NY meeting discusses Sankara’s legacy today

BY LEA SHERMAN

NEW YORK — “Thirty-two years ago Thomas Sankara was assassinated. Today our voices are raised with his ideas,” said chairperson Boukary Salako, opening a Dec. 8 program here in Harlem featuring a panel of speakers on “Thomas Sankara’s Legacy Today.”

Thomas Sankara was the leader of the 1983–87 popular democratic revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world. He was assassinated in 1987 in a counterrevolutionary coup.

Some 100 participants, many of them immigrants from Burkina Faso living in New York and northern New Jersey, attended the annual event, which in previous years had been held in Washington, D.C. Others came from Boston, Montreal, Philadelphia and Washington. The meeting was sponsored by the International Organizing Committee of the Thomas Sankara Annual Conference.

“During the revolution thousands Solidarity... Continued on page 7

Protest Jew-hatred, killings in New Jersey

BY TERRY EVANS

As Democrats advanced their witch hunt against President Donald Trump aimed at overturning the 2016 election, State Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz released his report on FBI spy operations targeting Trump’s election campaign then. Horowitz’s account exposes how Washington’s political police led and maneuvered to attack the Trump campaign.

What he fails to mention is that spying and disruption is what they have repeatedly done and will do again against fighting workers and working-class organizations.

What drives liberals’ efforts to oust the president is their loathing for the millions who voted for him or who didn’t vote at all, whom they consider ignorant and reactionary. Writing in the New York Times Dec. 15, Charles Blow sneered at “millions of Americans” who “blithely accept anti-truth propaganda” he says the president issues — people Continued on page 9

Democrats push to impeachment boosts US rulers political police

BY TERRY EVANS

As Democrats advanced their witch hunt against President Donald Trump aimed at overturning the 2016 election, State Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz released his report on FBI spy operations targeting Trump’s election campaign then. Horowitz’s account exposes how Washington’s political police led and maneuvered to attack the Trump campaign.

What he fails to mention is that spying and disruption is what they have repeatedly done and will do again against fighting workers and working-class organizations.

What drives liberals’ efforts to oust the president is their loathing for the millions who voted for him or who didn’t vote at all, whom they consider ignorant and reactionary. Writing in the New York Times Dec. 15, Charles Blow sneered at “millions of Americans” who “blithely accept anti-truth propaganda” he says the president issues — people Continued on page 9

UK: Workers vote to demand ‘Get out of EU,’ reject Labour anti-Semitism

BY OGMUNDER JÖNSSON

The ruling Conservative Party won in a landslide in the U.K. parliamentary elections Dec. 12, winning 365 seats against the opposition Labour Party’s 203. The election campaign followed an unrelenting three-year drive by the main capitalist parties to prevent the implementation of the 2016 referendum vote that the U.K. quit the European Union. Another key issue was the Labour leadership’s continued abstention of rising Jew-hatred in the party. Continued on page 3

Inside

Capitalist rivalries in Mideast fuel expanding war in Libya 2
‘I am Troy Davis’ is powerful protest against death penalty 4
CP’s oil train wreck raises specter of new Lac-Mégantic 5
Gibsons fight Oberlin College ‘racism’ smears 6
– On the picket line, p. 5– Rail workers in UK strike to defend jobs and safety
Capitalist rivalries in Mideast fuel expanding war in Libya

By Roy Landersen

The escalating battle for control of Libya — and especially its vast oil and gas wealth — intensified Dec. 12. The yearlong conflict between rival forces in the east and the west of this north African country is being transformed by stepped-up foreign intervention from imperialist powers and regional capitalist governments alike. They back one or the other side — some, like Washington, try to straddle both — as they vie for regional sway and access to Libyan oil profits.

The U.N.-recognized Government of National Accord, based in the capital Tripoli, is associated with the Muslim Brotherhood and backed by the rulers of Turkey and Qatar, as well as Italy and, to some extent, Washington and Beijing. It is weak and heavily reliant on Islamist militias from Misrata, the second-largest city. The rival force in the east is led by Khalifa Haftar’s Libyan National Army. It is funded by the governments of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and backed by Cairo and Paris. And now Moscow has sent growing numbers of troops to Cairo and Paris. And now Moscow has sent growing numbers of troops to

This many-sided political and military jockeying makes a mockery both of the U.N. “arms embargo” against interfering in Libya, and rival capitalist governments claiming they are looking to reinforce “political stability.”

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised Dec. 15 that if the Government of National Accord requests it, he will order a “quick reaction force” to intervene to counter over 1,000 Russian troops with advanced weaponry sent in recent months to back Haftar’s Libyan National Army, which has laid siege to the capital.

The Turkish rulers concluded a security pact with the government in Tripoli Nov. 27, seeking to bolster their ally and extend their offshore drilling rights. That agreement is contested by the governments of Greece, Cyprus and Egypt. Athens’ claim to the drilling rights is backed by the EU. Erdogan’s government — which aligns itself with the Muslim Brotherhood in and out of government in the Middle East — is a rival to the military government in Egypt, which is led by former general and head of military intelligence President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. He came to power by overthrowing and imprisoning former Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi and crushing the group. Paris also backs Haftar, whose forces control over three-quarters of Libyan territory, while Rome backs the besieged central government. This has given French oil giant Total the upper hand over Italian rival ENI for control of the country’s vast petroleum reserves.

The Donald Trump administration, seeking to protect U.S. imperialist interests, backs the Tripoli government diplomatically but has simultaneously opened relations with Haftar.

Moscow escalates conflict

Emboldened by the success of its military intervention in stabilizing the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria, Moscow began sending battle-seasoned Russian soldiers, including snipers, to fight in Libya as “private military contractors.”

In recent weeks, Moscow’s intervention has jumped to over 1,000 troops backed by fighter bombers and artillery support. This has allowed Haftar’s troops to punch their way into parts of Tripoli. Erdogan, who is importing Russian missile batteries from Moscow, has urged the regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin to withdraw its forces from Libya. The two are due to meet Jan. 8.

The only regional player missing so far is Tehran, though a Revolutionary Guard vessel was observed sailing off of Misrata earlier this year. “The vessel is involved in suspicious activities,” a Tripoli government spokesman said on television.

These capitalist powers intervening in Libya mirror similar conflicts throughout the Middle East in Syria and elsewhere. This reflects the continuing fracturing in the imperialist “world order.”
UK out of EU, no to Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

Conservative leader Boris Johnson campaigned on the promise to “Get Brexit done” and to bring health care and other public services, and bring investment to industrial areas hit by decades of job losses. Many large, working-class-rural areas in the decades returned Labour members to Parliament elected Conservatives this time. The Labour Party had called for a second referendum on the EU membership of the U.K., seeking to overturn the 2016 result.

The vote to quit the EU was a protest against the decline of living standards and the indifference to what they face from the main pro-EU, capitalist parties of the Conservatives and Labour. The U.K. bosses’ bloc with the EU makes it more difficult for workers to take on their main enemy — the British ruling class.

Millions are frustrated by the refusal of the capitalist parties to implement the referendum result, epitomized by Labour’s pre-election trebling of Labour’s Jeremy Corbyn, the man seeking to take on their main enemy — the British ruling class.

Outrage mounted during the campaign when Labour’s Jeremy Corbyn refused to apologize for the anti-Semitism controversy that has become more prevalent in Labour. Corbyn’s call for a second vote.

Continued from front page

Workers need our own party — the Democrats and Republicans.

The Communist League candidates — Caroline Bellamy in Walthamshire and Sale East, Manchester, and Jonathan Silberman in Tottenham, London — stood against both main capitalist parties, campaigning under the banner of “Workers need our own party!”

Workers can use this opportunity to explain why Jew-hatred is a deadly threat to the working class, and condemned the beating of a rabbi in Stamford Hill, London, during the campaign.

The CL “approaches Brexit, like all questions, from what strengthens the working class in fighting the bosses here,” Bellamy told those attending a Dec. 6 candidates’ debate in Sale. Pointing to the way the EU has been used by rulers in Germany and France to squeeze working people in Greece, she said that the EU “doesn’t protect workers anywhere.” The party’s platform demands the U.K. get out of the EU immediately.

“Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The funs makes it possible to send 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

Workers donate ‘blood money’ bribes to build SWP

“Enclosed is a check for $35.83 that I discovered on my Walmart check stub,” wrote Anthony Dutrow from Miami, “no doubt some kind of holiday ‘gift’ and no doubt ‘blood money.’

“This was one of the many things they’ve thrown at us,” Dutrow said, “including a catered Thanksgiving dinner, a day which we had to work, green Santa’s caps with ‘Merry Christmas’ on them together with a necklace of flashing red, white and green lights handed out to cashiers by the store manager for Black Friday. Most of us said to each other thanks but how about more money on our check; only a few actually wore them, many of us refused to take them.”

There was one thing that happened that was positive, Dutrow said, and that was workers’ victory in a long-standing fight. “The only thing that brightened our holiday was the black floor mats the bosses finally supplied us after two years, thanks to a lot of pressure from cashiers,” said Dutrow. “It is for this and other fights we will be able to do on the job that does justice to these so-called ‘blood money.’

Communists use the term ‘blood money’ to describe production, attendance, safety and other so-called bonuses offered in order to entice workers to avoid and speed up work. The party got another note and checks from workers at Walmart in Oakland, California, a day which we had to work, green Santa’s caps with ‘Merry Christmas’ on them together with a necklace of flashing red, white and green lights handed out to cashiers by the store manager for Black Friday. Most of us said to each other thanks but how about more money on our check; only a few actually wore them, many of us refused to take them.”

Jonathan Silberman, right, Communist League parliamentary candidate in Tottenham, speaks with rail guards (conductors) on strike against South Western Railway, Waterloo station Dec. 4.

The Militant December 30, 2019 3

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY Support workers’ struggles to organize to defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Workers need their own union, a labor party.

One union for all workers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the U.S. A life-and-death demand for the union to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For workers and cut across divisions the bosses to use to drive down wages.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation, to assure quality affordable housing for workers. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE End the U.S. rulers’ economic war against Cuba; US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, US troops returned to Cuba.

“Justice” system: Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its framework of “justice” — plea bargaining, enormous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

POLITICAL RIGHTS Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under threat from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End suppression of the Militant, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rich.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and corporations. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

Workers must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. For a labor party and a movement of millions to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!
Cuban Five product of revolution

Continued from front page

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


By William Cottone

NEW YORK — Some 100 people joined the performance of "I am Troy Davis" at the New York meeting Dec. 14 to celebrate the release of the Cuban Five, revolutionaries who were railroaded for 17 years and were released in 2014.

The performance was an especially poignant aspect of the evening — including $80,000 to five reporters during the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


By William Cottone

NEW YORK — Some 100 people joined the performance of "I am Troy Davis" at the New York meeting Dec. 14 to celebrate the release of the Cuban Five, revolutionaries who were railroaded for 17 years and were released in 2014.

The performance was an especially poignant aspect of the evening — including $80,000 to five reporters during the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”


Cuban 5 product of revolution

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed by the U.S. government for their protection of Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Si coalition opened the event. Through them, she read: "The Cuban Five held here. These five men “were not seeking prizes or prestige. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people,” the ambassador said. “They never gave up. They never stopped fighting.”

When they returned to prison from the Miami court room, April 20, 2001, after the guilty verdicts, they added, “They were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners.”

CP’s oil train wreck raises specter of new Lac-Mégantic

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Two weeks after 3,200 Canadian National Railway workers carried out their Nov. 19-26 strike targeting unsafe conditions pushed by the bosses, a Canadian Pacific crude oil train derailed and caught fire Dec. 9 near the town of Guernsey in Saskatchewan.

No one was injured, but it took over 24 hours to extinguish the flames. It will take weeks to clean up the estimated 400 million gallons of oil that poured out.

“Warehouses were very huge,” said Suzie Loosd on the Saskatchewan Star Phoenix after she came home that night to see the fire burning near her driveway. “We didn’t know if the cars would actually blow up or what they would do.”

“There have been a number of derailments across North America that have seen oil cars catch fire since the 2013 disaster in Lac-Mégantic,” the Globe and Mail reported Dec. 9. An unattended Montreal, Maine and Atlantic oil train derailed in January 2013 and burned in that catastrophe, killing 47 people and destroying the town’s downtown area.

Since the 2013 disaster the amount of oil being moved by rail has increased as traditional rail companies have nearly doubled.

Canadian Pacific Railway, Canada’s largest railroad company, announced Nov. 20 it had signed a deal to buy the Central Maine and Quebec Railway that runs through Lac-Mégantic. The CMQ took ownership of the tracks after Montreal, Maine and Atlantic went bankrupt. Under public pressure Central Maine has refrained from running oil trains through Lac-Mégantic but continues to transport other toxic and volatile commodities.

Canadian Pacific bosses’ acquisition of Central Maine and Quebec gives them access to the largest ports on Canada’s Atlantic since the 2013 disaster in Lac-Mégantic, the Irving Oil refinery in Saint John, New Brunswick. The “prediction of safety” by Canadian National workers showed that since the Lac-Mégantic disaster safety conditions have continued to worsen. It highlighted what rail workers face today — a continuing campaign by the railroad bosses to reduce crew size, slash rest time, force more overtime and to twist workers’ schedules to profit ahead of workers’ life and limb. Teamster union members are now in the process of debating and voting on the contract union officials negotiated with the company.

Lawsuit blames CP for Lac-Mégantic

The highly volatile crude oil involved in the Lac-Mégantic disaster was transported from the Canadian Pacific to Quebec from the Bakken shale oil fields in North Dakota. The tanker cars were deliberately mislabeled to lower shipping costs. Since then company bosses have denied any liability for the disaster, claiming its responsibility ended when it handed the train over to Montana, Maine and Atlantic.

Not so, says a $200 million lawsuit filed against both Canadian Pacific and former MMA bosses by 5,000 people whom they last loved homes and businesses. The oil shipment “was all about driving profits and cutting costs for CP” — focusing on the bottom line to the detriment of Canadians, this and similar suits include Lac-Mégantic,” Joel Rochon, one of the plaintiffs’ lawyers, told the Canadian Press after the suit was filed.

Twenty-five other companies originally named in the 2017 lawsuit were dropped when they agreed, along with the Canadian government, to contribute to a $450 million fund for the victims. Canadian Pacific bosses refused to settle.

Tom Harding, the locomotive engineer and member of the United Steelworkers who named the “crew” of one who parked the train the night of the Lac-Mégantic disaster was also named in the lawsuit.

A working-class jury found Harding and co-worker Richard Labrie not guilty on frame-up charges brought by the government of criminal negligence. The acquittal reflected the widespread view among working people that Harding and Labrie were scapegoats for the rail bosses, Ottawa and Transport Canada.

Rail workers in UK strike to defend jobs and safety

Some 800 guards (conductors), members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, began a monthlong strike Dec. 2 against government and bosses’ attacks on their union and to defend jobs and safety for both rail workers and passengers.

The workers’ action forced South Western Railway to cancel about half of their 1,700 daily, mostly commuter trains in and out of London. Rail bosses are organizing managers and administration workers as strikebreakers, carrying out the guards’ duties on some services.

South Western plans to speed up trains by assigning drivers to close the doors at stations, eliminating the role of guards. Rail bosses say a second worker on the train will be responsible for checking tickets and answering questions from passengers.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport union says it is safer to have a guard who decides when to close the train doors and depart from stations, as well as to deal with emergencies, leaving the driver to concentrate on operating the train. The union opposes the spread of Driver-Only Operation, which bosses have imposed since the 1980s on 30% of the rail network.

A June 2016 report by the rail union details 30 serious accidents — eight that occurred on trains without a guard.

Conservative Prime Minister Bo - rie Johnson has attacked the strike, vowing to impose restrictions on rail workers’ right to strike.

— Tony Hunt

The Militant December 30, 2019

Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions

A Tribune of the people uses every manifestation of capitalist oppression to explain why it is workers and our allies who can and will — in the course of struggles by the unions and beyond — lay the foundations for a world based not on violence and competition but on solidarity among working people worldwide.

$12

pathfinderpress.com

The Militant December 30, 2019 5
Back Asarco workers strike!

Continued from front page

haven’t had a raise in nearly 10 years, freezes pensions, jacks up health insurance coverage and reneges on neutral protections for union activity on the job. Asarco has not responded to repeated requests from the Militant and its members for comment.

“This is another opportunity to tell Asarco we are here and we are not going anywhere,” Dawn Schumann, statewide public information representative for Teamsters Local 104, told the crowd at the start of the protest. “We are here to raise awareness.”

No one had so much as a token to lay off miners without regard to seniority,” Karl Wagner, a tire man at the Mission Mine told this Militant worker-correspondent. “Asarco’s ‘best and final offer’ and their refusal to negotiate is just an attempt to break the union.”

Wagner said. Like many other strikers, “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

Many strikers view Asarco owner Grupo Mexico as an “evil and corrupt” foreign company mistreating American workers. The company is notorious for its disregard for safety and destruction of the environment at its mining operations in Mexico and elsewhere worldwide.

On Aug. 20, 2018 Grupo Mexico’s Buenavista del Cobre mine in Cananea, in the northwest of the country, spilled 40,000 cubic meters of acidic cyanide solution into the Sonora and Bacanuchi Rivers — the biggest environmental disaster in the history of Mexico. The toxic waste obliterated fisheries, contaminated groundwater, Hancock Ranches, hired strikebreakers and some workers who crossed the lines.

“I never realized what a union is for until the strike happened,” Mike Miller, 46, said at the protest. “The solidarity support we receive makes us stronger. We are not fighting alone.”

“The company wants to have the strikers get tired of the strike and leave,” Wagner said.

“We have no choice. When you are faced with an impossibly unfair contract offer, you have to stand up.”

Many strikers view Asarco owner Grupo Mexico as an “evil and corrupt” foreign company mistreating American workers. The company is notorious for its disregard for safety and destruction of the environment at its mining operations in Mexico and elsewhere worldwide.

Many strikers view Asarco owner Grupo Mexico as an “evil and corrupt” foreign company mistreating American workers. The company is notorious for its disregard for safety and destruction of the environment at its mining operations in Mexico and elsewhere worldwide.

Ben Lucero has been a miner for 22 years but started at the Mission Mine as a haul truck operator just one week before the strike began. “The biggest issue is raises for all, not just the skilled trades people,” Lucero said. “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

Ben Lucero has been a miner for 22 years but started at the Mission Mine as a haul truck operator just one week before the strike began. “The biggest issue is raises for all, not just the skilled trades people,” Lucero said. “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

“IT’s those kind of things out of the blue, the way that make a world of difference,” Wagner said. Like many other strikers, “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

Ben Lucero has been a miner for 22 years but started at the Mission Mine as a haul truck operator just one week before the strike began. “The biggest issue is raises for all, not just the skilled trades people,” Lucero said. “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

Ben Lucero has been a miner for 22 years but started at the Mission Mine as a haul truck operator just one week before the strike began. “The biggest issue is raises for all, not just the skilled trades people,” Lucero said. “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

Ben Lucero has been a miner for 22 years but started at the Mission Mine as a haul truck operator just one week before the strike began. “The biggest issue is raises for all, not just the skilled trades people,” Lucero said. “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”

Ben Lucero has been a miner for 22 years but started at the Mission Mine as a haul truck operator just one week before the strike began. “The biggest issue is raises for all, not just the skilled trades people,” Lucero said. “The guys on strike know it’s a good fight and necessary fight. We had no choice.”
**Sankara today**

Continued from front page

Schools were built, not only in the cities but in every village," said Basimwine Isoro Dianda, a grade school teacher in Harlem. Before the 1983 revolution, he said, "education was considered a privilege for those who could afford it. Sankara wanted everyone to have access to education. A high priority was placed on girls getting an education."

Following the defeat of the revolution, these gains were reversed. Inem Richardson, a Barnard College student, told the audience she first learned about Thomas Sankara in high school when a popular uprising in Burkina Faso drove Blaise Compaoré from power in 2014. For 27 years Compaoré, who organized the counterrevolution in 1987 and was responsible for Sankara’s assassination, had ruled the country with an iron fist.

"Sankara is talked about as if he only learned about the concept of solidarity," Richardson said. But pay attention to Sankara’s own words: “Emancipation, for example, is a fact of life. It is a reality that is visible to the eyes of the people."

Richardson pointed to the changes women fought for, with Sankara’s leadership and backing. Female genital mutilation was against the law. He said, “This was not a fight for power, but for freedom.”

"Sankara was a nationalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-neocolonialist," Zounggrana said. Under his leadership, Burkina Faso became a country respected for its achievements in education, access to clean drinking water and the fight against corruption.

Sankara’s kind of leadership is not to be found on the African continent today, Zounggrana said. Hope lies with the youth in Africa and the diaspora who can learn from Sankara’s example.

**Fights of Africans, US Blacks linked**

Boukary Sawadogo, a professor at City College of New York, focused on what has changed in the world since Sankara spoke to a meeting here of more than 500 in Harlem in 1984.

Sawadogo detailed the historic connections between African liberation struggles and the fight by Blacks in the U.S. against racism and Jim Crow segregation.

He said that some 30,000 immigrants from Burkina Faso now live in New York. “The issues for unity of Africans and African Americans are still the same. Sankara’s leadership and backing. Female genital mutilation and polygamy were outlawed. Sankara understood that women’s position in society is not a product of nature but of history, Richardson said.

"President Thomas Sankara was a visionary, a man of integrity," Isia Zounggrana, a representative of Stand for Liberty, said. "Sankara’s primary battle was the well-being of the people."

All his actions on political, economic, social and cultural levels were aimed at achieving the goal faster.

"Sankara was a nationalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-neocolonialist," Zounggrana said. Under his leadership, Burkina Faso became a country respected for its achievements in education, access to clean drinking water and the fight against corruption.

Sankara’s kind of leadership is not to be found on the African continent today, Zounggrana said. Hope lies with the youth in Africa and the diaspora who can learn from Sankara’s example.

**Algeria protests reject rigged presidential election**

Algeria's capitalist rulers are working overtime in an attempt to cobble together a new government that can quiet widespread protests against continuing military rule. Against mass opposition, they held a presidential election Dec. 12 where all five hand-picked candidates had close ties to the military regime.

Mass actions exploded in February when it was announced that then-President Abdelaziz Bouteflika — whose regime was hated for its corruption and violations of democratic rights — would run for a fifth term, even though he had suffered a stroke in 2013. He was forced to resign in April.

The rulers tried twice previously in the months since Bouteflika's ouster to hold rigged elections, but backed off in the face of the ongoing uprising.

Even though the protests continued, this time they pushed the vote through. Officially, under 40% of eligible voters went to the polls, the lowest percentage ever for an election in Algeria. The Istat daily said even

BY SETH GALINSKY

Algeria's capitalist rulers are working overtime in an attempt to cobble together a new government that can quiet widespread protests against continuing military rule. Against mass opposition, they held a presidential election Dec. 12 where all five hand-picked candidates had close ties to the military regime.

Mass actions exploded in February when it was announced that then-President Abdelaziz Bouteflika — whose regime was hated for its corruption and violations of democratic rights — would run for a fifth term, even though he had suffered a stroke in 2013. He was forced to resign in April.

The rulers tried twice previously in the months since Bouteflika's ouster to hold rigged elections, but backed off in the face of the ongoing uprising.

Even though the protests continued, this time they pushed the vote through. Officially, under 40% of eligible voters went to the polls, the lowest percentage ever for an election in Algeria. The Istat daily said even with 58% of the vote, cancelled his final rally in Algiers in the face of protests.

Working people in Algeria face a deep economic and social crisis. With some 95% of the country’s foreign currency coming from the sale of natural gas and oil, the rulers have tried to place the burden from the drop in oil prices over the last several years onto the backs of the toilers. The gov-

eriement slashed spending for social programs and infrastructure, raised the hands of working people here."

"If you don't do politics, politics will do you," another participant said. "In Burkina Faso 70% are young and look to Sankara's fight. We need to talk about what can be done right now. Not just talk."

In reply to a comment about the Burkina Revolution's impact in Latin America, Richardson, who had recently visited Cuba, pointed to the close relations between the Cuban Revolution and the revolution in Burkina Faso.

Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, publisher of Thom-

as Sankara Speaks, said, "The main purpose of this book is to get people to understand the ideas of Malcolm X in Africa."

Sawadogo replied that "between the approaches of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, the fight for true indepen-

dence would be to take the Malcolm X route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common struggle," he added.

"Some say Sankara led a coup d'état in 1983, when he came to power. Is that right?" one participant asked.

"The 1983 revolution in Burkina Faso was not a coup, it was a popular uprising that thousands participated in," Thier-

jung replied. "It was a popular demo-

stration. He said some 10,000 immi-

grants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route." Blacks in the U.S. and im-
migrants from Africa "have a common

route."

Sankara came in his own words."

Thierjung said, “Both are aimed at democratic revolution led by Sankara.”

Paul Sankara, Thomas Sankara’s brother, spoke at the conclusion of the meeting. He thanked his organizers and appealed for support to his family’s fight to bring Sankara’s assassins to justice.

Each and every one of us has a voice to fight for justice for Thomas Sankara.”

Panelists at “Legacy of Thomas Sankara” meeting held Dec. 8 in Harlem. From right, Boukary Sawadogo, professor at City College of New York, Isia Zounggrana, representative of Stand for Life and Liberty; Inem Richardson, student at Barnard College; chairperson Boukary Salgoic Basimwine Isoro Dianda, grade school teacher in Harlem; and Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party.
Climate summit didn’t, won’t stop rulers fouling the earth

BY TERRY EVANS

No binding decisions to reduce greenhouse gases were produced at the Dec. 2-16 United Nations Madrid Climate Change Conference.

The representatives of the competing imperialist and capitalist powers there stuck with “voluntary” targets to reduce emissions. But the root of the problem is class divisions — between capitalist exploiters seeking profits at all cost and the working people who suffer the consequences.

The rule of the capitalist class is incompatible with protecting the planet for future generations. When the capitalist economist John Maynard Keynes was asked what economics can teach us about the future, his answer was, “In the long run we are all dead.”

The stewardship of nature falls to the working class, whose labor produces all wealth and who have every interest in making industrial and agricultural production safe for themselves.

“Everyone gathered in Madrid, whether opponent or fervent advocate of caps on CO2 emissions, talked endlessly of the need for “governments” to reach an agreement. But the root of the problem is class divisions — between capitalist exploiters seeking profits at all cost and the working people who suffer the consequences.

The Madrid summit was marked by conflicts among the main imperialist powers vying for business and trade advantage and their united efforts to suppress competition from “emerging nations” like China, India and Brazil.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled the EU’s “green deal.” It would enshrine into EU law the cutting of carbon emissions to zero by 2050. She tried to hide the protectionist character of the commission’s measures by describing planned new EU tariffs as an “adjustment mechanism.” She wants to enforce levies on products from outside the EU that they claim do not comply with “climate targets.” They’ll start by slapping new duties on steel and cement imports.

Last year the EU banned the importation of palm oil, declaring its cultivation contributes to deforestation. But the measure actually targeted imports of palm oil by rival capitalist growers in Indonesia and Malaysia, to the benefit of European producers.

Competing capitalists have fought to boost profits at the expense of the growing market for so-called carbon credits. The Madrid conference ultimately founded — after extending failure to agree on a deal on “carbon credits.” The Madrid conference ultimately foundered — after extending failure to agree on a deal on “carbon credits.”

The Madrid summit was marked by conflicts among the main imperialist powers vying for business and trade advantage and their united efforts to suppress competition from “emerging nations” like China, India and Brazil.

Boom in “climate” scams

The governments of France and the U.K. favor and use “net-zero” targets for carbon emissions. This is opposed by the imperialist powers and many on the middle-class left.

But — even though this could deeply cut carbon emissions — this is opposed by the imperialist powers and many on the middle-class left.

The SWP’s candidates — presenting a working-class alternative to the Republicans and Democrats two-party system and their socialist hangers-on — urge a fight for workers control over production and safety, including control over climate change to prevent the bosses from poisoning us all.

— MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

CALIFORNIA

Oakland: Solidarity with Copper Fighters: Fighting Union Busting in Arizona and Texas. Speaker:崽崽 Stone, Socialists Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5-10. 677 Hearst Road, Suite 230. Tel: (510) 686-1551.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

WHERE TO FIND DISTRIBUTORS OF THE MILITANT, NEW INTERNATIONAL, AND A FULL DISPLAY OF PATHFINDER BOOKS

— UNITED STATES —

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: 675 Hepburn Road, Suite 290, 94612. Tel: (510) 686-1551. Email: swpokland@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3609 Bergenline, Suite 207, Union City, NJ 07087. Tel: (201) 257-5753. swpnjnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St, 13th Floor, 10018. Tel: (212) 434-8117. Email: newyorkwp@albanyswp.org

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

TRENTON, N.J. — Hundreds of supporters of the right of workers without papers to get driver’s licenses rallied here Dec. 16 as the New Jersey legislature voted on a bill to do so. Gov. Philip Murphy says he will sign the bill.

“This has been a hard won victory, important for the whole working class,” Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, told fellow protesters. “Now we must redouble our fight for amnesty for the 11 million workers without papers in the U.S. This is the only road to unite the working class.”
Speak out against Jew-hatred!

Continued from front page and anti-Semitism is a working-class question. The scapegoating of Jews for economic and social problems and the violence it breeds is a deadly threat to all Jews, religious and secular, in all walks of life and of all viewpoints. Two bigots who are African American carried out the 1923 massacre in the market town in Jersey City that killed Leah Mindel Ferencz, Moshe Debbie and Douglas Miguel Rodriguez and wounded several others. At the Tree of Life synagogue in Pitts- burgh in 2018 it was a white supremacist who cold-bloodedly killed 11 Jews.

Every act of Jew-hatred must be answered and comb- bated, no matter where or when it comes from. Jew-hatred is a byproduct of both totalitarian and liberal societies. It’s a sign of their disdain bashing but openly anti-Semitic remarks, would strike rise of Hitler and continue to exist after. They are built war. But pogroms and Jew-hatred existed before the of economic and social crisis, as class tensions sharp- en. Today we see the contradictory reality that anti-Semitism strikes when Jews are at a low ebb while individual assaults against Jews are on the rise. The deadly danger of Jew-hatred showed its horrors in the Holocaust during the second imperialist world war. But pogroms and Jew-hatred existed before the rise of Hitler and continue to exist after. They are built into capitalism, including the imperialist “democra- cies” in the U.S., Britain, France and beyond.

The recent elections in the United Kingdom were marked by a surge in electoral support for the far-right party was a huge defeat not only because of its refusal to ac- cept the overwhelming working-class support for getting the U.K. out of the EU, but also because of world leaders’ shameless embrace of anti-Semitism. Labour Party officials like Jeremy Corbyn thought that their Jew-hatred, not only in the form of Israel-bashing but openly anti-Semitic rhetoric, would strike a chord among workers. It’s a sign of their disdain for the “deplorable” working class that they thought reactionary, anti-Semitic views would be popular. But working people’s resistance to the Labour Party in droves, proving the opposite.

In the United States, liberals and leftists are up in arms over the Donald Trump administration’s new ex- ecutive order “on combating anti-Semitism,” charging it will lead to attacks on free speech. It doesn’t fit into their schema that Trump is a reactionary and a fascist. The order is aimed at opposing the harassment of Jew- ish students on college campuses across the country, including threats of violence. That’s a problem for the leftist proponents of Boy- cott, Divest, and Sanctions against Israel who use the banner of “anti-Zionism” as a cover for anti-Semitism, as well as for attacks on free speech.

Jew-hatred plays a unique role under capitalism. When the capitalist rulers’ hold on power is threat- ened by a rising working-class movement, the bor- goise will fund and build up rightist forces and try to turn economic and social problems into working people’s sufferings and other problems that are caused by rapacious Jewish capitalists. Their goal is to provide a scapegoat to divert us from seeing the real enemy — the capitalist system itself.

That’s what led to the murder of more than 6 mil- lion Jews in the Holocaust. And it’s why Fidel Castro made a special point of explaining the dangers of Jew- hatred. “I don’t think anyone has been slandered more than the Jews,” he said in 2010. “They are harmed and slandered for everything.”

Abram Leon wrote in The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation that “there is no solution to the Jewish question” if it’s not just as there is no solution to the other problems posed before humanity without profound social upheavals.” Leon, whose book is available from Socialist Workers Party and Communist League members, wrote in his 1944 book, a Belgian revolutionary who was captured by the Nazis in 1944 and sent to the gas chambers. We are not on the verge of a mass fascist movement today, but bigger crises and class battles are coming. The only way to end Jew-hatred for all time is to eliminate capitalism. That can only be done by a self- confident working class, in alliance with farmers, working people and all others.

Today we tell the truth and speak out against Jew- hatred in all its forms.

Jersey City murders

Continued from front page and Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, the three people killed on December 10, come from an interfaith vigil at Tem- ple Beth-El the day after the murders in Jersey City and a vigil at New Jersey City University Dec. 12.

Cops and FBI agents engaged the two African American shooters after an hour-long chase that ended when the police rammed an armored vehicle into the supermarket and found both killers dead.

All 43 Jersey City schools were locked down, af- fecting 30,000 students. “I would not have let a worker at the Walmart store in Secaucus, told this worker-correspondent. Her daughter was locked in- side the James Ferris High School until 6 p.m.

In the last few years some 100 Jewish families, largely from the Satmar Hasidim, have left Brooklyn, New York, for the Greenville neighborhood in Jersey City, seeking less expensive housing in the predomi- nantly Black neighborhood.

The JC Kosher Supermarket opened by Moishe Ferencz and his wife, Leah, had become a commu- nity hub. Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, from Ecuador, worked there. The death of one of the shooting, was a 24-year-old rabbinical student.

The morning after the killing Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop condemned the attack, saying it was aimed at Jews. But despite a social media message of a kosher deli next to a synagogue the state’s attorney general, Gurbir Grewal, took several days to acknowl- edge the attack was anti-Semitic. Anderson, one of the shooters, also released a social media message of the Black Hebrew Israelites, a sect that thinks its members are the “true Israelites,” and believes Jews are impostors, spewing anti-Semitism. The Black Hebrew Israelites organization denied any connection to the killings.

The boarded-up shop front where the shooting took place lined is flowers, candles and messages, in- cluding some in Spanish, from well-wishers.

SWP: ‘Combat anti-Semitism’

Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, joined the vigil the day after the killing and issued a statement condemning the attack. “The Jericho Marching Band is a group of people of all nationalities and religious beliefs oppose Jew-hatred;” the statement said. “But if every expres- sion of anti-Semitism isn’t answered and combated, that expression can and will be the gun battle, which Sherman returned to Greenville Dec. 15 and visited the family of Leah Mindel Ferencz.

The conduct of those who came to offer their condo- lences and solidarity and telling all that forms of racism against the Jewish community.” She then went on to mention the Black Hebrew Israelites and the other “true Israelites,” and believes Jews are impostors, spewing anti-Semitism. The Black Hebrew Israelites organization denied any connection to the killings.

The shootings in a tweet, Democratic Senator Cory Booker said, “We are united in condemning anti-Semitism.”

The day after the killings the other 11 victims of the shooting, was a 24-year-old rabbinical student.

Sherman condemned the attack, saying it was aimed at Jews. But despite a social media message of a kosher deli next to a synagogue the state’s attorney general, Gurbir Grewal, took several days to acknowl- edge the attack was anti-Semitic. Anderson, one of the shooters, also released a social media message of the Black Hebrew Israelites, a sect that thinks its members are the “true Israelites,” and believes Jews are impostors, spewing anti-Semitism. The Black Hebrew Israelites organization denied any connection to the killings.

The fight against the marches against the Jewish community.”

Merely putting up a banner of “anti-Zionism” as a cover for anti-Semitism, as well as for attacks on free speech.

That’s a problem for the leftist proponents of Boy-cott, Divest, and Sanctions against Israel who use the banner of “anti-Zionism” as a cover for anti-Semitism, as well as for attacks on free speech.

That’s what led to the murder of more than 6 mil- lion Jews in the Holocaust. And it’s why Fidel Castro made a special point of explaining the dangers of Jew- hatred. “I don’t think anyone has been slandered more than the Jews,” he said in 2010. “They are harmed and slandered for everything.”

The Militant   December 30, 2019            9

Democrats boost US rulers’ political police

Continued from front page

the threats against the 2020 presidential election campaign.

As the Democrats, the liberal media, and the mid- dle-class left all focus on the vote in the House of Representatives, they also admit there is no chance the Trump campaign is to be found guilty of any wrongdoings. They are no longer sending the President the Washington Post called for his impeachment.

To buttress their drive, the liberals lionize the capitalist rulers’ political police. They claim that anti- Trump conspirators James Comey and Robert Mueller — both former FBI directors — as well as as J. Edgar Hoover, are high-minded, independent civil servants.

The Times ran an Op-Ed Dec. 16 from William Worringer, who said the time has come for the only person ever to have been both the head of the FBI and the CIA. That means he was in charge of targeting militant workers and political rights in every corner of the planet. He decimates Trump and Attorney General William Barr for poisoning the country out of Trump. The liberals have spent the three years since the president was elected in a campaign to criminalize his political differences and, above all, to attack the workers they blame for his victories. The “evidence” they cite became presid- ent the Washington Post called for his impeachment.

Today we tell the truth and speak out against Jew- hatred in all its forms.

The Militant is on holiday break

This is a two-week issue. The next issue will be mailed out January 3.