2020 election deepens crisis of Democrats, Republicans

BY TERRY EVANS

For decades working people in the U.S. have faced declining real wages and worsening working conditions as the bosses have gone after them in an effort to defend their profit rates, creating a broad social crisis. This, along with opposition to the capital-ist rulers’ ongoing wars in the Mid-dle East and elsewhere, has fueled widespread dissatisfaction with both the Democratic and Republican par-ties, which have alternated presiding over the decline. The disdain for what workers face by elected officials and the massive government bureaucracy drives a po- litical crisis that wracks both of the bosses’ two major parties. The crisis is most obvious among the Democrats today, whose fights with each other flow from the fear that they won’t find a 2020 candidate who can defeat the incumbent president.

Many workers are looking for a way to change these conditions. Continued on page 4

Coronavirus shows need for revolution in health care

BY ROY LANDERSEN

When the first cases of acute pneu-monia caused by the new coronavirus were diagnosed last December in Wu-han, China, government authorities there downplayed the development. Now the capitalist rulers worldwide are scrambling about what to do with an epidemic that has taken over 1,100 lives, worse than the SARS outbreak in China 17 years ago.

While the fatality rate is less than half that of severe acute respiratory syndrome, the coronavirus has a far greater number of infections — over 44,000 as of Feb. 12. Active carriers of the virus have now been found in two dozen countries.

Beijing initially tried to minimize and cover up what was happening. They sent a government health official to Wuhan who told people the disease was “preventable and controllable.”

Then that person caught it himself and became a symbol of government lying and incompetence. Continued on page 8

Miami car caravan protests US restrictions on travel to Cuba

ANDRÉS GÓMEZ, right, leader of Alianza Martiana, speaks before 50-car caravan wound its way through Miami’s Little Havana Feb. 8, calling for end to new U.S. attacks on travel to Cuba.

BY ANTHONY DUTROW

MIAMI — Scores of people joined a car caravan led by the Alianza Mar-tiana in the Little Havana neighbor-hood here Feb. 8 to protest new U.S. government restrictions on travel to Cuba. Washington passed new regulations in January barring all charter flights to Cuban cities other than Havana, and curtailed flights to Cuba’s capital. The government last fall barred all commercial flights from the U.S. to nine cities outside of Havana.

The caravan also denounced van-dalism at the Alianza’s headquar-ters during the night of Jan. 26 after it had sponsored a public meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Cuban independence leader José Martí. The group defends revolution. Continued on page 7

Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president: ‘Workers need our own party, a labor party’

BY GEORGE CHALMERS.

DALLAS — The two main capital-ist parties, the Democrats and Repub-licans, are in crisis, Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, told participants in a cam-paign rally here Feb. 8. And, she said, more and more workers are conclud-ing that neither the Democratic or Republican parties are on the side of working people.

Kennedy explained that she, SWP vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett and over 20 SWP candidates coast to coast are campaigning on the need for workers to have our own par-ty, a labor party, based on our unions. “One of the ways the wealthy class maintains its rule has always been its use of the two-party — or more system,” Kennedy said. “If you don’t like what one capitalist politician is doing, they tell you to vote for another capitalist politician from the other Continued on page 3

Iraqi workers, youth protest attacks by the gov’t, Tehran

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Deadly attacks by militias organ-ized by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sa-dr as well as by Iraqi security forces have failed to quell anti-government demonstrations in Iraq.

“This protest movement is going strong and as long as our demands Continued on page 8

Inside

Sinn Fein vote surge fueled by social crisis, calls for Irish unity

Havana book fair highlights solidarity of Cuba, Vietnam

SWP campaign: Answer US slanders against Cuba!

–On the picket line, p. 5–

East Bay transit workers fight bosses’ takebacks, seek support

French workers continue protest against Macron’s pension assault
By Tony Hunt

London — None of the capitalist parties contesting Ireland’s Feb. 8 parliamentary election came close to gaining a majority. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, who have dominated Irish governments since a war for independence liberated a majority of the country from British rule in 1921, received a drubbing. Sinn Fein, which calls for a united Ireland, got its highest vote ever.

The elections gave a picture of real trends at work among working people. Sinn Fein won 37 seats, one behind Fianna Fail and two ahead of Fine Gael, which had led the previous government. Horse-trading to put together a new government is now taking place.

Outgoing Fine Gael Prime Minister Leo Varadkar ruled out a deal between his party and Sinn Fein, while Micheal Martin, the leader of Fianna Fail, left open that possibility. Varadkar justified his stance pointing to Sinn Fein’s links to the now disbanded Irish Republican Army, which fought a military campaign against the British Army’s occupation of Northern Ireland prior to a cease-fire in 1998.

Compounding the problem to put together a governing coalition, six smaller parties and 19 candidates not aligned to any party won 50 seats, just short of a third of the 160-member Dail, the lower chamber of the Irish parliament.

The support registered for Sinn Fein showed it could have won more seats, but had only run 42 candidates. In addition to standing for Irish unity, it campaigned on a pledge to hike the minimum wage, increase sales taxes, and cut pensions in 2010.

80% back a united Ireland

Sinn Fein’s manifesto contains a commitment to put London to hold a referendum on unification in Northern Ireland in the next five years, alongside a similar referendum in the south.

“Four in five Irish people want a united Ireland,” reported a poll published in the London Times of Feb. 3. Former Fianna Fail Prime Minister Bertie Ahern told the Press Association that moves towards Irish unity were now inevitable. This is accelerated by the increase in cross-border trade in the two decades since the 1998 cease-fire agreement was signed and the increasing integration of the economies, north and south of the border. During last year’s negotiations over the U.K., leaving the European Union, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Varadkar agreed to maintain a customs border through the Irish Sea rather than along the border between the Republic and Northern Ireland to facilitate trade across the island.

“In any event we’re heading towards a border poll, a referendum on unity,” Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald told the BBC Feb. 10. She said, “Certainly, the election result adds to this.” Interviewed Feb. 10 by Irish state broadcaster RTÉ, McDonald said she was looking to put together a governing coalition. Danny McCoy, director general of Ibec, the employers lobby group, said company bosses would be able to work with a coalition that included Sinn Fein.

“We have seen them in action in the North. Their instincts are not so mad when it comes to business,” he told the Irish Times.

Sinn Fein resumed its power-sharing arrangement with the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party in the Northern Ireland Assembly last month.
Workers need a labor party

Continued from front page

The 2016 election showed that the capitalist rulers can’t depend on this anymore,” she said. “More workers said, ‘He’s worse, she’s worse,’ and that has the capitalist class worried.

“A more and more workers sense the dead-end of lesser evils politics,” Kennedy told the Militant in an interview a couple days later. “But it’s not immediately apparent to them what the alternative is. Workers need in the political arena will grow out of our experiences fighting to defend our wages and working conditions, for our social and political rights, against the capitalist rulers’ wars abroad.

“Through these battles we’ll transform our lives and transform ourselves, deepening our self-confidence and class consciousness,” she said. “We’ll learn the burning necessity of constructing our own political party, with a program to take power out of the hands of the capitalist exploiters.

“A labor party can unite and mobilize all those who are exploited and oppressed by capital, the vast majority,” she said.

“We don’t have a dog in the race for a Democrat or Republican gets elected in 2020,” Kennedy told the rally. “Join with the SWP campaign to fight for our own party, a labor party, to organize a class struggle for power.”

Not a ‘vote-catching machine’

A labor party would need a program that raises the same kinds of demands that the Socialist Workers Party is promoting in its 2020 campaign platform.

“The SWP campaign program says our unions need to fight for workers to take control of production, she said. “That’s how workers can defend ourselves on the job at the same time as we learn how the working class is capable of organizing the economy itself, of replacing the working class is capable of organizing the economy itself, of replacing.

“Workers control of production and transforming the atmosphere that contributes to driver’s licenses for all.

“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 and worldwide,” Kennedy said. “It should be grabbed by the Israeli and Arab governments and the leaders of the Palestinian organizations to open serious negotiations.”

“These negotiations,” she said, “would have to recognize, as our statement points out, ‘the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Is- rael in the face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence.”

Continued on page 4

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

This is the SWP’s fighting campaign platform 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.

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Continued on page 4

Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2020

Allyson Kennedy for president
Malcolm Jarrett for vice president


Mid-Atlantic Region James Harris, delegate to Congress, D.C. Osborne Hart, 3rd CD, Philadelphia Ruth Robnett, 14th CD, Washington, PA Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh The South Rachel Fette, US Senate, Georgia

See directory on page 5 to contact party campaign office nearest you.


Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020! Campaign for what you are for, not who you’re against!

☐ I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Allyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president.

☐ Here is my contribution of $ to help spread the word.

(Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)

I would like a 12-week subscription to the Militant, the campaign newspaper. ($5 enclosed, checks payable to the Militant.)

Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 × Email: socialists2020@gmail.com

The Militant February 24, 2020 3
Democrats, Republicans crisis

Continued from front page

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party 2020 ticket for president and vice president, Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, find interest among workers in discussing an action program to defend themselves from the employers and the government that serves them.

In contrast, the capitalist candidates from President Donald Trump to Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg and, like former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, presented himself as an "outsider" who would end the carnage working people face and take on the "swamp" in Washington. Today Trump talks less about the carnage, laying claim to having reduced unemployment and creating "the Great American Comeback" as he runs for reelection.

Poll numbers are rising as he campaigns on a platform of “peace and prosperity,” especially after the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, Demagoguery and pitchfork crusade and the fiasco of their Iowa caucuses. He’s also making a pitch to win more support among African Americans. All this has deepened the Democrats’ trepidations and backbiting.

The upturn in employment has created better conditions for workers to begin organizing to fight attacks by the bosses, as more workers sense if they lose one job they’ll be able to find another, that the bosses aren’t giving up on their efforts to drive down wages as they face competition from rivals at home and abroad.

Democratic and Republican administrations alike have aided the bosses’ efforts to push the crisis of their system onto our backs, and workers continue to feel the impact despite the upturn. Increasing numbers of young people are unable to afford their own homes or start families. Millions face rising costs of basic necessities as well as skyrocketing debt. Insecurity about what the future will bring marks the lives of workers and farmers across the country.

These conditions — ones that brought Trump to the presidency — are also creating support for the nomination of Bernie Sanders.

Support for Sanders surged in Iowa and he edged out a victory in New Hampshire primary, followed closely by centrist Buttigieg. And it’s becoming clearer that the Democratic Party mainstreamish campaign would mean a rout for the party’s candidates in November — are out to rig the nomination for one of their own, such as Senator Amy Klobuchar. The bosses, as more workers sense if they’ll just put him in office. This is his plan, rather than a struggle by workers and our allies to replace the state with our own government — one that can lead millions to transform social relations and ourselves in the process.

His democratic socialist supporters at Jacobin magazine say he would emulate Franklin Delano Roosevelt, enacting a raft of executive orders from the White House to do good, because there’s no way he could pass legislation to do so.

They point to how Roosevelt used anti-democratic orders to create the Office of Scientific Research and Development, as well as the key bodies to replace the U.S. rulers’ entry into the second imperialist world war — like the War Labor Board that tried to impose a wage freeze on workers.

The Democrats have spent three years — since the day Trump was elected — trying to overturn the vote that put him in office so they wouldn’t have to face him again this November.

Attacks on workers’ rights ‘We might have to impeach him again,” headlined a Washington Post column by George Conway Feb. 10, citing the president’s dismissal of Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman and Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, from their jobs Feb. 7, as is his right as chief executive.

Both testified against the president during House impeachment hearings.

In their drive to oust Trump and push out of politics the “deplorable” workers who refuse to vote the “right way,” the liberals target key political rights workers have won in struggle — like the right to vote at all.

Workers need our own party, a labor party’

Continued from page 3

as well as working people in the United States and around the world.”

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Our starting point, as the SWP statement makes clear, Kennedy said, is “the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestin-

Participants at the meeting contributed $450 for the national SWP campaign.

Three books to be read as one...

茫然故国人的，革命势力在美帝国主义的枷锁下动摇

Inset, Remote Area Medical team visits a Mississippi medical center. Top, U.S. Air Force photo/Roland Balik

Continued from page 3

as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war.”

There have been no negotiations for decades, she said, a result of anti-working-class leaderships there.

“The Palestinian people deserve a leadership that takes the moral high ground,” she said. “The U.S. propos-

Socialist Workers Party new campaign buttons

Alyson Kennedy for president
Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

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Three books to be read as one...
PARIS — Sizable union-led protests began Friday in Marseille and the next day in Lyon, Montpellier, and Toulouse, as French workers and others in the region in the third week of a strike over President Emmanuel Macron’s proposed policies to reform the pension system.

Union-led demonstrations, petitions and social media posts―there are 11,000 posted on Facebook―have besieged the government to back down.

Sailors march in Marseille, France, Jan. 29 as part of a national day of protest against Macron’s pension assault. The National Assembly will debate Macron’s proposals Feb. 17. The General Confederation of Workers and other union federations have called for another national day of protests on Feb. 20.

“The strike is not the end,” said Laurent Berger, leader of the CGT union. “We will be back for the next national demonstration, against Macron’s pension cuts, he added. Macron wants to raise the age workers can retire from 62 to 64 and impose a new system for calculating how much pension workers receive, with much less money in the retirement pot.”

Asaro is owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the world’s largest mining conglomerates. Arizona is the center of copper mining in the U.S., with most of the world’s main copper bosses operating there, including Freepoint-McMoRan and Grupo Mexico. As markets for copper are growing, there are new mines in development by Excelsior, Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton.

“We have ordered the strikers have shut down the Aramillo refinery and Hayden smelter, the company continues some production at other complexes, using supervisors, nonunion contractors and some workers who have crossed the picket line. “This is a fight for our future, for our families,” Alex Terrazas, a striking miner at Mission and president of United Steelworkers Local 937, says in a video posted on uww.org. “We’re the working class. We’re the people that care. We keep this country going. We’re the backbone.”

“David and Goliat. You know. We will win this,” adds Ruben Gonzales, Local 937 vice president. “What we got to do is expose this company to everybody that’s out there so everybody can see what’s happening.”

“I talked to my girls. It’s a sacrifice for all of us,” Terrazas said. “I’m trying to teach them that there’s honor and respect here just to fight for what our past brothers have fought for. Until it’s all over I won’t move. I will not do anything until this contract is done.”

Others have chipped in to help and express their support. “The business has been good but with the strike going on it has dropped about 50%,” Warren Chester, owner of Eddie Tire in Hayden, Arizona, said on YouTube Feb. 7. “I’ve supported the union all along because I’ve worked with them and everything and it’s a good thing. Especially a mine like this. You have to have the union. Without the scabs, I have a list and I will not let them come in here. I’ll just tell them they’re not welcome.”

The video shows his list of scabs’ names.

Solidarity for the strike is crucial — and well deserved. The miners welcome supporters joining their picket lines, and to the diners and movie nights they organize every week, as well as donations to their food pantry and strike fund.

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 Mission and Silver Bell mines near Tucson, send contributions to the Pima Area Labor Council, 340-5586. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

WHERE TO LOOK

If you’re looking for a union organizing drive or strike? Brought solidarity to the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to themilitantmac.com or through our social media site, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

**ON THE PICKET LINE—**

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BELL MINE STRIKERS- A long walk to the office

WHERE TO FIND DISTRIBUTORS OF THE MILITANT

**PARIS** — Bus drivers, mechanics and clerical workers employed by the AC Transit system in the East Bay held a midday rally outside the agency’s headquarters Feb. 5, seeking to win more support for their fight against the company’s takeover demands.

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 192 voted in September to authorize a strike across the system, in response to a proposal from Fremont. The last three-year contract expired in June 2019.

The company wants to push through a rule saying if a worker takes off more than 30 days to recover from a debilitating injury or illness, they can be terminated.

Jacque Sharp has worked for AC Transit for 20 years. “An issue I have is drivers doing deals with the bosses,” Johnson said. The company is reportedly recruiting drivers at the lower pay scale.

When asked if he had ever been on strike, Johnson replied, “No, but I’m ready.”

Eric Simpson and Betsy Stone

French workers continue protest against Macron’s pension assault

PARIS — Sizeable union-led protests have been held in Marseille and along the Lyon—Montpellier—Toulouse corridor.

“Sizable union-led protests began Friday in Marseille and the next day in Montpellier, and Toulouse, as French workers and others in the region in the third week of a strike over President Emmanuel Macron’s proposed policies to reform the pension system.

Union-led demonstrations, petitions and social media posts—there are 11,000 posted on Facebook—have besieged the government to back down.

Sailors march in Marseille, France, Jan. 29 as part of a national day of protest against Macron’s government plans to raise retirement age from 62 to 64 and to cut back workers’ pensions.

The Militant February 24, 2020 5
Cuba’s fight against Ebola in Africa is ‘a beacon of light’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

During a winter when a new epidemic, the coronavirus, is spreading rapidly in China and beyond, when more traditional influenza viruses have killed some 20,000 people in the U.S. alone, and at a time when Washington is escalating its economic war against the Cuban Revolution, the Pathfinder Press publication of Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa is a beacon of light.

The Militant February 24, 2020

Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa

“Just as the Cuban combatants in Angola set an example that can never be erased, the heroic actions of Cuba’s army of white coats will occupy a place of honor.”
—Fidel Castro, October 2014

Special offer: $14
Normal cover price $17
In English or Spanish
See page 5 for distributor nearest you or visit pathfinderpress.com

Top: Cuban doctors and Guinean staff at shift change at the Coyah treatment center in January 2015. Bottom: Enfermera Ubieta. “If lifted their spirits and those of patients and colleagues.” Below, three patients who recovered. Now immune, some former patients stayed on to work with the doctors.

The book — a gripping account by Enrique Ubieta Gómez about the Cuban Revolution’s response to the 2014 epidemic of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa, its government’s efforts for socialist revolution and a close-up look at the human beings such a revolution produces. It’s impossible not to compare the capitalist system and solidarity of the policies of the Cuban government and the men and women who carry them out with the devil-take-the-hindmost profit-driven character of medical care in the U.S., where the care you need is a costly commodity. Much of the book is interviews with those Cubans who volunteered to lead the fight against the disease.

Ubieta’s account also thoroughly disproves Washington’s slander that Cuba’s international medical assistance program engages in “exploitative and coercive labor practices” toward its volunteers, the main criticism of its international assignments is to get their hands on more money.

When the World Health Organization declared the Ebola epidemic in West Africa a “Public Health Emergency” in August 2014 and the United Nations appealed for nations to join the fight to contain and reverse it, several government responses engaged with economic aid.

“Just as no one has the slightest doubt that the hundreds of thousands of combatants who went to Angola and other African and Latin American countries gave humanity an example that can never be erased from human history,” Castro wrote, “it cannot be denied that the heroic actions of the army of white coats will occupy one of the highest places of honor in that history.”

The Cuban methods were different

Cuban doctors and nurses told Ubieta how they overcame their fear with humor, comradeship and dedication to their work. How they comforted the dying as they fought for the survival of each and every person. How they treated their patients with respect and dignity. How they learned about and appreciated the distinctive culture of the people they treated.

The deaths of children touched them particularly deeply. “These were hard blows,” Ricardo Zamora Álvarez de la Campa, a nurse, said, “and what always came to mind were our own kids, who were nearly the same ages: four, five years old.”

While the Cuban volunteers were putting enormous effort into saving lives, they also were seeing up close the social and political conditions that allowed the Ebola epidemic to flare up in West Africa. Ubieta places the blame squarely on the capitalist system, whose exploitation holds most of humanity in underdevelopment and poverty.

Dr. Jorge Delgado, head of the Cuban brigade in Sierra Leone, explains, “Ebola is a disease of poverty ... just as malaria is a disease of poverty, along with pneumonia, meningitis, and all other infectious diseases associated with malnutrition.” Delgado said that in a few days prior to his interview, 12 or 13 children had been admitted to his clinic: “Some tested positive for Ebola. What did they test positive for? Pneumonia, cerebral malaria, gastroenteritis, meningitis, malnutrition with sepsis of various kinds — all associated with poverty.”

“Capitalism engenders poverty, biological warfare, the profit drive, and ecological catastrophes,” Ubieta comments. “In Liberia, the infant mortality rate is 56 per 1,000 live births (in Cuba it’s 4.2). Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births is 990 (44 in Cuba). ... Yet Liberia has only 0.1 doctor per 10,000 inhabitants. In Sierra Leone the figures are even starker.”

Red Zone shows the sharp contrast between the approach of the Cuban revolutionaries and that of the imperialist countries. “We can fight for the lives of patients,” Dr. Carlos Castro Baras said. “But an epidemic is defeated on the ground by actions taken with the people, cutting off contacts with those infected, tracking the chain of transmission, raising awareness among them.”

Epidemiologist Osvaldo Miranda Gómez described how they developed relationships with the Ebola patients and won their confidence. “One afternoon there were about five or six patients gathered together. They were happy because they knew they would be discharged the following day,” he said. “We had a cell phone playing music, and we started to joke around and sing, and they started dancing. It was nice, because some of them had come to the treatment center in a bad condition.”

Some of the patients became volunteers in the clinic, Dr. Miranda said. “It’s a very rewarding experience, because you’re the ones who help convince new patients.”

Red Zone also points to the future of the Cuban Revolution, which has survived for more than six decades in spite of a bipartisan political and economic war waged against it by 12 consecutive U.S. administrations.

Only two Cuban volunteers died during the mission, both of malaria, and only one, Dr. Félix Báez, contracted Ebola. He was transferred in a coma to Switzerland.

When it wasn’t clear whether Báez would survive, the Cuban press kept the population up to date on his condition and published a brief message from his son, Alejandro, that elicited an explosion of support across the island. As Báez recovered, Alejandro published another letter expressing gratitude for that support and taking on those who had questioned the mission.

“Yes, my father got sick, but that doesn’t mean, as many say, that he shouldn’t have gone. I say it’s just the opposite,” Alejandro quoted his father. “My father was above all putting his life on the line because he felt it was his duty to help those who needed it the most. But I say: isn’t that what makes us human?”

After his recovery, Báez insisted on returning to his post in Africa.

Cuba’s revolution is an example

Ubieta sees the spirit of Cuban volunteers in Africa and on other internationalist missions as an indicator of the continuing strength of the revolution. “The US blockade continues, and it punishes average Cubans. But whenever there is a call to action, thousands of volunteers step forward,” he said. “The hundreds of doctors and nurses who volunteered and those who went to West Africa are irrefutable proof of a fact: among the people there are moral reserves — reserves that need to be awakened.”

For class-conscious workers in the U.S. and other imperialist countries, reading Red Zone can inspire us to emulate the Cuban Revolution by building a mass working-class movement to take political power and transform ourselves in the process.
Havana book fair highlights solidarity between Cuba, Vietnam

BY RÓGER CALERO
Havana — The history of soli-
darity between revolutionary Cuba and Vietnam in the struggle against imperialist domination is a major theme of this year’s Havana Interna-
tional Book Fair, which opened here Feb. 6. Vietnam is the country of honor at the 10-day festival of litera-
ture and culture.

The book fair has featured book presentations, panel discussions and cultural performances highlighting Vietnam’s rich history and culture. The well-attended Vietnamese pavil-
ion exhibits books on topics from art and literature to the hard-fought lib-
eration war against Washington in the 1960s and ’70s.

A large multicolored photo display there depicts the solidarity the Cu-
ban people and government gave the Vietnamese during their struggle for reunification against the U.S. rul-
ers’ brutal war and occupation of the South. The display begins in Decem-
ber 1960, when Cuba’s new revolu-
tionary government established diplo-
matic relations with Hanoi.

The exhibit shows the 1963 found-
ning of the Cuban Committee in Soli-
darity with South Vietnam, headed by revolutionary leader Armando Hernán-
dez. Other photos show the crowds of Cubans who welcomed visits by Viet-
namese freedom fighters to Havana, and the equally warm response Cuban revolutionaries received in northern Vietnam during the war.

The Vietnamese “spirit of strug-
gle was like the Cuban spirit,” said Nguyen Quang Thieu, vice president of the Union of Writers of Vietnam, at a panel on the 60th anniversary of Cuba-Vietnam relations.

Thieu pointed to the key factors that led the Vietnamese to prevail over U.S. imperialism. “There were two sides to our victory — our rev-
olutionary determination and the growing unwillingness of U.S. sol-
der the U.S. public to carry on the war,” he said.

The panel included renowned Cuban revolutionary leader Martínez Fernán-
dez, who in 1965 was the first Latin Ameri-

can war correspondent to visit National Liberation Front combatants in areas of southern Vietnam freed from U.S. control. Also speaking was Nguyen Phuong Nga, president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association.

In another program, Antonio Guer-

ro, one of five Cuban revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years in U.S. pris-
ons, joined members of the Vietnam-
delegation and a Vietnamese anti-
American war correspondent to visit National Prisión (Prison Diary), a book of poems by Ho Chi Minh, the central leader of the Vietnamese independence struggle.

Several books available at the fair, either in Spanish or Vietnamese, in-
cluded the 19th century account of Vietnam’s anti-colonial fight against French rule that José Martí, Cuba’s na-
tional hero, wrote for Cuban children.

In a presentation of his book Fidel: Un guerrillero anti para-
lelo 17 (Fidel: A Caribbean guerrilla at the 17th Parallel), Cuban journalist José Ángel Llamo Camejo described Fidel Castro’s visit to Vietnam in Sep-
tember 1973. Castro crossed the 17th Parallel separating North and South Vietnam, becoming the first head of state to visit the liberated zones short-
ly after Washington had been forced to withdraw all its ground troops.

The Vietnamese won full control of their unified country in April 1975 — a victory that parallels the social-
rialism that inspired working people worldwide.

Cubans browse books at Vietnamese pavilion at Havana Book Fair. Displays depict Cuba’s soli-
darity with Vietnam and its battle for independence and unification against Washington’s war.

By BYANET POST
The 15th May Day International Brigade of Voluntary Work and Soli-
darity with Cuba will bring working youth from around the world to Cuba April 26 to May 10. The brigade is sponsored by Cuba’s Institute for Friendship with the Peo-
ples (ICAP).

It takes place as the U.S. rulers are carrying out a series of new moves against the Cuban Revolution, seek-
ing to isolate Cuba and punish the Cuban people. The brigade provides a unique opportunity for support-
er of the revolution in the U.S. and elsewhere to meet and talk with Cu-
banner workers, farmers and youth, to

“Sign up for the 2020 May Day Brigade to Cuba!”

become better armed to return home and count Washington’s lies.

A number of the events are co-
sponsored by the Central Organiza-
tion of Cuban Workers (CTC), Cuba’s national labor union.

Participants will be based at the Julio Antonio Mella camp in Cai-
mito, outside Havana. They will join in volunteer labor alongside Cuban farmers in the fields and meet leaders of Cuba’s government, youth and trade union organizations. Brigadistas will visit health care centers, factories, universities, farm cooperatives, mu-
sums and cultural venues in a num-
ber of cities to learn more about the revolution.

A highlight of the brigade will be joining the million-strong May Day mobilization celebrating the 61st an-
iversary of the triumph of the revolu-
tion, a mass outpouring of support for a living revolution and a powerful way to tell U.S. imperialism, “Hands off!” This year the international bri-
gade will help lead the march.

The May Day mobilization will be followed by an international solidar-
ity conference in Havana.

Supporters of the Cuban Revolu-
tion in the U.S. are getting out the word about the brigade. In Louis-
ville, Kentucky, Walmart worker and Socialist Workers Party member Katlin Estill has been invited by Bishop Dennis Lyons of Gospel Mis-

eratory Church to speak about the brigade on his “Voice of Louisville” radio program.

She met Lyons last year while camp-
aigning for the SWP gubernatorial candidates. “We reconvened this year when Bishop Lyons wrote a letter to Indiana prison authorities supporting prisoners’ right to receive the Militant after it and some other publications had been impounded,” said Estill.

The brigade is also an opportunity to bring to Cubans the reality of the class struggle in the U.S. and polit-
cial activity has been part of it. Last year 320 people from 21 countries, including 65 from the U.S., joined the brigade. The Na-
tional Network, an alliance of groups in solidarity with the Cu-
ban people, is organizing the U.S. delegation.

The arrangements are being organized in accordance with U.S. guidelines by Marazul Tours travel agency. Total cost, not including air-
fares to Cuba, is $725. You can sign up through March 27, so get your applica-
tion today. Get the forms and more information at www.nnoc.info or email iCanGoToCuba@nnoc.info.

The Militant February 24, 2020

Miami carnaval hits US restrictions on Cuba travel

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arty Cuba, calls for the U.S. govern-
ment to normalize relations and de-
mands an end to the U.S. economic war against Cuba’s revolution.

The attack on the group’s head-
quarters comes as the U.S. rulers have stepped up their slander campaign and other efforts to make the Cuban people pay for support of their revolution.

The new travel restrictions, which make it harder for Cuban Americans to visit relatives still in Cuba, are part of these attacks.

Fifty cars kicked off the caravan festooned with Cuban flags and signs featuring the demands of the protest. They traveled over 15 miles on SW 8th Street — known here as Calle Ocho — with horns honking. The +

Cuban carnaval hits US restrictions on Cuba travel

Miami carnaval hits US restrictions on Cuba travel
Iraqi workers protest

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Iraqi workers protest

Continued from front page

The Socialist Workers Party campaign urges working people to speak out against the U.S. rul-

ers’ slander attacks on Cuba’s internationalist med-
cial missions and their over-60-year economic war against the
Cuban people at home.

Washington claims Cuba’s medical volunteers in Africa, Latin America and Asia are grossly ex-
pected and that the Cuban government seeks to in-
tereference in other country’s affairs by “providing care in exchange for pledges of loyalty.”

It begins by the comprehension of the U.S. cap-
italist rulers that doctors would volunteer to provide
health care in the most isolated regions of the world
because they are motivated by proletarian interna-
tionalism and solidarity, not by cash.

The capitalists despise the Cuban Revolution and have stepped up their economic warfare against the
people there, imposing more and more biting sanc-
tions and travel restrictions.

This has an impact in Cuba. More electrical blackouts. Less paper and printing supplies, mean-
ning fewer books available at the Havana Interna-
tional Book Fair. More scarcity of basic goods. But U.S. imperialism has always underestimated
Cuban working people. They’ve stood up to U.S. ag-
gression for more than 60 years and they’re not to
give up now.

Working people and youth have the opportunity to learn the truth about the Cuban Revolution with
their own eyes by joining this year’s May Day In-
national Brigade to Cuba April 26 to May 10. And then return home better armed to answer the
U.S. slander campaign and oppose the U.S. eco-

Regarding the control of deadly viral diseases, US imperialism has always underestimated
Cuban workers. They’ve stood up to U.S. aggression for more than 60 years and they’re not to
give up now. Working people and youth have the opportunity to learn the truth about the Cuban Revolution with their own eyes by joining this year’s May Day Interna-
tional Brigade to Cuba April 26 to May 10. And then return home better armed to answer the U.S. slander campaign and oppose the U.S. economic war on Cuba. Sign up today!

Coronavirus: Need for revolution in health care

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A majority of the viral infections outside China have been among the 3,700 crew and passengers on the
Diamond Princess cruise ship, forced to sit off the
Japanese port of Yokohama. New cases keep extend-
ing the time those in contact with these individuals are being quarantined. The virus is spreading so fast
that the hospitals are overwhelmed.

Most of the deaths have been in Wuhan, a port for-
hub of 11 million people on the Yangtze River, and
in that region. The quarantine zone around Wuhan
was extended to encircle up to 60 million people. The
lockdown in major cities, towns and villages confined many in their homes. They get by with food
delivery services. But people with serious cases don’t carry notes showing they have a temperature.

Despite Beijing’s goal to become a technology
superpower, there are less than two doctors for ev-
ey 1,000 people in China. In the imperialist U.S.
there are 2.6 per 1,000, largely deployed in the big
cities. In sharp contrast, there are nine doctors per
1,000 in revolutionary Cuba, one of the highest ra-
tios in the world.

Health system overwhelmed

“The hospital systems have been completely overwhelmed,” said Dr. Linfa Wang, one of the facilities
designated for coronavirus patients, told the Times.

In a widely publicized move, the Chinese gov-
ernment deployed soldiers, using resources from
state-linked construction companies, to build
two new hospitals with some 2,600 beds in a
couple weeks in Wuhan. But this is far from suf-
cient. “There are too many patients, far too many
of them,” Wang Jing, a nurse at Wuhan Union Hos-
pital West Campus, one of the facilities designated for
coronavirus patients, told the Times. “And the demand for beds far outstrips supply.”

Concerned about the impact of the unprecedented
shutdown of much of China’s already slow-
ed economy, the state bureaucracy has
demanded that the workers
be placed under “economic recovery.”

The Chinese Foreign Ministry appealed to foreign
governments Feb. 11 to lift their travel restrictions,
pleading this was needed for the health of the glob-
al economy (whatever it might mean to the health
of the people). Worried about the combined health
and economic crisis, the capitalist world is relying on
the Chinese government now seeks to downplay the
disease again and deflect blame from themselves by
firing a range of provincial officials.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order pay-
able to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 208 W. 57th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10019.

Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

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Iraqi workers protest

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haven’t been answered, we will remain here,” Saj-
jad Majidi told teller.ane. The leader of a small
resistant, has spent more than 120 days at the tent en-
campment in Tahrir Square in Baghdad.

Since the start of October working people and youth
have held demonstrations demanding an end to the
capital and cities across the south of the country.

Demonstrators in Tahrir Square and other protest encampments are demanding more jobs, the provision of quality health care, affordable housing and a stop to cor-
ruption. They want an end to government by parties
that have held office since a political setup organized
secular and political lines was imposed after the
2003 U.S.-led invasion. And they resist the Iranian
rulers’ extensive military and political interference in
their country, as well as by Washington.

Iraqi security forces fired at crowds in the southern
city of Nasiriyah and Deadly Demonstrators.

More than 600 Iraqis have been killed in less than
five months of protests.

Al-Sadr called Feb. 5 for his supporters to help
secure that the protesters and anyone who was
killed in Najaf, when Al-Sadr’s militia members
stormed the protest site there, firing live ammunition
and chasing down protesters trying to flee. People rushed to donate blood after hospitals appealed for
help to the injured.

“The Sadists and SWAT forces accompanying other, unknown militia members opened fire at the
security forces “did nothing to prevent them killing peaceful demonstrators.”

Following the assault in Najaf and Karbala, people
in the province of Nasiriyah, Muthanna and Wasit
and the city of Basra poured into the streets in soli-
darity. “Najaf we will never forget you, Baghdad with you,” chanted demonstrators there. Several protesters were wounded, “assassinated,” injured and arrested. A 26-year-old from Baghdad, told Radaw.

Al-Sadr initially backed anti-government protests in
October, but then turned on them after Mohammed Al-
Allawi’s appointment as minister of interior. He
announced in early February, Al-Sadr has increased his collaboration with Tehran, after previously opposing the Iranian rulers’ interven-
tion in Iraq. He heads the largest coalition of parties in the Iraqi parliament. “There are six parties,”

Following Allawi’s nomination as prime minister, thousands of students from different universities in Baghdad and in several cities in the southern prov-
inces have held demonstrations.

“They are not listening to us, and want to impose someone from the political parties on us, which is un-
acceptable,” Muyed told Al Jazeera.

Syrian govt. intensifies Idlib attacks

While the Iraqi government has failed to prevent
actions aimed at bringing it down, political instability elsewhere in the Middle East continues to be fueled by conflicts between rival capitalistic powers.

In neighboring Syria, President Bashar al-Assad is escalating militant assaults on opposition-held areas in the province of Idlib, an area that is still largely outside the control of the Syrian government. While the conflict continued to be fueled by conflicts between rival capitalistic powers.

In neighboring Syria, President Bashar al-Assad is escalating militant assaults on opposition-held areas in the province of Idlib, an area that is still largely outside the control of the Syrian government.

The Syrian government’s offensive is exacerbating the disastrous conditions working people face there, with 700,000 people fleeing their homes in the past two months, heading toward the Turkish border.