Ga. protests lead to arrests of vigilantes in Arbery killing

BY SAM MANUEL
ATLANTA — Following weeks of protests demanding justice for the killing of a Black youth in Brunswick, Georgia, by a gang of white vigilantes, state cops have arrested a third suspect. The protests have demanded the arrest and prosecution of the vigilantes and the ouster of all those involved in a two-month-long attempt to cover up the killing.

Ahmaud Arbery was gunned down Feb. 23 while jogging in a Brunswick neighborhood by Travis McMichael and his father Gregory. The latter is a retired cop and former investigator in the local prosecutor’s office.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation — Continued on page 8

Demand jobs! Fight for public works program to create jobs

Ayson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following statement May 26.

Malcolm Jarrett is the party’s candidate for vice president.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

The bosses and their governments tell workers “we are all in this together” as they have shuttered factories, stores, small businesses and others in every description, throwing millions of us out of work. They say that we should count on them to protect the livelihoods and futures of “all Americans.” But there are two very different classes in the U.S. — the America of the ruling families, who own the factories, banks and land, and that of working people, who have no choice but to sell our labor power to the bosses in order to survive.

Workers’ battles over wages, conditions show way forward

When bosses claim ‘we’re all in this together’ — it’s a lie!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Fruit packers in Washington’s Yakima Valley are the key who stoppage and protest for higher wages, safer working conditions and respect, along with owner-operator truck drivers fighting against brokers’ rate-gouging and onerous government regulations setting an example for working people everywhere.

The bosses and their government seek to put the burden of the social crisis on us — caused by their lockdowns on jobs, production and trade — onto the backs

Continued on page 6

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Continued on page 6

Thousands defy ban, protest Beijing rule over Hong Kong

BY TERRY EVANS

Thousands took to the streets May 24 to protest against the Chinese rulers’ decision to impose a repressive “national security” law over political activity in the territory. Beijing hopes to take advantage of the crackdown on protests by Hong Kong officials under the pretext of stopping coronavirus to tighten its control over the key port and financial hub.

The Chinese rulers aim to deal blows to the mass movement of working people and youth demanding greater political rights and autonomy from Beijing. Since last summer over a million people have demonstrated for direct elections of Hong Kong’s chief executive and its assembly, which is currently appointed by a Beijing-dominated committee.

The new law is set to be adopted by China’s National Political Congress, which began its meeting in Beijing May 22. Despite brutal cop assaults on protesters

Continued on page 9

Our favorite paper just arrived!’ Interest grows in ‘Militant,’ books

BY SETH GALINSKY

“Our favorite paper just arrived, el Militante.” Ramón Torres, president of Familias Unidas union, announced May 22. For the first time since workers began striking at fruit packing plants around Washington’s Yakima County a workers’ committee elected by the strikers reached a preliminary agreement with one of the struck businesses and agreed to return to work, the union reported. The news buoyed workers still on strike at four other plants.

Continued on page 7

Inside

FBI’s frame-up of Michael Flynn dangerous for workers

Criminal Tatars mark 1944 deportation, Moscow occupation

Cuban leaders turn to working people to lead way forward

1,000s march against killing by Minneapolis cops

Editorial: Join fight against cop, vigilante killings
The Frame-up Unravels

The newly released documents show that shortly afterward FBI chief Comey ordered agents to entrap Flynn. They lied to Flynn repeatedly, telling him they wanted to talk to him but he wasn’t under investigation. They told him there was no need to bring a lawyer to their “discussion.” Then the agents — including Strzok — pressed him about his talk with Kislyak, without telling him they already had every word of that conversation recorded.

The recently released documents show top bureau officials debated before talking with Flynn whether they should “get him to lie, so we can prosecute him or get him fired.”

But FBI agents reluctantly concluded they didn’t have real evidence to charge Flynn with anything and decided to close their case. Then anti-Trump fanatic and FBI official Strzok ordered them not to.

The Frame-up— Unravels

Flynn’s entrapment was part of broader efforts by partisan FBI leaders and Democratic politicians to bring down the Trump administration. This use of the rulers’ political police inside the bosses’ two political parties is new.

The recent revelations document how former FBI directors James Comey and Robert Mueller and ex-Deputy Assistant FBI Director Peter Strzok tried to cook up a way to entrap Trump and get him impeached in 2016, starting with their operation against Flynn.

Before Trump assumed office, Flynn spoke on the phone with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in December 2016, to set the stage for the new ambassador’s efforts by partisan FBI leaders and anti-Trump bosses’ two political parties is new.

The Trump administration. This use of Democratic politicians to bring down the Trump administration. This use of the rulers’ political police inside the bosses’ two political parties is new.

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Crimean Tatars mark 1944 mass deportation, Moscow occupation

BY EMMA JOHNSON

On May 18 a group of Crimean Tatars put on trial by Moscow on trumped-up terrorism charges staged a daring protest during a military court hearing in Rostov-on-Don in Russia. Placed behind a glass cage for the hearing, the seven men held up signs smuggled in by fellow fighters reading, “Free prisoners of Kremlin.” “Kept our dignity in the past, will keep it now,” and “Don’t forget the exile 5/18/1944.”

That date was when the Stalinist regime in Moscow carried out the mass deportation of the entire Crimean Tatar population, taking them hundreds of miles east from Crimea to Central Asia and Siberia. Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin slandered them all as agents of the Nazis during the World War II German occupation of Crimea.

The anniversary of that deportation is memorialized every year by Crimean Tatars wherever they are.

The Tatar people were allowed less than an hour to collect their belongings. In two days 200,000 people were herded into railroad cattle cars behind locked doors with few provisions and little water.

During the expulsion and over the next two years almost half of them died. Over the following five decades those who survived fought for their right to return to Crimea.

One of the leaders of that fight — Mustaf Dzhemilev — became one of the best-known opponents of the Stalinist rulers, speaking out for all those under their boot. He spent 15 years in prison in the Gulag. He was less than a year old when he and his family were

Crimea seized by Russia in 1978

Crimea was conquered by the Russian czarist army in 1783 and occupied until 1991. The only year of this period when there was a flowering of independence was following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. The Tatars established an autonomous socialist republic, as did the Ukrainians. National culture flourished and national pride grew.

But in the late 1920s a growing bureaucratic layer led and epitomized by Stalin carried through a bloody counterrevolution against the policies of the Bolsheviks. National rights were trammeled, in both Crimea and Ukraine.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, big waves of Tatars reappeared. The Tatar-run schools opened up. Newspapers and media channels in the Tatar language were started and traditional customs and celebrations reappeared.

Today, after decades of first czarist and then Stalinist efforts to repopulate the peninsula with ethnic Russians, the Tatars account for approximately 12% of the Crimean population. They are part of some 200 million people in the world speaking a Turkic language and practicing Islam.

This rebirth of Tatar national life was abruptly brought to an end when the Vladimir Putin regime in Moscow seized Crimea as part of Ukraine, in February 2014, after popular mass mobilizations overturned the pro-Moscow Ukrainian government of Viktor Yanukovych. Since then the Russian government has cracked down on all opposition in Crimea, with the Tatars being especially hard hit.

Newspapers and media are prohibited, schools closed down and cultural institutions shut. Events honoring the lives of those who perished in the 1944 expulsion are forbidden. That makes the May 18 action in the courtroom in Rostov-on-Don even more significant.

The cops of the FSB, the Russian security service, routinely harass and interrogate Crimean Tatars, forcing their way into people’s homes between 400 and 600 in the morning brandishing automatic weapons to terrorize families.

The Crimean Tatar Resource Center reports a ninefold increase in politically motivated arrests from 2017 to 2019. One hundred fighters for Tatar national rights — including those who carried out the Rostov courtroom protest — are currently held in Russian prisons.

Moscow banned the Mejlis in April 2016, calling it an extremist organization. This March the Russian government filed criminal charges against Refat Chubarov, chair of the assembly after Dzhemilev stepped down in 2013, claiming he “organized mass riots.”

In April Dzhemilev was retrospectively charged with defying a ban from Moscow when he entered his native country in May 2014. He now faces new criminal charges in exile for attempting to return to his own homeland.

During Moscow’s six-year occupation, the composition of the population in Crimea has continued to undergo changes. According to Moscow’s statistics, some 250,000 people have moved to Crimea from Russia. At the same time some 140,000 Crimeans have left. Most of them are Ukrainians, but more than 25,000 Tatars have been forced to flee.

What goes on now is a repetition “in a somewhat distorted form of what happened in 1944,” Dzhemilev said in a recent interview. Although today Moscow doesn’t put people “in cattle cars as they did in Stalin’s time, they are creating conditions so that the Crimean Tatars will leave Crimea.”

Cheryl Goertz, 55 years as a cadre building the Socialist Workers Party

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — Cheryl Goertz, a 55-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party, died May 19 of complications from a lifelong congenital autoimmune disease. Born in Hillsboro, Kansas, in 1944, Goertz joined the SWP in the mid-1960s in Chicago. She spent the rest of her life building the party in cities across the country, including Chicago, Boston, Salt Lake City, Tampa, Florida; Pasadena, California; Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta; and Carrollton, Georgia.

Goertz shouldered many party responsibilities, from organizing Socialist Workers Party and Militant fund drives to help getting SWP candidates on the balloting, making sure every detail of often complex paperwork was properly carried out. She joined the international campaign to free Troy Davis from death row, an effort centered in Georgia, where she lived with her companion Dave Wulp since 2005.

Goertz covered and sent pictures for the Militant on the Troy Davis fight and a wide variety of union and social struggles.

A May 30 meeting is being organized by the party in Atlanta to celebrate her contributions to building the revolutionary working-class movement. Messages from those who knew and worked with her should be sent to the SWP in Atlanta, with copies to the Militant. A future issue will carry a report on the meeting.

Further reading ...

“Declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism.” V.I. Lenin, 1922

In the letter written just before he was murdered by the White terror cops in 1925, Lenin argued that a revolutionary war was necessary to uphold the new Soviet state in the face of counterrevolutionary threats.

The Militant  June 8, 2020 3
Continued from front page

Dennison is on the ballot as the SWP’s candidate for governor of Wash-
ington. He returned to the picket lines May 19-20 with Alyson Kennedy, the
party’s candidate for president.

“The Democratic and Republican parties do not represent working people,
they represent the rich,” Kennedy told strikers when she was invited to address
the Columbia Reach Picket line in Yakima. She told them she joined with
truck drivers protesting in Washington, D.C., against attacks on their livelihoods
by brokers who dictate the rates they receive for moving freight, and against
government regulations.

“What you are doing is the only way to change things for working people.
We’ve got to do more of this,” Kennedy said.

Angelina Lara, one of the strikers at Allan Brothers packinghouse in Naches,
described conditions to SWP congressional candidate Rebecca Williamson.

“When the supervisors tell older work-
ers or a pregnant woman to do the phys-
ically harder jobs, I offer to swap with
them. The supervisor gets mad and says
me and sent me to Vietnam to lose
the picture of indepen-
dence we’re being defeated.”

“The Democratic and Republican parties, which they say is the Democrats.
“We can rebuild the unions as we
work together, but it’s not true,” Samir Haz-
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“Not all in this together”

“They tell us we are all in this to-
gether, but it’s not true,” Samir Haz-
boun, a Walmart worker who is the
SWP congressional candidate in Ken-
tucky’s 3rd District, told Kevin Ken-
dy in Louisville May 23.

“I had some hope for the governor
when he was first elected,” Kennedy, a
utility worker, replied. “He said he was
for working people. But I think differ-
ently about him now, and I sure don’t
agree with all those exceptions.”

“We need to break with the bosses’
parties,” Hazboun said. “We need our
own party, a labor party.”

“That sounds good,” Kennedy
said. “But the unions aren’t like they
used to be.”

The top union officials “tell us what’s
going to happen,” Hazboun told machinist Scott Blair
in Louisville May 23.

“I am not an open borders person,”
Kennedy said. “But I sure don’t agree
with denying millions of people their
right. If they are working here give
them amnesty.” He got two issues of the
Militant and invited Hazboun and Hen-
derson to come back to talk some more.

Fighting speedup on the job

Hazboun told mechanic Scott Blair
down the street that the bosses will use
the tens of millions of unemployed to di-
vide workers and force down wages and
speed up the pace of work.

“I know what you are saying. We get
paid a flat rate for repairing cars. So
there’s always pressure to go faster,”
said Blair. “I’m not against the rich. But
if you’ve got $6 billion, what’s another
$6 billion to you. They just can’t stop.
It’s about profits and power.

“The capitalist class is incapable of
organizing society in the interests of
humanity,” Hazboun said. “As working
people organize together we begin to see
what we are capable of and that we can
replace the role of the exploiters with a
workers and farmers government.”

Blair and his wife Amy subscribed
and picked up two other books by
Barnes, The Clintons’ Anti-Working-
Class Record: Why Washington Fears
Working People and Are They Rich
Because They’re Smart.

“Working people in the United King-
dom are facing lockdowns and restric-
tions on workers’ rights—just like in
the U.S. Members of the Communist
League there campaigned in Brough-
ton, North Wales, where bosses at air-
craft manufacturer Airbus have just fur-
loughed 3,200 workers.

Scott Hughes, who used to work the
plant, told CL member Hugo Wils
that cops “broke up a family birthday
event and even tried, but failed, to stop
me from laying flowers at a grave.”

“The rulers want us to police each
other,” Wils replied. “Meanwhile the
bosses are cutting wages, working
conditions and the standard of living.”

Hughes got a subscription.

‘Our favorite paper just arrived!’

Amy Blair in Louisville, Kentucky, got Militant subscription and
The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record after talking with SWP congressmen and
 candidate Samir Hazboun.

The Militant’s plan to sell off shares of the com-
pany to private capitalists, lay off thou-
sands of workers, and speed up produc-
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“Not all in this together”

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Hughes got a subscription.
Gov’t tries again to frame up Amtrak engineer in 2015 crash

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — For the last five years Amtrak engineer Brandon Bostian, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, has been hounded by prosecutors and government officials determined to frame him up for a 2015 passenger train derailment in which eight people died and over 200 were injured.

Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Victor Stabile reinstated criminal charges against Bostian May 12, 2017, the last day before the statute of limitations ran out. That is why Amtrak’s attorney refused to file charges, saying — as did Judge McDermott — there was simply no evidence of criminal intent.

In September 2017 a Philadelphia Municipal Court also dismissed the charges, only to have the ruling overturned in Common Pleas Court.

For the third time Bostian now faces charges of reckless endangerment, causing a catastrophe and involuntary manslaughter. “This was an accident and not a crime, and we will appeal,” Bostian’s lawyer, Brian McMonagle, told the press.

On May 12, 2015, Bostian was the engineer on Amtrak Northeast Regional Train 188 when it derailed after accelerating from 70 to 106 mph at the Frankford Junction curve, which has a 50 mph speed limit. With 14 years of experience and respected for his concern for safety by fellow engineers, Bostian had suffered a head injury and does not remember the crash.

Minutes prior to the derailment two engineers running near trains reported projectiles hitting their cabs. The engineer’s window on a SEPTA commuter train was broken and an Amtrak Acela train’s window was shattered. Cracks in the windshield of Bostian’s train indicate it may have also been hit.

In 2016 the National Transportation Safety Board issued a report blaming the accident on the fact the engineer’s “attention was diverted to an emergency situation with a nearby SEPTA train that had mayhem on its tail.”

Bostian tested negative for drugs and alcohol, and was found to have not been using his cellphone.

“If a second engineer had been present to assist the engineer of Train 188 in managing the multiple tasks confronting him,” Dennis Pierce, national president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, told the press, “there would have been no accident.”

When the government-funded passenger line was created in the 1970s, Amtrak locomotive cabs were required to have at least two crew members. But to cut costs, Amtrak has refused since 1983 to crew Northeast Corridor train cabs with more than an engineer.

Crew cuts are a major issue that endangers all rail workers and people in the cities and rural areas they operate in. Efforts to frame up Bostian for the crime he immediately following the derailment. “Clearly he was reckless and irresponsible in his actions,” said Michael Nutter, Philadelphia’s mayor at the time, with no evidence to back it up.

After the crash Amtrak finally in- stead of at Frankford Junction a safety system called “positive train control.” It’s designed to slow down and stop any train going above the speed limit.

Rail unions have been demanding this for years, and Congress ordered the rail bosses to deploy it nationwide. But the railroad owners postponed doing so for years, claiming it was too expensive.

“Our campaign gives full support to the fight by rail worker Brandon Bostian against this frame-up,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania’s 3rd District, told the Militant. “Time and again, rail workers are blamed by the bosses and the government for accidents when it’s the bosses who are the real culprits. They dash work crews, disregard safety and gut working conditions in search of higher profits.”

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 and defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Look for local unions that form their own party, a labor party.

One union for all workers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based car services! Support farmworkers and other farm workers 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 strike against 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 on union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing workers need. Send your campaign contributions to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

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

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

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

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

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

WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION The bosses and their government lie to working people about their production costs and profits, yet they insist they can’t afford to pay higher wages. Demand they open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. To prevent capitalist collusion and thievery — and their production of shoddy and dangerous goods like the Boeing 737 MAX — workers in their millions will need to take control of the production process, fighting against the drive for profits and a school for running the economy for the interests of ourselves in the all.

FOURTH PARTY For a labor party and a movement independent of the ruling capitalist system — the Democrats and Republicans.

POLITICAL RIGHTS For the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and other actions against the four.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End suppression of the Militant, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to the bosses and the government for accidents when it’s the bosses who are the real culprits. They dash work crews, disregard safety and gut working conditions in search of higher profits.

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We're not 'all in this together'

Continued from front page

The job, working and joining together to fight for our defense, and in defense of those exploited by capitalist exploitation.

Working-class strikes, write actions and protests, fight against brutality and killings by cops and vigilantes, and organize for self-defense. In this way class is growing.

As part of their endless efforts to convince us that all we can do today is smile and accept our lot in life because our bourgeois puppies have dubbed this "the age of the virus." But that’s a lie.

The problem workers face today isn’t a disease, but the growing crisis of world capitalism. And a better class of people — working people, whose labor power produces all wealth — are awakening.

From sanitation workers in New Orleans to immigrant wage-collectives in Chicago, students and protesters are breaking out as working people, whose labor power produces all wealth, are awakening.

Continued from front page

Cuban leaders turn to working people to lead the way forward

BY SETH GALINSKY

It has done ever since the fight to overthrow the U.S.-imposed Fulgencio Batista government in Cuba has turned to spreading recognition that this is the road of work-power — to promote divisions between bosses and workers, wage and working conditions of the ruling classes of rival capitalist countries.

Workers, farmers, young and their mass organizations are increasing food production and helping organize the control and production of food to withstand the pandemic. They are going door to door to make sure that they are going through food care they need, and making sure that no one is left on their own.

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— working people, whose labor power produces all wealth — are awakening. Striking immigrant waste workers block company plant in Buena, Idaho. May 12 in fight against steep pay cut. (Photo by Mike Hardman)
Louisville rally: Arrest cops in killing of Breonna Taylor

The Militant JUNE 8, 2020

BY JACQUE HENDERSON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — More than a hundred people gathered here May 25 to protest the March 13 police killing of Breonna Taylor, 26-year-old emergency room technician.

“My daughter’s life mattered,” Tammers Palmer told fellow protesters. “This is the end of it. They should be held accountable.”

Taylor was killed in a police raid on her apartment after midnight. The plain-clothes cops in unmarked cars were assumed by her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, to be intruders. He called 911 to say Taylor and he were “in significant, imminent danger.”

After bursting down the door with a battering ram, the cops fired a hail of bullets. Eight shots hit Taylor. Walker picked up his gun to try to defend himself and his girlfriend. He fired a warn- ing shot, hitting an officer in the leg. Walker was arrested and charged with attempting to commit murder, later released and the charges dropped.

For two months, Taylor’s family pressed for authorities to explain what happened. The killing received renewed attention when the family filed a lawsuit charging Metro Police Department Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and Officers Brett Hankinson and Myles Cosgrove with killing their daughter as they “sprayed gunfire into the residence with total disregard for the value of human life.”

The officers justified their actions, saying they had a “no-knock” warrant to search for narcotics and a warrant for a suspect. But they admit they found no drugs after searching the apartment, and the person they claimed to be looking for was already in police custody. The officers have been “placed on administrative leave,” but none have been arrested.

The cop killing of Breonna Taylor finally began getting some coverage after the months-old vigilante killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia broke through the media.

The May 24 Death Day action began with the families of both Taylor and Walker leading a procession of cars circling the parking lot outside their apartment while supporters cheered. They then joined their neighbors and other sup- porters in holding a rally and wreath laying in front of the apartment where she was killed.

Junjuly Palmer, Breonna’s sister and roommate, pointed to a bulletin hole in the wall, explaining her bed is on the other side, and she would likely have been hit if she had been.

Further protests are planned.

Protests lead to arrest of vigilantes in Arbery killing

Continued from front page

The McMichaels were arrested on murder charges May 7, two days after protests over their charges. A Glynn County grand jury that had reviewed the entire 25-year-old youth. The video had been made by Bryan.

Bryan’s attorney said his client played no role in the shooting and is only a witness. But Gregory McMichaels, who is the name Print Bryan used, had attempted to “block” Arbery’s escape.

The McMichaels have said they chased Arbery because they suspected he had committed burglaries in the neighborhood. But there are no police records of any burglaries. That accu- sation centers on security tapes that show several people buying things at a home construction site over several months.

Larry English, the owner of the house under construction, told the Wall Street Journal that Arbery is among those shown on the security tapes, but that nothing was ever taken and no damage was done. He is pressing confidence that all those who press May 18.

For two months after the fatal shoot- ing, lawyers, family members and neighbors, sometimes armed, going on property to “check things out.”

An attorney for English also con- firmed that a Glynn County cop had texted her client in December to say that Gregory McMichael was willing to help “deal” with any trespass - ers. He also said it was likely Arbery interrupted his jog to get a drink of water from the site.

The Georgia Bureau of Investiga- tion director told the press that the agency expected to wrap up its inves- tigation in a relatively short time, expressing confidence that all those who needed to be charged in connection with the shooting have been charged. But thousands have taken to the streets to demand that all those involved in trying to cover up the kill- ing be fired or charged. The actions have included church and Black rights organizations and local unions. Lead- ers of International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1423, which or- ganizes dockworkers at Brunswick’s large port, have joined the protests.

The slain youth’s mother and attor- neys for the family say there are oth- ers who need to be arrested.

“The Georgia NAACP remains focu- sed on its advocacy efforts to en- sure that Jackie Johnson and George Barnhill [two prosecutors] are both held responsible,” the group told the press May 18.

Last year a grand jury investiga- tion found a “culture of cover-up and abuse of power” in the Glynn County police department. The police chief and three of his former and current cops were indicted.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Arizona Ave. NW, Suite 300, Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5800. Email: swwashville@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0088. Email: el_austrialia@optusnet.com

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 4301 rue Sherbrooke orientale, 2nd floor. Zip: H2S 2N5. Tel: (514) 772-9440. Email: cwmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 1030, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga, Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauke@xtra.co.nz

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Continued from front page

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And when they grow large, inclusive and disciplined, they can force the capitalist authorities to prosecute and convict the lawbreakers. Authorities in Georgia have brought charges against the three vigilantes who carried out a modern-day lynching of Arbery after weeks of protests. In less than a day, outrage over the cops strangling Floyd led to them being fired.

Vigilante thuggery has long been used by the rulers to terrorize and attack both the labor movement and fighters for Black rights. Murderous Ku Klux Klan vigilante gangs were key to overturning Radical Reconstruction governments in the 1870s that sought to uproot the legacy of slavery and chart a road forward for freed slaves and all working people. Jim Crow segregation was imposed and defended in arms by vigilante lynchings and increasingly by cop-backed violence for decades afterward. Vigilantes also targeted Catholics, Jews, and immigrants, and was especially used to target class-conscious workers who sought to join struggles across the color line.

The vigilantes who killed Arbery worked hand in glove with cops and prosecutors, who helped and then tried to cover up for them. Of one them, Gregory McMichael, was schooled in brutality working as a cop. Outrage and protests against the killings of Arbery, Floyd and Taylor reflect the transformation and strengthening of working people resulting from the bosses to keep workers from organized and attacking their working conditions. As they move to restart their capitalist economy to compete against the bosses’ attacks. Their resolute struggle advances the key to unifying the working class.

The Militant explains workers need to wage a sliding scale of action programs against the bosses’ attacks. Their resolute struggle provides an example to emulate.

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This is a necessary step in learning how to run all of society — something that becomes possible as workers deepen their struggles, develop more self-confidence and break politically with the capitalist rulers. • In our millions we will construct our own party, that the working class and our allies can use to put an end to capitalist exploitation and abuse once and for all and establish a workers and farmers government.

Join us!

EDITORIAL

Join fight against cop, vigilante killings

Protests demanding prosecution of the vigilantes who killed Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia, and the cops who killed Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, and George Floyd in Minneapolis deserve the support of all working people. Cop and vigilante violence are a threat to the entire working class, and disproportionately target African Americans. Protests demanding the prosecution of those who carry out these assaults are an essential part of working people’s struggles against attacks by the capitalist rulers on our wages, conditions and rights. They are key to unifying the working class.

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1,000s march against killing by Minneapolis cops

Continued from page 8

Then Floyd stops moving. He’s pronounced dead at the hospital.

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