

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Presumption of innocence is crucial right for working class  
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 38 OCTOBER 15, 2018

## ‘Working class needs to build a labor party’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Socialist Workers Party? Now that’s something. I’ve voted Democrat for years but now I’m not so sure about any of them,” retired chemical worker Bill Banks told SWP member

### SWP SPEAKS WITH, FOR WORKING PEOPLE

Jacque Henderson and supporter Jim Horn when they knocked on his door in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 29.

“We don’t think the Democrats or Republicans have anything to offer working people,” responded Henderson. “They represent the rich, the capitalist rulers who exploit us. We think working people need our own political party. We need to build a powerful movement that can fight for our class interests and for workers power.”

“That would really shake things up,” Banks said. “Something has got to be done.”

“I’ve been watching this stuff on TV this week and I think it’s disgusting,” he said, referring to the

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## US, Russian rulers, Tehran and Tel Aviv vie in Mideast

BY SETH GALINSKY

As the civil war in Syria winds down, with dictator Bashar al-Assad still in power, Washington, Moscow and the rival capitalist rulers in the region are maneuvering to protect their economic, political and military interests. And the long-simmering dispute between the capitalist governments of Israel and Iran is heating up.

Iran’s rulers consolidated power after years of stifling the popular revolutionary uprising of working people that overthrew the U.S.-backed rule of the shah in 1979. Workers and farmers had not been able to replace the shah with their own government, but the reactionary regime was unable to smash the working class.

To maintain its hold on power inside Iran, the regime pushes its reactionary influence and program from Lebanon and Syria to Iraq and Yemen, and calls for the destruction of the state of Israel.

“Israel will do whatever it must do to defend itself against Iran’s aggression,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his speech to

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## North Carolina workers confront social disaster

Crisis is product of dog-eat-dog capitalist rule



Militant/Sam Manuel

Sept. 28, Rebecca Stutts (center) and *Militant* subscriber Samantha Worrell (right) introduced Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Georgia governor, to workers in North Carolina coastal area abandoned by capitalist rulers after Hurricane Florence.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

WILMINGTON, N.C. — “People just got back on their feet from Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and now we’ve been hit again by Hurricane Florence,” Samantha Worrell told three worker-correspondents for the *Mili-*

*tant* Sept. 28. She lives in the small town of Burgaw, near Wilmington, and subscribed to the *Militant* after meeting SWP members at a teachers’ protest in Raleigh last spring. Worrell and her friend Rebecca Stutts took the

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## Join SWP door-to-door campaign to boost ‘Militant,’ books, party fund!



Militant

SWP member Róger Calero talks with Herman Freeman at his doorstep in Queens, Sept. 23.

Dear *Militant* readers,

I invite all *Militant* readers and supporters to join the Socialist Workers Party in an expanded campaign to advance the central political activity of the party — presenting the SWP’s program and activities to workers on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas across the country.

The party is leading an eight-week

drive Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 to win 1,400 subscribers to the *Militant*, sell 1,400 specially priced campaign books by par-

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ty leaders (see ad on page 3), and raise \$100,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund to sustain the party’s work.

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## Help fight Florida prison officials’ ongoing censorship of ‘Militant’

BY SETH GALINSKY

By continuously impounding issues of the socialist newsweekly the *Militant*, Florida Department of Corrections officials are routinely violating their own guidelines, and the protec-

tions of the Bill of Rights for prisoners to read books and periodicals. The most recent impoundment was the Sept. 17 issue, which the *Militant* is challenging, as it has all the others.

Florida prison regulations list 12 reasons wardens can use to bar a publication, and a 13th catchall that says, if “it otherwise presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.”

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## Trump pushes US rulers’ interests vs. rivals at UN General Assembly

BY TERRY EVANS

President Donald Trump laid out his administration’s plans to defend the interests worldwide of the U.S. ruling families in his Sept. 25 address to the United Nations. He presented Washington’s efforts to push back the Iranian rulers’ political and military expansion in the Middle East and to battle for markets and influence in competition with the rising capitalist class in China. His presentation drew the ire of the “globalist” governments of France and others who seek to constrain Washington within international bodies, and the derision of like-

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Argentina: ‘Abortion must be legal, in the hospital!’ 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Uber drivers protest low pay, as bosses pit them vs. taxi drivers

Tomato cannery strike leaders win jobs back



# Capitalist rulers vie in Mideast

**Continued from front page**  
the 73rd United Nations General Assembly Sept. 27. “We will continue to act against you in Syria. We will act against you in Lebanon. We will act against you in Iraq.”

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif replied the next day, saying that Israel is the only country in the region with an “actual atomic arsenal.”

These are not just a war of words. The Israeli army and air force have carried out more than 200 attacks on Iranian-connected weapons convoys, troops and military bases in Syria over the last couple years. The Israeli government is especially concerned about Iranian shipments to Lebanon’s Hezbollah that could give them precision rockets and missiles.

Hezbollah, which means Party of God, was founded in Lebanon in the 1980s on the Iranian rulers’ initiative. Tehran and thousands of Hezbollah combatants played a key role in preventing the Assad regime from being overthrown after the popular uprising against his rule broke out in 2011. But it was Russian air power that was decisive in retaking territory from armed opposition groups in the civil war that followed the crushing of the mobilizations.

### Moscow and Tel Aviv

Even as it collaborated with Tehran to shore up Assad — at the price of more than 350,000 Syrian dead and millions displaced — Moscow maintained relations with Tel Aviv. Under a 2015 accord Moscow said it would not interfere with Israeli strikes aimed at Iranian-backed militias and weapons shipments in Syria and the Israelis agreed not to strike targets that would put Russians at risk nor aid the fight to overthrow Assad.

On Sept. 16 the Israeli Air Force attacked an Iranian convoy headed to Lebanon. According to the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, “Syrian air defenses started to go berserk, firing 27 missiles every which way,” shooting down a Russian plane by mistake.

Moscow charged that the Israelis had not given them sufficient notice to get their plane out of the way and announced it would provide sophisticated S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to the Assad regime. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at the U.N. Sept. 29 that the first of the batteries had been delivered. The missiles make any Israeli air attack riskier.

The U.S. capitalist rulers are also determined to stay the advance of Tehran. In May the White House abrogated the nuclear pact the Barack Obama administration had reached with Tehran, also signed by London, Berlin, Paris, Moscow and Beijing. Since then, Washington has launched deep sanctions against Iranian capitalists’ exports that have slashed oil sales and sent their currency into a tailspin. The effects hit working people there the hardest.

### Russian and Iranian competition

While Moscow and Tehran both help keep Assad in power, they also have competing interests.

As Iran’s exports of oil plummet under expanding U.S. sanctions, Moscow’s are soaring.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Iran’s export of crude oil has dropped by a third since June to 1.5 million barrels a day. Meanwhile, Moscow has increased its oil output by 250,000 barrels a day, most of it going to those who used to purchase from its erstwhile ally Iran.

Over the last year tens of thousands



RT

S-300 surface-to-air missiles, like those the Russian rulers just delivered to Syrian regime.

have taken to the streets in Iran to protest the government’s intervention in the wars in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, and its impact on the economic crisis facing working people. This includes the province of Khuzestan, which has some 70 percent of Iran’s oil reserves and is home to Iran’s Arab minority.

Tehran charged that a deadly Sept. 22 attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, Khuzestan, was directed by Washington and the Saudi regime, although Islamic State claimed credit. The terror group posted pictures on the internet of those who it said were its members carrying out the assault.

In retaliation, Tehran fired six ballistic missiles Oct. 1 into the sliver of remaining Islamic State-controlled territory east of the Euphrates River in Syria. The missiles flew nearly 400 miles over Iraqi airspace, striking IS targets not far from U.S. military bases there. Reportedly, the Iranians wrote “death to America,” “Death to Israel,” and “death to al-Saud” on the missiles.

Washington has over 2,000 troops in Syria, along with massive air power in the region. National Security Adviser John Bolton said U.S. troops will remain in Syria “as long as Iranian troops are outside Iranian borders.”

In response to the shifting political situation in Iran and the Middle East, the Socialist Workers Party

issued a statement in December 2017, “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

“In opposition to Washington, to bourgeois governments and political organizations across the Middle East, and to the middle class left here in the United States,” the party said, it “has a different starting point: the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world.

“We are *for* whatever helps working people organize and act together to advance our demands and struggles against the capitalist governments and ruling classes that exploit and oppress us and their petty bourgeois political servants and media apologists,” the statement says. “We are *for* whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power.”

## For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act

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

### Socialist Workers Party statement

Download ready to print flyer at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)



# THE MILITANT

## End US colonial rule over Puerto Rico!

*Hurricane Maria exposed and accelerated the unfolding social catastrophe in Puerto Rico, the result of capitalism and U.S. colonial rule. The ‘Militant’ tells the truth about the struggle of working people against the imperialist plunder of the island’s land and labor.*



Reuters/Carlos Barria

Tarp roof on worker’s home in Puerto Rico.

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## The Militant

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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.



# ‘We need to build a labor party’

Continued from front page

Democrats’ witch hunt against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on unsubstantiated claims of sexual abuse more than 30 years earlier. “Next thing you know they’ll be wanting me for something they think I did when I was 13!”

“What’s at stake is the presumption of innocence, due process and the statute of limitations — crucial rights won by working people through blood and struggle, like all those codified in the Bill of Rights,” Henderson said. “To throw this out opens the door for the capitalist rulers to use frame-ups more and more against workers.”

Banks got a copy of the *Militant* and invited the SWP campaigners to come back to his home and talk more.

The heart of the political work of members of the SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom is meeting working people on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas to discuss political developments unfolding today and the way forward for the working class and the labor movement.

## Hard to get day off from work

On the same street in the Newburg neighborhood of Louisville, Guillermo Perezlima got into a discussion with SWP members Amy Husk and Dean Hazlewood. “I moved here from Mexico and lived in California for many years, then was transferred to Louisville for my job,” Perezlima said. “I try to live a quiet life with my four kids and wife, but it’s hard to do so, having to work at times seven or eight days in a row before getting a day off.” He said his oldest daughter is in college, “and it is very expensive.”

“The wealthy capitalists who run this country and their representatives in the government don’t care about educating working people,” Husk said. “Our schools are like assembly lines. They don’t want us to think for ourselves or to understand our own self-worth.”

“As an immigrant I’ve been treated differently many times in my life, including on the job,” Perezlima said in agreement. “I work hard but they

look at me as if I’m not important.”

“Workers need to build a movement to fight for our interests,” said Hazlewood, “and cut across the divisions that the bosses have imposed on us. We are all workers, whether we are Black or white, male or female, native-born or immigrant.”

The discussion turned to workers’ need for health care. “I don’t think Obamacare has been good for workers,” Perezlima said. “It’s expensive and complicated. My wife paid \$120 for just a few pills!”

“The Republicans don’t have a solution either,” Hazlewood said. “We need government-funded universal health care like in Cuba. It’s free and it’s the best care for everybody. That’s because workers and farmers made a revolution in Cuba. We need to do that here too.”

“I’m not sure if I’m ready for that yet,” said Perezlima. “But I would like to have more discussion.”

“We have classes and discussion on Saturdays at the library up the street, studying the *Militant* and these books, why don’t you come?” Husk said. “Working people don’t have a voice on Fox News or MSNBC, but we do have a voice in this paper.”

Perezlima got a *Militant* subscription and said he’d like to join the discussions.

The team of four from Louisville and two SWP members from Chicago sold four subscriptions and two books on special. (See ad below).

## ‘We need to build fighting unions’

“The politicians are all about greed,” Carolyn Cooley, a retired retail worker, told Carole Lesnick, SWP candidate for Congress, and Raul Gonzalez, when the two socialist campaigners approached her on her porch in Oakland, California, Sept. 22.

“The capitalist parties are responding to the needs of the bosses and their drive for profit,” said Lesnick. “In contrast, working people’s strength is in our solidarity and unity.” The SWP candidate pointed to the teachers strikes last spring in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and other states, support won by hotel workers on strike in San Fran-



Militant/Jacque Henderson

Guillermo Perezlima, center, speaks with Socialist Workers Party members Amy Husk and Dean Hazlewood in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 22. “As an immigrant, I’ve been treated differently,” Perezlima said, “I work hard but they look at me differently.” He purchased a *Militant* subscription and said he wanted to attend weekly discussions the party organizes.

cisco, and the response by working people to help those trying to escape recent wildfires in California and the social catastrophe from hurricanes like Florence in North Carolina.

She explained that when politicians told people they were on their own in trying to get out of harm’s way, fellow workers volunteered to help them.

“Things can’t change unless we make them change,” Cooley agreed. “The Cajun Navy you told me about that helped in the flooded areas is the coolest thing ever,” referring to volunteers who used their boats to rescue working people trapped by rising waters.

It’s through this door-knocking that party members extend the reach of the *Militant* and books by party leaders and other revolutionaries, make contacts and recruit.

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

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Oakland

**Social Disasters Are the Result of Capitalism. Devastation from the Carolinas and Puerto Rico to the Philippines and Indonesia Show the Need for Workers to Fight for Political Power.** Speaker: Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Get U.S. Rulers’ Troops, Planes, Bombers Out of Korea! For a Korean Peninsula, Pacific and Asia Free of Nuclear Weapons!** Speaker: Dave Ferguson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Manchester

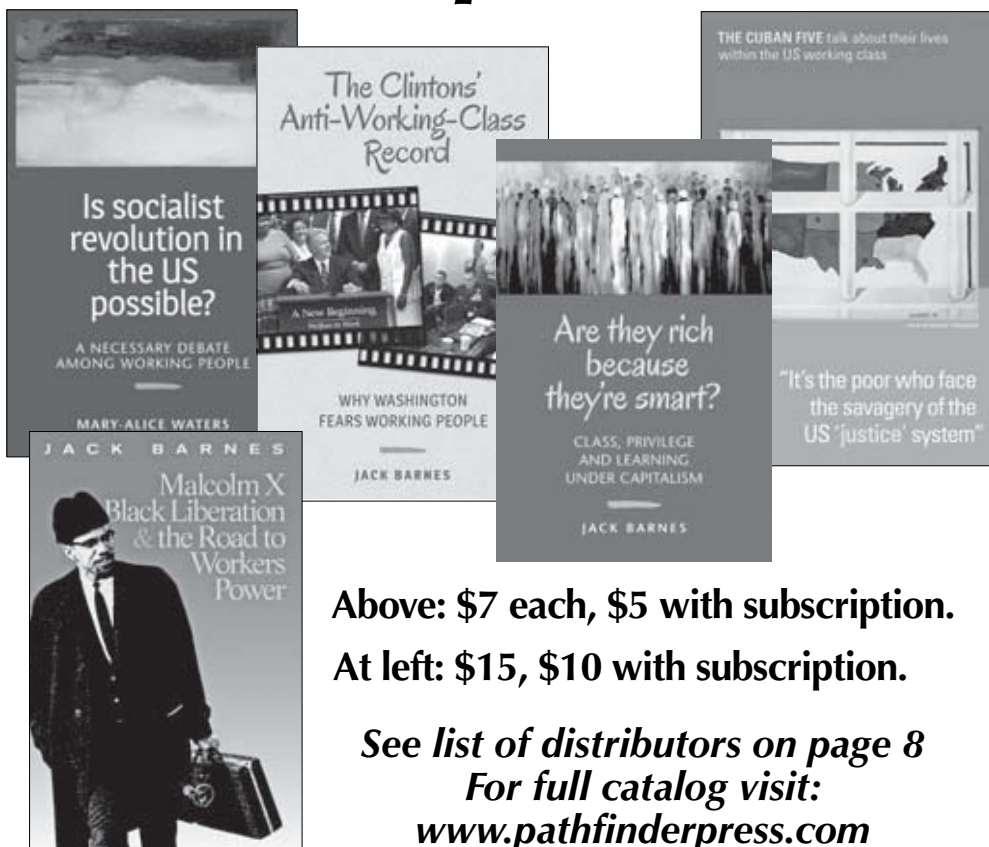
**Why the Liberal ‘Resistance’ Campaign to Unseat Trump Is a Dangerous Diversion for Working People.** Speaker: Caroline Bellamy. Fri., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place M12 6HS. Tel.: (0161) 258-2569.

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See list of distributors on page 8  
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## Join SWP/Communist League campaigns!

### California

Laura Garza, Governor  
Dennis Richter, US Senate  
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### Florida

Steven Warshell, US Senate

### Georgia

Rachele Fruit, Governor

### Illinois

Dan Fein, Governor  
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### Maryland

James Harris, US Senate

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Osborne Hart, US Senate

### Texas

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### 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



# Social disaster in Carolinas

Continued from front page

day to accompany the Socialist Workers Party members around the area, where Hurricane Florence made land-fall Sept. 14.

They wanted to introduce us to some of the workers affected by the storm and show us what they're coping with. The team from Atlanta included Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Georgia, myself and Sam Manuel.

We explained to all those we met that the challenges they face are the result of a social catastrophe caused by the dog-eat-dog workings of the capitalist system. It protects private profit at the expense of workers and farmers, who are left on their own to try and cope with disaster.

Government officials ordered some 1.5 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia to evacuate before the hurricane hit. Of those who did, many were left to their own devices to figure out how to do it. Some tried to ride it out, thousands returned a week or so later to find their homes damaged or destroyed by the storm's winds, heavy rains and record-breaking flooding. Hundreds of miles of roads became impassable.

"The water didn't rise up to our house," Samantha Nelson, who lives in a mobile home in nearby Rocky Point, told us. "But a section of the road to our house collapsed. The rain got through our roof and into the walls and ceilings, so black mold is spreading throughout the house. We lost power for 10 days and all our food had to be thrown out.

"You can't drink or use the water, because it's contaminated," she said. "People who have well water have to pay to get it tested. The air is foul." Federal Emergency Management Agency and Red Cross staff told her that she had to get off her property to be considered for assistance.

"The workers and farmers of Cuba, led by their revolutionary government, show what can be done to minimize the destruction and loss of life from a storm like Florence," SWP candidate Fruit told Nelson. "Hurricanes are a regular occurrence for Cuba. Even though it's a poor country compared to the imperialist U.S., whose rulers' riches come from exploiting working people worldwide, the Cuban government and mass organizations mobilize workers and farmers and the country's resources to prepare in advance.

"They organize to evacuate people and their animals, to bring in supplies so rebuilding can begin immediately,"

Fruit said. "They can do this because they made a socialist revolution and the workers and farmers are in power. That's why there are so few deaths from hurricanes, compared to the United States."

"As Raúl Castro said, no one in Cuba is left on their own," she said.

"That's so different from here," said Nelson. "Here there's no real preparation."

## Workers volunteer to help

Nelson, Worrell and Stutts described many examples of working people pitching in to help each other. While they have each been dealing with their homes and families, they also have been distributing food and clothing and helping others figure out short- and long-term solutions to pressing needs.

As of Sept. 29, the death toll from Hurricane Florence stood at 48, with 37 of them in North Carolina. One of the most recent deaths was of an 85-year-old man from New Hanover County who got an infection in a wound from cleaning up debris on his property.

Hundreds of people were rescued from rising floodwaters by boat or helicopter. Among the volunteers involved in these rescues were members of the Cajun Navy, who came from Louisiana and elsewhere to help. The "navy" formed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, as workers with boats decided to take action to rescue people and pets, despite attempts by local authorities to block their efforts.

Some 1,500 people still remain in shelters, which authorities are trying to close. More than 550 others are being put up in hotels. Thousands are staying in damaged homes or tents on their property.

Eastern North Carolina is a center of the hog and poultry industries. At least 32 hog waste lagoons were inundated and another five had structural damage, sending huge amounts of animal waste into the floodwaters. The state Department of Agriculture reports the loss of 4.1 million poultry and at least 5,500 hogs.

Because of the storm's destruction, and the unpreparedness of the bosses, unknown numbers of workers are still without jobs in the Carolinas.

Coal ash from two power plants owned by Duke Energy flooded during the storm, sending millions of gallons of toxic waste, including arsenic, lead and other heavy metals, into nearby rivers.

Lack of clean water for cooking,

## NY: Cuba president calls for end to US gov't embargo



Militant/Mike Shur

NEW YORK — Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, right, was greeted by a crowd of more than 1,500 at Riverside Church in Harlem Sept. 26. He was here to speak for Cuba at the 73rd General Assembly of the United Nations. "This is a meeting of solidarity," he noted, with long-time opponents of the U.S. embargo against Cuba's workers and farmers and supporters of the Cuban Revolution.

The Cuban president made a point of saying how much he enjoyed speaking in Harlem, one of the historic centers of the struggle for Black rights in the U.S., where the Cuban Revolution has always had many friends.

Díaz-Canel said he went to the U.N. to "denounce, once again, the unjust blockade, that, for almost 60 years, the United States has imposed on us."

"Cuba is not a big or powerful country, nor is it rich in natural or financial resources," he said, "but these limitations have not stopped us from practicing solidarity on the basis not of sharing what we have left over, but on what we have, and above all sharing our efforts and our sacrifice."

Some 42,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers are currently working in more than 75 countries, he said. Since the triumph of the revolution in 1959 more than 1 million Cuban volunteers have provided medical care, fought to defend the independence of Angola against invasion by apartheid South Africa, worked on engineering projects, and provided agricultural and sports training in some of the most underdeveloped regions of the world.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro also attended and gave greetings.

Díaz-Canel's packed schedule included addressing the U.N. General Assembly, and meetings with local elected officials, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, large farm representatives seeking to expand trade with Cuba, artists, Hollywood actors and others.

— SETH GALINSKY

bathing, washing clothes and other household tasks is an ongoing hardship.

## 'Get out in 24 hours'

Before we left Wilmington, Worrell and Stutts wanted us to visit New Providence Park apartments, where they heard reports that tenants were being evicted. When we drove into the complex, we saw dozens of rental trucks and groups of people helping each other load up furniture and other belongings.

"I want to tell you what really happened here and I want you to quote me," 23-year-old Benjamin Houghton told us. "On Sept. 26 the owners came and put notices on people's doors, saying we had to be out in 24 hours! They didn't call or email us or even knock! They said the rain damage meant these buildings had to be gutted and rebuilt. When we protested, they said we had until Saturday to get out.

"Me and my girlfriend are lucky, we found another apartment," he said. "But some of my neighbors are elderly and live alone. I've been trying to help them get packed and figure out where to go."

Later that afternoon, we visited a small mobile home park in Burgaw where many farmworkers live. "We evacuated for a week to Chapel Hill," Alejandra Hernandez, 25, said. "We had 25 of us piled into a few hotel rooms."

North Carolina farmworkers — some 150,000 strong — are often left to fend for them-

selves when storms approach. Many live in substandard housing located next to fields that lie in flood plains.

A group of over 35 farmworkers working on H-2A temporary visas at Riggs Brothers Farm in Kinston called 911 on Sept. 15 to get rescued. They woke up to find the water in their housing up to their waists. No one came for hours.

Most of the workers told the press they had heard a hurricane was coming, but they had never seen one and had no idea what to expect. Notices about the storm weren't broadcast in Spanish.

The workers found out later that the farm owner had called authorities to cancel their call for help. He has refused to say why.

In Clinton, northwest of Wilmington, hundreds of farmworkers were bused to area shelters to wait the all-clear to return to work. "We just got here and worked for four days," Celestino Lara Romero, who came from Mexico, told the *Ashville Citizen Times*. "We're wondering how we are going to get paid."

*Sam Manuel contributed to this article.*



Farmworkers at Riggs Brothers Farm in Kinston, North Carolina, called 911 Sept. 15 to ask for help when they woke up in water waist deep. Owner called authorities, said everything was fine, emergency officials cancelled rescue. It was hours before anyone came to get them out.



# —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](mailto:themilitant@mac.com), post them directly on our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

## Uber drivers protest low pay, as bosses pit them vs. taxi drivers

Uber drivers in Australia, the United Kingdom and elsewhere have been organizing work stoppages and other protest actions over the last several weeks in response to bosses' moves to cut pay and working conditions.

These drivers — as well as others at competing app-based services like Lyft, Uber Eats and Postmates — made 53 percent less last year than they did in 2013, JP Morgan Chase Institute reported. The monthly compensation for the drivers fell 47 percent in 2017, to an average of \$783 per month.

Hundreds of Uber Eats couriers, who deliver food, halted deliveries and demonstrated outside the company's U.K. headquarters in Aldgate East, Sept. 19 and 20. They were protesting big cuts in minimum delivery rates imposed by the bosses. The protesters then rallied outside Parliament.

"Riders said the minimum per-delivery rate had been reduced from £4.26 to £3.50 [\$5.50 to \$4.50]," said the *Guardian*, "and demanding a guaranteed minimum of £5 for London couriers."

The protests build on other actions by Uber workers in the U.K., including earlier this year in Edinburgh, Scotland.

On Sept. 5 an international Uber "log-off" strike was organized, where drivers logged off the company's app between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Drivers participated from Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and parts of the U.S. The action was called by Ride Share Drivers United, based in Australia, which demands Uber "treat drivers in a fair, lawful and dignified manner."

In Australia, this group organized over 10,000 Uber drivers to sign off their apps for two hours Aug. 22 in their second strike there in three weeks. Drivers from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart participated. "Basically drivers are being short-changed, almost every second ride," Ride Share Drivers United spokesperson Max B. told Business Insider.

The app-based bosses and the official taxi companies try to protect their

profits and pit their drivers against each other. They seek to prevent drivers from unionizing and fighting together to make gains for all.

Thousands of taxi drivers in Spain carried out six days of strikes and street blockages at the end of July until the government promised to sharply limit licenses for Uber, Cabify and other on-line ride services.

Today app-company drivers have 9,000 permits in Spain, compared to 70,000 for taxi drivers. Government officials said they will enact new regulations to limit app company licenses to one for every 30 taxi permits. This could lead to thousands of layoffs. Similar divisive steps have been taken by the city council in New York and are under consideration by authorities in London.

— Brian Williams

## Tomato cannery strike leaders win jobs back

OAKLAND, Calif. — Four leaders of a tomato cannery workers strike at San Benito Foods in Hollister, who were framed up by the bosses and fired last year for participating in the walkout, have won their jobs back. They got full



Daily Record

Couriers from Uber Eats in Edinburgh, Scotland, on strike in January against long hours and low pay. App-based bosses and taxi companies profit in pitting drivers against each other.

back pay and benefits of over \$200,000.

Raymundo Fregoso, Daniel Miranda, Esteban Guillen and Arturo Macias Jr. were among some 100 year-round workers who initiated the one-week strike in June 2017 that won wage increases. Many among the 300 seasonal workers, mostly women, joined the strike. The union, Teamsters Local 890, fought against the firings, including taking their cases to arbitration.

As the *Militant* reported in its July 17, 2017, issue, the strikers "got solidarity from other workers. Railroad workers

sent to pick up eight box cars of canned products wouldn't cross the picket line and left the cars behind." The bosses tried again, with the same result. Strikers "met the train again and again nothing moved."

Teamster business agent Jose A. Perez Jr. told the *Militant* that the fired workers alleged "striker misconduct" was preventing the rail cars from moving. But the arbitrator ruled that the box cars didn't move because of the actions of the rail workers, not the strikers.

— Joel Britton

# Fight Florida prisons ongoing censorship of 'Militant'

Continued from front page

The Sept. 17 issue contained two articles — "California Protest Demands 'End Solitary Confinement!'" and "Free Ukraine Director on Hunger Strike from Siberian Jail!" — which officials at the Florida State Prison said ran afoul of two of the 12, and the catchall. They claim that one or both of the articles "depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption" or "is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, disruption of the institution, violation of department or institution rules."

Of the 18 known impoundments of issues of the *Militant* over the last two years, all but five have been overturned by the prison system's Literature Review Committee. But the committee has

never offered any explanation of why it upheld any of those bans.

One Florida prisoner wrote in 2017 in a successful grievance to overturn the ban on an issue of the paper that "to deny me this *Militant* publication is similar to dictating to us what we should read and believe."

A prisoner in Illinois wrote to the Florida Literature Review Committee Sept. 12 protesting another ban this year. Florida prison officials should "set a proper example for those in its custody," he wrote. "Unfortunately it appears that you are not adhering to the same standard that you wish prisoners to follow."

Prison officials do take note of letters protesting their censorship. Dean Peterson, head of the Literature Review Committee, wrote back to Kim O'Brien, a *Militant* subscriber in Bos-

ton, saying they have overturned the bulk of the impoundments after appeal by the paper. But, he argued, decisions on impounding the *Militant* "must be made on an issue by issue basis," and "it is not possible for any one individual to hand down an edict exempting the *Militant* from impoundment and review any more than it is possible for one individual to arbitrarily decide which publications are allowed into our institutions and which are not."

"After the Attica rebellion in 1971 put a spotlight on the conditions workers faced behind bars there," Studer said, "the New York State Department of Corrections changed their guidelines to name the *Militant* as one of the publications that 'shall generally be approved.'"

"The Florida Department of Corrections should instruct wardens and local prison officials to cease arbitrarily and capriciously impounding the paper," Studer said. "The fact that they have overturned the overwhelming majority of the impoundments is proof that those issues shouldn't have been impounded in the first place."

Prison authorities in other states are also looking for ways to restrict the access of workers behind bars to literature and mail. Pennsylvania just implemented new rules blocking prisoners from ordering books and periodicals directly from publishers or distributors.

"We ask readers of the *Militant* to join the fight against censorship," said Studer. "Get your local union officials to send a letter. Talk to your church group. Get co-workers to write."

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](mailto: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*.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 18, 1993

Dealing another blow to the myth of "humanitarian" intervention, President Bill Clinton has significantly expanded U.S. forces and armor in Somalia.

The battle in the streets of Mogadishu, in which hundreds of Somalis were killed and wounded and significant casualties were inflicted on U.S. troops, has led to a big debate within ruling-class circles on what should be done.

There's one simple step that should be taken. That is for the Clinton administration to immediately withdraw all U.S. troops and its military hardware from Somalia and for the 28,000-strong UN occupation force to do the same.

U.S. forces entered Somalia intent on using the plight of the Somali people to reassert Washington's right to militarily intervene in so-called trouble spots.



October 18, 1968

A noteworthy feature of the history of the *Militant*, whose fortieth anniversary we celebrate this year, has been its role as a campaigner for socialism in national and local elections. Over the years, the *Militant* has served as the campaign paper of the Socialist Workers Party.

Prior to the 1930s, it was unthinkable for the mildest of socialists to support any major-party, capitalist politician. Yet as the very height of labor radicalism in the '30s, the Communist and Socialist parties both began promoting the ruinous anti-Marxist notion of supporting "lesser evil" capitalist politicians.

From the outset this was opposed by the Socialist Workers Party and the *Militant*, which continued the fight for independent labor and socialist political action.



October 16, 1943

The order of the War Labor Board providing for the discharge of hundreds of drivers by the New York milk companies in order to conserve gas and rubber furnishes an excellent example of how in the functioning of the capitalist system under war conditions, monopoly capitalism invariably comes out on top.

It may be argued that it is necessary to conserve gas and rubber, but the milk companies are the gainers from that necessity and the workers are the losers. The milk companies have had a hard time to get rid of almost a thousand drivers were it not for the fact that war conditions enable the government to step in and use its power on their behalf.

It is war conditions that bring out the hold which monopoly capitalism has upon the economic life of the nation.



# ‘Anti-gentrification fight’ is pretext for attack on art, culture that workers need

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — Claiming to be fighting against “gentrification” in Boyle Heights, a predominantly Latino neighborhood here, small groups of middle-class leftists and anarchists have gone on a campaign to physically attack art galleries, as well as threaten and race-bait artists, gallery owners and others.

Their demand “for all art galleries in Boyle Heights to leave immediately” and their thuggery are not just a mockery of a fight to defend workers who are Latino. They are obstacles to the working class as a whole, which needs art, culture and freedom of speech to advance on the road to taking power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

Pushed out by high rents in downtown Los Angeles, gallery owners started looking at spaces at empty warehouses in an industrial section of Boyle Heights in 2012. The first anti-gallery protest took place in the fall of 2015, as more galleries were moving in.

Groups like Defend Boyle Heights, Boyle Heights Alliance Against Artwashing and Displacement, Unión de Vecinos and others have escalated their provocative actions over the last few years, claiming that the galleries are cover for big real estate interests coming into the neighborhood to jack up rents and force out low-income workers and immigrants. The Alliance Against Artwashing has vowed to “stop at nothing to fight gentrification and capitalism in its boring art-washing manifestations” and described one gallery owner as bearing the “stench of entitlement and white privilege.”

“Most art is wack [rubbish],” proclaimed Defend Boyle Heights.

## Harassing artists and galleries

The self-proclaimed “anti-gallery activists” have painted “f--- white art” on the front of Nicodim Gallery. They have thrown detergent on people and food at gallery events and threatened people online.

In an April blog, Defend Boyle Heights proudly boasts of a “mob of protesters” chasing gallery owner

Laura Owens from the steps of the Whitney Museum and of causing Owen and others connected to the galleries to have “panic attacks, and recurring nightmares of masked mafios [motherf---ers] throwing Molotov cocktails at your buildings and cars.”

About half the galleries have moved out since the harassment began.

## Rising rents built into capitalism

Workers being priced out of long-time working-class neighborhoods as rents skyrocket is a permanent feature of capitalism. Real estate sharks are always on the lookout for neighborhoods where they can buy up properties and raise the rents and their profits.

In Los Angeles County inflation-adjusted median rent rose 32 percent from 2000 to 2015, while workers’ median income dropped by 3 percent or more. It’s tough in Los Angeles for workers to find someplace nice to live, even if you work more than one job.

This reality has plagued the working class since the rise of capitalism. In *The Housing Question*, Frederick Engels notes that each landlord, faced with competition, is driven to “ruthlessly making as much out of his property in house rent as he possibly can. In such a society the housing shortage is no accident; it is a necessary institution and can be abolished ... only if the whole social order from which it springs is fundamentally re-fashioned.”

## Attacking art is reactionary

The claim that this process can somehow be stopped if art galleries and coffee shops are kept out of working-class neighborhoods is not only ridiculous, it’s dangerous to working people and reactionary.

The anti-gallery people admit they don’t do anything to take on the landlords and builders. They say it’s a tactical decision.

“We have to put our focus where we think we can win,” Rigo Amavizca, who was involved with Defend Boyle Heights, told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Working people and the labor movement need to fight for higher



Work by South African artist Simphiwe Ndzube at Nicodim Gallery in 2017 in Boyle Heights in Los Angeles. So-called anti-gentrifiers have race-baited and threatened gallery owners, claiming their “white art” covers for big real estate interests seeking to raise rents. Some galleries have closed in face of thuggery. Nicodim has vowed to stay. “I welcome more art to the area,” said Socialist Workers Party member and Boyle Heights resident Ellie Garcia.

wages and for a massive government-funded public works program to build decent housing. A movement that raises concrete demands to advance this course would win support and allies, including from artists and others. But the white-baiting and thuggish anti-art groups don’t raise a single demand in that direction.

“I support your right to be here and I think the working class should oppose targeting someone because they are ‘white,’” the author of this article, Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, told gallery owner Mihai Nicodim, during a recent visit to his gallery. Nicodim, an immigrant from Romania, specializes in showcasing art from eastern Europe. Nicodim said he had no plans to leave and did not think the protesters represented the majority of residents in the area.

Socialist Workers Party member and railroad worker Ellie Garcia joined me at the gallery. “As a long-time resident of Boyle Heights, I welcome more art to the area,” she said.

Nicodim told us that one protest took place outside the gallery at a time when he had works by “a South African artist but they [the protesters] had no idea what was inside” or who the artist was.

Several coffee shops have also been targeted, including Weird Wave Coffee. Protesters passed out flyers calling it “White wave gentrifiers.” The windows of the shop have been broken several times, most recently in

early September.

Garcia visited the Weird Wave shop during one of the “protests.” Like others who ignored them to go in to buy coffee, she argued with some of the anti-gentrifiers, who were saying whites aren’t welcome. “My co-workers are Black, Caucasian and Latino and we have to stick together to fight the bosses, not each other,” Garcia said.

“Art is one of the ways in which man finds his bearings in the world; in this sense the heritage of art is not distinguished from the heritage of science and technique,” Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky wrote in *Art and Revolution*. Art is necessary, he adds, “for the building of the new society, for communism needs people with highly developed minds.”

The race-baiting and thuggery aimed at artists and art galleries are a danger to the advancement of the working class.

Laura Garza is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California.

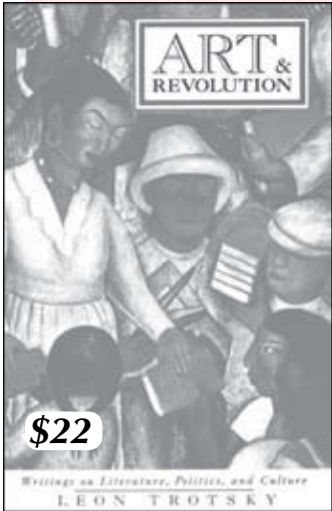
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The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.



Demonstration against Weird Wave Coffee shop. Leaflet says, “White wave. Get out, sellouts.”

## Art and Revolution by Leon Trotsky



“Artistic creation has its laws — even when it consciously serves a social movement. Truly intellectual creation is incompatible with lies, hypocrisy and the spirit of conformity. Art can become a strong ally of revolution only insofar as it remains faithful to itself.” — **Leon Trotsky**

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# Presumption of innocence is crucial right for working class

BY TERRY EVANS

Democrats continue to lead a furious attack on key political and constitutional rights after Christine Blasey Ford presented her unproven and uncorroborated allegation of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh at Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Sept. 27.

During the hearing liberal Senators especially targeted the presumption of innocence, a right workers fought for and need as we organize against attacks by the bosses and their backers in both the Republican and Democratic parties.

After the hearing President Donald Trump agreed to a Senate request to get Washington's political police, the FBI, to question certain people of interest about the charges.

Democrats seek to defeat the nomination both to advance their unremitting efforts to oust Trump from the presidency and to prevent the Supreme Court from again having a majority of judges with a conservative reputation.

Like all nominations to the Supreme Court, the White House nominated Kavanaugh to advance ruling-class interests against working people. Kavanaugh worked on Kenneth Starr's failed efforts to impeach former President William Clinton. He was a staff secretary for former President George W. Bush, working on his administration's efforts to advance the imperialist rulers' "war on terror," including the expansion of domestic spying operations and its abuse of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay.

Ford told the Senate hearing that she was certain Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her 36 years ago on a day and place she doesn't recall. She initially made the allegation anonymously, hoping it would be privately investigated. But once her name was leaked to the press the Democrats seized on her claim to try to push the nomination deliberations beyond the November midterm elections. The one other person Ford says was present when the assault occurred says he remembers nothing about it ever happening.

No criminal charges have been laid against Kavanaugh over Ford's claims, nor over two subsequent even more unverified allegations since. Kavanaugh described the allegations as "last-minute smears."

Senate hearings are not empowered to try anyone and Kavanaugh faces no sentencing. But the hearing and frame-up campaign in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and other liberal organs, is becoming like a public trial. Only one where the presumption of innocence, reasonable doubt and due process don't count. Anything goes.

Democrats, the liberal press and the middle-class left have pumped up their hysteria, echoing the #MeToo internet campaign that says survivors of sexual assault "must be believed." All that is needed they say, is the existence of a woman's accusation to know that it is true.

But far from this assertion being

an expression of the rights of women, it's an attack on rights. It undermines the fight for women's emancipation, which can only be carried through to the end by working people fighting to take and use political power, a struggle that requires defending, not relinquishing constitutional protections.

## Presumption of innocence

All this undercuts hard-won rights that the burden of proof rests on the accuser, not the accused — who should be presumed innocent and treated as such, unless their guilt is proved at a trial beyond any reasonable doubt.

The announcement of the FBI probe delighted ex-FBI boss James Comey. He's a hero of the left because he tried to swing the 2016 election for Hillary Clinton and has been at the forefront of efforts to discredit Trump. Those pursuing this crusade serve to boost the credibility of the bosses' political police that has a history of spying and disruption against the workers' movement and social struggles.

In an op-ed printed in the *Times* Sept. 30, Comey urged FBI agents to be "relentless" in questioning witnesses. Comey says any refusal to talk to the FBI, a right protected by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, "is its own kind of statement," inferring that those who claim the right not to incriminate themselves have something to hide. With no evidence Comey accused Kavanaugh of "obvious" lying at the committee's hearings.

The working class has no interest in whether Kavanaugh makes it onto the rulers' Supreme Court. Both Democrats and Republicans venerate the court and the judges who sit on it as guardians of the capitalist "justice" system. Whether a judge on the left or right of bourgeois politics is placed on the court, will not change the fact that it will make rulings to serve the interests of the exploiting class as it has done for hundreds of years.

But the presumption of innocence *does* matter. It's a right working people have had to fight for in the course

## Argentina: 'Abortion must be legal, in the hospital!'



Emmanuel Fernández

Tens of thousands marched in Buenos Aires (above) and in 20 other cities in Argentina Sept. 28 to demand a woman's right to choose abortion. A law to decriminalize most abortions was defeated by a narrow margin in the Argentine Senate Aug. 9. "We are relaunching the offensive," Victoria Tesoriero from Catholics for Choice told the press.

Predominantly young and female, the protesters sang, chanted, and beat on drums along the march route, a sea of green, the color of the pro-choice movement. "Abortion must be legal and in the hospital," and "It's my body, I decide," were popular chants. "Separation of church and state," "Not a single woman should die from back alley abortions," and "For safe, legal and free abortions" were among the slogans on banners.

Back alley abortions are the leading cause of maternal death in Argentina. "The struggle continues, we are staying in the street ever since that handful of dinosaurs in the Senate decided to not give us the law," one young protester told Agence France-Presse. "We women are dying, it's essential to take to the streets."

There were also protests of thousands in El Salvador, Mexico City, Dublin and elsewhere, part of the International Day of Action of Legal, Safe and Free Abortion. Inspired by the movement in Argentina, many protesters in Mexico also dressed in green.

— SETH GALINSKY

of innumerable union and class-struggle battles, during the Black-led mass mobilizations that toppled Jim Crow segregation and in struggles to oppose the rulers' wars. The notion that all you need to know is a woman's accusation to establish guilt flies in the face of the lessons of these struggles. False accusations of sexual abuse and rape have been used to target African-Americans like the Scottsboro Boys and working-class fighters as well.

Nine African-American teenagers were framed up and eight of them sentenced to death after fabricated accusations of rape were made by two Caucasian women in Scottsboro, Ala-

bama, in 1931. One of the accusers, Ruby Bates, later reversed her testimony and was a witness for the defense, during a retrial. The Supreme Court twice overturned guilty verdicts in the case.

The frame-up and the lynching of Emmett Till and many others falsely accused of sexual assault helped fuel the movement for civil rights.

More recently unionist and Socialist Workers Party member Mark Curtis was beaten by the cops and falsely charged with attempted rape and burglary in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1988. The frame-up took place as Curtis was involved in a fight against the arrest of 17 immigrant workers at the meat-packing plant where he worked. Susan Mnumzana, then secretary for women's affairs at the African National Congress observer mission at the U.N.; Edna Griffin, a prominent leader of the fight for Black rights in Des Moines; and thousands of others came to his support. An international defense campaign won his parole seven years after his frame-up conviction.

Such frame-ups won't be the last workers face under capitalist rule, as the bosses are driven to punish those who lead opposition to their efforts to make workers pay for the crisis. In their eyes all workers, especially those who stand up for dignity, solidarity and organize independently of the bosses' parties and their state are presumed guilty.

The right to a trial, to question your accuser and not be presumed guilty as a result of slurs in the press or by political opponents, is crucial for the working class and all those fighting attacks from the propertied rulers.

## Books for class-conscious workers



Three books that help understand the history of the U.S. government's political police, the FBI, how they are used to try to smash union power and silence antiwar militants, and how the Socialist Workers Party dealt a blow to decades of covert operations when it won a suit against the FBI and other federal police agencies in 1987.

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# How Cuban workers and farmers took power in 1959

Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58 by *Ernesto Che Guevara* is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for October. Guevara, at Fidel Castro's side, became one of the central leaders of the world-changing 1959 Cuban Revolution. He describes how Cuba's workers and farmers made their revolution, highlighting the political advances and military battles that he participated in with the Rebel Army. Oct. 8 marks the 51st anniversary of his capture and murder by a CIA-organized operation in Bolivia, where he was helping lead a guerrilla movement against that country's military dictatorship. Below is an excerpt from the book's introduction by Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters, who edited the book. Copyright © 1996 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Without pretension or exaggeration Ernesto Che Guevara provides a firsthand account in these pages of the final two years of the revolutionary struggle in Cuba that culminated January 1, 1959, in the destruction of the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

The workers and farmers government consolidated in the following months rapidly became what Guevara calls "the hope of the unredeemed Americas." It



Courtesy Alfonso Zayas

From left, Ernesto Che Guevara, Alfonso Zayas, Rogelio Acevedo, at 1964 reunion of combatants in Rebel Army column led by Guevara. "The Rebel Army was a political vanguard organization that was painstakingly selected and tested in battle," Mary-Alice Waters writes. "As the revolutionary war advanced, these cadres became more educated and more politically homogeneous."

opened the door to the first socialist revolution in the hemisphere, a reality that almost four decades later still stands at the center of world politics.

*Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, written with clarity and humor, is also about the education of Ernesto Che Guevara, the young Argentine rebel who became one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution. It is a book that reveals Che's political coming of age — often to his own surprise — as he is transformed from a serious student of Marxism with little practical political experience into a seasoned combat leader of men and women. We watch him as he takes on greater and greater responsibilities. We follow his growth, his education, and his transformation by the Cuban workers and peasants alongside of whom he is engaged in a life-and-death struggle. From a determined revolutionary intellectual imbued with a spirit of adventure, a self-described Quixote, one of the great communist leaders of the twentieth century begins to emerge.

"Some time ago," Guevara wrote to his parents from Mexico in July 1956, "I met a young Cuban leader who invited me to join his movement, dedicated to the armed liberation of his country. I of course accepted." Guevara's letter, which appears here in full for the first time in English, continued, "My future is linked to the liberation of Cuba. Ei-

ther I will triumph with it, or I will die there..."

The Rebel Army was a political vanguard organization, built around an expanding cadre that was painstakingly selected and tested in battle. As the revolutionary war advanced, these cadres became more educated and more politically homogeneous in the process.

Out of the eighty-two combatants who participated in the *Granma* expedition, Fidel Castro told Italian journalist Gianni Minà in 1987, "there were many young men who, had they survived the initial expedition, were well suited to become leaders. At least fifteen or twenty outstanding leaders could have emerged from our group — because a man needs both the opportunity and responsibilities to distinguish himself." The accuracy of this judgment, Fidel noted, was confirmed by the fact that "out of those few who survived, several brilliant leaders emerged," men such as Che, Raúl Castro, and Camilo Cienfuegos.

Fidel, like Che, first "looked for men and women who are made of good timber," is the way a former Rebel Army combatant, today a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, explained it. If the human material is there, "it can be shaped. Leaders who are forged in adverse conditions develop a deep sense of fraternity, of comradeship, knowing that human beings need each other, cannot live as hermits like

Robinson Crusoe. In order to withstand the hostile environment of the Sierra, to really be able to fight, one has to be part of a collective effort. In such a context human qualities are born, allowing future leaders to be forged."

Throughout the pages of the *Episodes*, we are introduced to hundreds of the men and women whose courage and capacities made possible the Cuban revolution; and we see in turn, how they grew into the fighters and leaders they became.

"Men may contribute to the making of history," Castro tells the people of San Miguel in Santiago de Chile in the speech about Che at the opening of this volume, "but history also makes men..."

*Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* deals with the greatest challenge facing humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century: it chronicles the forging of a revolutionary cadre able — and willing — to lead a mass armed insurrection to power and establish a popular revolutionary government.

The war whose episodes are the subject of this book was not the end but the beginning of the greatest historic event of the second half of the twentieth century, the opening of the socialist revolution in the Americas. The story of that revolution is still being written by the creativity of millions of women and men determined to remake the world and transform themselves in the process. Almost forty years after they confidently set out on that road, the words of Che Guevara at the end of this book remain true. We Cubans have begun the struggle for our territory's total freedom, he wrote:

We know it will not be easy, but we are all aware of the enormous historic responsibility of the July 26 Movement, of the Cuban revolution, of the nation in general, to be an example for all peoples of Latin America, whom we must not disappoint. Our friends of the indomitable continent can be sure that, if need be, we will struggle no matter what the economic consequence of our acts may be. And if the fight is taken further still, we shall struggle to the last drop of our rebel blood.

This book is dedicated to a new generation of fighters around the world for whom the example of the Cuban revolution and the line of march of its victorious Rebel Army still show the way.

October

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# Trump pushes US rulers’ interests at UN

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minded liberal opponents at home.

Despite being its largest donor, the U.S. rulers have less use for the U.N. today than when they emerged as the victor from the second imperialist world war and founded it with their allies. In 1944 the heads of state of the U.S., U.K. and USSR met, along with the Chiang Kai-shek government of China, to devise a postwar structure that would give preponderant influence to Washington and its allies.

Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin described the U.N.’s predecessor, the League of Nations, as a “den of thieves” to aid the U.S. rulers and other imperialist powers in their drive for markets and profits and to defend them from revolutionary challenge by working people.

The U.N. was never “neutral.” It was used by the U.S. rulers for decades as cover for its predatory wars abroad. With the complicity of Joseph Stalin, Washington got U.N. backing for its 1950-53 “police action” that leveled most of Korea, killing hundreds of thousands. But they were fought to a standstill, in U.S. imperialism’s first military defeat.

The slaughter inflicted on the Iraqi people by Washington and its allies in 1991 was organized with U.N. backing.

Neither has the U.N. moderated violent clashes between the 193 rival powers now under its jurisdiction, as its founders claimed it would. These conflicts and wars are inherent to the imperialist system and cannot be quelled by so-called “globalist” institutions. Under capitalist rule there can never be a “united nations.” The weaker imperialist competitors of Washington hoped the U.N. could be a way to “regulate” their battles with Washington, but that’s impossible as well.

Washington sees the U.N. — like NATO and a number of other multilateral alliances and institutions — as less useful in its efforts to reach agreements and assert its power worldwide. While the U.S. rulers’ strength is declining, it is still the most powerful imperialist power. Its European rivals are in crisis as their EU is coming apart under the

blows of member capitalist rulers’ clashing needs and interests.

Trump defended his decision to pull out of the U.N.-endorsed 2015 Iran deal that European capitalist rivals claim to be “international law,” and reimpose sanctions that will fall hardest on working people. The capitalist government in Iran has refused talks with Washington, for the time being. In addition to the squeeze on their economy, Iran’s capitalist rulers face Israeli attacks against their efforts to strengthen Hezbollah in Syria; protests by working people in southern Iraq against the influence there of hated Tehran-backed militias; and widespread working-class unrest across Iran.

In practice, profit-driven bosses among Washington’s rivals are winding down their operations in Iran. They fear losing access to the huge U.S. capitalist market and to a world financial system dominated by the U.S. rulers.

The U.S. president castigated the capitalist-minded rulers in China, as part of Washington’s determined efforts to contain their growing competition. He defended Washington’s recent tariffs on Chinese firms, saying he was defending “our companies” and “our workers.”

In reality his protection of the bosses always comes at the expense of workers in both the U.S. and in China. Workers share common interests that can only be advanced in struggle against the bosses and their governments, not in collaboration with them. Gains made by U.S. bosses just make them stronger, more determined to boost profits at the expense of workers.

## Washington steps away from U.N. bodies

Stirring the wrath of his European competitors, and of the liberal press at home, Trump defended his administration’s decision to withdraw from the U.N.’s Human Rights Council and reiterated Washington wouldn’t recognize its International Criminal Court. The administration refuses to nominate judges to the U.N.-backed World Trade Organization, blocking it from functioning, including taking up recent U.S. tariffs.

French President Emmanuel Macron drew applause from the U.N.’s General Assembly when he rebuked Trump’s comments. He claimed the president was weakening the “international order,” on a course that could lead to “global war.”

“Do not accept the erosion of multilateralism” he exhorted. But the utopian course Macron defends is simply what he sees as the only way to defend French capitalists’ interests against Washington’s moves today.

The White House’s course is winning ruling-class support, as he uses Washington’s economic weight and military superiority to force “deals” on rivals worldwide.

At the same time, the unintended consequences of Washington’s moves in Korea and elsewhere, seeking to tamp down the threat of military explosions and advance denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, create better conditions there, in Japan and Asia, and beyond, for working people to organize and advance common struggles.

# SWP door-to-door drive

Continued from front page

In addition to branches of the SWP, members and supporters of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom will join in the circulation effort.

Campaigning on workers’ doorsteps is politically rich and rewarding. Party supporters and *Militant* boosters act as what Vladimir Lenin, central leader of the Russian Revolution, called “the tribune of the people, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears,

## LETTER FROM EDITOR

no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

Workers are thinking about, discussing and debating what is unfolding politically in the United States and the world. This includes the latest Democratic Party-led “resistance” targeting those workers who voted for President Trump, or who didn’t vote for anyone — an anti-working-class campaign aimed at restricting key political rights working people have won in struggle; the deteriorating work conditions and stagnant wages we face during a capitalist boom; the strikes and labor actions that reject the assaults on the working class and point to the need to organize and build our unions; and the consequences of imperialist wars and anti-working-class policies throughout the world.

And they are open to discussion on the need for independent working-class political action and a labor party.

The Socialist Workers Party first turned decisively toward going door to door broadly to the working class in city and town in Wisconsin in 2011. After taking part in public workers’ protests in the state capital, Madison, where union officials were trying to tie workers’ fate to the Democrats and the rulers’ two-party system, SWP members turned to fanning out across the state.

The party deepened its activity in the working class, engaging workers in an undifferentiated way in discussion on how to meet the attacks we face from the bosses and their government, and to build a working-class movement independent of the capitalist parties and their state.

This “Wisconsin turn” is at the heart of building a proletarian party today, and every branch of the SWP puts its assessment of the past week’s campaigning — where the socialists went, who they met, what they discussed, how they will follow up — and a plan for the coming week at the top of its weekly meeting agenda. This comes first, and party drives, election campaigns, participation in labor and social protests and other important activity reinforce this central axis.

Financing the SWP is a class question. The party relies solely on the contribution of workers and has no other sources of funds. Getting an early start on securing and collecting pledges for the \$100,000 Party-Building Fund, including winning contributions from a substantial number of new readers will ensure the quota will be met in full and on time.

As party branches adopt goals, the *Militant* will list them and follow the progress and accomplishments on a weekly scoreboard.

If you want to be part of this effort — by joining a door-to-door team, inviting SWP members to knock on doors in your neighborhood, signing up for a subscription and convincing co-workers and friends to do the same, buying a book and discussing it with others, or sending a contribution — please call or email the SWP branch nearest you. (See directory on page 8.)

*John Studer*

John Studer, editor

## In New International no. 10 Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War by Jack Barnes



Every time we hear about one of these so-called trade deals, what we’re watching unfold is the growing use of political and military clout to achieve economic ends. It’s the use of power to drain surplus value from wherever it’s produced by workers and toiling farmers into the pockets of capitalists in the United States.

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