

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Nigeria conference: 'Cuba has always stood by Africa'
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Sales of 'Turn to Industry' book boosts fall campaign

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Socialist Workers Party drive to get 1,100 *Militant* subscriptions and 1,250 books by revolutionary leaders into the hands of working people got a boost with the publication of *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. The new title is getting snapped up by workers looking for a road forward out of the crisis of capitalism.

But with just under four weeks left and a number of areas around the country behind schedule on the goals they've adopted, SWP members are reviewing their plans to ensure they can bring home their goals in full and on time.

Driver Jerion Evans picked up a copy of the book from SWP campaigners Samir Hazboun and Maggie Trowe when they knocked on his door in Louisville, Kentucky, Nov. 9.

"I just quit my job because I felt it wasn't safe any more," Evans said. Now he has a new job as a battery delivery driver.

Hazboun, who ran as SWP candidate for lieutenant governor of Kentucky, de-

Continued on page 3

Back strikers fighting Asarco union busting!

Join Nov. 18 solidarity rally in Tucson!



Militant/Bernie Senter

Copper strikers picket Mission mine in Arizona Nov. 11. Asarco bosses want to break the unions.

BY BERNIE SENTER

SAHUARITA, Ariz. — Some 1,700 copper workers on strike at Asarco's five complexes in Arizona and Amarillo, Texas, since Oct. 13 are fighting naked union busting by the bosses. They deserve the support and solidarity of workers everywhere.

Worker-correspondents for the *Militant* from Los Angeles visited the

picket lines in Arizona Nov. 11 and 12. We found strikers are winning solidarity from working people and

ALL OUT NOV. 18!
— SWP statement page 9

small businesses in the region.

The United Steelworkers, Teamsters and five other unions on strike have called a demonstration outside

Continued on page 6

UN vote: End Washington's economic war against Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY AND LEA SHERMAN

UNITED NATIONS — For the 28th year in a row, the U.N. General Assembly voted Nov. 7 to demand the U.S. rulers end their economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. The resolution passed with 187 votes in favor. Only the governments of Brazil and Israel joined Washington to vote against it. Two governments abstained, Colombia and Ukraine.

For several months the U.S. government has escalated its economic aggression, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told the assembly, "increasing the suffering, shortages and damage done to our people."

The U.S. capitalist rulers have never forgiven the Cuban people — led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement — for overthrowing the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959 ending the imperialist domination of their country. And for carrying out a socialist revolution showing the capacities of workers and farmers to build a society based on human solidarity, not dog-eat-dog capitalist greed.

Every U.S. president since — Democrat and Republican alike —

Continued on page 4

Stop the execution of Rodney Reed! Family insists: 'Do the right thing'



Texas Observer/Gus Bova

Nov. 9 protest in Austin, Texas, against execution of Rodney Reed, on death row over 20 years.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

DALLAS — "Free Rodney Reed!" chanted hundreds of people at the Texas Capitol in Austin Nov. 9, protesting his scheduled execution. The rally followed an hourslong demonstration outside the Texas governor's mansion. Reed, who has been on death row for more than 20 years, is set to be killed by lethal injection Nov. 20.

"The amount of people who have

come out is beyond our wildest dreams," said Reed's brother, Rodrick, at the rally, asking for Gov. Greg Abbott to intervene. "It is a cruel and inhumane punishment to make our family to wait until the last day. We aren't asking you to do nothing special. No favors. Just do the right thing."

Reed, who is African American,

Continued on page 9

Only the working class can stop capitalism's plunder of land, labor

BY TERRY EVANS

As the administration of President Donald Trump began the process of formally withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris accords on climate change Nov. 4, it was met with rebuke from

rival governments from Beijing to Paris, from prominent Democratic 2020 presidential candidates and countless others. Under U.N. rules, Washington can't actually leave the accord until Nov. 4, 2020.

Proclaimed as a deal to cut pollution, the accords are a sham, with nothing but voluntary "targets" for

Continued on page 6

Tens of thousands in Iraq protest interference by Tehran, US rulers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Tens of thousands of working people and youth in Baghdad and throughout southern Iraq continue to join anti-government protests demanding an end to the sectarian political system established after Washington's bloody invasion of the country in 2003, a halt to deteriorating living conditions and an end to Tehran's political and military intervention.

"Are you Iranian? No. Are you American? No. Are you Baathist? No?"

Continued on page 9

Inside

Canadian election reflects crisis of capitalist rulers 2

Stakes in Gibsons' fight against Oberlin smear campaign 7

'Big capital rules through its two parties. It supports both' 8

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Striking Minnesota steelworkers rally against 2-tier wages system

Virginia bus drivers strike contractor for equal pay

Canadian election reflects crisis of capitalist rulers

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — “The outcome of the Oct. 21 Canadian federal elections further deepened the crisis of Canada’s capitalist rulers,” explained Steve Penner at the Nov. 2 Militant Labor Forum here. “It puts them into an even weaker position to implement policies that address their deep-rooted problems.”

Penner was one of the two Communist League candidates in the Montreal area. He ran in the Papineau riding and Pierre-Luc Filion in Longueuil-St. Hubert.

The Liberal Party of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau remains in government, but lost its majority in parliament. It got fewer votes than any governing party in Canadian history and fewer votes than the opposition Conservative Party, but more seats. The Liberals cannot pass legislation without getting votes from at least one of the other parties, the Conservatives, the Bloc Quebecois or the New Democratic Party.

The capitalist crisis is rooted in the downward curve of world capitalism that began in the mid-1970s as a result of the falling profit rate of capitalist corporations, Penner said. It has led to sharpening rivalry among the world’s capitalist powers as they attempt to strengthen their own position against each other.

“Canada’s ruling families are far too weak compared to the world’s biggest capitalist countries,” Penner said. “They have no choice but to attach themselves to the U.S. capitalists’ coattails and support their imperialist foreign policy from the Middle East to Cuba and Venezuela in the hope

that Washington will reward them.

“The fact that Donald Trump unilaterally ripped up the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico and imposed a new trade pact on both countries shows how little success Ottawa is having with that ‘strategy’” Penner said. The new pact has yet to be approved by either Ottawa or Washington.

“Canada’s rulers also need a strong central government to push back working-class resistance, which will inevitably become a threat to their rule as the capitalist crisis deepens,” Penner said. “But a strong federal government is exactly what they don’t have.”

The Liberal and Conservative parties both won votes from across the country in previous elections, but this time the former got support largely from the east and the latter largely from the west. All but one of the 48 seats in Alberta and Saskatchewan went to the Conservatives. The *New York Times* attributed the decline of Trudeau’s support in mineral-rich western Canada to his imposition of taxes on the use of fossil fuels and his “sanctimonious” attempt to “impose public morality.”

Aurelie McBrearty asked Penner why access to abortion wasn’t addressed during the campaign other than by the Communist League.

Penner explained that parties on the left of capitalist politics made a big issue of Conservative leader Andrew Scheer’s personal opposition to abortion. “That was just a cover for the fact that the real issue is the lack of access to abortion for millions of wom-



Militant/John Steele

Communist League federal candidate Pierre-Luc Filion discusses article, “The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor” in *New International* no. 14 with demonstrators in Montreal at Sept. 27 “climate change” rally.

en across Canada, especially in rural areas, the Atlantic provinces and the north.” Less than one in five hospitals in Canada provide abortion services.

Penner said women’s rights groups “follow a lesser evil policy of trying to elect so-called friends of women’s rights, mainly the Liberals and NDP.

“But the right to abortion was won by thousands fighting in the streets to decriminalize abortion, not by voting for bourgeois parties.” The unions should fight for a woman’s right to choose abortion, he said.

Workers need their own party

“Workers need to break from the lesser evil policies also shared by the union officials, and fight independently of the bosses’ parties and build a fighting labor party.

“That’s the burning question facing Canadian National Railway workers who voted over 99% to strike,” Penner said. They have been without a contract since July. But rail union leaders postponed a strike until after the elections. Instead, they supported the “Anybody but Scheer” campaign of the trade union bureaucracy. Their focus is now on working with the Liberals in its efforts to “make the minority government work.”

“But it’s a capitalist government,” Penner pointed out. “It will only work in the interests of the small handful

of wealthy families whose interests it serves, not those of working people.”

The same day as the forum, Communist League member Katy LeRougetel spoke in Toronto with a retired mechanic, Rudolph Terrelange, while campaigning. He said he voted for the Liberals, because Trudeau said that “he was protecting workers, making sure they wouldn’t be out of a job,” when the prime minister intervened to stop the prosecution of bosses at SNC-Lavalin who were accused of offering bribes.

LeRougetel answered, “He was just trying to hoodwink us. Trudeau defends big business, not working people. We need our own party, a labor party that fights to overthrow capitalist rule and establish a government that will act in the interests of working people.”

Penner concluded, “The Communist League is building a party that participates in every struggle of the oppressed and exploited to advance a revolutionary strategy, the only course that can win lasting gains.” During the campaign CL candidates joined the picket line of striking steelworkers, a rally against Ankara’s attack on the Kurds in Syria and an action against Quebec’s Law 21, which bans teachers and other public sector workers wearing religious symbols.

He invited forum participants to join the League in its activities and to join the party. “There is nothing more worthwhile you can do with your life.”

The Militant

Vol. 83/No. 43

Closing news date: November 13, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Rôger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in September.

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

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

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

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

THE MILITANT

Defend women’s right to choose abortion!

Women’s rights supporters are fighting the Missouri state government’s campaign to close the last remaining family planning clinic in the state that offers women the option of having an abortion. The ‘Militant’ stands for women’s right to choose and supports the protests.



AP photo/Jeff Roberson

Protest defends Planned Parenthood family planning clinic in St. Louis in May.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

'Turn to Industry' boosts drive

Continued from front page

scribed how bosses at the Walmart store where he works push workers to work unsafely. "What we need to do is fight to wrest control of job conditions away from the bosses and win the right to decide for ourselves what is safe," he said. "After I started wearing my campaign button calling for workers control of job conditions, my co-workers snatched them up and wore them proudly."

Trowe showed Evans pictures from the book of rail workers marching for rail safety in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, two years after a runaway oil train with a one-person "crew" derailed, killing 47 people there; of miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, blocking rail tracks to prevent bankrupt Blackjewel Coal Co. from hauling coal until bosses paid wages they were owed; of the recent GM workers on strike; and others. "These are the kind of things that are possible when we recognize our worth as human beings," said Trowe, "as Malcolm X encouraged us to do."

Evans agreed, saying, "We all really do need to fight together!"

The introduction to the new title explains that revolutionary leaders like Malcolm, "never tired of reminding working people why discovering *our worth* is more important than harping on our oppression and exploitation. ... And of showing us in action how we *are* capable of transforming ourselves — and the foundations of society itself — as *we organize together and fight*."

Evans also got a *Militant* subscription and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

David Copeland, a striking shovel and drill mechanic at Asarco's Mission com-

plex in Arizona, picked up a *Militant* subscription from SWP campaigner Bernie Senter, after Senter visited the picket line to bring a letter of solidarity from 25 of his Walmart co-workers. Copeland texted Senter to say he liked the *Militant's* coverage of the strike. "I especially like how there wasn't any anti-red or blue stuff," in the paper, he said, referring to the Democratic and Republican parties, "just a mature case for a working-class political party. I liked how the tally numbers for the GM ratification vote was reported," after the strike by United Auto Workers members, he added.

Communist League members and supporters in Canada went door to door in Princeville, Quebec, Nov. 7, where they met Vincent Arseneault, a young mechanical designer in Victoriaville.

Some 400 workers at the Olymel meatpacking company are on strike in Princeville fighting to get their wages up to the same level of workers at other Olymel operations.

"I support the strike," Arseneault told CL member Lynda Little. "The cost of living is always going up and wages are not keeping up. I'm not in a union where I work, but I would like to have one there." He purchased a *Militant* subscription and the French edition of *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

Fund drive needs boost

Alongside the campaign to expand the *Militant* readership SWP members are also raising \$100,000 to finance the party's activities. Through week five the Party-Building Fund remains behind schedule by 11%. The funds are urgent-



Militant/Jacque Henderson

Jerion Evans gets *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, from Maggie Trowe, and Samir Hazboun, right, in Louisville, Kentucky, Nov. 9.

ly needed to cover the party's political work. Contributions can be expanded by asking those being introduced to the party on their doorsteps to also make a donation to the fund.

To encourage greater understanding of the party's revolutionary program, all Pathfinder books and copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* are being offered at a 20% discount until Dec. 10 when the drive ends. In addition eight titles are offered at half price when purchased with a *Militant* subscription.

Malcolm Keenan in London got a copy of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and a subscription to the *Militant*, when Communist League members Andrés Mendoza and Julie Crawford knocked on his door.

"I don't see communism working anywhere," he had told the CL campaigners. Crawford described how the revolutionary government in Cuba relied on the capacities of working people to fight together to change their conditions and in the process change themselves, not the creation of a big welfare state to administer workers and farmers. The book Keenan picked up describes how women were part of the revolution's leadership at every point in the struggle.

"I may have something to vote for," Keenan added as he signed nomination papers to put Jonathan Silberman, the CL's candidate for Tottenham in London, on the ballot for the Dec. 12 parliamentary election.

Those wanting to join the effort to broaden the reach of the *Militant* and

revolutionary books and to contribute to the fund can contact the SWP or Communist League branches listed in the directory on page 8.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

New Developments in Middle East — What Is Road Forward for Working People? Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

NEW YORK

Albany

Jew-Hatred in the Epoch of Imperialism. Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sun., Nov. 17. Program, 3 p.m. \$5; dinner, 5 p.m. \$7. 285 Washington Ave. Tel.: (518) 810-1586.



Militant/Bernie Senter

Striking Asarco miner Mike Sepulveda talks with Ellie Garcia, a member of the Socialist Workers Party on a solidarity visit at the Mission mine in Sahuarita, Arizona, Nov. 11.

Special offer on new book available now

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

Explains the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name 'revolutionary' in the imperialist epoch.

The only kind of party that can recognize the most revolutionary fact of this epoch — the worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organize and act against the capitalist class in all its economic, social, and political forms.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the world.

— Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

Special offer: \$12 — or \$10 with *Militant* subscription

pathfinderpress.com



Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive

Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 5)

Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$6,000	\$1,750
Atlanta	\$9,250	\$3,900
Chicago	\$11,000	\$5,089
Dallas	\$2,500	\$728
Lincoln	\$250	\$189
Los Angeles	\$10,500	\$4,468
Louisville*	\$2,800	\$1,680
Miami	\$3,500	\$2,116
New York	\$14,000	\$6,317
N. New Jersey	\$3,300	\$915
Oakland	\$12,000	\$7,613
Philadelphia	\$2,500	\$930
Pittsburgh*	\$2,300	\$1,500
Seattle	\$10,000	\$4,157
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$1,550
Washington, DC	\$4,600	\$1,564
Other		\$500
Total	\$99,000	\$44,966
Should Be	\$100,000	\$55,555

*raised quota

Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 5)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	30	70	17
Atlanta	70	39	110	68
Chicago*	110	86	100	66
Dallas	35	25	35	12
Lincoln	12	7	15	10
Los Angeles	90	61	90	62
Louisville	60	33	60	26
Miami	25	11	25	12
New Jersey	40	28	70	51
New York	80	27	120	89
Oakland	70	43	100	67
Philadelphia	25	12	25	13
Pittsburgh	25	17	25	12
Seattle	70	43	90	37
Twin Cities	35	21	45	26
Washington	50	28	50	38
Total U.S.	867	511	1,030	606
Prisoners	25	16		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	33	75	43
Manchester	35	21	45	23
Total U.K.	85	54	120	66
Canada	70	40	150	55
New Zealand	20	18	20	14
Australia	25	18	25	9
Total	1,092	657	1,345	750
SHOULD BE	1,100	605	1,250	688

*Raised goal

Nigeria conference: ‘Cuba has always stood by Africa’

BY JAMES HARRIS
AND VED DOOKHUN

ABUJA, Nigeria — Some 300 participants attended the 6th African Continental Conference of Solidarity with Cuba Sept. 23-25 at the International Conference Center here in the capital. Twenty-six African nations were represented, along with delegations from Venezuela, Cuba and the U.S.

The gathering was co-sponsored by the Nigeria Movement in Solidarity with Cuba and the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). Five previous Africa-wide Cuba solidarity conferences have been held between 1995 and 2017, in South Africa, Ghana, Angola, Ethiopia and Namibia.

The Cuban delegation was headed by ICAP President Fernando González, one of five Cuban revolutionaries who served some 15 years in U.S. federal prisons, framed up by Washington for their defense of the revolution. He also fought in Angola from 1987 to 1989, as part of Cuba’s internationalist mission to help defeat the invading forces of South Africa’s apartheid regime. “Africa is a stronghold of solidarity with Cuba in the world,” González told those at the meeting. “Affection and support from the peoples of Africa have always accompanied generations of Cubans, from the early days of the Cuban Revolution.”

Conference sponsors included the Nigeria Labour Congress; Trade Union Congress; Nigeria Cuba Friendship and Cultural Association; Amilcar Cabral Ideological School-Movement; National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria; National Union of Air Transport Employees; and others.

Cuba’s selfless contributions to the people of Africa — from liberation struggles to medical aid and education — were discussed, including by former students who had been educated in Cuba. How best to aid Cuba in the struggle against the U.S. government’s 60-year economic war and occupation of Guantánamo was also debated.

‘In Africa, Cuba is special’

“For the working people of Africa, friendship and solidarity with Cuba is special,” said Ayuba Wabba, president of the Nigeria Labour Congress, in his welcome. “Without the intervention of Cuba in the liberation wars on the mother continent, many of us gathered here today would still be in one jungle or another fighting guerrilla battles. But Cuba happened and our chains were broken sooner rather than later.”

Wabba also said Africans need to look to Cuba as an example in the struggles they face today. He cited the recent xenophobic attacks being carried out against Nigerian immigrants and Nigerian-owned businesses in South Africa.

“True solidarity with Cuba” means showing “love to other Africans,” Wabba said. “The recent xenophobic attacks, or rather ‘afrophobic’ attacks, would not have happened if we truly take up the Cuban ideals of shared humanity.”

In his welcoming remarks Nigerian Minister of Science and Technology Ogbonnaya Onu recalled Cuba’s medical aid to the poorest regions of the continent. He expressed his contempt for the U.S. propaganda campaign against Cuban medical workers.

“In the fight against Ebola, Cuba is

legendary. Remember the sacrifices that the Cubans made to come here even when others were running away,” Onu said to loud cheers and applause.

“Cuba has always stood at the side of Africa and we are here reaffirming that Africa stands by the side of Cuba in these difficult times,” Cuban Ambassador to Nigeria Carlos Trejo told the delegates. “The blockade against us is not only a blockade against Cuba. It is a blockade of ideas and of the Cuban example. To fight for Cuba is to fight for yourself. It is a fight for humanity.”

Christine Hoebes, Namibian deputy minister of foreign affairs, spoke about Cuba’s role in the Namibian war of independence from apartheid South Africa. “As Namibians we remember the sacrifice of many Cubans and remain forever in their debt,” she said.

Sheriff Sholagbunde, from the Amilcar Cabral Ideological School-Movement, called for the meeting to demand African governments promote trade with Cuba despite the U.S. embargo.

“In spite of the many obstacles that the enemies of Cuba presented, Cuba



Militant photos by Ved Dookhun

Delegates, at African Continental Conference of Solidarity with Cuba, Sept. 23. Inset, Fernando González, president of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, speaks at the gathering.

is still here,” Abiodun Aremu, interim coordinator of the Nigeria Movement in Solidarity with Cuba and one of the main conference organizers, said in his closing remarks. “We will never abandon Cuba. The future of Africa is inseparable from the future of Cuba.”

James Harris, a leader of the D.C. Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., also spoke

in the closing session. “The U.S. is the chief imperialist power in the world but it is not a monolith. It is class divided,” Harris said. “Workers and farmers in the U.S., and youth who are won to their side, are interested in the Cuban example when they learn about it. They can be won to support the revolution.”

Conference participants wanted to learn about working-class struggles in

Continued on page 5

UN: End Washington’s economic war against Cuba

Continued from front page

has waged economic war against the Cuban people, their government and their revolution.

Rodríguez listed many of the recent U.S. attacks, including blocking Cuba from importing fuel by sanctioning and threatening maritime shipping and insurance companies; reinstating limits on remittances Cuban Americans send to their families on the island; banning Cuba from leasing airplanes or purchasing just about anything with more than 10% U.S. components; tightening the squeeze on banks that handle Cuban transactions; and ending cruise ship stops as well as direct flights to Cuban airports, except for Havana, measures aimed at sabotaging tourism and the income it brings to those on the island.

US proclaims ‘right’ to punish Cuba

Before Rodríguez spoke, U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft denounced the resolution, saying the embargo was just Washington asserting its “sovereign right” to “choose which countries we trade with.”

She said nothing about the objection raised by almost every speaker during the two-day debate — that Washington dictates that all other governments and corporations around the world also punish Cuba or face U.S. retribution.

The U.S. ambassador slandered the Cuban government, claiming it “abuses” its own people and violates their human rights. She pushed Washington’s lie that Cuban doctors who volunteer for the country’s health care missions around the world, are “held in servitude.”

And she claimed that Cuba is allowed to purchase \$100 million worth of agricultural products and medicines from the U.S. but refuses to do so.

Cuban Foreign Minister Rodríguez answered her, citing examples of medicines and medical devices that Washington refuses to allow Cuba to get.

He explained how Washington imposes restrictions on Cuba that no other nation faces to buy the few products ex-

empted from the embargo. Cuba has to pay cash up front; is not allowed to buy on credit; Cuba is prohibited from using its own ships to transport goods it can purchase; and, he said, “banks that process our transactions are persecuted.”

“Who in the world trades under these conditions?” he said.

Pointing to U.S. military interventions around the world, as well as widespread police brutality, the racist application of the death penalty, and abusive treatment of immigrants in the U.S., Rodríguez said, “The U.S. government doesn’t have the tiniest bit of moral authority to criticize Cuba or anyone else over human rights.” He noted that fully one-quarter of all those incarcerated in the world are in U.S. prisons.

But not every representative who voted for the resolution did so out of solidarity with Cuba. Finnish representative Jukka Salovaara, speaking in the name of the European Union, said EU members were voting for an end to the embargo because “critical engagement” is necessary to undermine Cuba’s political and economic system.

The latest moves intensifying the U.S. embargo, he complained, were “very damaging for Cuba’s burgeoning private sector” and “EU economic interests.”

He called on Cuba “to pursue a comprehensive reform and modernization agenda,” code words for bringing back capitalism, and echoed the U.S. slanders that Cuba violates human rights.

Cuba’s example of solidarity

Rodríguez didn’t need to answer the U.S. slander on Cuba’s international solidarity missions, which include thousands of doctors and nurses in dozens of countries. One ambassador after another, regardless of their government’s opinions on Cuba’s revolution, spoke about their experience with Cuban internationalist volunteers.

“The majority of members of this organization have profited from Cuba’s invaluable assistance, solidarity and sup-

port,” stated Ingha Rhonda King, the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. “In the areas of health care and humanitarian assistance, Cuba’s contribution to underserved areas in the world is unparalleled and was typified with its role in the fight against the Ebola epidemic in Africa.”

Belize Ambassador Lois Young said the U.S. embargo is meant “to drive a wedge between Cuba and the rest of the world,” and this was “unacceptable.”

Representatives of several African governments noted the role of Cuba in helping them win independence from colonial rule and in the fight against South African apartheid. In the 1988 battle of Cuito Cuanavale, the combined forces of Cuban internationalists, Namibian freedom fighters and Angolan soldiers defeated an invasion by the white supremacist South African army.

By the early 1990s, Namibia gained its independence from South Africa, Nelson Mandela was freed and the hated apartheid regime crumbled.

Cuba has been “at the forefront of contributing to the freedom and independence of my country,” Neville Ger-tze, Namibian U.N. ambassador, said.

Despite U.S. hostility and slanders, Cuban Ambassador Rodríguez said Cuba does not “renounce our willingness to achieve a civilized relationship” with Washington “based on mutual respect and recognition of our profound differences.”

The Cuban Revolution, its 60-year battle resisting the U.S. capitalist rulers’ aggression and economic war, and its internationalist solidarity with working people the world over stand as an example for workers and farmers to emulate, including in the U.S.

**Subscribe,
contribute to the
‘Militant’ online at
*themilitant.com***

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Are you involved in a union organizing drive or strike? Brought solidarity to fellow workers on the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to themilitant@mac.com or through our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Striking Minnesota steelworkers rally against 2-tier wages system

BLAINE, Minn. — Chanting “What’s disgusting? Union busting,” some 200 union members and others joined an expanded picket line for striking members of United Steelworkers Local 63B Nov. 7 outside the Carley Foundry. The 220 workers there have been on strike since Nov. 2. Their contract expired May 31.

“The company makes millions of dollars, and they still want to take from the employees,” striker John Abrizensi told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. The company is demanding a two-tier wage system, paying overtime after 40 hours a week instead of after eight hours a day and other concessions.

“The new contract they want is not fair,” said Donteh Smith, who had tried to help organize a union at another foundry before being hired at Carley. “They want to be able to move you from one position to another and give you lower pay.”

Among the union members bringing solidarity was a carload of United Auto Workers Local 722 members who had been on strike at the GM parts distribution center in Hudson, Wisconsin. “We’re here to support our brothers and sisters,” UAW member Dashawn Ramsey said. “They’re fighting for the same thing we did — against two-tier wages.”

“It’s good to see different unions come to show solidarity,” said striker Greg McDowell. “It lets the company know we’re not going anywhere.”

— Kevin Dwire

Virginia bus drivers strike contractor for equal pay

LORTON, Va. — Over 50 Metrobus drivers, mechanics and other workers at the Cinder Bed garage and maintenance facility here walked off the job Oct. 24. They are members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, which represents bus, subway and maintenance

workers for the Washington, D.C., Metro public transportation system.

After opening the Cinder Bed facility in 2018, Metro contracted out operation of the garage, and all the northern Virginia bus routes that are run from it, to Transdev. Workers there have been without a contract since February.

“Until last year, these were Metro jobs paying the union rate of over \$33 an hour,” union organizer Brian Wivell told the *Militant* on the picket line Nov. 3. “Metro brought in Transdev and they’re paying workers a little over \$20 per hour now, with much worse insurance benefits. They deserve to be paid what all the other bus drivers in the Metro system make.”

“The company offered a 20 cents wage increase,” said Titus Biney, one of the striking drivers. “That’s an insult. Twenty cents doesn’t buy a small bottle of water for your baby.”

Biney, who is originally from Ghana, had worked as a union bus driver in Chicago. He talked to his co-workers about why they should support the union and the strike. Many are from other countries and were initially hesitant, he said, but now they’re walking the picket line.

— Mike Galati



Militant/Kevin Dwire

United Steelworkers Local 63B members on strike against Carley Foundry in Blaine, Minnesota, and supporters rally outside plant Nov 7, protesting bosses’ demand for two-tier wage system.

British Columbia hotel workers gain solidarity in contract fight

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 40, have been picketing the Rosewood Hotel Georgia here since walking out Sept. 22. Management broke off talks Oct. 23.

The workers are fighting for a wage raise, safe working conditions and an end to sexual harassment of women workers. They’ve stood up to employer attempts to divide and intimidate them.

“CUPE, the painters union, and bus drivers are joining us in our rallies every Thursday,” Richard Reddy, a hospitality worker and bargaining committee member, told the *Militant* on the picket line.

On Oct. 27 some 1,500 other Local 40 members ended a 28-day strike at several other area hotels, winning wage raises of up to 25% over four years. But the Rosewood Hotel bosses insist “they’re not going to give us what the other hotels got,” Reddy said.

— Dan Grant

Nigeria conference: ‘Cuba has always stood by Africa’

Continued from page 4

the U.S. A point of interest throughout the conference was a large table featuring books by Thomas Sankara, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and SWP leaders Jack Barnes and Mary-Alice Waters. Many participants were surprised to learn that communist literature could be openly sold in the U.S.

“The relations between our countries are part of our history rooted in deep cultural and historical roots,” said a declaration adopted by the conference. “Sealed by the blood spilled by the more than 2,000 Cuban fighters who lost their lives in the struggle for the sovereignty of our Nations, men

and women who were descendants of the slaves who played a fundamental role in the struggle for the independence of Cuba.”

On the last day of the conference participants took to the streets of Abuja to protest the U.S. government’s economic war against Cuba and its occupation of Guantánamo. The march had originally been set to finish at the U.S. Embassy, but U.S. government officials complained to the Nigerian government. Conference organizers told delegates they agreed to an alternative route to avoid involving foreign guests in any possible altercation with Nigerian police. Instead, the spirited

2-mile march ended with a rally of 300 in a well-known park in Abuja.

Cuba an example for Africa

Ever present at the conference was the backdrop of the world capitalist economic crisis and imperialism’s devastating consequences for the people of Africa. It’s clearly the reason why Cuba’s socialist revolution is so attractive to those gathered here. Many contrasted conditions in Cuba, a small island country of 11 million with limited natural resources, to the crisis facing working people in Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

In Nigeria, more than half the population of 190 million is estimated to live on less than \$2 a day and life expectancy is only 54 years of age. This is despite the fact that imperialist-dominated monopolies have profited greatly off transforming Nigeria into one of the largest oil producers in the world, and the country is rich in other natural resources.

Traveling the 300 miles by road from Abuja to Lagos, as we did after the conference, the social and economic devastation facing Nigerian toilers becomes clear. Once you leave Abuja with its government buildings, paved roads and numerous construction projects underway, conditions change abruptly.

The roads — some paved, others not, or simply flooded out — provide a source of income for many Nigerians who attempt to survive as petty traders on the roadside. Travelers are swamped by women and children, snaking through congested traffic competing to sell every conceivable commodity.

The 15-hour trip is made much longer by checkpoints of armed state police and security forces. Officially supposed to deter the threat posed by Boko Haram, an Islamist terrorist outfit based in the northern part of Nigeria, the roadblocks are seen by many working people as a means of harassment to take bribes.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 28, 1994

The trial of Canadian Auto Workers member Roger Warren on nine counts of murder is being exposed as a frame-up, even as the government presses forward with its case. One of the prosecution’s main witnesses, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Gregg McMartin, admitted in court that he lied several times while interrogating Warren.

Warren is a member of CAW Local 2304. He and his coworkers waged an 18-month strike against Royal Oak Mines in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The battle ended with a union victory in December 1993. The charges against Warren stem from a mine explosion that killed strikebreakers employed by the company during the strike.

Many miners believe that it was the company’s criminal negligence around mine safety that led to the deaths and that the trial of Warren is a continuation of attempts to bust the union.



November 28, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C. — From every conceivable city, village and town they came to participate in the most massive demonstration in American history. The roughly one million Americans who marched on Washington and San Francisco Nov. 15 were taking part in the largest political confrontation ever between masses of American people and the government that supposedly represents them.

The Nov. 15 march was a powerful refutation of the notion that a march on the nation’s capital demanding immediate, unconditional U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, organized on a nonexclusion basis, was far too radical an action to win the support of the millions of Americans opposed to the war.

When a million citizens of the most powerful imperialist country march through the streets saying stop the war, it is a portent of things to come.



November 25, 1944

Defiantly answering the Allied-supported attempt of the counter-revolutionary Pierlot government to disarm the revolutionary fighters of the Resistance Forces in Belgium, 15,000 men and women workers marched through the streets Nov. 19 in a militant and tumultuous demonstration demanding the resignation of Pierlot’s government.

The unmistakably revolutionary mood of the demonstrators was evidenced in their singing of the battle song of Socialism, “The Internationale,” by the red flags predominant among their banners, and by the Hammer and Sickle emblem of the Bolshevik Revolution on their armbands.

About half the marchers were women. Also among the demonstrators were a considerable number of men in Belgian army uniform. They paraded and shouted, “Down with Pierlot!”

7

‘Big capital rules through its two parties. It supports both.’

Letters from Prison by James P. Cannon, the founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. In 1944, Cannon and 17 other leaders of the SWP and the Minneapolis Teamsters union were imprisoned for opposing Washington's entry into the second imperialist world war. They were the first to be framed up under the thought-control Smith Act. Cannon's letters take up questions of program and perspectives key to preparing a communist party for the explosive labor battles that would erupt after the war. The excerpt is from Letter 82, written from the federal prison in Sandstone, Minnesota, on Aug. 9, 1944. Copyright © 1968 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Who is the “J.M.” who writes from Chicago about the two-party system? Just judging by his lack of manners alone I would take him to be an over-educated college boy who “majored” in “iconoclasm.”

There are differences in the Republican and Democratic parties, in my opinion, though not in the sense that J.M. takes as his point of departure — that the Republicans are more “reactionary” than the Democrats. This is

an illusion entertained by many workers and fostered by the bulk of the labor bureaucracy, the Social Democrats, and the Stalinists. *The Militant* does well to center its fire on this illusion; this is the main point, and should be the burden of our agitation. Big capital rules through the mechanism of the two parties as far as fundamental issues are concerned, but not always directly in response to their unanimous commands.

There are deep conflicts of interest as well as differences of opinion in the ranks of the capitalists. The two parties, which are in reality two big factions of a unique two-party system united on fundamentals, and the numerous factions and cross-currents within them, reflect these conflicts and differences. The big capitalists on the whole are more class conscious than the workers, but they are by no means omniscient in judging their own political interests. They don't always know what is best for them; and as *The Militant* correctly observes, they are not notably grateful to politicians who have served them best in a given situation.

These Oliver Twists always cry for more with an animal instinct. And they are not a bit squeamish about their methods of getting it. Their ruthless criticism, obstruction and sabotage of the Roosevelt administration — undeterred by the plaintive bleats of the “liberals” and labor fakers that they were hurting the “war effort” — have to be understood as methods of pressure to compel Roosevelt & Co. to do things their way.

It is not an unreasoning “opposition,” as the labor fakers represent it. Results have shown that their brutal “opposition,” which put Roosevelt in his place as their servant, has been far more effective than the lackey-like support of the labor leaders offered to Roosevelt as the master. Why should he pay for support that he can get for nothing?

The classes are not homogeneous, and neither are the two big class par-



Cartoon from July 29, 1944, *Militant* depicts big capital cracking whip astride an elephant and donkey, symbols of Republicans and Democrats.

ties. There are differences of origin — this ought to be the starting point in the analysis of every organism — differences of tradition, composition, sectional interests, political machines with their own special interests to serve, different techniques and methods of demagoguery to hold various strata of the population in line. These are important factors worthy of no-

tice by the political analyst. But one can lose his bearing entirely if he does not recognize their secondary character.

They complicate the political situation in which the big capitalists have to manipulate the masses in order to assure their firm rule. But in the absence of an independent class opposition on the political field they will continue, as in the past, to solve the problem without too much difficulty.

What is their fundamental method? It is the *two-party system*. Which party do they support? They support *both*.

And what is even more important, both parties support them in all *fundamental* questions. It could not be otherwise under the present political scheme.

The petty bourgeoisie (including the farmers) *cannot* play an independent role in politics; and the workers — under the Murray-Green policy — have *renounced* it. In this situation the presidential election becomes a diversion and a safety valve, not a class fight. I would like to see this question treated in an *FI* [Fourth International magazine] article.

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER
READERS CLUB
SPECIALS

30%
DISCOUNT

Letters from Prison

A Revolutionary Party Prepares for Post-World War II Labor Battles by James P. Cannon
In 1944, 18 SWP and union leaders were imprisoned for opposing U.S. rulers' entry into World War II. Cannon addresses key questions of building a communist party prepared for explosive postwar labor battles. \$20. **Special price: \$14**

Their Trotsky and Ours

by Jack Barnes
\$12. **Special price: \$8**

Land or Death

The Peasant Struggle in Peru by Hugo Blanco
\$15. **Special price: \$10.50**

Teamster Politics

by Farrell Dobbs
Dobbs, a central leader of Teamster battles in 1930s, recounts how Local 544 in Minneapolis fought to lead workers onto an independent working-class course. \$16. **Special price: \$11**

Cuba for Beginners

by Eduardo Del Río Rius
\$12. **Special price: \$8**

¡EE.UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!

Cuba habla en Naciones Unidas (U.S. Hands off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks at the United Nations) by Fidel Castro, Ricardo Alarcón
\$12. **Special price: \$8**

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

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

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

UNITED STATES

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

FLORIDA: Miami: 1444 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 215. Zip: 33132. Tel: (305) 420-5928. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

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

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

KENTUCKY: Louisville: 1939 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 134. Zip: 40218. Tel: (502) 882-1041. Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

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



Socialist Workers Party fights for working-class independence from bosses' two-party system. Above, Alyson Kennedy campaigns in Illinois as Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate in 2016. Right, James P. Cannon. He ran for mayor of New York in 1941 at same time facing charges for opposing Washington's moves to enter World War II. Above, headquarter's banners, "Socialist Workers Party" and "Cannon Campaign Committee."



IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 257-5753. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** 285 Washington Ave. #1R. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** P.O. Box 79142. Zip: 15216. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: Dallas: 1005 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Zip: 75208. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

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

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

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

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

FRANCE

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

All out for Asarco strike rally Nov. 18!

If there's any way you can swing it, the *Militant* urges readers to join the Asarco copper strikers' rally in Tucson, Arizona, Nov. 18! Their fight in Arizona and Texas deserves support and solidarity from working people everywhere. Speak out about their struggle and build support among your co-workers, your union, your church and in every other way possible. Send a contribution, a letter of support, join their picket lines. You can make a difference.

Like bosses everywhere, Asarco believes they can foster divisions among workers, encouraging each of us to think only of "me, myself and mine." After nearly 10 years without any raises, Asarco proposes in its insulting "last, final and best" offer to give a paltry raise to about a third of the workers, those who are the highest paid. Workers said, "Hell no!" and went on strike.

The bosses want us to see other workers as our problem, not to see ourselves as part of a class, the vast majority, capable of fighting together against them and their rapacious class.

Asarco is hiring so-called replacement workers

— scabs — to cross the picket lines. The employers and their press work hard to deter other workers learning about this fight and identifying with it as their own. Above all they try to prevent the mobilization of the solidarity necessary to sustain the strike.

As more workers learn about this labor battle, our solidarity can strengthen the strikers' resolve.

Everything we do to break down the divisions the bosses sow — between employed and unemployed, native-born and immigrant, men and women, Black and Caucasian — strengthens fights today like the copper workers and helps us build the self-confidence and, most importantly, the *class consciousness*, necessary to fight and win.

We need to take our working-class battles onto the political plane. Not the self-defeating search for a "lesser evil" among the twin bosses' parties, the Democrats and Republicans. We need to build a labor party to represent our class interests and those of all those oppressed and exploited by capitalist rule.

All out to Tucson Nov. 18!

Stop Texas execution of Rodney Reed!

Continued from front page

was convicted by an all-white jury in 1998 for the rape and murder two years earlier of 19-year-old Stacey Stites, a cashier in Bastrop. Stites was Caucasian. Reed, now 51, has maintained his innocence since his arrest.

Reed was in a consensual relationship with Stites, but she was living with her fiancé, Jimmy Fennell Jr., a cop in nearby Georgetown who was the initial suspect. Reed was arrested and convicted after his DNA was found in her body. Reed said the two had sex, but there was no physical evidence linking him to the killing. For years, the Reed family has demanded DNA testing on the belt used to strangle Stites, to no avail.

Fennell is in prison for kidnapping and sexually assaulting another woman. After Reed's conviction,

witnesses came forth to say Fennell threatened to kill Stites and that he has confessed. Other prisoners say Fennell bragged that he "murdered his wife for sleeping with a Black man." Witnesses who attended Stites' funeral say Fennell told them, "She got what she deserved."

The campaign to stop the execution has growing support. More than 2.7 million people have signed an online petition. Support for Abbott to call off Reed's execution has come from celebrities, including Beyonce, Kim Kardashian West, Meek Mill, Rhianna and Oprah Winfrey. Sen. Ted Cruz, Austin Mayor Steve Adler, and several other elected Texas officials, both Democrats and Republicans, have called for review of the new evidence.

Another rally in support of Reed is being organized for Nov. 14 at the governor's mansion in Austin.

Georgia cop imprisoned for killing Anthony Hill

BY JANICE LYNN

DECATUR, Ga. — Former DeKalb County cop Robert Olsen was sentenced to 12 years in prison, and eight more on probation, Nov. 1 for the March 2015 killing of Anthony Hill. The 26-year-old African American veteran of the Afghanistan War, who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, had been wandering naked and unarmed around his apartment complex after going off his medications. He had struggled to get the support he needed from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A jury had found Olsen guilty of aggravated assault Oct. 14 for firing the two shots that killed Hill, as well as making false statements about the shooting.

Olsen said he acted in self-defense, claiming Hill had attacked him and pounded on his chest. This was proved false by numerous eyewitnesses who testified that Hill never touched Olsen and had

never posed a threat to the cop.

Carolyn Baylor Giummo, Hill's mother, told the packed courtroom about the family's more than four-year fight to hold Olsen accountable for killing her son. "He has never taken responsibility for taking my son's life. He never just said, 'I'm sorry for killing Tony,'" she said.

"The fact that this cop will serve jail time for the murder of Anthony Hill is a victory for Hill's family and for other victims of police killings," Socialist Workers Party Atlanta School Board candidate Rachele Fruit told this worker-correspondent. "It is a reflection of the changing attitudes among working people towards police murders and a testament to the fight waged by Hill's family, friends and other opponents of police brutality."

At a press conference following the sentencing, Giummo thanked all those who had rallied over the years in support of the fight for the indictment and conviction of Olsen. She added that even though she wanted a longer sentence, some time is better than no time.

Nearly 4,000 people were killed by on-duty cops from 2015 to 2018, according to *Washington Post* data. Only 50 cops were charged with a crime. And fewer than half of those cases ended with any conviction.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. 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. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

1,000s protest in Iraq

Continued from front page

Are you Iraqi?" chanted demonstrators camped out in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, condemning the intervention of Tehran and Washington in Iraq, and the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein's Baathist Party that was based among Iraq's Sunni minority.

After Saddam Hussein was overthrown in Washington's 2003 war and invasion, the U.S. rulers sought to impose a regime loyal to their interests, setting up a sectarian political system that ensured the predominance of capitalist parties based among the Shiite population. It divided government branches and top positions on a sectarian basis, guaranteeing that the most powerful post of prime minister goes to a Shiite.

But this setup has not produced a strong government for the country's ruling capitalists. They depended in part on Tehran-backed militias to defeat the reactionary Islamic State after it seized control of parts of Iraq and to push Kurdish-led forces out of Kirkuk in Iraqi Kurdistan in 2017. Today they rely on the same forces to carry out murderous assaults on anti-government protesters.

Since the protests started in the beginning of October, over 280 people have been killed and more than 12,000 injured by government-backed forces. Police, the military and Tehran-backed paramilitary groups have used live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas against demonstrators.

The Iranian rulers organize militias in Iraq alongside the military forces they back in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, to extend their clout across the region and to threaten Israel.

Protesters across southern Iraq have targeted buildings linked to the Tehran-backed militia groups like the Popular Mobilization Forces. The Iranian Consulate in Karbala has been attacked four times since early October.

Since Oct. 25 protesters have remained camped out in Baghdad's Tahrir Square. Many others have joined them during the day expressing solidarity, bringing home-cooked meals, music and offering free haircuts. But at night assaults have increased against those at the camp by Iraqi-government and Tehran-backed forces.

"I'm doing it ... for dignity," 29-year-old Al Hamsa Hamid told Al Jazeera at the Tahrir Square camp. "I don't want militias in my country," he added. Hamid fought Islamic State serving in the Iraqi Counterterrorism Forces, participating in the recapture of the city of Fallujah from the sect. Now he volunteers as one of the "goalies" at Tahrir Square, that stop and neutralize tear gas canisters fired at protesters by security forces.

Iraqi state television reported that authorities ordered "explosive experts" to detonate a bomb under Sinak bridge Nov. 7 to drive back protesters trying to cross into the Green Zone where government offices are located.

In Basra, masked men attacked anti-government protesters Nov. 6, killing five and wounding about 120 people, according to medical officials. The day before, protesters seized armored vehicles from the 36th armored brigade of the Iraqi army.

In early November the government reimposed an internet blackout that had been in effect for two weeks in October.

In the country's south, sit-ins kept schools and government buildings shut in Nasiriyah, Kut, Hillah, Diwaniyah and Najaf, reported Agence France-Presse.

Authorities have threatened to sack school and college heads in Mosul, the country's second-largest city, located in the predominantly Sunni area in the north of the country if they allow any students to organize protests there, reported Rudaw.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has now pulled back from his earlier announcement that he would resign, after the Iranian government insisted he stay in office. The prime minister now promises to announce new electoral reforms in the "coming few days."

"These are just words," 30-year-old Noor Mohammed told Al Jazeera in Tahrir Square. Mohammed has been unable to get a job and wants to see Mahdi quit. "Is this how we're repaid?" he asked.

"We stood up for our country and fought IS. ... We deserve to be ruled without corruption." Washington has 5,200 troops stationed in Iraq, part of the tens of thousands it deploys throughout the Mideast to defend its interests against rival capitalist powers.

LETTERS

Correction on George Johnson

I am writing to correct errors in the letter I wrote on George Johnson's life that appeared in the Nov. 18 issue of the paper.

George Johnson was 83 years when he passed, not 82. He was a member of the Brooklyn Socialist Workers Party branch, not the Newark branch, in the early 1980s and in 1986 was also a member of the Oakland branch.

His companion, Louise Goodman, remains a loyal party supporter in Oregon. Thanks.

Edwin Fruit

Seattle, Washington