Budget failure at EU meeting shows the bloc is unraveling

BY TERRY EVANS

A rancorous summit over the European Union’s effort to adopt a new six-year budget broke up Feb. 21 with no agreement among its rival capitalist powers. The deep divisions among them show that far from coming together after the U.K. walked out of the EU in January, the competing capitalist ruling classes face intractable conflicts that are tearing at the seams of the bloc.

The governments of Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden refused to agree to demands they pay more into the coffers to make up for the loss of revenue following the U.K.’s exit.

They are backed by the rulers of Germany — the strongest capitalist power in the EU — who also have no intention of paying more. But the four

Continued on page 2

Say no to US gov’t slanders against Cuban Revolution!

BY JOHN STUDER

Washington has stepped up its economic and political war against the Cuban Revolution over the past year — increasing the shortages and hardships faced by working people there. The U.S. rulers, and their Democratic and Republican parties alike, have tried to bring down Cuba’s revolutionary government since it came to power in 1959.

And their effort has become part of the 2020 presidential campaign, as it has before. In 1960, the liberal John F. Kennedy blamed then Vice President Richard Nixon for allowing the Cuban Revolution to succeed.

Today they’ve focused on remarks made by Bernie Sanders, who says Cuba’s government is “a dictatorship,” but says you have to admit the 1961 literacy drive there was a good thing. All the presidential wannabes from both parties agreed they would like to see the Cuban Revolution over

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For-profit US ‘health care’ will increase virus threat

Revolutionary Cuba points the road forward

Clinic in Camagüey, Cuba, in March. Through its neighborhood doctors, nurses and special programs put in place since outbreak of coronavirus, Cuba has mobilized to confront new disease. Unlike the for-profit system in capitalist countries, in Cuba no one is left on their own.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The coronavirus contagion is now spreading faster outside China, where it first appeared in December, than inside. The Chinese regime’s extremely aggressive lockdown of hundreds of millions slowed the advance of the disease for now, but by March 2 the highly contagious COVID-19 strain had spread to at least 82 countries. The new hotspots are in Iran, South Korea, northern Italy and Japan.

COVID-19 is a new disease, and that makes it more dangerous. So far no government — except revolutionary Cuba — has mobilized all its resources to prepare and organize its people to fight it.

The death toll as of March 4 was 3,221 and confirmed cases were over 94,000. The march of the virus is compounding economic, political and social crises facing capitalist governments.

Continued on page 6

Syrian, Turkish forces clash in Idlib as 9-year civil war widens

BY TERRY EVANS

The Syrian and Turkish governments are intensifying airstrikes on each other’s forces as they fight over control of Syria’s Idlib province, a region held by armed groups opposed to the Bashar al-Assad regime.

Alongside the two fighting forces, Moscow, Tehran and Washington also

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As the dispute continues to simmer, EU officials are considering whether to ask their European Court of Justice to take action against the Polish government.

These attempts by the rulers of Germany and France to use the EU to impose two orders on different nations fuel the divisions rending the bloc. A European “union” among capitalist rivals that are sharply divided by deep conflicts for markets and resources was always an illusion. But creating such a “union” and imposing its rules made conflicts that were never far from the surface more volatile — and had ruinous consequences for the working class.

The adoption of the common euro currency by many EU countries in 1999, supposedly to pave the way for unity and prosperity, gave the German rulers even greater clout over neighboring governments. For all practical purposes, the euro is the German mark under a new name.

Under the impact of the 2008 financial crash, Berlin and Paris accelerated their plunder of the weaker nations, hitting working people in Greece and Spain especially hard. They insisted the Greek government carry out austerity cuts, cutting pensions and benefits and hiking sales taxes in the face of protests by working people. In 2018 EU bosses forced the Greek rulers to impose layoffs, cutting pensions and benefits and pushing the working class.

The government obliged, slashing the minimum wage, imposing massive layoffs, cutting pensions and benefits and hiking sales taxes in the face of protests by working people. In 2018 EU bosses forced the Greek rulers to agree to restrictions on spending for 40 more years!

French President Emmanuel Macron berated those governments at the summit who opposed increasing the size of the EU budget, complaining, “It would be unacceptable to have a Europe that compensates for Britain leaving by scaling back its means.”

Macron says fund ‘EU army’

Initial budget proposals had included cuts to the EU’s military spending, which Macron wants to expand in order to create a European-wide army the EU will control, with rivals around the world using the EU’s military forces languish, under the illusion they can compete with rivals around the world using just EU tariffs, with no serious military might to stand behind them.

The EU and its predecessors were founded as a trading bloc by weakened capitalist classes in Europe in the decades after the Second World War, when the U.S. emerged as the uncontested preeminent imperialist power. As the EU expanded, many of the capitalist parties across the continent and beyond saw it as a model for a globalized world in which different economies were increasingly integrated and interdependent, and national conflicts would be a thing of the past.

But in the real world of dog-eat-dog capitalism, where exploiting classes are driven to compete with each other or go under, such harmonious relations can never be realized. Each ruling class uses its state power, the armed forces, to press forward its interests against competitors. Today, with the prospect of a new economic slowdown and sharpening conflicts, so-called globalization is coming apart.

This fact is vividly reinforced by the crisis created for many bosses and their government worldwide caused by the shutdown of production in China from the coronavirus outbreak there.

Greek teachers protest against layoffs in Athens, March 22, 2014. “Markel out” sign shows anger over Berlin’s demand that Athens impose greater “austerity” on working people to get new EU loans. In 2018, Greek rulers agreed to restrictions on social spending for next 40 years! Greek teachers protest against layoffs in Athens, March 22, 2014. “Markel out” sign shows anger over Berlin’s demand that Athens impose greater “austerity” on working people to get new EU loans. In 2018, Greek rulers agreed to restrictions on social spending for next 40 years! Macron says fund ‘EU army’

Greek teachers protest against layoffs in Athens, March 22, 2014. “Markel out” sign shows anger over Berlin’s demand that Athens impose greater “austerity” on working people to get new EU loans. In 2018, Greek rulers agreed to restrictions on social spending for next 40 years! Greek teachers protest against layoffs in Athens, March 22, 2014. “Markel out” sign shows anger over Berlin’s demand that Athens impose greater “austerity” on working people to get new EU loans. In 2018, Greek rulers agreed to restrictions on social spending for next 40 years!
Campaign for women’s right to abortion launched in Argentina

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Led by young women, fighters for abortion rights are on the move in Argentina. In the past few years they have organized a series of large mobilizations, won growing support and forced a first-ever vote on legalization in the National Congress that lost by only a few votes in 2018. This vote came just a few months after hundreds of thousands marched in cities across the country on International Women’s Day, March 8. Now they’re pressing to win a new vote.

“We have been active in this campaign for 15 years and we have seen a huge change over the recent period, I would say since 2015,” Victoria Tesoriero, a spokesperson for the National Campaign for the Right to Legal, Safe and Free Abortion, told the Militant by phone from Buenos Aires Feb. 28. “The next few days are very important to us. The president opens this session of Congress March 1 and he says he will present a bill to legalize abortion.”

The details of the bill President Alberto Fernández will introduce have not yet been made public. The 2018 bill he proposed before when nobody talked about it. “The mining giant is counting on workers to sink with the Asarco strikers down. That’s why the strike needs to get as broad a hearing among working people as possible and growing public and financial solidarity. Solidarity from nuclear workers

Down the road from the Amarillo refinery is the Panax nuclear weapons plant. Workers there “drive by the picket line on their way to work. They bring us water, sausage, biscuits and donuts,” said Segura. The copper workers from Texas visited three strike pickets in Arizona.

“I’ve worked at the Amarillo refinery for a year and this is my first strike,” Brittany Perdue, 30, told the Militant at the Phoenix protest. “Coming out here — it’s good camaraderie.”

Debora Hewitt, who has worked 24 years at the refinery, also made the trip to Arizona. “We’re getting some support for our strike but we need more,” she said at the dinner in Sahuarita. “We’re not giving up.”

Kerri Wilkinson, 26, works at the refinery like her father and grandfather did. She organizes the food pantry for strikers at the local NAACP. “We’re not asking Asarco for unreasonable things,” she told the Texas Observer Feb. 19. “We’re asking that they don’t take away what we worked for.”

Members of United Auto Workers Local 862 at two Ford plants in Louisville, Kentucky, sent a contribution of $250 to the strike fund in Kearny. “We hope that our modest token of support helps keep the workers and their families from running out of money while you are fighting for your futures and for your families,” Local President Todd Dunn wrote in a March 2 letter. “Stand strong and know that we in Kentucky support you in your strike for your wages and your working conditions.”

More solidarity is needed — and it is deserved. The miners welcome supporters joining their picket lines and the dinners and movie nights they organize every week. They’d be happy to correspond with workers and other groups if invited. They need donations to their food pantries and strike funds, and messages of support.

Send financial contributions and solidarity messages to USW Local 915 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5252 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 896, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, TX 79108; or via paypal.me/palcommu

Further reading...

Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women’s Liberation

Documents of the Socialist Workers Party, 1971-86

This three-part series helps politically equip women and men joining battles in defense of women’s rights today. Each set available for $12.

Vol. 1: Women’s Liberation and the Line of March of the Working Class
Vol. 2: Women, Leadership, and the Proletarian Norms of the Communist Movement
Vol. 3: All for Women Rights, ERA, and the Rebirth of a Feminist Movement

www.pathfinderpress.com

Continued from front page years. So I know what they’re going through,” she said.

“We’ve spoken to local politicians, but I don’t see them putting anything on kind of pressure,” striker Kurt Kuta told the reporters.

Some 1,700 workers from seven unions have been on strike since Oct. 13 at Asarco’s mine complexes in Sahuarita, Hayden and Ray in Arizona and its refinery in Amarillo, Texas. The company consists on an extension of the decade-long wage freeze for most of the miners, freezing pensions, doubling or tripling health care costs, and restricting the unions’ right to protect workers on the job. Bosses, when using supervisors, nonunion contractors, newly hired strikebreakers and about 300 workers who have crossed the line to try to get their jobs back. But production at the mines is substantially lower than before the strike began.

Gruppo Mexico, which owns Asarco, is one of the world’s largest mining conglomerates. It has made clear it doesn’t care about the miners, freezing pensions, doubling or tripling health care costs, and restricting the unions’ right to protect workers on the job. Bosses, when using supervisors, nonunion contractors, newly hired strikebreakers and about 300 workers who have crossed the line to try to get their jobs back. But production at the mines is substantially lower than before the strike began. Gruppo Mexico, which owns Asarco, is one of the world’s largest mining conglomerates. It has made clear it doesn’t care about the miners, freezing pensions, doubling or tripling health care costs, and restricting the unions’ right to protect workers on the job. Bosses, when using supervisors, nonunion contractors, newly hired strikebreakers and about 300 workers who have crossed the line to try to get their jobs back. But production at the mines is substantially lower than before the strike began.

A Beaver, mother of three children in the province of Santa Fe, died in a cesarean delivery 22 weeks into her pregnancy, as did her fetus. Diagnosed with cancer, she was refused treatment on grounds that radiotherapy could hurt the fetus. Her case focused national and international attention on Argentina’s laws.

“The mother has now become a supporter of legalizing abortion and campaigns in the countryside,” Tesoriero said. “People like her will lead the way to others in rural areas.”
Continued from front page

"I just got back from Arizona where 1,700 copper workers have been on strike against Asarco for five months," Kennedy said. "After going without a raise for 10 years plus facing the bosses’ demand for another four-year wage freeze and doubling or tripling of health care costs, they said, ‘No more.’ It’s an example of what workers need to do.”

While speaking with Josue Rodríguez, Kennedy noted that the way the government is dealing with coronavirus shows how capitalism not only can’t solve humanity’s problems, but makes them worse. She pointed to the lack of accurate information, inadequate testing and medical care, the bureaucratically imposed lockdowns, all implemented by the capitalist rulers. The system exploits people.

"Workers need to rely on themselves in fight for safety," Jarrett said, coming back to his experiences in Cuba. "They have blackouts sometimes and a shortage of gasoline, results of the U.S. rulers’ economic war on Cuba." "But you see a de-termination to defend their revolution," Jarrett said. "One soldier told me, ‘We’ve faced this embargo for 60 years. We’ve had to ride bicy-cles in the past because of lack of gas. They’re not going to beat us.’" "The Cuban Revolution is an example for working people in the U.S. to emulate," he said.

SWP: ‘We need a labor party’

The Socialist Workers Party 2020 platform says workers need a labor party based on the unions, not the Tweed Courthouse bosses in Congress and the Senate. People in Congress and the Senate speak for themselves and become confident,” Lagu said. “In Mexico, the way they treat people there is the same as here. The problem is the system the workers have is the two-party system.” Pedro Albarran, a union leader at the processing plant, joined the candidates and introduced them to his co-workers. “As workers we don’t have representation in government,” he told Zenaida Lagunas. “They are workers like you and me. They are part of the fight for better conditions on the job, health care and fair wages.”

Lagunas said her health insurance doesn’t cover medicine or anything serious. "The capitalist system can’t be fixed. It will take a movement of millions to get rid of it," Kennedy said. "People need to stand up for themselves and become confident," Legu said.

Victor Jarman was skeptical about the campaign. "This is going to be just another attempt to get it forward. It’s a scam.” The Socialist Workers Party 2020 platform says workers need a labor party based on the unions, not the Tweed Courthouse bosses in Congress and the Senate. People in Congress and the Senate speak for themselves and become confident.” Lagu said. “In Mexico, the way they treat people there is the same as here. The problem is the system the workers have is the two-party system.”

"The two-party system is a trap," Kennedy replied. "They try to make us think we can make change by picking the least bad cartel to trust them to deliver. It’s a scam.” The Socialist Workers Party 2020 platform says workers need a labor party based on the unions, not the Tweed Courthouse bosses in Congress and the Senate. People in Congress and the Senate speak for themselves and become confident.” Lagu said. “In Mexico, the way they treat people there is the same as here. The problem is the system the workers have is the two-party system.”

Joel Britton, left, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, talks with former firefighter Bruce Johnson about fight against industrial contamination in West Oakland neighborhood.

Pedro Albarran (with hard hat). Farmer John worker and union leader there, introduces SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy to co-workers during plant gate campaigning Feb. 28. He told them that Kennedy and running mate Malcolm Jarrett “are workers like you and me.” Those at the meeting kicked in $2,381 toward the $25,000 campaign fund.

Help fund SWP 2020 campaign!

The Socialist Workers Party National Campaign Committee has launched a month-long $25,000 fund drive from Feb. 24 to March 22. Send your contribution today! Any donation of $200 or more will be reported in filings with the Federal Election Commission.

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 Alyson 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, New York, NY 10018. Tel. 347-871-0282 • Email: socialworkers2020@gmail.com

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 13th District, began his 10-city campaign Feb. 29 in West Oakland, where trichloroethylene, an industrial solvent linked to increased cancer risk, has been found in groundwater under McClymonds High School. Several other contaminated sites discovered earlier within blocks of the school, which has been closed temporarily, are in the process of being cleaned up.

"I’m not satisfied with the answers we’ve been given," former firefighter Bruce Johnson told Britton outside his home near the school. Johnson described a town hall meeting he had attended, saying it was just "police and agencies, skirted around the issues, where you couldn’t tell who was responsible and accountable." Authorities say that the chemical has not been found in the school’s drinking water. But residents are concerned about the fact that contamination has been in the neighborhood for years and they didn’t know.

"The first thing is the immediate protection of the community, demanding that contaminated soil be removed," said Britton, a former oil refinery worker familiar with these types of contaminants. "Industries releasing dangerous chemicals unreported into the environment are inherent to the capitalist system. What is profitable for the business owners is their priority." Protection of workers and communities in the vicinity of industries can never be left to the capitalist bosses, Britton said. "Workers and our unions need to fight for control of all aspects of production, including the safe handling of dangerous chemicals."

What they were doing with the town hall meeting was just having people let off steam," Johnson said. "It’s like with the homeless. More and more tents every day. They just put a band aid on it and go on.

"The only way this will change is if workers begin to rely on our own strength, make our unions stronger and fight to take the power out of the hands of the capitalists," Johnson declared.

The growing coronavirus outbreak is another example of the disasters created by the profit system, Britton said. "Here in the Bay Area where we need more hos- pitals, they have closed one in San Pablo and threaten to close others because they aren’t profitable, they say.” Britton showed Johnson a copy of a Militant article on the Cuban Revolution. Workers and farmers took power out of the hands of the capitalist class there in 1959, he said. The revolution put an end to health care as a commodity that is bought and sold, and instead organized to make it a basic human right. To find out more, Johnson sub-scribed to the Militant and got a copy of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power.
SWP candidates tell Asarco strikers, ‘We’ll tell your story’

BY LESLIE DORK

HAYDEN, Ariz. — During a soli-
darity trip Feb. 23-25, Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, discussed politics and the la-
bor movement today with striking copper-
mine workers. She learned more about their fight against Asarco’s union-busting to share with other workers as they tours around the country. Some 1,700 workers have been on strike since Oct. 13.

Kennedy, a Walmart worker and for-
central organizer, joined picket lines at the Mission Mine in Sahuarita, south of Tucson; at the smelter here; at the nearby Ray Mine north of Kearny; and a strike rally in Phoenix. She spoke with four Asarco refinery strikers from Ama-
rilco, Texas, who drove 10 hours to join fellow strikers in Arizona at the rally. “The company absolutely hates that we have a say in things at the mine with a union: ‘No, you should just do what we tell you to do,’” striker and Team-
Cees Larrelo, 27th CD, Miami

Gerardo Sánchez, US Senate, Texas

Rebecca Williamson, 9th CD, Seattle

Samir Hazboun, 3rd CD, Louisville

Samantha Hamlin, 3rd CD, Chicago

Helen Meyers, 4th CD, St. Paul

Samuel Hazboun, 3rd CD, Louisville

Samantha Hamlin, 3rd CD, Chicago

Helen Meyers, 4th CD, St. Paul

Southwest and West Coast

Here are the SWP candidates in the South:

Malcolm Arnett for vice president

Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2020

Alyson Kennedy for president

Midwest

Mid-Atlantic Region

New York/New Jersey

Lea Sherman, US Senate, New Jersey

William Cotton, Edinburgh, New York

Seth Galinsky, 10th CD, New York

Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

Seth Galinsky, 10th CD, New York

Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

The South

Rachel Maze, 4th CD, South Carolina

Anthony Dutrow, 27th CD, Miami

See directory on page 10 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

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

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS In the US, a life-and-death struggle for millions of undocumented immigrants who want to build a labor party based on the unions, to fight in the interests of all 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 expansion.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for uni-
government guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement in-
universal social security.

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, se-

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recog-

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary con-

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To halt a farm to fore-
closures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords.

We demand the government guarantee farmers’ costs of production, includ-

is from Puerto Rico independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda.

Puerto Rico independence fighters

The struggle for independence is not confined to the island: The militant movement across the US, Puerto Rico and many others across the country.

The Militant March 16, 2020
For-profit ‘health care’ threat

Continued from front page

ments and working people around the world are now seeing the mortality rate so far is relatively low. In the biggest slump since the 2008 financial crisis, world stock markets dropped steadily for a week. Finance ministers and central bankers rushed to assure wealthy investors they were expecting “stimulus” measures. But since interest rates remain near zero from previous stimulus efforts, there’s little room for anything significant.

Despite attempts by Beijing to restart production after the biggest quarantine in history, factory production there remains crippled. The extent of the industrial shutdown in China and its effect on production elsewhere is a sharp reminder of the limits of “globalization.”

Authorities in Iran have reported the second highest number of deaths, 77, and 2,336 coronavirus cases, but working people there think these numbers are much lower. In an attempt to deflect public attention from the rapid spread of the disease there and to the surrounding region, Iran’s ruthless ayatollah Hassan Rouhani claimed fears about the virus are the result of “the enemy’s plots.”

 Brothers of 18 Iranian members of parliament have tested positive and one has already died. Public trust in the Iranian regime has been further shaken after the earlier brutal raids on people’s homes, with workers and youths against the Iran’s rulers’ war abroad and economic crisis at home, as well as the government’s effort to cover up the Revolutionary Guard shutdown of a Ukrainian jetliner.

Opposition to rulers in Iran, Iraq

“We have a very negligent government,” Hamid Bahmani in Sanandaj, Iran, told the Kurdish publication Rudaw. “Now is the time for the state and all the other institutions to be deeply focused on the coronavirus,” Sanandaj pharmacist Dr. Ramin Husseinie. “One more reason why the virus spread so fast was that the virus was hidden from the people under some people who had returned to Iran from China turned out to be infected with the virus. It was never announced.”

In Iran, where people frequently visit back and forth with Iran, coronavirus cases are beginning to turn up. The government responded by shutting down all schools, universities and other public spots through March 7. They thought this would also mean the end of widespread protests against the government that have bloomed across the country for months. The opposite happened. Many of the students headed straight to protest centers in Baghdad and Diwaniyah.

“The virus is Iraq politicians,” 18-year-old Fatima, a medical student from Baghdad, told Rudaw.

Outraged by the government’s refusal to take action, the virus is spreading in Iraq and central bankers rushed to assure wealthy investors they were readying new “stimulus” measures. But since interest rates remain near zero from previous stimulus efforts, there’s little room for anything significant.

As the disease spreads in South Korea, the U.S. military has placed its bases there — home to 28,500 troops in lockdown. The U.S. and South Korean high commands have also shut down all joint military exercises “until further notice.”

“No body should be turned away”

“No body should be turned away from medical help or hospitalization because they don’t have health insurance or money for the proper medication papers,” A. Kennedy, a 30-year-old Workers Party candidate for president, told the Militant March 3. “We demand government-provided health care at no cost for everyone.”

“Volunteers who worked over production — a fight that will come in the future as millions join to fight the effects of the capitalist rulers attacks on our class — the production of drugs and equipment needed to treat and ultimately vaccinate against the virus would be made a priority, regardless of profit,” said Kennedy. “Under a workers and farmers government — like they have in Cuba — the government would organize a crash course to mobilize working people to accomplish these goals and make the results available to people worldwide.”

The Bush administration is being coordinated by the National Network on Cuba and Pathfinder Tours. Applications are due by March 10. Total cost, not including airfare to Cuba, is $275. For the forms and more information go to www.nnoc.org or email KAnGoToCuba@nnoc.org.

BY JANET POST

This year’s May Day International Brigade to Cuba is a story of solidarity with Cuba — an opportunity for workers, farmers and youth to see Cuba’s revolution for themselves — has added a new program to its April 26 to May 2 schedule. Already placed by the sponsoring Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) is voluntary work on a farm; meeting with young Cuban university students; a youth organization, women’s federation and other mass organizations; and participation in the million-strong mobilization in Havana May 1.

A new feature is a three-day International Solidarity Meeting from April 30 to May 2, sponsored by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers and ICAP. This will include visiting the “Evelio Prieto Guillama” Bus Production Company and meeting with workers attending a panel presentation by workers describing the effects of Washington’s decadeslong economic war against the island’s people; and participation in a National International Conference of Solidarity with Cuba.

Prieto Guillama was killed as a participant in the March 19, 1957, assault against the presidential palace of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, led by the Revolutionary Directorate. The 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution — led by Fidel Castro and the Revolutionary Directorate.

Opponents of the rights of Muslims organized a series of assaults against protesters and others in predominantly Muslim neighborhoods of north Delhi Feb. 23-25. They set fire to shops, a mosque, cars, buses and makeshift dwellings. Using rocks, metal bars and gunfire, they killed at least 38 people and injured over 200 in the worst sectarian violence in India’s capital in decades.

Since December, hundreds of thousands of Muslims and others have been protesting passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act, pushed by Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi and his Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. This law makes religion the criterion for who will be offered Indian citizenship and discriminates against Muslims. Modi’s government is also trying to impose a new National Register of Citizens, aimed against Muslims.

Modi’s forces have suffered some setbacks. In elections for the municipal government in New Delhi the Bharatiya Janata Party got only eight of the 70 seats. Voters rejected its virulent anti-Muslim campaign.

Over 500 women have camped out at Shaheen Bagh, above, a working-class neighborhood in New Delhi, for over two months, calling for an end to the two anti-Muslim measures. People have come from around the country to express their solidarity. The attacks in the city’s northeast came after hundreds of women moved to set up another camp in Jaffrabad, which the thugs succeeded in dismantling.

The women at Shaheen Bagh remain determined. “Let them bring their police, their goons, their truckloads of stones,” 32-year-old Fatima Khatun told ThePrint news agency. “We are not going anywhere till CAA and NRC are rolled back.”

—— BRIAN WILLIAMS

Join 2020 May Day international brigade to Cuba

BY JANET POST

This year’s May Day International Brigade to Cuba has added a new program to its April 26 to May 2 schedule. Already placed by the sponsoring Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) is voluntary work on a farm; meeting with young Cuban university students; a youth organization, women’s federation and other mass organizations; and participation in the million-strong mobilization in Havana May 1.

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Prieto Guillama was killed as a participant in the March 19, 1957, assault against the presidential palace of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, led by the Revolutionary Directorate.

The 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution — led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement — overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. Cuba’s workers and farmers took power, opening the door for the socialist revolution in the Americas. Brigade participants will be able to learn firsthand about that revolution and its living reality today.

The U.S. rulers are stepping up their economic and political war against the revolution, seeking to isolate Cuba and punish the Cuban people.

As part of their attack on Cuba, the rulers have launched a worldwide smear campaign against over 50,000 Cuban internationalist medical volunteers, who serve in more than 60 countries around the world. Washington slanders them as “slave labor,” while claiming they fo-

BRIAN WILLIAMS

against Cuba’s medical internationalists. This is an invaluable opportunity in the midst of today’s health crisis — deepened by the for-profit medical industry that pre-

dominates in the capitalist world — as the coronavirus spreads worldwide.

The brigade is also a real opportunity for participants to describe to Cubans the reality of the class struggle in the U.S., Canada and other capitalist coun-

tries, and the political activities they have been part of.

The U.S. brigade is being coordinated by the National Network on Cuba and travel arrangements are being organized to meet U.S. guidelines by Marazul Tours. Applications are due by March 27. Total cost, not including airfare to Cuba, is $725. For the forms and more information go to www.nnoc.org or email KAnGoToCuba@nnoc.org.

Correction

In Militant no. 9 the front page photo caption should have identified Lamont Anthony as being seated behind podium. The caption on page 9 should have said Didey Ruiz went to Equatorial Guinea as part of Cuban health care team.
Indigenous people debate building Canada pipeline

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — A Feb. 24 raid by dozens of armed Ontario Provincial police on a 18-day-long Tyendinaga Mohawk First Nation camp blocking the Canadian National Railway line near Belleville, between Montreal and Toronto, resulted in a new round of demands for removal of the rail lines and roads around the country.

“The Communist League calls on the trade unions and all supporters of democracy,” said Pamela-Luc Filion, who along with this worker-correspondent, was one of the two Communist League candidates in the 2019 federal elections.

“The RCMP and other police along with the Canadian army have been central to maintaining the oppression of Indigenous people and denying their sovereignty over their land, resources and ability to control their own lives.”

The blockade was set up Feb. 6 in solidarity with a small group of Wet’suwet’en Indigenous people arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on the site of a gas pipeline earlier that day. They had set up a camp blocking a service road, part of an effort to stop the construction of the Coastal Gaslink pipeline from British Columbia to Alberta. The pipeline has stirred up a debate among both the Wet’suwet’en Indigenous people and the Canadian army have been central to maintaining the oppression of Indigenous people and denying their sovereignty over their land, resources and ability to control their own lives.

“Indigenous people — especially those right on the front lines of the natural gas pipeline industry in our backyard, and to capitalizing on it would be a mistake,” said in a 2019 election statement that “Preferential hiring for Indigenous people is almost 40% less than the rest of the population. The average earnings for First Nations people is almost 40% less than other workers.

“When we come out to discuss the pipeline, those industries. It was really hard on the fishing industry die around us, and against imperialist oppression [and] capitalist exploitation.”

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Construction of Coastal GasLink pipeline to connect Alberta natural gas to port in British Columbia. Most Indigenous people on the route support project to take jobs that it will create.

During a meeting in Houston, one of the largest towns in the region, some 200 people came out to discuss the pipeline project. According to Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Wet’suwet’en people who came to the meeting said that “they want to fight against imperialist oppression and for the survival of all the oppressed and exploited. It amounts to conditioning the 1/3 billion people without electricity in underdeveloped countries to live without it. Access to electricity is essential for the development of modern industry, agriculture, sanitation, and health care.

“It’s also a precondition for the advance of culture and education,” the CL candidates said. “And the development of an international working-class movement that can lead the fight against imperialist oppression [and] capitalist exploitation.”

The Communist League also calls for workers control over production, including control over CO2 emissions, to protect those on the job and those living near the pipeline, and for widespread development of nuclear-powered electrical generators. The fight to win this could put workers in a better position to utilize all the advances in science to tackle pollution, something that is impossible under capitalist rule.

Jobs: Key question for Native people

One in four Indigenous people in Canada live below the official poverty line, almost double the rate of the rest of the population. The average earnings for First Nations people is almost 40% less than other workers.

“In an interview with the Militant, Filion said, “Preferential hiring for Indigenous people is a central demand that the labor movement should fight for to give workers of all races the oppression they face. It would draw larger numbers of Natives into the working class and our unions. This would greatly strengthen the unity of working people, strengthen our unions and our fighting capacity. “The fight for preferential hiring needs to be tied to demanding a massive federally-funded public works program, at union-scale wages,” Filion said, “to build the houses, medical clinics, modern water and sanitation systems that Indigenous people — especially those living on reserves — desperately need.”

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March 20, 1995

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As capitalist crisis deepens, workers need control of production


The Militant is a paper for the working class: to build communist parties — proletariats of the economy. Our的第一个 issue was released in 1969.

To acquire the needed information and resources of credit and planning, the entire banking system — now the advanced capitalist state — will have to be expropriated and opened up to the committees of workers and placed under their control as a working class asset.

The Militant March 16, 2020

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