

## 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 “separatism, subversion of state power, terrorism or interference by foreign countries or outside influences.” It mirrors laws Beijing uses to stifle political opponents 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 *New York*

Continued on page 9

## Back fights to defend wages, jobs, working conditions!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Workers are increasingly taking action today to defend their wages, working conditions and dignity: from thousands of autoworkers on strike at Nissan in Spain and Renault in France over having jobs eliminated; to fruit packers out for better pay and conditions in Yakima Valley, Washington; to successful shop floor skirmishes at Walmart and other retail outlets over job combination and speedup.

These actions take place as the capitalist rulers worldwide are pushing to cut back on the anti-working-class shutdowns they’ve imposed for over two months, desperate to ramp up production and trade to compete with their rivals at home and abroad. And as tens of thousands are in the streets protesting killings by cops in Minnesota and Louisville, and by vigilantes in Georgia.

Continued on page 6

## Thousands of autoworkers in Spain, France strike against plant closings



CCOO Nissan

Nissan workers protest in Barcelona May 28, chanting “If this is not fixed — war, war, war!” demanding auto bosses reverse decision to shut down factories there in move to boost profits.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Thousands of autoworkers have gone on strike in Spain and France demanding their jobs back after both Nissan and Renault bosses announced factory closings and layoffs.

As auto bosses and others gear up to resume production after lengthy government-mandated closures, cut-throat competition amid decimated world markets and depression conditions are driving them to dump workers. They see this downsizing and consolidation as the only road to re-

store profit rates.

A thousand strikers massed outside the entrance to the main Nissan car plant in Barcelona May 28 after bosses announced they will close all Nissan car production in Spain by December. Workers chanted, “If this is not fixed — war, war, war!”

After the plants were shuttered by the Spanish government’s coronavirus lockdown in March, bosses reopened them May 4. When they refused to say whether they would keep

Continued on page 6

## Worldwide protests hit cop killing of George Floyd



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

More than 60,000 people joined June 2 Houston action against Minneapolis cop killing of George Floyd. Protests draw broad participation, shining spotlight on racist cop violence.

### 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.

### SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

The police killing of George Floyd has been met with outrage and protest throughout Minnesota, across the country and internationally. The mass protests forced the government to arrest and charge Derek Chauvin, the cop who killed George Floyd with a knee to

Continued on page 8

### Demand arrest, prosecution of all cops involved in killing

#### 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.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The scope and breadth of mass demonstrations in response to the cop killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis have not been seen for decades. Outraged by the killing, which followed on the heels of the vigilante

Continued on page 2

## ‘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.

New readers of the socialist newsweekly will find its coverage of the struggles of working people invaluable. It explains why police brutality is endemic to capitalist exploitation. The paper is a tool for building solidarity with the fights against police brutality and killings as well as the other struggles working people are waging today against the effects of the crisis-ridden capitalist system on our lives. Drawing on the lessons of decades of revolutionary struggles,

the paper helps explain what working people can do to defend themselves and all those exploited and oppressed by capitalist rule.

Continued on page 4

### Inside

SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal over \$105,000 and growing 5

Workers resist clampdown on protests by gov’t in Chile 7

Yakima fruit packers fight for wages, hours, safety 7

Demand freedom for Jalil Muntaqim now 8

SWP statement: Defend jobs wages, working conditions 8



# Worldwide protests

Continued from front page

killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, hundreds of thousands of working people have turned out in more than 250 marches, rallies and vigils in all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico and around the world.

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 plea-bargained because I was facing 20 years for a crime I didn't do."

"This 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 DA's, the whole system backs the cops up when they are wrong."

Thousands marched in other cities the same day. In Bronzville, on Chicago's South Side, Jourdain Gant, a young public school worker, was at his first protest. "I had to come down here and show my support," Gant told the *Militant*. "It's been eight days since George Floyd was killed and the protests have been continuous."

Those joining the actions around the country include Black and Caucasian, native- and foreign-born and people from all generations. Some came with homemade signs that read, "I can't breathe" — Floyd's final words as Chauvin put his knee on Floyd's neck. Others chanted the names of some of the thousands of other victims of police brutality over many years.

In New York, Gwen Carr demonstrated May 29. She has been a tireless fighter against police brutality since cops killed her son, Eric Garner, in Staten Island in 2014. Garner said over and over, "I can't breathe," trying to make officer Daniel Pantaleo let go of the chokehold he had put Garner in. In protests against police



Militant/Mike Shur

Daily protests have taken place in New York City and across the country. Above, thousands marched May 29.

brutality since then demonstrators chant "I can't breathe" while holding their arms in the air.

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 world. Some 10,000 marched 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 groups of anarchists, provocateurs and looters who attached themselves to the protests, adding to the devastation many communities already face.

When some looters smashed 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. He pointed out they unnecessarily "give the government a handle to blame protesters, not the cops and their ruthless brutality." President Donald Trump seized on the looting 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.



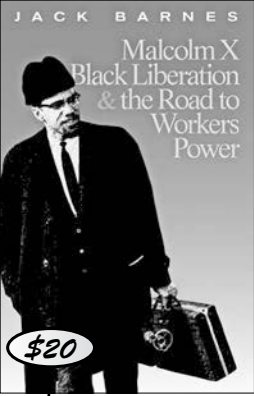
## BY HELEN MEYERS AND DAVID ROSENFELD

MINNEAPOLIS — Daily marches and rallies of thousands in Minneapolis and St. Paul demanding the prosecution of all four of the Minneapolis 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," Doni Jones, a bus driver and president of the Black Caucus of Amalgamated Transit Union Lo-

## Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes



Why revolutionary conquest of power by the working class will make possible the final battle for Black freedom and open the way to a socialist world.

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# THE MILITANT

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Juventud Rebelde/Roberto Suárez  
Cuban young people plant cucumbers May 23, joining brigades to expand production.

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Militant/Bill Scheer

Thousands of multinational, 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 largest mobilization of 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 serious 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 horrific," Rottach told the *Militant*. "But to have people stripped of the service the post office provides, that hurts the community."

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 JACQUIE HENDERSON

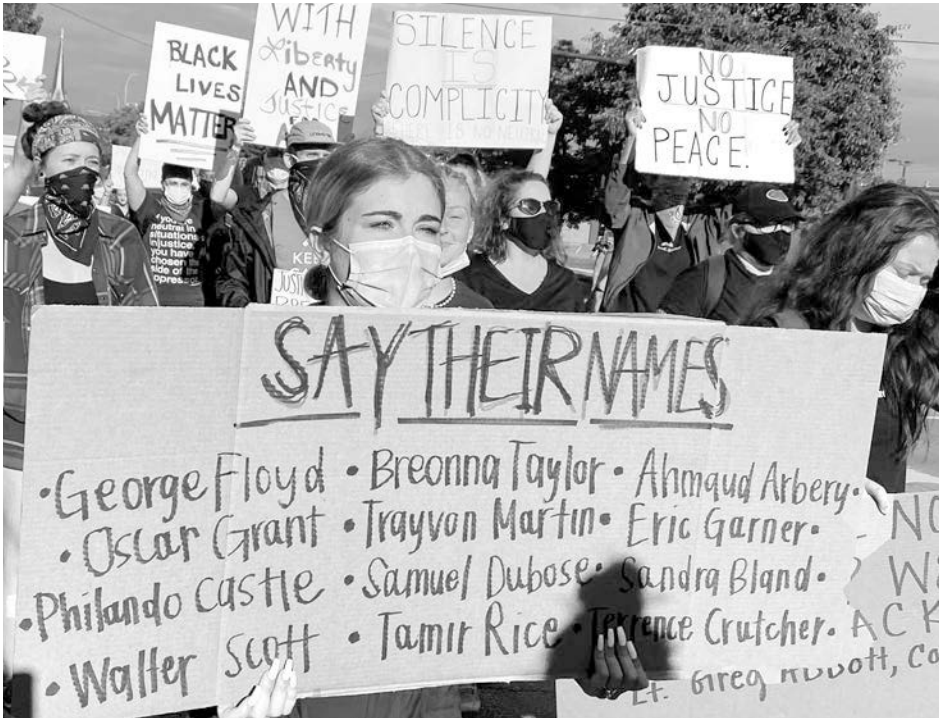
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Daily demonstrations protesting the killing of Breonna Taylor by Louisville police, reinforced by outrage at the killings of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, have continued here.

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 per-



Militant/Zena Jasper

Doni Jones, president of Black Caucus of ATU Local 1005, speaks at May 30 rally. Union calls for a "new civil rights movement that is joined with the labor movement."



Militant/Maggie Trowe

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.

mit 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 wreath-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."

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 bent on provocation set out to attack police, vandalize and loot. Someone fired some shots; 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! Alyson Kennedy for president Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

#### SWP candidates coast to coast:

##### New York/New Jersey

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

##### Mid-Atlantic Region

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Osborne Hart, 3rd CD, Philadelphia  
Ruth Robinett, 14th CD, Washington, PA  
Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

##### South

Rachele Fruit, US Senate, Georgia  
Anthony Dutrow, 27th CD, Miami

##### Midwest

Naomi Craine, US Senate, Illinois  
Maggie Trowe, US Senate, Kentucky  
David Rosenfeld, US Senate, Minnesota  
Samir Hazboun, 3rd CD, Louisville  
Helen Meyers, 4th CD, St. Paul

##### Southwest and West Coast

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Rebecca Williamson, 9th CD, Seattle  
Gerardo Sánchez, US Senate, Texas  
Joel Britton, 13th CD, Oakland  
Dennis Richter, 37th CD, Los Angeles  
Deborah Liatos, 40th CD, Los Angeles

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‘Militant’ drive over the top

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.

The interest in the paper at protests, strike picket lines and in discussions with working people on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas has taken the international drive to expand the reach of the *Militant* well over all its goals. More than 1,100 subscribed, over 950 books were sold and \$134,000 raised for the Militant Fighting Fund.

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, joined campaign supporters to sign up nine presidential electors and raised the \$1,000 needed to get her and running mate Malcolm Jarrett on the November ballot in Colorado.

“The massive outpourings across the country demanding the prosecution of the cops who killed George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, and the vigilantes who killed Ahmaud

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 depression conditions.”

Workers control of production

Kennedy and campaign supporters also talked with workers during shift change at the JBS beef packing plant in Greeley, Colorado, May 30. Workers said that under pressure the company had slowed the line speed a little so workers don’t have to work so close together in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Slowing down the line speed should be permanent,” Kennedy told Angel Bernal, one of 17 workers who purchased a copy of the *Militant*. “Packing workers have suffered injuries for years because of brutal speed-up. Workers need to fight to take control 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 only come when we stand up,” Kennedy said, pointing to the example set by fruit packers in Washington 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 nationwide protests against police brutality. “We need more disciplined actions, without the attacks on stores and small businesses that hurt working people and provide an excuse for the government to blame protesters for violence and go after our rights.”

At a house meeting in



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.”

Wheat Ridge, Colorado, Kennedy noted that such attacks make it harder to involve larger numbers of workers.

“You can be sure the police are behind some of the violence,” said Eduardo Quiñones, a body-shop worker. “I know this from when I was in Guatemala during the war against the dictatorship. The military actually attacked the police and then blamed it on the movement.”

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 revolution 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 bought *Zona Roja*, a book about the role of volunteer Cuban medical workers providing on-the-ground, hands-on care to thousands infected with Ebola in West Africa, that helped roll back the disease. Their story shows the kind of people a deep-going socialist revolution produces. He also got *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*; *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party*; and *In Defense of the US Working Class*, along with a subscription to the *Militant*.

The spring drive is over, but members 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 themilitant@mac.com.

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

‘Militant’ Prisoners Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’, earmarked “Prisoners Fund,” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund

April 4 - June 2 (final chart)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
Albany*	55	64	55	56	\$6,300	\$6,480
Atlanta*	55	59	55	56	\$10,550	\$10,564
Chicago*	80	121	60	73	\$11,400	\$12,052
Dallas	20	25	20	25	\$2,500	\$2,697
Lincoln	10	11	10	15	\$250	\$304
Los Angeles*	70	86	60	68	\$10,800	\$11,853
Louisville*	55	69	55	63	\$3,900	\$4,079
Miami	20	21	20	23	\$3,500	\$3,679
N. New Jersey*	55	68	40	47	\$5,000	\$5,240
New York*	65	82	60	79	\$14,000	\$14,530
Oakland*	65	83	70	79	\$12,000	\$12,200
Philadelphia	20	22	20	26	\$3,000	\$3,320
Pittsburgh*	30	39	20	22	\$2,250	\$2,580
Seattle*	55	78	40	53	\$10,500	\$11,444
Twin Cities	20	29	20	21	\$3,500	\$3,935
Washington*	30	52	45	30	\$5,500	\$5,763
Other		2				\$1,300
Total U.S.	705	911	650	736	\$104,950	\$112,020
Prisoners	25	36				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	35	37	40	42	\$4,250	\$5,188
Manchester*	27	33	37	41	\$1,722	\$1,979
Total U.K.	62	70	77	83	\$5,972	\$7,167
Canada*	65	70	75	103	\$9,360	\$9,979
New Zealand*	15	19	15	15	\$3,000	\$3,250
Australia	20	20	20	20	\$1,500	\$1,600
FINAL TOTAL	892	1,126	837	957	\$124,782	\$134,016
SHOULD BE	700	700	700	700	\$115,000	\$115,000
*Raised goal						

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 19, 1995

MONTREAL — Protests involving 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 beds are slated to be lost 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, community organizations and hospital workers are springing up to organize against these drastic cuts.

More than 800 hospital workers went to the Montreal Expos baseball 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 Elizabeth hospital. Hundreds of health care workers also participated in the Women’s March Against Poverty 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, community.

The first annual Chicano Youth Liberation Conference of Aztlan held in March 1969 adopted a program [that] calls for the formation of an independent Chicano party. The conference also raised the concept of Aztlan, which includes all of the southwest United States, which originally belonged to Mexico: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California.

The development of a Chicano party has gone the furthest in Texas. There the successes of La Raza Unida Party mark the first electoral victories for an independent Chicano party. Its candidates were overwhelmingly elected to the Crystal City school board on April 4 and to the city councils of Crystal City, Cotulla and Carrizo Springs on April 7.



June 16, 1945

More than a million war workers are seeking jobs. By the end of October, 4,800,000 war workers and returned veterans will be on the “no longer required” list.

The question of jobs, of adequate compensation during unemployment is posed squarely before the entire American labor movement. Nobody but the organized workers themselves are capable, ready and willing to fight for a bold and radical program of JOBS FOR ALL which will brush aside the profit and monopoly interests of a handful of ruling profiteers and compel the government to operate the plants at full capacity.

Precisely at this crucial juncture the leadership of the labor movement has shown itself least capable or willing to offer an adequate program and to mobilize the forces of labor for the type of all-out fight, on the economic and political field, which can achieve it.



# 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 when she moved to Chicago.

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 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 practical," she wrote. "When on the Draft Board during the Vietnam War for our area, he determined 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, and calm."

Susan LaMont, organizer of the Atlanta branch of the SWP, chaired the meeting. She welcomed participants, including Dave Wulp, 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 several generations Goertz had known and worked with building the party in cities across the country, as well as from Communist Leagues abroad.

LaMont said we are living in a period when the working class is awakening, with job actions by workers taking place. A time when thousands, in cities and towns, are taking a stand in protests against the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the vigilante lynching of Ahmaud 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 efficiency and of the carefully honed organizational skills she continued to develop for well over half a century in our movement," Barnes said. "But there's one possible misunderstanding that's 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 *organize* millions of individuals who had never thought it was possible they would begin organizing a totally new society," Barnes said.

"Proletarian politics without organization 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 politicized 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 generation, having joined the party just a few years earlier.

Goertz was inspired by the proletarian-led struggle to smash Jim Crow segregation. 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 socialist revolution, led by Fidel Castro, where working people had taken power and uncompromisingly stood up to U.S. imperialism. The movement against apartheid in South Africa was growing, and protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam were beginning.

"But," Benson emphasized, "she had to meet the party that was right



Militant/Harry Ring

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.

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 government 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 1930s. Benson pointed to a photo of Goertz, in her early 20s, having lunch with Ray Dunne. Dunne was a central leader of the Teamsters union battles in Minneapolis and throughout the Midwest, and of the Socialist 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 opportunity to hear Ray Dunne speak to a Midwestern socialist educational conference 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 militias, 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 branches 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 regularly participated in the effort to back up our union fractions by participating in plant-gate sales," Arth said. "Cheryl and I were a regular team at a sewing factory in Bowden, Georgia."

María Hernández, who worked at that plant when a party organizing committee 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 mainstay of mine portal sales in Birmingham to help the party's fraction in the United Mine Workers union.

"Cheryl had an unwavering conviction," 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**



Militant/Bob Braxton



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.

## 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 Moriarity from Seattle wrote with her contribution.

Joanne Kuniansky from New Jersey accompanied her contribution with the following. "I was beginning to think I wasn't getting anything when the 'stimulus' 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 government. 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 stake, 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 consequences 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



# Defend wages, jobs, working conditions

Continued from front page

This resistance by working people will inevitably deepen in response to stepped-up boss assaults as depression conditions, financial crises, and trade and military conflicts mount. The only way out for working people is to come together on a class-struggle road to defend ourselves and all those oppressed and exploited by capitalism.

One of the central questions facing workers is jobs. Many big employers — from Boeing to General Electric — throw more and more workers out of a job, seeking to carve out a return to profitability on the backs of those who are still working. The bosses want to pit workers with jobs against those without, to lower wages and worsen conditions for all. They aim to saddle working people with the burden of the social and economic crisis of their system.

Official jobless claims in the U.S. over the last few months totaled 40.8 million, and this undercounts the actual number of those unemployed. The estimated real figure of 23.9% is closing in on the Great Depression peak of 25.6%. Many of these job losses, especially among small businesses, half of which are not expected to reopen, will be permanent. The unemployment rate in Detroit, where over three-quarters of the population is African American, has jumped to 48% from 11% before the lockdowns.

Hundreds of millions more have lost jobs across the world. While the Chinese government admits unemployment is a serious problem, it claims a jobless rate of only 6%. But one Chinese banking company estimates that in April it was actually 20.5%, which means 70 million workers out of work.

Everywhere the bosses and their government continue to tell us, “We are all in this together.” Whenever they say this, whether in times of war or of depression conditions, this lie means they’re coming after working people. The United States — like all capitalist countries — is a deeply class-divided society. Their claim to “feel our pain” is also a lie.

The only “we” for the wage and debt slaves under capitalism is our working-class brothers and sisters here and around the world. Our interests are directly opposed to the exploiting class.

## Workers stand up and say No!

Sanitation workers in New Orleans have been on strike since May 5, demanding a wage raise, safer working conditions and respect. “Every day beginning at 4 a.m. we picket for our jobs back,” Darnell Harris told the *Militant* in a phone interview May 30. Harris is one of 14 hoppers, who jump off and on garbage trucks to fill them with trash.

“We want \$15 an hour,” Harris said. “I’ve worked the same job for different agencies for nearly 10 years, but I’m still only making \$10.25. I have to work 70

hours a week to support my family.” Inspired by pictures of Memphis sanitation workers going on strike in 1968, a fight that was backed by Martin Luther King Jr., the hoppers’ picket signs say, “I am a man.”

Company bosses initially responded to the strike by saying those who walked out were fired, Harris said. They reversed themselves because they feared legal action. So far they have refused to negotiate with the workers, who have organized as the City Waste Union.

The strike at Hood River Distillers in Oregon “is still going strong,” Michael Beranbaum, secretary treasurer of Teamsters Local 670, told the press June 2. The 25 workers walked off the job May 6 after bosses imposed their own “final offer,” including a worse health care plan with higher costs put on the workers and a wage increase that didn’t come near to meeting workers’ demands.

The bosses try to keep production going using strikebreakers, but they have problems. The plant’s air conditioning broke down, and HVAC repair crews refuse to cross the strikers’ picket line.

Contributions to the strikers can be sent to Teamsters Local 670, P.O. Box 3048, Salem, Oregon 97302.

Retail giants like Walmart and Target have benefited greatly from the recent shutdowns, unlike their smaller competitors who face bankruptcy. Grocery sales skyrocketed 74% at Walmart over the last three months. The billionaire Walton family recently announced the company is making record-breaking profits, buoyed by online orders.

A May 1 memo by Walmart CEO Doug McMillon noted the profit boost was aided by “robust adoption of on-line pickup and delivery.”

What is really “robust” is the boss-

es’ moves to speed up the exploitation of the workers who pack and load the orders.

Samir Hazboun, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Kentucky, works at a Walmart store in Louisville loading groceries into customers’ cars. He told the *Militant* how he and his co-workers were able to score a victory by standing up against moves by the bosses to speed up the work over the past couple months.

A year ago, “we were expected to complete 20 orders in a day,” he said. “By January, a busy day was 40 orders.” Now bosses are pushing them “to complete as many as 105 orders with about the same number of workers as before. We’re still getting the same size paychecks.”

Workers in the department decided they had to do something about it. They organized together to tell the bosses they needed more workers or the work just couldn’t get done. After some back-and-forth the bosses agreed to send more workers to help.

This victory was consolidated later that week when the bosses said two workers instead of one would be assigned to load groceries into cars.

Co-worker Trinity Bostic explained what a difference this has made. “It’s just too much work for one person,” she said, explaining it’s a lot safer now. Two people can work together to lift the 40-packs of bottled water. “You can quote me on all of that. It’s the

truth and it needs to be told.”

Hazboun said the bosses never let up in looking for ways to boost their profits, and workers need to be ready to answer. “As long as everything from production to distribution remains under the control of the bosses, the constructive capacities of human labor will be twisted to serve profits, not human needs. Fighting for improved job conditions helps increase our confidence and class consciousness.”

Working people are beginning to awaken, to stand up and act against the brutalities and exploitation of the capitalist system. Fighting for jobs, against speedup, and against moves by the bosses to cut our pay and cast aside regard for our safety is the road forward to deepen the unity and fighting capacities of the working class.



Darnell Harris, right, and Rahman Brooks, in ongoing walkout by “hoppers” at contractor for New Orleans sanitation system.

# Autoworkers in Spain, France strike over plant closings

Continued from front page

them open, some 3,000 Nissan workers represented by four unions went on strike May 6. Parts plants employing another 20,000 workers could also be shut down. Workers reacted in anger after Nissan bosses finally admitted they intend to close the plants.

As part of reducing its workforce by 20,000 worldwide, Nissan’s management is shifting all its production in Europe to its big Sunderland plant in the United Kingdom. They also plan to shut a factory in Indonesia.

For their own reasons, both the Spanish national government and the Catalonia provincial administration — who have sharp differences over Catalanian national rights — are offering new incentives to Nissan, or any other auto boss who promises to keep the car plants running.

Some 2,000 workers struck Renault’s Maubeuge factory in northern France May 29, after bosses announced plans to close the factory and shift some production to another plant, slashing 4,600 jobs across the country. A union protest rally the next day drew 8,000.

The government of French President Emmanuel Macron, which has a 15% stake in Renault, is going ahead with an \$8.8 billion handout to the auto bosses to cut down their expected losses and to boost production of

green electric vehicles.

Renault chiefs have tried to defuse workers’ anger, claiming they might reconsider shutting the Maubeuge plant. But they made it clear they have not altered plans to cut production by a fifth and slash 14,600 jobs worldwide. This includes pulling out of production in China.

Bosses at Nissan and Renault, as well as Mitsubishi, had been ballyhooing a

planned worldwide alliance, but now are instead divvying up their markets and production. Nissan is retreating from Europe and Renault from Asia, in hopes of offsetting intensified competition.

The assault on autoworkers at Nissan and Renault foreshadows what millions of workers the world over will face as the bosses try to cut workers’ jobs while putting the squeeze on those who remain to work harder and faster for less.



Some 8,000 autoworkers and supporters protest May 30 against Renault bosses’ plans to slash 4,600 jobs in France and another 10,000 worldwide. Rally backed strike at Maubeuge factory in northern France bosses plan to shutter. Banner says “Don’t touch MCA, it’s our factory.”

# Workers resist clampdown on protests by gov’t in Chile

BY SETH GALINSKY

“The company, the supervisors, the government authorities, the police, the virus and the rain are all against us,” said Claudio Higuera Osorio, union president and one of nearly 500 workers on strike at Promasa, a lumber company in Los Angeles, Chile. Nonetheless, for 43 days workers struck for higher wages, better conditions and a contract.

“We were tired of all the inequality and the arrogance of the supervisors,” Higuera told the *Militant* in a June 1 phone interview.

The supervisors always push for faster production, imposing overtime and pushing workers harder. “They exploit us to the maximum,” Higuera said. “There are a lot of on-the-job injuries. A lot of amputations, especially of fingers.”

The government kept up constant pressure to try to force strikers back to work, claiming no one should strike during the coronavirus pandemic. Health officials came to the picket line demanding strikers wear face masks and “social distance.”

“The police have arrested more than 20 strikers claiming they were causing ‘disorder in the street,’ but then released them,” Higuera said. “They do it to intimidate us.”

The latest attack was on June 1 when the police dispersed strikers with water cannon. Union leaders reached an agreement with the company to end the strike later that day, even though it “wasn’t what we wanted,” Higuera told *La Tribuna*.

About half of the 1,200 workers at the plant — whose biggest customer is Lowe’s in the United States — are in the CUT trade union federation affiliated union.

This is one of a growing number of working-class battles today in Chile and across Latin America, many of which face government crackdowns on the pretext of limiting the spread of coronavirus.

Workers at Holdtech, a call center for WOM cellphone company, won their key demands May 25 after nearly three weeks on strike.

These include a wage increase, time and a half on holidays and company subsidized transportation to work. “We also won back pay for the days on strike,” Angélica Carrera, a call center worker and president of the Holdtech union, said by phone from Coquimbo.

Like the workers at Promasa, the Holdtech workers organized an “olla común,” or communal pot, a long tradition in working-class struggles in Chile. A stew is prepared in a huge pot and dished out to everyone.

“We received a lot of support, but we also went out knocking on doors” to spread the word about the strike, Carrera said. “That’s why we won.”

Many call center workers are urged to work from home because of the quarantine imposed by the government. “The company provided computers, but refuses to pay for the internet or even a good chair,” Carrera said. “We work 10-hour days.”

“There have always been abuses and it’s always the workers that pay the price, especially those who were already

living day by day before the pandemic,” Carrera said.

A wave of massive anti-government protests in Chile began in October when students in the capital, Santiago, protested rising subway prices. The actions rapidly spread to include workers and farmers, demanding a rise in the minimum wage, better pensions and health care and a constituent assembly to replace the constitution imposed by the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship. A pause in the protests started after the government of President Sebastián Piñera imposed a ban on gatherings of more than 50 people in April.

“I think those demonstrations are going to explode again soon,” Carrera said. In mid-May young people and others blocked streets in five working-class neighborhoods in Santiago, demanding



Road blocked by some of 500 workers in 43-day strike at Promasa, a lumber company in Los Angeles, Chile, one of number of recent strikes and protests. Mass anti-government protests that began in October “are going to explode again soon,” union leader at Holdtech strike predicted.

jobs and food. Cops and soldiers dispersed the protesters with high-pressure water and tear gas.

More than 900 people have been detained across the country for violating a government curfew.

The Piñera government claims it has distributed 2.5 million food baskets and

other necessities. “I am a single mother. I want to work, but what can I do if there are no jobs,” a laid-off janitor protesting in El Bosque told TV24 news. “The government has not given me a single bag of food. What am I supposed to live on?”

At least 25% of Chilean workers have lost their jobs over the last few months.

# Yakima fruit packers fight for wages, hours, safety

BY HENRY DENNISON

YAKIMA, Wash. — Fruit packing plant workers continue their week-long strikes for higher wages and safer working conditions at Columbia Reach Pack here and at Matson Fruit in Selah, Washington.

Strikers at Matson returned to work after the bosses said they would sign a preliminary agreement they reached with the workers’ committee at the plant. But the company reneged and a number of workers walked back out and resumed the strike. Columbia Reach bosses have so far refused to meet with the committee chosen by strikers there.

Allan Brothers packing, where the first of a half dozen walkouts in the region took place May 7, finally signed a preliminary agreement recognizing the workers’ committee and made some concessions on working conditions. Strikers are returning to work June 1, while they continue to negotiate over wages.

“I am very happy because employees will go back to work with their heads held high and with a lot of pride,” committee member Agustín López told the *Yakima Herald-Republic*.

These committees, which were nominated and elected on the picket lines, didn’t exist in any packing plant in the Yakima fruit growing region until the walkouts began a month ago.

The farmworkers’ union, Familias Unidas por la Justicia, is working with the committees from each packinghouse and helping to plan solidarity actions.

Familias Unidas also represents workers at Sakuma Brothers Farms, a berry-picking operation in Skagit Valley.

The organization was formed in 2013 when berry pickers walked off the job. It became a union as workers fought a number of strikes and other actions. They won recognition and a contract after a four-year struggle. Since then farmworkers in other parts of the state have reached for its help in standing up to orchard and berry farm bosses.

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6 The Militant June 15, 2020

The Militant June 15, 2020 7



# Defend jobs, wages, working conditions!

*Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following statement June 3. Malcolm Jarrett is the party's candidate for vice president.*

From strikes by thousands of autoworkers at Nissan in Spain fighting to keep their jobs, to walkouts by fruit packers over wages and safety in Washington state — working people more and more are finding ways to stand up to the bosses and their government.

These strikes and protests reinforce the countless on-the-job actions in factories, big-box stores and other workplaces to resist the bosses' attacks and speed-up. They are an example to millions of other workers.

And the mass protests worldwide demanding prosecution of the cops who killed George Floyd in Minneapolis inspire workers to redouble their efforts to take on the bosses.

Bosses are pushing for the government to lift their lockdowns to enable them to boost production and trade to compete for markets. At the same time, they look to cut their workforce to the bone, and squeeze remaining workers harder to maximize profits. Then they use the competition between the growing number of unemployed workers and those still on the job to deepen their attacks on wages and safety for all.

To advance our interests we need a fighting program to mobilize the entire working class and all its

allies among farmers and small proprietors to win protection from depression conditions and the widening divisions they try to use to pit us against each other.

The starting point for such a program is joining in every fight that develops. Use the *Militant* to spread the word about these struggles!

- The SWP urges workers to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay, building things working people need — schools, hospitals, child care, public transit and more. This would reduce the competition among workers for jobs, putting us all in a stronger position to organize, build unions and resist the employers.

- As bosses cut the hours of millions of workers to protect their profits — slashing our wages as they do so — we need to fight for 30 hours work for 40 hours pay. Such a struggle can both help share the jobs around while preventing the bosses from cutting our pay.

- Bosses use the fear of deportation hanging over millions of immigrant workers to weaken the efforts to organize and to lower the wages of all workers. To unite against the employers' attacks, workers need to fight for amnesty for all fellow workers without papers.

- Production cannot be left under the control

**Continued on page 9**

## Build a disciplined, working-class movement!

**Continued from front page**

the neck for more than eight minutes as Floyd and bystanders pleaded for his life. They have the potential to grow and accomplish more. While all four cops involved in the death of George Floyd have been fired, we must continue to demand that they all be arrested and prosecuted.

The widespread looting and violence by a small minority who tie their agenda to the protests are a deadly obstacle to building the fight to end police violence and the struggle to defend working people.

### No reforming the police

Cop brutality is not an aberration. It is endemic to the capitalist system. The role of the police — part of the capitalist rulers' criminal "justice" system — is to mete out intimidation and punishment to working people, fighting unionists and disproportionately to African Americans.

The police cannot be reformed. No amount of "community policing," "diversity training," or citizen review boards can change the nature of the cops. They exist to protect and serve the interests of the wealthy rulers.

### What we need

It will take a powerful, disciplined, militant working-class movement to win the fight against the violence and brutality that the police inflict on workers and farmers. The mass Black-led movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and '60s, as well as the fighting Teamsters union movement here in the 1930s, are powerful examples of the kind of movement and leadership that can and must be built.

Unions have spoken out against the cop killing of George Floyd — including the Amalgamated Transit Union, United Steelworkers, United Auto Workers, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, UNITE HERE, and many more. The bus drivers' union in Minneapolis has called for "A [new] civil rights movement that is joined with the labor movement and independent of the corporate establishment's political parties" to fight for "our collective liberation as working people." The unions should mobilize members and other workers to join the protests and use the power of organized labor to draw more working people into this fight.

The cop killing of George Floyd — and of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as the vigilante killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia — take place as working people face a broad social crisis, with millions thrown out of work by government lockdowns.

The bosses are organizing for a profitable "recovery" on our backs.

Working-class struggles against these attacks — joblessness, police brutality, attacks on our wages, unsafe working conditions and racist discrimination — will deepen. The capitalist rulers will continue to turn to the police to keep us in check.

In the face of this we must build a labor movement that acts as the champions of all working people. The protests today point to the possibility to build a broad working-class fight that can effect changes in the interests of all the exploited and oppressed.

But the nightly burnings, looting and destruction by groups of provocateurs, anarchists, opportunists, and those driven by frustration and demoralization give the government a handle to blame protesters, not the cops and their ruthless brutality, for violence. It deters working people from joining the mass protests — militant, peaceful and legal actions — that can put real pressure on the government to prosecute killer cops.

The consequences of the looting and destruction are not only disrupting the lives and livelihoods of many workers, farmers and small proprietors, through the closure of grocery stores, pharmacies, schools and various businesses and the shutdown of public transit. They have given an opening to the government, which is responsible for defending the rulers' system of exploitation, oppression and violence, to bring in more cops, National Guard, and active-duty military forces, to shut down many cities. Over 60 million are now covered by a variety of curfew orders.

It is along a course independent of the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties that we can build our own party, a labor party, to help lead a struggle for a workers and farmers government that will provide working people the mightiest weapon possible to wage the ongoing battle to end Black oppression and every form of exploitation in class-divided society.

Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement set an example for workers and farmers everywhere by organizing them to overthrow the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959. They transferred political power to working people, transforming society as they transformed themselves. Cuban workers and farmers built and continue to defend their own government, one built on new social and moral foundations in the interests of all.

One of the first steps of the revolution was to abolish Batista's police and army, replacing those hated servants of the dictatorship with proven revolutionary cadres from the July 26 Movement. That is the road to ending police violence once and for all here as well.

# Demand freedom for Jalil Muntaqim now

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

Former Black Panther Jalil Muntaqim, who has been imprisoned for 49 years, was rushed to the hospital from the Sullivan Correctional Facility in Fallsburg, New York, May 25 after testing positive for COVID-19. His blood oxygen level was at a critical 81%.

Muntaqim, working with the Legal Aid Society, had filed a petition April 13 for his release on constitutional grounds, as an ongoing medical condition heightened his vulnerability to the virus.

Two weeks later Sullivan County Supreme Court Judge Stephan Schick granted Muntaqim's release. "I can't imagine anyone more vulnerable, more at risk for death," he wrote. "Mr. Muntaqim may have gotten a 25-to-life sentence, but it was not a death sentence."

New York Attorney General Letitia James intervened, appealing the judge's decision, preventing Muntaqim from being released. A court hearing took place May 28, but no decision has been announced.

"What happened is incredibly sad and a commentary on the whole system of the New York state prisons," Nora Carroll, an attorney with Legal Aid Society who is representing Muntaqim, told the *Militant* May 29. "A judge felt his life mattered and granted him temporary release," but with the appeal pending "he must stay in prison."

In a brief filed before the May 28 hearing, the attorney general's office argued there is nothing in the Constitution that protects Muntaqim from getting sick in prison, or that supports the proposition that because he did get sick he should be released.

James' brief goes so far as to argue that Judge Schick's April decision to release him is null and void since Muntaqim is now infected with the virus and his earlier arguments based on the possibility of getting the virus are no longer valid!

"Jalil should be released from prison and his sentence commuted," Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in New York's 10th District, told the *Militant* May 29. "His outrageously long sentence and repeated denials of parole show the true workings of the capitalist 'justice' system. They're punishing Muntaqim for his political ideas, and to try and intimidate others from fighting for their rights."

### Free Jalil Muntaqim!

Muntaqim has been in prison since he was 19 years old, accused of killing two police officers in 1971. He, Albert Washington and Herman Bell were convicted in 1975, and each given a sentence of 25 years to life. Washington died in prison in 2000. Bell won parole in 2018. Muntaqim has been rejected for parole 19 times, with the next hearing set for this September.

Overcrowding and decrepit health conditions throughout the U.S. prison system has made inmates, especially those who are elderly, more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 and other diseases.

While department of corrections figures tend to underestimate the numbers of those infected, as of May 20 at least 29,250 workers behind bars in the U.S. tested positive. There have been at least 415 deaths, the Marshall Project reports.

At the Rikers Island jail complex in New York City, one case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in mid-March. Within two weeks, more than 200 cases were diagnosed. Mass testing was done at Marion Correctional Institution in Ohio, and of the 2,500 prisoners there, 2,000 tested positive.

A few state governments, like those of Ohio and California, have released some prisoners because of the threat of coronavirus. In New York the Democratic administration of Andrew Cuomo has released just 172 inmates, all of whom are 55 and older. All were within 90 days of when they would have gotten out of prison anyway. Of the 40,500 persons incarcerated in New York state, nearly a quarter of them are older adults, many whose health has suffered in prison.

Muntaqim — who prison authorities refer to as Anthony Bottom, his birth name — and supporters of the rights of prisoners continue to demand he be released and allowed to seek the medical care he needs.

Call Letitia James' office at (718) 560-2040 to demand freedom for Anthony Bottom. Send your support to Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom) 77A4283, Sullivan CF, P.O. Box 116, Fallsburg, NY 12733.

# Hong Kong, ‘Beijing hands off’

Continued from front page

*Times* that authorities insist on playing the anthem before public events like the operas she likes to attend, requiring people to stand up. “I stood up against my will,” said Ning, “but in my heart, I was singing ‘Glory to Hong Kong,’” — the anthem composed by the movement for political rights.

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

While the city’s main union group — the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions — is pro-Beijing, today’s mass movement for political rights and greater autonomy has helped spur the formation of new trade unions that are more independent.

Some workers in Hong Kong reported that their bosses threatened them to support Beijing against the growing pro-democracy movement. The Hong Kong Financial Industry Employees General Union, which represents bank workers, filed a complaint that Chinese bosses had pressured workers to sign a petition publicly supporting the new Chinese “security” law, and to send images of their signature out to others.

For decades the protest and commemoration of Beijing’s bloody suppression of the mass protest in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, has been

forbidden in China. The only exceptions have been in Hong Kong and Macau. But this year authorities also banned the event, claiming they are acting to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Some 180,000 people crowded into Hong Kong’s Victoria Park last year to mark the anniversary. Many joined that action to express their determination to halt Beijing’s interference there.

## Washington, Beijing rifts sharpen

President Donald Trump used the Chinese government’s interference in Hong Kong to press the U.S. capitalist rulers’ interests in their conflicts with Beijing over trade and influence in Asia and elsewhere. These clashes — in the making for decades — follow Beijing’s rise as a major competitor to Washington. They have intensified with the current drop in world production and trade.

Trump announced May 29 that Washington will suspend preferential trading relations that give company bosses in Hong Kong tariff-free access to U.S. markets. It will also sanction some Hong Kong and Chinese officials. Chinese students and researchers with connections to Beijing’s military will be barred from entering the U.S., he said.

“Hong Kong is China’s Hong Kong,” haughtily replied Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson for the Chinese ministry of foreign affairs, warning Washington that Beijing would retaliate against U.S. companies in Hong Kong



Sipa USA via AP

**Demanding political rights, autonomy protesters block Pedder Street in Hong Kong May 27.**

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 remains 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, workers in different parts of the country seized the opening to begin organizing, the China Labour Bulletin reports.

Construction workers recruited to build emergency hospitals from scratch in Wuhan, where the coronavirus out-

break began, protested to demand unpaid wages. In Liuzhou, 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

Continued from page 8

of bosses, who keep their profit-driven plans, books and practices hidden from workers and consumers alike. They have zero concern for what 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 what is produced and how, are 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!

## Cheryl Goertz: 55-year cadre of Socialist Workers Party

Continued from page 5

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 Goertz had been a part of — the fight to stop the execution of Troy Davis, framed up in Georgia; the campaign to win the freedom of the Cuban Five; building the fight of Black farmers against discrimination by the banks and government.

LaMont brought greetings to the event from Willie Head, a working farmer from Pavo, Georgia, who had been involved in these fights over decades.

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 Canada, Steve Penner 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 steered in the international fight 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 the 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 jazz. 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 impact that had on others, including the many she helped bring to the communist movement.

“In 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 Goertz had devoted her life.

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