

Saudi, Tehran fueled war in Yemen brings death, famine

BY TERRY EVANS

Intensified bombing by the Saudi Arabian air force and an allied ground offensive by pro-government forces against the Houthi-held port of Hodeida in Yemen began in early November, after Washington urged its Saudi ally to hold cease-fire talks with the Tehran-backed rebel forces.

The nearly four-year war, and a Saudi monarchy blockade seeking to restore the deposed government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, has led to over 10,000 deaths and a widespread famine that affects close to half of the population. Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East.

The U.S. rulers have supplied bombs, arms and aided the Saudi attacks, part of a broader effort to push back growing influence in the region by Tehran. But the failure of the Saudi war to make substantial gains and its growing unpopularity have led Wash-

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Solidarity, struggle is road to unite the working class



Militant/Betsey Stone

Carole Lesnick, left, who ran as Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. House from Oakland, joins striking Marriott hotel workers on picket line there. SWP calls for need to build unions.

SWP says 'Build unions, chart course to take political power'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The Socialist Workers Party ran 19 candidates for U.S. Senate, governorships and other offices across the country in the 2018 midterm elections, speaking out against the capitalist rulers' attacks on workers, farmers and others. They explained that workers need to build unions, fight to unify

SWP SPEAKS IN INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

working people in struggle, and chart a working-class course to take political power into their own hands.

SWP candidates spoke at Militant Labor Forums across the country on the Nov. 9-10 weekend to discuss what the election results registered, the response of workers to the SWP campaign, and the party's plans to continue advancing its working-class program and activities.

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US troops out of Korea, Middle East, Afghanistan!

Under Democratic and Republican presidents alike, the U.S. government has been embroiled virtually nonstop in wars to defend U.S. capitalist inter-

EDITORIAL

ests for the last 28 years. The 1990-91 Gulf War and ensuing combat that went on and off through this year. U.S. intervention in Somalia from 1992 to

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Messages protest Florida prison censorship against the 'Militant'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Opposition to ongoing Florida prison censorship is growing after the system's Literature Review Committee at the end of October upheld a ban on the Sept. 17 issue of the *Militant*. Several groups have sent letters urging prison officials to lift

Marriott strike makes gains, picketing goes on at 19 hotels

BY BERNIE SENTER

SAN DIEGO — Workers at Marriott's Westin San Diego Gaslamp hotel voted to accept a new contract after their more than monthlong strike here Nov. 11. The settlement came a few days after 100 strikers, members of UNITE HERE Local 30, and their supporters rallied outside the hotel Nov. 6, chanting "Don't check in, check out," and "What do we want? Contract! When do we want it? Now!"

Some 7,000 UNITE HERE members at 19 Marriott-owned hotels are still on strike in San Francisco, Honolulu and Boston. A settlement has also been reached at Marriott hotels in Oakland and Detroit. The workers — front desk staff, housekeepers, food service workers and others — are fighting for more regular shifts, better pay, against hikes in the cost of health care, for more safety protection and against the threat of job losses from the bosses' moves to install new technology or replace workers with contractors.

Their most popular slogan is "One job should be enough," because their wages are so low that many need two or more jobs to get by.

"As long as you have a union between workers you can get anything," striker Marco Espinoza told the *Mili-*

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Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 5)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	115	56	115	34
Atlanta	85	52	85	27
Chicago	115	78	115	58
Dallas	50	36	50	28
Lincoln	15	11	15	9
Los Angeles	125	64	125	32
Louisville	30	21	30	17
Miami	40	8	40	21
New Jersey	35	20	35	19
New York	110	75	110	44
Oakland	85	56	85	41
Philadelphia	55	29	55	27
Pittsburgh	15	16	15	3
Seattle	90	47	90	30
Twin Cities	65	29	65	23
Washington	80	42	80	50
Total U.S.	1,110	640	1,110	463
Prisoners	25	14		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	60	41	60	26
Manchester	50	30	50	16
Total U.K.	110	71	110	42
CANADA				
Montreal	50	20	50	12
Vancouver	45	31	45	22
Total Canada	95	51	95	34
New Zealand	40	27	30	17
Australia	30	22	15	2
Total	1,410	825	1,360	558
SHOULD BE	1,400	875	1,400	875

Amnesty for all immigrants in US, cancel Honduran debt to US banks

BY SETH GALINSKY

After a month on the road, more than 5,000 workers and farmers from Honduras and some from other parts of Central America have left Mexico City, heading for the U.S. border.

Many workers in the U.S. have mixed feelings about the caravan. They sympathize with those fleeing death threats or victims of gang and government violence and understand others' desire to escape the effects of imperialist pillage and today's crisis of capitalist production and trade.

But many also have concerns about the effects of a big wave of new immigration and sense that the groups leading the trek have organized a dangerous and risky adventure, raising false hopes of easy passage across the border. The organizers are using the desperation of many working people in Honduras to score points for the opposition capitalist party there and against Donald Trump.

More than 2,600 have abandoned the caravan, accepting the Mexican government's offer to apply for permanent resi-

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IS targeted Christians to divide Iraq working people 6

Are acts of Jew-hatred on the rise in the US today? 4

Music, art part of revival of life in Mosul after defeat of IS 6

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Coal miners in Ukraine occupy mine to demand unpaid wages

Build unions, unite workers

Continued from front page

“Few workers were excited about either the Democrats or Republicans. They didn’t see them presenting any answers for the working class,” Róger Calero, SWP candidate for New York governor, said Nov. 10 when he spoke in New York City along with Vivian Sahner, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey.

“We got a serious hearing and discussion when we explained that workers need to join in backing each other in every strike or battle we get involved in. Solidarity in struggle is the path to unifying working people on the road to independent working-class political action.

“The elections took place as the imperialist ‘world order,’ put together by the U.S. capitalist rulers after they emerged victorious from the second imperialist world war, is coming apart,” Calero said. “We are seeing changes taking place like nothing we’ve ever seen in our lives. And this is deepening the crisis of capitalism workers see affecting them.”

There was a lot made by the liberal press of the number of “socialists” and members of Democratic Socialists of America who ran — and a few who got elected — on the Democratic Party ticket, Calero said. “This wasn’t some new breakthrough for ‘socialism,’” he said. “It is an effort to keep workers looking for a way forward enmeshed in the rulers’ two-party swamp.”

The forum featured a lively discussion that took up political developments in the U.S. and the world, including whether there is a rise in Jew-hatred among working people today, and the importance of the labor movement taking up the fight for amnesty for immigrant workers in the U.S.

“The election took place in the middle of the party’s drive to get 1,400 *Militant* subscribers, sell 1,400 books by SWP leaders, and raise \$100,000 for the work of the party,” Calero said. “We look forward to continuing this effort, joining workers in their actions and knocking on doors across the country.”

The eight-week drive by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Austra-

lia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. will continue through Dec. 4. The books on special offer are featured in an ad on this page.

Carole Lesnick, who ran as the SWP candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in Oakland, California, talked with workers on their doorsteps in Hayward Nov. 11. Cecilia Martinez, a single mother of two, liked what she had to say.

Lesnick told her that she is building support for striking workers at seven Marriott hotels in San Francisco. She showed Martinez her “One job should be enough! UNITE HERE” button. The strike is now in its sixth week and picket lines are spirited, Lesnick said.

Martinez said she had to “work like a burro” to clean houses in the area and has to struggle to pay her bills. When some people learn their cleaners don’t have papers, she said, “they don’t pay the minimum wage. They just pay what they feel like.”

Lesnick gave out a statement, “Amnesty for Immigrants! Unite, Organize All Workers!” that she and other SWP candidates in California released in October. “There are more than 11 million immigrant workers without ‘proper’ documents,” the statement said. “Our party, the SWP, campaigns for the unions to fight for amnesty for all of them. ...

“This is a life and death question to unite the labor movement,” it stated.

Martinez got a copy of the *Militant* and asked Lesnick to come back soon for more discussion and to give her time to get money together to get a subscription.

Oppose Washington’s wars!

Ned Measel, who ran as the SWP candidate for District of Columbia delegate to the House of Representatives, and fellow SWP members traveled to West Virginia Nov. 10-11 to knock on workers’ doors. In Grafton, Measel told army veteran Wesley Robertson that Washington sends young people to fight wars that serve the capitalist rulers’ interests. The SWP campaigns for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea and elsewhere around the world.



Militant/Glova Scott
Ned Measel, right, who was SWP candidate for D.C. delegate to U.S. House of Representatives, and Joanne Murphy talk with veteran Wesley Robertson in West Virginia about how capitalist system is responsible for war. “I learned it wasn’t about freedom,” Robertson said, agreeing.

Robertson said he joined the army at 17, believing the recruiters who told him he would be fighting for peoples’ freedom. “We just never questioned it,” he said.

But he said he changed his mind because of his experiences while deployed to Iraq and Kuwait for six years, and because of what he learned about the U.S. internment of Japanese during World War II. “I learned it wasn’t about freedom,” he said.

Since getting out of the army in 2015, he has tried to earn a living working in gas stations and as a telemarketer and is struggling. He signed up for a *Militant* subscription, and said he wanted to get together again and get some of the books party members brought. “Call me up!” he said.

The party’s door-to-door campaigning is winning new financial contributors, helping to-boost the \$100,000 annual SWP Party-Building Fund. In Albany, New York, SWP members Alonso Hernández and Emily Bentley, both retail workers, met Mexican-born hospital cleaner Ana Martínez when they knocked on her door several months ago.

She told them about being part of a union-organizing effort last year, and they told her about how they had supported union nurses and hotel workers in the region. She subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Is Socialist*

Revolution in the US Possible? by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

Bentley invited Martínez and Hernández to a barbecue a month later. They discussed union struggles and the Cuban Revolution, which Martínez admires, and how the party campaigns to get out the truth about its example for workers.

Martinez pledged \$30 to the SWP fund.

“I want to help a movement that sows hope and optimism among workers trying to fight for their rights,” she said.

If you want to join in solidarity actions, in distributing the *Militant* and books on special, or to contribute to the SWP fund, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

—**MILITANT
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Gangs, Drugs and Violence Are Built into Capitalist Rule — Working-Class Solidarity Counters Dog-Eat-Dog Morality of Capitalism. Speaker: Hugo Wils, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. *Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place M12 6HS. Tel.: (0161) 258-2569.*

<i>Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive</i> Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 5)			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Albany	\$6,000	\$3,847	64%
Atlanta	\$9,500	\$4,505	47%
Chicago	\$11,000	\$5,463	50%
Dallas	\$2,500	\$1,315	53%
Lincoln	\$225	\$160	71%
Los Angeles	\$10,000	\$3,325	33%
Louisville	\$800	\$655	82%
Miami	\$3,500	\$550	16%
New York	\$14,000	\$9,097	65%
N. New Jersey	\$2,500	\$1,193	48%
Oakland	\$12,500	\$7,604	61%
Philadelphia	\$3,000	\$1,500	50%
Pittsburgh*	\$900	\$150	17%
Seattle	\$10,000	\$5,108	51%
Twin Cities*	\$4,800	\$1,680	35%
Washington, DC	\$5,500	\$3,390	62%
Other	\$1,350	\$500	37%
Total	\$98,075	\$50,042	50%
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contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8.*

Are acts of Jew-hatred on the rise in the US today?

BY SETH GALINSKY

The day after the murder of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh by anti-Semite Robert Bowers Oct. 27, Osborne Hart, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, went there to condemn the killings. He called on working people and the entire labor movement to “speak out against this attack and offer solidarity with the Jewish community.” Every anti-Semitic attack must be opposed, he said.

“Jew-hatred, and its murderous consequences, rises to the surface in times of crisis under capitalism, as class tensions sharpen,” he said. “The scapegoating of Jews for economic and social problems is a deadly threat to the working class.”

In the wake of the killings many working people wonder where Jew-hatred comes from and how it can be combated. The *New York Times* and other liberal media and groups have asserted that there has been a significant rise in anti-Semitic acts in the U.S., especially in the last two years. They blame this on the election of Donald Trump as president and what they call his “hate speech” and alleged defense of “white supremacy,” which they claim is on the upswing within the working class.

But this isn’t true. Trump often uses ugly rhetoric, but his election wasn’t built on reactionary views, bigotry and Jew-hatred spreading throughout the working class. Support he won from workers came from their anger at the spreading carnage from the crisis of capitalism impacting them, their families and communities, and the sense that politicians in Washington had only disdain for their problems. Hillary Clinton and other Democrats dismissed them as “deplorables.”

Working people were transformed by the impact of the Black-led fight that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, the fight against the Vietnam War, for women’s equality, and years of working and living alongside millions of immigrant co-workers.

As Hart said in his statement, “There is less racism, less anti-immigrant sentiment among working people today than at any time in U.S. history.”

And there is no rise of Jew-hatred among workers today.

What are the facts?

To buttress their anti-working-class assertions, the editors of the *Times* rely on a report issued several months ago by the Anti-Defamation League, which claims a 57 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents in 2017 compared to the previous year.

But the report’s “actual findings” don’t show a rise, David Bernstein writes in Tablet, an online magazine of “Jewish news, ideas and culture.”

Actual physical assaults, a key indicator of the extent of Jew-hatred, in fact declined in the last year by 47 percent, the ADL admits.

The study boosts its figures by counting as separate incidents 163 bomb threats made by two individuals to Jewish institutions. And, Bernstein points out, before the study was released it was shown that the two callers weren’t motivated by anti-Semitism.

Bernstein says, “The ADL report itself acknowledges that some of the rise

may simply be due to better reporting.”

Deadly attacks on Jews in the U.S. aren’t new or increasing. Over the last decade, he writes, there was the 1999 shooting of five people at a Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles; the murder of two people at an El Al ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport in 2002; the 2006 killing of one woman and wounding of five others at the Seattle Jewish Federation offices in 2006; the 2009 killing of a security guard at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the 2014 murder of three people at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City and at a Jewish retirement home nearby.

The anti-Semitic attack in Pittsburgh had a particularly high death toll, Bernstein says, but “any of the other shooters would have been happy to kill as many or more.”

Jew-hatred is a permanent feature of capitalist rule. Its goal is to divert workers and others to see a Jewish conspiracy as responsible for the problems they face, not the exploitation and oppression of capitalist rule.

“I don’t think anyone has been slandered more than the Jews,” Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro said in a 2010 interview in *The Atlantic* magazine. “They have been slandered much more than the Muslims because they are blamed and slandered for everything.”

As long as capitalism exists, there will be Jew-hatred. But, as a resolution on the Jewish question adopted at the founding convention of the Socialist Workers Party in 1938 said, the wealthy rulers only turn to financing fascist thugs and Jew-hatred when the crisis becomes so deep that millions of working people are mobilizing and threatening capitalist



AP Photo/Murray Becker

A meeting by fascist German American Bund at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 20, 1939, was met by a demonstration of 50,000, above, initiated by the Socialist Workers Party and backed by unions and others. There is no similar rise in fascist gangs and anti-Semitism today. Combating Jew-hatred is a life or death question for the working class and labor movement.

rule. By blaming Jews, the rulers hope to draw in sections of the working class and crushed middle-class layers and use them as shock troops against the working-class vanguard.

“There is no broad expansion of rightist or fascist currents in the United States today,” Hart said in his statement. “The owners of industry and finance don’t feel the need to turn to the goons and thugs of fascist gangs to preserve their class rule. They continue to rely on their Democratic and Republican parties, and their two-party shell game, to keep workers and others picking the ‘lesser evil.’”

Jew-hatred on the left

Bernstein notes that the ADL reports “college campuses saw a total of 204 incidents in 2017, compared to 108 in 2016.” But, he asks, how many of these are from ultra-rightists and how many from “leftist/pro-Palestinian sources?”

Amnesty for US immigrants, cancel Honduras debt

Continued from front page

dency. Hundreds have returned home.

Others vow to continue. “In the U.S. we can earn more and give something to our family,” Nubia Morazan, 28, told The Associated Press.

Using the caravan as a pretext — which Trump demagogically calls an “invasion” — the president signed an executive order saying that asylum applicants have to go to one of the 26 official ports of entry. In Tijuana — where caravanistas have been told by their organizers they’ll get better treatment — the backlog is so great that it takes up to five weeks to get an application.

Trump sent 5,600 soldiers to the border with Mexico in a symbolic show of force. By law, unlike border agents, they are forbidden to detain immigrants.

The cynical abuse of these workers by middle-class leftists and liberals, and their calls for the U.S. to “open the border,” are all aimed at advancing their “resistance” to the Trump presidency.

No fundamental shift in U.S. policy

Despite Trump’s rhetoric, White House policy does not represent a radical shift in U.S. immigration policy.

The president’s goal is not to seal the border, much less deport all the millions of workers without papers already here. Like the Bush, Clinton and Obama administrations before it, the White House seeks to increase control over the flow of immigrant labor, to turn off and on as

the bosses’ need.

This can be seen in the huge expansion of the so-called guest worker program in agriculture. In May, at Trump’s request, the Departments of State, Agriculture, Labor and Homeland Security agreed to “streamline” rules to let more workers in as bosses face a labor shortage in the current upturn in capitalist production.

The number of workers given work permits under the H-2A visa program increased by nearly 50 percent this harvest season compared to last year, reaching triple the number from five years ago. This will continue until the capitalist economy inevitably crashes.

From the bosses’ viewpoint these “guest” workers are as exploitable as those without any recognized documents. If they go on strike or quit their job they become deportable.

The constant migration of workers from semicolonial countries to better off imperialist centers is a permanent feature of capitalism. U.S. imperialism depends on superexploited immigrant labor to bolster its competitive advantage against rival capitalists. And it uses low-wage workers without papers to try and divide and drive down the wages of all workers.

Working people here need to demand amnesty for the more than 11 million immigrant workers in the U.S. so that they can join unions and fights for better wages and working conditions and more

There has been a rise of anti-Semitism, and attacks on political rights, among the middle-class left — under the guise of supporting Palestinians and the campaign to Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel.

This is prevalent in Britain as well, where some leaders of the Labour Party claim that Jews control the media, were the “chief financiers of the slave trade” or are agents of the Israeli government. The Norton West Branch of the Labour Party voted down a motion condemning the attack in Pittsburgh, after some members claimed there is too much focus on “anti-Semitism this, anti-Semitism that.”

Working people were appalled at the killing of Jews in Pittsburgh. That bodes well for building a movement that will put an end to the poison of Jew-hatred forever by fighting to replace the rule of the capitalist class with a government of workers and farmers.

without fear of deportation. And to defend the right of political asylum of all those fleeing death threats and threats of torture and violence.

Honduras is under the boot of U.S. imperialism. Two U.S. corporations monopolize the production of bananas, one of the country’s main exports. The foreign debt of Honduras to U.S. banks and bondholders is \$8.6 billion.

There is a heated class struggle in Honduras, from the recent 77-day strike by banana workers to decadeslong struggles for land by poor peasant farmers. But workers there face the same challenges as workers in the U.S. — lack of a class-struggle working-class leadership to organize an effective fight against capitalist exploitation and abuse.

There is a powerful example in revolutionary Cuba, where Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement united and led workers and peasants to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and take power themselves. They’ve been in power for 65 years, offering solidarity to others worldwide.

Workers here should organize to do all in our power to aid the struggles of working people in Honduras. Demand cancellation of the country’s crushing foreign debt.

Strengthening the struggles of workers here to take on the bosses, their government and political parties on a course to take political power in the U.S. is the most important thing we can do.

Coal miners in Ukraine occupy mine to demand unpaid wages

BY JANET POST

Fourteen coal miners at the Grigoriya Kapustina mine in Pryvillia, in the Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine, are sitting in underground, protesting not being paid for months. The action began Oct. 19 when a total of 33 miners stopped work.

They are demanding wages owed from June to September, and for some months in 2015 and 2017. The miners are members of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU). The mine is near the city of Lisichansk where fierce battles were fought between the Ukrainian army and pro-Russian separatists in 2014.

NPGU chair Mykhailo Volynets said Oct. 29 that if the debt to the miners isn't paid "protests will rapidly spread to other mines and enterprises." He encouraged miners from Kryvyi Rih and other regions to join the miners in solidarity.

"Many of the problems in the state-owned mines are caused by the government — by the decisions of the Ministry of Energy and Coal Mining," Volynets told the *Militant* in a phone interview Nov. 12. "Money allocated for miners' wages, safety protections and better equipment is used for other things." He said the miners are demanding the resignation of the head of the ministry.

"When I visited the mine and went down to talk to the strikers, I didn't ask them which ones were members of the NPGU and which were not. But some of the miners who were not members asked to join the union," Volynets said.

The union is providing water, food and medicine, and townspeople are sharing what they have with the miners. Some of the original 33 workers had to leave the underground strike because of health and family issues, Volynets said, but they also rotate in as part of maintaining 14 strikers in the mine. They're determined to stay.

Miners at state-owned Lvivvuhillia mine in western Ukraine haven't been paid since August. They rallied and

launched a hunger strike at the mine offices Nov. 12, Volynets said.

Protests demanding back wages also took place at the Selydivvuhillia and Myrnohradvuhillia mines in the Donetsk region and Novovolynsk in Volyn.

"These people work in such extremely difficult and dangerous conditions, but their wages aren't high," Volynets said in a letter issued publicly by the union. He said that as of Nov. 1 wages owed to miners at state-mining enterprises total 1.2 billion hryvnia (\$43 million).

While miners are owed wages in both eastern and western Ukraine, Volynets told the *Militant*, "the wage debt is higher in the east, which is closer to the military conflict."

The union announced Nov. 2 that part of 300 million hryvnia the cabinet of ministers had agreed after earlier protests to pay on back wages would be transferred to miners' accounts. But that does not include pay for other workers, including cleaners and boiler house workers, many of whom are women who get lower wages.

Some of these workers from the Kurakhivska mine technological complex organized a rally that day demanding five months back pay.

"They are having trouble paying for their utilities and electricity, which



Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine

Coal miners sitting in underground at Kapustina mine since Oct. 19 in eastern Ukraine. They are demanding long-unpaid back wages, a big issue for miners across the country.

costs almost as much as in Europe," said Volynets. "The union has asked the government not to cut off their electricity."

"We reiterate our full support and solidarity with the miners at the state-owned coal mining enterprises," Valter Sanches, general secretary of the IndustriALL Global Union, said in an Oct. 30 statement, "and we join you in calling on the Government of Ukraine to pay in full wages in arrears without further delay."

"The NPGU supports all spontaneous actions by the miners, whether or not the workers are in the union," said Volynets. "To be a member of an independent trade union takes courage."

Through strikes and other protests, coal and iron ore miners have forced the government to make some concessions, which has strengthened the union.

The NPGU was forged in 1989-91 in a wave of massive strikes and protests by miners and other workers for higher pay and safer conditions, combined with political demands, including an end to domination by Moscow. These actions helped lead to an independent Ukraine.

Messages of solidarity for the Kapustina miners strike can be sent to the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, St. Velyka Vasylkivska 65, Office 39, Kiev 03150, Ukraine. Email: international-dep@kvpu.org.ua

Marriott strike makes gains, picketing goes on at 19 hotels

Continued from front page

tant at the rally. He started work at the hotel shortly after the union won an organizing drive there five years ago.

Sheraton Hotel worker Jonathan Locke joined the picket line after work. He said that the strike has strengthened the effort to get a union at his hotel and that 50 co-workers have come over to the picket line. "Workers at the Sheraton did a collection for us and raised \$800," striker Paul Castro said.

In addition to wages and safety, the strikers biggest concerns are ef-

forts by the hotel bosses to cut jobs and increase the workload of workers who would remain. One issue is a trend in the industry toward offering guests rewards if they register under so-called "green" programs, where they agree not to have their rooms cleaned. This means less work for the housekeepers, and more and harder work when guests leave after days of no cleaning.

Another threat is technology replacing workers. This involves computer kiosks for check-in, checkout and pay-

ing restaurant bills that replace front desk and cashier jobs; apps like Seamless to order food, replacing cooks, servers and concierges; and doormen losing tips because guests use Uber and Lyft apps instead of hailing cabs.

Some Marriott hotel bosses have arranged with Amazon to install Echo devices in every room. "Alexa might do my job in the future," Maria Mendiola, a concierge who had been on strike at the San Jose Marriott, told the *New York Times*.

All these technologies help hotel bosses cut costs, David Autor, an MIT professor, told the *Times*. In addition to wages, which cost bosses money, workers get sick and take vacations. "People are messy," he said. "Machines are straightforward."

"I'm not against technology," said 32-year-old doorman Juan Eusebio, a striker at the W Hotel in Boston. "I just want any technology that comes in to help us do a better job, not take our jobs away."

The walkout is having an effect. Guests tell strikers that conditions are bad. Some have filed lawsuits against the hotel bosses, saying they were charged full price but got sharply limited services.

Mike Godfrey from British Columbia, Canada, told the *Maui News* that things at the Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa were rough, but "I support the strikers 100 percent."

This strike opened my eyes," Roblyn Kastrinakis, who works in the pantry at the Moana Surfrider Hotel in Hawaii, said Nov. 13 on the UNITE HERE Local 5 website. "We must understand what we are worth."

"We have changed because of this struggle," she said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 29, 1993

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — At 7:00 a.m. November 18, some 21,000 flight attendants struck American Airlines, the largest U.S. carrier.

American Airlines' operations were paralyzed in the opening hours of the strike, according to flight attendant Kelly McGreen. "They have flights going out, but with cargo only." McGreen said that flights out of New York were grounded and that workers at the Ogden service company, which fuels the planes, refused to cross picket lines at Newark, halting traffic.

At Chicago's O'Hare airport, 500 flight attendants held a spirited picket line the night before the strike, chanting "We want a contract!"

APFA officials say the strike will last 11 days, through Thanksgiving, and a decision will be made at that time whether to continue. Many pilots have joined picket lines.



November 29, 1968

Student strikes, mass meetings of workers, and protests by intellectuals swept Czechoslovakia during the Nov. 14-16 meeting of the Communist Party's central committee in Prague.

Student sit-ins began Nov. 15 at the agricultural college at Olomouc, in Moravia. The following day students occupied the agricultural college of Prague University. By Sunday the strike had spread to Charles University in Prague and to the Moravian capital of Brno.

By the time excerpts from the central committee resolution were published Nov. 18, more than 100,000 students were occupying school buildings throughout the country for a three-day strike.

The central committee statement made no reference to freedom of the press. The resolution suggested that censorship would be tightened.



November 27, 1943

The U.S. Supreme Court joined the Roosevelt-Biddle campaign to deal crushing blows to labor and to destroy civil liberties by its Nov. 22 decision denying the petition to review the case of 18 members of the Socialist Workers Party and of Minneapolis Motor Transport Workers Local 544-CIO, convicted under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act.

The lengths to which the despots in Washington are prepared to go in their campaign to outlaw the workers' right of free speech and in suppressing the genuine voice of revolutionary socialism is clearly indicated by this unheard-of-procedure of the highest legal body in the land.

The roots of the Minneapolis Smith "Gag" Act trial reach down into the war policy of the Roosevelt government. That government is bent on beating down all labor opposition to its course.

Islamic State targeted Christians to terrorize and divide Iraq working people

BY STEVE CLARK
ANKAWA, Kurdistan Region, Iraq — On July 17, 2014, a month after Islamic State’s conquest of Mosul, Iraq’s second largest city, the terrorist organization ordered “the Evacuation of Christians from the borders of the State of Caliphate no later than Saturday, [July 19, 2014] at 12 noon and after that date there would be only the sword between us and them.”

On Aug. 7, Qaraqosh (also known as Baghdedi), Iraq’s largest Christian city at the time, fell to IS invaders. Over the summer, IS forces bombed and shelled Christian cities and villages on the Nineveh Plain of northeast Iraq and cut off water, electricity and food supplies. They destroyed neighborhoods and desecrated places of worship.

That year more than 136,000 Chaldean, Assyrian, Armenian and other Christians from Mosul, Qaraqosh and elsewhere on the Nineveh Plain fled on foot to the Kurdistan Region — to Erbil, Ankawa, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah. “Those who remained . . . were taken as captives and slaves,” the Shlomo Organization of Documentation said in their June 2017 annual report. Islamic State imposed a reactionary social nightmare over those three years, and 250 Christians were killed.

During our participation in the 13th Erbil International Book Fair, Catharina Tirsén and this reporter visited Shlomo’s headquarters in this Erbil suburb of Ankawa Oct. 20. Like the words “salaam” in Arabic and “shalom” in Hebrew, “shlomo” means “peace” in Aramaic, an ancient language whose modern

variants are spoken by small numbers of Christians and Jews in Iraq, Israel and elsewhere in the Middle East.

We visited the center at the invitation of Faris Jeijo, Shlomo’s chairman and former Iraqi minister of science and technology. There we met two other founders of the organization, Taher Saeed Maty, its director, and Ranin Taher, its vice president.

Ranin Taher said that Shlomo began its work in 2016, with caravans of volunteers traveling across Kurdistan and elsewhere in Iraq to talk with victims and document crimes against the Christian population. Pointing to a large white board in the office, she explained that 32,814 individuals and 11,584 families had been interviewed. They showed us shelves of color-coded binders of interviews, photographs, and other records that line the walls.

Persecution began in 2003

The persecution actually began in 2003 amid the devastation of the bloody Washington-led invasion of Iraq that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein. Islamist terror organizations began organizing and carrying out armed assaults there, including against Iraqi Christians.

From then through the end of 2014, 1,107 Christians in Iraq were killed and 114 Christian places of worship attacked, Ranin Taher said.

The March 2008 kidnapping and death of Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho in Mosul — following shootings and beheadings of clerics and others the previous two years —



Islamic State subjected residents of Mosul, Iraq’s second largest city, to reign of terror when they seized the city in June 2014 until they were driven out in June 2017. Homes in Christian neighborhoods, like the two at top, were destroyed. Above from left, Faris Jeijo, chairman of Shlomo Organization for Documentation; Steve Clark, Pathfinder Press; and Ranin Taher, Shlomo’s vice president at Shlomo’s offices in Ankawa, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Oct. 21. Shlomo documents Islamic State crimes against Christian populations in Iraq.

received worldwide press coverage. In October 2010 more than 50 worshippers were killed and 60 injured during an Islamist assault on Our Lady of Salvation church in Baghdad.

As families fled from this campaign of terror, Ranin Taher said, the country’s

Christian population dropped from 1.2 million — out of 39 million people in Iraq — to some 300,000 today.

Shlomo’s website says that its mission is to submit the thousands of documents it has compiled “to national and international specialized authorities in order to rehabilitate, compensate and protect the victims, and hold the criminals accountable and prevent the recurrence of such crimes, which amount to a genocide.”

Faris Jeijo reminded us of the international campaign carried out by Nadia Murad, a young woman who was herself a victim from another Iraqi religious minority hit by Islamic State slaughter and enslavement, the Yazidis. Telling the truth about what happened is necessary but often difficult, he said.

“Many fear to talk,” said Faris Jeijo. “For victims of sexual slavery, there are feelings of shame. This is an important issue of women’s rights.”

Islamic State as it seized large swaths of Syria and Iraq in the midst of the years of wars there — was eventually retaken street by street by Iraqi and Kurdish peshmerga troops, backed by U.S. air power. The bombing and fighting further damaged the city, causing thousands more to flee.

As part of efforts to revive culture, Baroodi has organized photographic exhibitions and is part of a group that has launched an international book drive to replenish the university library. Defying fears of new attacks, these artists and other activists have held weekly book sales on city streets. Some have begun painting murals.

Wasfi is renowned for performing cello recitals on streets across Baghdad where Islamic State car bombings caused destruction and death. In the face of relentless terror attacks his defiant performances are aimed at “sharing hope, perseverance, dedication and preserving the momentum of life,” he says.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera in 2015, Wasfi was asked whether at a time of war, wasn’t music an inappropriate “indulgence” amid people’s struggles for “basic necessities.”

“It is needed as much as food, as much as oxygen, as much as water,” he responded, “because it refines and cultivates. Because it inspires people.”

‘Greatest crisis of bourgeois order in our lifetimes’

SWP leader speaks in Australia, New Zealand on world politics, building international working-class movement

BY RON POULSEN
SYDNEY — “There is no better vantage point than here in Australia and New Zealand to verify that what is unfolding today are the biggest political ruptures in the capitalist world order that those of us sitting in this hall have seen in our lifetimes,” said Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters, at Militant Labor Forums in Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 19 and here Oct. 21.

“Nowhere is it more apparent than in the Asia-Pacific region that the entire post-World War II imperialist order put in place by Washington and its allies 70 years ago is not just fraying at the edges,” Waters said. “It is being pulled apart at the seams.”

The vast, interlocking web of “multilateral treaties, trade pacts, military alliances, and all the supposedly supranational creations, like the European Union and the World Trade Organization, are being rendered asunder” by the workings of capitalism itself, she said.

Waters noted that we’re seeing the consequences of intensified capitalist competition as new powers flex their muscles, and inter-imperialist rivalries sharpen. Underlying it all, Waters said, is the “four-decades-long declining average rate of profit” accompanied by the inevitable financial crises that are the product of growing mountains of fictitious capital based on debt.

“Some of the greatest changes that are being registered,” the SWP leader said, “include the development of capitalism in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America that existed largely outside the world capitalist market at the end of World War II, and the rise of rival capitalist powers in the last quarter century, such as Russia, and especially China.”

“What is shattering,” she said, “is the liberal capitalists’ delusion that there exists such a thing as a ‘rules-based international order’ that will regulate the competition of capital and guarantee peaceful coexistence for all time.”

While noting that mold-shattering events were occurring in other regions of the world as well — especially across the Mideast and the European continent — Waters focused her remarks on the growing rivalry

between Washington and Beijing, and the growing nervousness — and divisions — in Australian and New Zealand ruling circles over the consequences for them.

‘Between rock and a hard place’

These more adversarial relations are seen and written about here with “a degree of insight born of deep trepidation,” Waters said. “Both Canberra and Wellington are between a rock and a hard place.” The U.S. remains their main strategic military ally — World War II has not faded from memory. Yet China is the major trading partner of both countries, and Chinese capital has growing weight in their economies.

Waters quoted former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who said, “History will mark this year [2018] as a profound turning point in the relations between the two great powers of the 21st century — the United States and China.”

Rudd was commenting on an Oct. 4 speech by U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence at the Hudson Institute in Washington, cataloging an extensive list of Washington’s major charges against Beijing — from industrial espionage to human rights violations to its military buildup in the South China Sea — that are offered up as justification for the sharpening trade conflicts between the two powers. While Pence’s speech received little more than passing attention in the U.S. press, it was viewed with some alarm in the southwest Pacific.

Many linked Pence’s speech to comments by President Donald Trump. “When I came we were heading in a certain direction that was going to allow China to be bigger than us in a very short period of time,” Trump said at an August campaign rally in Charleston, West Virginia. “That’s not going to happen anymore.”

Rulers’ concern — national security

Despite the common view that the conflict between Washington and Beijing is primarily a matter of a trade imbalance, Waters noted, the biggest issue for the U.S. rulers is, as they say openly, the question of national security. Trade is Washington’s strong suit and the weapon of tariffs is being used by Washington in much bigger conflicts over “who controls the next generation of technology including artificial intelligence, domination of semiconductor production and the supply chains vital to U.S. industry and the military.”

Trump’s claim that he’ll bring back the factories and production that U.S. capitalists have moved to Asia and elsewhere in search of cheaper labor, Waters explained, “is not about concern for workers who have lost jobs. It’s above all about the productive infrastructure needed by the U.S. imperialist rulers to maintain their military domination. Industries like auto, steel, oil, aerospace, shipbuilding, telecommunications and electronics are all vital for what they like to call ‘national security.’”

Recently Canberra, following Washington’s lead, blocked the Chinese giant Huawei from bidding on building Aus-



February-March strike by West Virginia teachers, above, was “the most important labor battle in U.S. in decades,” Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters said at Militant Labor Forums Oct. 21 in Sydney, Australia, left, and in New Zealand two days earlier. “It showed the nascent power of the working class.” She also said, “Nowhere is it more apparent than in the Asia-Pacific region that the entire post-World War II imperialist order put in place by Washington and its allies is being pulled apart at the seams.”

tralia’s next-generation 5G telecommunications network. The reason was “national security concerns over critical infrastructure,” Waters said. Beijing made its disapproval clear, demanding “a level playing field.”

Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced the first week of November his intention to stop Hong Kong company CKI bidding \$13 billion to acquire Australian infrastructure business APA Group, which controls over half the national pipelines. If the purchase had gone through it would have put 100 percent of electricity and gas transmission assets in major parts of the country in the control of Chinese companies.

The expansion of Chinese territorial claims and military fortifications in the South China Sea has revived memories within U.S. and Australian imperialist circles about the last world war. In 1942 the armed forces of rival Japan penetrated even further south, within a few miles of the tip of Australia, in the inter-imperialist conflict over the colonial spoils of the Pacific. All this lies behind the determination of the Australian capitalist rulers to secure their strategic alliance with Washington at all costs.

The New Zealand press picked up on another aspect of the international shifts that deeply concerns bourgeois interests there. Waters quoted an opinion piece by Jane Kelsey in the *New Zealand Herald* expressing alarm over a provision in the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement that the author says requires “any party that negotiates a [so-called] free trade agreement with a non-market country — meaning China — must disclose that fact, along with draft texts, and the other parties can kick it out of the USMCA.”

If this provision is repeated in other agreements, Kelsey wrote, “countries will be forced to choose China or the US,” posing “a huge challenge for Australia, New Zealand and many others.”

Waters noted that similar forces are

tearing apart capitalist trade alliances elsewhere around the world. This is precisely what the Brexit battle is all about.

Widening class divisions in the U.S.

Turning to the U.S., Waters told the audience, “You’ll never understand anything about what is happening in the class struggle there unless you get your eyes off of Trump!” That’s not easy, she noted, given the liberal media’s hysteria over the president. But Henry Kissinger’s assessment of Trump is more accurate, she noted. “Trump may be one of those figures in history who appears from time to time to mark the end of an era and to force it to give up its old pretenses,” Kissinger told the *Financial Times*.

And the next two sentences, Waters added, are just as important. “It doesn’t necessarily mean that he knows this, or that he is considering any great alternative,” Kissinger said. “It could just be an accident.”

“That’s because neither Trump nor any other capitalist politician has any great alternative,” Waters said. “For their class, there is none!”

The economic, social and political gap between the working class and the highly paid layers of the middle class in the U.S. has accelerated in the last two years, and that’s what every political battle there is an expression of. “The real cause of the liberals’ fury and determination to establish the illegitimacy, the unconstitutionality, of the Trump presidency is their contempt for the toilers of all races who voted for him, whatever the reason,” Waters said.

“They don’t think such people, who candidate Hillary Clinton labeled a ‘basket of deplorables,’ should be able to interfere in what they consider to be the political and social prerogatives of the privileged social layers they speak for,” she said. “They want changes in the Constitution that would limit what *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow claimed was a ‘plan by conserva-

Continued on page 9

Music, art part of revival of life in Mosul after defeat of IS

BY TERRY EVANS
“Music is my life. It’s amazing to hear it in Mosul again,” musician Fadhel al-Badri told Reuters Oct. 27. He was attending a symphony performance, the first concert in that Iraqi city since the expulsion of Islamic State last year. The show was part of broader efforts by working people to rebuild their lives, including the revival of music, literature and the arts, in the wake of IS repression and the devastation of the U.S.-led wars in Iraq.

Al-Badri had hidden his violin and oud, an Arabic stringed instrument, during the reactionary Islamist group’s three-year occupation of the city.

The orchestra was made up of professional musicians from the Peace Through Arts Farabi Orchestra from Baghdad, led by renowned cellist Karim Wasfi, and local amateurs. Hundreds came to the performance of Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons,” alongside Iraqi class-

ical music. The following weekend musicians from across the country came to play at the annual Iraqi Song Festival, which includes performances of traditional folk music, held at the city’s university. Wasfi’s orchestra performed again Nov. 10 in the more heavily damaged western part of the city, close to a building where Islamic State had executed gay and lesbian Iraqis by throwing them off the roof.

IS seized Mosul in 2014 after the Iraqi army crumbled and its soldiers fled the country’s second largest city, leaving its inhabitants unprotected to face the anti-working-class sect. Morality police patrolled streets, meting out swift, sometimes deadly, punishment for infringement of its rules. Most of the hundreds of thousands of books used by students and teachers at Mosul University’s library were burned by IS.

“We continued to consume culture in secret: we would listen to music, trade

books, films, music. That never stopped even though it was dangerous,” photographer Ali al-Baroodi told Reuters.

Mosul — one of the two capitals established by Is-

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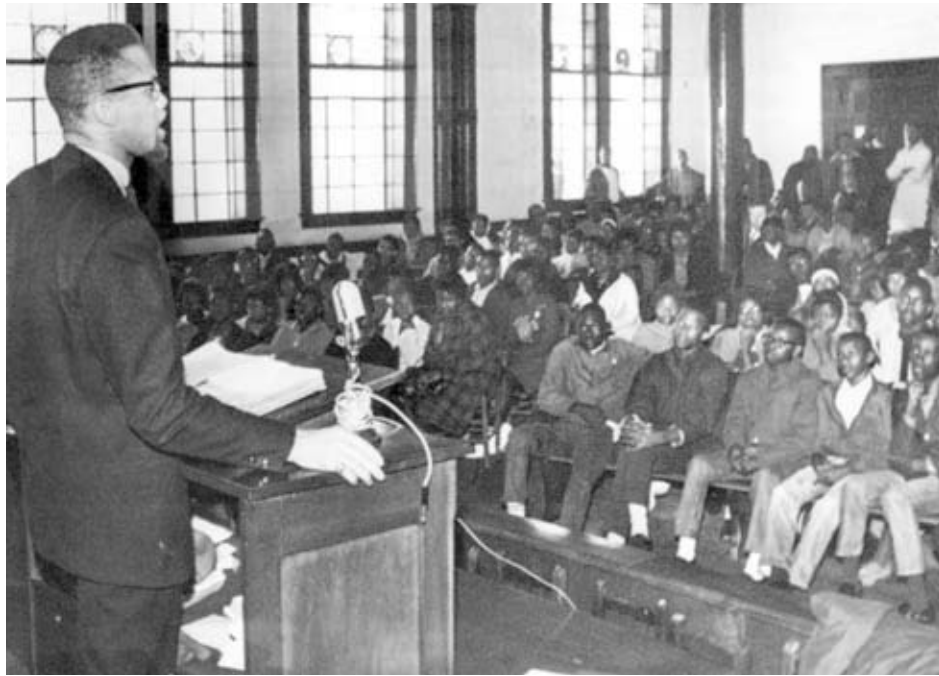
‘Uncle Sam is all over the world, but won’t act for our rights here’

Below is an excerpt from Malcolm X Talks to Young People, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for November. This speech, titled “See for Yourself, Listen for Yourself, Think for Yourself,” was given to high-school-age youth from McComb, Mississippi, who had been involved in civil rights battles there, at the headquarters of the Organization of Afro-American Unity in Harlem, Jan. 1, 1965. During their efforts to register people to vote in 1964, Ku Klux Klan thugs had bombed or set fire to more than 15 churches, homes and businesses in McComb. Copyright © 2002 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

[O]ne of the first things I think young people, especially nowadays, should learn how to do is see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself. Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself. But if you form the habit of going by what you hear others say about someone, or going by what others think about someone, instead of going and searching that thing out for yourself and seeing for yourself, you’ll be walking west when you think you’re going east, and you’ll be walking east when you think you’re going west. So this generation, especially of our people,



Malcolm X speaks to young people in Selma, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965, during civil rights battles there. Listen to what everybody else says, but come to a decision for yourself, Malcolm advised.

have a burden upon themselves, more so than at any other time in history. The most important thing we can learn how to do today is think for ourselves.

It’s good to keep wide-open ears and listen to what everybody else has to say, but when you come to make a decision, you have to weigh all of what you’ve heard on its own, and place it where it belongs, and then come to a decision for yourself. You’ll never regret it. But if you form the habit of taking what someone else says about a thing without checking it out for yourself, you’ll find that other people will have you hating your own friends and loving your enemies. This is one of the things that our people are beginning to learn today — that it is very important to think out a situation for yourself. If you don’t do it, then you’ll always be maneuvered into actually — You’ll never fight your enemies, but you will find yourself fighting your own self. ...

Never at any time in the history of our people in this country have we made advances or advancement, or made progress in any way just based upon the internal good will of this country, or based upon the internal activity of this country. We have only made advancement in this country when this country was under pressure from forces above and beyond its control. Because the internal moral consciousness of this country is bankrupt. It hasn’t existed since they first brought us over here and made

slaves out of us. They trick up on a conversation and make it appear that they have our good interests at heart. But when you study it, every time, no matter how many steps they take us forward, it’s like we’re standing on a — what do you call that thing? — a treadmill. The treadmill is moving backwards faster than we’re able to go forward in this direction. We’re not even standing still — we’re walking forward, at the same time we’re going backward. ...

[T]here has been a move on to keep the Negro thinking in this country that he was making strides in the civil rights field, only for the purpose of distracting him and not letting him know that were he to acquaint himself with the structure of the United Nations and the politics of the United Nations, the aim and the purpose of the United Nations, he could lift his problem into that world body. And he’d have the strongest stick in the world that he could use against the racists in Mississippi.

But one of the arguments against getting you and me to do this has always been that our problem is a domestic problem of the United States. And as such, we should not think to put it at a level where somebody else can come and mess with United States domestic affairs. But you’re giving Uncle Sam a break. Uncle Sam’s got his hands in the Congo, in Cuba, in South America, in Saigon. Uncle Sam has got his bloody hands in every continent and in every-

body else’s business on this earth. But at the same time, when it comes to taking forceful action in this country where our rights are concerned, he’s always going to tell you and me, “Well, these are states’ rights.” Or he’ll make some kind of off-the-wall alibi that’s not a bona fide alibi — not because it’s an alibi, but to justify his inactivity where your and my rights are concerned. ...

Now, you’ve lived in Mississippi long enough to know what the language of the Ku Klux Klan is. They only know one language. If you come up with another language, you don’t communicate. You’ve got to be able to speak the same language they speak, whether you’re in Mississippi, New York City, or Alabama, or California, or anywhere else. When you develop or mature to the point where you can speak another man’s language on his level, that man gets the point. That’s the only time he gets the point. You can’t talk peace to a person who doesn’t know what peace means. You can’t talk love to a person who doesn’t know what love means. And you can’t talk any form of nonviolence to a person who doesn’t believe in nonviolence. Why, you’re wasting your time.

So I think in 1965 — whether you like it, or I like it, or we like it, or they like it, or not — you will see that there is a generation of Black people born in this country who become mature to the point where they feel that they have no more business being asked to take a peaceful approach than anybody else takes, unless everybody’s going to take a peaceful approach.

So we here in the Organization of Afro-American Unity, we’re with the struggle in Mississippi 1,000 percent. We’re with the efforts to register our people in Mississippi to vote 1,000 percent. But we do not go along with anybody telling us to help nonviolently. We think if the government says that Negroes have a right to vote, and then when Negroes go out to vote some kind of Ku Klux Klan is going to put them in the river, and the government doesn’t do anything about it, it’s time for us to organize and band together and equip ourselves and qualify ourselves to protect ourselves. [Applause] And once you can protect yourself, you don’t have to worry about being hurt. That’s it. [Applause]

November

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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US out of Korea, Middle East, Afghanistan!

Continued from front page

1993. The invasion of Haiti in 1994. The 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, where the war continues 17 years later. Seven years of war in Syria. The war in Yemen. And more.

U.S. imperialism remains the strongest military power in the world, but it's weakening, while its old post-World War II "allies" in Western Europe are weakening even more.

The Pentagon keeps some 1.3 million men and women in uniform, with 450,000 deployed overseas, alongside more than 3,000 warplanes and nearly 5,000 helicopters. It has at least 6,500 nuclear weapons, and 20 aircraft carriers anchoring naval armadas all over the world. China has a grand total of 2 aircraft carriers.

Beijing is working at building up its military might, looking to the day when it can challenge U.S. power, not just in Asia but on a global scale.

Over the last decade or so, especially under Barack Obama, the Pentagon sought to reshape the "global footprint" of the U.S. armed forces, cutting back the number of troops in Western Europe and in Korea. They put increasing weight on use of special forces and pilotless drones.

Today we are witnessing some of the biggest changes in the world in our lifetimes, as the U.S. rulers seek to maintain their grip in the midst of the coming apart of the old liberal imperialist order — from NATO to the U.N., the World Court, European Union and much more — which the U.S. rulers' actions today are hastening. As Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice

Waters pointed out during her recent trip to Australia and New Zealand, this is most obvious in the Asia-Pacific region.

Beijing — a competitor worldwide for capitalist investments and trade today — was overwhelmingly a peasant, precapitalist society coming out of the second imperialist world war.

The White House of Donald Trump has taken steps to reverse cuts in military spending put in place under the previous administration. At the same time, Trump has been negotiating with North Korea on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. An agreement that removes nuclear weapons from the region would be good for the working class there, in Japan, the U.S. and worldwide. The administration has also begun negotiating with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The U.S. rulers plan to shift their military might to meet what they view as the bigger threats to their world domination coming especially from their capitalist rivals in Beijing and to a lesser extent from Moscow.

One of their biggest challenges is that their key imperialist allies there, like the Australian capitalist rulers, seek to balance their military collaboration with Washington with the increasing weight of trade with Beijing.

The Socialist Workers Party is an intransigent opponent of U.S. imperialism's wars. We demand all U.S. troops out of Korea, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa!

It's working people — both civilians and those in uniform who are used as canon fodder — who pay the price of the U.S. rulers' wars. Veterans who were promised lifetime care for their service today face long waits at the Department of Veteran Affairs and spiking rates of opioid addiction.

The real question before humanity isn't whether the capitalist rulers in Washington or Beijing come out on top.

Only the working class can put an end to imperialist war, by taking power out of the hands of the warmakers — the capitalist class.

New International

A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934-present

Articles, polemics and reports by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and world communist movement.

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'Greatest crisis of bourgeois order in our lifetime'

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tives to fundamentally change the American political structure so that it enshrines and protects white male power."

At the same time, she noted, the most important labor battle in the U.S. in decades was hardly reported by the major capitalist media. "In the state of West Virginia, where Trump had won 68 percent of the vote in 2016, 35,000 teachers, supported by a social movement of tens of thousands of others from the families, schools, unions, churches and community centers, carried out a statewide strike, which inspired workers across the country," she said. "They occupied the state capital for nine days straight until they won a 5 percent wage increase for every state employee.

"For the first time in years this class battle revealed the nascent power of the working class," Waters said.

"It marked the end of a long dry spell in the class struggle. One more registration of enormous pressures that are building across the globe."

The SWP leader concluded by describing recent book fairs from Manila in the Philippines to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan and the thirst encountered at these events for discussion of revolutionary perspectives and literature that makes available the cumulative lessons of more than a century and a half of struggles by the working class.

Waters talked about steps taken by the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia and New Zealand to respond to these momentous shifts in world politics. They have posed fresh opportunities as well as new and welcome challenges for the vanguard of the workers movement internationally.

Protest 'Militant' ban

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"None of the articles within this issue advocate for physical violence or group disruption," wrote Justin Mazzola, deputy director of research at Amnesty International USA, Nov. 2. "nor do they seek to incite rioting, insurrection, disruption of the institution or the violation of department of institution rules. The act of informing subscribers about events of the outside world in and of itself and without more should not be means to violate prisoners' freedom of expression."

He urged the Literature Review Committee to "end the arbitrary impoundment of future issues ... so that subscribers may maintain their connection to the outside world."

The committee's decision to uphold the impoundment of the Sept. 17 *Militant* is the sixth time in the last two years they've done so, without one word of explanation. The committee has also overturned at least 13 other attempts by prison wardens to ban the paper.

In Florida, if one prison impounds the paper, every prison in the state follows suit. Over the last two years the number of impoundments has increased. In Florida prisons this "appears to be part of an ongoing targeting" of the *Militant*, the paper's lawyer, David Goldstein, of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman civil rights law firm, wrote in his appeal of the latest impoundment.

These bans are "four times as many as in the *entire rest of the nation*, state and federal prisons combined, *in the past decade*," he wrote.

"Now is a good time for readers of the *Militant* and other defenders of political rights to join the fight to push back censorship in Florida," John Studer, editor of the *Militant*, said Nov. 13. "The overwhelming passage of an amendment that restored voting rights in Florida to more than a million workers who had served time on felony convictions is one indication of the depth of support for the rights of workers who've been thrown behind bars."

"Working people don't like repression and censorship, or what the Constitution calls 'cruel and unusual punishment,'" Studer said. "They don't agree with prison officials banning newspapers and books."

That's why government attempts to restrict books in New York and Maryland were overturned, and why protests against new rules by Pennsylvania prison authorities restricting inmates' access to letters, books and periodicals forced them to back off from some of them, Studer said.

Florida officials claimed that an article on solitary confinement in California and one on the hunger strike of Crimean film director Oleg Sentsov — framed up by the Vladimir Putin regime in Russia and imprisoned in Siberia — could cause "violence" and "insurrection."

"Neither subject matter invokes violence, but rather seeks to present important national and international events which are pertinent to the lives of their readership," wrote Karin Deutsch Karlekar, director of Free Expression at Risk Programs at PEN America. "Prisoners have a right to read the *Militant's* reports of current prison conditions and protests around the globe."

Join the fight against censorship! Bring this free speech fight to co-workers, union officials, workers on strike, church groups and others. Many will welcome the opportunity to offer solidarity to fellow workers behind bars and write a letter.

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Library Services Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Attn: Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, or email to Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com. And please email a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Join the fight against prison censorship!

Get out the word. Copy, distribute *Militant* articles on fight against censorship of the paper.

Get statements of support 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."

LETTERS

Stop prison abuse!

As you know, Pennsylvania prison mail now goes through Smart Communications in Florida. I received a letter from my mother tonight that took 18 days to get here!

I would like to read your Sept. 17 issue which was banned in Florida prisons. I would like to read about solitary confinement in California and the Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov's hunger strike.

There is a Black man here with mental health issues who cut himself today. They took him out of his cell, maced him, and put him

back in his cell with a smock!

The Department of Corrections abuses their power on a daily basis. And it needs to stop.

Your paper is the voice of the people and a light for all!

*A prisoner
Pennsylvania.*

Mail room censorship

Just to let you know that anytime you talk about the California Department of Corrections prisons, the mailroom takes them so I don't get those papers. Thank you for your paper and support.

*A prisoner
California*

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.