

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Lenin discusses Tolstoy's writing
and coming Russian Revolution
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 37 OCTOBER 8, 2018

'Working people need to build our own political party'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"The working class in this country should have more of a say. We do need a voice," Marion Franklin, a medical personal care assistant, told Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers

SWP SPEAKS WITH, FOR WORKING PEOPLE

Party candidate for U.S. Senate, when she knocked on his door in Shakopee, Minnesota, Sept. 22.

"We need our own party to unify the working class, to defend our class interests," said Meyers. "The government and the political parties that make it up today represent the capitalists."

"Yes," agreed Franklin. "This is how it's been and I'm afraid it always will be."

"It is by organizing and fighting that we will wake up to our worth and learn what we are truly capable of," SWP member David Rosenfeld said. "We are organizing to build a movement that will overthrow capitalist rule and place the working class in power."

Continued on page 3

Puerto Rico: One year after Hurricane Maria

Social disaster is result of capitalism, colonial rule



Reuters/Carlos Barria

Lucila Cabrera, 86, sits on porch of her house near Barceloneta, Puerto Rico, still covered with plastic tarp. One year after Hurricane Maria, tens of thousands of homes still have not gotten funds or help to build a new roof. FEMA has denied one third of requests for aid.

BY SETH GALINSKY

One year after Hurricane Maria made landfall in the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico last Sept. 20, the U.S. and local governments continue to display their class disregard for the lives of working people there.

Most, but still not all, of the country has electricity and drinking water —

most of the time. But 60,000 homes still have only blue tarps as roofs and tens of thousands more were destroyed or severely damaged. Many roads and bridges have not been repaired.

Under dog-eat-dog capitalist rule, all
Continued on page 7

Washington, Pyongyang press talks on nuclear arms

BY SETH GALINSKY

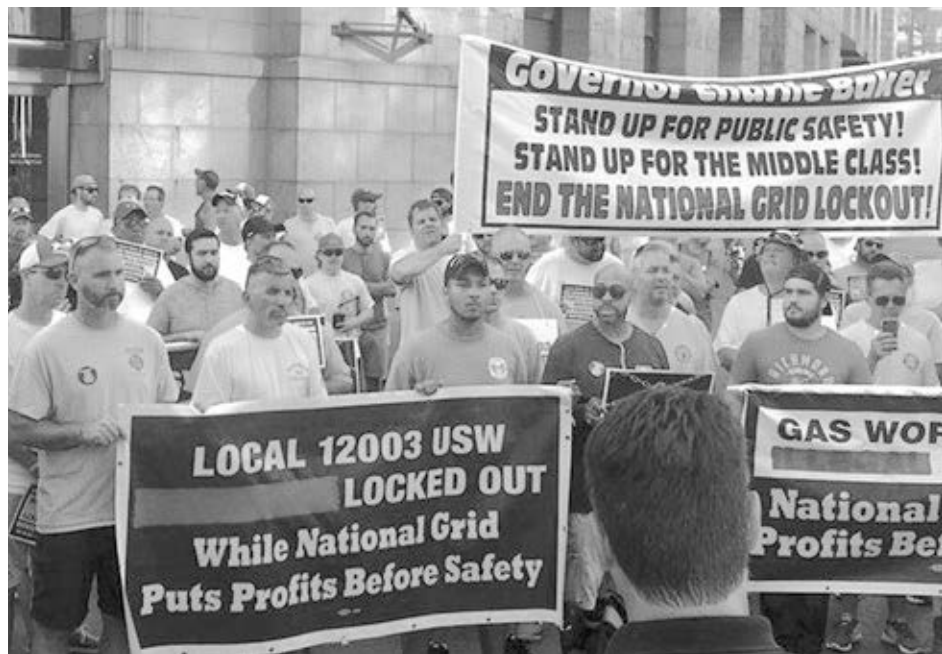
Efforts by the rulers in Washington and leaders in North Korea to reach an agreement on "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula moved forward during a three-day summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang Sept. 18-20. President Donald Trump responded to that progress Sept. 24, saying he and Kim would meet again "quite soon."

Kim wants "a second summit with President Trump to happen at the earliest convenience in order to speed up the denuclearization process," Moon said.

Moon and Kim agreed to create a no-fly zone along their border, including on its Yellow Sea maritime boundary; remove 11 front-line guard posts; and end live artillery drills within 3 miles of the demilitarized zone.

Their "September Pyongyang Declaration" reaffirmed that "the Korean Peninsula must be turned into a land of peace free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threats, and that substantial progress toward this end must be
Continued on page 4

Bosses refuse help from locked-out unionists in Mass. gas explosions



USW Local 12003

Unionists locked out by National Grid power company at Aug. 29 protest, above, offered to help after explosions at homes served by nonunion Columbia Gas. They were turned down.

BY TED LEONARD

BOSTON — Gas explosions rocked houses in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, three towns along the Merrimack River near Boston Sept. 13, killing one person and injuring dozens. Seventy homes exploded or caught fire from leaks caused by

overpressurized gas lines owned and operated by Columbia Gas Company.

"It just went up, it sounded like we were being bombed," Kimberly Nicollosi, who was a block away from one house that exploded in North Andover, told the *Boston Herald*.

Continued on page 5

Liberals assault rights workers need over Supreme Court pick

BY TERRY EVANS

On Sept. 27 the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold an unusual second hearing on President Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme

Court. He has been loudly accused of sexual abuse in two instances — neither with any corroborating evidence — that took place over 30 years ago when he was a teenager.

The hearing is the result of the workings of the determined "resistance" by Democrats, liberal media outlets and the middle-class left to Trump's presidency, and, more importantly, against the workers who either voted for him or
Continued on page 9

Fight Florida prison authorities ban on another issue of 'Militant'!

BY SETH GALINSKY

The day after the Literature Review Committee of the Florida Department of Corrections overturned the impoundment of issue no. 29 of the *Militant*, officials at the Raiford prison banned issue no. 34.

Florida prison officials — in violation of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and of the press — have impounded some 18 issues of the paper over the last two years, then the Literature Review Committee overturned all but five.

Raiford officials cited two articles
Continued on page 4

Inside

Editorial: Demand US rulers end Korea War! 9

Typhoon hits Philippines, adds to social crisis facing workers 2

Russian, Turkish rulers truce in Idlib, Syria, holds - for now 8

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Workers win strike over health care at several Chicago hotels

Kentucky UFCW workers end strike, push back two-tier plan

Typhoon hits Philippines, adds to social crisis facing workers

BY RON POULSEN

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Mangkhut, named Ompong here, slammed into northern Luzon, the largest island in the north of the archipelago, Sept. 15. With torrential rains and sustained winds of 105 mph gusting up to 160 mph, the Category 5 equivalent storm caused disastrous flooding, high storm surges and deadly landslides. It also destroyed houses and fields, while disrupting power supplies and transport in the country’s main agricultural zone.

The destruction was worsened by earlier saturating monsoon rains. But the social calamity from the tropical storm is directly attributable to the workings of capitalism and underdevelopment perpetuated by imperialist exploitation. This has left working people in the coastal countryside and mountain areas most vulnerable to the many tropical cyclones that strike the country.

Over 130,000 people were evacuated from low-lying areas to more than 1,000 emergency centers. Almost 1 million were directly struck by the superstorm as it crossed the island, with 10 million people lashed by extreme weather. Indigenous people dependent on subsistence farming or fishing were hit hard.

As of Sept. 23 the death toll had risen to 95, with many still missing. The largest single calamity occurred in Itogon, Benguet, where dozens of “pocket” gold miners and family members were buried alive when a giant mudslide covered a bunkhouse-cum-chapel where they were sheltering.

The hillside had been undermined

by previous large-scale mining now abandoned, while authorities turned a blind eye to the perilous illegal mining operations that continued across the honey-combed mountainside. Like other areas where landslides occurred, it had been denuded of trees by mining and timber companies.

Police had told the workers to evacuate as the typhoon approached but they were reluctant to leave the site, their sole source of livelihood.

Filipino Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu demanded cops enforce a ban on pocket mining. This would affect the livelihood of tens of thousands who he claimed were guilty of “mining without permit or theft of minerals.” At the same time he reassured capitalist mining interests this order “does not cover big-scale mining.”

In addition to the human toll, the typhoon has added to another social disaster — soaring prices on basic food and fuel, the highest in a decade. This inflation is driving millions of toilers deeper into poverty.

A quarter of a million tons of rice, one month away from harvest, was lost. Fields of corn and other crops were flattened, fisheries damaged and livestock numbers depleted.

“The price of vegetables, mainly grown in the north, has shot up,” Linette Chua, a Filipina Chinese-English translator, told the *Militant* a week after the storm. This began with the heavy “monsoon weather of the past several months,” she said, but the typhoon “wiped out roads and disrupted vegetable supplies to the capital, Manila.”



ABS-CBN News/Jonathan Cellona

Miners join rescue workers to dig out victims buried in mudslide in Itogon, Philippines.

Even before the storm struck, a shortage of the cheapest palay (unmilled) rice had caused the price of regularly milled rice to soar by more than 20 percent. The inflationary crisis was the lead item on the news for days prior to the approach of Ompong. Price increases on staple goods are the highest in nearly a decade, at 6.4 percent in August alone.

Rampant inflation

The government of President Rodrigo Duterte has announced the intention to try to stem price hikes by importing even more rice and sugar.

The Philippines, already one of the world’s largest rice importers, buys the grain more cheaply from Vietnam and also Thailand than from domestic growers. Vietnamese rice is cheaper as greater productivity of labor through mechanization, better irrigation systems and higher quality seed lowers the cost of production there compared to Filipino farmers.

Rice farms in Vietnam also produce three crops per year as against two in the Philippines.

The government National Food Authority, responsible for providing basic supplies of rice, buys the unmilled grain from local farmers for 17 Filipino pesos per kilogram (31 cents per 2.2 pounds). Private traders offer farmers

more than 20 pesos. Rice hoarding by traders is also widespread.

Inflation has been sharpened by a jump in fuel prices from rising world crude oil costs as well, combined with the Philippine peso’s falling exchange rate in the wake of currency depreciations in “emerging economies” from Turkey to Argentina.

Manila, like other capitalist governments, is shifting the burden onto working people by increasing sales taxes on diesel, kerosene and cooking gas, as well as taxing shipping fuel and coal used in electricity generation. The liberal press, the bourgeois opposition Liberal Party and the leftist Makabayan bloc are calling for these tax hikes to be suspended to alleviate some price increases.

In a growing bid to oust Duterte, his capitalist rivals blame him for causing the inflation and typhoon-caused social calamities. Duterte in turn blames “over-mining” and “food supply shocks.” All deny the real source of the man-made disasters — the inevitable workings of the capitalist system.

Imperialist powers in the Pacific from the United States to Australia, which have historically profited greatly from mining and other super-exploitation of land and labor in the semicolonial country, have promised token emergency supplies in the wake of the typhoon.

THE MILITANT

Join fight against prison censorship!

Pennsylvania officials have imposed harsh new restrictions on prisoners’ access to books, periodicals and letters. The ‘Militant,’ which has dozens of subscribers in Pennsylvania prisons, defends the right of workers behind bars to read books and periodicals of their choosing.

Militant/Janet Post
Books sent back to Books Through Bars by Pennsylvania prison authorities.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

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

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

The Militant

Vol. 82/No. 37
Closing news date: September 26, 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.
Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send

\$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.
Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.
Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.
United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.
Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.
France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.
New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, 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 by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

‘Workers need our own party’

Continued from front page

“Maybe if you start fighting now,” Franklin said, “even if you start small, we will see what it can be in 10 years.” He got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and a subscription to the *Militant*. (See ad below for all the titles on special.)

Meeting working people on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas to discuss political developments and the way forward for the working class and the labor movement is the central weekly activity of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Party members speak out for all those targeted by the capitalist rulers’ attacks.

These discussions offer the best opportunity to share experiences and discuss a way forward in response to historic political developments. The “world order” the U.S. rulers imposed after they emerged victorious from the second imperialist world war is fraying and coming part.

“We need strong unions to fight for safety and against wage and job cuts,” warehouse worker Vanessa Goral told Communist League member Catharina Tirsén when she knocked on her door in Newbury Park in east London Sept. 22. Goral said that she had been working for a big corporation for a year until “being released” recently. The company uses agency workers they can “flexibly hire and fire,” she said. But even though she was a regular company employee, “it made no difference,” she said, because the bosses eliminated her job too.

“We need to build a working-class-led movement of millions to remove the propertied rulers from power and establish a government run by workers and farmers,” said Tirsén. “To do that we have to overcome the divisions the rulers impose on us and forge unity in struggle. Unions that start from the interests of the workers, not from ‘understanding the problems faced by the employers’ is what we need,” she said.

Fight against Jew-hatred

Taking up what is one of the biggest discussions among working people here — anti-Semitism being rife in the opposition Labour Party — Tirsén said, “We have to fight against Jew-hatred and other forms of scapegoating. Big stakes are involved for the working class.”

Goral responded that she knew very well from personal and family experience what Tirsén was talking about. “I was born here, but I come from a Polish Roma family. My family language is Gypsy,” she said. “Scapegoating of Roma people can be very strong.”

“I have two friends on strike at the downtown hotels who will be happy to learn about your campaign for governor,” Dina Pickett, a teacher’s aide, told Dan Fein, SWP candidate for Illinois governor, Sept. 23 at her doorstep in Bellwood, just west of Chicago. “I am glad you came to



Militant/Leroy Watkins

Dina Pickett, a teacher’s aide, speaks with Dan Fein, SWP candidate for Illinois governor, at her house in Bellwood.

Books on special offer...

Above: \$7 each, \$5 with subscription.
At left: \$15, \$10 with subscription.

See list of distributors on page 8
For full catalog visit:
www.pathfinderpress.com



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Communist League member Catharina Tirsén, right, speaks with Vanessa Goral on her doorstep in Newbury Park in east London Sept. 22. In discussing fight against Jew-hatred, Goral said, “I come from a Polish Roma family. Scapegoating of Roma people can be very strong.”

my house today.”

Thousands of hotel workers in the Chicago area have been on strike demanding hotel owners provide year-long health care, with some bosses having been forced to concede. (See article on page 5.)

“My own experience is that the school boards have plenty of money for superintendents’ salaries and bonuses,” said Pickett, “and little for the employees and the students.”

“The capitalist system is based on profits. It’s in crisis today and the rulers’ solution is to make the working class pay,” said Fein. “We need to break from the Democrats and Republicans and fight for independent working-class political action, for our own party, to fight to replace the capitalist rulers with a workers and farmers government.”

Pickett got a subscription to the *Militant* to follow the activities of the SWP.

Campaigning door to door in the Albany area, Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, got into discussions about how nurses at the Albany Medical Center had won representation by the New York State Nurses Association.

“I’m not in a union but I’m glad those Albany Med nurses voted for the union,” Sandra Jones, 55, a Guyanese-born home health care worker, told Trowe. “We need unions, so we don’t have to deal with the bosses one by one.”

Albany party member Samantha Hamlin knocked on a door, where she and two brothers, Michael and Timothy Johnson, both grocery work-

ers, got into a discussion about what workers face today.

‘Capitalism is the problem’

Timothy Johnson said he thought that capitalism “in its original form” was not intended to turn out the way it is today, and that “inequality needs to be lessened.”

“Capitalism has, from its beginning, been drenched in the blood and sweat of workers,” Hamlin said. “To make a profit and be able to compete, capitalists must exploit labor and cut costs at our expense. Over time we have made some advances, but only through mass struggles, like the Teamsters organizing drives in the 1930s and the battle to end Jim Crow segregation.” Both brothers bought copies of the *Militant* to learn more.

To join with the party in doorstep discussions with fellow workers, or learn more about our program and activities, contact the SWP or Communist League nearest you, listed on page 8.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Brexit Crisis: Working Class Needs to Act in Our Own Political Interests. Fri., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place M12 6HS. Tel.: (0161) 258-2569.

Join SWP/Communist League campaigns!

California

Laura Garza, Governor
Dennis Richter, US Senate
Carole Lesnick, US Congress, 13th CD

Florida

Steven Warshell, US Senate

Georgia

Rachele Fruit, Governor

Illinois

Dan Fein, Governor
Laura Anderson, Lt. Governor

Maryland

James Harris, US Senate

Minnesota

Helen Meyers, US Senate
David Rosenfeld, Governor

New York

Roger Calero, Governor
Margaret Trowe, US Senate

Harry D’Agostino, Lt. Governor
Jacob Perasso, Attorney General

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, US Senate

Washington

Edwin Fruit, US Senate
Henry Dennison, US Congress, 9th CD

Washington, DC

Ned Measel, Delegate, US Congress

Canada

British Columbia

Katy LeRougetel, Mayor of Vancouver

Quebec

Beverly Bernardo, Montreal Viau constituency for Quebec National Assembly

Korea talks on nuclear arms

Continued from front page made in a prompt manner.”

The government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea offered to permanently dismantle its missile testing site and launch platform in the northwestern town of Tongchang-ri, and to allow outside experts to observe. The site was used to test-fire intercontinental ballistic missiles last year that had the capacity to reach the U.S.

Kim added that Pyongyang would permanently dismantle its Yongbyon nuclear complex, its main site for production of nuclear weapons, if Washington “takes corresponding measures” in the “spirit” of the agreement Kim and Trump reached in Singapore in June. According to Moon, the “measure” the North Koreans want is a U.S. declaration officially ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

Declaring the war finally over would not mean the withdrawal of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South, Moon said, but would be a meaningful symbolic step.

After the summit ended, State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said that all three governments have a “shared understanding” that U.S. and International Atomic Energy inspectors will be involved in the shutdown of the Yongbyon complex.

North and South are ‘one people’

While in Pyongyang, Moon spoke to a crowd of 150,000 people, saying, “We have lived together for 5,000 years and apart for 70. We must live together as one people.”

The U.S. government — with the agreement of Moscow — trampled on the Korean people’s national sovereignty and divided Korea into North and South in 1945, after the defeat of Tokyo in the second imperialist World War. In the North, working people carried out a deep-going agrarian reform, expropriated the landlords and capitalists, and carried out other social measures in their interests. But in the South the U.S. military put in place the Syngman Rhee dictatorship that brutally put down protests by workers and farmers.

Millions were killed during the Korean War, which broke out in 1950. In a shock to the U.S. rulers, Korean workers and farmers, with the help of Chinese volunteers, fought the U.S.-led invasion army to a stalemate, dealing U.S. imperialism its first ever military defeat.

But while Washington was forced to agree to an armistice, it refused to sign a peace treaty to formally end the war. Until 1991 the U.S. government openly kept tactical nuclear weapons on South Korean territory. U.S. nuclear-armed submarines continue to prowl the Pa-

cific to this day.

Kim and Moon also agreed to hold more reunification meetings for families that have been divided for over 70 years since the peninsula was split in two. They also agreed to pave the way for video family meetings. Currently there is not even mail service between North and South.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said that he has invited North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho to meet in New York during the opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. Referring to the proposals coming out of the North-South summit, Pompeo said, “On the basis of these important commitments, the United States is prepared to engage immediately in negotiations to transform U.S.-DPRK relations.”

The editors of the *Washington Post*, like much of the rest of the liberal capitalist media that see all questions through the prism of their furious “resistance” to the Trump presidency, tried to downplay developments in Korea. Despite “some significant steps to reduce tensions and



U.S. airstrikes leveled most of North Korea and much of the South during 1950-53 war, including Seoul, above. Despite destruction, Koreans fought U.S. imperialism to a stalemate, its first ever military defeat. War ended 65 years ago, but Washington refuses to sign a peace treaty.

the risk of war,” they wrote Sept. 22, the latest moves offer “no real progress in the matter of most import to the United States: the dismantlement of North Korea’s arsenal of nuclear weapons.”

“We demand the U.S. government sign a peace treaty and make permanent the halt to the provocative annual war

games it has carried out with Seoul,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, said the same day. “Reaching an agreement with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on a Korea free of nuclear weapons is in the interest of all working people, there and around the world.”

Fight Florida prison ban on another ‘Militant’!

Continued from front page to justify the impoundment of no. 34: “California Protest Demands ‘End Solitary Confinement!’” and “Free Ukraine Director on Hunger Strike from Siberia Jail!” They falsely assert the articles describe or encourage “activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption” and that they are “dangerously inflammatory” and advocate or encourage “riot, insurrection, disruption of the institution, violation of department or institution rules.”

The *Militant*, like other newspapers across the country — including the *New York Times*, *Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times* and many others — has run articles highlighting opposition to solitary confinement. The *Militant* prominently covered the dramatic hunger strike that united thousands of California inmates seeking an end to that barbaric system. They were successful, and U.S. courts ordered the California Department of Corrections to end it in virtually all cases in 2015.

In fact, the article used to impound the issue was a report on a court-ordered meeting between prisoners who led that strike and prison authorities to address areas where the prisons had attempted to evade the court decision. Issues that reported on that hunger strike were either not banned or impoundments of them were overturned.

Previous issues of the *Militant* have also reported on the hunger strike by Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian film direc-

tor imprisoned by the Vladimir Putin regime in Russia, without the paper being impounded. Sentsov has the support of hundreds of movie directors, actors, screenwriters, artists and others worldwide.

Over the past several years the *Militant* has received support for its fight against censorship from a wide range of groups and individuals, including the Florida Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild, Amnesty International USA, PEN America, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the Riverside Church Prison Ministry, the American Friends Service Committee, Justice League NYC, Heather Ann Thompson, author of *Blood in the Water*, and many more.

Individual subscribers of the *Militant* have also written letters protesting these flagrant violations of the Bill of Rights.

‘End impoundments of Militant’

Kim O’Brien, a subscriber to the *Militant* in the Boston area, also wrote. “I have never read where the *Militant* has ever encouraged the use of violence against its political opponents,” O’Brien noted. “In fact, the *Militant* has condemned the use of disruption tactics in Senate hearings on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and threats made against Trump administration officials eating in restaurants.”

“I ask that you end the impoundment of current issues of the *Militant* and all future issues.”

Dean Peterson, chair of the committee, responded to O’Brien. “By rule decisions must be made on an issue by issue basis,” he said, noting that of the hundreds of issues of the paper published since January 2012, “only five have been rejected by our Literature Review Committee.”

But Peterson’s response ignores the time and money the *Militant* and its attorney are forced to expend in responding to the ongoing series of arbitrary and capricious impoundments. The fact that

so many have been overturned just underscores this fact. The Literature Review Committee has never given an explanation as to why it has upheld the ban on any issue of the paper.

Militant attorney David Goldstein, of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman law firm, wrote the committee to say the impoundment of issue no. 34 will be appealed.

“Charges that the *Militant* poses a threat of violence or is disrupting the prison institution have no basis in fact,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “All of the bans have been a violation of the constitutional rights of both our subscribers behind bars and our paper.”

Studer noted that prison authorities around the country have attempted to limit prisoners’ access to books, periodicals and letters, including new rules being implemented in Pennsylvania. “Our fight against censorship of the *Militant* strengthens the fight against all these unconstitutional restrictions,” he said.

“Letters and statements to the prison authorities have an impact,” Studer said. “We ask you to get letters from unions, church groups, community groups and other defenders of democratic and political rights. The fight for the rights of workers behind bars is a fight for all our rights.”

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Library Services Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Att: Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, via email to Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com, or via fax at (850) 922-2121. Please send a copy and a contribution to continue this battle to the *Militant*.

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.”

Get Militant three-part series on Korea

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE
VOL. 77 2013

Supplement

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 1: How Korean workers and farmers began resistance to U.S. domination, forced partition of nation

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

Available to download now at www.themilitant.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today. 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.

Kentucky UFCW workers end strike, push back two-tier plan

COX'S CREEK, Ky. — Workers at the Four Roses distillery and bottling plant pushed back the bosses' attempt to extract concessions Sept. 21 when the company agreed to a contract that backed off divisive two-tier provisions workers were determined to defeat. Over 50 workers, members of two United Food and Commercial Workers locals and the National Conference of Firemen and Oilers, SEIU went on strike Sept. 7. The company is owned by Japanese beverage conglomerate Kirin Holdings.

Over 100 workers joined the picket line Sept. 14, including members of the United Auto Workers union, Teamsters and workers from area distilleries.

Casey Farnsley and Jordan Gehlbach, UAW members at a Ford truck plant in Louisville, joined the expanded picket line. They had seen news coverage of the strike and decided to take the week off to come offer support.

"I just thought it was the right thing to do," Farnsley said. "If we can't fight for them who's going to fight for us?"

The strike at Four Roses was being closely watched by area workers and by bosses at other distilleries. "The union's rejection of the company's offer," the Sept. 14 Louisville *Courier-Journal* reported, "is being closely watched in a standoff where union leaders are framing the dispute as a battle for future workers and the survival of their bargaining power in coming decades."

"My brothers and sisters fought for me all these years and now I'm doing the same," Jeff Green, a distillery control room operator and member of UFCW Local 10D, who has worked at the plant for 40 years, told us.

The final contract that was negotiated gives both new hires and current workers a choice on which sick leave/disability program to sign up for — the new one the bosses proposed or the one workers currently have. It also includes a \$2,000 signing bonus and annual raises of between 30 cents and 50 cents an hour.

— Amy Husk and Steve Packard

Workers win strike over health care at several Chicago hotels

CHICAGO — "Nine down and 17 to go," Beatriz Cervantes, a striker walking the picket line at the Palmer House here, told the *Militant* Sept. 23. Originally from Mexico, she has 15 years seniority as a steward on night shift at this hotel. "The union won and workers have returned to work at nine of the hotels, including seven Marriott hotels, with five-year contracts with year-round health care. That's the main reason we went on strike."

"On behalf of striking members of UNITE HERE Local 1, we wish to thank the members of the Chicago Building Trades, the Teamsters, the Elevator Constructors, and the Chicago Federation of Labor for honoring our picket lines," union President Karen Kent said after the victory.

Some 6,000 UNITE HERE Local 1 members, housekeepers, servers, cooks, doormen, bellhops and others, at 26 hotels had been on strike since Sept. 7.

In the winter, when hotel business is slower, bosses lay off workers or cut hours and cancel health care coverage.

"The victory at the Marriott hotels helps the rest of us win similar contracts with the year-round health insurance," said Gino Gundogdu, a banquet captain at the Palmer House with 27 years on the job. "The Hilton hotels, which include the Palmer House, make over \$2 billion in profits each year. They can share a little bit with us, who do all the work."

Forty-one workers at the Villa Park Walmart just outside Chicago signed a solidarity message that we presented to Gundogdu. "Thank you, we need all the help we can get," he said.

"I support the strike," said LaQueshon Gushon, a Walmart worker who signed the solidarity card. "All workers need health insurance — the CEOs get it, why can't the hotel workers?"

— Dan Fein

Calif. raisin workers reject contract, strike Sun-Maid

KINGSBURG, Calif. — More than 500 raisin workers went on strike here against Sun-Maid Growers of California Sept. 10. One hundred Teamster Local 431 members picketed the main



Militant

United Food and Commercial Workers members picket at Four Roses distillery Sept. 14. During two-week strike unionists won solidarity, pushed back company's divisive two-tier plan.

entrance to the plant Sept. 22, chanting, "Sun-Maid, unfair!" "Si se puede!" and "One day longer! One day stronger!"

Suk Hvinder Chauhan, a machine operator and one of many strikers whose families are from India, told the *Militant* that workers had voted three times to reject the bosses' contract proposals that Teamster negotiators presented to them. They then voted to strike.

"The company is offering a 50 cents raise each year of the three-year contract, but they are demanding we pay

about \$80 a month for health care," said striker Lydia Delgado. "That means losing money. And the deductible we would pay for using the health insurance is crazy — from \$1,200 now for a single person to \$3,600. For a family, we pay \$1,600 deductible now and it would go up to \$6,000."

Strikers said they get lots of support, including food and water contributions, from working people in this town of 11,000, and union donations.

— Joel Britton

Bosses refuse help from locked-out unionists in gas blasts

Continued from front page

Gas and electric service was shut off to 18,000 people in the area and many were forced to evacuate. "If you smell gas, you gotta get out of your home," Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera told the media, leaving residents to figure out for themselves what to do.

The 1,200 members of the United Steelworkers union locked out by National Grid were rebuffed when they offered to volunteer to help.

People were allowed to return to their homes three days later when electric service was restored. Some 8,500 metered customers remained without gas service, and will be for weeks to come.

USW presidents Joe Kyrlo and John Buonopane, of locals 12003 and 12012, released a statement solidarizing with those affected by the gas explosions and

fires. "[We] would like to immediately offer our assistance to help in this very serious, life-threatening situation. Our 1,200 veteran natural gas workers are ready now to offer our experience and technical expertise during this crisis and to help safely restore service."

Columbia Gas is a subsidiary of NiSource, based in Indiana. The non-union outfit, which had been seeking a rate increase, has a history of fines for safety violations, tax problems and other issues. In 2017 the bosses had to cough up \$252,000 for 50 violations of Massachusetts Dig Safe program, which is supposed to ensure that workers near gas, water and electric lines can work safely.

The Steelworkers have been locked out by National Grid since June 25, when their contract expired. The work-

ers refused to accept the bosses' concession demands that would raise workers' health care costs, force new workers to take a 401(k)-style retirement package instead of the pension plan that current workers have, and expand use of non-union contract workers. They've been picketing company facilities since. The company supplies schools and businesses in 85 communities.

The locked-out National Grid workers have been volunteering in Lawrence, Buonopane told the media, handing out water and setting up cots. But, he said, they are frustrated they can't use their expertise to help with the recovery.

"With our help service would be returned to people in weeks, not months," Paul Dempsey, a locked-out worker, told the *Militant* as he walked the National Grid picket line in Braintree Sept. 22.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 11, 1993

COLUMBIANA, Alabama — "We are strong, we are united, and we are not going to stop." That's how Kim Cain, cousin of slain striker Keith Cain, summed up her determination to keep on fighting as more than 2,000 unionists and supporters rallied here September 26. They gathered in memory of two members of the United Steel Workers of America Local 15015 who were murdered September 7 on the picket line at National-Standard. Cain, 23, and Walter Fleming, 55, were killed when the driver of an 18-wheel truck intentionally ran them over as he left the plant.

The local has been on strike since June 1, after refusing a contract offer that amounted to a 40 percent reduction in wages and benefits. Some 200 members of United Mine Workers of America led chants of "Who are we? Union!" and "What do we want? Justice!"



October 11, 1968

FORT DIX, N.J. — A legal and political victory of importance for American soldiers and for the antiwar movement was won here today when a ruling of "not guilty" in the case of Sp/4 Allen Myers was handed down in a summary court-martial.

Myers, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party and active in the antiwar movement before being drafted, was charged under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (disobeying an order), accused of violating Fort Dix Regulation 210-27, prohibiting the distribution of leaflets and other printed matter that is "in bad taste," "prejudicial to good order," or "subversive."

The leaflet that Myers was charged with handing out was entitled "Support Our Men in Vietnam, Not Those Who Send Them There."



October 9, 1943

BUFFALO — Over 2,000 delegates jammed the main floor of the Memorial Auditorium as the United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers, CIO, the largest union in the nation with more than a million members, convened its annual convention.

Before the convention will come resolutions dealing with the most controversial issues confronting the labor movement, including demands to revoke the no-strike pledge, withdraw the labor members from the War Labor Board, oppose any form of incentive pay and establish an independent labor party.

While there is a lack of organized leadership to direct the fight for militant union policies, there is little doubt that there exists tremendous dissatisfaction in the ranks, which will spill over into open and bitter protest against the present policy of surrender and retreat.

Lenin discusses Tolstoy's writing and coming Russian Revolution

Below is the Nov. 29, 1910, article by V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 Bolshevik proletarian revolution in Russia. It's entitled "An Appraisal of Leo Tolstoy," one of the great Russian writers in the dying days of czarist tyranny. It is reprinted from the February 1936 issue of New International, the magazine of the predecessor of the Socialist Workers Party. Headings are by the Militant.

LEO TOLSTOY [1828-1910] is dead. His world significance as an artist as well as his world-wide fame as a thinker and preacher both reflect, in their own fashion, the world significance of the Russian revolution.

L.N. Tolstoy emerged as a great artist at a time when serfdom was still the prevailing system. In a whole number of gifted books, written by him during more than half a century of literary activity, he depicted primarily the old and pre-revolutionary Russia which remained semi-serf even after the year 1861. His was the Russia of the village, the Russia of the landlord and the peasant. In depicting this phase in the historical life of Russia, L. Tolstoy was able to pose in his works so many great questions, and he was able to attain such artistic force that his literary creations have occupied an outstanding place in world literature. Thanks to Tolstoy's clarity of genius, the preparatory epoch of the revolution in one of the countries crushed by the feudalists has entered as a forward step in the artistic development of all mankind.

Tolstoy, the artist, is known to an insignificant minority even in Russia. A struggle is needed to make his great works truly available to all — a struggle against the social system that dooms millions to darkness, thralldom, galley-labor and poverty: a social revolution is needed.

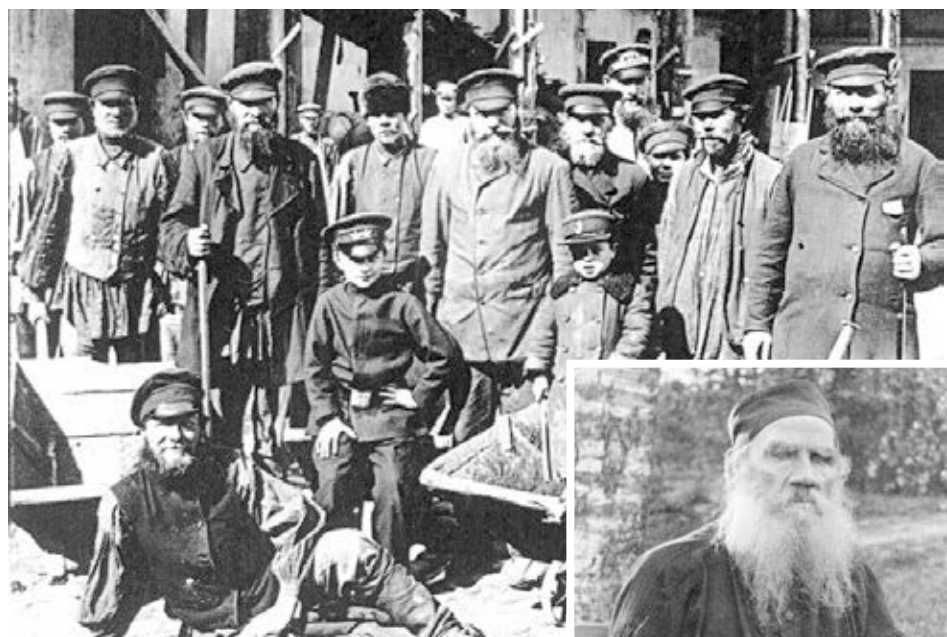
Tolstoy not only produced works of art which will be valued always and read by the masses after the latter have created for themselves humane conditions of living, after they have overthrown the yoke of the feudal landlords and the capitalists; he was able to transmit with remarkable force the mood of the broad masses oppressed by the modern system, to depict their plight and give voice to their elemental urge of protest

and indignation. Pertaining primarily to the epoch of 1861 to 1904, Tolstoy embodied with remarkable lucidity in his works — both as artist and as thinker and preacher — the traits of the historical peculiarity of the entire first Russian revolution, both in its weak as well as strong sides.

'A peasant bourgeois revolution'

One of the principal distinguishing traits of our revolution lies in the fact that it was a *peasant* bourgeois revolution taking place during the epoch of a very high development of capitalism in the entire world, and of a comparatively high degree of development in Russia. It was a bourgeois revolution because it had as its immediate task the overthrow of the Czarist autocracy, the Czarist monarchy, and the destruction of feudal ownership of land and not the overthrow of the rule of the bourgeoisie. The peasantry, in particular, did not grasp this latter task, failing to understand wherein it differed from the more intimate and immediate tasks of the struggle. It was a peasant bourgeois revolution because the objective conditions pushed to the very fore the question of changing the root conditions of peasant life, scrapping the ancient and mediaeval system of land ownership, and "clearing the land" for capitalism; the objective conditions propelled the peasant masses into the arena of a greater or lesser independent historic activity.

Tolstoy's books reflect both the strength and the weakness, both the sweep and the limitation of precisely a peasant mass movement. Tolstoy's flaming, passionate and often ruthlessly sharp protest against the government and the police-Crown Church, transmits the mood of the primitive peasant democracy in which mountains of rage and hatred have been heaped up by centuries of serfdom, of despotism and looting by functionaries, of Jesuitism, fraud and rascality on the part of the Church. His unwavering denunciation of private land ownership transmits the psychology of peasant masses during the historical moment when the ancient medieval system of land ownership (both of the landlords and of the Crown "grands") had definitely become an intolerable fetter on the further development of the country; and at a time when this ancient



Above: Aixa Leah Jemmott-Musin

Tolstoy, right, in his writings against oppression of the state and official church expressed strength and weakness of peasant movement, wrote Lenin. "The heritage which he has left, belongs to the future. This heritage is accepted and is being worked upon by the Russian proletariat," Lenin said, to "overthrow capitalism and create a new society." Above, peasants before 1917 revolution.

land ownership was inevitably destined to be destroyed most abruptly and ruthlessly. His incessant indignation, full of profoundest and most impassioned feeling, his exposure of capitalism transmits in full the horror of the patriarchal peasant who senses a new, unseen and incomprehensible enemy advancing against him, looming somewhere from the cities or from abroad, destroying all the "props" of village life, bearing unheard of ruin, poverty, famine, bestiality, prostitution and syphilis — all the evils of the epoch of "primitive accumulation," aggravated one hundred fold by the transplantation to the Russian soil of the most modern methods of rapine devised by Sir Dividend.

Tolstoy's denial of politics

But the flaming protestant, the passionate exposé, the great critic reveals together with this in his books a lack of understanding of the underlying causes of the crisis and of the means to emerge from the crisis that was advancing in Russia, a lack of understanding that is peculiar only to a patriarchal naive peasant and not to a writer with a European education. In him, the struggle against the feudal and police government and the monarchy, was transformed into a denial of politics, led to the doctrine of "non-resistance to evil," and led to his standing completely apart from the revolutionary struggle of the masses in 1905-1907. His struggle against the Crown-Church was superimposed upon his preachment of a new and purified religion, that is to say, of a new, purified, and subtler poison for the oppressed masses. His denial of private ownership of land led not to a concentration of the entire struggle against the real enemy, the feudal landowners and their political instrument of power, i.e., the monarchy, but to visionary, nebulous and impotent sighing. The exposure of capitalism and the miseries inflicted by it upon the masses went side by side with an absolutely apathetic attitude to the world emancipatory struggle that the international socialist proletariat is waging.

The contradictions in Tolstoy's views are not the contradictions arising solely from his own mentality but are the reflections of those most complex and contradictory conditions, social influences and historical traditions which determined the psychology of the various classes and estates in Russian society during the reformist but *pre-revolutionary* epoch.

For this reason a correct estimation of Tolstoy can be given only from the standpoint of that class which by its political role and its struggle during the first climax of these contradictions, during the revolution, has given proof of its mission to be the leader in the struggle for the freedom of the people and for the emancipation of the masses from exploitation — a class that has given proof of its unwavering devotion to the cause of democracy and of its capacity to struggle against the limitations and inconsistency of bourgeois (as well as peasant) democracy — a correct appraisal can be given only from the standpoint of the social democratic proletariat.

Observe the appraisal of Tolstoy in the government newspapers. They shed crocodile tears, take oath upon oath of their respect to the "great writer," and, at the same time they defend the "Holiest" Synod. And the Holiest Fathers have just this moment perpetrated a trick, sneaking priests to the bedside of the dying man in order to dupe the people and say that Tolstoy "repented." The Holiest Synod excommunicated Tolstoy from the Church. So much the better. This achievement will be put down to his favor in that hour when the people will settle accounts with the functionaries in cassocks, the gendarmes-in-Christ, the dark inquisitors who supported pogroms against the Jews and other similar feats of the Black Hundred Czarist gang.

Appraisal of liberal press

Observe the appraisal of Tolstoy in the liberal papers. They seek to brazen it out with those hollow Crown-liberal, hackneyed professorial phrases about "the voice of civilized humanity," "the unanimous response of the world," "the ideas of Truth, Good, etc." for which Tolstoy lashed — and justly so — bourgeois science. They are unable to present directly and clearly their appraisal of Tolstoy's views toward the government, the Church, private land ownership, and capitalism — not because the censorship hinders them; on the contrary, the censorship assists them to extricate themselves from the difficulty! — but because every postulate in Tolstoy's criticism is a slap in the face of bourgeois liberalism; because Tolstoy's fearless, open and ruthless sharp posing of the most acute, the most "cursed" questions of our time alone is a slap in the face to banal phrases hackneyed terms and sneaking "civilized" lies of our lib-

Continued on page 7

Art and Revolution

by Leon Trotsky

Includes: 'Tolstoy: Poet and Rebel' and 'On Tolstoy's Death'

"Tolstoy did not consider himself a revolutionary and was not one. But he passionately sought the truth and, having found it, was not afraid to proclaim it. ... Everything that Tolstoy stated publicly: about the senselessness of rule by the czar, about the criminality of military service, about the dishonesty of landed property, about the lies of the church — in thousands of ways all this seeped into minds of the laboring masses."

— Leon Trotsky

www.pathfinderpress.com



Puerto Rico: Social disaster result of capitalism, colonial rule

Continued from front page

serious natural disasters turn into social catastrophes for working people. But Puerto Rico's colonial status made the catastrophe worse.

After insisting for nearly a year that only 64 people died as a result of the storm, Gov. Ricardo Rosselló finally admitted that at least 2,975 had perished.

"The government makes promises and more promises, but the people are still suffering," retired teacher Mildred Laboy, a leader of Arecma, a community group in Humacao, said by phone Sept. 22. And few believe the government is better prepared for when the next hurricane hits. When tropical storm Isaac passed south of the island earlier in September, with winds at 35 mph, electricity went out across the country.

Faced with government inaction, Arecma set up a community center where area workers organized daily meals and other help after the storm.

The U.S. imperialist rulers have plundered Puerto Rico's resources and labor since they seized the island in 1898. Colonial exploitation has decimated agricultural production. The "isle of enchantment," which at the beginning of last century produced most of its own food, now imports 85 percent from the U.S.

With the onset of the worldwide capitalist economic and financial crisis in 2007, the colonial government stepped up its anti-working-class measures. The electric company cut back on maintenance and didn't replace antiquated equipment and systems. Maria's winds decimated the grid.

Much of the rebuilt system is just as bad. The government admits that 20 percent of the repaired network needs to be torn out and redone. U.S. contractors were brought in, and made big profits while workers for the state electrical company often couldn't get needed supplies.

Despite layoffs of tens of thousands of workers, jacked-up sales taxes and cuts



Residents of Caguas protest in San Juan, Jan. 15, demanding return of power four months after Hurricane Maria. Thousands joined protests in face of slow pace restoring electricity as well as against closing of schools. "Many had never joined a protest before," said Wency Bonilla.

in pensions, the government's debt to profit-hungry bondholders by the time Maria struck was estimated at \$74 billion.

The lack of the most elementary preparations by U.S. and local officials to prepare for the storm and their disregard for working people afterwards has deepened workers' distrust in all the bourgeois parties on the island and created greater awareness of colonial oppression among the Puerto Rican people.

'Advance in consciousness'

"Now everyone is aware that Puerto Rico is a colony," Wency Bonilla, an occupational therapist, told the *Militant* by phone from Caguas Sept. 22. "Even the pro-statehood people, for whom 'colony' was almost an obscenity, now say it."

Bonilla recently graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao. With his new job he travels to some of the regions hardest hit by the hurricane.

After the storm thousands of working

people joined protests against the slow pace of restoring electricity and the closing of schools.

"These were people who had never joined a protest before," he said. "On one side we see an advance in consciousness, but most people still don't see a sovereign Puerto Rico as a solution."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has disbursed or committed \$1.3 billion to individuals and \$3.4 billion in public grants to aid in repairing the damage from the hurricane. But so far FEMA has denied nearly a third of people's 1.1 million applications for aid.

As working people in the U.S. battered by recent hurricanes from Texas to Louisiana to the Carolinas can attest, the "aid" FEMA gives is always inadequate. In the U.S. colony it's even worse.

The *Miami Herald* reports that as of June 1 Maria survivors in Puerto Rico who were able to qualify for aid got an average of \$1,800 for repair assistance, less than one-fifth of what survivors of Hurricane Harvey in Texas received.

"In Puerto Rico it seems that if you're driving every 20 minutes there's a Walmart, Best Buy or Costco," Cándido Santiago, a businessman, said by phone from Humacao Sept. 22. "The big chains are doing fine, but not the local businesses." As many as 8,000 of the island's 44,000 small businesses have shut down since the storm.

"And the money the big chains make doesn't stay here, it goes to the U.S.," he added. "And their employees, they don't work a full day, they just get four hours so the company avoids paying benefits."

The Department of Education has shut down 254 schools in the last year, despite numerous protests, claiming there was no choice because of declining enrollment. By 2010, with so many people fleeing the island's deteriorating conditions, there were more Puerto Ricans in the U.S. than in Puerto Rico. As many as 200,000 more left after the storm, although many have returned.

Santiago notes that after months of waiting and protests he helped orga-

nize, electricity was restored in most of Humacao in July.

"We have electricity, but streets still don't have traffic lights," he said. "It's like in the old days."

The Financial Oversight and Management Board, appointed by President Barack Obama to guarantee payments to the bondholders and given veto power over all financial decisions of the Puerto Rican government, continues to insist on steep cuts in government services, health care and pensions, more layoffs, and privatization of the electrical system.

Vieques: 'Colony of a colony'

On the island of Vieques off Puerto Rico's eastern coast conditions are harsher. People there say they live in the colony of a colony. The government-owned electric utility hasn't restored an underwater electrical cable connection and the only electricity there comes from generators.

The dialysis center on Vieques shut down after the storm. Now the only way for patients to get the three-times-a-week treatment they need to stay alive is to travel to the main island by ferry or plane.

At least five of the patients have died since the storm. The government has promised for months to provide a mobile dialysis unit, but hasn't delivered.

Ismael Guadalupe, a retired school teacher and long-time activist in the successful fight to force the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, told the *Militant* he was lucky he no longer needs dialysis, after getting a kidney transplant before the storm. Like everything under capitalism, he said, "it's just a business. They take advantage of our tragedy."

With the onset of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis, many U.S.-owned factories shut down. But U.S. capitalists depend on the relatively cheap labor in Puerto Rico to make billions of dollars in superprofits.

There are some 50 pharmaceutical factories in Puerto Rico, a key part of the U.S. and global drug supply chain, including Amgen's largest facility in the world, with 2,700 workers in Juncos. Johnson & Johnson has 3,700 workers in six plants in five towns. And 11 of the top 20 medicines sold worldwide, including Viagra, have components manufactured in Puerto Rico.

Amgen is investing \$40 million to build its own cogeneration plant to provide heat and power no matter what storms bring in the future.

Tolstoy and the Russian Revolution

Continued from page 6

eral (and liberal-populist) journalism. ...

The liberals keep pushing to the fore that Tolstoy is a — "Great Conscience." Is this not the same hollow phrase that we find repeated in a thousand variations in the *Novoye Vremya*¹ and the like? Isn't this an evasion of those concrete questions of democracy and socialism posed by Tolstoy? Doesn't this push to the fore that which is the product of Tolstoy's prejudices and not of his reasoning mind? that in him which pertains to the past and not to the future? that which pertains to his denial of politics and his preachments of moral self-perfection and not to his stormy protest against all class domination?

Tolstoy is dead: gone into the past is pre-revolutionary Russia together with the weakness and impotence that found their expression in philosophy, and that were depicted in the works of the artist-genius. But in his legacy there is that

which has not receded into the past but belongs to the future. The Russian proletariat receives this legacy, and labors on it. The proletariat will make clear to the masses of toilers and the exploited the significance of the Tolstoyan critique of the state, the Church and of private land ownership not in order that the masses confine themselves to self-perfection and yearning for a saintly life but in order that they uplift themselves to deal a new blow to the Czarist monarchy and the feudal land ownership, which in 1905 were only slightly cracked and which must be destroyed. The proletariat will make clear to the masses the Tolstoyan critique of capitalism — not in order that the masses confine themselves to cursing capital and the power of money, but in order that they learn to base themselves, in every step of their life and struggle, upon the technical and social conquest of capitalism, in order that they learn to fuse together into a single many-millioned army of socialist fighters who will overthrow capitalism and create a new society without poverty for the people, without exploitation of man by man.

¹ *Novoye Vremya*, founded in 1868 as a liberal paper, evolved into a supporter of czarist reaction known for its espousal of Jew-hatred. It was suppressed after the Bolshevik revolution in 1917.

New International # 13



"All the questions posed by the ongoing crises and breakdowns of international capitalism can only be understood clearly, and answered in practice, if we start from a world perspective. Only then can we begin acting to advance proletarian alternatives, as opposed to the eternally recurring lesser-evil choices which reinforce the current social relations of exploitation and oppression."

— Jack Barnes

pathfinderpress.com

Russian, Turkish rulers truce in Idlib, Syria, holds - for now

BY TERRY EVANS

The capitalist rulers in Russia and Turkey signed a new “demilitarized zone” agreement Sept. 17, halting, for now, the bombardment against rebel forces and civilians in Idlib province in Syria. Government troops and Tehran-backed militia had been poised for a ground assault.

Idlib, home to some 3 million people had been pounded since Sept. 8, forcing thousands to flee to the north. It is the last remaining area held by anti-Assad opposition groups, which includes pro-Turkish government forces and some former al-Qaeda forces.

In 2011 working people across Syria rose up in a wave of powerful street protests against the brutal dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad. Their uprising was crushed in blood, with thousands arrested, tortured and disappeared. Foes of the regime organized a variety of rebel units that pushed Assad’s forces out of larger and larger parts of the country, including most major cities. This was done without any significant aid from Washington or capitalist rulers in the region who professed to support the opposition forces.

Assad’s Arab Baath Socialist Party had postured for decades as a defender of the Arab peoples across the region against Washington and other imperialist powers. In fact it was always a tyrannical regime dominated by a layer of capitalist families, largely from Syria’s Alawite minority, who defended their class interests against the largely Sunni working people and the oppressed Kurdish nationality.



Above, Russian air force bombing of a hospital in Idlib, Syria, during airstrike in June. Inset, rescue workers dig through rubble after the bombing. Thousands of Syrian refugees have been forced to Idlib, only to come under assault once again.

The reactionary Islamic State took advantage of the situation to seize and oppress parts of the country. While U.S. air power in alliance with Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces on the ground pushed back IS, Assad was only able to retake territory from the rebels when Moscow intervened with its bombers. Tehran-backed forces, like the Lebanese Hezbollah, also took a decisive part in the fighting.

The rebel forces, which got little help or arms from Saudi, Turkish and U.S. rulers, were outgunned and gave way. Many were convinced to sign “de-escalation” agreements and were permitted to travel to Idlib, where they find themselves entrapped today.

The Assad regime still remains locked out of 25 percent of Syria east of the Euphrates River, held by the Syrian Democratic Forces. This is the one question that united Assad and the rulers in Moscow and Ankara — a desire to beat back the Kurds. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Sept. 21 that the U.S.-backed forces’ control over the eastern bank of the Euphrates is the main threat to Assad’s total control over Syria.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sept. 23 that the biggest threat to Syria’s future is what he called the “terror swamp” of Kurdish control there.

Ankara fears the gains made by Kurds in Syria will embolden Turkey’s

own Kurdish population. The over 30 million Kurds across Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey are denied a homeland by the rulers there and have fought against the suppression of their national rights for decades.

Washington says its troop deployment alongside the Kurds is for mop-up operations against Islamic State, and to defend its Kurdish-led allies. But the U.S. rulers’ real concern is to step up efforts to push back Tehran, which has deployed its armed forces around Syria to increase its political influence, economic exploitation and threats to capitalist rivals across the Mideast.

Deal in question

While leaders of pro-Turkish groups hailed the Idlib deal, and working people there said they were glad for the respite from the barrel bombs of the regime and Moscow’s airstrikes, the agreement between Moscow and Ankara seems virtually impossible to realize. All Islamist groups there would have to relinquish their heavy weaponry by mid-October and leave Idlib — with nowhere else to go. Other fighters would also have to give up their larger arms and fore-swear further attacks on Assad’s rule. Then the Russian and Turkish governments would deploy troops to a roughly 10-mile-wide demilitarized zone between Idlib and the troops of the Assad regime and its allies.

“Together with Russia we will put our

efforts into clearing those territories of radical elements,” Erdogan said.

Residents of Idlib interviewed by Al Jazeera expressed relief that for now the deadly air assaults are paused. Many took to the streets Sept. 21, demanding Assad’s removal from power. Thousands who fled the province earlier in the month have begun to return to their homes.

At the same time, the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front groups in Syria issued a statement Sept. 23 expressing “mistrust of the Russian enemy” for breaking past “de-escalation” deals and for “carrying out massacres, war crimes, and forcible displacement against our civilian people.”

The reactionary Islamist groups Hurras al-Din denounced the deal as “a conspiracy by the forces of international evil and infidelity against the jihadist project.”

As it bolsters Assad, Moscow seeks to consolidate its hold on the Russian naval base at Tartus on Syria’s Mediterranean coast and expand its political and economic interests.

The turning point in the Syrian war has led all the rival capitalist powers — the U.S. imperialist rulers and the capitalist governments in Moscow, Tehran, Ankara and Saudi Arabia — to look for how they will advance their national interests.

The Israeli rulers — like Washington — are especially concerned about the advance of Tehran’s military and political reach. Tel Aviv admits it has carried out over 200 military strikes against Iranian weapons convoys and other targets in Syria over the last year and a half.

The most recent action was when Israeli F-16 jets attacked a weapons transfer to Hezbollah forces at a Syrian military base in Latakia Sept. 18. The Assad regime responded with anti-aircraft fire and hit a Russian intelligence aircraft in the area, killing 15 Russian soldiers.

Russian President Vladimir Putin tried to downplay Tel Aviv’s responsibility after the Russian Defense Ministry attempted to blame the Israeli government for the downing of the plane. He described the deaths as “tragic chance events.”

The dispute is still simmering. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Sept. 23 that the Israeli pilots were guilty of “a minimum criminal negligence.”

September
BOOKS
OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER
READERS CLUB
SPECIALS

25%
DISCOUNT

Haciendo historia
(Making History)
by José Ramón Fernández, Enrique Carreras, Harry Villegas, Néstor López Cuba, Mary-Alice Waters
Through the story of four generals of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces we can see the class dynamics that have shaped our entire epoch.
\$17. **Special price: \$12.75**

America’s Revolutionary Heritage
by George Novack
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Che Guevara Speaks
\$15. **Special price: \$11.25**

The First Ten Years of American Communism
Report of a Participant
by James P. Cannon
Story of the early years of the effort to build a proletarian party in the United States modeled on the Bolshevik leadership of the Russian Revolution.
\$22. **Special price: \$16.50**

Maurice Bishop Speaks
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Origins of Materialism
by George Novack
\$24. **Special price: \$18**

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

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

UNITED STATES

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

FLORIDA: **Miami:** P.O. Box 380641 Zip: 33238. Tel: (305) 420-5928. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: **Chicago:** 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

KENTUCKY: **Louisville:** Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: **St. Paul:** 1821 University Ave. W Suite S-106A. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 340-5586. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@windstream.net

NEW JERSEY: swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 964-4793. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** P.O. Box 8304. Zip: 12208. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: **Dallas:** P.O. Box 210524 Zip: 75211. Tel: (469) 620-0706. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: **Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge St.,

Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com **BRITISH**

COLUMBIA: **Vancouver:** 190 E. 48th Ave., Suite 201A. V5W 2C8. Tel: (604) 322-4223. Email: clcVancouver@fastmail.fm

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: **London:** 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston. Postal code: E8 2PB. Tel: (020) 3583-3553. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place. Postal code: M12 6HS. Tel: (0161) 258-2569. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

Demand US rulers end Korea War!

The steps taken by the North and South Korean heads of state, with the backing of the White House, at their Sept. 18-20 summit to press forward efforts to reduce military tensions, increase links between the two countries and push forward talks on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula are good for the working class, not just in the United States and Korea, but in Japan, China and across the world.

The SWP has campaigned for decades for the U.S. rulers to get their troops, bombers and warships out of Korea. When the U.S. imperialist rulers invaded North Korea in 1950, SWP National Secretary James P. Cannon wrote to President Harry Truman and to Congress, demanding, “Withdraw all American armed forces so that the Korean people can have full freedom to work out their destiny.”

The party aims to cut through the lie that Washington’s foreign policy is “ours.” U.S. military might is used to serve the predatory interests of the ruling capitalist families, as they extend abroad the assaults they carry out on workers and farmers at home and battle capitalist rivals for markets and influence. Workers need our own party, a labor party, and our own foreign policy, independent of the bosses that exploit us, one that starts from the common interests of workers worldwide.

“The weakening of the US rulers’ seven-decades-long effort to keep its boot on the Korean people’s neck is a welcome aspect” of the decay of “the liberal imperialist world order,” Steve Clark wrote in a Sept. 7 letter from the Socialist Workers Party National Committee to Kim Jong Un, leader of North Korea.

Standing in solidarity with fellow toilers, the labor movement should demand Washington unilaterally and unconditionally dismantle its nuclear stockpile and that other governments holding these weapons do so too.

“No one should have the right to produce nuclear weapons, much less the privileged right demanded by imperialism to impose its hegemonic domination” on the world, explained Fidel Castro, the central leader of the Cuban Revolution. The Cuban people and their socialist revolution, he explained, “possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power. It is the immense justice for which we are struggling.”

Castro started from the capacities of millions of Cuban working people to organize and fight. Through their battle to overthrow the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and defend their socialist revolution since, Cuban workers and farmers transformed themselves. They have fought to advance the interests of the exploited and oppressed worldwide over decades.

Washington should take immediate steps to move forward talks aimed at ridding the Korean Peninsula of all nuclear weapons. Such steps create better conditions for working people to advance our struggles against the capitalist rulers; and to overcome the division of the Korean Peninsula imposed in 1945 by Washington and Moscow, against the will of the Korean people. Korea is one!

The U.S. government devastated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki when it dropped atomic bombs there, the first and only time nuclear weapons have ever been used. Workers and farmers in Japan would hail the elimination of nuclear weapons in the region as a historic victory.

The U.S. government should sign a peace treaty now ending the murderous war it fought and lost against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the 1950s. It should make permanent the suspension of all its provocative war games with South Korean and Japanese military forces. And it should end the economic sanctions it imposes on the people of North Korea.

Dallas cop who killed Botham Jean is fired

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

DALLAS — Since Dallas cop Amber Guyger shot and killed 26-year-old Botham Jean in his apartment here Sept. 6 there has been a steady stream of protests. In response, Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall announced Sept. 24 that she had fired Guyger, who also faces charges of manslaughter.

The firing came following a town hall meeting at Paul Quinn College where Hall had claimed that federal and state laws prevented her from firing Guyger. A police news release said Hall fired Guyger for “adverse conduct when she was arrested for manslaughter.”

A statement released by the attorneys for Jean’s family supported the termination. “However, we are committed to seeing through the next steps of the process of a proper murder indictment, conviction and appropriate sentencing,” they said.

There was an outpouring of people in St. Lucia where he was born to pay tribute to Jean at his funeral the day Guyger was fired. An article and photos featured the service in the Sept. 25 *Morning News*. “We demand justice for Botham. Botham’s life matters,” his uncle Ignatius Jean, Botham’s uncle, said in his eulogy.

Sammie Berry, the minister from the West Dallas Church of Christ where Jean was a member, led everyone in chanting, “Stand up for Botham” as they raised their fists in the air.

“We wish to make it clear that our small size or perceived ranking in global affairs should not lead to false assumptions or conclusions about the strength of our resolve and determination in the fight for justice,” said a press statement by St. Lucia Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves. “We ... call upon the authorities in the State of Texas and elsewhere in the United States of America to work to ensure that justice prevails in this matter.”

Liberals assault rights workers need over Trump Supreme Court pick

Continued from front page
were too disgusted to vote at all.

There are substantial stakes for the working class and oppressed in fighting this attack on rights won in struggle over decades — the right to the presumption of innocence, reasonable doubt and more. The “resisters” throw all this aside in their twin furor to depose Trump and to restrict the rights and franchise for the “deplorable” working class.

Workers have no interest in Kavanaugh or anyone else the rulers put on their Supreme Court. They are all black-robed robbers for the ruling class, defending their class rule to the end.

But we *do* have an interest in jealously defending our rights and our ability to organize and win allies in struggle.

Democrats and their promoters in the liberal press have seized on an unverified allegation by Christine Blasey Ford that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her 36 years ago. Sen. Dianne Feinstein had received an anonymous letter with Ford’s allegations in July. She sat on it until it became clear that Kavanaugh was set to be confirmed. Then she released it and Trump-hating media and politicians went to work. Judge Kavanaugh categorically denies Ford’s claim.

The Democrats cynical operation has nothing to do with fighting sexual assault, nor advancing the struggle for women’s rights. It has everything to do with stepping up their war on the administration. Their eyes are on the midterm elections, and hopes they could win a majority in the House and go for impeachment, or try to find a way to use the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to have Trump declared mentally unfit to remain in office.

Ford says the decades-old assault occurred at a party, at a time and place she can’t remember and in the presence of another person, Mark Judge, who has denied any knowledge of the attack. Neither of the two other people Ford says were present recall being there, and say they have no knowledge of what Ford alleges.

Despite the lack of any evidence corroborating Ford’s claim, Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono says

Ford needs “to be believed.” When asked if Kavanaugh deserves the presumption of innocence, Hirono said, “I put his denial in the context of everything that I know about him in terms of how he approaches cases.” In simple English, if I don’t like his politics, his rights mean nothing.

Turning basic rights of due process on their head, Ross Douthat argues in the *New York Times* that the burden of proof doesn’t lie with Ford, the accuser, but with Kavanaugh. “He may be innocent but his nomination deserves to fail,” Douthat says, because he has been “credibly accused.”

When all else fails, they turn to smears and guilt by association, as in Michelle Goldberg’s Sept. 24 *Times* column, headlined “Pigs All the Way Down.”

Fearing that Ford’s uncorroborated accusations may not be enough, the *New Yorker* magazine rushed to print a second claim, by Deborah Ramirez.

Ramirez says Kavanaugh exposed his genitals at a Yale University social when she was intoxicated 35 years ago. The *Times*, desperate to dig up dirt to tarnish the nomination, fervently but unsuccessfully scrambled to find anyone to corroborate the claim. It admitted that even Ramirez herself “could not be certain Mr. Kavanaugh was the one.”

The left piles in

The International Socialist Organization, a group that says it speaks for workers and the oppressed, has jumped on the anti-Trump, anti-Kavanaugh bandwagon. “This is a golden opportunity to not only stop a reactionary judge, but galvanize opposition to the whole Trump regime,” the group’s paper editorialized Sept. 24. “Nothing could be more important” than stopping Kavanaugh, they argue.

To do so, they agree critical political rights must be tossed aside. They cry in horror that Kavanaugh — the accused — might have the chance to confront his accuser. They say, “She speaks for us” and everyone must “believe” Ford, regardless of lack of evidence. And they glorify the #MeToo “uprising” that emerged out of accusations of sexual abuse by Hollywood ac-

tors that promote attacks on due process.

Workers need presumption of innocence

Workers know the right to the presumption of innocence is under assault. When Rasmussen Reports did a poll this week, 56 percent said they believe its more likely the media will paint a public figure as guilty until proven innocent.

The “resistance” by the liberals and the left is dangerous for workers. The courts and cops do not act impartially, they defend the class interests of the exploiters. They spy and frame up workers, run us through their plea-bargain criminal “justice” system, disproportionately hitting those who are Black, as well as targeting those involved in working-class struggles.

Anyone facing allegations by the bosses at work or legal charges by the cops needs the right to confront their accuser. The statute of limitations is a basic protection from dredging up very old allegations, when it is no longer possible to ascertain the facts..

Workers live in a very different world from the liberals waging the anti-Trump witch hunt. More workers today see that both capitalist parties, and all the little “independent” pro-capitalist reformers, are in on the bosses’ ongoing assault on our jobs, wages, working and living conditions. This is what motivated workers who voted for Trump, seeking to “drain the swamp” and get more attention to working-class problems. It was not a working-class turn to reaction and racism.

Fighting for women’s liberation, the right to choose abortion, for equal treatment on the job and against violence against women are crucial questions for uniting and strengthening the working-class movement.

The #MeToo “movement” is no example in this fight. Posing the goal as “shaming men” or demanding everyone must assume anyone accused by a woman must be guilty, with no right to presumption of innocence, undermines the fight for women’s emancipation. It is possible today to win co-workers and others, female and male, to understand how the rulers use of women’s oppression to divide and weaken working people and the unions can be fought.