Medicine in the US is capitalist business, not for health care

BY TERRY EVANS

One of the excuses given by the capitalist rulers for their shutdown of production is the need to use their resources to fight COVID-19. But the social crisis working people face today reveals that there is no such thing as “health care” for the working class and other exploited layers of the population under capitalism.

For the owners of hospitals, insurance and drug companies all aspects of so-called health care are run to maximize profit. Their starting point is cutthroat competition to corner the market in the most lucrative operations, not to use advances in medicine to provide preventive and hands-on health care for all.

The five richest private hospital systems in New York City — NYU-Langone, New York-Presbyterian, Northwell, Mount Sinai and Montefiore — spent a total of $149 million on advertising last year. At the same time hospital bosses are pushing pay cuts and furloughing nurses and other workers. Those who remain on the job are pushed to do their work and that of those laid off, inevitably making conditions worse.

This is true of even the most profitable private hospitals. The top-ranked hospital in the U.S. — the Mayo Clinic — has furloughed workers.

‘Prosecute vigilantes who killed Ahmaud, expose the cover-up’

BY SAM MANUEL

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Shouts of “Justice for Maud” — Ahmaud Arbery’s nickname — rang out from the Glynn County Courthouse steps here May 16. The protest was organized to keep the pressure on authorities to prosecute the killing of the 25-year-old African American nearly three months earlier by two white vigilantes, Gregory McMichael and his son Travis. Many of the 600 in

Demand jobs! Back fights over wages, job conditions!

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party 2020 candidate for president, issued the following statement May 19.

MALCOLM JARRETT IS THE WORKERS PARTY 2020 CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

MALCOLM JARRETT IS THE WORKERS PARTY 2020 CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Strikes by workers at fruit packing plants in Washington state and independent truckers protesting in Washington, D.C., show the way forward

‘Militant’ gives voice to today’s struggles by working people

BY SETH GALINSKY

As growing numbers of workers are beginning to fight back against attacks on wages and working conditions today, Socialist Workers Party members are joining in and its candidates are calling for solidarity with strikes by farmworkers and sanitation workers, and protests by truckers.

These struggles and on-the-job actions by retail workers in stores across the country are examples of what can be done today to stand up to the bosses.

The current drive to win new readers to the ‘Militant’ is helping spread the word about these fights. The drive also includes increasing the distribution of books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionists and raising $115,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. (See ad on page 7 for book specials during the drive.)

Both the ‘Militant’ and books by revolutionary leaders are indispensable for learning how today’s struggles are connected to decades of resistance by working people.

Washington fruit packers strike over pay, hours, dignity

BY HENRY DENNISON

YAKIMA, Wash. — A walkout that began May 7 by workers at Allan Brothers Inc., a fruit processor in Naches, has become a strike wave running through packing plants in this major fruit growing and processing region.

As of May 16, workers at Columbia Reach Pack, Frosty Packing, and Hansen Fruit in Yakima, and Matson Fruit and Monson Fruit in the town of Selah are also on strike. Fueled by anger over employers’ disdain for health and safety conditions on the job, the strikers have focused on longstanding issues of hours, wages and abuse.

There are a lot of packinghouses in and around the area. There have been fights to try to organize some of them, but so far it has remained a nonunion industry.

Failed raid against Venezuelan gov’t shows crisis of US-backed opposition

BY RÖGER CALERO

A failed mercenary raid that unraveled on the shores of Venezuela May 3-4 became the latest blow to efforts of U.S.-backed Venezuela opposition leader Juan Guaido to overthrow the country’s president Nicolas Maduro.

Launched from neighboring Colombia, the amphibious raid was dismantled by Venezuelan government forces and area fishermen soon after landing on the country’s coast near Caracas. It aimed at “removing the incumbent regime and installing the recognized Venezuelan President Juan

Inside

Germany’s high court ruling accelerates EU coming apart

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Irish Debenhams workers keep up protests in fight for jobs

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Germany’s high court ruling accelerates EU coming apart

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The economic and social crisis of capitalism weighing on working people worldwide, accelerated by the way the capitalist state governments have responded to the coronavirus outbreak with far-reaching lockdowns on industry and trade, has greatly hastened the coming apart of the European “Union.”

In an unprecedented move, Germany’s highest court ruled May 5 against the validity of the European Central Bank’s nearly $3 trillion bond-buying “stimulus” scheme. The court says it unthinkingly interferes with the German rulers’ sovereign prerogatives. This decision signals Berlin taking steps towards abandoning the euro and return to the mark, its former national currency. This would tear the EU apart.

The insouciance of EU bureaucrats in Brussels that they have the power to deploy member countries’ contributions to rescue crisis-ridden neighbors has become too much of a burden on the German capitalist class’s ability to pursue its own imperialist interests and maximize its profits.

In the ruling, the German court declared and voided a 2018 judgment by the European Court of Justice upholding the ECB’s bond-buying program. This scheme allowed the bank to print money to bail out EU member governments with some of the highest debts, including Italy and Spain. The ECB has purchased more than $2.9 trillion in corporate and government debts, including Italy and Spain. The German court bars EU from using Berlin’s funding to bail out impoverished governments like Italy and Spain. German rulers offer instead to help EU make grants, accompanied by austerity regimens. Above, Nov. 6, 2012, rally in Greece against EU-imposed cuts on wages, pensions.

On May 18 Berlin joined Paris to propose a $546 billion coronavirus “recovery fund.” The European Commission would borrow the funds and offer grants to the most indebted of the bloc’s governments, to be paid off after 2027. But to get a grant, an impoverished government would need to agree to a harsh austerity regime.

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said this does nothing to solve the crisis the German court ruled against the EU. “The German central bank is under obligation to carry out the ECB’s decisions,” she said.

EU bureaucrats’ pipe dream

The EU was constructed to counter the competition of U.S. imperialism and rival capitalist exploitation in Europe after the mass destruction of the second imperialist war. It was built on the pipe dream that by uniting disparate governments in Europe it could, over time, grow into a continent-wide juggernaut of a superimperialist state. But the European “Union” is comprised of 27 separate capitalist states, in which the rulers pursue their own interests in search of markets and profits at the expense of their rivals.

The 1999 establishment of the euro as a common currency today shared among 19 EU member states—advanced the ability of the stronger north European powers, primarily Berlin and to a lesser degree Paris, to profit from plundering working people in the weaker eastern and southern European nations that have lower levels of industrial and even agrarian dependencies.

These differences have been sharply accentuated as the crisis of capitalism has deepened. During the first three months of this year, the economy of countries using the euro shrank 14.4%—its fastest pace on record.

The sharpest divergence in the contraction was between the EU’s north and south regions. While the German economic shrank by 2.2%, Italy’s gross domestic product fell by 17.6% and Spain’s by 10.2%. Facing sharp competition and rising government debts, the capitalist rulers in each of these countries seek to make workers pay for this crisis, stepping up attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions.

The Italian rulers, who presided over one of the wealthiest founding members of what became the EU, are now looting debts and growing inability to pay back wealthy bondholders. Rome’s public sector debt was 136% of its gross domestic product at the end of last year.

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“The rulers in Germany have used the euro for decades to their advantage, sucking up profits at the expense of bosses—and on the backs of workers in the weaker European capitalist powers. They aren’t about to let things start flowing the other way.”

Either Germany’s rulers must pull back from this decision, Wall Street Journal columnist Walter Russell Mead wrote May 13, “or it must begin to think through the process of minimizing the fallout from the currency’s failure.”

The German court ruling gives the European Central Bank three months to try and make a case that these purchases should be continued. If it fails, Germany’s central bank, which contributes large amounts of the money used for the “stimulus” program, will cut off all funds.

This is the first time in its history that a ruling by the European Court of Justice has been challenged by an EU member state, let alone by its most powerful one.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen challenged the German court decision in a May 10 statement, raising the possibility that Berlin could, over time, grow into a continent-wide juggernaut of a superimperialist state. But the European “Union” is comprised of 27 separate capitalist states, in which the rulers pursue their own interests in search of markets and profits at the expense of their rivals.

The German court bars EU from using Berlin’s funding to bail out impoverished governments like Italy and Spain. German rulers offer instead to help EU make grants, accompanied by austerity regimens. Above, Nov. 6, 2012, rally in Greece against EU-imposed cuts on wages, pensions.

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Cindy Jaquith: 55-year cadre of Socialist Workers Party

BY STEVE WARSHELL

MIAMI — Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party gathered here May 10 to celebrate the life of Cindy Jaquith, a cadre of the SWP for 55 years. Jaquith died May 1 at 72. Participants in the celebration came from around Florida, Atlanta, New York, Pittsburgh and Louisville, Kentucky.

A five-panel display of photographs and articles highlighting the SWP’s work over the past half-century, and Jaquith’s many leadership contributions in helping advance the party, helped those in attendance see what a rich, politically productive life she lived.

More displays were sent to the meeting from comrades and friends who knew and worked with her. These included messages from Jonathan Silberman on behalf of the Political Committee of the Communist League in the U.K., and others from CLP leaders in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

One of the attendees, her sister Diane, described Cindy’s early life: “Cindy was the second of four children born to Tony and Maureen, Massachusetts, an affluent suburb of Boston.” Diane Jaquith wrote: “Cindy excelled at school, and devoted much time to the arts, even attending the national roundup. She enjoyed teaching her younger sister how to cook and sew, and would bring her to work in the sister’s Brownie troop. The only trouble she ever got into was when, in high school, Cindy and her friends managed to steal an American flags from every classroom and hid them.”

Reaching to workers’ struggles

“One of Cindy’s first writing assignments for the Militant were covering the coal miners’ battles in Harlan County, Kentucky, in the early 1970s,” Jacques Hennessy said. “At this time, Diane, the sister of Doak, worked with Cindy in the USSR, where they both worked in a medical unit and taught. They also had the opportunity to visit and build a fraction of the party in the United Mine Workers union.”

“Cindy became a worker in the SWP in 1970,” Jaquith said. “When she joined us, Cindy was a by-product of her primary commitment — being a proletarian revolutionary.” In that regard, Maiholt said, the political example she set as an SWP leader for revolutionary-minded workers in Iran was invaluable. “That was a turning point, whose record they looked to for program and proletarian content,” Maiholt said, “because the SWP leadership had fallen into the course of the class struggle and its response to popular revolutions worldwide.”

The Managua bureau

From late 1985 to 1987 Jaquith was the organizer of the Militant reporting team stationed in Nicaragua covering the struggle of workers and farmers to defend their revolution.

“She moved and talked to the truth about what workers and farmers were accomplishing,” Seth Galinsky, who worked with Jaquith there, wrote in a message.

“It was the early 1980s, the revolution had begun to stagnate, even as some advances continued to be made,” he wrote. “Working with Cindy, people dealt decisive blows to the U.S.-backed contras. Instead of using that victory to advance the revolution by deepening the participation of working people and youth, the FSLN leadership did the opposite,” he said, “announcing that more of land would be taken from the ‘patriotic producers’ to be given to the tens of thousands of landless peasants.”

The demise of the revolution followed a few years later.

Jaquith returned to Nicaragua in 1990 to organize some final round-ups until the bureau was closed later that year.

Fight for women’s emancipation

A number of displays and messages highlighted Jaquith’s involvement in the struggle for women’s emancipation.

“I met Cindy in New York City in the late ’60s, after she transferred from Carleton College to Barnard,” Susan Carlucci said. “As a founder of the SWP Feminist Committee of the Communist League and one of the early leaders of the group, Cindy was a central figure in the militant feminist movement.”

Carlucci wrote: “One of Cindy’s and my first leadership responsibilities was to plan and organize the first national conference on the status of women in the United States, which was held in 1985.”

The conference was a breakthrough event for the women’s liberation movement. As Jaquith noted: “In a few months the Militant had hundreds of women’s articles, photos and reports from workers in the struggle to liberate women’s lives.”

Jeanne Carlucci said: “Within weeks of the 1979 overthrow of Somoza the party set up what became the Managua bureau to learn from the revolution and to tell the truth about what workers and farmers were accomplishing.”

“Later, the Militant had hundreds of women’s articles in each issue, and Cindy was a key voice for the revolution and the struggle for women’s liberation.”

Jaquith’s working-class journalism

Militant reporter in Tehran

The Militant June 1, 2020            3

Cindy Jaquith, who was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami in January 2017, talks with Robert Brooks III in West Perrine, Florida.

Jim Crow segregation in the South and the strength for Black equality in the North, the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and the growing movement against Washington’s war in Vietnam. The women’s liberation movement came onto the stage at this time. “The SWP recognized this would affect the course of the American Revolution, and the building and development of leadership of our own party,” LaMott said. “Cindy helped to lead the growing participation of the SWP in the battles for women’s rights. She was fearless in the debates that raged, helping set an example in taking on red-baiting attacks by those forces determined to take the struggle into the dead end of supporting capitalist politicians.”

Jaquith took on many leadership responsibilities. She was elected national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance at its 1970 national convention. She was a member of the SWP National Committee from 1976 through 1991, and attended the party leadership school in 1980. She joined the Militant staff in 1972 and wrote for the paper almost continuously through 1991, serving as the paper’s editor for a number of those years. The Militant index includes more than 1,000 articles she wrote. Jaquith, no matter what her responsibilities, was an example of a lifelong worker-correspondent for the revolutionary press.

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SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal fund at $85,400 and growing

Michele Smith sent the following note with her contribution to the Socialist Workers Party’s “stimulus” fund appeal: “At last, my economic impact payment arrived in the mail yesterday. I’m happy to send it.”

Contributors to the special appeal now count at 75. The total stands at $85,400 and growing.

The appeal is significantly augmenting the resources of the party. President Donald Trump’s letter that accompanies the “stimulus” payments states there is a “we” — the workers and the bosses — that are all in this together. But the workers and the bosses don’t have the same interests.

“I can think of no other purpose as worthwhile for my check,” wrote Anthony Dutrow, a Walmart worker in Miami, “than to fund a party that stands up on the front lines fighting together in workers’ struggles against the bosses.”

The funds are designated for capital, set aside for the SWP to deepen their independent building of a revolutionary proletarian party as the worldwide crisis of capitalism grows and the working class responds in the unfolding class struggle.

“Enclosed is my check for the SWP, in the traditions of the working-class movement,” Ove Aspoy explained. “I wanted to share ‘my good luck’ with the SWP that will do a lot with the money.”

If you’d like to join in donating your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018, marked “Special Fund.” The Militant will continue weekly updates.

— EMMA JOHNSON

How to include what we thought were the interesting and important facts about this well-attended gathering. It was a lesson that we remember to this day.”

1979 Iranian Revolution

In early 1979 a massive revolutionary mobilization of working people and youth overthrow the hated regime of the Shah of Iran and opened the road for millions to engage in politics. The Militant covered this event and wrote reports from there — in January and February, 1979, and again at the end of that year and into 1980.

Mohammad Shirvani described this work in a message to the meeting. “The weekly coverage Cindy provided as a worker-correspondent for the Militant — talking with workers, soldiers, Kurdish fighters, women demanding their rights, and others — is unparalleled by anything else written on the Iranian Revolution. She reported with a Bolshevik sense of the present as history.”

The potential of the revolution in Iran was cut short by a bloody clerical-bourgeois counterrevolution. Working people there, however, have fought and continue to fight for discussion of political ideas. Since 1992 Pathfinder Press has presented books by revolutionary working-class leaders at the annual Tehran International Book Fair.

Beginning in 1999 Jaquith went to Iran almost yearly for a decade to staff Pathfinder’s booth, until visa restrictions forced them to return to the United States in 2009. Maiholt wrote: “I remember her ability to pedagogically explain a political issue or discuss the contents of a particular book for visitors to the fair in a way that brought it to life.”

She enjoyed teaching her younger sister how to cook and sew, and would bring her to work in the sister’s Brownie troop. The only trouble she ever got into was when, in high school, Cindy and her friends managed to steal an American flags from every classroom and hid them.

“Cindy helped to lead the growing participation of the SWP in the battles for women’s rights. She was fearless in the debates that raged, helping set an example in taking on red-baiting attacks by those forces determined to take the struggle into the dead end of supporting capitalist politicians.”

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“The truckers’ fight to defend their livelihoods sets a powerful example,” Social Workers Party candidate Alyson Kennedy told Jaime Velez, an independent operator from Rancho Cucamonga, California, after he described the conditions drivers face. Velez got a subscription to the socialist weekly newspaper.

Earlier in the week the SWP candidates spoke with Carlos Lisboa, who works in a fruit and vegetable processing plant in Brigantine, in a farm area in southern New Jersey.

“On my job they throw tons of food away every day!” Lisboa said. “I can’t stand it!”

If working people were in control of production, Kennedy said, this would not be allowed. Millions worldwide don’t have enough to eat.

“The capitalist class will try to pit the millions of unemployed against us,” to drive down wages and boost profits at our expense, Jarrett said.

“Yes. They keep telling us, ‘If you don’t want to do this job, other people will do it’,” Lisboa said.

“That’s why the Socialists Workers Party and other unions are pushingstate programs to put people to work building what we need,” Kennedy said.

“If we’re stuck at home, we’re isolated and can get demoralized,” he said. “We need work for public works, as well as 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to spread around the available work, can prevent the class from being split.”

Working people in parking lots at two Walmarts in New Jersey, as well as some of the store workers. Seven people bought subscriptions to the Militant, along with four books.

Kennedy and Jarrett also spoke with Erika Remigio, a hospital worker in Red Barn, New Jersey, who’s on strike to fight for workers’ licenses and immigrant rights. Remigio noted that many immigrant workers have even less access to health care than U.S.-born workers.

With unemployment at record highs, the bosses will try to scapegoat immigrants to divide the working class.

“That’s why it’s important not to give up the fight for amnesty for undocumented workers, especially now,” Kennedy said.

Transform the unions

Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, and other campaign supporters met workers at a trailer park in Rochelle, over an hour west of Chicago.

May Elmore, laid off from a warehousehouse, told Craine that she had been a union steward at a previous job. “I was shocked at how much of the contract was aimed at protecting the company, not the workers,” Elmore said.

Craime showed her The Turn to Industry: Ferguia a Protestantay by Socia list Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and Tribune of the People the Trade Unions. These books explain how to build a party that acts on the fact that working people are capable of fighting to change their conditions. It joins and advances the struggles needed to transform the working class. This defends the interests of all workers as well as farmers and other exploited layers of the population.

Elmore got both books and a subscription to the Militant.

Members of the Communist Leagues in other countries are also taking advantage of opportunities to extend the reach of the Militant.

Jonathan Silberman, Communist League candidate for London mayor, was on the phone to try to reach the unemployment assistance team to discuss the conditions they face.

“I can see the fights in the offing, with rising unemployment and low pay,” Campbell said. “All we get on the news is virus, virus, virus. I’m interested in reading your coverage of the political questions we face.” He signed up for a subscription.

Cindy Jaquith

Continued from page 3

Anthony Dutrow, organizer of the SWP branch in Miami, spoke about Jaquith’s activity to build the party over the last five years here. “Cindy always overcame whatever obstacles were in her way in order to keep building the SWP. She was just starting out in the party’s fraction at Walmart last year when she was diagnosed with cancer. She beat it, and was welcomed back by her co-workers.

“Cindy could give a Militant Labor Forum talk that conveyed the party’s program for socialist revolution in a way that everyone could grasp,” Dutrow said. “She was able to do that because she understood the program, and deeply believed in it.”

Describing the times Jaquith practiced politics, in Mailhot quoted to remarks by Farrell Dobbs, a leader of the SWP and Teamster battles in the 1930s.

“Some people,” Dobbs said, “have the good fortune to live more in a year than others at a different historical juncture could live in their whole lifetime.”

“And Cindy understood the necessity of building the revolutionary party and preparing for those battles that are coming,” Mailhot said. “She set a good example for all of us, and for the next generations of fighters who will continue along the course she set out on some 55 years ago.”

A collection of $1,250 was raised at the meeting to honor and continue Cindy Jaquith’s lifelong work to build the Socialist Workers Party.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

June 5, 1970

LOS ANGELES — Aided by students and backed by other unionists, striking Teamsters here drove a major wedge in the united front of employ- ees who had united together in an effort to housebreak their union by weeding out militant rank-and-filers.

The break came when over-the-road operators yielded to the union demands ensuring amnesty for striking workers.

While the striking members of the Teamsters disturbed by a recent “split” of the officials of their international union, solidarity actions by fellow unionists in San Francisco and elsewhere in California were a major fac- tor in the present victory.

With the union picketing limited by injunction, some individual strik- ers, like students, who would not be liable under the injunction, to maintain the picket line at several key freight terminals.

June 2, 1945

In the first colonial uprising in the wake of Germany’s defeat, the people of Syria are engaged in fierce street battles with the troops of French imperialism. Syria and Lebanon, grabbed by the French government after World War I, were promised their freedom in 1939. When the war broke out the British, in conformance with the Free French Government, marched in to take control of this strategic territory with its valuable oil fields.

French garrisons have been augmented by Senegalese troops and native Syrian conscripts. In a week- long series of strikes, the Syrian people protested against the use of these troops to enforce French domination.

The Syrian National Guard issued a call for 5,000 recruits and 15,000 volunteers. Many Syrians con- scribed into the French army are deserting and going over to the Na- tional Guard.

Naomi Craine, right, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, talks with Miguel Salas in Rockford, Illinois. In two hours campaigns sold seven Militant subscriptions and 12 books in nearby trailer park, reflecting interest in how the party organizes solidarity with workers’ struggles.
Truckers’ protest against low rates, red tape keeps growing

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN
WASHINGTON — Now in its third week, over 300 truckers are protesting here with their rigs lining both sides of Constitution Avenue near the U.S. Capitol — twice as many as a week ago. The drivers demand relief from low freight rates imposed by brokers they have to get jobs from, onerous government regulations and worsening conditions.

Markcus Davis, his wife and two children drove here from Orangeburg, South Carolina, “We are fighting for the respect we need and deserve,” the 26-year veteran trucker told the Militant. “We’ve come together and we are staying together. I believe the media has been told not to cover our story, because of the support we can get.”

On May 14 a sister rally in Sacramento, California, was organized by the Punjabi Trucking Association. “Ten rigs were parked, truckers lined the streets with signs and others organized a drive-through,” said Tony Singh, a member of the group from Richmond, Virginia, who is part of the protest here. A solidarity protest of some 40 truckers also took place in Austin, Texas, May 15.

Many independent owners face bankrup

tency under conditions where brokers — who get orders from shippers and then offer the run to the truckers — dictate rates as low as possible to boost their own profits.

“You can only go into debt for so long,” Singh, a driver who runs a small trucking company, told the Militant. So-called “grace periods” are ending. They were offered by insurance companies for March and April, because of the drastic fall in trucking jobs due to government lockdowns that shuttered production and shipping. “I’m supposed to pay $37,000 in insurance by the end of the week,” Singh said.

Elizabeth Williams from Green Bay, Wisconsin, joined the protest. She has been driving for over 20 years. “On my last two trips to the East Coast I drove back empty. I refuse to take for less than 80 cents a mile. They were offering me 59,” she said. “What the brothers are taking is ridiculous.”

Another major issue is government red tape. The owner-operators say they can operate safely, without government regulation.

“We want some control over how we run things,” said Wisconsin independent trucker and former dairy farmer Lee Schmit. He said the mandatory

Continued from front page

attendance came in a car caravan from Atlanta earlier that morning.

They also demanded the removal of two welders who had been assigned to investigate the killing. Jackie Johnson and George Barnhill, for their refusal to arrest the shooters. Both ultimately recused themselves because they had connections with Gregory McMichael, a former cop and prosecutors’ investigator.

Thousands have protested since a video of the killing was released May 22. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation to arrest the two vigilantes two days later. The video shows the McMichaels’ truck parked in nearby Satilla Shores when the McMichaels followed him in their pickup truck and confronted him, arms in hand. After Arbery tried to defend himself, the video shows them grabbing the youth down.

The McMichaels told the cops who first interviewed Arbery that he had been seen in an unfinished house. It makes it clear the McMichaels and McMichaels and calls for Arbery had been involved in an attempted robbery, we knew they were lying. That’s not Ahmaud!”

“At first we said, ‘Let them do their job,’ and it was clear we had to help them do their job,” she said. “That was followed by weeks of letter writing to the press, interviews, meetings with anyone who could help.”

“We wanted to let them know that what happened to Ahmaud was not going to be forgotten.”

The caravan of more than 125 cars that left from the Victory Outreach Church in Atlanta to join the protest was organized by the JustGeorgia coalition, along with statewide NAACP and American Civil Liberties Union chapters, Black Voters Matter, Southern Center for Human Rights and other groups.

“We only have to drive a few hours down here and back to Atlanta,” Paul Hopson, a history teacher, told the Militant at the rally. “This family has been fighting for much longer. This rally will help spread the word and keep up the pressure for justice.”

The same day 30 people joined a “Run With Ahmaud” rally in Evansville, Indiana. Many actions in solidarity with the fight for justice for Arbery have taken the form of jogging events. Some 200 people participated in a similar gathering in Waynesboro. Vigilantes get organized

New evidence continues to emerge, shedding light on how the vigilante operation unfolded. A text recently became public that was sent to a Satilla Shores homeowner by Glynn County cop Robert Rash in December after there had been reports of unknown individuals going into an unfinished house. It makes it clear the cops were encouraging residents to work with Gregory McMichael to prepare for vigilante action.

Rash told the homeowner that former cop McMichael should be contacted if someone went into the house again. “Please call him day or night when you see someone on your camera,” the cop texted.

According to new accounts some individuals in the neighborhood were offered money for information.

Videos provided by the attorney of the house’s owner show Arbery entering the site briefly just minutes before he was fatally shot. He took nothing and no property was damaged. Family members and the attorney for the house owner say it’s likely he stopped for a drink of water.

Cops in the county were familiar with Ahmaud Arbery from several run-ins. He had faced charges for weapon possession and shoplifting. Gregory McMichael led the investigation into the shoplifting charge.

When the McMichaels were told someone had been seen in the house again Feb. 23, Gregory McMichael grabbed his .357 Magnum and Travis got his shotgun.

After the killing, prosecutor Barnhill told cops not to arrest or file charges against the McMichaels. When he recused himself in April, he wrote this decision was proper because Georgia has a law permitting citizen’s arrests.

Those at the rally promised public actions will continue. “We have to stand together when something like this happens,” Chloe Garth-Fielder from the Rome NAACP told the Militant at the Atlanta caravan sendoff. “We had to be here today.”

The Militant June 1, 2020

5
Lusive, who don’t have them at union-scale wages. The militant is capitalist business as waged workers, posing as workers, are confined to the taillots of the system, a dangerous class that carries disease and death, a class that sustains the entire edifice of the system. Within the union movement, the bosses hold the whip hand, making union officials the staves of the bosses to cut the muscles of the workers. By whom are they being cut? By whom do they cut? By whom are they cutting? By the bosses. The bosses cut the muscles of the workers. The bosses cut the muscles of the workers.

The crisis of capitalism is a crisis of class war. The bosses reduce the workers’ hours, and the workers fight back. Work is no longer a matter of wages, but a matter of life and death. Work is no longer a matter of survival, but a matter of existential struggle. Work is no longer a matter of earning a living, but a matter of fighting to live. Work is no longer a matter of producing commodities, but a matter of producing humans.

The crisis of capitalism is a crisis of the state. The bosses have the power to cut, the state has the power to force. The bosses cut, the state forces. The state forces the bosses to cut, the bosses force the state to force. The state, in the hands of the bosses, is a force of the bosses against the workers.

The crisis of capitalism is a crisis of the class struggle. The bosses are the enemies of the workers, and the workers are the enemies of the bosses. The bosses and the state are the enemies of the workers. The workers are the enemies of the bosses and the state.

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How Cuban military commander was won to the revolution

At Bay of Pigs in April 1961, U.S. transport ship Houston, carrying counterrevolutionary invaders, was sunk by fledgling Cuban revolutionary air force. Inset, Enrique Carreras led the pilots in action.

Enrique Carreras: In the course of World War II, while in the United States, I had never before seen women occupying posts previously held only by men, or training alongside men. At the time of the war there was still a lot of machismo in Cuba. We did not want to see women in the streets alone going to the store, much less working outside the home, even in the fields. The revolution has been eliminating all that machismo.

At Kelly Field I saw women training as pilots and gunners for ferrying B-25 bombers from bases in the United States to Canada, and sometimes even to Britain.

That was my first experience in the United States. What I learned there — the training I received as a combat pilot — I subsequently taught to the pilots we trained in the early years of the revolution, including those who fought at Girón. The same tactics the U.S.-organized forces used in attacking Cuba, we applied against them.

But we were defending a just cause, while they were coming to reconnquer what they had lost. So we’re not talking about moral equalities. …

By 1955, the political situation in Cuba was very bad. In March 1952 Batista seized power and seized power in a military coup.

On July 26, 1953, the Moncada army garrison was attacked. This assault was the motor that drove the revolution forward, even though it failed militarily. The attackers were not able to take the garrison, distribute arms to the people, and open the offensive against Batista — which is what they intended to do. Some of the combatants were murdered right there in the Moncada garrison. Others were convicted and sent to prison, serving their sentences on the Isle of Pines. …

Like a number of other soldiers and officers in the armed forces, I was opposed to the Batista dictatorship. … I was arrested, tortured, court-marshaled, and dishonorably discharged by the tyranny. Initially they asked for the death penalty, served it in various prisons, including La Cabana. Then they sent me to the Isle of Pines, where I began to get to know the revolutionaries who were imprisoned there. …

During a pause in the July 26 Movement had who had come on the Granma were imprisoned there. Young people from the Revolutionary Directorate and people from the Popular Socialist Party were also there. All of them were there together.

The political views I held at that time came from the army. Anti- communism and hatred for the Soviet Union had been drummed into my head. That’s what they taught us in the army. I didn’t know what a communist was, but everything I had heard about them was bad. I was influenced by all that propaganda. While serving time in prison, however, I got to know all of them — [Jesus] Chicho Montané and other compañeros from the Granma; Lino, Nicolás, the compañeros from the Directorate.

By the time the revolution triumphed, I was no longer the anti- communist I had been before. I had become a progressive, a revolutionary. And then I witnessed all the acts of aggression organized by the U.S. government in the early years. I came to understand how wrong everything they taught me had been. I learned in the course of the struggle, and that’s the way. …

After the revolution’s triumph at the opening of 1959, Carreras was assigned by Fidel Castro to train a corps of pilots.

In April 1961, at the Bay of Pigs, the day they were preparing for the coming, as a prelude to the U.S.-organized invasion, the air force bases in San Antonio de los Baños, Santiago de Cuba, and Ciudad Libertad in Havana were bombed on April 15 by CIA-trained counterrevolutionary flyers whose planes had been painted to appear to be those of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR). The Cuban planes brought down nine U.S. military planes in a few minutes. Three were sunk. Cuba’s few existing planes had been dispersed on Castro’s instructions. Only two were destroyed.

So I rallied to honor the victims of the attack and to mobilize the entire population for the coming war. Fidel Castro proclaimed for the first time the social character of the Cuban revolution.

Expecting any invasion at any moment, the commander in chief ordered Carreras and the other pilots to be ready at all times. They slept on the runway beneath the wings of their aircraft.

On April 17, at 4:45 a.m., Carreras was urgently called to the televisor. Fidel Castro was on the line. A mercenary army was invading Cuba at Girón Beach on the Bay of Pigs. Casto issued immediate orders to the commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR).

“Carreras, there’s a landing taking place at Playa Girón. Take off right away and get there before dawn. Sink the ships transporting the troops and don’t let them get away. Understood?”

“Understood, commander.”

Over the next seventy-two hours, the air squadron Carreras headed, consisting of ten pilots and eight dilapidated planes inherited from the armed forces of the dictatorship, was decisive in destroying the American invasion. The Cuban planes brought down nine B-26 bombers flown by the counterrevolutionaries and U.S. pilots, sank a number of their ships, and destroyed the mercenary troops on the ground. Carreras himself shot down two aircraft, and the fighter plane he was flying was hit twice by enemy fire.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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Continued from front page

Failed Venezuela raid shows crisis of opposition

Demand jobs! Back workers’ struggles!

contracts once Guaidó was in office. Silvercorp

alist opposition.

Silvercorp USA and key figures in the pro-imperi

himself president in January 2019. He has led a se

run Venezuela’s refining industry is widespread

ela’s sovereignty by the U.S. rulers.

ening capitalist crisis that has led to shortages

threatened to make it one single strike with

One of their demands is for a guaranteed 40-

Workers from all the struck plants organized a car

Issues of workers’ dignity have also been raised. At

Fruit packers strike

Continued from front page

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The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced
rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order pay-
able to the \textbf{‘Militant’} and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

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\textbf{Correction}

The Militant June 1, 2020 9

Failed Venezuela raid shows crisis of opposition

Guaidó,” according to a contract signed between Silvercup USA and key figures in the pro-imperi-

alist opposition.

The raiding party was comprised of 50 to 60 Venezuelan police, according to U.S. defense officials, and two former U.S. Army special forces veterans put together by the Florida-based “security” contractor.

Guaidó sought to deny his involvement in the planning and execution of the operation, but where his signature was on the contract, designated as “commander in chief.”

The coup plotters sought to finance the operation by selling welfare programs. They attempted to ad-

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The more control we take of production the more

we learn about our own capacities to run society — something that is possible only in our

millions on a course to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

To lead that struggle workers need to build

our own parties and labor party. It would mobilize support from working people for those dem-

onstrating against the cover-up of the vigilante

killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia to those demanding relief from joblessness from Ban-
gladesh to Panama.

The SWP proposes workers fight for a fed-

erally funded public works program to put mil-

ions back to work at union-scale wages to create jobs building new homes, hospitals, schools,

housing and more that working people need.

And we need to fight for a 30-hour work-

week at 40 hours pay to keep fellow workers on

the job as opposed to bosses’ plans for deeper

layoffs.

Workers need to be at work — the main place

where we draw strength from acting together and
can organize ourselves in the course of our strug-

gles for what we need.

The capitalist rulers say their moves — shattering

the economy, locking us down in our homes, and

now debating at what pace to restart production are all done with our safety in mind. There can be

no fight for safety, health or anything else without

workers being at work. There we can organize to

begin wresting control of all aspects of production from the hands of the bosses to demonstrate over and

over they care nothing about us other than pushing

us to maximize their profits.

The fight for workers control of production is

the road to win control over jobs, line speed, work

conditions, and the impact of production on the

land, sea and air; to counter the bosses’ refusal to produce what workers need and to un-

lock their business accounts to reveal to all how their class works to exaggerate more and more of

the wealth our labor produces.

The more control we take of the production the

more we learn about our own capacities to run society — something that is possible only in our

millions on a course to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

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our own parties and labor party. It would mobilize support from working people for those dem-

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killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia to those demanding relief from joblessness from Ban-
gladesh to Panama.

It would explain why workers should break with

the Democrats and Republicans, the twin political parties of the capitalists, who work to defend their crisis-ridden social system. Above all it would show, as working people in Russia in 1917 and in Cuba in 1959 have proved — that the working class taking political pow-

er into their own hands and running society is in the

interests of the vast majority.

Join us!

Republican leader, said President Trump May 8, threatening, “It’d be a crime if we don’t.”

But it’s also the result of the U.S. rulers’ sanctions to live abroad.

The opposition has been vociferous support-

ers of Washington’s trade and financial sanctions

against Venezuela, which hit working people the hardest. It calls for further violations of Venezue-

la’s sovereignty by the U.S. rulers.

One crushing effect of U.S. sanctions that block

oil exports and imports of chemicals and parts to

run Venezuela’s refining industry is widespread

gasoline shortages in the oil-rich country.

The botched coup took place after years of deep-

ing capitalist crisis that has led to shortages of

medicine, food and other basic necessities for

working people, as well as soaring price rises. This

worsened in April with inflation ringing 40%.

Since 2015 some 5 million of the country’s popu-

lation of 30 million have fled these ruinous condi-

tions to live abroad.

The current crisis is the result of the world capi-

talist downturn, accelerated by government lock-

downs that followed the COVID-19 epidemic, and

the impact of the U.S. rulers’ sanctions. But it’s also

the result of the U.S. rulers’ sanctions to live abroad.

And his predecessor, Hugo Chávez, who sought

to use profits from the country’s vast oil industry to

fund welfare programs. They attempted to ad-

minister a new system of tax collection more unfair than the old. In doing so they took

working people to deepen their own struggles and

fight for their interests against the capitalist rulers.

Washington denies involvement

U.S. government officials have denied direct

involvement in the failed coup. “If we ever did

anything with Venezuela it wouldn’t be that way,”
said President Trump May 8, threatening, “It’d be

called an invasion.”

The U.S. rulers, however, do have a long record

of organizing coups in defense of their economic and political interests in the region —

beginning from the 1954 overthrow of Guatemala’s govern-

ment of Jacobo Arbenz, to their role in the removal

of Manuel Zelaya in Honduras in 2009, to those on

just two weeks ago.

The real target of U.S. imperialism is the work-

ers and farmers of Venezuela.

Washington’s assaults on Venezuela are deeply
tied to its decadeslong economic war against the

Cuban Revolution. The Cuban government has

over 20,000 medical and other volunteers in the
country and receives some oil supplies from Ca-

racas. The Trump administration has stepped up

Washington’s attacks on Cuba since the breakup of

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Biden has made it clear that if elected he would

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