

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Climate summit didn't, won't stop capitalist rulers fouling the earth
 — PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 48 DECEMBER 30, 2019

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 Salogo, 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 of
Continued on page 7

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 lied 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

Protest Jew-hatred, killings in New Jersey



Above, Jersey City Kasher Supermarket, after two anti-Semitic attackers killed Moshe Deutsch, Leah Mindel Ferencz and Douglas Miguel Rodríguez, from left in the inset.

Working people speak out against Jew-hatred!

The following statement was released Dec. 17 by Seth Galinsky, the Socialist Workers Party’s candidate for New York City public advocate in 2019.

SWP STATEMENT

We urge all working people, their unions and other working-class organizations to join us in speaking out against Jew-hatred and all acts of anti-Semitic violence. The fight against Jew-hatred
Continued on page 9

Murders at Jersey City deli were anti-Semitic assault

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — A murderous attack targeting Jews at the Jersey City Kasher Supermarket left three people dead Dec. 10. Despite the fact that killers David Anderson and Francine Graham charged directly into the deli, opening fire before they went in the door, much of the press coverage initially refused to recognize the anti-Semitic character of the attack.

Thousands attended the funerals of Leah Mindel Ferencz, Moshe Deutsch
Continued on page 9

Solidarity with the Asarco copper workers fight against union busting!



Dec. 16 protest outside Asarco headquarters in Tucson. Striking unionists need and deserve solidarity in the face of the copper bosses’ determined drive to destroy their union.

BY DENNIS RICHTER

TUCSON, Arizona — Some 100 Asarco copper workers and their supporters rallied and picketed the company’s national headquarters here Dec. 16. They chanted, “What do we want? Fair contract!” and “Stand up, fight back!” as passing drivers honked in support.

Some 1,700 members of the Steelworkers, Teamsters and five other unions have been on strike since Oct. 13 at Asarco’s four complexes in Arizona, which include open pit mines

and processing plants, and its refinery in Amarillo, Texas.

Asarco, which is a subsidiary of Mexico City-based mining and transportation giant Grupo Mexico, is out to bust the union. The bosses implemented their “last, best and final offer” Dec. 2, claiming negotiations were at an impasse, even as the unions urged them to return and talk.

The bosses’ “offer” — which workers call “insulting” — freezes wages for three-fourths of the workers who

Continued on page 6

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

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

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 abetting of rising Jew-hatred in the party.

Continued on page 3

‘Cuban Five’s example is result of the socialist revolution there’

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — “The release of the Cuban Five was not a gift or a concession from the United States government,” Ana Silvia Rodríguez, Cuba’s ambassador to the United Nations, told a Dec. 14 meeting here of some 90 people. It was “the result of a permanent and victorious battle waged by an entire people and their relatives, by the Cuban government,” including former President Fidel Castro, who “led the battle.”

The event, sponsored by the New
Continued on page 4

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 yearslong 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 break the stalemate.

Haftar had been a general in the early decades of the regime of Moammar Gadhafi, but broke with the dictator in 1987 and spent the next 24 years in Washington, D.C. He returned to Libya after Washington and its NATO allies overthrew and killed Gadhafi in 2011.

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 Mohamed 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 in-



SETA

Oil driller escorted by Turkish naval frigate in eastern Mediterranean Aug. 6. Rebel forces led by Khalifa Haftar, backed by Cairo, Paris and now Moscow, have besieged the U.N.-backed government in Tripoli, armed by Turkey and Qatar, escalating oil-fueled civil war in Libya.

terests, 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."

THE MILITANT

Workers strike, protest across France

Massive demonstrations by working people in France are fighting moves by the Emmanuel Macron government to cut pensions. The 'Militant' covers protests from the yellow vests to public unions as working people seek to push back against carnage from crisis of capitalism.



AP/Daniel Cole

Unionists and supporters march in Paris during strike Dec. 5 in defense of pensions.

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)

Capitalism's World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

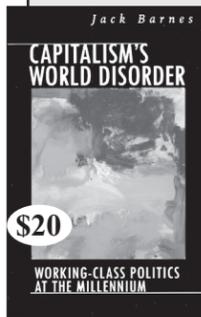
"The U.S. rulers face a fundamental dilemma. Either use military force abroad leading to resistance at home or not use force they need to resolve crises, thus threatening U.S. imperialist interests."

In New International no. 12

Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes

See distributors on page 8 or visit:
pathfinderpress.com



The Militant

Vol. 83/No. 48

Closing news date: December 18, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martín 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.

UK out of EU, no to Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

Conservative leader Boris Johnson campaigned on the promise to “Get Brexit done,” improve access to health care and other public services, and bring investment to industrial areas hit by decades of job losses. Many largely working-class areas that for 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 by millions of workers and others against years of declining living standards and the indifference to what they face from the main pro-EU, capitalist parties — 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 call for a second vote.

Outrage mounted during the campaign when Labour’s Jeremy Corbyn refused to apologize for the anti-Semitism that has become more prevalent in Labour since he became party leader. Cor-

byn issued a belated apology just prior to the election.

Former Labour Mayor of London Kenneth Livingstone made his own anti-Semitic slurs days after the election, blaming what he called “the Jewish vote” for the result. Former French presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who shares many of Corbyn’s views, claimed Israel’s Likud Party was responsible for Labour losing and said Corbyn wasn’t forceful enough in taking on criticism from Jewish groups.

In reality, casual anti-Semitism has declined among working people. Millions of workers in the U.K. are repulsed by Corbyn’s long record of association with Jew-haters. This includes his backing for Hamas which calls for killing Jews and the destruction of Israel.

The Communist League candidates — Caroline Bellamy in Wythenshawe 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!”

The CL candidates used every 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.



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 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 im-

mediately.

Communist League campaign supporters joined protesters demanding government action to prevent a repeat of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, in which 72 people died. They visited picket lines of guards (conductors) at South Western Railway, members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, who are on strike against the bosses’ attacks on jobs and safety. The party’s candidates urged solidarity with this fight and explained why working people should fight for workers’ control of production in the factories, railways and other workplaces to protect workers and those living in nearby communities.

At the center of the party’s campaign was explaining the need to build a movement of millions of working people that through revolutionary struggle can lead to the establishment of a workers and farmers government.

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 party, a labor party. One union for all drivers — 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 US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

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 and quality affordable housing workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE End the US rulers’ economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income for all.

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family plan-

ning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION & SAFETY Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous 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 attack 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 rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationaliza-

tion of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

Working people 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!

‘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

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 gifts.”

Communists use the term “blood money” to describe production, attendance, safety and other so-called bonuses bosses offer in an effort to bribe workers to keep quiet about speedup, low pay and unsafe working conditions.

The party got another note and checks from workers at Walmart in Albany, New York. They sent in a total of \$429.39. “It’s a pleasure for us to send this blood money to help build the Socialist Workers Party,” Alex Huinil wrote.

By giving this money to the SWP, class-conscious workers turn those bribes into their opposite — funds to build the working-class movement and strengthen the party’s long-term work.

With the holiday season upon us, we encourage others to join in sending in their bosses’ attempted bribes.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

Cuban 5 product of revolution

Continued from front page

York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition, celebrated the fifth anniversary of the release of Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero on Dec. 17, 2014. Fernando González, and René González had completed their terms and been released earlier.

The Cuban Five, as they were known, were arrested in Florida in 1998 and framed by the U.S. government for their actions to protect Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed counterrevolutionaries. They were given sentences ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

Ike Nahem from the Cuba Sí coalition opened the program, held at the People's Forum in midtown Manhattan. Claudia de la Cruz, the forum's executive director, introduced Ambassador Rodríguez.

Cuba owes the freedom of the five heroes, Rodríguez said, to the 15-year-long international campaign to demand their release.

These five men "were not seeking prizes or personal glories. They were only trying to prevent and stop terrorist attacks against their people," the ambassador said. "They never gave up their principles."

Nancy Cabrero, former president of Casa de las Americas in New York and a longtime defender of the Cuban Revolution, co-chaired the meeting. She described many of the activities to free the Cuban Five held here.

Cabrero introduced Mary-Alice Waters, who corresponded with each of the Cuban Five while they were in prison and edited several books about the fight to free them. These include *"It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System": The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*, an interview with the Five after their return to Cuba. Waters is president of Pathfinder Press and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Waters recalled the "intense joy" felt by her and thousands of others upon hearing that Gerardo, Ramón and Antonio were back on Cuban soil.

Cuban 5 example for working people

Waters focused her remarks on the political example set by the Cuban Five for working people and youth in the U.S. and the world over. Through them, she said, "we see the real character of Cuba's socialist revolution — the kind of men and women forged by that revolution."

"They were held prisoner through three U.S. administrations — two Democratic and one Republican," Waters said. "From inside federal prisons where they were held across the country, they were on the frontlines of the class struggle in the United States."

"Through their integrity and conduct, each of the Cuban Five gained the respect of their fellow prisoners, and it was these working people behind bars who became their first line of defense," she said.

Waters noted that 97% of those in federal prisons are there due to plea bargains — that is, coerced to "cop

a plea" without a trial before a jury of their peers. The simple fact that the Five insisted on a trial, Waters said, and refused to "cooperate" with prosecutors, meant they became known as people who could be trusted.

"When they returned to prison from the Miami courtroom in June 2001 after the guilty verdicts," she added, "they were greeted with an outburst of applause from fellow prisoners."

Three of the five, Hernández, Fernando González and René González, each served in Angola as part of the Cuban mission to help defeat the South African apartheid regime and its invading army. Some 425,000 Cubans were part of this effort between 1975 and 1991. This also gained them respect among many prisoners, especially African Americans.

On returning to Cuba, Waters said, the Five spent a year visiting every area of Cuba, as well as other countries, contrasting the brutalities of life and the so-called justice system under U.S. capitalism to the accomplishments and transformation of human beings and social values as a result of the socialist revolution in Cuba.

'Our conduct product of revolution'

Waters concluded by quoting Guerrero's response to a Cuban student who asked where the Five got "the strength to create art" in prison. "Anyone can write a poem," Guerrero replied. "But to spend 17 months in the hole and 16 years in prison and create paintings that don't contain a shred of hatred or bitterness, but rather optimism, love and freedom — that's different. That's a product of the way we were educated as revolutionaries. It's something we were able to achieve thanks to the revolution."

The concluding featured speaker was Martin Garbus, the lead attorney for the Cuban Five following the 2011 death of Leonard Weinglass, who had led the



Militant/Mike Shur

New York meeting Dec. 14 celebrated fifth anniversary of freeing of Cuban 5, revolutionaries framed-up and incarcerated in U.S. for up to 16 years. From left, Ana Silvia Rodríguez, Cuban ambassador to the U.N.; Ike Nahem, Cuba Sí Coalition; Mary-Alice Waters, Pathfinder Press president and leader of Socialist Workers Party; and Martin Garbus, lead attorney for Cuban 5.

legal team. Garbus, a well-known trial lawyer, recently released *North of Havana: The Untold Story of Dirty Politics, Secret Diplomacy, and the Trial of the Cuban Five*.

"When I visited Gerardo at [the Federal Penitentiary in] Victorville [California], you could see the respect everyone had for him," Garbus said. "No one had the reputations the Five had. They were respected by everyone."

"The Cuban Five collectively spent 75 years in prison," he said. "In all that time, not one of them picked up a single infraction — an almost inconceivable feat in a U.S. federal prison."

Reading excerpts from his new book, Garbus cited FBI and other documents — some from case files, others more recent — that exposed how federal prosecutors patched together their frame-up.

There's nothing new about "fake news," Garbus said. He explained how journalists for the *Miami Herald* — whose false and inflammatory articles slandered the Cuban Five during and after their trial — were on the U.S. government payroll.

Documents produced by the legal team for the Five showed that the U.S. government's Office of Cuba Broadcasting paid thousands of dollars to seven reporters starting in 1999, including \$80,000 to five reporters during the trial itself.

Solidarity messages were given by Ben Ramos, from ProLibertad and the Popular Education Project; Bill Sacks from Workers World Party; former Black Panther Tarik Haskins, railroaded to prison for 17 years and now with the Universal Zulu Nation; and Yhamir Chabur, a participant in the 2019 Venceremos Brigade to Cuba. Taped greetings were played from Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was framed up and railroaded to prison in Pennsylvania in 1982, who has had to fight to get the medical care he needs.

North of Havana, "It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System" and other books about the Cuban Revolution were available at the celebration for those who wanted to find out more about their victorious fight.

'I am Troy Davis': powerful protest against death penalty

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK — Some 100 people joined the family of Troy Davis to see a live performance Dec. 8 of "I am Troy Davis," a theatrical protest against cop frame-ups and the death penalty. The screenplay adaptation of the book *I am Troy Davis* was read at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater and organized by Donkeysaddle Projects. The book, co-written by Davis; his sister, Martina Davis-Correia; and Jen Marlowe portrays his life and the 20-year fight against his execution.

Davis was executed by Georgia state officials in September 2011, two decades after he was framed up in the death of off-duty Savannah police officer Mark MacPhail. There was no physical evidence to tie Davis to the killing, and most of the witnesses the cops got to testify against him said they had lied. Davis maintained he wasn't guilty until his last breath.

I urge readers to watch "I am Troy Davis," a recording of which can be seen on YouTube at <https://youtube.com/iSBjvbSM00E>. It gives a sense of history and urgency as the fight to end the death penalty continues.

The performance is an intimate account of the fight by Davis' family and their many supporters seeking to stop his execution. It also gives an all too familiar look at the U.S. rulers' "jus-

tice" system and how working people are the targets of its indignities.

The performers were an especially poignant aspect of the evening — including Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, killed by a New York Police Department chokehold in 2014; Cephus "Uncle Bobby X" Johnson, uncle of Oscar Grant, killed by BART police in Oakland, California, in 2009; three exonerated former death row prisoners; and many others whose lives were upended by capitalist "justice."

On July 25, the Trump administration announced plans to resume the federal death penalty after a 16-year de facto moratorium, a move that has since been stayed by the courts. "That was the impetus for putting this event together," Marlowe said at the beginning of the performance. The first of five executions had been set, the day after the show.

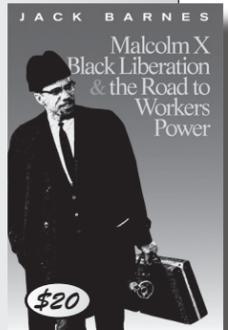
"People always say Bill Clinton was our friend; he started all this," Sabrina Butler told the *Militant*, pointing to the Democratic president's signing of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. Butler, who performs in the show, was the first woman ever exonerated from death row. She had been railroaded onto Mississippi's death row after her nine-month-old son died at home in 1989.

What the *Militant* wrote at the time of Davis' execution remains true today. "This systematic, anti-working-class carnage won't be ended by the 'reason,' 'justice,' or 'good will' of the courts or Democratic and Republican party politicians who serve the class interests of the propertied ruling families. That can only be won as a by-product of powerful, millions-strong struggles by the working class and oppressed, along the road to the revolutionary conquest of workers power."

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, & the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes

Why the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class will make possible the final battle for Black freedom and open the way to a socialist world.



pathfinderpress.com

Subscribe, contribute to the 'Militant' online at themilitant.com

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.

"We were very scared," Melanie Loessl told the *Saskatoon 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, exploded and burned in that catastrophe, killing 47 people and destroying the town's downtown area.

Since the 2013 disaster the amount of oil being transported by Canadian rail companies has nearly doubled.

Canadian Pacific Railway, Canada's largest rail 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 chemicals.

Canadian Pacific bosses' acquisition of Central Maine and Quebec gives them access to the largest ports on Canada's Atlantic coast — and to haul crude oil through Lac-Mégantic to the Irving Oil refinery in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The "strike for 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 cost-

cutting campaign by the railroad bosses to reduce crew size, slash rest time, force more overtime and to twist workers' schedules to put profits 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 by 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 Montreal, Maine and Atlantic.

Not so, says a \$200 million lawsuit filed against both Canadian Pacific and former MMA bosses by 5,000 people who lost loved ones, homes or businesses. The oil shipment "was all about driving profits and cutting costs for CP — focusing on the bottom line to the detriment of communities along the railroad, including 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 constituted the "crew" of one who parked the train the night of the Lac-Mégantic disaster was also named in the lawsuit.

In 2018 a working-class jury found Harding and co-worker Richard Labrie not guilty on frame-up charges brought by the government of criminal negligence. Their acquittal reflected the widespread view among working people that Harding and Labrie were scapegoats for the rail bosses, Ottawa and Transport Canada.



Transportation Safety Board of Canada

Canadian Pacific Railway oil train derailed, caught fire near Guernsey, Saskatchewan, Dec. 9. Rail bosses' drive for profit poses threat to safety of workers and those living along the tracks.

In a statement issued backing the Canadian National strikers, the Coalition of Citizens and Organizations Committed to Railway Safety in Lac-Mégantic reiterated how they had supported Harding against the frame-up. They said the rail unionist was "a man unjustly accused by an industry insensitive and ungrateful to its workers, yet so affable towards its shareholders."

Harding registered another victory Nov. 28 when a judge in Lac-Mégantic ruled in favor of his motion to be

dropped from the lawsuit. In return, he agreed to testify for those suing Canadian Pacific when the trial begins next year.

Meanwhile, downtown Lac-Mégantic remains a massive vacant lot. Tanker cars with dangerous chemicals continue to roll through the town every day and night. The building of a rail bypass — promised by Ottawa and the Quebec government under pressure from the population and activist groups like the Citizens Coalition — hasn't even begun.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

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 10 serious accidents — eight that occurred on trains without a guard.

Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson has attacked the strike, vowing to impose restrictions on rail workers' right to strike.

— Tony Hunt

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



December 26, 1994

The drastic cuts to Social Security proposed by Sens. Bob Kerrey and John Danforth, who head a bipartisan commission established by President Bill Clinton, are a harbinger of things to come. Clinton and the Democrats and Republicans in Congress may squabble over how to do it. But in their drive to restore falling profit rates U.S. employers try to destroy as a universal right the social entitlements that working people won.

Workers fought for Social Security as one way to lessen the constant fear of becoming destitute and the dog-eat-dog competition that is imposed on them by capitalism. It was an initial step by working people toward conquering the social organization of the basic conditions for life. Social Security is a conquest for the entire working class. It is not a handout but a right.



December 26, 1969

BERKELEY — A rally of 250 people was held in Oakland on Dec. 13 to protest the Vietnam war, the victimization of the Black Panthers, and to back the GE strikers. The rally was held just blocks from the gates of one of the main plants shut down as a result of the walk-out of 147,000 GE workers nationwide.

Dave Kotz of UE Local 1493 explained the main thrust of the GE attack against the strikers. The attack is to bust the union into local bargaining units by denying them a national contract. GE pays only \$3.00 an hour average on the assembly line, only two days sick leave after five years service, and the pensions are only \$29 a week.

The crowd of young people had posters that read, "GE Makes a Killing in Vietnam" and "GE Needs This War, We Don't." Proceeds from a collection went to the strikers.



December 30, 1944

Since the British began their attempt to re-establish domination over Greece, the liberals have stepped up their propaganda to whitewash the role of American imperialism. The liberals have seized on demagogic declarations of the State Department as proof for their contention that Churchill may be continuing imperialist "power politics" but Roosevelt is "coming clean for democracy."

With the war, the United States has emerged as the most powerful capitalist power on the globe. Britain, on the other hand, has been immeasurably impoverished and weakened.

Super-wealthy U.S. imperialism, whose program to subjugate Europe is only part of its program to establish its imperial hegemony throughout the world, can afford a certain amount of flexibility in imposing its brutal rule over the peoples.

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.

Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions



\$12

KARL MARX
V.I. LENIN
LEON TROTSKY
FARRELL DOBBS
JACK BARNES

pathfinderpress.com

Back Asarco workers strike!

Continued from front page

haven't had a raise in nearly 10 years, freezes pensions, jacks up health insurance costs and eliminates contractual protections for union activity on the job. Asarco has not responded to repeated requests from the *Militant* and other media for comment.

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

Local 104 Secretary-Treasurer Karla Schumann added that the protest was part of a national day of actions taking place in a half-dozen cities to spread the word about the copper miners strike. Those actions took place at CMX Cinemas, upscale movie theaters with bars in the U.S. owned by Grupo Mexico.

Dan Fein, a Walmart worker from Chicago, read a solidarity statement signed by 24 of his co-workers. "Your fight is our fight — solidarity is our power," the statement said. "We don't have a union at Walmart," Fein added. "We need one."

"The company wants to have the right 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."

'Solidarity makes a difference'

Two days before this protest, Wagner said, as he was leaving the house a UPS driver stopped after seeing the strike sign in his front yard. "Still on strike?" the driver asked. "Remember we're here behind you."

"It's those kind of things out of the blue that make a world of difference," Wagner said. Like many other strikers, Wagner is starting a new job — at a local Walmart — to help get by during the strike.

Steelworker Ray Pacheco, a strike captain at the Mission Mine, said, "This strike is about stopping corporate greed." Even the small pay raise for skilled workers under Asarco's final offer "is more than offset by the increase they demand in health insurance premiums. How does that work? Copper now sells for \$2.81 per pound — they can well afford a pay raise for everyone."

"Conditions are getting rough for the strikers. Some have gotten other jobs, but continue to do their picket duty," he added.

While the Amarillo, Texas, refinery,

and Hayden, Arizona, smelter have been shut down by the strike, Asarco has maintained some production at the mines with supervisors, nonunion contractors, hired strikebreakers and some workers who crossed the lines.

"I never realized what a union is for until the strike happened," Darrin Miller, 46, said at the protest. "The solidarity support we receive makes us family. Some workers began the strike with us, but then crossed the picket line. That hurts."

'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 but to strike."

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. 6, 2014, Grupo Mexico's Buenavista del Cobre mine in Cananea, in the northwest of the country, spilled 40,000 cubic meters of acidified copper sulfate into the Sonora and Bacanuchi Rivers — the biggest environmental disaster in the history of Mexico. The toxic waste obliterated area agriculture, tourism, handicrafts and other ways of making a living. Some 22,000 area residents



USW District 12

Picket outside Ray copper mine Dec. 12 in unionists' weekslong fight against Asarco and Grupo Mexico attacks. "Company is out to bust our union," striker Karl Wagner told the *Militant*.

lost their drinking water and any way to get by.

The Mexican government agreed to let Grupo Mexico bosses continue and expand mining operations there. Promised cleanup and redevelopment was never completed.

While talking to strikers at the Mission Mine picket line, this worker correspondent noted that a poor safety record is not unique to Grupo Mexico, pointing out his experience, as well as a recent government report, showing that "the injury rate at Walmart is very high."

Eduardo Placencio, Steelworkers Local 937 recording secretary, spoke to 50 teachers at the Tucson Education Association meeting Dec. 11. "It was important for us to be in solidarity with you when you were on strike last year," Placencio told the meeting, referring to the 2018 teachers strike. "Your fight

was our fight too." The union matched the collection taken at the meeting, donating \$530 to the Asarco strike fund.

More solidarity is needed. Spread the word. Strike supporters are encouraged to visit the picket lines. For strikers at the Ray Mine and Hayden Smelter, send contributions and messages to USW Local 915, Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137. For strikers at the Amarillo refinery, send to USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, TX 79108. For strikers at the Mission and Silver Bell complexes near Tucson, send to the Pima Area Labor Federation Community Services via paypal.me/palfcommunityservice. Solidarity messages to the strike can be sent via palfchair@gmail.com.

Bernie Senter in Los Angeles contributed to this article

Gibsons fight Oberlin College 'racism' smears

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Gibson family, owners of a bakery in Oberlin, Ohio, won a multimillion dollar libel suit last June against Oberlin College over its race-baiting slanders against them. Since then the college has appealed the \$31 million verdict and has engaged in various legal maneuvers to undermine the family's victory. The Gibsons now face a new legal assault that threatens their rights and livelihood.

On Dec. 2, lawyers for the family filed their opposition to a motion to unseal Facebook records of one of the bakery's clerks and allege Cleveland media outlets are collaborating with Oberlin College. The bakery's attorneys argue this is a backdoor attempt by Oberlin College to continue their three-year smear campaign against the Gibsons and the bakery, claiming racism.

College officials filed — and lost — an earlier motion to make public the Facebook records of Allyn D. Gibson. These records had been sealed by the court prior to the trial in the Gibson lawsuit. Both the Gibsons and the college administration agreed to the court's action at the time.

On Nov. 1 WEWS-TV, Advance Ohio (Cleveland.com) and the Ohio Coalition for Open Government filed an almost identical motion to unseal the same Facebook records.

Oberlin College's lead trial lawyer, Ronald Holman, was a legal analyst for more than 10 years for WEWS-TV.

Allyn D. Gibson is the son of one of the store owners, the late David Gibson, and was not a party to the lawsuit. He did not testify at the trial nor did the college seek to introduce his private records as evidence at the trial. He was the store cashier who three years ago stopped three Oberlin College students who are Black from using a fake ID to buy wine and shoplifting some. The students later testified in a hearing on the charges that no racism or racial profiling was involved by the Gibsons.

In the days immediately after the shoplifting, Oberlin College Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo and other college officials helped organize student protests outside the family store and a boycott against it. The Gibsons were accused of a long history of racism and "racial profiling." Gibson's Bakery, which is located just next to the campus

in what is essentially a company town, had supplied the school cafeteria with baked goods for more than a century. In all that time there had never been a complaint of "racism."

The Gibsons sued the administration only after college officials didn't back off their vilifications against the family.

The news outlets now aiming to unseal Allyn Gibson's Facebook records carried little coverage of the lawsuit and trial but now claim that the "public interest" in these private records "outweighs" all confidentiality considerations.

In their Dec. 9 legal reply to the Gibsons' opposition to unsealing the Facebook records, the media outlets don't answer, and fail to deny, the family's allegations that they are colluding with Oberlin College.

In the lawsuit trial the college never produced a single witness to give testimony about alleged racist behavior by the Gibsons. In fact, the bakery is popular among working people in the area, including those who are Black. For days after they won their libel case, hundreds of workers came to the bakery to express their support and to spend money there.

The college's efforts to punish the Gibsons, and to continue their race-baiting smears against them, make clear the stakes for working people in this fight. We need to continue to get out the word and defend the Gibsons in their battles against the administration of one of the most expensive colleges in the country.

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

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, Socialist Workers Party

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

Sankara today

Continued from front page

schools were built, not only in the cities but in every village,” said Basninwende Isonore 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 counterrevolutionary coup in 1987 and was responsible for Sankara’s assassination, had ruled the country with an iron fist.

“Sankara is talked about as if he emancipated the women of his society,” Richardson said. But pay attention to Sankara’s own words: “Emancipation, like freedom, is not granted, it is conquered. It is for women to put forward their demands and win them.”

Richardson pointed to the changes women fought for, with Sankara’s leadership and backing. Female genital mutilation, forced marriages 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,” Issa Zoungrana, a representative of Stand for Life and 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 this objective.”

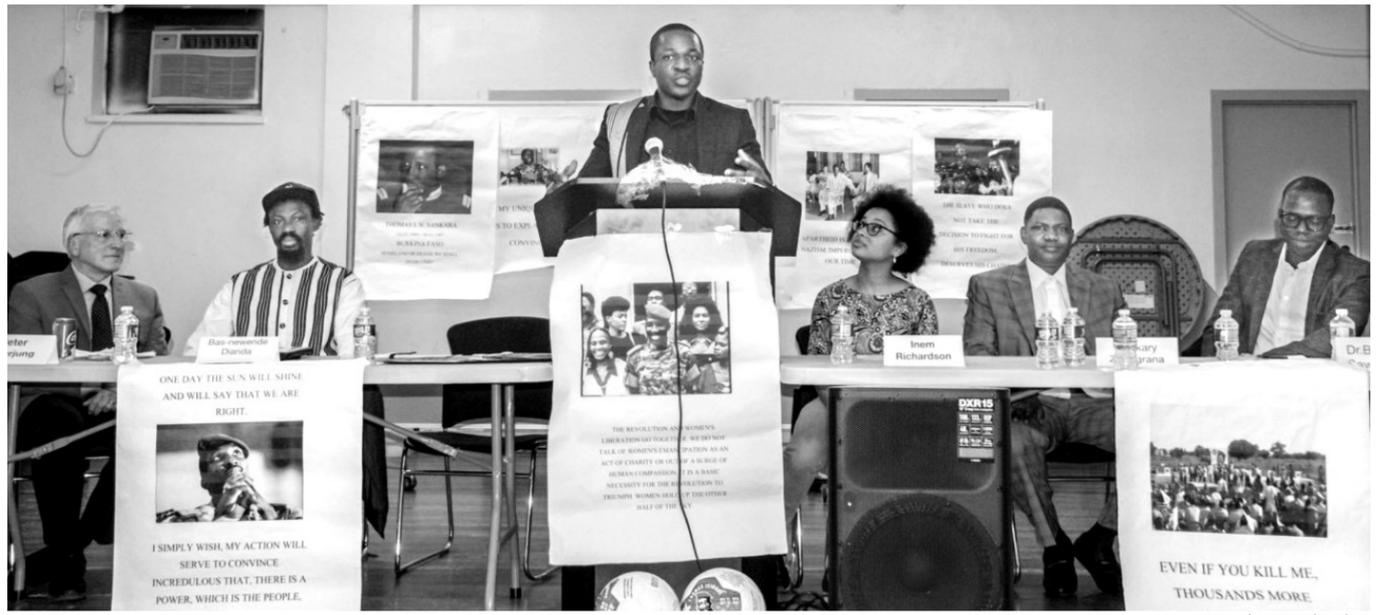
“Sankara was a nationalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-neocolonial,” Zoungrana said. Under his leadership, Burkina Faso became a country respected for its achievements in education, access to clean drinking water and the fight against corruption.

Sankara’s kind of leadership is not to be found on the African continent today, Zoungrana 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 discussed the historic connections between African liberation struggles and the fight by Blacks in the U.S. against racism and Jim Crow seg-



Panelists at “Legacy of Thomas Sankara” meeting held Dec. 8 in Harlem. From right, Boukary Sawadogo, professor at City College of New York; Issa Zoungrana, representative of Stand for Life and Liberty; Inem Richardson, student at Barnard College; chairperson Boukary Salogo; Basninwende Isonore Dianda, grade school teacher in Harlem; and Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party.

regation. He said some 10,000 immigrants from Burkina Faso now live in New York. “The issues for unity of Africans and African Americans are still on the table,” he said. “We have to stick together.” Sankara’s speech in Harlem, Sawadogo said, offers a perspective to advance that unity.

“French ground troops were recently introduced for the first time in Burkina Faso, and the Pentagon organized Special Operations exercises there in February,” Peter Thierjung of the Socialist Workers Party said. “Both are aimed at shoring up an unstable regime that has lost control of nearly half the country. Reactionary Islamists and armed gangs with connections to Compaoré have carried out terrorist attacks. A war and crisis are unfolding in West Africa, tearing countries like Burkina Faso apart. The responsibility for this can be traced back to the 1987 counterrevolution led by Blaise Compaoré.”

Sankara’s rejection of the dog-eat-dog morality of capitalism is an important lesson for working people in the U.S., Thierjung said. Today the effects of the competition between Uber, Lyft, taxi companies and limo services are imposed on 120,000 drivers in New York, many of whom are from West Africa and other parts of the world. Drivers “are supposed to see each other as

the problem,” Thierjung said, but they need to build solidarity and organize one union for all drivers instead. “That would be Sankara’s way.”

Read Sankara in his own words

Thierjung and Zoungrana both urged participants to read *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a book of speeches by the revolutionary leader. “There are those who wanted to bury Sankara and his ideas with him, but the book is a pledge to not let that happen,” Thierjung said. “Read Sankara in his own words.”

A lively discussion followed the presentations, with some 20 participants taking the microphone to speak, debate and pose questions.

One participant argued that “under Compaoré there was peace and negotiations, and terrorists were not carrying out attacks.” Another answered that there was never peace for the people of the country when Compaoré was in power. “Peace is what you earn” through struggle, he said.

“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 Lat-

in America, Richardson, who had recently visited Cuba, pointed to the close relations between the Cuban Revolution and the revolution in Burkina Faso under Sankara.

Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, publisher of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, said, “The main purpose of this book is to get it into the hands of working people here.” She asked Sawadogo about the impact of Malcolm X in Africa.

Sawadogo replied that “between the approaches of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, the fight for true independence would be to take the Malcolm X route.” Blacks in the U.S. and immigrants from Africa “have a common struggle,” he added.

“Some say Sankara led a coup d’etat 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,” Thierjung replied. “It was a popular democratic revolution led by Sankara.”

Paul Sankara, Thomas Sankara’s brother, spoke at the conclusion of the meeting. He thanked its 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.”

Algeria protests reject rigged presidential election

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 rarely been seen or heard in public since suffering 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 upsurge.

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

that claimed participation rate was “overestimated and inflated.”

Hundreds of thousands protested before and during the election, calling for a boycott and release of all political prisoners. They chanted, “No to election of shame” and “generals in the garbage.”

Hundreds of thousands more took to the streets across the country the day after the vote, in the 43rd consecutive week of protests. Working people call their actions the HIRAK, “the movement.” Protesters sang, chanted and carried handmade signs hailing the boycott.

At one point Dec. 13, police tried to keep the protest divided on opposite sides of the central plaza in the capital Algiers. Protesters broke through police ranks filling the plaza, forcing the cops to retreat. There are videos of the cops slinking out of the plaza as demonstrators chant, “We will not stop marching.”

Sparsely attended campaign rallies for all five candidates had to be held under police protection, and their campaign posters were constantly being torn down. Former Prime Minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who “won” the election

with 58% of the vote, canceled his final rally in Algiers in the face of protests.

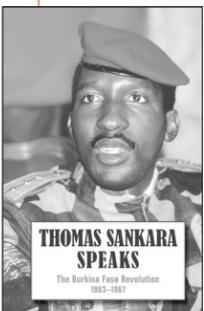
Working people in Algeria face a deep economic and social crisis. With some 95% of the country’s foreign currency coming from the sale of natural gas and oil, the rulers have tried to place the burden from the drop in oil prices over the last several years onto the backs of the toilers. The government slashed spending for social programs and infrastructure, raised gas prices and boosted taxes. Officially some 28% of young people in Algeria are unemployed.

Widespread arrests and police attacks on protests over the last eight months have backfired, building the movement.

“We look forward to working with President-elect Abdelmadjid Tebboune to promote regional security and prosperity,” the U.S. State Department said Dec. 13, hoping to bolster the regime while ignoring the protests.

After the vote, Tebboune claimed, “I am ready to dialogue with the HIRAK,” saying he “will work for all Algerians.” He knows the rulers still have a problem.

Thomas Sankara Speaks The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987



Under Sankara’s leadership, the revolutionary government of Burkina Faso in West Africa mobilized peasants, workers, women and youth to free themselves from the imperialist yoke and solidarize with others engaged in that fight internationally.

\$20, also in French
pathfinderpress.com

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 and finagled over “carbon markets.” They assured that rival bosses seeking to exploit both labor and nature will continue to foul the earth, sea and air in the name of profits.

Emissions of CO₂ and other heat-trapping gases contribute to the gradual rise in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere. Four years after 197 governments signed the nonbinding Paris Climate Accord, claiming they would avert the impact of global warming, CO₂ discharges have continued to rise. 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 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 ourselves, the communities we live in and for future generations.

As Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes says in the book *Capitalism's World Disorder*, “If we translate everything commonly thought of as an environmental issue into how to advance the protection of the working class, and how the working class can extend that protection to all, then we can hardly ever go wrong.”

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 a “carbon border 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 oilseed growers.

Competing capitalists have fought to boost profits at the expense of rivals in the growing market for so-called carbon credits. The Madrid conference ultimately foundered — after extending attempts at backroom “negotiations” — over failure to agree on a deal on “carbon credits,” also known as “pay to pollute.” Meanwhile, Washington is in the process of pulling out altogether from the Paris Accords.

Middle-class protesters outside the conference insisted “governments” had to do right by the planet. But their combination of panic and warnings of imminent destruction of the earth have nothing to do with advancing a working-class program that is necessary to fight capitalist exploitation, the source of the destruction of the environment.

Hundreds rally for 'driver's licenses for all' in New Jersey



Militant/Bob Bruce

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.”

ing to do with advancing a working-class program that is necessary to fight capitalist exploitation, the source of the destruction of the environment.

Boom in 'climate' scams

The governments of France and the U.K. favor and use “net-zero” targets for carbon emissions by expanding the use of “carbon offsets.” Under these schemes bosses can avoid cutting their own pollution by funding “green” projects elsewhere that claim to slash CO₂ emissions. Last month EasyJet airline bosses in the U.K. purchased offsets “calculated” to reduce 7.5 million tons of carbon dioxide elsewhere and now claim they're a “zero emissions” airline.

A 2017 EU Commission report said that 85% of all offset programs are scams that failed to give “real, measurable and additional” emissions reductions.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres urged governments at the conference to agree to a moratorium on building new coal power plants after 2020. Such a move is aimed at the peoples of Africa and Asia and would perpetuate the crippling lack of electrification there, a precondition for economic and social advancement. Some 240 million people in India were esti-

mated to lack access to a regular supply of electricity in 2017.

The Socialist Workers Party calls for extension of aid to expand nuclear power for economic and social development in the semicolonial world. But — even though this would 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 CO₂ emissions, to prevent the bosses from poisoning us all.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland
Solidarity with Copper Strikers Fighting Union Busting in Arizona and Texas. Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

— IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP —

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

UNITED STATES

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

FLORIDA: Miami: 1444 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 215. Zip: 33132. Tel: (305) 929-8966. 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

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: cllcmontreal@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

December BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

30%
DISCOUNT

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution
by Jack Barnes
Describes struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth attracted to them and the example set by the people of Cuba. \$10. **Special price: \$7**

Our History Is Still Being Written
The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution
by Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, Moisés Sio Wong, Mary-Alice Waters
\$15. **Special price: \$10.50**

The Communist League of America
Writings and Speeches, 1932-34
by James P. Cannon
\$25. **Special price: \$17.50**

The Challenge of the Left Opposition (1923-25)
by Leon Trotsky
\$25. **Special price: \$17.50**

The Case of the Legless Veteran
by James Kutcher
Fight against the anti-communist witch hunt by a worker and member of the Socialist Workers Party who lost both legs in World War II.
\$17. **Special price: \$12**

Le socialisme en procès
(Socialism on Trial)
by James P. Cannon
\$15. **Special price: \$10.50**

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

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL DECEMBER 31

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 Dec. 10 assault at a kosher market in Jersey City that killed Leah Mindel Ferencz, Moshe Deutsch and Douglas Miguel Rodríguez and wounded several others. At the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018 it was a white supremacist who cold-bloodedly killed 11 Jews.

Every act of Jew-hatred must be answered and combated, no matter who or where it comes from.

Jew-hatred, which first arose under feudalism, lives on under capitalism, flaring up even stronger in times of economic and social crisis, as class tensions sharpen. Today we see the contradictory reality that anti-Semitism among working people is 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 “democracies” in the U.S., Britain, France and beyond.

The recent elections in the United Kingdom were marked by this fact. The Labour Party was dealt a huge defeat not only because of its refusal to accept the overwhelming working-class support for getting the U.K. out of the EU, but also because of workers’ rejection of the party 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 remarks, 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 abandoned 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 executive 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 Jewish students on college campuses across the country, including threats of violence.

That’s a problem for the leftist proponents of Boycott, 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 threatened by a rising working-class movement, the bourgeoisie will fund and build up rightist forces and try to convince small-business people facing disaster, demoralized workers and others that their problems 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 million 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 blamed and slandered for everything.”

Abram Leon wrote in *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* that “there is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism, 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 branches listed on page 8, was 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, wresting power from the capitalist class.

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

Democrats boost US rulers’ political police

Continued from front page

he thinks have to be prevented from electing Trump again in 2020.

As the Democrats, the liberal media, and the middle-class left all focus on the vote in the House of Representatives, they also admit there is no chance the Senate will vote to oust 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 victory. Nineteen minutes after Trump became 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 J. Edgar Hoover, are high-minded, independent civil servants.

The *Times* ran an Op-Ed Dec. 16 from William Webster, who brags he is 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 excoriates Trump and Attorney General William Barr for pointing out the political bias of FBI spies who have tried to bring the administration down.

The liberals’ efforts to bolster these masters of dirty tricks, disruption and waterboarding is an attack on all those who have fought for decades to expose and curtail their assaults on the rights of working people.

The Socialist Workers Party — which ran Alyson Kennedy for president against both Trump and his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton — conducted a broad and successful political campaign to expose the extent of FBI spying against the party and other political activists. This led to a federal court victory ordering them to cease and desist that still stands today.

The SWP’s 13-year fight against the FBI began in 1973, forcing into the open the extent of the FBI’s COINTELPRO disruption operation against the party

and its members. The FBI admitted to at least 204 burglaries of party offices and sending 1,300 undercover informers against the party between 1945 and 1966.

The SWP speaks out today against the collusion of the liberals and spymasters to undermine political rights crucial to working people.

FBI spying revealed

Inspector General Horowitz reported the FBI put a wiretap on Trump campaign adviser Carter Page and sicced informants and secret agents to spy on Page and “at least” two other Trump campaign workers. An August 2016 security “briefing” given to Trump by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence was in fact given by an FBI agent sent to spy on him.

Horowitz said the FBI “fell far short” of accurately presenting evidence to justify its applications to the U.S. rulers’ secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to spy on the Trump campaign.

Cop and spy agents do not have to swear to tell the truth when they testify before this court. So the FBI can present whatever it wants. FISA courts routinely defer to the cops, granting 99% of all applications.

The “evidence” the FBI used to get the court to rubber stamp its wiretap on Carter Page came from a “report” cooked up by Christopher Steele, a former British spy who was paid by Hillary Clinton’s campaign to dig up dirt on Trump. The agency knew the “evidence” was fraudulent when it submitted it.

The Democrats claim that the FBI had been exonerated from charges that they had violated the law. But Horowitz said the facts “don’t vindicate anybody.”

In a rare public statement, FISA court presiding Judge Rosemary Collyer said the FBI had tried to deceive the court and ordered them to submit Jan. 10 a list of what it “plans to do” to be truthful in the future.

Whatever they come up with, the rulers will continue to use the FBI whenever they need to and whenever they can to safeguard their interests.

Jersey City murders

Continued from front page

and Douglas Miguel Rodríguez, the three people killed. Hundreds joined an interfaith vigil at Temple 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 in an hourslong gun battle, which ended when the police rammed an armored vehicle into the supermarket and found both killers dead.

All 43 Jersey City schools were locked down, affecting 30,000 students. “It was scary,” Tetri Boodhoo, a worker at the Walmart store in Secaucus, told this worker-correspondent. Her daughter was locked inside 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 predominantly Black neighborhood.

The JC Kosher Supermarket opened by Moishe Ferencz and his wife, Leah, had become a community hub. Douglas Miguel Rodríguez, from Ecuador, worked there. Moshe Deutsch, the other victim of the shooting, was a 24-year-old rabbinical student.

The morning after the killing Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop condemned the attack, saying it was aimed at Jews. But despite the explicit targeting of a kosher deli next to a synagogue the state’s attorney general, Gurbir Grewal, took several days to acknowledge the attack was anti-Semitic. Anderson, one of the shooters, also espoused the views 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 is lined with flowers, candles and messages, including 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 overwhelming majority of working people of all nationalities and religious beliefs oppose Jew-hatred,” the statement said. “But if every expression of anti-Semitism isn’t answered and combated, that opposition can and will be pushed back.”

Sherman returned to Greenville Dec. 15 and visited the family of Leah Mindel Ferencz.

The conduct of those who came to offer their condolences and solidarity stood in contrast to comments by Joan Terrell, a Jersey City Board of Education Trustee. She claimed the murderous attack was justifiable, saying “brutes of the Jewish community” were forcing Blacks to move out of the neighborhood. Terrell urged people to “explore” the “message,” the Jew-hating killers “were sending.”

Describing the slayings in a tweet, Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib wrote, “White supremacy kills.” She deleted the comment when the identity of the shooters was revealed, leaving no statement against the anti-Semitic attacks.

The day after the killings the White House issued an executive order against anti-Semitism. It instructed universities that receive government funding to enforce Title VI against “discrimination rooted in anti-Semitism as vigorously as against all other forms of discrimination,” and prohibited any infringement of First Amendment rights.

In response to the executive order the *New York Times* editors complained that “the larger threat to American Jews goes beyond college students. ... Violent anti-Semitism is being fomented most significantly by white nationalists and the far right.” But no anti-Semitic violence is “more significant” than any other — they all deal blows to working people and help prepare the ground for the ultra-right, regardless of who carries them out.

The ‘Militant’ is on holiday break

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