

# THE MILITANT

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**Belarus protests and strikes**  
**shake Lukashenko regime**  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 84/NO. 44 NOVEMBER 9, 2020

## SWP campaign wages fight for political rights in Washington

BY JOHN STUDER AND STEVE CLARK

Once again, the Socialist Workers Party and its presidential ticket — this year, Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president — are setting an example for all working people in defense of political rights and free expression.

On Oct. 19 the secretary of state's office in Washington state informed Socialist Workers Party campaign leaders of a request by a person to release names and addresses of 2020 SWP electors.

"We do not believe that there is a public records exemption that clearly allows us to withhold this information," wrote Public Disclosure Officer Brenda Galarza. The state, she said, would release the names and addresses on election day, Nov. 3, short of a court order not to do so.

The facts show the opposite. There is a long and well-documented public record of harassment and threats against SWP supporters, both in Washington and nationwide. They've been revealed, among other ways, in

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# Vote Socialist Workers Party!



Militant/Kaitlin Estill

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy brings solidarity to Teamsters on strike at DSI Tunneling in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 22.



Militant

Vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett, left, speaks with Amanda Mazza, right, on her doorstep in Gloversville, New York.

## Join campaign to expand the reach of the 'Militant'

BY KAITLIN ESTILL

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Socialist Workers Party campaigners are taking advantage of the final days before the Nov. 3 election to discuss with working people what we can do together to change the conditions we face, build support for the party's candidates, and widen interest in its campaign platform.

They're preparing to continue to campaign with the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders in the months afterward, presenting a revolutionary, working-class road forward.

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## Workers need a labor party, to fight for our own interests

This statement was issued Oct. 27 by Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president, Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett.

### SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Vote for the Socialist Workers Party! We are the only party offering working people a way to defend ourselves from a deepening economic, health and moral crisis that the capitalist rulers are foisting on our backs.

Continued on page 9

## For a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to stop layoffs

BY TERRY EVANS

As the Nov. 3 election draws near, and liberals' hysteria about the possibility that Donald Trump could be reelected reaches a fever pitch, it's clearer than ever that neither the Democrats nor Republicans offer any way forward for working people.

The only party presenting a course to fight the massive joblessness and hardships, often perilous working conditions, and inadequate health care is the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket, Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett.

"More than anything, workers need to be at work," Kennedy said at a meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 24. "It's there that we can join together to fight the bosses who push the burden of the crisis on our backs. It's there that our struggles can change the conditions we face and it's there that we can begin to build the kind of union movement we need.

"We need a labor party," Kennedy said, "to lead millions to end the bosses' exploitation of our labor by taking political power into our own hands and establishing a workers and farmers government."

Liberal warnings about the grim

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## Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Sept. 26 - Nov. 24 (week four)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>				
Albany	70	39	70	31
Atlanta	70	36	70	30
Chicago	110	59	110	42
Dallas	30	19	30	12
Lincoln	12	7	12	7
Los Angeles	90	47	90	39
Louisville	80	48	80	42
Miami	25	15	25	10
New Jersey	70	40	70	30
New York	85	64	85	59
Oakland	85	43	85	53
Philadelphia	25	19	25	14
Pittsburgh	40	25	40	12
Seattle	85	40	85	31
Twin Cities	25	15	25	12
Washington	60	27	55	38
Total U.S.	962	543	957	462
Prisoners	25	17		
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>				
London	40	28	40	24
Manchester	35	24	35	14
Total U.K.	75	52	75	38
Canada	85	41	85	57
New Zealand	25	15	25	10
Australia	25	12	25	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>573</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>600</b>

## Nigerian army attacks protest against brutal SARS cop unit



AP Photo/Sunday Alamba

Oct. 20 protest in Lagos, Nigeria. Later that day army attacked protesters, killing at least 10.

BY JANET POST

"First they started shooting in the air, so we said, keep sitting on the ground, wave your flags, sing the national anthem — they are military, they won't shoot you if you are waving a Nigerian flag," protester Famade Ayodeji told the *Financial Times* after the Oct. 20 massacre at the Lekki toll gate in Lagos, Ni-

geria. "Then they started shooting into the crowd. It was barbaric."

At least 10 people were killed and an untold number injured in the assault.

Workers and youth across the country took to the streets beginning Oct. 8, demanding the government abolish the notorious Special Anti-Robbery Squad

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Would a Joe Biden White House be better for Cuba? 6

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Federal cops charged in 2017 killing of Bijan Ghaisar 8

—On the picket line, p. 8—

Build support for Dominion workers strike in Canada



# Paris uses anger over killing, Jew-hatred to attack rights

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Oct. 16 beheading of history teacher Samuel Paty by an Islamist terrorist in a Paris suburb is an attack on freedom of speech and the rights of all working people, as well as a deadly consequence of Jew-hatred.

The French government is using the ghastly attack to further erode democratic rights and strengthen the imperialist state's repressive apparatus, proposing legislation that would allow it to outlaw groups that promote "Islamic separatism."

Paty was murdered by Abdoulakh Anzorov, an 18-year-old of Chechen origin, who posted a photo of the beheading on Twitter. "I have executed one of the dogs from hell who dared to put Muhammad down," he wrote. French police later tracked Anzorov down and killed him.

The killing took place on the occasion of the opening of the trial of 14 people who were associated with the deadly anti-Semitic assault on the offices of the satirical French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in 2015. The magazine had published demeaning cartoons of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

In early October the 47-year-old history teacher had angered the father of one of his Muslim students when in a class discussion on "contours and limits of free speech" he included showing the cartoons from *Charlie Hebdo*. The father posted several videos demanding Paty be fired and called him a "thug."

Paty told school officials he had warned students he was going to show the pictures and they didn't have to look at them if they didn't want to.

Among others taken into custody by French police were the student's father and Abdelhakim Sefrioui, the leader of Cheikh Yassine Collective, a group that openly espouses anti-Semitism and backs Hamas, the reactionary anti-working-class party that rules in the Gaza Strip. Sefrioui helped the father get his videos out.

The government in Paris also ordered the dissolution of the collective and closed down for six months a mosque it said was linked to the case.

Shortly after the *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons were printed in 2015, Islamist gunmen, the brothers Cherif and Saïd Kouachi, assassinated five cartoonists and eight others at the magazine's offices in Paris. Two days later, their associate, Amedy Coulibaly, who said he was acting on behalf of Islamic State, entered the Hyper Cacher kosher market and killed four shoppers. He told the



Hans Lucas Agency

Sign at Paris rally Oct. 18 says, "Hey Abadou, you do not represent Islam or Muslims," referring to killer of Samuel Paty. Government is attempting to use anger at killing to weaken political rights.

media he wanted to get "some Jews."

President Barack Obama at the time called the killings at the kosher market "random," refusing to admit that Jews were a special target.

About a month prior to the murder of

Paty, a man wielding a knife seriously wounded two people in Paris outside the former offices of *Charlie Hebdo*. The magazine's current address is not public. The magazine had just republished the

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## Nigeria army attacks protest against SARS cop unit

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of the Nigerian police. Lekki toll gate has become a central rallying point.

When the protest began, demonstrators sat on the ground, listening to speeches, chanting and singing, and sharing stories of brutalization at the hands of the cops. When night fell 18 trucks with uniformed forces arrived and deployed to surround the gathering.

"When [the soldiers] were making comments that the flag is not bulletproof — that's when I knew this was going to get out of hand," Isaiah Abor told Al-Jazeera. "We are not cowards. We will

always come to this ground, and we will always feel for those that are gone."

Protester Chike Okonkwo told the press that the Oct. 20 rally had been peaceful the whole time, but "we have a country where the lives of citizens don't matter to anybody in power." He said soldiers shot seven people near him. The army denies any involvement.

SARS thugs have engaged in killings, extortion, rape, and torture, including "mock execution, beatings, waterboarding and near-asphyxiation," Amnesty International has documented.

Dressed in plainclothes and armed with heavy weapons, SARS cops also extort money. At ATM machines, if you don't have money "they take your card. If you don't give them your card, they shoot you," Jennifer Agu, president of Newfoundland, Canada, Nigerian Student Association, told CBC.

Muhammadu Buhari, Nigeria's president and a former military general and dictator, announced Oct. 11 he was disbanding the Special Anti-Robbery Squad and replacing it with a SWAT unit. But the government said it had dis-

banded SARS in 2017, in 2018 and in 2019, and it wasn't true.

After the carnage at Lekki, actions in solidarity with the protesters have been held around the world. At the Oct. 24 action in Philadelphia, participants wore T-shirts saying, "#Lekki Toll Gate Massacre" and carried signs reading, "#End SARS; #End SWAT; #End bad government; #End impunity" and "Soro Soke," which means in Yoruba "speak up."

"We are not only here because of the police brutality. But because of all those who use their power to oppress the people," nurse Toyin Fajinmi told the rally.

The IndustriALL Global Union said that the union federation's affiliates in Nigeria are in solidarity. "It is understandable that the current protests reflect the serial historic and contemporary atrocities by the Nigerian police," read a statement by Issa Aremu, IndustriALL vice president.

Some forces responded to the massacre with arson, looting and street violence. The authorities used this to smear the protest movement, hoping to divide the youth from the rest of the population.

# THE MILITANT

**Solidarity is key to winning labor battles**

*From Arizona copper miners and grocery workers in Canada, to health care workers in California, the solidarity by unions, individual workers and others is what strengthens workers' fights. The 'Militant' gets out the word about labor battles, and builds support.*



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 675  
Los Angeles Steelworkers bring donations to Asarco strikers in Arizona, Dec. 2019.

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# SWP wages rights fight in Washington

Continued from front page

hard-fought battles against the disclosure of names and personal information. Victories have been won before the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission, Washington Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission and federal benches up to the Supreme Court.

These rulings document hundreds of threats, physical assaults, firebombings and other attacks on SWP candidates, supporters and campaign offices, as well as government spying and disruption.

In the last few months alone, party campaigners in Washington have received several serious death threats.

To make public the electors' personal information opens them to being targeted by government political police, employers and right-wing goons. It exposes them to middle-class radicals who resort to "cancel culture" to shut down those they disagree with by public lynching on social media, thuggery and harassment outside their homes and apartment buildings.

The SWP campaign has retained the well-known labor and political rights law firm of Barnard Iglitzin & Lavitt to help meet this challenge. In response to initial steps by the party's lawyers, the state government has agreed not to release information until at least Nov. 9 to facilitate court proceedings and negotiations.

The Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee has launched an immediate campaign to raise \$20,000 to help cover the legal and associated costs.

"For decades — since our party was formed out of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia — we've been active in working-class struggles, fights to build and strengthen unions and to defend the rights of all those who challenge the dog-eat-dog capitalist system," Mary Martin, an SWP leader in Seattle, told the *Militant*. "For that reason, we've all too often been targeted by those who fear the working class and seek to block moves toward independent labor political action.

"This fight is part of defending that working-class tradition against all who seek to attack it," she said.

## Death threats

The SWP has gotten a good response from working people in Washington

## Paris killing

Continued from page 2

controversial cartoons to mark the opening of the trial, and to show they would not give up the right of press freedom.

Several Muslim religious leaders condemned the murder of Paty. Kamel Kabtane, the representative of a mosque in Lyon, said, "Muslims must be united to face this ignorance and violence."

"All working people must condemn the vile killing of Samuel Paty, as well as the second round of attacks against *Charlie Hebdo*," Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, told the *Militant* Oct. 23. "Jew-hatred is a deadly danger for the working class, in the U.S. as well as in France."

Jarrett also condemned the repressive moves of the French government. "Dissolving groups the government disagrees with on the basis of their ideas undermines the fight to defend free speech and oppose Jew-hatred," he said.

## JOIN THE FIGHT!

Help get statements of support for the fight to defend political rights in Washington.

Send a contribution, made out to the Socialist Workers National Campaign, marked for Seattle fight, and win contributions from friends and co-workers.

Send to SWP Campaign in Washington state, 650 Orcas St., #120, Seattle, WA 98108, or swpseattle@gmail.com.

to its political activity — campaigning and putting the SWP ticket on the ballot there; participating in battles to win unions by fruit packers and farmworkers in the Skagit and Yakima valleys; and other efforts to advance struggles by workers and farmers.

But the party has also faced threats.

In July, for example, Dean Peoples was talking with workers coming out of a Walmart in Renton, including getting signatures to put the SWP ticket on the ballot. One person, however, "looked at me coldly and said, 'Somebody should shoot three or four of them,'" Peoples reports.

"F--k antifa socialists!" a caller said in a message left on the SWP phone Aug. 28. "And you motherf--kers better watch your back, because I'm coming to burn your f--king place down and kill all of you!" A similar phone threat had been left a month earlier. SWP members acted on these threats, informing other tenants in the building and increasing security measures there and at forums and other meetings.

So when they learned of the secretary of state's threat to turn over names and addresses of party electors to anyone who wants them, socialist workers were determined to take it on.

## Front lines defending rights

The party has fought to defend workers' rights from its origins in 1919. Its founders, as leaders of the young Communist Party in the 1920s, helped lead the International Labor Defense, organizing working-class campaigns in defense of victims of frame-ups and other capitalist injustice.

As leaders of the Teamsters union in Minneapolis and the Upper Midwest in the 1930s, SWP members were deeply involved in labor battles, including building working-class opposition to

Washington's imperialist aims in the Second World War. The SWP headquarters there was raided by the FBI. Party and Teamster leaders were framed up, tried and imprisoned for "conspiracy to advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government" under the thought-control Smith Act.

The SWP has taken the lead in exposing decades of FBI infiltration and disruption of the labor movement. In the 1970s and '80s the party organized a successful decade-and-a-half political campaign and federal lawsuit against FBI spying, harassment and disruption. The SWP's suit was upheld in federal court, and millions learned more about the true face of the capitalist rulers' criminal "justice" system.

It was a victory that advanced the space for political activity for all working people.

When liberal political forces, largely in the Democratic Party, began winning adoption of "campaign reform" legislation in the 1970s — on the false claim this would clean up capitalist politics — these laws were put to use to target the Socialist Workers Party and other working-class groups.

In response, the SWP filed for exemption from turning over to the government the names, workplaces and home addresses of campaign contributors. The fight built on victories won by the NAACP in the 1950s and '60s against moves by Alabama state authorities to force the civil rights group to turn over its membership lists.

The party succeeded in winning the right not to disclose this information through political fights on federal, state, and local levels — victories used by others to defend their rights, as well. In 2016, for the first time in decades, the Federal Election Commission refused such an exemption.

But the fight goes on, including in Washington right now.

## Fighting lawyers

The Barnard Iglitzin & Lavitt law firm representing the SWP in this fight has an earned reputation in the fight for workers' rights. They trace their history back to George Vanderveer, the attorney for militants in the Industrial Workers of the World victimized in Everett, Washington, in 1916, and then in Centralia a few years later.

Kathy Barnard has fought legal battles to defend the Familias Unidas por la Justicia union and its right to organize and defend farmworkers from boss surveillance and attack in Skagit Valley. She won a case defending the right of participants in a union-organized action to rally in a Walmart parking lot.

She has also successfully fought for protection of victims of sexual harassment and domestic violence from having their addresses made public by government agencies.

An important case in which Dmitri



Militant/Rebecca Williamson  
Alyson Kennedy, left, SWP presidential candidate, talking with striker Angie Lara on Allan Brothers fruit packers picket line in Naches, Wash., May 19. Lara is member of Trabajadores Unidos por la Justicia.

Iglitzin was the attorney ended with a ruling that all employees in Washington state have a legally enforceable right to a paid 10-minute rest period after every three hours of work.

## Join the fight!

There is a growing threat to free speech and workers' rights in the U.S. today. It comes not only from government spies, cop informers, rightists and stepped-up efforts by the bosses to make workers pay for the crisis of capitalism. There are also mounting assaults on political rights from those seeking to impose their version of "politically correct" speech. As part of imposing their views, they support government efforts to force the disclosure of names and personal information of those engaged in political activity.

The SWP's current fight in Washington against such undemocratic government measures — a frontal assault on the Bill of Rights and other constitutional protections won by toilers over centuries — is in the interests of all working people and the labor movement. Your help is needed!

## Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive

Sept. 26-Nov. 24 (Week 4)

Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$7,500	\$1,850
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$5,797
Chicago	\$13,000	\$3,552
Dallas	\$2,750	
Lincoln	\$325	\$74
Los Angeles	\$12,500	\$4,044
Louisville*	\$5,400	\$2,921
Miami	\$3,750	\$200
New York	\$15,500	\$4,484
N. New Jersey	\$6,000	\$2,730
Oakland	\$12,750	\$5,752
Philadelphia	\$3,500	\$200
Pittsburgh	\$3,000	\$1,150
Seattle	\$12,500	\$2,595
Twin Cities	\$4,250	\$1,859
Wash., D.C.	\$6,000	\$3,035
Other		\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$119,725</b>	<b>\$40,743</b>
<b>Should Be</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

\*raised quota

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**How Rulers Use 'Racial Sensitivity' Programs to Attack Working Class.** Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

**Workers Need Our Own Party, a Labor Party.** Speakers: Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party 2020 candidate for president; Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 1005 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Tel.: (215) 939-3371.



# Vote SWP, get out the ‘Militant’

Continued from front page

“No matter which capitalist candidate ends up in the White House, working people will need to keep organizing to fight for protection from the bosses’ attempts to put the crisis of capitalism on our backs,” says Socialist Workers Party candidate for president Alyson Kennedy.

“A lot of working people agree when we say the working class is the only class that can change things,” Kennedy told the Oct. 23 Militant Labor Forum here. The unfolding capitalist economic, political and moral crisis will continue to fuel interest in what the party is putting forward.

Socialist Workers Party campaigners and Communist League members in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. will keep working to bring home the eight-week international drive — which continues through Nov. 24 — to increase the number of subscribers to the *Militant* and readers of books by revolutionary leaders. The SWP’s annual Party-Building Fund, this year with a goal of \$120,000, is running at the same time.

They will discuss with workers, farmers and small proprietors on their doorsteps in big cities, small towns and rural areas. They will continue to build solidarity with striking workers and join protests against police brutality, for amnesty for immigrant workers, for a woman’s right to choose abortion, and in solidarity with working people fighting for political rights in Belarus, Thailand and elsewhere.

The results so far confirm the big opportunities to increase the reach of the Socialist Workers Party. At the half-way point of the drive 680 subscriptions and 573 books have been sold.

Kennedy on Oct. 22 met Susan McEnerney, a server at the Cracker Barrel restaurant for the last 13 years. McEnerney told Kennedy she can’t work all her shifts because she has to stay home with her young son and help him with his online schoolwork. The restaurant is only at half capacity, so tip income is way down and she’s no longer eligible for unemployment.

Her family is three months behind on rent and when the eviction moratorium expires at the end of the year she is sure her landlord will evict them.

“The responsibility of online schooling during COVID largely falls to the mothers who have to quit their jobs or work less hours,” Kennedy said at the Oct. 23 forum. Schools must open and do so safely, she added. “There’s work to be done in improving ventilation and building more spacious schools. This would be possible with a federally funded public works program that would put the unemployed to work at union-scale wages,” a key part of the Socialist Workers Party’s campaign platform.

## Solidarity with DSI strikers

Kennedy was warmly welcomed at the picket line of DSI Tunneling workers, fighting for their first contract after winning union recognition a year ago. Thirteen workers have been on strike since Aug. 4. Bryan Trafford, organizer for Teamsters Local 89, told Kennedy about the solidarity the striking workers have won. “Hundreds of people have driven past the picket line,” he said, “and stopped and asked what this is, what are we doing, because they don’t know what a picket line is.”

“A lot of my co-workers at the Walmart in Dallas where I work don’t know what a union is,” Kennedy said. “But there are many examples of Walmart workers sticking together against attacks by the bosses, to me that’s what a union is.” Trafford subscribed and bought *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

On Oct. 21, Kennedy and campaign supporter Zachary Larrabee met Carl Jackson, a 44-year-old worker who does lawn maintenance and snow removal. “I can’t vote because I was convicted of a felony when I was a kid,” Jackson said. “I was not guilty but I couldn’t win, so I took a plea. After I finished my sentence I was told I had the right to vote again. Then the government sent me a letter saying I



Militant/Maggie Trowe  
SWP candidate for president Alyson Kennedy, and Samir Hazboun, left, party’s candidate for Congress in Kentucky’s 3rd District, talk with worker at JBS packing plant in Louisville Oct. 23.

didn’t. But I still have to pay taxes.” “My campaign demands restoring voting rights to people convicted of felonies,” Kennedy said. “In Florida working people voted overwhelmingly to restore voting rights. But then a court ruled you can’t vote until you pay off your fines and court-ordered debts. We oppose that restriction.”

While campaigning outside of the JBS meatpacking plant Oct. 23, Kennedy and Samir Hazboun, SWP candidate for Congress in the 3rd District, met Dominique McQueen, a worker at the plant.

Referring to killings by the cops, McQueen, who is Black, told SWP campaigners, “It’s not really a color thing. They kill lots of white people too. The police target all of us.”

“That’s very true,” Kennedy said. “Black workers are disproportionately targeted, but it really is a class question. The purpose of the police is to defend the ruling class by keeping the working class in check. The only way to combat this is by using our power to bring mass pressure to charge these cops, and in the long run build a working-class movement powerful enough to replace the dictatorship of capital with a workers and farmers government.”

In Cincinnati, Kennedy met lo-

cal DJ James Wilson at his doorstep. “Have you heard about these protests in Nigeria against the brutal police force there called the Special Anti-Robbery Squad?” he asked.

“Workers all over the world face the same thing,” Wilson said. “Here in Cincinnati every Sunday we have 200 to 300 people come to a nearby church to protest against things like the police killings and what the government is doing to us.”

Socialist Workers Party and Communist League campaigners have joined local protests denouncing the police and government brutality in Nigeria. At the action in London five participants bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and a number of books.

In Philadelphia Janet Post joined a rally of some 30 Nigerians. “The protests are mostly in the cities, but are supported by people in the countryside,” Folake Oniyade told Post. On top of cop brutality, “it’s hard to find a job there — you have to know someone to be hired,” Oniyade said. “The health care is very bad. You have to pay before being seen by a doctor.” Oniyade was one of two protesters who subscribed to the *Militant* at the action.

## Cut the workweek with no cut in pay to fight layoffs

BY JACOB PERASSO

BRIDPORT, Vt. — “I started working off the farm about four years ago when the milk prices dropped,” dairy farmer Becky Plouffe told Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidate for vice president; Abby Tilsner, SWP candidate for Congress in New York’s 20th District; and Jacob Perasso, the party’s candidate in the 21st District, Oct. 23.

Plouffe, her husband Paul and their family operate a small dairy farm here. She works two or three jobs in addition to milking cows. Her daughter, a nurses assistant, lost her job this year and hasn’t found a new one yet.

“Our campaign calls for cutting the workweek with no cut in pay to stop layoffs. Thirty hours work for 40 hours pay,” said Jarrett. Plouffe said that for her a 12-hour day would be a relief.

“This year farm losses in the U.S. are \$12 billion — mostly from small working farmers,” said Jarrett. “When family farms are lost it impacts other working people and small shop owners in the community.”

“Big farms get a lot of breaks on fees that we don’t get,” said Plouffe.

Continued on next page

# Cut hours with no cut in pay!

Continued from front page

outcome of a second Trump term are reaching a crescendo, with *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman predicting “the end of American democracy” if the president wins. “White men, mostly without a college degree” are Trump’s base, sneers Charles Blow in the same paper. His presidency is not a period of “momentary insanity,” but “the beginning of a soft civil war” of the “aggrieved,” led by Trump, who are “fighting for white power.” The only way Republicans can win the election, Blow claims, is to cheat.

## Liberal frenzy to oust Trump

That argument is echoed by the middle-class left. The Shut Down D.C. group says Trump will attempt a coup and will only be driven from office with “direct action,” including violence, by self-appointed “defenders of democracy” like themselves.

In 2016 Trump won votes from millions of working people who successive Democratic and Republican administrations had dismissed as “deplorable” and treated with open scorn. He has governed for a capitalist ruling class that is accelerating efforts today to push the deepening economic and health crisis onto the shoulders of workers and farmers. Democrats have spent the past four years using an FBI-led witch hunt to try to overturn the 2016 election.

During their final debate in Nashville, Tennessee, Oct. 22, neither Republican Donald Trump nor Democrat Joe Biden pledged anything more than generalities about creating some jobs, someday in the future. They offered nothing to stop profit-hungry bosses throwing more of us onto the streets in the meantime.

Both act as if new government regulation or issuing more and more debt can paper over the ruinous effects of the

slowdown in capitalist production and trade, rather than action by workers, farmers and our unions to press for our own class interests. Biden promises if he wins he will prepare measures to eventually create 18 million “green” jobs, while Trump claims his policies have put 11 million back to work since the pandemic began.

But over 23 million people are collecting unemployment benefits today, and that figure masks the true extent of the crisis, with millions more out of work and unable to get help either because they don’t have “proper” papers or they don’t qualify under government “guidelines.” Many workers have exhausted their maximum of 26 to 39 weeks of state unemployment benefits. Special federal “pandemic” benefits expire Dec. 31.

Despite a weak federal government ban on evictions that began Sept. 4, the numbers threatened with being thrown out of their homes rose in mid-October, as landlords found loopholes in the regulations. In five states alone — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas — some 9,500 eviction notices were filed since the moratorium.

“Workers and our unions should demand the government fund a public works program that puts all those cast out of a job back to work immediately, at union-scale wages, to build the houses, hospitals, schools and other things working people need,” Kennedy said. “When the bosses threaten layoffs, we need to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in weekly take-home pay.”

## Debate over lockdowns

Biden and Trump debated whether it is necessary to impose more lockdowns to combat the recent spike in coronavirus infections. Trump says no, “We’re learning to live with it.”

# Vote SWP, get out the ‘Militant’

Continued from previous page

“Our campaign calls for a price guarantee that would provide sufficient income for farm families to live on,” said Perasso. The party demands a halt to foreclosures and calls for nationalizing the land so that no farmer can be evicted. Plouffe renewed her family’s subscription to the *Militant* and picked up a copy of *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

“The working class has the moral high ground and produces all the wealth in society,” Chris Walters told campaign supporters when they met with him. “It would be a better place when workers play an active role in the way society is run.” Waters, a worker at the Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream factory in Waterbury, signed up to endorse the campaign.

## New contributors to the SWP Party-Building Fund

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The Louisville branch has raised its SWP Party-Building Fund quota. “We have won seven new contributors, including from a cashier at the Walmart where I work who has been fighting for timely breaks,” Ned Measel, fund organizer here, told the *Militant*. “The response to our appeal and to the party’s politics has been so strong that we are raising our quota from \$5,000 to \$5,400.”

In New York, Tamar Rosenfeld reports that workers who SWP campaign-



David Crigger/Bristol Herald Courier via AP  
Pop-up distribution center gives out food at Virginia High School, Bristol, Virginia, Oct. 15. Growing numbers depend on events like this in face of rising joblessness. Neither Joe Biden nor Donald Trump propose to get millions thrown out of work back into jobs immediately.

Biden says under Trump’s presidency, “we’re learning to die with it.”

But there is no common “we.” The economic crisis and the pandemic fall in starkly different ways on different classes.

Long before the pandemic, the for-profit nursing home bosses crammed elderly workers into understaffed facilities. When the virus spread, government at all levels did nothing to stop them from becoming incubators for the disease, leading to a wide swath of deaths. The lives of the elderly are no longer of value to the bosses when they can no longer exploit their labor. Infection rates at nursing homes across the country began rising again in late September, as they have among the general population.

Neither Biden nor Trump propose using the federal government to make available to all the effective treatment that Trump received when he got COVID-19. Neither proposes to end the anarchy of the for-profit pharmaceutical bosses who seek advantages over their rivals, as opposed to pooling resources to get a vaccine as quickly as possible.

The liberal media has tried to bury discussion of an Oct. 4 petition by three epidemiologists who say shutdowns caused “irreparable damage.” Known as the Great Barrington Declaration

and signed by thousands of other medical personnel, it says lockdowns contributed to “lower childhood vaccination rates” and “fewer cancer screenings,” with the burden falling hardest on the working class.

The signers urge what they call “focused protection” for the most vulnerable, particularly those living in nursing homes and other retirees.

In addition, millions of workers in the U.S. are more susceptible to infection because bosses cram us into confined workspaces while they speed up production. “Workers and our unions need to wage a fight to wrest control of production from the hands of the employers, including line speeds and all aspects of health and safety,” SWP candidate Kennedy said.

In contrast to both the bosses’ parties, SWP candidates act on the needs of the toiling majority and point to our capacities to change our conditions and to transform ourselves. They are getting a widespread hearing in the final days of the campaign.

Whoever sits in the White House in 2021 will rule for the bosses and bankers. What matters is the continuing efforts of workers and farmers to find a revolutionary working-class road forward.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 13, 1995

SEATTLE — The International Association of Machinists has scheduled a solidarity rally in support of strikers at Boeing. No contract talks have taken place since October 5, when 32,500 IAM members overwhelmingly rejected Boeing’s three-year contract offer.

Picket lines remain solid. Teamsters at Boeing are contributing \$10 per member to the union food bank. The last week of October, 150 members of IAM District 142 from TransWorld Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Continental joined the picket line in front of Boeing’s corporate headquarters. IAM mechanics from Alaska Airlines, along with members of the Association of Flight Attendants, organized a car caravan to the picket lines from the Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

The mood on the picket lines is bolstered by each expression of support for the strike.



November 13, 1970

The National Peace Action Coalition registered a major accomplishment with the Oct. 31 demonstrations against the war in Vietnam.

Since the inception of the movement, election periods have proven the most difficult for organizing massive demonstrations. Substantial numbers in the anti-war coalitions have turned to garnering votes for one or another major party “peace” candidate. The process was compounded by the current Nixon campaign to swindle the American people into believing he intends to wind up the war. The total capitulation of Democratic and Republican “doves” to the Nixon fraud was a boost to war efforts.

Despite these obstacles NPAC succeeded in initiating demonstrations in well over 30 areas of the country. NPAC succeeded in counterposing the demand for immediate U.S. withdrawal to Nixon’s crooked “peace” ploy.



November 10, 1945

NEW YORK — More than 200,000 Jews crowded into Madison Square Park October 24, in the largest protest against Britain’s White Paper in this city.

The meeting represented a cry of anguish of a tormented people at the treatment accorded to it by its own “allies.” With almost eight million Jews wiped out by Hitler, the true meaning of Jewish “liberation” by the victorious Allies is becoming clearer every day.

The several hundred thousand Jews left in Europe live in utter destitution and misery, most in concentration camps maintained by the Allies. Conditions in these camps are “shocking” and “reminiscent of Hitler’s regime,” according to a recent official report to President Truman.

Anti-Semitic outrages — not Hitler’s “invention,” but one of the vile outgrowths of capitalism in its decay — are still being perpetrated.



# Belarus protests and strikes shake Lukashenko regime

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Demanding the resignation of President Alexander Lukashenko, some 200,000 people took to the streets of Minsk, Belarus, Oct. 25, the largest protest against the regime in several weeks. Strikes by workers around the country the following day kept up the pressure, despite Lukashenko's efforts to suppress the workers' actions.

The workplace walkouts were backing a "national strike" call by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the exiled head of the bourgeois-led opposition and widely recognized winner of the Aug. 9 presidential elections. Protesters have been demanding Lukashenko quit after he rigged the vote, saying his 26-year run as president would continue. They are also calling for the release of all those detained by authorities and a halt to the violence meted out by the regime's forces to its political opponents.

"Resign!" "Strike!" and "New election!" shouted those taking to the streets Oct. 25. Almost daily, smaller protests continue to be organized, with demonstrators defying new threats by police to use lethal fire against them.

Over 500 protesters were arrested around the country Oct. 25, many picked up after dark when marches in several cities had ended. The total number detained has now reached 15,000. While most of those have been released,

hundreds have faced violent abuse in jails. Several have been killed.

Local media showed some empty factories as workers didn't show up for morning shift Oct. 26. Construction sites and many smaller shops shut down for the day. Students staged sit-ins or marched from university campuses despite threats of expulsion.

Workers held mass meetings to discuss whether to take strike action at some state-owned enterprises. About 200 workers gathered outside Grodno Azot, one of the country's largest chemical plants. Security forces arrested and beat more than 50 of them after they refused to move when ordered to do so.

Lukashenko first won office in 1994, promising to prevent "oligarchs" from taking over state-run factories. Instead, his government introduced capitalist methods into the state factories, raking off profits and attacking workers' rights and conditions. This included replacing permanent jobs with short-term contracts in 1999.

Recognizing the breadth of support among workers for strikes against the government's attacks on protesters, like the ones that took place two months ago, Lukashenko's security forces tried to prevent the Oct. 26 walkouts, arresting more than 300 people that day.

He has ordered authorities to pun-



Some 200,000 protesters in Minsk, Belarus, Oct. 25, mark 11 weeks of marches, strikes demanding dictator Alexander Lukashenko resign, new elections be held and all those detained by authorities be released.

ish workers and students who take strike action.

## Regime acting against strike leaders

Even before the Oct. 26 strike, authorities detained union leaders at the Belaruskali potash mining complex, where nearly 20,000 people work.

Four workers from the Belaruskali strike committee, Anatol Bokun, Siarhei Charkasau, Yury Korzun and Pavel Puchenia, have been held in jail in Soligorsk for the past two months. Authorities keep extending their detentions. They had helped lead walkouts in August against the rigged election and the regime's brutal response to those who refused to accept the "result." The four are leaders of the Belarusian Independent Trade Union.

Authorities promised to release them if they publicly admitted "guilt" and remorse for their part in the strike actions. When they refused, they were moved to new, undisclosed prisons. In an attempt to break his will to fight, Bokun has been subjected to loud, nonstop recordings depriving him of sleep.

Russian President Vladimir Putin backs Lukashenko. He views the movement aimed at bringing down Lukashenko's regime as a threat to Moscow's interests. Like the Stalinist regime before it imploded in 1991, Putin has long aimed to draw Belarus into economic and political integration with Russia. He hopes to avert another revolt like the Maidan uprising in Ukraine that toppled the pro-Moscow government there in 2014.

# Would a Joe Biden White House be better for Cuba?

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

MIAMI — A number of groups here and around the country that consider themselves "friends of Cuba" are promoting Joe Biden's bid for the presidency as a way to relieve the effects of over 60 years of Washington's economic and political attacks. These groups are organizing car caravans here, peddling the myth that Democratic administrations — and in particular Barack Obama's — "have been better" for relations between Washington and Havana, especially better than Donald Trump's.

But that simply isn't true, and revolutionary leader Fidel Castro said so. The U.S. rulers' decadeslong economic war against the Cuban people and their revolution has been uninteruptedly bipartisan. Since the Cuban Revolution in 1959 every administration without exception has sought to be the one to get down in history as the one that brought it down. And Biden aspires to get a shot at doing so again. He already takes credit for attempting it as vice president under Obama.

In October, while campaigning in Little Havana, Biden said "we" need to return to Obama's policy towards Cuba. The Trump administration's course "is not working," he said. "Cuba is no closer to freedom and democracy than it was four years ago." He promised to continue using sanctions against both Cuba and Venezuela "smartly."

In 2014, under the Obama adminis-

tration, the U.S. rulers made a tactical shift, recognizing that decades of brutal sanctions and economic warfare to overthrow the Cuban Revolution had failed. The "new" approach followed by Obama, which Biden says he wants to revive, sought to promote growth of capitalist businesses in Cuba in hopes the workings and "morals" of the market system would undermine the working-class confidence and social relations of solidarity that are prevalent in Cuba as a result of the revolution. Obama and Trump, however, have the identical goal — to reimpose capitalist exploitation and U.S. imperialist control over the island's land and resources, and over its people.

During President Obama's visit to Cuba in 2016, part of reestablishing diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States — something that is still in place — he advised the Cuban people "to forget the past, leave the past behind," and to open up Cuba to unbridled capitalist investment.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro wrote a response, entitled "Brother Obama." Despite the U.S. president's urging, he said, the Cuban people will, and should, never forget the economic and human price they have paid for Washington's aggressions, including its economic embargo. "We don't need the empire to give us anything," he said.

He reviewed the real record of U.S. efforts to strangle the revolution, what Obama wanted Cubans to "forget."

"After a ruthless blockade that has

# Cuba celebrates 60 years of Committees to Defend Revolution

BY RÓGER CALERO

Working people in Cuba in September celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs), the country's largest mass organization with more than 8 million members in neighborhoods in cities and countryside.

Even with special measures in place to protect people during the coronavirus pandemic limiting some activities, it was a day of rejoicing with workers decorating their houses, apartment buildings and streets with flags and banners, and some public events to mark the anniversary.

The CDRs have been at the forefront of supporting the Cuban public health system in halting the spread of COVID-19. In addition to the 28,000 medical students who have been making daily house visits to check on everyone's health, brigades of volunteers organized by the CDRs, the Federation of Cuban Women, the Union of Young Communists and other mass organizations are ensuring that children with disabilities, the elderly living alone, and others in need of assistance receive their meals and medications, and to run errands for them.

Others volunteer for brigades to clean quarantine centers and to provide company to patients staying there. These mobilizations reflect the fact that Cuban workers and farmers see the government as their own, and use their organizations to help it meet every challenge.

When nearly 1 million people gathered in Havana Sept. 28, 1960, to hear Cuban leader Fidel Castro speak after returning from a U.N. General As-



Members of Cuba's Committees for Defense of the Revolution do voluntary work on vegetable farm, June 7. CDRs have helped mobilize masses to counter U.S. rulers' economic and military efforts to overturn Cuban Revolution, while providing vital supplies like food, medicines.

sembly session, U.S.-backed counter-revolutionary terrorists set off several bombs nearby.

## CDRs born out of revolution

"If they think they can stand against the people, they are going to be hugely disappointed! We'll put in place a committee of revolutionary vigilance in every block," Castro responded to an ovation. "When the masses are organized there isn't a single imperialist, or a lackey of the imperialists who can make a move." And the CDRs were born.

They grew to become a vibrant national organization capable of mobilizing millions in defense of the revolution.

The formation of neighborhood committees to guard against counterrevolutionary activity came at a turning point of the revolution, then less than 2 years old. Workers and peasants were mobilizing to take control of the fields and factories, and the revolutionary government was nationalizing the formerly imperialist-owned banks and industries.

As it became clearer and clearer to Cuban capitalists and the U.S. rulers that they would no longer be able to exploit the people and resources of Cuba, Washington accelerated its political, economic and military efforts to overturn the revolution.

This is the course Washington has pursued for over 60 years, under every administration, Democratic or Republican: a brutal economic war aimed at the Cuban people. And the response by working people and their CDRs has earned a special hatred from enemies of the revolution.

The CDRs came into being as revolutionary forces were taking leadership in the unions, and women, farmers, and students were forming their own organizations. These organizations — along with the workers and peasants militias and the revolutionary armed forces — formed the foundation for the new popular government, as it began transforming society for the benefit of the toilers, not the capitalists.

## Toilers' capacities unleashed

A quick look at the history of the CDRs gives a flavor of how the revolution unleashed the creativity, resourcefulness and capacities of working people to use their organized power to confront all challenges to the revolution.

They were decisive in neutralizing

counterrevolutionary activities leading up to and after the April 1961 U.S.-organized invasion at the Bay of Pigs, and in fighting petty capitalists who sought to profit from hoarding and speculating with food and other necessities.

In 1962, when the Kennedy administration was tightening its economic embargo and preparing a U.S.-organized military invasion, the CDRs guaranteed the distribution of food and other supplies to the population, and organized 12,000 medical brigades of 300,000 members. They attended first aid courses, made stretchers, and constructed bomb shelters. They organized retired workers, housewives, and students who volunteered to take the place of workers who left to staff the front lines.

They were centrally involved in the national campaigns to eliminate illiteracy in 1961; and a year later to administer the polio vaccine to over 2 million children under the age of 15.

Albert Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine, visited Cuba in 1963, astonished by the eradication of polio in a single campaign. It took six more decades for polio to be eliminated in the rest of the world.

A description of these giant transformations can be found in the book *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, published by Pathfinder.

## 'No one left to fend for themselves'

Also in 1963, the CDRs collected clothing and toys for the hundreds of thousands of victims of Hurricane

Flora. The CDRs have been the heart of Cuba's emergency response system that saves lives every year, preventing natural disasters from becoming social catastrophes. "No one is left to fend for themselves!" is the principle that guides them.

And they've stepped forward to aid toilers in other countries facing similar conditions. On repeated occasions they've organized special drives to donate blood, for example, to people in Peru in 1970 and Armenia in 1988 in response to earthquakes there.

Over decades the CDRs have helped extend access to culture to working people by creating libraries, organizing music and other festivals, and providing ongoing support for the schools in their neighborhoods. In June 1962, the CDRs sponsored a performance by the Cuban National Ballet that was attended by 50,000 people at the Latin American Stadium. They saw internationally acclaimed Cuban dancer Alicia Alonso, members of the national ballet she directed and 140 dance students perform *Giselle*.

## Fighting food scarcity today

Over the years, the CDRs have mobilized hundreds of thousands of volunteers to help bring in the sugar cane harvest and in other agricultural production.

Today, Cuba faces growing scarcity of some foodstuffs, as a result of the drastic drop in production, trade, and tourism due to the coronavirus pandemic — exacerbated by Washington's stepped-up sanctions. The CDRs and other mass organizations have responded by organizing to increase food production.

The tasks of the CDR "continue to be the same: to defend the revolution in each neighborhood and each block," Gerardo Hernández, recently elected CDR national coordinator, said at the main anniversary celebration held in Havana. Hernández was one of the "Cuban Five" revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons for gathering information for the Cuban government on the actions and plans of counterrevolutionary groups in the U.S. with a long history of murderous attacks in Cuba.

"If someone asked, what's the mystery behind this revolution?" Hernández said, quoting from a speech given by Fidel Castro at the fourth congress of the CDRs in 2003, "there could not be any other answer than the fact that it rests on the organized masses."



Minsk motor plant workers at MTZ discuss next steps in strike action against regime, Oct. 26.

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# Build support for Dominion workers strike in Canada

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

“Those of us standing on a picket line for nine weeks, we’re here to say that we are fed up with this company taking our full-time jobs away,” Dawn Hanames told an Oct. 22 rally of striking Dominion grocery workers, outside the Loblaw distribution center in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland. Hanames has worked at Dominion for 30 years, first as a part-time worker and then full time.

“One day longer, one day stronger!” the strikers chanted outside the center, which supplies Dominion and other stores owned by Loblaw.

Eighty percent of the workers at the company are part time, and more than half earn the provincial minimum wage of 12.15 Canadian dollars an hour (\$9.24).

The strike by 1,400 Unifor Local 597 members began Aug. 22 after workers overwhelmingly rejected company bosses’ offer of CA\$1 an hour wage increase over three years. Workers are demanding higher wages, more full-time jobs and better benefits.

The rally took place days before the Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court was due to hear an injunction requested by bosses to block workers from picketing the Mount Pearl facility.

Now into their 10th week on the picket line, Unifor Local 597 mem-

bers will keep their line up and decide their next steps once the court decides, union lead negotiator Chris MacDonald said.

“This isn’t just about 1,400 workers fighting. It’s about us acknowledging a broken system that is failing workers. I say to Galen Weston, see us, hear us because we’re not going anywhere,” Carolyn Wrice, Local 597 president, told the rally. Weston, one of the richest capitalists in Canada, owns Loblaw.

“We have been watching the news about your struggle,” read a letter sent by Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1777 in solidarity with the grocery store workers. The CUPE local represents workers in Social Planning Toronto and sent a check for CA\$100 to the Dominion workers’ strike fund. CUPE Lo-



Dominion workers picket Oct. 26 at Weston’s bakery in St. John’s, Newfoundland. “See us, hear us, because we’re not going anywhere,” said Unifor Local 597 President Carolyn Wrice.

cal 15 in Vancouver also sent a letter of solidarity and a contribution of CA\$1,000 to the strikers.

Dominion workers need more solidarity in their fight to push back the

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

## Federal cops charged in 2017 killing of Bijan Ghaisar

BY GLOVA SCOTT

WASHINGTON — A grand jury in Fairfax County, Virginia, filed manslaughter charges Oct. 15 against Alejandro Amaya and Lucas Vinyard, two U.S. Park Police officers, who shot and killed Bijan Ghaisar on Nov. 17, 2017.

The cops chased Ghaisar after his vehicle was rear-ended in a minor fender bender that was not his fault.

Ghaisar stopped his jeep twice, but when the cops jumped out with their guns drawn and pounded on his car, he drove off. When he was pulled over a third time, the cops shot nine times into Ghaisar’s vehicle, striking him four times in the head. Ghaisar, who was Iranian-American, was unarmed. He died 10 days later. The chase and the shooting was recorded by Fairfax County police.

The officers claim that they acted in self-defense and to protect public safety, even though the video showed Ghaisar was driving away, not toward the officers.

State charges were filed because the U.S. Justice Department had previously refused to do so. Federal authorities also refused to turn over any of the evidence to Virginia prosecutors. The cops now claim that they can’t be charged because the law says federal officials can’t be brought before state courts.

Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for D.C. Delegate to Congress, welcomed the fact that the two cops were charged. For three years Ghaisar’s family organized rallies and other protests demanding justice, which finally pushed Virginia officials to file charges against Amaya and Vinyard,” he said.

“They always linked up their fight with other struggles against cop killings, inviting activists from Black civil rights groups to join their protests and to speak,” Musa said. “But it isn’t guaranteed the family will get the trial they so deserve, given the laws are written to protect the police. We have to keep the pressure on.”

## LETTERS

Randy Jasper

Randy Jasper, a Wisconsin farmer, fighter for the rights of family farmers and longtime supporter of Cuba’s socialist revolution, died Oct. 23 from COVID-19 related illnesses. He was 70.

Jasper was a milk and grain farmer. His first political fight was when he started organizing dairy farmers to protest the low prices they received for their milk.

In February 2000 Jasper helped organize a protest outside the headquarters of Foremost Farms USA, Wisconsin’s largest milk buyer, to demand higher prices. David Rosenfeld and Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party members, attended the action to report on it for the *Militant*. After meeting the party, Jasper found a number of opportunities to collaborate with the SWP over the rest of his life.

Jasper visited Cuba three times and was invited to the 1999 National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) conference. He was won to support Cuba’s socialist revolution and joined in activities to explain and defend it, both among farmers where he lived in Muscoda and at conferences and other gatherings of farmers around the country and abroad. The workers and farmers government in Cuba guarantees farmers the right to work the land, he explained, unlike in the U.S. where farmers are driven into debt and, all too often, off the land through bankruptcies and foreclosures.

He once told a Militant Labor Forum in Iowa, “Farming in Cuba is organized to provide for the population, not to make profits.”

In 2000 Jasper organized time off the farm to travel to the United King-

dom and join farmers and truckers in a London rally demanding government relief from soaring fuel prices, where he was asked to speak. “I told the rally I need to know what is happening in Europe and you need to know what is happening in the U.S., because what we face is a world problem,” he told the *Militant*.

Over the past decade, Jasper and his wife Zena organized for Socialist Workers Party members from Chicago to visit and write for the *Militant* about what farmers in Wisconsin were facing as the crisis of capitalism deepened.

Finally, Jasper gave up farming be-

cause he could no longer make ends meet and began repairing farm equipment in a shed near his house.

He remained politically active — joining fights by working farmers, speaking about the example of Cuba’s revolution, protesting against the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota and supporting working-class battles like the 2019 Machinists strike at Wisconsin-based Regal Beloit in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Beyond his political activities, Jasper was also a champion tractor puller in southwest Wisconsin.

Dan Fein  
Chicago, Illinois

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# SWP STATEMENT

## Vote Socialist Workers Party!

Continued from front page

Both Joe Biden and Donald Trump say “Americans” need to come together. But there are *two* Americas — the rulers of the propertied capitalist families on one side and the tens of millions of workers, farmers and youth on the other.

For the capitalist system of the bosses to return to profitability they need to restore their dog-eat-dog competitive edge against rivals at home and abroad by inflicting deep cuts on our jobs, wages, and health care provisions. Whether Trump or Biden is elected, they will loyally serve the ruthless self-interest of the exploiting class, and working people will go to the wall.

The socialist candidates are presenting a road forward to build an independent, fighting working-class movement of millions to take political power into our own hands. That’s a struggle that will continue long after Nov. 3.

### For government-funded public works program

The SWP urges fellow workers and our unions to fight for a government-funded public works program, putting all those thrown out of work back into jobs at union-scale pay to build the housing, hospitals, schools and other things working people need. To fight for a cut in the workweek *with no cut in take-home pay*, to spread the work around and prevent layoffs. To build solidarity with workers who are standing up to boss attacks on their wages and conditions, like the strikers at Dominion grocery stores in Canada.

As bosses push speedup on the job, with utter disregard for our health and safety, workers need

to fight to wrest control of production out of their grasp. Under workers control, decisions are made based on the protection of life and limb of all, not the bosses’ profits, and workers learn more about our own capacities.

Workers need our own political party, a labor party, that acts in the defense of all those exploited and oppressed by capital and leads millions to take political power and put a workers and farmers government in place.

Along the way, fighting workers confront blows aimed at our political rights. The SWP has initiated an urgently needed fight to halt officials of Washington state from making the names and addresses of its presidential electors public. Such a disclosure would open the door to harassment, spying and attacks on SWP supporters by cops, bosses, rightists, middle-class radicals and all those who believe the way to deal with those you disagree with is to shut them up. It comes on the heels of a series of death threats made against party campaigners there.

This fight is in the interests of all working people and deserves your support.

The mighty revolution made by working people in Cuba in 1959 and defended for decades since shows it is possible to build a movement that can end the dictatorship of the capitalist class and reorganize society in the interests of the vast majority.

Vote for the SWP presidential ticket and all its local candidates in your area. If the party’s candidates have been kept off the ballot where you live, write them in. We’re out to build a movement that can change the world.

## Thousands protest gov’t attack on right to abortion in Poland

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Thousands joined in a march in Warsaw Oct. 23 to protest a ruling the day before by Poland’s Constitutional Tribunal that bans abortion even in the case “of a severe and irreversible fetal defect or incurable illness that threatens the fetus’s life.”

This will lead to a near-total ban as this was the grounds for 98% of all legal abortions in Poland last year. Under the ruling, abortion will only be allowed in the case of rape or incest, or if the woman’s health or life is in danger.

“There have been over 300 actions all over Poland, in big cities and small towns, every day so far, with thousands of people,” Krystyna Kacpura, executive director of the Federation for Women and Family Planning, told the *Militant* from Warsaw Oct. 28.

In taking to the streets protesters defied government-imposed COVID-19 restrictions. In most of the country, gatherings of more than 10 people are banned.

Three previous attempts by the government to increase restrictions on women’s right to choose failed in the face of demonstrations by thousands. The government launched a third attempt earlier this year, but the bill did not come to a vote. Instead, a group of legislators requested that the Constitutional Tribunal review the clause, bypassing parliament.

Women’s groups estimate that as many as 200,000 women in Poland get abortions every year — either clandestinely or by going abroad. The burden of the restrictions falls hardest on working-class women and women in rural areas who cannot afford to travel or seek expensive private clinics.

## Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign action platform

**THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY PRESENTS A FIGHTING WORKING-CLASS PROGRAM. WE NEED TO ORGANIZE TO FIGHT GROWING EMPLOYER ATTACKS ON OUR JOBS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.** Build solidarity with workers’ struggles to organize and defend themselves. On this course, we can build and 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.** Fight for immediate government relief to fully cover farmers’ production costs, including living expenses for themselves and their families. No more foreclosures! Nationalize the land, guaranteeing its use by those who live on and till it, not “repo” seizures by absentee bankers, landowners, or capitalist farmers.

**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 AND 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.

**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.

**HEALTH CARE FOR ALL.** Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retire-

ment income for all.

**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 reactionary “cancel culture” and efforts to shut up people by public lynching through social media.

**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.