‘Militant’ files appeal against paper’s ban in Indiana prison

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
The Militant is challenging the impoundment of several issues of the paper from subscriber Kevin “Rashid” Johnson at Indiana’s Pendleton Correctional Facility. A letter Johnson sent was received by the Militant Jan. 2, along with copies of prison officials’ “Notice and Report of Action Taken” stating that issues nos. 43-46 from the end of last year were not delivered to him. The officials failed to tell Johnson what articles they objected to and why, as their own rules require. Instead, they just claimed they were “Prohibited Property” and a “Security Risk.”

“The notification and basis have not been made in accordance with IDOC [Indiana Department of Correction] policy,” wrote Johnson, “not to mention that in violation of constitutional due process, they do not notify publishers when they deny their media.”

Militant attorney David Goldstein filed the paper’s appeal Jan. 15 in a letter.

Continued on page 3

Ky. miners block coal train in fight over unpaid wages

‘Somebody’s got to take a stand,’ miners say

BY MAGGIE TROVE
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A dozen Quest Energy coal miners and their families began blocking the railroad tracks near Kimper, Kentucky, Jan. 13 to protest the fact they haven’t been paid. They pledge to stay there until Quest, a subsidiary of American Resources Corp., pays them wages for work since Dec. 27.

The protest began when two miners learned that Quest planned to haul coal from one of its mines in Pike County. They stood on the tracks, blocking the 120-car CSX train. By nightfall a dozen miners and some of their wives and children had gathered on the tracks. Neighbors and friends brought firewood, water and food.

“We just want paid, that’s it,” roof boltter Dylan Davidson told the Lexington Herald Leader. “We don’t want to block this train, but it comes to a point where we have to. You go three weeks without a payday, you gonna let that train go through here so they can put the money in their pocket and just say to heck with us? No, they can’t do that.”

Later that day CSX bosses sent a crew to tear down the blockade. Two miners were arrested.

Continued on page 4

Protests spread as Iran rulers admit they lied, shot down plane

BY TERRY EVANS
Thousands of working people, students and others joined protests in at least a dozen cities across Iran as outrage mounted over the government’s attempted cover-up of its missile attack that brought down a Ukrainian passenger aircraft in which all 176 people on board died. The slaughter reignited widespread protests that erupted in 2017 and again last November in some 100 towns and cities.

Protesters demanded the resigna- tion of regime leaders, and gave voice to opposition by working people to the Iranian rulers’ military interventions across the Middle East and their repercussions on people’s lives.

For years the Iranian rulers have pressed workers, farmers and immi- grants to serve in their army, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and para-

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Trump runs on ‘peace, prosperity’ as Democrats fold on impeachment

BY TERRY EVANS
The Democrats’ attempt to drag out their impeachment of President Donald Trump came apart Jan. 10, with House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi announcing she will name the Democrats’ “prosecutors” and send the two articles of impeachment to the Senate this week, where the president will almost certainly

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Support copper miners strike against Asarco union busting!

BY DEBORAH LIATOS
Workers on strike against copper giant Asarco marked day 90 of their strike Jan. 11 with an expanded picket line at the Mission Mine in Sahuarita, Arizona. They are organizing more public actions to win support for their fight against the bosses’ blatant effort to bust their unions.

Some 1,700 workers from seven unions went on strike at four Asarco open pit mining and processing complexes in Arizona and its refinery in Amarillo, Texas, Oct. 13. Workers had voted down the company’s “last and fi- nal” contract demands by 77%. Asarco wants to freeze wages and pensions for most workers, double or triple health in-

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Capitalism, colonial rule cause Puerto Rico earthquake crisis

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hundreds of homes suffered serious damage, along with some schools, churches and other buildings that collapsed, after a 4.6 magnitude earthquake — one of hundreds over the last several weeks — rocked the southern part of the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico Jan. 7.

Thousands are living and sleeping outdoors or in makeshift tent cities in public plazas, and thousands more are without electricity and running water. This comes on top of still unrepaired damage from Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Three earthquakes of 4.7, 5.0 and 4.7 magnitude shook the island within three hours overnight Dec. 28, followed by many others until the most powerful quake Jan. 7. Significant aftershocks continue.

Gov. Wanda Vázquez tried to sidestep any government responsibility for the unfolding social crisis. “We are talking about something for which we could not prepare, [unlike] hurricanes, which we can see,” she told the press.

But it’s never been a secret that major faults run underneath Puerto Rico. Neither the U.S. colonial masters nor its local underlings adopted any construction standards for earthquake risks until February 2019, requiring new building standards for earthquake risks until February 2019, requiring new building

1987. Under pressure the Puerto Rican government tightened those regulations in February 2019, requiring new buildings to be able to withstand a 6.5 magnitude, but it never required retrofitting, even for schools or hospitals. And it did nothing to ensure that adequate food, water or medical care was in place for when a quake did hit.

For more than a decade and a half, instead of modernizing infrastructure, the U.S. government and the colonial regime on the island have cut social spending, slashing pensions, spending on health care and schools, and cut back on maintenance of the electric grid. Squeezing working people to pay billions in interest on debt built up mostly to U.S.-based bondholders has been the government’s highest priority.

And then President Barack Obama set up the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico — still running today — to make sure the payments continue and that the government defends the interests of capitalist investors and bankers.

A catastrophe caused by capitalism

All this just helps show that the social crisis is not the result of a “natural disaster.” It’s the product of colonial rule and capitalist exploitation and the U.S. and local capitalist class’s disdain for working people.

And just like after the 2017 hurricane, working people, community groups and churches have taken the lead in providing food and shelter for those in need, in the face of inaction by the U.S. and Puerto Rican governments.

“Everybody is sleeping on the street because we don’t know when the aftershocks are going to stop,” artist Adolfo Matos told the Militant from Luquillo Jan. 9. “There’s no electricity. Water comes and goes.”

“The government hasn’t done anything,” he said. “It’s the people themselves who are helping each other.”

Ivan Vargas, president of the water workers union in Mayagüez, where he works, went to Guánica, one of the hardest-hit towns. Jan. 9 to see for himself and pave the way to organize aid from the unions. “There are a lot of houses that collapsed and even in those that are standing it’s dangerous to go back while the quakes are continuing,” he said.

After the Dec. 28 quake, “some local governments organized meetings with community residents about what to expect, and that helped to limit deaths.”

“Once a year the schools have an earthquake drill where they tell the students to get under a desk to protect themselves,” Vargas said. They were lucky the most damaging quake hit at 4:30 a.m. and no one was in the schools. The students “would’ve been buried alive” in those that collapsed, he said.

The Jan. 7 quake knocked out power all over the island, like what happened during Hurricane Maria. The worst damage was to the Costa Sur Power Plant in Guayanilla, shutting it down. It’s the island’s largest generator, supplying 25% of the country’s electric power.

“We need the truth”

Some reports said that the plant could be up and running in a few months, others said it could take more than a year.

“We want them to tell the people the truth,” Vargas said.

“No buildings here were damaged,” Lenin Rodríguez, a pharmaceutical worker and community activist, said by phone from Yabucoa Jan. 11. People are concerned all over the island about the shape of school buildings, whether it’s safe to reopen them. “Many parents have no confidence in what the government tells them,” he said.

Tom Jan. 7, both President Donald Trump and Governor Vázquez declared a state of emergency in Puerto Rico. But whatever aid they are providing is “just for immediate needs,” Rodríguez said Jan. 11, “not for reconstruction.”

The U.S. government still hasn’t released most of the money allocated to help reconstruct the island after Hurricane Maria, Rosalina Abreu, a leader of the Arecma community group in Humacao, told the Militant.

“They paid hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild the electrical grid,” she said. “All they did was put up some posts and string some cable, but they left it in the same terrible shape it was in before the storm.”

Fifteen members of Arecma brought hot food and supplies to a hard-hit area outside Guayanilla Jan. 12, Abreu said.

“People from all over the island have been bringing aid” to the affected regions, including to “many areas where no government aid has yet arrived,” she said.

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“The government has no plan for how to rebuild the destroyed homes,” Abreu said.

“A lot of people live in low-lying areas by the sea, but the tsunami warning loudspeakers don’t work.”

“The government always puts the needs of the people in last place,” she said.

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.

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, 75273 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ$95 for one year to the Militant, PO Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$95 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.

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These are expressed in editorials.
Continued from front page

grocery store La Tienda Tarimoro in Eatonton, Georgia, Jan. 11. Mendez, a former dairy worker, had first met SWP campaign supporters last fall.

"U.S. forces are only there to defend the interests of the ruling class, to control the resources of these countries," Fruit said.

"Soleimani was a central leader of the Iranian rulers' efforts to extend their counterrevolutionary economic and military influence," she said, handing Mendez a copy of the SWP national campaign's Jan. 10 statement on the Middle East war in Iran on its website. "He had been a target of protests by workers in Iran and Iraq."

"It's working people who have to fight and die in their wars," Mendez agreed.

"Only by looking to working people in the entire region can we see a way out of the military conflicts there," Fruit added. Mendez took copies of the Militant supplement "Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran" to show around. It describes how working people joined demonstrations in over 90 cities and towns across Iran at the end of 2017 to protest Tehran's military intervention in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, and to press their own class interests.

Mendez renewed his Militant subscription and said he would talk with dairy workers if they would like to meet the socialist candidate and learn more about the SWP campaign.

"U.S. forces out of Mideast"

When SWP campaigner Jeff Powers knocked on the door of Dre Johnson in Valdosta, Georgia, Jan. 11, Johnson told him that the U.S. government should get its forces out of the Middle East.

"We face a deteriorating situation in this region," Johnson said, pointing out he has worked to two jobs while his wife also works full time so they can afford to pay their bills.

Workers are often told that Washington's foreign policy issues "our foreign policy and "our" wars, but different social classes, not "countries," have foreign policies. What are usually called "U.S. interests" are in fact the interests of the ruling class.

Workers are forced to serve as the cannon fodder.

Washington's military operations are an extension of what they do to working people at home with their dog-eat-dog profit system, backed up by their cops, courts and prisons, explained Powers.

That's why we need to build a movement of workers independent of the Democrats and Republicans," Powers explained. The SWP urges workers to build a labor party that fights to defend the class interests of the working people at home and abroad. Johnson subscribed to the Militant and got a copy of the book The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Chicago Fears Working People by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

"It's not our job to dictate to any country, in the name of liberating them," bus driver Tharien Graham told James Harris, SWP candidate for Washington, D.C., delegate to U.S. Congress, Jan. 8. Harris met Graham when he brought the campaign's supp- ort to Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 strikers picketing at the Cindi Red Bed garage in Lorton, Virginia. The bus workers are fighting for safer working conditions and more pay.

"There is a class struggle in Iran and Iraq," Harris said. "Workers there are trying to unite across religious and national differences and find a working-class road forward."

"Imperialist intervention does not help the ordinary people of the Middle East," 15-year-old student Raoul Firez told Communist League member Andres Mendoza at a protest called by the Stop the War Coalition in London Jan. 11. Firez was at the action with his mother, Sadaf Neyab. She told Mendoza she opposed the killing of Soleimani, "But I'm no supporter of the Iranian government," she added. "It is not the Iranian government that people fought for in the revolution of 1979."

"The current government is a reac- tionary bourgeois clerical regime," said Mendoza. "It's the product of a counterrevolution that pushed back what was a big help in these discussions, especially in explaining that Jew-hatred is not simply another form of 'hate' or discrimination, but a tool used by the capitalist rulers and their supporters to scapegoat Jews for the growing crisis of their system.

"One co-worker, Maxine Castle, who has worked a maintenance job at the store for four years, said we should send a card of condolence to families of those in Jersey City who had lost loved ones.

"We're all human," Castle, originally from Jamaica, told me, "no matter what your nationality or beliefs. If my Jewish brother is hurt, it hurts me too."

"We decided to go ahead. Seven other co-workers added their names, which led to more discussions on the importance of workers speaking out against these and any other examples of Jew-hatred.

If you would like more information on the SWP campaign, or to help circulate campaign literature, the Militant and books by SWP leaders, contact the campaign office nearest you listed on page 8 or at themilitant.com.

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 revolu- tionary of all — the 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

The Militant January 27, 2020

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MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

FLORIDA

Miami

Defend Abortion Rights! Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party Fri., Jan. 24, 7 p.m. Donation: $5. 1444 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 235, Tel.: (305) 929-9966

MINNESOTA

St. Paul


NEW YORK

New York

No to the Death Penalty! No to Solitary Confinement and Other Prison Abuse. Speaker: Chris Cotton, Socialist Workers Party Sat., Jan. 25, 7 p.m. 307 W. 36th St. 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 434-8117

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The 2020 Elections and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: Norton Sandel, National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 24-Recep- tion, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $10. 5140 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.
What’s at stake in Jersey City debate over anti-Semitism?

BY LEA SHERMAN

UNION CITY, N.J. — A sharp debate broke out when an elected member of the Jersey City Board of Education made anti-Semitic comments, justifying the murderous attack on the JC Kosher Supermarket Dec. 10.

Joan Terrell-Paige posted an anti-Jewish video on her Facebook page five days after African Americans David Anderson and Francine Graham died in an hourslong gun battle with the police.

Terrell-Paige, who is Black, claimed the video was a legitimate response to some 100 Jewish families, many from the Satmar Hasidic Jewish community in Brooklyn, New York, who have faced skyrocketing rents and many have moved farther away.

Irate at a Dec. 14 article in Insider NJ titled “Faith and Hope to Fight Hate in Jersey City” on a meeting where Black, Latino and Jewish civic and religious figures spoke out against the anti-Semitic attack, Terrell-Paige wrote on Facebook, “Where was all this faith and hope when Black homeowners were threatened, in the past decade all working people living in New York City have faced skyrocketing rents and many have moved farther away.

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French workers strike, protest
government attacks on pensions
PARIS Sizable demonstrations
by the General Confederation of Work-
ers (CGT) and other unions continue in
France against the assault on pensions
by the government of President Em-
manuel Macron. Tens of thousands took
to the streets Jan. 11 in a national pro-
test called by four unions — the Force Ouvriere; FSU, the main teach-
ers’ union; and Solidaires. Some 400,000
workers demonstrated Jan. 10 — the day after
they put an end to the strikes and protests, Prime Minister
Edouard Philippe sent a letter to the unions Jan. 11 saying the government
was prepared to withdraw its plan to
raise the retirement age for full pen-
sion benefits, “if certain conditions are met.” But workers don’t trust the gov-
ernment, Philippe pledged, and the stops
were out for the rail workers. For rail workers
threatened by Macron to end their early retirement — it’s their longest
strike in France — the nation’s high-speed
passenger trains are not running, including
several of the Paris Metro lines.
Public service workers in transpor-
tation, schools and public services
have organized mass rallies. More than
a third of teachers in France
didn’t report to work Jan. 9. The CGT
called for a blockade and strike at oil
refineries Jan. 7-10.
On the government’s side it’s about
“you make out for yourself,” Benenger Ceron, head of the CGT
at Paris’ Gare de Lyon station, told
the New York Times. “With us, it’s all about
solidarity — liberty, equality, frater-
nity.” Airline workers, fisherman, truck
drivers, hospital workers, dockwork-
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the opera “Swan Lake,” on the steps of the opera
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Macron’s attacks on pensions.
Details of the contract have not been
publicly released. The company was
insisting on ending the union-enforced system where workers bid on job
crews, woodlot auctions, where foreman
insists, is key to their safety. The company also
demanded workers pay more for their
health insurance.
When the strike began, picket lines
shut the mine down. It has operated
at a minimal capacity since, staffed
by managers and a few workers who crossed the picket line.
The unions organized rallies at the mine and at Hecla corporate head-
quarters in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, throughout the strike.
Other unions contributed to a hard-
ship fund for the striking workers and their families and participated in
several of the rallies. Local 5114 also
organized a food bank that operated
throughout the walkout.
Striking Road Warriors traveled
to corporate meetings and trade shows
where Hecla executives appeared in the
U.S. and Canada to publicize their strike. And they joined in solidarity ac-
tions for other labor battles.
— Edwin Fruitt

Support miners strike against Asarco union busting!
Continued from front page
surance costs, and gut union rights on
the job. Most workers haven’t had a raise in
over a decade.
“Asaro is not talking to anyone, the
union, the press, anyone,” Karla
Schumann, Teamsters Local 104 sec-
cretary-treasurer, told the Militant. “Their silence speaks volumes.”
The company has consistently refused to
speak with the Militant.
When the Lucky Friday mine in the
Boise City-Stanley mining district and the
Hayden, Arizona, smelter were shut down by the strike, Asarco, which is
owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the world’s largest copper companies, has
gotten some production at other complexes. They’re using supervi-
sors, nonunion contractors and other workers who have crossed the picket line.
The company has stopped up at
tempts to hire strikebreakers through
employment ads on its website.
Schumann said that strikers are in-
creasing their public activities to get out
the word and win support for the strike.
On Jan. 13 strikers protested outside
the state Capitol in Phoenix to call on leg-
islators to back their fight. On Jan. 20
 strikers will march in the Martin Luther
King Day parade in Tucson.
The striking copper workers have
received widespread solidarity from
unionists and other workers in the re-
igion, as well as in other parts of the
country and from some unions interna-
tionally. Workers have brought truck
loads of firewood and other supplies.
Asarco workers at the Mission Mine
were joined on the picket line Jan. 11
by a labor delegation from California.
The Los Angeles Labor Federation and
Teamsters Joint Council 42 brought a
52-foot truck with food, including fresh
vegetables, for the strikers’ food bank.
The financial contributions and do-
nations of food and other basic neces-
saries have been a big help to strikers,
and some have had to find work else-
where to weather the strike.
“We haven’t had one member lose
their home, we’ve never had a reported vehicle and no one’s lights are being shut
off,” Ruben Gonzales, vice president of
United Steelworkers Local 937, told the
press at the expanded picket. “The water
is staying on, the electric is staying on.”
Steelworkers Local 1010 in Ham-
mund, Indiana, recently sent a donation
of $2,000 to Steelworkers Local 915 in
Mullan, Idaho, to help strikers after
hearing a report on the strike from
Walmart worker Dan Fein, who recently
visited the picket lines in Arizona.
“The members of USW Local 1010
stand with our sisters and brothers who
are under attack from Asarco!” Local
1010 President Steve Wagner told the
Militant Jan. 13. The union will con-
continue to support the Asarco workers as
long as the company “does not bargain
in good faith with our union sisters and
brothers,” he said.
Mine bosses in Arizona’s “copper tri-
gle” have waged an anti-union cam-
paign for decades, seeking higher prof-
its from paying workers less and from
disabling for safe working conditions.
Besides Asarco, there is only one other
union copper mining company left.
— Edwin Fruitt

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

January 30, 1995
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The
fifth Southern Pacific train deral-
mination in the past six weeks in this region oc-
murred Jan. 30 when a locomotive going west
went off the track with 14 cars, two of
which rolled into the Colorado River.
Bob Barney, an SP locomotive en-
gineer for 25 years and member of the
 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers,
said he had never seen so many derail-
ments in such a short period of time. He
blames SP and its parent, the Union
Pacific, for inadequate “tenance” policy. “Year ago you could
see section gang members inspecting the tracks. I haven’t seen an inspector in years,” Barney said.
Ron Hyatt, a longtime conductor on
the SP and member of the United Trans-
portation Union, [said] the company
next to have responsibility for
accidents. “They just drug and alcohol
test all the crew members and try to pin
the blame on the workers.”

January 30, 1970
The thirty-month Nigerian civil war
ended Jan. 12 when secessionist Bi-
afra was finally overwhelmed by federal
forces. The total estimated war dead
was at least 2,000,000 dead, more than
have perished in the war in Vietnam.
From the beginning, rival imperial-
ialist interests intervened in the Nigerian
civil war, seeking to deepen their in-
fluence on the African continent. Both
sides accepted and sought aid from
the most reachy powers, and each ac-
curred the other of making important
concessions to imperialism to secure
military backing.
Washington maintained an ostenta-
tious neutrality, but tacitly supported
the Nigerian government, while provid-
ing some $80,000,000 in food relief for
Biafra — a “humanitarian” policy that
was also designed to assure its influence there if the Biafrans should win their bid for independence.

January 27, 1945
After 13 months confinement be-
hind federal prison bars, the 12 So-
cialist Workers Party and Minneapolis
Truckdrivers’ Local 544-CIO leaders
railroaded under the Smith “Gag” Act
were released this morning from Roo-
sell’s penitentiary.
All the prisoners showed in their eyes
and their pale skins the effects of the in-
carceration for defying the interests of the working class and upholding the prin-
ciples of revolution and socialism. But
eletion on their freedom and e-
gerness for renewed struggle predomi-
ated in the expressions and words of the Trotskyists.
James P. Cannon, National Secretary
of the Socialist Workers Party, stated:
“We are glad to be out. The work of
the party in our absence shows that our
party is based on ideas and cannot be
halted in its work by the imprisonment of
a few individuals.”

The Militant January 27, 2020 5

Photos and letters to themilitant@mac.com or through our website, or
mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.
The heads of the Cuban medical brigade arrived in the West African country and held meetings with health authorities and officials to discuss the situation and provide support.

The medical team was composed of doctors, nurses, and specialists who had previous experience in handling pandemic situations. Their arrival was highly anticipated by the local population, who had been waiting for medical help for months.

The team worked tirelessly, treating patients and providing support to local health facilities. They also conducted awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of hygiene and social distancing.

Despite the challenges they faced, the team remained committed to their mission and worked hard to save lives. Their efforts were recognized by the local authorities, who praised their dedication and professionalism.

In conclusion, the Cuban medical team's response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa demonstrated the country's commitment to international solidarity and its willingness to provide support to those in need. Their actions were an example of the communist Party's dedication to the cause of the working class and the fight against imperialism and exploitation.
Australia bushfires: Capitalism is responsible for social disaster

The following statement was released by the Communist League in Australia Jan. 8.

The massive bushfires that have swept south and eastern Australia have had a devastating impact on the lives of many working people. But the social crisis developing in the wake of the fires is the result of the workings of the capitalist system, which puts the profits of building companies, insurers and insurance magnates before the interests of working people who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

The contempt of politicians for working people, including volunteer firefighters who struggled to save their homes and lives, was epitomized by the indifference of the Prime Minister and the NSW [New South Wales] Emergency Services Minister as they took off for their overseas holidays in the midst of the crisis.

While there were plenty of signs that workers, volunteers, fireys, proto-son, governments did nothing to prepare for the conditions. There were no steps taken in advance to organize for evacuations or to provide for those who had to flee. The hydro fire control.

The hot, dry weather conditions and high winds has made the fires more intense and unpredictable, but the scale of the fires has been exacerbated by the massive buildup of forest fuel. State and federal governments, which rule in the name of the public, are responsible for the failure of management of the forests and water supplies. Aboriginal leaders explain that frequent low intensity burns are necessary to prevent the buildup of forest fuel. This traditional practice was based on thousands of years of experience of doing what was necessary to protect the environment rather than extracting profit. Under the capitalist system, methods have been deemed too expensive. Instead, governments cut spending and employment in forest and parks services, and tie prevention and control efforts to building new roads.

Protests called by climate activists in response to the bushfires have centered on calls for the government to change its “climate policy.” But every policy implemented by corporations and bourgeois governments only serves the interests of maintaining capitalist profit-making and rule.

It is the capitalists’ profit-fueled manufacturing competition that has poisoned the atmosphere’s air, water and soil. The effects are ruinous for working people in city and countryside. What is needed is to advance a working-class program to fight to end capitalist’s exploitation of both labour and nature.

The Communist League calls for workers and our unions to fight for workers control over production to ensure health and safety in the facto-

ratories and to control emissions of green-house gases, which contribute to the gradual rise in the temperature of the earth’s atmosphere.

Working people need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put thousands to work at rates that can build a welfare infrastructure destroyed in the fires, and carry out work in the forestry industry and the National Parks. The federal government must ensure adequate compensation for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods and volunteer firefighters who have had to leave their jobs. We demand that it extend affordable credit to working farmers and guarantee their costs of production.

Working people need to organize and act independently of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties. The only way we can prevent future such catastrophes is by building a movement to fight along a course to replace the rule of the exploiters with a workers and farmers government.

Cuba’s revolutionary government sets an example of what can be done when working people are in power. When hurricanes hit Cuba, all the resources of Cuba’s people are mobilized. The government organises evacuation to save everyone in advance. It also provides relief and shelter. And it moves to the next step when the next disaster is forecast.

The government of the United States, which has a Revolutionary organisation, has not been able to prevent the social disasters of the last decades. The Occupy Wall Street movement had its origins in the Occupy Wall Street movement had its origins in the financial crisis developing in the wake of the sub-prime mortgage crisis. The movement has spread to other cities around the world and has involved a large number of people who are angry about the lack of economic opportunities for the working class. The movement has put forward a number of demands, including the nationalisation of banks and the end of the war on terror.

Continued from page 7

ties through which they exercise their exploitation and class rule — has been exacerbated by the massive buildup of forest fuel. State and federal governments, which rule in the name of the public, are responsible for the failure of management of the forests and water supplies. Aboriginal leaders explain that frequent low intensity burns are necessary to prevent the buildup of forest fuel. This traditional practice was based on thousands of years of experience of doing what was necessary to protect the environment rather than extracting profit. Under the capitalist system, methods have been deemed too expensive. Instead, governments cut spending and employment in forest and parks services, and tie prevention and control efforts to building new roads.

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\[\text{Resident of Caborgo, Australia, area hard hit by bushfires, refuses to shake hand of Prime Minister Scott Morrison, "You got people on their own as fires raged.” The Militant brings you the rule of the exploiters with a workers and farmers government.} \]

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\[\text{In Red Zone, Ubieta said at the 2016 launching, “I want to talk about the seeds we are sowing inside and outside of our selves. Every time a Cuban doctor takes part in a mission abroad, they renew themselves as revolutionaries.”} \]

Some people contend that “the epic moments of the Cuban Revolution are a thing of the past,” Ubieta noted, and “that Cubans should concern them-selves only with their own individual, everyday problems, which can sometimes be overwhelming.

“Then suddenly you hear the bat- tle cry, like the request we received for aid. And themselves ten-thousand begin-ning to go. Solidarity is very much alive in the Cuban people.”

December 7, 2019
The Cuban Revolution shows that society doesn't need to be a monopoly of those in power. As Raúl Castro explained, “People made a revolution and took power out of the hands of a U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959, replacing capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government that put working people in Puerto Rico in the best position to follow the example of Cuba's workers and farmers, will put working people in Puerto Rico to demand: Cancel the government's indifference and completely in-organize a workers and farmers government. "We have all seen and felt what this government has done "We need to go after the highest chain of com-"The game is over" for both "re-"The Militant January 27, 2020            9