

Mass protests, labor actions say down with Belarus gov’t

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Well over 100,000 people flooded the Belarusian capital Minsk demanding the resignation of President Alexander Lukashenko Sept. 13, the fifth massive Sunday protest in a row. Simultaneous protests took place in 16 other cities. Ever since Lukashenko blatantly falsified the results of the Aug. 9 elections and declared himself winner, his government has been rocked by daily protests and strikes.

His regime has been stepping up arrests, beatings and threats against workers, students and others who are demanding his resignation, new elections and the release of all political prisoners.

Men in balaclavas pulled people out of crowds gathering at the start of the march and put them in unmarked minibuses, with over 400 arrested. But as the street filled, riot police were unable to do anything but watch as protesters marched by.

While many miners and other

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SWP: Join the fight to defend jobs, wages, safety

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — How can we change worsening working conditions, combat cuts to our hours and deal with rising prices? These questions were at the center of discussions among meat-packers, retail workers and farmworkers when they met the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket — Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president — during the candidates’ tour of Southern California in early September.

“We have work, but many people don’t,” farmworker Fernando Muñoz told Kennedy in Oxnard, a town in an important agricultural area. Muñoz is paid \$13 an hour but was working only 1 or 2 days a week when he was first called back from a three-week layoff. Now he gets up to 40 hours per week, as opposed to 50-plus before the pandemic.

“We think there should be a union in every workplace,” Kennedy told him. She described her visit to the Yakima Valley in Washington state, where she

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Workers need a union in every workplace!



Teamsters Local 89

Teamsters fighting for first contract picket DSI Tunneling in Louisville, Ky., Sept. 10 with IBEW Local 369 members who brought gift cards to help strikers. Solidarity is key to building unions.

Solidarity with Dominion grocery workers in Canada!

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued this statement Sept. 15.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

The strike being waged by retail workers at Dominion stores in Newfoundland, Canada, members of the Unifor union, against cuts in wages and full-time jobs is in the interests of all working people. Solidarity from workers and our unions is needed to bolster their fight.

These workers confront conditions familiar to millions across North America and around the world. By standing tall and refusing to yield to bosses’ at-

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Jobs crisis is biggest threat facing working people today

BY SETH GALINSKY

More workers face rising hardship and uncertainty about the future today as high unemployment persists. The capitalist governments on all levels — federal, state and local — have taken few steps to alleviate, much less reverse, these conditions.

The Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign urges unions to mobilize working people to wage a fight for a government-funded jobs program to get millions back to work at union-scale wages to build hospitals, schools, day care centers and other things working people urgently require.

Nearly 1.7 million people filed new claims to collect state unemployment or federal “Pandemic Unemploy-

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Dominion workers strike for pay, full-time jobs bosses took away



Unifor

Dominion workers, on strike since Aug. 22, picket in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, Sept. 13. Company takeback of \$2 an hour hazard pay “was a smack in the face,” said one striker.

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

“We had a great day on the picket line here for Labor Day with about 100 people on the line at each of the 11 Dominion grocery stores on strike,” Carolyn Wrice, president of Unifor Local 597, told the *Militant* by phone Sept. 8. The 1,400 workers, more than 80% of whom are classified as part time, are now into their fourth week on strike fighting for higher wages

and more full-time jobs.

The strike is the most important labor battle in North America today.

At one of the picket lines in St. John’s, Devon Mercer, whose job is classified as part time but who works full-time hours, told CBC News, “It was kind of a smack in the face.” When the coronavirus hit, he said, “they needed us so much, that they

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Join the fight to overturn Florida’s ban on the ‘Militant’ in state prisons

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Florida prison officials have banned four recent issues of the *Militant*, preventing them from reaching dozens of subscribers behind bars there. They claim each issue contains an article that is “dangerously inflammatory” and “advocates or encourages riot insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules.”

While each ban points to an article they claim is “dangerously inflammatory,” they never say *what* they find objectionable or why.

The *Militant* is urging supporters of freedom of the press and of the

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—On the picket line—

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‘Militant’ fights prison ban

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rights of workers behind bars to join in pressing Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee to lift the bans.

Issue no. 30 was impounded for the article “Prisoners Demand Release from Overcrowded Jails.” It describes a peaceful rally in California by inmates’ family members and supporters urging the state government take steps to relieve the dangerous overcrowding in prisons there amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It also reports on a letter from a prisoner describing conditions where he is held and a possible hunger strike by about 20 prisoners over this situation.

After the Literature Review Committee upheld the ban, *Militant* attorney David Goldstein appealed this decision. On Sept. 14 Goldstein also filed an appeal against the impoundments of issues no. 31 and 33.

Issue no. 31 was impounded for the article “Workers Oppose Federal Cops, Antifa Violence in Portland.” “The article unmistakably and repeatedly *opposes violence* by all sides concerning the protests in Portland, whether by antifa or by federal or local police,” Goldstein wrote.

“To read this article and conclude that it ‘is dangerously inflammatory,’” noted Goldstein, “is simply incomprehensible,” and certainly unconstitutional.

This topic has been extensively covered in the media, in Florida and nationwide. The only conclusion to be drawn, Goldstein said, is that state prison officials “are targeting the *Militant* because of its political viewpoints.”

The *Militant* is currently mailed to 152 subscribers in 87 federal and state prisons in 23 states, including 61 subscribers in 24 state prisons in Florida.

No other subscriber in a state or federal facility outside of Florida has had these issues impounded, the appeal notes.

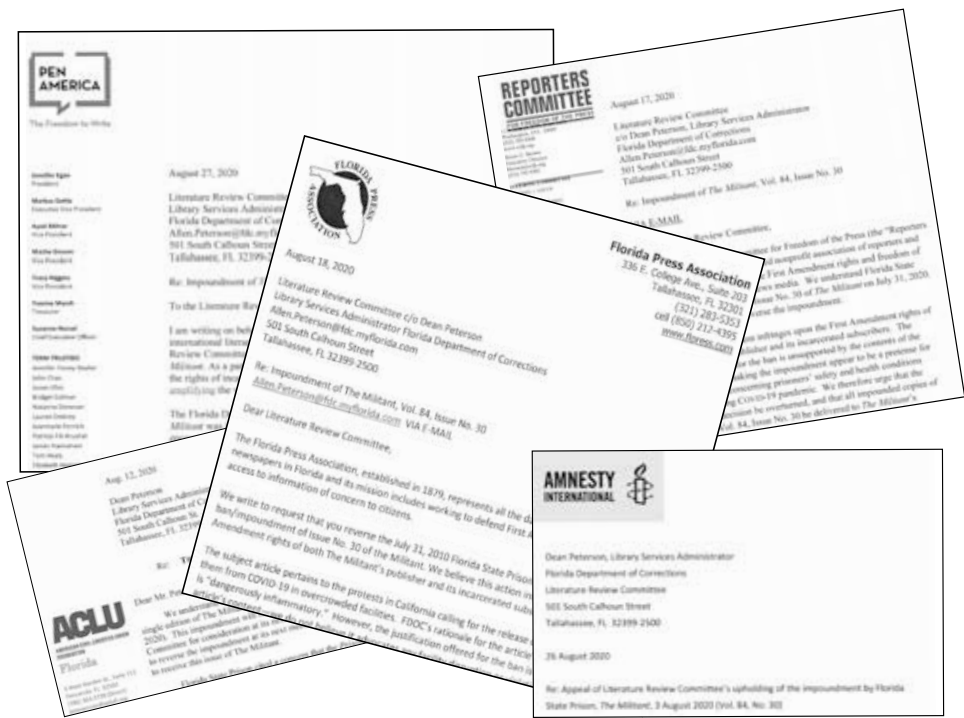
Issue no. 33 was banned because it reported on a ban of a prior issue of the *Militant*. The headline read, “After Pennsylvania Prison Ban Is Revoked, Florida Prison Bars ‘Militant.’” The *Militant* has been informed that issue no. 34 was impounded for running an article describing growing support for overturning the ban.

Florida prison officials have attempted numerous times to ban issues of the *Militant* that reported on previous bans, which the Literature Review Committee subsequently overturned. Last year, noted Goldstein, “they overturned a series of bans of Vol. 83, Nos. 24-28, 30 for reporting on prior censorship.” Then they stopped banning issues, until these most recent acts of political suppression.

From mid-2017 to August 2019, Florida prison authorities banned about three dozen issues of the *Militant*, over one-third of all issues. But through a fight waged by supporters of prisoners’ rights, most of these were reversed.

Support to end bans grows

Today’s new fight against banning the *Militant* has won the involvement of a



Join fight to overturn suppression of *Militant* in Florida prisons. Above, some letters sent so far.

growing number of well-known organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Foundation Florida, Amnesty International USA, Florida Press Association, Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press and PEN America.

“Others have told us they’re preparing letters as well,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “The more pressure brought to bear to overturn this attack on the constitutional rights of both the paper and its readers behind bars, the

greater chance of success.”

“The *Militant* will never back off from its position that prisoners have the right to read different viewpoints, to think for themselves and form their own opinions on political questions,” said Studer.

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 a copy to the *Militant*.

Protest hits campus worker layoffs at San Francisco State

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO — Over 200 workers, students and supporters rallied at San Francisco State University here Sept. 12 to protest layoffs of 131 campus workers. Among those slated for layoff are maintenance workers who are members of the Teamsters, as well as office and information technology workers

organized by the California State University Employees Union. No academic faculty are being cut.

“I have a wife and children to support,” Oscar Portillo, a painter, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. “Now I’m making \$30 an hour with benefits. It’s not easy to get another job like this today.”

“I’m paying \$2,000 for a small apartment for me and my wife,” said painter Enrique Garcia. “Losing this job means it’s going to be hard to keep up with the rent, that keeps going up.”

John Del, a painter who doesn’t face layoff because he has high seniority, was there to support his co-workers.

Almost all the students are taking courses online and the campus is deserted. The California State University system had \$22 million cut from its state funding this year and the number of stu-

dents enrolled is expected to fall.

T-shirts and signs carried by the protesters said, “Chop from the top,” referring to the bloated salaries of top university administrators. “Many of them make \$100,000 a year and more,” said Denise Miyajima, an office worker in the computer science department.

“Computer science is one of the biggest departments,” she said. “Two of us work in the department office and now the other person has been cut.”

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, participated in the protest. “I support the fight for no layoffs,” Britton told Miyajima. “There are layoffs like this taking place throughout the country, devastating the lives of workers. To stop layoffs, our party says our unions need to fight to shorten the workweek with no cut in pay.”

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

THE MILITANT

Support cultural rights in Inner Mongolia!

The Chinese government threatened parents, teachers, students and other toilers in Inner Mongolia after they organized demonstrations supporting the use of the Mongolian language in schools. The ‘Militant’ supports the struggle for national self-determination.



Reuters/Anand Tumurtogoo
Protest in Ulaanbaatar for right of schools to teach in Mongolian, not Mandarin Chinese.

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SWP: Defend jobs, wages, safety

Continued from front page
learned about the fight waged by fruit packinghouse workers. “The bosses provided nothing to protect workers from the spread of coronavirus, so they struck even though they didn’t have a union. Their fight won some of their demands and built their self-confidence. Now back at work, they are fighting to build a union, an example for all workers.”

Muñoz got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola*. The book explains how the Cuban Revolution sent more than 200 volunteer doctors and other medical personnel to West Africa to help fight the deadly virus. Their actions showed the kind of men and women only a deep-going socialist revolution can produce.

Paula Sixto, also in Oxnard, told Kennedy she injured her hand at a packinghouse job, where she said “conditions are very unjust and workers don’t have enough money for rent and bills.” Sixto has carpal tunnel. She listened closely as Kennedy described how the fight for safer working conditions was part of the strike by fruit packing-

house workers in Yakima Valley. “Sometimes the line speed is slower and sometimes it is faster,” Carolina Cabrera told Jarrett when he and Kennedy spoke with workers during a shift change at the Farmer John meatpacking plant in Vernon. Cabrera has worked at the plant for eight years.

Speedup endangers workers

“Using union power is the only way to control line speed,” Jarrett replied. “We need for workers to get together to wage a fight for control of production, including all aspects of health and safety.”

Daniel White has worked at the plant for three years. He told Kennedy that at the beginning of the pandemic workers “had to double up on work time, because too many were getting sick.”

The plant was one of several in the Vernon area where workers faced outbreaks of coronavirus. The government had given meatpacking bosses the OK to increase line speeds, pushing workers ever-closer together. Delegations of workers at Farmer John pressed bosses for improved conditions, winning some gains but only in parts of the factory.

“Trump knew about the virus and



Militant/Josefina Otero

Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy speaks to Alexis Santiago Avila, at Farmer John packinghouse in Los Angeles Sept. 14. “People want their voices to be heard,” he said of demonstrations against cop brutality, but “violence in the protests is a problem.”

did nothing,” White said.

“If Biden gets elected there will be no difference,” Kennedy replied. “Our campaign is for a labor party, because neither the Republican nor Democratic Party represents working people.” A labor party would organize workers in our millions to fight for our interests.

Jorge Cordon, who has worked at

the plant for 18 years, told Kennedy he supported establishing unions in every workplace, but said a lot of workers won’t “because of the corruption.” Kennedy said that in the course of standing up to bosses’ attacks, workers can transform unions into the fighting tools we need. *We* are the union, she said, and we can use them to change our conditions.

Alexis Santiago Avila told Kennedy he has been in the U.S. for 18 years, but still only has a work visa. “Our party supports amnesty for undocumented workers,” she said. “This is needed especially in the fields, where workers are paid lower wages.”

They also discussed the fight against police brutality. Kennedy said she joined protests to press for charges against the cops who killed Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain and many others. “People want their voices to be heard,” Santiago said, “but the violence in the protests is a problem.”

This question was taken on by Jarrett at a campaign forum a few days after two Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputies sitting in their patrol car were shot by an unidentified person. “My campaign condemns the shooting of the cops, and those who showed up at the hospital,” blocking entry to the emergency room where the cops were being treated, chanting “We hope they die!”

Jarrett said, “This hurts all those who want to build a working-class movement,” one urgently needed today to fight for protection from the deepening capitalist crisis, and to organize workers to defend our common interests.

For information on how to get involved in the SWP campaign, contact a campaign office listed on page 8.

Socialist Workers Party updated 2020 platform

WORKERS NEED A UNION MOVEMENT IN EVERY WORKPLACE. The Socialist Workers Party presents a fighting working-class program to build and use our unions to defend the interests of all working people. 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!

MILLIONS NEED JOBS TODAY! Our unions need to fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, housing, mass transportation and much more that workers need. Fight for a sliding scale of hours and wages to stop layoffs and the effects of runaway prices. Cut the workweek with no cut in pay! For cost-of-living clauses in every contract that raise pay and retirement benefits to offset every rise in prices!

Demand immediate national government unemployment benefits at union scale for *all* those thrown out of work as long as they need it.

WORKERS NEED THEIR OWN PARTY, A LABOR PARTY. For our unions to lead a class break from the parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. A labor party can organize workers in our 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 establish 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.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND. To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we support demands for 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.

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. The leaders of Arab states, of Israel and Palestinian leaders need to meet and recognize both the state of Israel and an independent 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 “three strike” 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 efforts to shut up 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.

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

Omari Musa, delegate to Congress, D.C.
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

Henry Dennison, Governor, Washington
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

See directory on page 8 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

Bahrain joins UAE in signing recognition pact with Israel

BY TERRY EVANS

Coming on the heels of last month's pact where the governments of Israel and the United Arab Emirates formally recognized each other, the rulers in Bahrain announced they would also restore full diplomatic relations with Israel Sept. 11. Each step in this direction increases the prospect of talks by Arab governments, Israel and Palestinian groups aimed at recognition of Israel and establishing a Palestinian state.

Both accords were advanced by the U.S. administration of Donald Trump. They are tied to building a common front against the expanding influence of the regime in Iran, which is a foe of Sunni Arab governments and calls for the destruction of the state of Israel. Central to this has been pressing Arab regimes to normalize relations with Israel, after years of boycotts and publicly treating it as a pariah nation.

The Saudi monarchy, which has substantial influence over Bahraini policy, tacitly approved its decision. For now, the Saudi government says it will only establish relations with Israel after creation of a Palestinian state that includes all territory conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war. But the Saudi rulers ended their ban on airlines using their airspace during flights to and from Israel Sept. 10.

After signing the pact with the Israeli government, Bahrain's King Hamad restated the need for an agreement that recognizes Israel and a Palestinian state.

Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi Sept. 11 denounced Washington for "coercing and cajoling Arabs to normalize with Israel." Some other Palestinian figures, like Suha Arafat, widow of long-time Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, publicly supported the right of the UAE to recognize Israel.

The Palestinian Authority misleadership is increasingly isolated. Its efforts to muster opposition to the pact between Israel and the UAE fell flat at a summit of the Arab League Sept. 9. The Arab governments attending the gathering refused to approve a resolution submitted by PA officials condemning the rulers of the UAE.

At the summit Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad Malki claimed the pact was an "earthquake" shaking relations between the PA, which governs in the West Bank, and Arab governments. The Palestinian Authority and Hamas, which rules in Gaza, both defend the interests of bourgeois and upper-middle-class forces there. Both have so far rejected any talks with Israel that could bring an end to the cycle of deadly conflicts with Israeli military forces and that could open the door to establishing a Palestinian nation.

Washington says the Israeli government will suspend indefinitely any annexation of parts of the West Bank.

Mounting enmity to the Iranian rulers and their relentless drive to extend their economic, political and military reach in the Middle East is driving most other Arab governments into closer collaboration with Jerusalem. Tehran has stationed allied militias in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria in the course of intervening in wars wracking the region.

The regime in Tehran is the product of a bloody counterrevolution against the popular uprising of workers and farmers that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah in 1979. The reactionary forces who led that counterrevolution took aim at the workers, national minorities and women who the uprising brought into motion. The regime's moves in the region today seek to extend its sway.

Israel, Serbia, Kosovo deal

Washington also helped put together a three-way deal between the governments of Israel, Serbia and Kosovo announced Sept. 4. The accord includes recognition of Israel by the rulers of Kosovo, another majority-Muslim country. It ends the Israeli rulers' refusal to recognize Kosovo since that country declared independence from Serbia in 2008. They had previously feared doing so would undercut support for their opposition to Palestinian statehood.

End US gov't crippling sanctions against NKorea!

BY SETH GALINSKY

For years Washington's global trade and banking sanctions against North Korea — continued even as President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un began a series of talks in 2018 — have increased shortages and worsened conditions facing millions of working people there. Now the impact of its "maximum pressure" campaign is being exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the world and the severe typhoons and monsoon flooding that have hit North Korea.

When the talks between the U.S. and both North and South Korean governments began, it raised the possibility of a breakthrough toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. But little lasting progress has been registered. Although the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dismantled some of its nuclear facilities and ceased testing intercontinental missiles, Washington has not eased its economic assault. This has prevented any further progress.

International aid groups that provide medical supplies, food and other aid to the North say that the tightening of sanctions since 2017 forced them to cut back on deliveries. Even though the sanctions are not supposed to apply to these groups, banks have refused to



Koach La Ovdim

Jewish and Arab bus drivers demand better work conditions in Jerusalem in July. Recognition of Israel and a sovereign Palestinian state would open door to advancing workers' interests.

These accords and the growing isolation of the PLO and Hamas, make it more likely talks will take place between Israel, Arab governments and Palestinian groups to discuss mutual recognition of both Israel and a Palestinian state.

"It is along that 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 of capitalist exploitation," Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes said in

a 2017 statement.

Such talks must recognize "the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in the face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence," Barnes said, "as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous sovereign homeland."

That is the road to advancing "the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise."

handle their transactions.

Sanctions delayed the arrival of 10,000 coronavirus test kits and protective equipment for several months.

Three typhoons in the last three weeks on top of earlier monsoon flooding, causing dozens of casualties, have made the situation worse. According to the government's Korean Central News Agency, at least 40 miles of roads, 17,000 homes, dozens of public buildings and 59 bridges were "destroyed or inundated" by the storms. Tens of thousands of acres of rice and other crops were ruined.

Kim had announced in mid-August that because of COVID-19 the government was not requesting "any outside aid for the flood damage." In an attempt to prevent spread of the disease, the government closed its border with China, the country's main trading partner.

Meanwhile, beginning Aug. 18 the U.S. and South Korean governments organized a 10-day, mostly computer-simulated, joint military maneuvers that target North Korea.

In recent years Washington has reduced its inflammatory military exercises, which carried a constant threat of war against North Korea.

The U.S. government must "Cancel all war games now!" wrote Steve Clark for the Socialist Workers Party, in a Sept. 9 letter to the North Korean government, sent on the anniversary of the founding of Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Washington must also halt its "missile defense" operations with the Japanese government, Clark wrote. These also target the DPRK.

Korea was divided into North and South, against the will of the Korean people following World War II.

With the agreement of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, U.S. troops occupied the South, where Washington

installed the bloody dictatorship of Syngman Rhee. In the North, workers and farmers carried out a revolution that put an end the rule of capitalists and landlords.

Washington carried out a devastating war between 1950 and 1953, to try to reverse the conquests of the Korean people. More than 4 million were killed, including at least 2 million civilians. Carpet bombing reduced northern Korean cities to rubble.

In the first ever military defeat for U.S. imperialism, Korean workers and peasants, aided by Chinese volunteers, pushed U.S. forces back to the 38th parallel and fought them to a stalemate. Washington agreed to a permanent cease-fire, but to this day refuses to sign a peace treaty. It still has 28,500 troops stationed in the South and hundreds of fighter jets and bombers, including nuclear-capable ones.

A decision by Washington to end all war games and finally to sign a peace accord to end the 1950-53 war "would lay the basis for a treaty with the DPRK to end deployment by any government of nuclear arms on the Korean Peninsula and in its air and waters," Clark wrote. "Such an agreement would be hailed by working people in Asia and the world over, who aspire to live free from the threat of weapons of mass destruction."

He pointed to struggles waged by working people in the U.S., from union fights to protests against cop brutality, writing that workers engaged in such battles "can and will be won to opposing the brutal imperialist sanctions and wars of the capitalist class, its political parties and its government."

Getting U.S. military forces out of Korea and establishing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula would put working people in Korea in the best position to advance the reunification of their country.

For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

Socialist Workers Party statement

Download ready-to-print flyer at www.themilitant.com



Univ. of Illinois workers strike over staffing, safety, higher pay

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHICAGO — Members of the Illinois Nurses Association walked off the job at the University of Illinois Hospital and its clinics here Sept. 12, five days after their contract expired. The strike vote was 995-12. Their central demands are for more staffing and safer working conditions.

Their fight was reinforced Sept. 14 when 4,000 members of the Service Employees International Union began their own strike at the hospital and several of its other facilities around the state. SEIU Local 73 represents clerical, technical, professional, and service and maintenance workers.

Hundreds of striking nurses and SEIU members rallied outside the University of Illinois Hospital that day. “We don’t have access to PPE. They have it hidden away,” Angie Ross, a Local 73 member who works the front desk at one of the hospital’s clinics, told the *Militant*. “A lot of us make less than \$15 an hour. They say because it’s a state hospital they don’t have to abide by the city’s minimum wage. We want respect. When you speak up you’re retaliated against. We’ve been severely understaffed for years, we’ve been asking for help.”

The hospital bosses “want just-in-time staffing, where they’ll text us when they have open shifts,” Doris Carroll, an administrative nurse and president of the Illinois Nurses Association, told reporters at the start of their walkout. “We need enough core staffing to provide patient care, including for nurses to be able to take breaks.”

But the hospital claims minimum staffing ratios would be “too inflexible,” she said.

“Child care centers have staffing ratios. Dog kennels have ratios. Why can’t nurses have ratios? This is about profits over people,” Carroll responded.

The nurses association represents over 1,300 nurses at the hospital. On the eve of the walkout, however, hospital bosses went to Cook County court, and a compliant judge issued an injunction ordering 525 “critical care” nurses to stay on the job.

“I was injunctioned, but they can’t stop me from picketing on my days off,”



Militant/Naomi Craine

Members of Illinois Nurses Association, above, and other hospital workers at University of Illinois Hospital systems are out on strike, demanding increased staffing and safer conditions.

Crystal Miles, who works in neonatal intensive care and has 32 years at the hospital, told the *Militant* as she walked the line. She described how nurses are overworked. “You can work a 12-hour shift and not have time to use the restroom. Lunch — that’s a joke.”

Miles said the hospital’s new chief

nursing officer, Shelly Major, “came here from a nonunion hospital in Indiana. She wants every nurse on call. She wants you to flow anywhere in the hospital. I don’t want to be sent to the emergency room or a cancer unit. I wouldn’t know what to do.”

Having adequate personal protective

equipment is also an issue. “I got COVID-19 twice from lack of PPE available to us,” said Daniel Ortiz, who has worked at University of Illinois Health for two years. More than 200 nurses at the hospital have been infected, and two died earlier this year.

When the pandemic broke out “they gave us N95 masks they wanted us to use five times,” Miles said. “The masks would come back from being ‘recycled’ smelling like bleach. They’re supposed to be for one-time use!”

“They call us heroes, but they don’t treat us like heroes,” said Patricia Morales. “The hospital is proposing a wage freeze,” she added, noting that last year nurses only got a 1% cost-of-living raise.

More staffing is a key issue for the striking members of SEIU Local 73 as well. They are also demanding a minimum wage of at least \$15 an hour for service and maintenance workers.

University of Illinois Health has hired hundreds of temporary nurses and other strikebreakers to cross the picket lines.

The Illinois Nurses Association has announced its strike will last seven days, through Sept. 18. The SEIU says its members will stay out as long as it takes to get a contract settlement.

Dominion workers fight for full-time jobs, raises

Continued from front page

gave us all these hours, they hired all these people, they gave us an [extra] \$2 an hour.” Then “they just took it away.” So right now, people will be “hard-pressed” to “go back in without that trust earned back.”

Local 597 members at the Dominion stores across Newfoundland went on strike Aug. 22, fighting for a contract with higher wages and reinstatement of 60 full-time jobs eliminated in 2019. Part-time workers, who have limited access to benefits, haven’t received a raise since 2018.

Workers began calling for a strike in June after Loblaw Companies Limited — which owns the Dominion chain — ended a 2 Canadian dollar-an-hour wage increase (\$1.52) granted to “essential workers” during the coronavirus

pandemic. The company’s proposed contract, which would restore only half of that CAS\$2 over the entire three-year contract, was overwhelmingly rejected.

“Workers here are so determined,” Wrice told the *Militant*, because “they have been used and disrespected for 20 to 25 years now and they’ve had enough.” The workers “want decent wages, full-time jobs and good benefits.”

There is a long history of struggle between Local 597 and Dominion bosses. This is the third strike by Dominion workers in Newfoundland since 1997. On Nov. 16, 2003, Dominion stores locked out 1,600 union members at all 15 of its stores in the province, as workers began rotating strikes against a wage freeze. After three weeks on the picket line, the workers voted by two-thirds

to ratify a three-year contract with a \$1 wage increase for all workers.

“It is awesome the support we are getting. Everyone is watching because we are the first to negotiate with Loblaw,” said Wrice. People keep coming “to the line with food and cash donations.”

Loblaw and Dominion are owned by Galen Weston, the third richest person in Canada.

The workers are also fighting for paid sick days for all the workers at Dominion stores. Since the pandemic, this question of sickness benefits has been taken up more broadly in the labor movement.

In Halifax, a contingent of more than 100 workers, supporters of “\$15 and Fairness,” union leaders and others marched on Labor Day calling for 10 paid sick days for all.

Three days after the Dominion workers set up picket lines, another strike broke out in the maritime province. Ferry captains, represented by the Canadian Merchant Service Guild, walked off the job Aug. 25 after eight years of negotiations with the provincial government that failed to win a wage increase or new agreement.

The ferry captains missed out on a pay raise that all other workers on the ferries, represented by another union, got under their contracts.

The strike is having a big impact on area islands. Cottel Island now only gets emergency service of one round trip a day. Because of the reduced ferry runs, delivery of crab and cod to the Beothic Fish processing plant in Newfoundland is suspended, which could affect the 350 union jobs there that are dependent on it.

“The ferry captains are very mindful of not wanting to cause the public undue harm, but at this point, after this long saga, feel they have no choice,” said lawyer Andrew Nielsen.

Messages of support and donations to the Dominion workers strike should be sent to Unifor Local 597 at 301-55 Bond St., P.O. Box 922 Station C, St. John’s, NL A1C 5L7 and info@unifor597.ca.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 2, 1995

Capitalist politicians continue to advance their assault on the social wage of working people with the recent vote of the U.S. Senate to end guarantees of aid for those who land on the welfare rolls. With an overwhelming bipartisan vote, Democrats and Republicans approved a bill September 19 that would impose a five-year time limit on welfare benefits, require most recipients to get jobs within two years of receiving benefits, and abolish the federal mandate of giving assistance to every family that meets eligibility requirements. The bill passed 87 to 12.

[President Bill] Clinton lauded the legislation as a way to “promote work and protect children.” Clinton, who pledged in his election campaign to “end welfare as we know it,” has made “reform” of entitlement programs a center of his domestic policy since coming into the White House.



October 2, 1970

Excerpt from Peter Camejo, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, debating with incumbent Democrat Ted Kennedy at Boston University.

Last but not least, one thing this generation wants is a little bit of truth. The United States is an imperialist power, it is an aggressor against the Vietnamese and not one single Vietnamese fighting for the liberation of Vietnam is our enemy.

Those 15- and 16-year-old people who are giving their lives every day in Vietnam so their country can be run by Vietnamese for the first time since western imperialism arrived — these are not our enemies. These are our brothers and sisters. We don’t want to kill a single one of them. Not one.

Tell the truth. Who is the aggressor in Vietnam? It is the United States that is the aggressor in Vietnam.



September 29, 1945

DETROIT, Sept. 23 — Undaunted by the delaying policies of their International union leaders, members of the CIO United Automobile Workers are pushing ahead here to vote for strike action as a reinforcement of the union’s demand for a 30 percent wage increase.

A number of “unauthorized” strikes are holding firm despite terrific pressure not only from the auto barons and the government conciliators, but from the International as well. Any such strikes will interfere with the grand “strategy” of the UAW leadership to strike one company at a time, at some unspecified date in the future.

Detroit auto workers have received encouragement from the militant action of the CIO Oil Workers, who all over the country are remaining firm in their strike to obtain a 30 percent increase in spite of partial raises offered by the oil companies.

Ocasio-Cortez says ‘glam’ can improve your politics

BY JANET POST

“If I’m going to spend an hour in the morning doing my glam ... it’s because I feel like it. ... My body, my choice!” U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says, describing her daily beauty regimen in a recent film made by *Vogue* magazine and shown on YouTube. Some 2 million people have watched.

“There’s this really false idea that if you care about makeup or if your interests are in beauty and fashion, that that’s somehow frivolous,” she says. “But I actually think these are some of the most substantive decisions that we make — and we make them every morning.”

Ocasio-Cortez is a member of Democratic Socialists of America and a Democratic Party politician elected largely by middle-class professionals in New York in 2018. She promotes anti-working-class big-government “socialist” reforms that would maintain the capitalist system. Here she is promoting the profit-driven “beauty” industry — cosmetic companies, magazines like *Vogue* and other operations that rake in billions of dollars. Like Ocasio-Cortez, they present their products as the answer to women’s insecurities.

The congresswoman has been promoting her “glam” cosmetics routine in a step-by-step “Beauty Secrets” online tutorial — applying layers of makeup while discussing her reformist politics. Ocasio-Cortez ends the session saying, “Let’s go seize the day and fight the power!”

Some 6.9 million women have been tossed out of the workforce since February, as workers have borne the brunt of the government shutdowns of production and trade imposed after the onset of the coronavirus outbreak. Women make up a large majority of workers in child care, clothing stores, hotels and restaurants that have been shuttered.

Cosmetics industry bosses are looking for ways to rebuild sales that have shrunk during the crisis. Estee Lauder reported sales fell by 32% from April to June and said they will cut between 1,500 and 2,000 jobs.

Cosmetics and exploitation of women

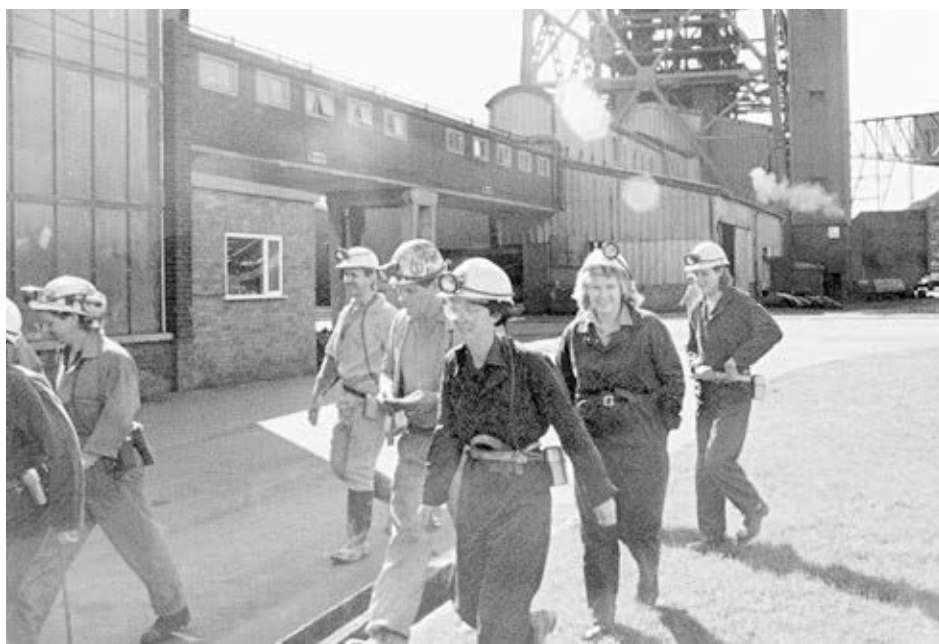
The fetishism of cosmetics under capitalism is nothing new. In the 1950s, a debate on the question of the use of cosmetics and its connection to class relations, women’s oppression and the struggles of working people unfolded in the pages of the *Militant*. In 1954, editor Joe Hansen published

an expose of the cosmetics industry and how it profits off undermining women’s self-confidence. One reader wrote to complain that his article was an affront to the right of working-class women to strive for “some loveliness and beauty in their lives.”

This discussion is just as relevant — and fascinating — today. It is reprinted in *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters, leaders past and present of the Socialist Workers Party. “Concealed behind the debate,” Reed explained in the book, is “a question of class struggle and class ideology.”

“What we have in cosmetics is a fetish, a particular fetish in the general fetishism that exists in the world of commodities,” wrote Hansen. “The special power that cosmetics have derives from the fact that in addition to economic relations, sexual relations attach to them. That is the real source of the ‘beauty’ both men and women see in cosmetics.”

Working people are inundated by constant advertising, pressuring them to buy these and other commodities. “Our



Militant/Norton Sandler

Women coal miners from U.S. visit British coalfields in 1987, to learn about miners’ resistance. As millions of jobs are erased today and wages and working conditions come under attack, the bosses of the cosmetics industry come in to try and boost profits off women’s insecurities.

task, therefore, is to expose both the capitalist system as the source of these evils and its massive propaganda machine which tells women that the road to a successful life and love is through the purchase of things,” Reed says. “To condone or accept capitalist standards in any field — from politics to cosmetics — is to prop up and perpetuate this ruthless profit system and its continued victimization of women.”

When we defend the right of women to use cosmetics “without clearly dis-

tinguishing between such a right and the capitalist *social compulsion* to use them,” Reed says, we fall into the trap of ruling-class propaganda.

In the 2010 preface to the Spanish-language edition of the book, Waters writes that Reed “explained how and why ever-changing standards of ‘beauty’ and ‘fashion’ imposed on women — and men — are integral to the perpetuation of women’s oppression. How millennia ago, as private property and

Continued on page 9

Jobs crisis is the biggest threat facing workers today

Continued from front page

ment” benefits the first week of September, slightly higher than the week before. The latest figure is way over the 200,000 weekly applications before the pandemic began. Many workers have not been able to get their benefits approved and millions, including immigrant workers without papers and part-time workers, are not eligible for the programs.

Spirit Aerosystems recently announced that the company would no longer be making ventilators it had started to assemble in April, laying off 1,000 workers. Airline and Amtrak bosses say they will lay off thousands more over the next several months.

New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority is threatening to cut 7,400 jobs and cut commuter service on Metro North and the Long Island Rail Road by up to 50% if it doesn’t get \$12 billion in federal aid.

The only bosses increasing profits and hiring more workers are those who have the scale to carry out a massive online and for pickup sales operation like Amazon, Walmart and Target. Amazon says it is hiring 100,000 permanent workers in the U.S. and Canada over the next several months at \$15 an hour —

and opening 100 fulfillment, delivery and sorting centers this month alone. Many of the jobs will just be part time, which means no benefits. More than 100,000 small businesses have been driven out of business over the last few months.

Amazon is notorious for tracking workers’ every move and using robots to speed up production. Those who fail to meet high quotas are shown the door.

When asked why the on-the-job-injury rate at Amazon, which is non-union, is more than double the national average for the warehouse industry, Amazon bosses told the press that it was because the company does a better job recording injuries.

It is unclear whether there will be any significant uptick in the capitalist economy soon. What is clear is that there is more trouble for working people on the horizon.

Take subprime auto loans, which charge double-digit interest rates. With the \$600 “enhanced” federal unemployment payment ended many lenders are granting temporary deferrals — while the interest payments owed by workers keep piling up — instead of trying to repossess the cars and sell them at auctions. This allows the lender to maintain the fiction that the loans are still good and keep repackaging and selling them as “Asset-Backed Securities.” Until they can’t. And it keeps working people locked into a stranglehold of ever-more onerous debt.

A similar situation exists with credit card debt. In mid-August more than 420,000 renters in Washington state were keeping a roof over their heads primarily by going into debt with exorbitant payday loans or their credit cards.

Meanwhile, the official inflation rate according to the Consumer Price Index is just 1.3% a year. However the Bureau of Labor Statistics admits that prices for food, a much larger proportion of what working people spend each week, are rising at an annual rate of 4.1%, even as millions face lower income due to wage cuts, fewer hours worked or layoffs. All the methods the government uses to track inflation undercount price rises for basic

necessities that working people face.

The combination of high unemployment, inflation and lockdowns are exacerbating the social crisis that has festered for years.

Deaths from drug overdoses, already on the rise, increased 42% in May alone. While no current figures exist for suicides nationally, many areas report big spikes. Suicides were up 70% in June in Fresno, California, compared to the year before. Cook County, Illinois, reports a spike of 13%.

SWP campaign presents program

Neither of the capitalist rulers two main candidates for president — Republican incumbent Donald Trump or Democratic challenger Joe Biden — have a program to deal with the sharp economic and social crisis facing workers and farmers.

The SWP candidates — Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president — are campaigning for workers to use their unions to fight back. We need a union in every workplace!

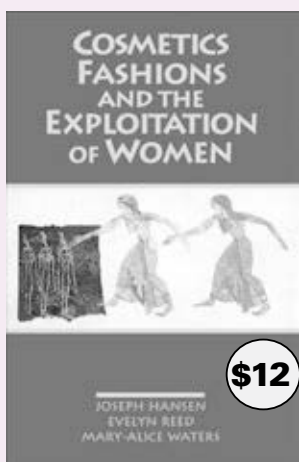
Our unions must champion a fight for both a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages and for a shorter workweek with no cut in weekly take-home pay to prevent further layoffs. We also need escalator clauses that raise pay whenever prices go up in all union contracts, as well as for pensions and government programs like unemployment.

“Those demands along with fighting to ensure that everyone who is without a job gets unemployment pay for as long as they are without work, are demands that working people can organize around today,” Kennedy told the *Militant* Sept. 15. “Fighting for this will help prevent the bosses from pitting those with jobs against those without, and put us in a better position to stand together.”

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, Mary-Alice Waters

Why do ever-changing standards of beauty, as well as moral values, always reflect those of the ruling class? How do the wealthy owners of the cosmetics and fashions “industries” play on women’s insecurities to sell products and rake in profits?



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Mass protests, labor actions say down with Belarus gov't

Continued from front page

workers who went on strike to protest the election results and repression have been pressured to return to work, thousands continue to “work to rule” to show their opposition to the regime.

Many of the 50 workers who began a political strike at Belaruskali, a huge complex of potash mines and processing works in Soligorsk, have been arrested. Thousands of fellow potash workers working to rule have slashed production. Ore output fell in August by 205,644 tons. The Minsk Regional Court has declared the actions illegal, but they continue.

Anatoly Bokun, the central leader of their strike committee, was arrested Aug. 31. Ten members of the committee have now been detained and sentenced to one or two weeks behind bars.

According to the Charter 97 website, workers from the Khimvolokno nylon and polyester plant and from the Hrodna Azot chemical company, which together have more than 13,000 workers, led the protest march in Hrodna Sept. 13. Workers at the Khimvolokno plant have also been working to rule.

At the Minsk march, along with calls for Lukashenko to resign, some carried signs saying, “The source of power in Belarus is the people, not Lukashenko and the Kremlin.” That was a reference to the meeting in Sochi, Russia, the next day between Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin. At that meeting Lukashenko secured a \$1.5 billion credit line from Moscow to continue paying his security apparatus thugs.

As the International Monetary Fund had withheld an earlier loan offer, this helped stave off a financial and currency crisis for now.

Since Sept. 5 more than 1,000 people have been detained. Many have been beaten, with some posting photos of their wounds online after being released. Some reports say that 80 people are still missing.

Some 20,000 women marched in Minsk and other cities Sept. 12. Thirty were roughed up and detained during the protest in Minsk. An interior ministry press release tried to justify the violence by claiming the women shouting “shame” at the cops had engaged in “unfeminine” and “aggressive” behavior.

Moves against bourgeois opposition

Along with arrests of workers and other protesters, Lukashenko has targeted his main bourgeois opponents. All but one of the members of the Coordination Council set up on Aug. 14 by presidential candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who is widely believed to have won the election and has been forced into exile, have been arrested or fled the country. The only one who remains free is Nobel prize winning au-



tut.by/Daria Buriakina

Over 100,000 people rally in Minsk, Belarus capital, Sept. 13 demanding President Lukashenko, who falsely claims he won Aug. 9 elections, resign to make way for “free and fair elections.”

thor Svetlana Alexievich, who has been joined by a number of EU representatives in her apartment.

Tikhanovskaya became the main opposition candidate after Lukashenko engineered the removal of rival candidates, including two capitalist businessmen who had been his former allies. In July, Valery Tsepkalo fled to

Moscow under threat of arrest. In June, Viktor Babariko, head of Belgazprombank for 20 years before resigning to stand in the elections, was jailed on fraud and embezzlement charges.

Lukashenko has tried to strengthen his regime by cultivating ties both with capitalist governments and companies in the West and with the regime

in Russia, at times irritating Putin. But in the midst of the growing opposition Lukashenko has turned to Moscow for help in maintaining his regime in power.

Moscow sees Belarus as a key buffer against NATO and Washington encroachment. Russian officials have slandered the protesters, claiming that they are working for U.S. imperialism seeking to carry out a “color revolution” aimed at undermining both the Russian and Belarusian governments.

Meanwhile, anti-government protesters in Khabarovsk, a city in Russia’s Far East, who have been demonstrating for political rights for weeks, have carried signs in support of the Belarusian people. In protests in Brest, in western Belarus, demonstrators carried a banner Sept. 13 reading, “Hello to Khabarovsk from Brest.”

Vitaly Dyadyuk, from the Belaruskali independent union strike committee, told the *Militant* in an email that most workers are against Moscow’s intervention just as they were against the way Putin “interfered in the internal affairs of Ukraine.”

“We don’t need any influence from either the West or the East,” he said. “We are brothers, both with Russians and Ukrainians, both with Latvians and Poles.”

Ukraine miners sit in, strike in fight for pay, conditions

BY JOHN STUDER

“There are over 200 miners striking and staying underground at four iron ore mines here. They’re demanding better wages and working conditions, better social benefits and an end to corruption by management that is siphoning off money that should be paid to miners,” Yuri Samoylov, chair of the Independent Union of Miners in Kryvyi Rih, told the *Militant* on Zoom Sept. 13.

The strike is highly popular in Kryvyi Rih, one of the key industrial cities in Ukraine and a stronghold of the independent unions there, he said. It is a center for iron ore mining and the steel industry and the miners union is the backbone of the labor movement there. Workers, as well as city officials, have been bringing food, water and dry clothes for those sitting-in in the pit.

“The Kryvyi Rih Iron Ore mining complex is owned by two of the richest men in Ukraine — Rinat Akhmetov and Ihor Kolomoisky — and they make big profits off the mine,” Samoylov said. “The idea that they can’t pay miners a decent wage and that their managers are siphoning off money into their own pockets makes miners angry.”

“They also are refusing to maintain healthy conditions in the mines, which can mean the workers lose their right to early retirement and pension benefits,” he said. “They decided they had to go on strike.”

“In addition to those sitting in,” Samoylov said, “thousands of other miners are striking, carrying out daily protests at the mine office and in the city. Many of the protesters are women, either women miners or the wives of miners.”

“Some of the workers in the mine and in the processing plant, many of whom are women, are still working,” he said. “But they’re carrying out what is called an Italian strike, that is, they’re working strictly to rule. Things are real slow.”

“The strike is getting well-known across the country. Three days ago Mikhailo Volynets, president of the miners union and of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Ukraine, came to join us, and his visit got coverage on television,” Samoylov said.

“The mine bosses do nothing to alleviate dangerous and unhealthy conditions in the mines,” he said. “That hasn’t changed since I used to work there. Conditions are damp, and there’s mold. It’s worse today because of coronavirus. Recently one worker at the mine died from the virus.”

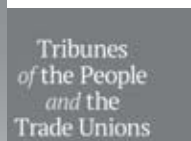
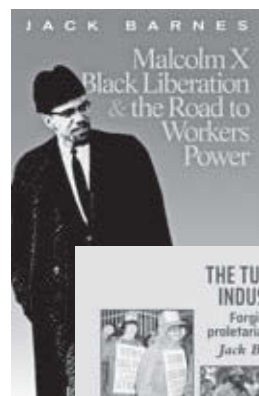
The Ukraine miners — both the iron

ore miners in Kryvyi Rih and coal miners across the country — have been joining protests in solidarity with workers in Belarus fighting to overturn the brutal government of Alexander Lukashenko. The confederation organized a demonstration outside the Belarus Embassy Sept. 9 against the violence being meted out to protesters and to demand the government end its arrests and persecution of miners and other union fighters.

“I know one of the leaders of the potash miners at the Belaruskali mine there, and he has been arrested,” Samoylov told the *Militant*. “They are facing a serious struggle and we back them 100%.”

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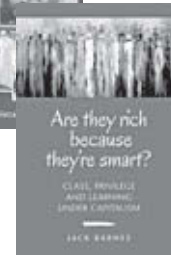
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Why Working People Should Support Belarus Protests, Strikes Against Lukashenko Regime

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Che: ‘Youth must be the motor force of our revolution’

The Spanish edition of Che Guevara Talks to Young People is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. After joining Fidel Castro's July 26 Movement, Ernesto Che Guevara, the heroic Argentinian-born revolutionary, helped to lead the first socialist revolution in the Americas and initiate a renewal of Marxism. A central leader of the revolutionary government from 1959, he was also a leading Cuban representative abroad. From 1965 he led Cuban internationalist fighters in joining revolutionary struggles in the Congo and then Bolivia. Wounded and captured by the Bolivian army on Oct. 8, 1967, he was murdered the next day. The excerpt is from "Youth Must March in the Vanguard," a speech Che gave as Minister of Industry at a seminar on youth and the revolution, May 9, 1964. Copyright © 2000. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.



Institute of Cuban History

Che Guevara, center, took lead in initiating voluntary labor in early days after Cuba's 1959 revolution. In future socialist society, he wrote, work will be transformed, turned into production for society without compulsion to force workers to sell their labor power as a commodity.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

In Cuba the ideology of the old ruling classes maintains its presence through the consciousness of individuals, as I indicated earlier. In addition, it remains present because it is constantly being exported from the United States — the organizing center of world reaction — which physically exports saboteurs, bandits, propagandists

of all sorts, and whose constant broadcasts reach the entire national territory with the exception of Havana.

In other words, the Cuban people come in permanent contact with imperialist ideology. This is then repackaged here in Cuba by propaganda outfits scientifically organized with the goal of projecting the dark side of our system, which necessarily has dark sides because we are in a transitional period and because those of us who have led the revolution up to now were not professional economists and politicians with a lot of experience, backed by an entire staff.

At the same time, they promote the most dazzling and fetishistic features of capitalism. This is all introduced into the country, and sometimes it finds an echo in the subconscious of many people. It awakens latent feelings that had barely been touched owing to the speed of the process, to the huge number of emotional salvos we have had to fire to defend our revolution — where the word "revolution" has merged with the word "homeland," has merged with defense of every single one of our interests. These are the most sacred of all things for every individual, regardless of class background. ...

The main way the youth must show the way forward is precisely through being the vanguard in each of the areas of work they participate in.

This is why we have often had cer-

tain little problems with the youth: that they weren't cutting all the sugarcane they should, that they weren't doing as much voluntary labor as they should. In short, it is impossible to lead with theories alone; and much less can there be an army composed only of generals. An army can have one general, maybe several generals and one commander in chief if it is very large. But if there's no one to go into the battlefield, there's no army. And if the army in the field isn't being led by those who have gone into the field themselves, who've gone to the front, then such an army is no good. One of the attributes of our Rebel Army was that the men promoted to lieutenant, captain, or commander — the only three ranks we had in the Rebel Army — were those whose personal qualities had distinguished them on the field of battle. ...

So the technological revolution must have a class content, a socialist content. And for this to happen, there must be a transformation of the youth so that they become a genuine motor force. In other words, all the bad habits of the old, dead society must be eliminated. One cannot think about a technological revolution without at the same time thinking about a communist attitude toward work. This is extremely important. We cannot speak of a socialist technological revolution if there is not a communist attitude toward work.

This is simply the reflection in Cuba

of the technological revolution taking place as a result of the most recent scientific inventions and discoveries. These are things that cannot be separated. And a communist attitude toward work consists of changes taking place in an individual's consciousness, changes that naturally take a long time. We cannot expect that changes of this sort will be completed within a short period, during which work will continue to have the character it has now — a compulsory social obligation — before being transformed into a social necessity. In other words, this transformation — the technological revolution — presents the opportunity to get closer to what interests you most in life, your work, your research, your studies of every type. And one's attitude toward this work will be something totally new. Work will be what Sunday is now — not the Sunday when you cut cane, but the Sunday when you don't cut cane. In other words, work will be seen as a necessity, not something compelled by sanctions.

But achieving that requires a long process, a process tied to the creation of habits acquired through voluntary work. Why do we emphasize voluntary work so much? Economically it means practically nothing. Even the volunteers who cut cane — which is the most important task from an economic point of view — don't accomplish much.

A volunteer cutter from this ministry cuts only a fourth or a fifth of what a cane cutter who has been doing this his whole life does. It has economic importance today because of the shortage of labor. It is also important today because these individuals are giving a part of their lives to society without expecting anything in return, without expecting any kind of payment, simply fulfilling a duty to society. This is the first step in transforming work into what it will eventually become, as a result of the advance of technology, the advance of production, and the advance of the relations of production: an activity of a higher level, a social necessity. ...

Today we have begun a process of, let us say, politicizing this ministry. The Ministry of Industry is really cold, a very bureaucratic place, a nest of nit-picking bureaucrats and bores, from the minister on down, who are constantly tackling concrete tasks in order to search for new relationships and new attitudes.

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ALYSON KENNEDY

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT Solidarity with Dominion strikers!



MALCOLM JARRETT

Continued from front page

tacks on wages and working conditions, they provide an important example of why we need a fighting union movement in every workplace and how workers can act as union organizers.

The bosses and their government are pushing for workers to bear the brunt of today's deepening social and economic crisis. This takes place as millions have been forced out of work. Neither of the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties offer any solution to reverse high unemployment, rising prices and a deep health care crisis.

Only the Socialist Workers Party campaign presents immediate demands that offer working people a way to fight to defend ourselves and for a road forward.

We need to build and use our unions to wage a fight for a massive government-funded public works program to immediately put the millions tossed out of work back into a job at union-scale pay. They can build things workers urgently need — hospitals and schools, and to replace homes and infrastructure destroyed by recent hurricanes and the deadly spread of forest fires like those sweeping the West Coast.

Above all, this jobs program will undercut the growing competition among employed and unemployed — an antagonism the bosses take advantage of to pit workers against each other and press us to accept lower wages and worse working conditions.

Our unions need to fight for a shorter workweek — with *no* cut in weekly take-home pay — to prevent more layoffs. To defend our wages from further

attack, we need automatic cost-of-living clauses in every contract, and for pensions and government-paid benefits like Social Security and unemployment. With prices of basic necessities rising, we should get a matching raise in our wages, pensions, and unemployment benefits.

Driven to deepen the exploitation of working people by their thirst for profits, bosses are pushing more work onto fewer workers, speeding up the pace of production, and forcing workers to toil shoulder to shoulder with no regard for safety or the spread of coronavirus. Only a fight by workers and our unions to take control of production, including all aspects of health and safety, can end the dangers to our lives and limbs as well as to consumers who use the products of our labor.

As workers wrest more control of production from the bosses, we can see more clearly our own capacities — to organize all of society and the entire economy in the interests of the toiling majority.

Out of our struggles over jobs, wages and working conditions and for union rights, workers can build our own political party, a labor party that speaks and acts for all who are exploited and oppressed by capital. Such a party will lead working people to take political power to form a workers and farmers government.

That will take a revolutionary struggle, like that led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement in Cuba, who mobilized workers and farmers to take power into their own hands and organized solidarity with workers in struggle worldwide. Endorse the SWP 2020 campaign! Join in building a fighting labor movement!

Charges filed against cop who killed Steven Taylor

BY ANDREA MORELL

OAKLAND, Calif. — In a victory for fighters against police brutality, the San Leandro cop who shot and killed Steven Taylor April 18 in a Walmart store there has been charged with voluntary manslaughter.

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley announced Sept. 2 that she had brought the felony charges against officer Jason Fletcher. If convicted, he would face up to 11 years in prison. Fletcher is the first cop in Alameda County to be charged in an on-duty shooting in more than a decade.

The cop fired a Taser at Taylor and then shot him dead when the 33-year-old Black father of three didn't obey his command to drop a baseball bat he was holding. Taylor's family has said he was in the throes of a mental health crisis.

"Mr. Taylor was struggling to remain standing as he pointed the bat at the ground," the charges say, and "posed no threat of imminent deadly force or serious bodily injury to defendant Fletcher or anyone else in the store."

"From the time Officer Fletcher entered the store to the time he shot and killed Mr. Taylor, less than 40 seconds elapsed," the DA said. The Walmart was crowded with shoppers at the time.

Addie Kitchen, Taylor's grandmother, who joined his mother, Sharon Taylor, to help lead the four-month fight to have the cop publicly identified, arrested and charged, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent in a telephone discussion, "We will continue to protest" to

see that justice is won.

Several disciplined protests in downtown San Leandro at police headquarters and at the Walmart store over the course of several months led to the charges.

There was little media attention after the killing was first reported. But the massive protests all across the country that followed the cop killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis breathed new life into the fight.

"It's good the charges were made," Walmart worker Rosa-Lynn Lovett told me. "And good the protests that won it were peaceful, not tearing up stores. The stores are needed for people trying to make a living who are working there. People go there to buy things they need."

Ariel Buckingham, a cashier at the Walmart where Taylor was killed who joined in pressing the DA to make an arrest, said, "It's good if a huge outcry actually got him charged."

"This is a victory in the fight to push back against police officers acting as judge, jury and executioner," Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 13th District, which includes San Leandro, said in a letter published in the Sept. 10 *San Leandro Times*. "Police violence is aimed at intimidating and punishing working people and falls most heavily on African Americans like Taylor."

Britton participated in several protests against Taylor's killing and got word out about the fight broadly through his campaign.

Ocasio-Cortez: 'Glam' can improve your politics

Continued from page 6

class society emerged through bloody struggle, women were reduced to a form of property. They became 'the second sex.'"

Waters says that since the 1954 debate, "the pressure to be 'fashionable' — that is to be 'employable' and attractive to a potential spouse has penetrated even more deeply into the working class." But, as Reed points out, that "does not mean that we must accept these edicts and compulsions complacently or without protest."

Reed says that the fight for women's emancipation is critical, explaining, "The class struggle is a move-

ment of *opposition*, not *adaptation*, and this holds true not only of the workers in the plants, but of the women as well, both workers and housewives."

This is the exact opposite of what Ocasio-Cortez with her "glam" is doing today.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

Manchester drivers hit new fees on cabs

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

MANCHESTER, England — "Yes, I took part in the protest," Shahid Munawar, who has driven a cab here for 16 years, told members of the Communist League introducing the party and the *Militant* to those at the taxi line outside Victoria train station. "We stopped the traffic on Oxford Street and then drove around in circles beeping our horns, making noise."

Hundreds of cabbies, mostly regular black-cab drivers but also some from private-hire service, protested Aug. 26 against plans by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for a so-called Clean Air Zone. This would mean that by 2023 taxi drivers wanting to work in the city center would have to drive electric cabs or pay a daily charge.

In July the Greater Manchester Combined Authority issued a statement quoting Andy Burnham, the Labour Party mayor, saying this is an "opportunity to build back cleaner, greener and better in Greater Manchester following the coronavirus pandemic."

"We've got cabs here from across the entire region," Karl Warburton, spokesman for the Greater Manchester Taxi Trade Coalition, told the media. "At a time of crisis as it is with the pandemic, it's just completely unaffordable, and we will see the trade decimated right across the entire Greater Manchester region." The group is calling for a 30% to 40% subsidy to help drivers with cost of the changes.

"This won't affect me," said Billy Jones, who plans to retire in a few months. "But it is impossible for young people to get into the trade. You need to spend over 70k pounds [\$90,000] on an electric. I'd be lucky to get 15 or 20 for this one."

More local councils around England are moving to implement these types of "green" taxes. Last year cab drivers in Birmingham staged a number of protests demanding more subsidy from the council to help them comply with new government-imposed standards.

Everyone we spoke with said the government lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic had devastated them financially. Although rides are picking up a bit, there are still far fewer people going to work in city center offices. Large events like concerts, where cab drivers would normally make a substantial proportion of their income, are still banned.

"It was a good action," said Farooq Azam about the Manchester protest. "I can't pay the charge and I can't afford an electric," he told the Communist League members. "After 30 years as a cab driver, what else will I do?"

"Working people everywhere are facing a devastating jobs crisis. Workers need a union movement in every workplace," Hugo Wils, a meat-plant worker and member of the Communist League, replied. "We must fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work building the things we need. And demand the bosses cut the workweek with no cut in pay to stop layoffs."

"The Clean Air Zone plans are another way the capitalist rulers, and their government and council leaders, try to make working people pay for their crisis," Wils said. "Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production to protect the lives and limbs of workers, as well as the environment."

— LETTERS —

Keep 'Militant' coming!

Not only are the Mail Room staff trying to stop the *Militant* here at Union CI, but there is an extremely bad outbreak of COVID-19 here with 9 of the 12 dorms on quarantine and over 40 inmates and 22 staff testing positive in the last two weeks and no proper medical treatment. All inmates here are over 55 or older. I am 85.

The *Militant* is the most informative news source here in Florida prisons for all inmates who want facts, not the capitalist censored garbage in other papers. Keep it coming!

A prisoner

Union Correctional Institution
Raiford, Florida