Protesters in Hong Kong say, ‘Beijing hands off’

By Terry Evans

Undeterred by police assaults and threats from bosses, workers and other fighters for political rights have continued to mount protests against the Chinese rulers’ deepening grip over their lives in the supposedly semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong.

Thousands took to the streets May 27 the day before China’s parliament enacted a special “security” law on Hong Kong, bypassing that territory’s own legislature for the first time. The rulings criminalize “separation, subversion of state power, terrorism or interference by foreign countries or outside influences.” It mirrors laws Beijing uses to stifle political oppositions in mainland China.

Hong Kong’s parliament itself adopted additional measures attacking free speech, including outlawing “disrespect” for the Chinese national anthem.

Retiree Rosa Ning told the spect” for the Chinese national anthem. free speech, including outlawing “disre-

Build powerful, disciplined working-class movement!

The following statement was released June 2 by David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Minnesota.

As we go to press . . .

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison filed more charges against cop Derek Chauvin. Three other cops involved in killing George Floyd have also been charged.

‘Militant’ drive goes over the top as protests and workers’ fights spread

By Seth Galinsky

Participants in rapidly growing protests around the country against the cop killing of George Floyd are buying up copies of the Militant newspaper and subscribing, purchasing books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries, and contributing to the Militant Fighting Fund. This helped take us over the top in the spring circulation and fund drives.

Inside

SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal over $105,000 and growing

Workers resist clampdown on protests by govt in Chile

Yakima fruit packers fight for wages, hours, safety

Demand freedom for Jalil Muntaqin now

SWP statement: Defend jobs wages, working conditions
George Floyd and their fight for justice
Floyd’s family joined some 60,000 demonstrators June 2 in Houston, where he grew up. Marching through the city demonstrators chanted his name and “no justice, no peace.”
Floyd, a 46-year-old African American, was killed when cop Derek Chauvin, who is Caucasian, handcuffed him and put his knee on Floyd’s neck for over eight minutes.
“I’m here to support the family of George Floyd and their fight for justice,” construction worker Ricky Harless told Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, at the Houston march. “I have had problems with the cops too,” said Harless, who spent two years in prison. “I pled bargained because I was facing 20 years for a crime I didn’t do.”
“His is peaceful pressure to change the system,” Houston city worker Everett Neal told Kennedy. “It can’t continue the way it is. The police union, the DAs, the whole system backs the cops up when they are wrong in the thousands.”
Numerous unions have spoken out against the killing, including the Amalgamated Transit Union, United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, Service Employees International Union, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and many more.
The National Farmers Union also denounced the killing.
Sizeable actions have taken place in cities across the country. Some demonstrations were in Auckland, New Zealand, June 1.
The large daily protests in the U.S. have put the spotlight on how the capitalist rulers use cop brutality to try to intimidate and punish working people. “The mass protests forced the government to arrest and charge Derek Chauvin,” David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Minnesota, said in a June 2 statement. Rosenfeld urged all those incensed by the killing to continue organizing disciplined actions and demand all four cops “be arrested and prosecuted.”
Some demonstrators have stood up to the widespread burning of stores by gangs of anarchists, provocateurs and looters who attacked themselves to the protests, adding to the devastation many communities already face.
When some looters dashed the windows of a New York Aldo shoe store, protesters rushed forward to pull them away and stop them. In Brooklyn protesters made a human chain around a Target store to prevent looters from breaking into it. Demonstrators in Los Angeles stopped them from ransacking a Walgreens pharmacy.
The destructive assaults “are a deadly obstacle to building the fight to end police violence and the struggle to defend working people,” Rosenfeld noted. “They demonstrated unequivocally ‘give the government a handle to blame protesters, not the cops and their ruthless brutality.’”
President Donald Trump seized on the lootings to threaten to send the military to occupy cities across the country.
The killing of Floyd came on the heels of cops shooting Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, and the vigilante killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia. Protests against all these killings take place as growing numbers of workers are finding ways to stand up to the bosses’ attacks on wages, hours and working conditions.
Below are some reports from around the country.

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**BY HELEN MEYERS**

**AND DAVID ROSENFELD**

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Daily marches and rallies of thousands in Minneapolis and St. Paul demanded the prosecution of four cops involved in the killing of George Floyd have continued since cop Derek Chauvin was charged with third-degree murder.

“Bus drivers are not transporting one more police officer. It is not our duty to move racist police,” Dom Jones, a bus driver and president of the Black Caucus of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1513, said in a statement.

Cuban young people plant cucumbers May 23, joining brigades to expand production.
Thousands of multiracial, mostly young protesters marched for several hours through streets of Minneapolis May 28 demanding prosecution of cops who killed George Floyd.

Cal 1005, told the rally on Minneapolis’ Lake Street. Union bus drivers are also refusing to assist cops transport protesters they arrest to jail. Bus drivers in New York have done the same in solidarity with fellow unionists.

“More than ever we need a new civil rights movement,” the local said in a statement, “that is joined with the labor movement and independent of the corporate establishment’s political parties so all workers from every religion, race and sexual identity can struggle together for a better future for people of color and for our collective liberation as working people.”

After four days of sizable protests and nights of looting and destruction organized by groups of anarchists, provocateurs and opportunists, Gov. Tim Walz imposed a curfew on both cities and organized the state’s National Guard since the second imperialist World War, along with State Police and other area cops.

Thousands joined several demonstrations May 30, marching and rallying for hours.

As night fell the combined military and police forces assembled by the city and state began to enforce the curfew, breaking up nonviolent demonstrations, patrolling working-class neighborhoods and forcing people inside their homes.

Carnage, cleanup, more protests

Hundreds of businesses and other buildings in the Twin Cities have been burned, looted or damaged. The government shut down all public transport.

Many gas stations, grocery stores, banks and pharmacies are closed, imposing severe hardships on working people needing medicines, food and public transportation for work.

Pat Rottach, a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, joined some fellow union members at the smoldering remains of the post office where he worked.

“The killing of George Floyd was absolutely sickening,” Rottach told the Militant. “That’s the first time I’ve had to say that to my co-workers. It affected us all.”

On May 31 rallies and marches continued outside the state Capitol in St. Paul and in Minneapolis.

More than 5,000 protesters marched from U.S. Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings football team. After taking a knee on the Hennepin Avenue Bridge — like former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick did — they marched towards Interstate 35W.

State officials closed all interstates as the marchers approached the highway. An 18-wheel oil tanker came toward the crowd and protesters scrambled out of the way. The driver was then pulled out of the cab by some demonstrators who began roughing him up. Other protesters intervened to save him.

The cops then swarmed onto the highway, forcing protesters off the bridge. The driver was arrested.

Several dozen peaceful protesters spent the night at the site where George Floyd was killed, which has turned into a growing memorial.

Zena Jasper contributed to this article.

BY JACQUE HENDERSON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Daily demonstrations protesting the killing of Breonna Taylor by Louisville police, reinforced by outrage at the killings of Abra Arbery and George Floyd, have continued here.

Taylor, a 26-year-old African American emergency room technician, was killed by plainclothes cops March 13. They broke down her apartment door with a battering ram as she and her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, slept. The cops fired dozens of bullets — at least eight hit her. Walker, who has a permit to carry a gun, fired a single shot at those bursting into the apartment, hitting an officer in the leg. Walker was charged with attempted murder, a charge later dropped.

The cops tried to cover up the killing, in the face of continuing efforts by Taylor’s family members to press for justice. They launched a lawsuit against the police and in May began organizing public protests.

On Memorial Day Tamika Palmer, Taylor’s mother, led a wrench-laying protest that drew more than 100 people to her daughter’s bullet-riddled apartment.

The next day the family organized a protest rally of 200 at the mayor’s office holding homemade signs saying, “Prosecute police who killed Breonna” and “Justice for Breonna.”

“Justice for Breonna.”

Later that day, after the release of the video seen by millions showing George Floyd dying at the hands of Minneapolis cops, workers and youth started going downtown to protest.

After hours of growing marches and rallies May 28, some forces went on provocation set out to attack police, vandalize and loot. Someone fired some shots and seven people were injured.

“The last thing Breonna would want right now is any more violence,” Palmer said in a May 29 statement. “Changes are being made, but it’s not enough. Please keep demanding justice and accountability, but let’s do it the right way without hurting each other. We can, and we will, make some real change here.”

That day marches took place across the city, with more than 1,000 people ending up in front of the city court-house. Many left as the sun went down, but some stayed, intending mayhem.

As demonstrations continue many people are trying to figure out how to move their struggle forward effectively.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of protesters joined a May 29 protest that assembled at 14th and U Street, marching to the White House and then to the U.S. Capitol demanding justice for George Floyd. The action grew to several thousand as others joined along the route.

Protests have taken place throughout the region from Baltimore to Hagerstown in Maryland and from Manassas to Richmond in Virginia, and in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Some 400 people turned out in Easton, on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

Hospital worker Liz Galati, 31, told the Militant that 200 turned out for a May 31 protest in Fredericksburg, Virginia. “When it seemed nothing was being organized, a friend and I put out a call and posted up leaflets. People of all ages, and nationalities came,” she said.

Three young people from Martinsburg carried a sign at the May 29 protest here that read, “Let me kneel on your neck for seven minutes and see if you can breathe.” A few at the action taunted these youth, saying because they are Caucasian they didn’t have a place at the march. Undeterred, they replied that police brutality is their fight as well, winning support from many others who had joined the protest. They stayed.

Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2020!

Allyson Kennedy for president

Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

SWP candidates coast to coast:

New York/New Jersey

Lee Sherman, US Senate, New Jersey
Willie Cotton, 9th CD, New York
Seth Galinsky, 10th CD, New York
Abby Tilsen, 20th CD, Albany
Jacob Garrera, 21st CD, Albany
Candace Wagner, 8th CD, Union City, NJ

Mid-Atlantic Region

James Harris, delegate to Congress, D.C.
Ruben Sharpe, 1st CD, Philadelphia
Maddie Green, 14th CD, Washington, PA
Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

South

Rachelle Furst, US Senate, Georgia
Anthony Daturi, 27th CD, Miami

Midwest

Naomi Craine, US Senate, Illinois
Maggie Trowe, US Senate, Kentucky
David Rosenfeld, US Senate, Minnesota
Samih Hadad, 3rd CD, Louisville
Henry Dennison, Governor, Washington

Southwest and West Coast

Henry Dennison, Governor, Washington
Rebecca Williamson, 9th CD, Seattle
Gerardo Sanchez, US Senate, Texas
Joel Brillon, 13th CD, Oakland

See directory on page 9 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

The Militant June 15, 2020 3

Like many other protests, May 29 march in Louisville, Kentucky, points to names of numerous victims of police killings, including Breonna Taylor who was shot by city’s police March 13.
Continued from front page

At a May 31 action of some 20,000 in Los Angeles, 17 protesters subscribed to the Militant and 27 bought books by revolutionaries. In Albany, New York, the day before, five subscriptions and five books were sold. Members of the Socialist Workers Party and other distributors of the Militant have found similar receptivity across the country and around the world.

‘Militant’ drive over the top

Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna tion of the cops who killed George the country demanding the prosecu-

mation of the two Louisville, Kentucky, and the vigilantes who killed Ahmad

Arbery in Georgia are important for all working people,” Kennedy told a rally of hundreds in Denver May 29. “The protests come at a time when the government tells us we must stay at home and quarantine while millions of workers have lost their jobs and we face growing depressions.”

Workers control of production

Kennedy and campaign supporters also talked with workers during the change at the JBS beef packing plant in Greeley, Colorado, May 30. Work-

ers said that under pressure the com-

pany had slowed the line speed a little so workers don’t have to work so close together in the midst of the coronavi-

rus pandemic.

“Slowing down the line speed should be permanent,” Kennedy told Angel Bernal, one of 17 workers who purchased a copy of the Militant. “Packaging workers have suffered in-

juries for years because of brutal speed-

up. Workers need to fight to take con-

trol of production,” in order to enforce safe working conditions.

“A lot of workers complain,” JBS worker Juan Avila told Kennedy. “I tell them we can’t just complain, we have to do something.”

“Changes come more when we stand up,” Kennedy said, pointing to the ex-

ample set by fruit pickers in Wash-

ington state who are striking for better conditions and higher wages, and to the protests organized by truckers fighting freight brokers who are refusing to pay drivers enough to survive.

‘We need disciplined action’

Kennedy also pointed to the na-

tionwide protests against police bru-

tality. “We need more disciplined actions, without the attacks on stores and small businesses that hurt working people and provide an excuse for the govern-

ment to blame protesters for violence and go after our rights.”

At a house meeting in

Wheat Ridge, Colorado, Kennedy said that such actions must make it harder to involve larger numbers of workers. “You can be sure the police are beh-

hind some of the violence,” said Edu-

ardo Quiñones, a body-shop worker. “I know this from when I was in Guate-

am during the war against the dictator.

The military actually at-

tacked the police and then blamed it on the move-

ment.”

Learn from Cuban Revolution

“We need to rebuild and transform the unions, break from the capitalist parties and build a labor party that can fight in our interests,” Kennedy said.

“This can put us on a course to use our power to do what the Cuban workers and peasants did in 1959, make a revo-

lution where the workers take power out of the hands of the capitalists.”

“In Guatemala we had the Cuban doctors,” Quiñones said. “We called them the ‘doctors without white shoes.’” This was because they would go into the most remote areas, with the rains and

the mud, to treat the poorest people.”

Quiñones, between the lines of Roja, a book about the role of volunteer Cu-

ban medical workers providing on-

the-ground, hands-on care to thou-

sands infected with Ebola in West Africa, that pushed back the dis-

tease. Their story shows the kind of people a deep-going socialist revolu-

tion produces. He also got Tribunes of the Peop-

le and the Trade Unions: The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proleta-

rian Party; and In Defense of the US Working Class, along with a subscrip-

tion to the Militant.

The spring drive is over, but mem-

bers of the Socialist Workers Party and other partisans of the Militant will continue reaching out to workers, farmers and young people in cities and towns, large and small. To join in see page 9 for the distributors nearest you or email the Militant at themil-

itant@mac.com.

Betsey Stone in Oakland, California, contributed to this article.

Militant/Betsey Stone

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy speaks with Angel Bernal during shift change at JBS meatpacking plant in Greeley, Colorado. “Slowing down line speed should be permanent,” Kennedy said. “Workers need to take control of production to ensure safe working conditions.”

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund April 4 - June 2 (final chart)

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June 19, 1995

MONTREAL — Protests in-

volving thousands of working people are being organized almost every day since the Quebec government announced plans May 11 to close nine hospitals in the Montreal area. Close to 1,600 hospital workers have been on strike in the coming year. More than 9,500 workers will be affected by these cuts, with several thousands losing their jobs altogether.

Coalitions of trade unions, com-

munity organizations and hospital workers are springing up to orga-

nize against these drastic cuts.

More than 800 hospital workers went to the Montreal Expo base-

ball game May 31 to publicize their fight to keep the hospitals open.

The next day, some 400 people participated in a vigil against the closing down of the Queen Eliza-

bethea hospital. Hundreds of health care workers also participated in the Women’s March Against Pov-

erty in Quebec City June 4.

June 19, 1970

A significant recent development has been the growing organization of nationalist sentiment in the Mexican-American, or Chicano, com-

munity. The first annual Chicano Youth Liberation Conference of Arizona held in March 1969 adopted a pro-

gram [that] calls for the formation of an independent Chicano party. The conference also raised the con-

cept of Aztlan, which includes all of the southwest United States, which originally belonged to Mexico: Tex-

as, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California.

The development of a Chicano party has gone the furthest in the city councils of Las Raza Unida Party mark the first elec-

toral victories for an independ-

ent Chicano party. Its candidates include three all-Chicano City Council of Cris-tal City, Cotulla and Carrizo Springs on April 7.
Cheryl Goertz: 55-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA — A meeting to celebrate the political contributions of Cheryl Goertz, a 55-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party, was held here May 30. Participants came from Atlanta; Greensboro and Hayesville, North Carolina; Miami and Plant City, Florida; Carrollton, Georgia; and New York.

Goertz died May 19 of complications from a lifelong congenital autoimmune disease. She was born in 1944 in Hillsboro, Kansas, a farm town with a population of 2,500. In the mid-1960s Goertz joined the Lawrence, Kansas, Young Socialist Alliance chapter, and the SWP where.

Cheryl’s sister Beth described Hillsboro in her message to the meeting. “It was a Protestant rural community with town and farm closely interconnected, with farm crops determining town sales in many ways. Bartering with town and farm closely intercon- nected, with farm crops determining town sales in many ways. Bartering was a part of the economy. For example, the person owning one of the gas stations bought furniture from our Dad and in turn we filled up our cars at no charge as payment.”

“Dad, a Republican, as most were in this area, was a practical socialist at heart,” she wrote. “When on the Draft Board during the Vietnam War for our area, he deter- mined that the farm boys were not eligible for the draft as they were needed for food production.”

These traits informed Cheryl, Beth said. “She was 100 percent reliable, steady, calm and collected.”

Susan LaMont, organizer of the At- lanta branch of the SWP, chaired the meeting. She welcomed participants, including Dave Wolpe, Cheryl’s 50-year companion, and for more than half a century a member and supporter of the SWP.

She encouraged people to read the 23 messages sent by comrades, family and friends put together in a booklet for the meeting. The messages were sent by people who spanned the sever- al generations Goertz had known and worked with building the party in cit- ies across the country, as well as from Communist Leagues abroad.

LaMont said we are living in a per- iod when the working class is awaken- ing, with job actions by workers taking place. A time when thousands, in cities and towns, are taking a stand in pro- tests against the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the vigilante lynching of Ahmad Arbery in Georgia.

An attractive three-panel display of photos and articles highlighted the SWP’s activity in the last 55 years, and Goertz’s political work as part of it.

LaMont read a message from Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary. “There are descriptions in many messages to this meeting of Cheryl’s ef- ficiency and of the carefully honed or- ganizational skills she continued to de- velop for well over half a century in our movement,” Barnes said. “But there’s one possible misunderstanding that is important to avoid. There was nothing administratively narrow, as organization is universally seen in bourgeois society, about Cheryl’s strengths and habits.

“Cheryl knew that the working- class movement had, above all, as its great strength, the ultimate capacity to organiz[e] millions of individuals who had never thought it was possible they would begin organizing a totally new society,” Barnes said.

“Proletarian politics without organi- zation and habits is a pretense, and there was no pretense to Cheryl.”

Goertz joined SWP in 1960s.

John Benson, a leader of the SWP in Atlanta, described the world that politi- cized Goertz in the 1960s, as she saw and got involved in the SWP’s activity in response to these developments. Benson explained he was of the same gen- eration, having joined the party just a few years earlier.

“Cheryl was inspired by the proletari- an-led struggle to smash Jim Crow seg- regation. She decided to go to a meeting to hear Malcolm X speak in 1963 while attending a teachers’ education program in Detroit. She defended Cuba’s social- istic revolution, led by Fidel Castro, where working people had taken power and uncompromisingly stood up to U.S. im- perialism. The movement against apartheid in South Africa was growing, and protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam were beginning.”

“Bud,” Benson emphasized, “she had to meet the party that was right in the center of these developments to put all this together.”

She threw herself into the fight against the indictment of three YSA members at Indiana University in 1963 on charges of attempting to overthrow the govern- ment of the state of Indiana.

Benson highlighted what he, Goertz and others of their generation learned from party leaders with experience in the big class battles in the 1960s. Benson pointed to a photo of Goertz, in her ear- ly 20s, having lunch with Ray Dunne. Dunne was a central leader of the Team- sters union battles in Minneapolis and throughout the Midwest, and of the So- cialist Workers Party and its efforts to lead workers in opposition to the U.S. rulers’ entry into the second imperialist slaughter of World War II.

“Cheryl was of the generation of young people who joined the party at a time when they still had the oppor- tunity to hear Ray Dunne speak to a Midwestern socialist educational con- ference and answer the question, ‘What does organizing a picnic right have to do with socialist revolution?’” Barnes wrote in his message.

“Ray answered by going through not only strikes and picnics, but workers mi- litias, which were the beginning of the arming of the proletariat. And it was all based on direct personal experience Ray had been an integral part of.”

Building a proletarian party

Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, explained that “Cheryl helped build many branch- es of the party — Chicago; Boston; Salt Lake City; Tampa; Florida; Pasadena, California; Birmingham, Alabama; and Carrollton and Atlanta in Georgia.”

Fruit pointed to a message sent by Bill Arth from Los Angeles. “Cheryl regu- larly participated in the effort to back up our union fractions by participating in plant gate actions,” Arth said. “Cheryl and I were a regular team at a sewing factory in Bowden, Georgia.”

Maria Hernandez, who worked at that plant when a party organizing commit- tee was established in 2007 in nearby Carrollton, came to the meeting. She told this correspondent of the respect she had for Goertz and other SWP members she worked with. “Being here to celebrate her life with everyone has meant a lot to me,” she said.

Fruit added that Goertz was a main- stay of mine portal sales in Birmingham to help the party’s fraction in the United Mine Workers union.

“Cheryl had an unswerving con- viction,” Fruit said, “that the working class will carry out its historic job and rid the world of the dog-eat-dog system of capitalism and begin to build a new society based on human solidarity. She

Continued on page 9

At 1968 Young Socialist Alliance convention Cheryl Goertz has lunch with Ray Dunne, a central leader of Teamsters union battles in Minneapolis in the 1930s and of the SWP.

SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal over $105,000 and growing

In the past week “stimulus” appeal contributions to the Socialist Workers Party reached $105,700 from 94 contributors with 10 new people in the last week. The total continues to grow.

“I am so happy to be sending my contribution to the party where it can be put to good use for the future of our class,” Cecelia Morriarity from Seattle wrote with her contribution.

Joanne Kamieisky from New Jersey accompanied her contribution with the following. “I was beginning to think I wasn’t getting anything when the ‘stimu- lus’ check arrived. It’s great to put it to use for the party.”

Edwin Fruit, a Walmart worker in Seattle, noted, “Farrell Dobbs, a central leader and organizer of the Teamsters in the class battles of the 1930s, and of the Socialist Workers Party, always kept his gas tank filled so he could respond immediately to any resistance by workers against the bosses and their govern- ment. Well, this money is for the same purpose.”

The nearly 100 contributors have taken the U.S. government “stimulus” payments and turned them into what Scott Breen, another contributor, called “an example of the law of unintended consequences.”

The contributions have created a special state, a qualitative augmenting of the SWP’s long-term financial capital — to be able to act in a timely and decisive way as the working class is awakening amidst the unfolding of the conse- quences of a historic worldwide capitalist decline. The stake is for the building of a proletarian party, now and going forward, that will organize working people in their millions to end capitalist exploitation and rule, and join hands with toilers worldwide to build a new social order based on solidarity.

If you’d like to join in donating your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Special Fund.”

— EMMA JOHNSON

Participants in May 30 Atlanta meeting look at displays showing Cheryl Goertz’s 55 years in building Socialist Workers Party. Inset, SWP leader Dave Prince addresses the meeting.

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Workers resist clampdown on protests against guillotine in Chile

BY LEANDRO CAIROLI

"We have fought for collective bargaining agreements. We are defending our people," Torres said. "We say: you put people first, not money, not profits." Torres also acknowledged workers' role in securing and maintaining the union's strength.

"We are fighting for proper work conditions," Torres said. "We believe in the power of working people to organize and resist." The current struggle is a continuation of the fight for workers' rights that has been ongoing for years.

"The struggle continues," Torres said. "We are not giving up." The workers are determined to keep fighting for their rights and resting their case on the guillotine in the streets of Santiago.
Demand freedom for Jalil Muntagiu now

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Former Black Panther Jalil Muntagiu, who has been imprisoned for 49 years, was rushed to the hos- pital from the Sullivan Correctional Facility in Falls burgh, New York, May 25 after testing positive for CO- VID-19. His blood oxygen level was at a critical 81%. Muntagiu, who has been held at the Sullivan County Jail in Neversink, New York, has been under the care of Dr. Richard J. Schick, a private surgeon who has been appointed to defend Muntagiu in his legal case.

Muntagiu, a former member of the Black Panther Party, was arrested in 1970 and has been in prison ever since. He was convicted of murder in the death of George Jackson, a Black Panther who was shot by police in New York City in 1969. Muntagiu was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Muntagiu has been the subject of a growing movement to free him, with supporters and allies calling for his release due to the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The movement has gained momentum in recent months, with thousands of people signing petitions and organizing protests in support of Muntagiu.

The latest development in the case comes after Muntagiu tested positive for COVID-19 on May 25. A spokesperson for the prison system said that Muntagiu was rushed to the hospital with symptoms of the virus, and that he was being treated for the illness.

Muntagiu’s supporters are calling for his immediate release, arguing that his age and health make him a high risk for the virus. They are also demanding that the prison system take stronger measures to protect all prisoners from the spread of COVID-19.

Muntagiu has been in prison for nearly 50 years, and his case has become a symbol of the ongoing struggle for racial justice and prisoner’s rights in the United States. His release would mark a significant victory for those fighting for a more just and equitable system.
Hong Kong, ‘Beijing hands off’

Continued from front page

**Times** that authorities insist on playing the anthem before public events like the flag-raising to remind residents and visitors to stand up, “I stood up against my will,” said Ning, “but in my heart, I was singing ‘Glory to Hong Kong,’” — the anthem banned by the movement for political rights.

Over the past year millions of working people and youth joined demonstrations demanding the release of leaders, including the city’s chief executive officer and its legislative council, currently selected by a Beijing-controlled committee, as well as for a halt to repression of their protests.

While the CPW is a union group — the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions — is pro-Beijing, today’s mass movement for political rights and greater democracy has led to a meaningful and purposeful formation of new trade unions that are more independent.

Some workers in Hong Kong reported that their bosses threatened to support Beijing against the growing pro-democracy movement. The Hong Kong Financial Industry Employees General Union, an affiliate of the union group, said Chinese officials, Chinese students and researchers with connections to Beijing’s military will be barred from entering the U.S., he said.

Kern County, “the city of Long Beach,” haughtily replied Zhao Lijuan, a spokesperson for the Chinese ministry of foreign affairs, warning Washington that Beijing would retaliate against U.S. companies in Hong Kong if Washington levies sanctions.

Millions of workers have moved from the Chinese mainland to Hong Kong since British colonial rule ended there in 1997. Many travel back and forth. Some participate in the movement for political rights in Hong Kong. The Chinese rulers remain not only fiercely determined to quash any resistance to their rule in Hong Kong, but to prevent it from spreading to mainland China.

When the Chinese government began lifting lockdown restrictions in March, the National People’s Congress that seized the opening to begin organizing, the China Labour Bulletin reports.

Construction workers recruited to build emergency hospitals from scrath in Wuhan, where the coronavirus outbreak began, protested to demand unpaid wages. In Luzhou, 1,000 taxi drivers protested to demand the suspension of cab rental fees and the right to sell their vehicles back to the cab company they bought them from with no penalty.

The ban on public gatherings in Hong Kong was slated to end after June 4 — the anniversary of Tiananmen Square.

**Defend jobs, wages**

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of bosses, who keep their profit-driven plans, books and practices hidden from workers and consumers alike. They have zero concern for how they make, for workers’ health and safety, nor what they do to the land, sea and air.

The fight by workers to wrest more and more control over production, including power over line speed, work conditions and job security, is today necessary steps toward workers running the entire economy.

We need to break with the bosses’ two-party shell game and build our own political party, a labor party, that speaks and acts in the interests of the working class and all those oppressed and exploited by capitalism. This party will lead a course of working-class struggle to strengthen us for the revolutionary battles necessary to overturn capitalist rule and put in power a workers’ and farmers government.

Join the SWP campaign!

Caryl Goetz: 55-year cadre of Socialist Workers Party

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was committed to the program and the party that is needed to lead that fight to victory.”

Fruit recounted some of the political campaigns of the party that Goetz had been a part of — the fight to stop the execution of Troy Davis, framed up, from Pavo, Georgia, who had been in prison for twenty-two years.

Mike Tucker wrote on behalf of the Communist League leadership in New Zealand, saying Goertz “found the road to a meaningful and purposeful life through building the revolutionary workers party.”

On behalf of the Communist League in New Zealand, the writer wrote, “As the deepest crisis of capitalism since the 1930s depression unfolds, Cheryl’s contributions to building the kind of proletarian party needed to forge a class-struggle leadership in the class battles that are coming are invaluable.”

A trained and educated Marxist

Dave Prince spoke on behalf of the SWP national leadership. “Cheryl became a trained and educated Marxist in the party’s program, schooled in two basic books of the SWP: The Struggle for a Proletarian Party by James P. Cannon and In Defense of Marxism by Leon Trotsky, that describe how the party was founded to defend the continuity of Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution against Stalinism in the 1930s, and its political corruption of giving up on making a revolution in the U.S. Her commitment was an example, to build a proletarian party to make that revolution in the country where you live, as part of joining the worldwide fight for socialism.”

“Cheryl was part of the generations represented at this meeting that carried forward that course and continue to do so today.”

“Cheryl was a cultured person in the true meaning of the word,” Prince said, “how she related to and worked with others in collective, human solidarity.”

Her sister Beth had written, “Cheryl enjoyed music, both classical and pop. She always carried the beat and kept the rhythm in her life going!”

Cheryl and her companion Dave’s hospitality to many at their home over the years, “Prince said, “was always a welcome relaxation and complement to hard political work.”

Prince closed his comments with the closing words of Barnes’ message: “The most striking thing about Cheryl over fifty-five years was not her unusual debilitating and long-lasting illness, but what she was determined to accomplish with the strengths she marshaled, and the tenacity that had her work, weaving the many she helped bring to the communist movement.”

“Doing this — I can testify personally — Cheryl’s work was and is an example to all of us.”

Participants contributed $1,135 to continue the work of building the party to which Goetz had devoted her life.

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**Join the SWP campaign!**