheaper, pushing workers to live in those riskiest areas. In Lumberton, North Carolina, those who live in the low-lying areas around the Lumbar River are among the poorest in Robeson County. When Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016, the river crested more than 24 feet high, wiping out the city flooded again this time.

As of Sept. 18 there were no official statistics on how many homes were damaged by the hurricane or how many people left home. But in New Bern, North Carolina, alone more than 4,300 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Many workers will be hit with a double whammy. “Florence is a Tragedy for Homeowners, Not Insurers,” says the headline of the Sept. 17 Wall Street Journal, noting that wind damage is covered by most insurance policies — for those working people who can afford them — but not flood damage.

Landlords profit from storms
The next day the Journal noted that the storm will be a boon for big landlords. The paper said after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas last year, landlords took advantage of the increased demand for housing by jacking up rents. With thousands made homeless by Florence, North Carolina landlords with buildings still standing stand to make a killing.

As Florence approached, state and local governments in the Carolinas and Virginia ordered some 1.5 million people to evacuate. But working people were left on their own to comply.

The storm cut a swath through less densely populated areas, mainly on Luzon Island, the food breadbasket of the Philippines, but still put millions at risk.

Like in the U.S., it’s working people and the poor who are forced to live in the areas most vulnerable to flooding and landslides. Most of the dozens who died in this year’s storm were buried in landslides in mountainous regions due to the heavy rainfall.

Many small farmers ignored calls to evacuate, worried they would lose what little they have in a region where many get by on $2 or less a day. They stayed put as the lesser evil. “Our house was blown away. We were flooded,” Di- day Lorento told Agence France-Presse. “We did not evacuate because we didn’t want to leave our carabao (water-buffalo) and livestock.”

At least 32 people died in a mining town in Benguet province when they took shelter in a church that was buried in a landslide. Dozens of miners joined rescue teams, trying to find survivors and dig out bodies by hand.

That’s another side of the social disaster that working people share around the globe. They find they can’t rely on the government, but have to take care of each other in the face of the disaster.

In North Carolina, like in Texas last year, working people, including volunteers from self-organized Cajun Navy, used their own boats to rescue people trapped in their homes or cars.

In Wilmington, North Carolina, with all roads to the city impassable and food running short, a group of workers pooled whatever they had. Deborah Phillips told the Journal that her neighbors scraped together a few vegetables, a tomato and a hambone. They called it “Hurricane Florence soup,” she said. “It was pretty good.”

Only in Cuba are things done differently.

Led by their government, working people in revolutionary Cuba are organized to put human lives first when a dangerous storm approaches. Everyone in one danger zone, and their pets, are evacuated. Volunteers help harvest crops before the storm hits and move livestock to safety shelters that are stocked with food and water and staffed with doctors and nurses. From getting ready before the storm arrives, to weathering it, to rebuilding afterwards, no one is left on their own.

This is possible because working people in Cuba made a revolution in 1959 and took power out of the hands of the capitalist class. Workers and farmers from the U.S. to Puerto Rico to the Philippines need to do the same.

No nearby relatives in a safe area? Not enough money for a hotel or gas? No car? At best you might get loaded on a bus and taken to an overcrowded shelter.

Few warnings about Florence were issued in Spanish and many of North Carolina’s 150,000 farmworkers were unaware of the scope of the coming storm. The storm creates the same types of challenges worldwide. Philippine officials claim they had learned from their mistakes during 2013’s Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated a large part of the country, leaving 6,000 dead and destroying 1.2 million homes. The government did little to organize an evacuation or position relief supplies in advance.

This year officials evacuated more than 105,000 people to temporary shelters before the arrival of 550-mile-wide Super Typhoon Mangkhut. The storm cut a swath through less densely populated areas and flood zones.

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Manila book fair draws over 100,000 participants

BY JANET ROTH AND RON POULSEN
MANILA, Philippines — The Manila International Book Fair, held for 39 years, opened here Sept. 12. For the first time in nearly three decades U.S.-based Pathfinder Press, which publishes books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other working-class revolutionaries, is among the exhibitors and has been welcomed with enthusiasm by many participants.

Organizers say they expected the five-day fair to attract 150,000 participants, though the attendance may be affected by heavy rains, wind and flooding accompanying the super typhoon hammering the northern tip of the country.

Over 100 bookstores, distributors and publishers, mainly from the Philippines, are here. Two book store chains, National Bookstore and Fully Booked, occupy the largest booths. You can find text and reference books, children’s and young adults’ books, numerous Catholic and Evangelical publishing houses, university presses and publishers of Filipino and world literature. Pathfinder is the only stand offering a broad range of books on working-class history and politics.

Author presentations, book signings and related activities take place daily. Most booths have large quantities of titles in English, which children start learning in kindergarten. Many also carry books in Filipino, the country’s official language, which used to be known as Tagalog.

The Pathfinder Press booth is organized by Pathfinder Books, its Sydney, Australia, distributor. Its promotional flyer encourages participants to “view and discuss books for today’s deepening debate among working people looking for a way out of the political crises, economic and social devastation, national oppression and wars — inevitable product of the world capitalist system.”

“There is a wide range includes titles drawing the lessons from the modern working-class movement in all its forms,” the flyer states, “from the founding Communist Manifesto to the Russian and Cuban revolutions, battles of the US working class, movements for national liberation and socialism worldwide, struggles for women’s liberation, and much more.”

Told by revolutionary leaders of integrity in their own words.

Young artists Vaughn Calimag and Jevon Lumagui, came by the Pathfinder booth the first day. They perused the books, trying to decide what to buy. “This booth is different. It’s intriguing. The books are about reality. We have the same set of problems here,” Calimag said.

“These are books for working-class people to have a voice. They empower us,” added Lumagui.

They ended up buying Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, Origins of Materialism by George Novack; Sexism and Science by Evelyn Reed; and a subscription to the Militant.
Imperialism pauses only when it faces a people ready to fight.

Below are excerpts from Making History: Interviews With Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. The Spanish edition is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for September. The section quoted is from the interview with Néstor López Cuba on Oct. 20, 1997, by Socialists Workers Party-Nationally-recognized Secretary Jack Barnes, Pathfinder Press President Mary-Alice Waters and Pathfinder editor Martin Klopé. López Cuba joined the revolutionary struggle in 1957 at the age of 19. He led a tank as part of defending the revolution in 1957 at the age of 19. He led a tank in 1957 at the age of 19. He led a tank in 1957 at the age of 19. He led a tank in 1957 at the age of 19. He led a tank in 1957 at the age of 19.

“The Militant” October 1, 2018

Below are excerpts from Making History: Interviews With Four Generals of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces that saved the world. López Cuba told us that the truth lies elsewhere. It was the Cuban people and its Revolutionary Armed Forces that saved the world.

Kennedy fully intended to mount an invasion of Cuba in October 1962, as he had been planning to do for more than a year. Previously classified documents released in the past few years, however, show that his hand was stayed when the Pentagon informed him that he could expect an estimated 18,000 U.S. troop casualties during the first ten days alone of an invasion. The Cuban people were armed and mobilized on a massive scale, Kennedy was told by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Cuban army was large for a small country, and, together with the militias, very combat-ready.

Kennedy feared the domestic political consequences as a flood of body bags started seriously probing Khrushchev about what he was doing during the October Crisis hit. So I was not one of those who were ready to fight like the armed forces, and the people of Cuba above all, played a decisive role in preventing a nuclear holocaust. Because it was understood in Washington that the people would fight and the invasion would be costly, …

Now, let me turn to your question about my role during the October Crisis. After Giron I went to the Soviet Union to take my first study course for tank crews. That’s where I was when the October Crisis hit. So I was not one of the protagonists of those events.

BARNES: Perhaps you can tell us what the atmosphere was like among the Cubans who were in Russia during the crisis? And among those in the Russian military who were training you?

LOPEZ CUBA: Well, information began to arrive immediately. Those of us at the military academy were told that the instructions from Cuba were for us to remain calm, that there were sufficient forces there to solve the problem. But we planned to hijack a plane from the Moscow airport and return to Cuba. This coincided with a visit by Che [Guevara] to Africa, so our leaders sent him to Moscow to meet with us and calm us down, since they knew we were prepared to return to Cuba at all costs. We were ready to head to the airport and seize a plane by force, militarily. We were going to steal the guns from the stockade at the school. But we had it all planned, because we knew we were not going to be allowed to leave otherwise.

That was the situation. But there was something else. We had already spent eight months at the academy, and were well liked by the teachers and person- nel, who were also closely following the situation in Cuba. So we had volunteers to come join us in the expedition!

I’ve never told this story before. But that’s what happened. We came up with a plot to figure out how we were going to return to Cuba, no matter what.

The Soviet people — our teachers, ordinary people — showed a great deal of solidarity with us. They knew about the unilateral decisions taken by the Khrushchev government and were against them. They also knew about Kii- fel’s declaration that the moral missiles we possessed in Cuba were more pow- erful than the nuclear missiles. All these speeches reached the Soviet people.

WATERS: During those same days in October 1962, we were organizing dem- onstrations in the United States. Jack and I were both university students at that time, in different cities.

LOPEZ CUBA: You were organizing support activities.

WATERS: Yes. To demand “U.S. Hands Off Cuba!” “U.S. Out of Guantánamo!” “Stop the Invasion!”

BARNES: Soviet intellectuals in the United States had no contact with revolu- tionists in Cuba when the crisis began, of course. But we supported the Cuban revolutionaries. Without the revolu- tionary-minded young people in the U.S., including myself, we were actually won to communism in Cuba. I spent several months here in Cuba in the sum- mer of 1960. I recall asking a Cuban compañero I had come to trust whether he thought I should stay in Cuba or go back to the United States. I wanted to stay, but we all knew the invasion was coming.

“Go back to the United States,” he told me, “and make a revolution there.” I didn’t know if he was right, but I never went back on that agreement.

The big majority in the communist movement in the U.S. — young or old — responded as we did. We knew the Cuban people were ready to fight, and we were determined to fight alongside them. The most important lesson for you revolutionaries is to learn that the imperialists pause only when they have to face those who are ready to fight like you are in Cuba. Otherwise one starts having to ask whether all this history is negotiated by big governments.

LOPEZ CUBA: What you say is very important because popular pressure in the United States is what forced the U.S. government to pull its troops out of Vietnam.

The Cuban revolution today remains one of the few models of what the U.S. government knows that the pro- gressive people of the United States, the working people, will take to the streets to attack on Cuba, as they did during Vietnam. There is soli- darity with Cuba around the world, as well, and this too has acted as a brake on Washington.
Protest: Jail Dallas cop

Chest. Her key was found in the lock. She thought he was a burglar, so she screamed "verbal commands." Other residents on the floor said they heard her yelling for Jean to let her in and shooting him without any warning.

It wasn't until three days later that Guyger was arrested, charged with manslaughter and released on $300,000 bond.

The killing of Botham Jean came on the heels of the Aug. 28 murder conviction of Dallas County police officer Roy Oliver for the 2017 killing of 15-year-old African-American Jordan Edwards. The next day the jury sentenced Oliver to 15 years in prison.

"We need to know, are there special favors for the police? Why are there no answers?" Dr. Ben Foster, pastor at the Church of Christ in Garland, told the Militant at the service. "Are they protecting the cop?

"I sat behind Botham in Bible class at school. He made a difference in a lot of people's lives. He showed us how to live. I never saw him angry. I want justice," said 25-year-old Courtney Davis from Plano. Botham Jean graduated from Hardin University in Arkansas, where Davis goes to school. The school held a vigil for him the day after the shooting and many students and teachers attended the funeral.

There were a number of people who came from St. Lucia for the service. "My heart is heavy," Ma-deline Burnett said. "My parents know his mom. When the body is sent to St. Lucia the service will be large." She said that when the word spread of Jean's killing, a vigil was held there.

Family, clergy denounce killing, smear

"The undeniable reality is he was slain in his home, where he had the right to be and was abid-

ing by the law," Sammie Barry, minister of the West Dallas Church of Christ where Jean was ac-

tive, told a press conference attended by clergy, the family and its attorneys following Jean's fu-

neral. "We are here and demand justice for our de-

ar brother Bo." Allison Jean, Botham's mother, denounced the cops at a Sept. 14 press conference for releasing a report on the day of her son's funeral. The report showed there was 10.4 grams of marijuana in his apartment.

"Give me justice for my son because he does not deserve what he got," she said. "I will not sit back and see that justice does not prevail." She added, "Twenty-six-year-old Botham was not a gangster and it took being murdered by a white Dallas police officer in his own home to make Botham Jean a criminal," Lee Merritt, one of the family's attorneys, added.

Guyger, a 30-year-old veteran of the Dallas police department, has been put on paid administrative leave. In an earlier incident, she shot Uvaldo Perez, who was a suspect in a criminal investiga-

tion. She was indicted.

Since the killing, there have been series of pro-
tests and vigils throughout Dallas demanding that Guyger be fired, prosecuted and jailed. "The offi-
cer must be held accountable," Botham Jean's mother Lee Mer-
ritt told the crowd at a Sept. 14 protest outside the Dallas police department. "And we cannot forget

the police. We must continue to fight police brutal-

ity against working people."

Militant. 'Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prison-
ers reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners Fund" to 208 W. 37th St., 12th Floor, New York, NY 10018.