

Protests shake Belarus after rigged vote, brutal assaults

BY TERRY EVANS

Some 200,000 people took to the streets in Minsk, capital of Belarus, Aug. 16, pressing to rid themselves of the repressive regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. One week earlier he had declared “victory” in an election, widely recognized as a win for his opponent Svetlana Tikhanovskaya.

The demonstration was the largest mobilization in the history of the country of 9.5 million. Protests also took place in Grodno, Brest and Pinsk. Workers have marched out of the country’s largest factories, to join daily protests since the election.

Anger spread among working people as evidence mounted of ferocious beatings inflicted on detained protesters by security forces.

Workers at the BelAZ truck plant in Zhodino walked off the job Aug. 13 after confronting bosses when they found out that trucks made at the plant were used by security forces in

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Bosses parties offer workers no answer for today’s crises

BY TERRY EVANS

With less than three months until the November elections, both the Democrats and Republicans are focused on how horrible the other party is, rather than on concrete measures working people need as the economic, social and moral crisis of capitalist production and for-profit health care bears down on us.

The Democrats hope the economic crisis continues and the pandemic drags on to make Trump look bad. Trump says things are really OK, just give him four more years, and the main problem is the “radical left” running Joe Biden’s campaign. Neither of the candidates of the bosses main parties are running on a program that offers working people a way forward in the face of mass unemployment, wage cuts and unsafe conditions.

Only the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett starts from the capacities of working people to fight

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Israel-UAE pact is a step forward in Middle East



Left, Koach La Ovdim; right, Times of Israel/Luke Tress

Left, Jewish, Arab bus drivers demand better work conditions, safety outside Israeli parliament in Jerusalem in July. Right, Ramallah, West Bank, protest against Palestinian Authority attack on Social Security, pensions in 2018. Workers across the region have common interests.

For recognition of Israel and of a Palestinian state!

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

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

The accord signed establishing diplomatic relations between the governments of Israel and the United Arab Emirates can lead to further steps toward the Israeli and Arab governments and leaderships of Palestinian organizations recognizing both Israel and an independent Palestinian state.

This course is explained in a 2017 statement by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, available on the *Militant’s* website.

“It is along this road that working

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Pact opens road to broader political space for toilers

BY SETH GALINSKY

The establishment of full diplomatic relations between the governments of the United Arab Emirates and Israel — the first time an Arab government has normalized relations with Israel in nearly 26 years — opens the door to other Arab governments following suit. The accord was announced Aug. 13 by the two governments and President Donald Trump, whose administration brokered the deal.

The signing of the pact opens new opportunities for working people. It underlines the need for talks between Israeli and Arab governments and leaderships of Palestinian organizations aimed at recognizing both Israel and an independent Palestinian state.

The joint statement by the U.S., UAE and Israeli governments says that Israel

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‘Workers need a union in every workplace, and a labor party!’



Doreen Dempsey in Rochester, Minnesota, subscribed to *Militant*, bought book on revolutionary politics from SWP vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett, signed to put party on ballot.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In a little over two weeks, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party’s presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett collected 2,674 signatures, turning them in Aug. 18 to place the party on the ballot in Minnesota. This is well over the state requirement of 2,000.

Thousands of working people across the country have signed to back a working-class party’s cam-

paign. The party’s ticket is on the ballot in Colorado, Louisiana, Tennessee and Vermont, and petitions have also been filed in Washington state.

The party is pressing the New Jersey state government to reverse its decision to deny it ballot status, even though the SWP turned in over 1,300 signatures — 500 more than required. The party’s candidate for Washington, D.C., delegate to the House of Repre-

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Fight to overturn Florida prison officials’ ‘Militant’ impoundment

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee “voted to uphold the impoundment of ‘*The Militant*, Vol. 84, No. 30,” LRC chair Dean Peterson wrote David Goldstein, the *Militant’s* attorney, Aug. 17, “which means the issue is rejected and will not be allowed into FDC institutions.”

Goldstein is now preparing to file an appeal of this decision, protesting the prison system’s violation of the constitutional rights of both its inmate-subscribers and the paper itself. The *Militant* has over 50 subscribers behind bars in Florida.

The article in that issue that aroused

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—On the picket line—

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Fight ‘Militant’ impoundment

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the ire of censors at Florida State Prison in Raiford is entitled, “Prisoners Demand Release from Overcrowded Jails.” It is a news report on efforts in California to press for the release of inmates in the overcrowded state prison system, where over 5,800 inmates statewide have contracted COVID-19.

Prison authorities — and now the Review Committee — claim, “The publication is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of federal law, state law, or Department rules.”

Supporters of political rights have begun calling on the Literature Review Committee, which will hear the appeal against its own ruling, to overturn the ban.

The “impoundment notice does not explain why the article would cause a riot and common-sense suggests this is far-fetched,” Benjamin Stevenson wrote on behalf of the Florida American Civil Liberties Union. “It’s nothing new to Florida prisoners that prison conditions have deteriorated during the COVID-19 pandemic and that other prisoners are naturally upset about this. Instead, the censorship appears to be a pretext to ban the *Militant*.”

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a well-known nationwide organization of media representatives, wrote that the group “strongly urges the Literature Review Committee to overturn the impoundment.”

“Prisons should not invoke facially legitimate but overly broad justifications — such as concerns about riot and insurrection — to censor content, particularly when doing so deprives

inmates of valuable information about how a deadly disease may affect them,” the committee wrote.

Advocating “organized prison protest” is a new criteria for banning publications, added by Florida prison officials just this June. Previous impoundments of the *Militant* for reporting on prison protests have not been upheld.

The *Militant* has gone through a number of fights over efforts by Florida prison authorities to deprive inmate-subscribers their paper, especially in the last few years. The paper has succeeded in overturning a large majority of these bans, including when the issue involved was reporting on protests by prisoners. Among these articles were *Militant* coverage of the hunger strike over conditions in the California prison system in 2013 that involved tens of thousands of inmates, as well as a 2016 work stoppage by prisoners in Alabama.

The impoundment notice for *Militant* no. 30 cites the article about a rally in Sacramento, California’s capital, demanding the state government take action to relieve overcrowding. It includes reporting on a hunger strike by inmates at San Quentin who tested positive for COVID-19 and are seeking better conditions and health care.

“The conditions confronting prisoners in California — and elsewhere — are of serious interest to working people, both in and out of jail,” *Militant* editor John Studer said Aug. 18. “Moves by prison authorities anywhere to bar news about these conditions, and efforts to alleviate them, should be stopped.

“Workers behind bars are legally entitled to receive and read newspapers, whatever their political view, to form their own opinions about po-

Nurses protest across UK demanding higher wages



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

LONDON — “We’ve been quiet for too long,” Lana Bonas, a nurse at St. Thomas’ Hospital here, told the *Militant* as she joined hundreds of other health workers marching to Downing Street to demand a pay raise. The action was one of 35 similar protests organized by nurses and union members across England, Scotland and Wales Aug. 8.

“If we don’t do or say anything, things won’t get any better,” said protester Barbara Kombe, a pediatric nurse at Evalina Children’s Hospital.

Student nurse Laura Hother organized a 150-strong protest of health workers in Liverpool, when she realized no one else was planning an action there. “We are treated disgustingly,” she told the crowd. “There aren’t enough staff, there are 44,000 nursing vacancies in England. People are working 24-hour shifts sometimes; that’s not safe for them or the patients.”

Some 900,000 public-sector workers were awarded an above inflation pay deal last month. But the government justified excluding a million health workers, including nurses, cleaners and care assistants, from that deal, saying union leaders had approved a three-year pay agreement for them two years ago. Unions are now demanding that the 2021 pay raise due these workers next April be implemented now.

“This is not just about nurses. It’s about all workers,” Georgina Warwick, a general nurse in an acute-care hospital in Hertfordshire who joined the London protest, told the *Militant*.

“Compared with cost-of-living increases since 2010,” nurse Med Wood told the BBC, “we are still earning less that we were 10 years ago.”

— JONATHAN SILBERMAN

litical questions and to exercise their constitutional right to ‘petition the government for a redress of grievances,’” Studer said. “Constitutionally guaranteed freedom of the press also means we have the right to send the paper to our subscribers.

“Stories about prison conditions, the disaster created for all working people by the capitalist for-profit medical system in the U.S. today, and efforts to change them are covered by hundreds of media almost daily,” he said. “Florida prison authorities’ move to bar the *Militant*’s coverage — its viewpoint — is a threat to political rights and should be overturned.”

Studer urged all those concerned about the rights of workers behind bars and freedom of the press to write to the Literature Review Committee asking that it overturn the impoundment.

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, or via email at Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com, with copies to the *Militant*.

“Join us in this fight,” Studer said. “Tell your co-workers, your church members, your union and those you do politics with, ask them to join in sending a letter.”

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Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

THE MILITANT

Iranian sugar workers fight for back wages

Sugar workers have been on strike for two months fighting for unpaid wages from bosses at Haft Teppah. As news of their fight grows, other workers have followed their example. The ‘Militant’ champions the struggles by all workers who are fighting to defend their rights.



ISNA/Seyed Hamed Mousavi

Worker speaks at Aug. 1 rally supporting 4,000 sugar workers on strike in Iran.

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Sedalia, Missouri: ‘Prosecute cop who killed Hannah Fizer’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The widely publicized monthslong fight to force Kentucky authorities to charge the cops who killed Breonna Taylor in Louisville has inspired others to stand up against cop brutality and killings in cities, towns and rural areas across the country. One example is the case of Hannah Fizer.

Fizer, a 25-year-old woman, was shot and killed by a sheriff’s deputy during an evening traffic stop June 13 in Sedalia, Missouri. She was on her way to work for her night shift at the Eagle Stop gas station.

Every Saturday morning members of her working-class family and their supporters have been demonstrating in this city of 21,000, an old railroad town and site of the Missouri State Fair. “Say her name: Hannah!” “Prosecute the police!” they demand. Some had joined protests in the area against the cops’ killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the end of May.

The deputy who shot Fizer has not been charged and authorities refuse to release his name. According to Pettis County Sheriff Kevin Bond, the unnamed officer stopped Fizer’s car for speeding and said she had a gun and threatened to kill him. But no gun was found.

“I want to know his name,” Amy Fizer, Hannah’s mother, yelled at Bond during a protest on the steps of the county courthouse several days after her daughter was killed. The cops, citing “technical problems,” said no body-camera recording of the shooting was taken.

“Without any videotapes or anything like that, it’s the police’s word against nobody,” protester Reggie Gay told the *Sedalia Democrat*. “We’ve seen that situation happen before and we know how that ends up.”

Hannah’s cousin, Jessica Fizer, who has helped lead some of the weekly protests, told the paper that she wants to see the deputy who killed her cousin charged with murder in the same way a civilian would be.

What happened to Hannah Fizer illustrates the disdain the capitalist rulers and their police agencies have for working people. “If you’re on the outer fringes of society you’d know,” Amy Fizer told the *New York Times* Aug. 6. “They pull you over. They do what they want, when they want.”

Both Hannah Fizer and the sheriff’s deputy who shot her are Caucasian.

“Black and Hispanic people are killed at higher rates than white people in rural areas,” noted the *Times*, “but the demographics of rural America mean that about 60 to 70 percent of people killed by law enforcement there are white.”

Killing of Breonna Taylor

Outrage and protests continue to demand charges against the three cops who killed Breonna Taylor. She was gunned down in a March 13 late night “no-knock” cop break-in at her apartment. For over five months authorities have refused to charge the three cops who carried out the killing. The case is in the hands of state Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who says he has no “timetable” for when he’ll decide whether to file charges.

“At this point,” this case “is bigger than Breonna,” Tamika Palmer, Taylor’s mother, told the media Aug. 13. She had just come out of a meeting with Cameron and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. Cameron said he is waiting to receive FBI ballistic test results.

“We lost two months while we



Inset, Faith Bemiss/SedaliaDemocrat

Jessica Fizer, left, leads protest July 25 demanding the cop who killed her cousin, Hannah Fizer, be prosecuted. Inset, Amy Fizer, Hannah’s mother, confronts Pettis County Sheriff Kevin Bond June 18, insists on release of name of cop who killed Hannah.

were letting them try to figure out how to justify the unjustifiable,” said Ben Crump, one of the attorneys representing Taylor’s family. “And so now we’re waiting for a ballistics



test over 150 days later? That should have been something that was seized upon the minute they saw this innocent Black woman lying dead in her apartment.”

Chicago looting is blow to fight against police brutality

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — A sharp debate broke out here after Black Lives Matter Chicago, one of the many groups that has been involved in protests against police brutality, pointedly defended the organized looting of downtown businesses.

Working people awoke Monday, Aug. 10, to news reports of raised bridges and closed freeway exits into the Loop business and shopping district, and a sizable police deployment there, preventing many from getting to work.

Hundreds of people had caravanned to the area the night before, carrying out systematic looting, beginning at midnight and continuing into the early hours of the morning. It followed the cop shooting of 20-year-old Latrell Allen in the Englewood neighborhood the day before.

Despite earlier false rumors that the shooting victim was a teenager and had died, Allen was still alive, but badly wounded — shot four times in the back and once in the cheek. Cops claim he had a weapon and fired on them before they returned fire. His family insists Allen was unarmed.

Some Englewood residents gath-

ered right after the shooting to protest. When dozens of cops were sent in response they jeered and chanted, “No justice, no peace!”

The looting was not a spontaneous expression of anger at police brutality. Social media posts show the looting was organized, with calls for people to converge on the Magnificent Mile shopping district at midnight.

Drivers arrived and waited while windows were smashed and stores looted. Sometimes they used the cars to batter open storefronts. Looters loaded up, then got back in the cars for a quick getaway. Others on foot with shopping bags of stolen goods were chased by cops. Police reportedly arrested more than 100 people.

That evening at a small protest organized by Black Lives Matter Chicago that applauded the looting, participants held a banner that read, “Our futures have been looted from us ... Loot back.”

Ariel Atkins, a spokesperson for the group, said the thievery was part of “reparations,” which some liberals and middle-class radicals say should be given to Blacks as payment for what their ancestors were robbed of under slavery.

“I don’t care if somebody decides to loot a Gucci, or a Macy’s, or a Nike,” Atkins said, “because that makes sure that that person eats, that makes sure that that person has clothes, that makes sure that that person can make some kind of money because this city obviously doesn’t care about them.”

Workers say no to looting

That attitude doesn’t sit well with many workers.

Joyce Brown, Allen’s grandmother, told the *Chicago Tribune* she doesn’t trust the police version of the shooting, but “I don’t agree with the looting because that’s just an excuse to get what they want.” As she and other Englewood residents explain, the looting and protests have nothing to do with each other. Except that some individuals took advantage of the cop shooting to orga-

nize their “liberation” of property under cover of protest.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, Naomi Craine, took issue with the defense of looting.

“It’s one thing to denounce the priorities of capitalist politicians who place the protection of property above human life,” Craine said in a statement Aug. 14. “But it’s another thing to characterize looting as ‘protesting,’ as if it were a legitimate method of struggle against any form of oppression or exploitation. Workers are not thieves.”

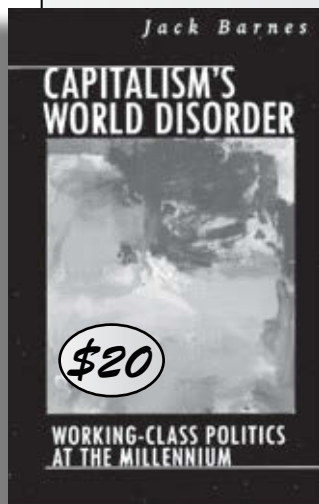
“Condoning, advocating, justifying or defending looting alienates working people, who in growing numbers across racial lines, in cities and towns large and small throughout the country, are speaking out against cop brutality. Many are joining in the fight to demand the arrest and prosecution of killer cops,” she said. “Looting is a blow to the movement against police brutality, making it more difficult to involve people awakened to the movement — Black, Latino and Caucasian.”

Those who defend the looting are oblivious to the loss of the livelihood of small proprietors and of workers at larger stores. This is no small question in the midst of the social crisis faced by working people today.

“It makes it easier for the cops to try and justify their brutality and to attack our sorely needed trade union and political rights,” Craine said. “The capitalist officials and media strive tirelessly to brand all struggles of workers and farmers as potentially violent and criminal.”

“To fight effectively against police violence and attacks on our rights, we need to organize broad, powerful and disciplined actions demanding the government arrest and prosecute the cops involved,” the SWP candidate said. “That will help us reach out to the trade unions, the churches, and the millions of workers and farmers, organized and unorganized, who can be drawn into the fight to push back the capitalist rulers and their cops.”

For further reading ...



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— Jack Barnes
in *Capitalism’s World Disorder*

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‘Workers need a labor party’

Continued from front page

sentatives, Omari Musa, was certified for the ballot Aug. 18.

At a trailer park in Rochester, Minnesota, Doreen Dempsey, whose husband is a long-haul truck driver, told Jarrett that her husband “wanted to go to the truck drivers’ protest in Washington this spring but I wouldn’t let him because of the COVID.”

“When he got a run, sometimes he’d lose it because some broker would undercut the price,” she said. “One place he worked had a union, but they didn’t fight for the guys.”

“We need to begin to organize so we can develop confidence in ourselves and our co-workers,” Jarrett, who had participated in the truckers’ protest, said. “The Socialist Workers Party is for organizing a union movement in every workplace, for building a labor party, and fighting for workers control over production and safety.” He showed Dempsey the book *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*.

Jarrett noted, “There’s a section about the organization of truckers by the fighting Teamsters union movement based in Minneapolis in the 1930s.” With courage, discipline and a battle plan, truckers were able to win a hard-fought strike for union recognition. Equipped with the right leadership, the book explains, unions can be transformed so workers, the unemployed and farmers can fight for political independence from those who exploit us.

Dempsey read the title. “I want that book,” she said. “Here’s \$20. I’ll try out the paper too. Keep the rest as a contri-

bution. And please do contact me.”

The next day in Minneapolis, when Jarrett knocked on Dawona Harper’s door and introduced himself and his party, she told him, “I don’t want to vote for either the Democrats or the Republicans, and I like the fact both your candidates are working class.”

Harper works as a child care assistant for Hennepin County and is a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 34. “I went to several of the protests around the police killing of George Floyd,” she said. “I was happy to see it become worldwide.”

Why workers need a labor party

“A fighting labor party would join and build even more powerful actions,” Jarrett said. “The fight against police brutality is in the interests of all working people.” Harper signed the petition and subscribed to the *Militant*.

In Minneapolis Aug. 14, Helena Shimizu told David Rosenfeld, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Minnesota, that she was interested in how racism and police brutality could be stopped. She said she was sympathetic to those who engaged in looting, because nothing else seemed to get the attention of the government.

“I think the looting weakened the movement because working people don’t want to be involved with that,” Rosenfeld said. “And it gave an opening to the government and the cops to come back even harder.

“We agree with Malcolm X. Malcolm was for disciplined struggle, intelligent action — not for mindless destruction or reckless acts,” he said. “We need a movement organized in such a way to draw in the broadest layers of working people, a movement with the social power to force changes.”

Shimizu signed the petition to put Kennedy and Jarrett on the ballot.

Campaign supporter Gabby Prosser collected more than 50 signatures from customers at the coffee shop where she works. She got help from one regular customer, a member of the carpenters union, after he took a petition. Next thing she knew, he was collecting signatures from patrons.

Fight for safety on the job

In a trailer park in Glencoe, SWP campaigner Harvey McArthur met an older Mexican worker who’s been coming up from Texas for the last



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

In Hutchinson, Minnesota, teacher Pat McIntyre signed for the SWP and told Dean Hazlewood, “You’re right. The only thing that can change things is working people acting together.”

21 years to work in the Seneca Foods vegetable packing plant during the corn harvest. Recently there was an outbreak of COVID-19 at the plant. “He told me they work 12-hour shifts, seven days a week. This year they’ve been short-handed and the bosses aren’t letting anyone take a day off,” McArthur said.

“I talked about the need to build a union movement in every workplace and fight for workers control over production, including over enforcement of safety,” McArthur said.

Angel Hernandez, another resident of the trailer park, who works in a cabinet factory, said he liked how the Socialist Workers campaign “gives us a push to organize more.”

McArthur and campaigner Kaitlin Estill pointed to how the Cuban Revolution shows that it’s possible for workers and farmers to organize and build a movement strong enough to take political power and begin to transform society. Hernandez said he was impressed with the Cuban government’s internationalist aid to working people elsewhere in the world, “in spite of being communist.”

It’s because of the socialist revolution that so many Cubans see themselves as part of the world and in a common struggle with other workers, McArthur said.

“Workers and farmers in Cuba are led to confront challenges such as the coronavirus,” he said. “No one is left on their own, and health care is a social right, the opposite of here where everything is for a profit.”

“I’m more than willing to listen to what you have to say,” Hernandez replied, and signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*.

Press covers SWP campaign

The *McLeod County Chronicle*, a

weekly published in Glencoe, ran an interview with SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy in its Aug. 12 edition. “Kennedy believes neither the Democrats or the Republicans are truly interested in the plight of the working class,” the paper said. “She believes in strong labor unions and a system where workers control production to have a stronger voice in their working conditions.”

During campaigning Aug. 17 in Albert Lea, home to a large Cargill Foods plant, Kennedy and Jarrett were interviewed by the *Albert Lea Tribune*.

“The only thing that betters the conditions of working people is when we stand up for our rights,” Kennedy told the paper.

“Jarrett,” the paper noted, “supports fighting for unions in every workplace.” He described the example set by the two-month strike of 4,300 shipbuilders in Bath, Maine. “Fights like that show the importance of unions,” he told the paper.

During the effort to put the party on the ballot campaigners sold 64 subscriptions to the *Militant*, nearly 250 single copies, and more than 50 books on revolutionary working-class politics.

SWP fights for ballot in New Jersey

In New Jersey, the state government had imposed lockdown orders that barred the SWP and others from knocking on doors to get on the ballot. In April, Gov. Philip Murphy told the press, “People should not be going door-to-door campaigning. Period.” The party demanded it be put on the ballot, saying it had been on the ballot there in every election since 1948. State officials rejected

SWP candidate on ballot for D.C. Delegate to Congress



Militant/Bernie Senter

Omari Musa, right, campaigning in Washington, D.C. Campaign supporters collected more than 511 signatures to place his name on the ballot. Election officials confirmed Aug. 18 that he will be on the ballot.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020! Campaign for what you are *for*, not who you’re against!

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- ❑ I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
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Socialist Workers Party statement

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SWP campaigner Kaitlin Estill, left, with cabinet factory worker Angel Hernandez in Glencoe, Minnesota. Right, local press took note of party campaigning in towns large and small.



their demand, but didn't tell the party until one week before the deadline.

Party supporters then organized to campaign and turned in 270 signatures July 27, the filing deadline, and completed their filing on Aug. 10 with a total of 1,300 signatures, well over the requirement. Despite this, the state government refused to place the SWP candidates on the ballot.

Those who support the working-class party's right to be on the ballot are writing to Gov. Murphy demanding he place the SWP on the ballot.

Socialist Workers Party campaign button



Available from campaign offices listed on page 8

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

WORKERS NEED A UNION IN EVERY WORKPLACE. We need to fight growing employer attacks on our jobs, wages and working conditions. Build solidarity with workers' struggles to organize and defend themselves. Use union power on our own behalf, and for all those suffering blows by the bosses and their government. One union for all drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft and other app-based and car service drivers!

WORKERS NEED THEIR OWN PARTY, A LABOR PARTY. For a class break from the parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. A labor party can organize workers in their millions to fight in our own interest and in the interests of all those exploited and oppressed by capital. It can chart a course to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and build a workers and farmers government.

WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION. Workers need to fight to wrest control of production out of the hands of the bosses. Employers care about profits, not the dangerous conditions we're forced to work under. This is the only road to take control of and enforce

safety and health on the job. Demand the bosses open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. Workers control of production is a school for learning to run the economy ourselves, in the interests of all producers, a crucial step alongside building a labor party to fight to take political power.

MILLIONS NEED JOBS TODAY! Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, child care centers, mass transportation, quality affordable housing and much more that workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver's licenses for all.

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

FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL & OF A CONTIGUOUS PALESTINIAN STATE.

For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

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

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

FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY! Demand that cops who kill and brutalize people be prosecuted. Fight racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system, with its frame-ups, "plea bargains," onerous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION. Defend women's right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS. Defend the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Defend freedom of worship. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption. No to middle-class radical "cancel culture" and their thuggery against people they deem "politically incorrect."

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

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND. To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to monopolization by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 4, 1995

The recent exposures about racist cop violence described by Los Angeles ex-policeman Mark Fuhrman on taped interviews highlights once again the nature of police in capitalist society. The tapes expose the corruption, frame-ups, and total disregard for the most elementary rights of human beings. For working people, experience with cops is no film script or Hollywood movie.

Whenever the rotten character of the police is exposed, the authorities are quick to point to "rogue" cops or "rotten apples" and act surprised. Blacks, Latinos, poor whites and poor Asians have known about this behavior for years.

The police department is an anti-working-class, racist institution. The brutality they inflict on working people is the same, whether in the Black community or on the picket line against workers striking the Detroit newspapers.



September 4, 1970

As antiwar forces around the country plan for a national day of protest Oct. 31, evidence points to the biggest participation of the labor movement so far. In Chicago, Patrick E. Gorman of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America threw his weight behind the Oct. 31 coalition in that city. The national membership of the Meatcutters is a half million.

The national convention of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees voted Aug. 21 to back the protest. A predominantly Black union, the alliance resolved: "That the NAPFE publicly endorse and support any legal and peaceful mass demonstrations against the immoral and illegal war. We encourage our membership to participate in order to bring to bear the power of our movement to end the war in Indochina and press for a reordering of priorities at home!"



September 1, 1945

CIO President Philip Murray on Aug. 22 warned that the American workers will not submit to starvation under capitalism and are demanding government ownership and operation of idle plants.

Murray himself was not proposing such a policy. He was merely using a threat to impress Congress with the need to "assure" full employment under "free enterprise." Murray's warning reflected the demands rising ever more insistently from the ranks of labor.

Murray should take the initiative in calling for a nation-wide conference of the entire labor movement to draft a legislative program embodying a genuine labor plan for full employment.

Murray's duty is to mobilize the union ranks for an independent, militant struggle for such a program, the central plank of which must be government ownership and operation of the idle plants under workers' control.

Strikes over jobs, wages, safety as workers resist bosses' attacks

BY ROY LANDERSEN

"I came to support them because the strike is like the one we won last November," Canadian National trainman Juan Federico Garcia told the *Militant* when he joined striking longshore workers in Montreal Aug. 10. He was referring to how both the dockworkers strike and rail workers eight-day strike last year centered on safety, work schedules and dangerous conditions. "Our strike shows if you stand up, you can get something."

These actions show the way that strike struggles begin to reinforce each other and the importance of labor solidarity as battles start to spread. More workers are beginning to push back against the employers' efforts to boost production and profits after months of shuttered production and trade that capitalist governments worldwide imposed in their ham-handed effort to curtail the spread of coronavirus. Out of these daily skirmishes, a fighting union movement can begin to be built in every workplace.

Maine shipyard workers, members of the Machinists union, know the value of unity and solidarity. More than 4,300 were forced out on strike June 22 when Bath Iron Works bosses tried to shove a "last, best and final" concession contract down their throats. Thwarting the bosses' hopes to divide them, newer and more veteran generations of shipbuilding workers joined in common action to defend their jobs and seniority protection.

They've won a tentative contract, and their picket lines have been transformed into a week of questions, discussion and debate at the union hall leading up to the vote Aug. 21-23. They're planning a big Solidarity celebration of their strike Saturday night Aug. 22.

Fourteen "hoppers" in New Orleans, sanitation workers who are members of the City Waste Union, are continuing their more than three-month-long fight for safe conditions and better pay, a fight for all.

Teamsters union Local 89 in Louis-

ville, Kentucky, has been on strike since Aug. 6 after contract negotiations broke down and the bosses at DSI Tunneling began hiring strikebreakers.

Around the world too, workers are resisting the bosses' attacks on jobs, wages and conditions. A wave of strikes and protests has spread across Iran, despite the regime's attempts to suppress them. It began Aug. 1 with thousands of contract workers in the southern oil and gas fields demanding unpaid wages and an end to dangerous work conditions. This rapidly expanded to numerous other industrial sites, mines and offices. Thousands of sugar workers at the Haft Tappeh complex in Shush have been on strike for over two months demanding months of unpaid wages.

As the construction and packing-house industries revive after lockdowns, the bosses, in their chase for profits, show a complete disregard for safety. One in five workplace deaths in the U.S. are in construction work, especially among the growing number of nonunionized workers, largely immigrants from Mexico and other Latin American countries. In the packing-houses bosses are cramming workers shoulder to shoulder and cranking up line speeds as coronavirus has swept through a number of plants.

Only a fight to rebuild the unions and for workers control of production and safety on the job can ensure no worker has to die on the job.

Workers fight jobs crisis

In the past quarter, the gross domestic product in the U.S. shrank nearly 10%, with the economies of most major European countries contracted even more. The capitalist economy in the U.K. dropped by 20%, and Japan's fell by almost 8%.

These numbers reflect tens of millions of workers thrown out on to the street.

Now there are signs of a slow economic upturn as U.S. bosses' industrial production and retail sales rose for the third straight month.

For the first time since stay-at-home



Group of striking New Orleans sanitation workers, called "hoppers," with SWP 2020 presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, Aug. 13. After pay cut they're demanding living wage, safe working conditions.

orders were imposed in mid-March, the number of workers filing for unemployment in the U.S. dropped below a million in the first week of this month. But still 960,000 filed after losing their jobs, and another 488,000 new claims were filed by gig and self-employed workers for special Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Some 28 million people were still relying on some form of unemployment benefits the week ending July 25. The special "stimulus" unemployment payout ended then for both programs.

According to a U.S. Census survey, the number of working people who say they can't afford to give their children enough food at home has grown to almost 20%. And with schools shuttered for the beginning of the term across much of the country, many will miss free meals provided by the government.

The bosses' parties, the Democrats and Republicans, remain deadlocked over how much or how long to extend these temporary "stimulus" programs. Given the impasse, President Donald Trump used his executive powers to extend them, but cut them in half. It looks like it might be delayed by election-year squabbling, if it happens at all.

Bankruptcies of family-owned and smaller stores, restaurants, farms and more are soaring. For the big-business bosses, however, the largest amounts in the history of government and central bank "stimulus" money

are being poured into their coffers around the world.

30 hours work for 40 hours pay

Workers need jobs, to be at work with co-workers, to be part of a working class that works *and fights* together. And to cut down the competition between employed and unemployed that the bosses depend on to drive down wages for all workers.

Part of this is to fight for a government-funded public works program to provide jobs at union pay to put unemployed workers back to work building hospitals, schools, day care centers and other things workers need.

Another important part is the fight against layoffs. Officials at Germany's largest union, IG Metall, have raised the need for a four-day work-week to spread jobs around as capitalist contraction, technological changes and unemployment hit workers hard.

The union, which represents 2.3 million workers in the metalworking and electrical industries, says 300,000 jobs are at risk.

Joerg Hofman, the union's top official, told the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* that workers can't be expected to take a proportionate pay cut.

But that's far from enough!

Unions need to lead a fight to keep the full 40 hours pay for 30 hours work. That is the only way to defend both workers' jobs *and* our living standards from a capitalist crisis not of our making.

Protests shake Belarus after rigged vote, brutal assaults

Continued from front page their roundup of protesters. The striking workers demanded the expulsion of riot cops from the city.

When the factory manager at Minsk Tractor Works denounced workers there for their "unsanctioned" action after they refused to work, he was shouted down. Then the country's prime minister, Roman Golovchenko, came to the plant to address workers.

"After he refused to respond to our questions in front of the media, we decided to start marching toward the main government building," Sergei Drilevsky, a worker at the plant, told the *New York Times*. They demanded the release of those arrested at protests and the resignation of Lukashenko.

The president had derided protesters as "sheep," claiming that only 20 workers at the plant joined the walkout. "We're not sheep, we're not a herd, we're not little people ... there are not 20 of us, but 16,000," read a banner carried by the striking tractor workers during an Aug. 14 march in Minsk.

Protests were also held by workers at other factories, in public transit, and by oil refinery workers. As contingents of striking workers arrived at the Aug. 14 demonstration, crowds chanted out the name of the company workers came from.

"We are with the people and not one step back," chanted striking miners in Salihorsk when they joined protests Aug. 18.

There have been anti-government protests before, in the decades since Belarus won its independence in 1991, one participant in the Aug. 16 Minsk action told the *Financial Times*, but nothing like this. "Today it is not just the opposition, it is the people, who simply want changes."

Defying assaults by baton-wielding cops and the imprisonment of some 7,000 people, protesters have forced the government to release many of those detained and beaten. It apologized in a futile attempt to stem the revolt.



Thousands of working people march from Minsk tractor factory to Belarus parliament Aug. 14. Banner answers President Lukashenko's attacks, saying: "We're not sheep. ... We are MTZ workers, we are not 20 people, we are 16,000!" Inset, like many disgusted at violent attacks on demonstrators, soldier had himself filmed throwing his uniform away into the garbage.

Sigms reading, "You can't apologize for THAT," and demanding the arrest of Interior Minister Yuri Karayev, were left outside the offices of the state security goons.

Troops fraternize with protesters

Belarusian troops have been photographed fraternizing with protesters who offered them flowers. Some soldiers have posted videos of themselves throwing away their uniforms in disgust at the brutality.

Lukashenko tried to mobilize his own rally in the capital Aug. 16 to bolster his tottering regime, organizing free transport for those outside Minsk. But it paled beside the March for Freedom the same day, which was called by Tikhonovskaya.

Quebec longshore strikers carry out 'fight for safety'

BY PIERRE-LUC FILION

MONTREAL — Some 1,125 longshore workers — heavy machine operators, signalers, ship handlers, electricians and mechanics at the Port of Montreal — have been on strike here since Aug. 10. They're fighting against Maritime Employers Association demands to impose unsafe schedules of working 19 days out of every 21.

The workers can be forced to work day, evening or night shift, and are given their work schedule the day before they have to report. Besides the danger to workers of such an exhausting schedule, this wreaks havoc on workers' families and their lives together.

This important labor battle by the workers and their union — Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 375 — began in December 2018, when their contract expired. Workers voted by 99.5% to strike, but they were blocked when the bosses tried to get the courts to deny them this right by declaring port workers an "essential service." After months of hearings, the court rejected this argument.

Picket lines are up at the port here and at the port terminal in Contrecoeur, about 40 miles northeast of Montreal. The 150 checkers from Local 1657 of the International Association of Longshoremen-Checkers have also joined the strike.

To add insult to injury, on Aug. 3 the Maritime Employers Association unilaterally reduced premium pay for eve-

ning, night, and weekend shifts. The port works also face cop harassment. Nine strikers were arrested Aug. 12. They are charged with intimidation, mischief, and assault in relation to a confrontation between longshore workers and provocative management scabs during an earlier four-day strike at the end of July. The cops threaten more arrests may be in the works.

Working people face falling real wages and growing turmoil from both the deepening worldwide crisis of capitalism and the spread of coronavirus. Some 543 people have died from the virus, but

Lukashenko has been the only president of Belarus since the Stalinized Soviet Union imploded.

Seeing the brutality dished out by the regime and facing threats of arrest from security forces, Tikhonovskaya fled to neighboring Lithuania after the election. Months earlier Lukashenko jailed her husband, Sergei Tikhonovskiy, who was one of his two main bourgeois rivals for the presidency. She then decided to run against Lukashenko herself, with tens of thousands turning out to support her at rallies across the country.

Working people face falling real wages and growing turmoil from both the deepening worldwide crisis of capitalism and the spread of coronavirus. Some 543 people have died from the virus, but

Strike solid, solidarity growing

The mood was upbeat and confident Aug. 10 at the Viau Street port entrance when this *Militant* worker-correspondent joined the picket line. A wide range of working people, truck drivers and others honked their horns and waved in support of the strikers as they drove by. One woman stopped her car to thank the strikers for the stand they are taking.

Later in the week dozens of Montreal blue collar city workers, members of CUPE Local 301, joined the picket line in solidarity.

Several Walmart workers, Teamsters union-organized Canadian National rail workers and others have also walked the line in support of the strike. The rail workers had waged their own "strike for safety" last November, challenging scheduling and work hours.

"I came to support them because the strike is like the one we won last November," said Canadian National train conductor Juan Federico Garcia. "Our strike shows if you stand up

Lukashenko dismissed concern over the outbreak of the disease as "mass psychosis" and scornfully prescribed drinking vodka as a cure.

Moscow's threats

Lukashenko's government has historically been backed by the capitalist rulers in Russia, who see Belarus as a critical buffer against NATO troops to the west. Washington has pushed to deploy the alliance's troops closer and closer to Russia's borders, including rotating troops in and out of neighboring Baltic states.

Moscow quickly congratulated Lukashenko on his election "victory" and echoed his slanders against

anti-government protesters, depicting them as "external forces" out to "destabilize" the country.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been pressing Lukashenko to form a closer alliance with Moscow. To increase pressure on him to do so, Moscow halted deliveries of subsidized oil to Belarus companies earlier this year. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo then visited Minsk offering to give Lukashenko oil at "competitive prices" to replace those withheld by Moscow.

The Russian rulers station military aircraft at bases in Belarus and have been seeking to increase their forces in the country to counter Washington's threats to expand its troop deployments in neighboring Poland.

you can get something."

"The port bosses need to hire more workers, like they also should do at CN, in order for the guys to have regular days off," Jonathan Chiasson, another CN conductor, added.

Bosses' associations in Quebec are pushing for government intervention to stop the strike. "The effects of a prolonged strike on Montreal's and Quebec's economy will be devastating," declared Michel Leblanc, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal. "We must act now. We need to impose arbitration and make everyone go back work."

The union has rejected any form of compulsory arbitration, explaining it's stacked against the workers.

The Port of Montreal is the second largest in Canada, next to Vancouver. Ninety percent of all the importers and exporters in Ontario and Quebec use the port. Each day 2,500 trucks from Canada and the United States enter and leave the port, along with 60 to 80 train convoys a week. Some 90,000 cargo containers are now tied up at the port.

It is in the interests of all workers and farmers to support this struggle. Walk the picket line with them. Get your union, church, or community organization to send contributions and messages of solidarity. Send them to Syndicat des débardeurs, 7020 Notre Dame Est, Montreal, Quebec H1N 3L6. Tel: (514) 255-8868. Fax: (514) 255-8211.

New Orleans 'hoppers' fight for wages, conditions

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

NEW ORLEANS — Since May 5 sanitation workers, the "hoppers" who ride the back of the garbage trucks and do heavy lifting, have been on strike to build their union, the City Waste Union. They are fighting for a living wage, beyond the \$10.25 per hour paid by a temp agency, PeopleReady, which covers some sanitation services in the city.

The workers are demanding safe working conditions: clean drinking water; gloves to handle contaminated material, possibly tainted with coronavirus; and uniforms. They demand that the trucks be maintained so hydraulic hoses don't spew hot fluid drenching them and filling their shoes with a toxic liquid that doesn't evaporate but penetrates the skin.

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party 2020 candidate for U.S. president, spoke with the strikers Aug. 13.

Striker Kendrick Anderson explained, "The hoppers have struck several times before for better daily pay, winning \$85, then \$95, to \$100." However when we started getting paid by the hour and we got \$10.25 last year under the new staffing agency, it was a pay cut.

"We thought it would be another short strike. But this time the bosses drew a line." They brought halfway house inmates to replace the strikers. "Inmates were threatened with having parole cancelled and being sent back to virus-infested prisons if they didn't go. To do the work, inmate crews were rotated to take a break from the heat and the heavy lifting." Anderson said, "We even gave them water, Gatorade and sausage biscuits to help them make it."

The use of inmates was withdrawn after two weeks of public outrage. Most of the 60 hoppers went back to work, but 14 have held out, maintaining the strike and the fight for their

union. Today drivers on the garbage trucks show solidarity by honking their horns as they pass the gathering in the nearby shopping center. "[Working] hoppers say thank you," Anderson explained, for maintaining the strike.

Kennedy told the hoppers, "Your fight is an important example of workers taking action against attacks by the bosses today."

Anderson said the 14 go house to house with flyers to win support. "We wash cars, cut grass." The niece of one of the strikers set up a "Go Fund Me" account to raise money. Striker Jonathan Edwards, a 13-year veteran, explained that with all the support they've won they are able to use it to support other causes, like organizing a giveaway for the homeless, which "feels good to us."

"I'm looking forward to telling the story of your fight everywhere I go," Kennedy said.

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Russian Revolution proved workers can take power

Speeches for Socialism by James P. Cannon is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. A young working-class fighter inspired by the 1917 October Revolution led by the Bolsheviks, he was a founding leader of the U.S. Communist Party and a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International under V.I. Lenin. Expelled from the by now Stalinist-controlled CP, he and others, determined to continue the course of Lenin, founded the Militant newspaper in 1928. Cannon was national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1938 to 1953. The excerpt is from his 1942 speech, "The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Russian Revolution." Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

We meet on the twenty-fifth anniversary of that great day when the world-encircling chain of imperialism snapped at its weakest link, and the workers of Czarist Russia, supported by the peasants, broke through to victory and established the first workers' state. We are meeting tonight, as we and our kind have been meeting on each succeeding anniversary throughout the years since 1917, as partisans and defenders of the Russian Revolution and of the workers' state which



Workers' Red Guard patrols south of Moscow during October 1917 Russian Revolution. U.S. communist leader James P. Cannon said workers from U.S., Europe and their "colonial slaves" were lifted up by victory of Bolsheviks after "depression and despair" of imperialist world war.

the Russian Revolution created.

We are not alone today. The whole world is taking notice of the USSR on this anniversary. Everybody is recognizing the Soviet Union, each in his own way. Churchill, who tried his best to overthrow it in the early days, and Roosevelt, who — to judge by the indictment which his administration drew up against us¹ — was, to say the least, not very friendly to the Russian Revolution — Churchill and Roosevelt pay hypocritical tribute today to "the great Russian people" and "the heroic Red Army." Hitler looks toward the East through dark glasses tonight, with fear and trembling, wondering whether his insane dream of empire hasn't been shattered on the Russian front.

Remembering the Russian Revolution of 1917, the workers of Europe and the colonial slaves lift up their hearts in hope once more today. Each in his own way, for reasons of his own, takes notice of this twenty-fifth anniversary. But the differences in the reasons — and they are whole worlds apart — change nothing in the decisive fact that everybody is saluting, recognizing, or cursing a state and an army that issued from a victorious revolution of the workers. This revo-

lution is in the greatest crisis of its entire history at this hour, in its greatest peril. We know this and we say it openly.

And we say also, and with truth, that in its greatest crisis and danger, we Fourth Internationalists, we disciples of Lenin and Trotsky, remain the best defenders of the Soviet Union. The fact that we are celebrating the revolution and not announcing its funeral shows that we are still fighting. We are fighting for a revolution that is still living.

War and revolution are the most authoritative of all tribunals. It is there, in war and in revolution, that all the great questions are decided in our epoch. The outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 demonstrated that capitalism, as an economic and social system, had exhausted its progressive historic mission. The Russian Revolution of November 1917 served notice that a more powerful class than the class of capitalists had come to maturity. The modern proletariat, the progressive force in modern society, the herald and representative of a new social order — this class, as demonstrated by the revolution, took the offensive in the class battle that can only end in worldwide victory.

November 7, 1917. The death sentence on the old order of capitalism and the beginning of the new order of world socialism were both proclaimed on that day. And whatever vicissitudes, whatever setbacks, betrayals or defeats may overtake the proletariat on the road to that final goal; however sharp and deep may be the zigzags in the line which charts

the course of the struggle through which humanity shall pass from capitalism to socialism; whatever may befall: the starting point in the line of development will always be traced to that great day which we commemorate tonight — November 7, 1917.

I can remember the dark days of the First World War, 1914-1918. Then as now, all the hopes for humanity's progress seemed to be drowned in the blood of the war. Reaction seemed to be triumphant everywhere. The enemies of the proletariat gloated over the treachery and capitulation of the socialist parties. ... The whole world labor movement was overcome with depression and despair in 1914-1917.

But the Russian Revolution of November 7 changed all that overnight. At one blow, the revolution lifted the proletariat of Europe to its feet again. It stirred the hundreds of millions of colonial slaves who had never known political aspiration before, who had never dared to hope before. The Russian Revolution awakened them to the promise of a new life.

Here in the United States, the progressive sections of the socialist and labor movements were reinvigorated by the Russian Revolution. The morale of the movement grew stronger than ever before. For the first time, concentrated in revolutionary action, we had a demonstration of the real meaning of the doctrines of Marxism. For the first time we learned, from the example and teachings of Lenin and Trotsky and the leaders of the Russian Revolution, the real meaning of a revolutionary party. ...

Marx and Engels lifted the conception of socialism from utopia to science. The Russian Revolution developed scientific socialism from theory into action, and proved several things that before had been abstract generalizations and predictions. The Russian Revolution proved in action that certain things were true beyond all further doubt. The first of these things proved by the revolution was that it is possible for the workers to take power. It is possible for the workers to forge out of their ranks a party that is capable of leading the struggle to victory. And the workers in all countries will everlastingly remember that. Nothing can erase from history that example. Victory of the proletariat is possible — the Russian Revolution in action, in blood and fire, proved that it is so.

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¹ Cannon was one of 18 leaders of SWP and Minneapolis Teamsters union imprisoned on charges of conspiring to advocate overthrow of the U.S. government. Their real "crime" was organizing opposition within the labor movement to the U.S. rulers' drive to enter World War II.

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NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** 285 Washington Ave. #1R. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** P.O. Box 79142. Zip: 15216. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: Dallas: 1005 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Zip: 75208. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

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

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com



ALYSON KENNEDY

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Recognize Israel and Palestinian state



MALCOLM JARRETT

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people of all national backgrounds, religious beliefs and political allegiances in Israel and Palestine,” the statements explains, “can use and defend their space to speak, organize and begin redressing the blood-drenched legacy of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation.”

The SWP starts from “the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world.”

It outlines what is critical for working people everywhere:

“We are *for* whatever helps working people organize and act together to advance our demands and struggles against the capitalist governments and ruling classes that exploit and oppress us and their petty bourgeois political servants and media apologists.

“We are *for* whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power.”

The SWP presidential ticket in 2020 is presenting a

fighting program to advance toward that goal.

The party’s candidates point to the importance of struggles on the job to build a union movement in every workplace, to fight for jobs, higher wages and better working conditions. This will provide the foundation for building our own political party, a labor party that can uncompromisingly defend all the exploited and oppressed from the bosses and their governments.

We can’t rely on the bosses or their government to provide safe and healthy working conditions. Impelled by cutthroat competition, the bosses’ drive for profits ensures they have nothing but disregard for the lives and limbs of those who toil for a living. Work can be performed safely, but only when workers wrest control of production out of their hands. As we fight for this we can see what becomes possible when our class holds political power and can begin addressing how to meet the needs of all.

My campaign explains why workers and our unions must fight for a government-funded public works program that provides jobs *now* at union-scale pay for the millions out of work. It can be used to build hospitals, schools and the housing workers need.

Join the SWP campaign!

Israel-UAE pact is step forward in Middle East

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will “suspend” any attempts to annex parts of the West Bank Palestinian territory. Direct phone links were put in place just days later. Officials will soon meet to establish direct flights between the two countries as well as reciprocal embassies.

At a press briefing Trump noted that “this deal will allow much greater access to Muslims from throughout the world to visit the many historic sites in Israel” and to “peacefully pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque” in Jerusalem, which is one of the holiest sites in Islam.

For years there have been increasing trade and behind-the-scenes diplomatic relations between the Israeli government and those in the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, as well as other Sunni Muslim-led capitalist countries.

The governments of Bahrain, Oman, and Egypt welcomed the accord. While the Saudi government has been silent, it has been increasing its ties to Israel.

Accord also aimed at Tehran

These ties have been growing because of a shared interest in defending themselves against the expanding military and political influence of the capitalist, Shiite cleric-led regime in Iran. Tehran is the main competitor of these Sunni-based regimes for economic, military and political influence in the region and a bitter foe of the Israeli state.

Even many of Trump’s liberal opponents, including Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden, backed the accord. Never Trumper Thomas Friedman wrote in the *New York Times* Aug. 13 that “it was Trump’s peace plan drawn up by Jared Kushner and their willingness to stick with it, that actually created the raw material for this breakthrough.”

Friedman was referring to a plan by the White House and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in January that called for Palestinian recognition of Israel and Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas rejected that out of hand, refusing to even read it.

The Israeli paper *Haaretz* said the latest accord can be “part of a much wider geopolitical realignment” than the previous decisions of the Israeli and Jordanian governments to establish relations in 1994 and the 1979 Egypt-Israel accord.

In a televised speech Aug. 15 Iranian President Hassan Rouhani berated the UAE rulers for their “treacherous act.” The UAE is one of Iran’s top three trading partners. On its front page, the Iranian government-backed daily *Kayhan* threatened the UAE, calling it “a ‘legitimate and easy target’ for the resistance.”

The next day the Gulf Cooperation Council —

comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — condemned Tehran’s threats.

Abbas and Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, spoke by phone. Hamas stated both officials say the accord should “not be respected.” The Turkish government also condemned it.

For years the Palestinian leadership has acted in ways that dealt blows to the Palestinian people’s aspirations to establish their own homeland. The Palestinian Authority has done nothing to advance the interests of Palestinian workers and farmers, while enriching a handful of capitalist families from massive funds doled out to it by Israel, U.N. agencies and imperialist financial institutions.

Recurring deadly conflicts between Hamas, and other groups in Gaza claiming to speak for the Palestinians, and Israel are an obstacle to Jewish, Palestinian and other working people. It makes it more difficult for working people to recognize their common class interests and act together to advance them.

As more Arab states establish relations with Israel, pressure will grow on the leadership of the main Palestinian organizations to recognize Israel alongside an independent, contiguous Palestinian state.

Al Jazeera, a news site funded by the Qatari government, ran a headline Aug. 14 alleging “Palestinians unanimously reject UAE-Israel deal.” But that is true only for the leaders of Hamas in Gaza and the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank. So far there’s no widespread public opposition to the deal among Palestinians there or in Israel.

Talks must recognize right of Jews to take refuge

Despite the hostility of Palestinian leaders to the accord, its signing adds to the prospects of broader talks aimed at securing recognition of Israel and a Palestinian state that includes both Gaza and the West Bank.

“Negotiations to reach such an agreement must recognize the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war,” noted a statement released by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, in December 2017.

“It is along this road that working people of all national backgrounds, religious beliefs and political allegiances in Israel and Palestine can use and defend their space to speak, organize and begin redressing the blood-drenched legacy of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation,” the SWP statement said.

Bosses two parties

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together against the bosses and their government.

The SWP campaign says workers need a union movement in every workplace. We need our own party, a labor party, to organize working people in their millions and to take political power into our own hands. Workers need to fight to take control of production and safety on the job and for jobs for the unemployed.

Democrats’ ‘virtual’ convention

The Democratic Party organized a “virtual” national convention August 17-20, nominating Biden and Kamala Harris as its presidential ticket. It featured talks by politicians of various stripes — from Bernie Sanders to Never-Trump Republicans like former Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Colin Powell. The single theme is all out to get rid of Trump.

Virtually every middle-class radical group in the country has signed on to the Biden campaign.

Democrats hope putting Harris on their ticket will garner votes based on her skin color and her sex. But her claim to fame is serving as district attorney in San Francisco and attorney general in California — in charge of the capitalist rulers’ criminal “justice” system. She helped railroad workers to prison and defended the prison system from challenges against solitary confinement and brutality.

The liberals that control the party and their media allies have spent the last four years trying to use an FBI witch hunt to get rid of Trump. The last thing they want now is to debate with the president.

Debates should only be scheduled, Jennifer Rubin wrote in the *Washington Post*, if they are limited to “coronavirus, one on the economy and one on racial justice,” and there are no opening and closing remarks. And she says they should be monitored by a “real-time fact checker” ready to censor any lie Trump may utter.

Never far from the surface is liberals’ scorn for working people, who they consider responsible for Trump’s election in 2016 and fear they will do so again this fall. Hillary Clinton called working people “deplorables.”

Biden declared in June that some 15% of the population are just “not very good people,” but if he is elected he will hold their worst instincts in check.

What they really fear is that workers will organize ourselves and mount a challenge to the system of capitalist exploitation and oppression that these politicians have dedicated their lives to upholding.

Republicans up next

The Republican convention is set for Aug. 24-27, mostly virtual as well. Donald Trump will give his acceptance speech from Washington, D.C. No Democrats are scheduled to speak, neither is former President George W. Bush.

When Trump ran for president in 2016, he campaigned as an outsider, saying his goal was to “drain the swamp” of Washington politicians who don’t give a damn about working people. And he pointed to workers’ need for jobs as a key priority, saying he would create an infrastructure program to solve that.

But he’s been in Washington for four years now. He never did organize a serious jobs program, and doesn’t propose to do so if reelected.

He does explain that the relentless effort by the Democrats to drive him from office has created obstacles to what he could accomplish. And this gets a real response from many workers.

Trump gave a preview of the convention at a rally in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, held the same day as the opening of the Democrats’ virtual gathering. He said the 2020 campaign was “a fight for the survival of our nation and civilization itself.” The rest was to tout the accomplishments of his administration.

The fact is, millions more today are without jobs and face growing insecurity about the future.

Neither of the capitalist rulers’ two parties have a program to offer working people. Whether Biden or Trump is in the White House for the next four years they will act as every president has done — to defend the propertied rulers, to maximize their profits and to defend U.S. imperialism’s political and military interests abroad.