

## SWP running for governor in California special election

BY BETSEY STONE

LOS ANGELES — The Socialist Workers Party in California announced May 15 that it will run Dennis Richter, a Walmart worker and party leader, for governor in a special election to decide who might replace Democratic Party governor Gavin Newsom if he is recalled in an upcoming election.

“Dissatisfaction with the capitalist parties is growing,” Richter told the meeting here where the campaign was announced. “Over 2 million people signed petitions for the recall election, initiated by Republicans. It got wide support because of opposition to Newsom’s arbitrary implementation of COVID shutdown rules, the resulting destruction of many small businesses and his delay in reopening schools and places of worship.

“Our party was not involved in the recall drive but we are jumping into this race to put forward a working-class view,” Richter said. “We’ll be

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## Press for talks to recognize a Palestinian state and Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

Rocket attacks and shelling between Hamas and the Israeli government continued in mid-May, resulting in mounting civilian deaths, injuries, destruction of neighborhoods and displacement of families.

Since officials of Gaza’s Islamist regime initiated the armed conflict May 10, Hamas and its allies had fired more than 3,700 missiles at Israel as of May 19. Though Israel’s Iron Dome anti-missile system has intercepted some 90% of rockets crossing its border, the attacks have killed 12 people, including two Arab citizens and several immigrant workers from Thailand.

The Israeli government has retaliated with airstrikes on Hamas’ military positions in Gaza, killing civilians and leveling housing in the process. Hamas leaders deliberately concentrate military installations in residential areas, with the aim of arousing world public opinion when, as they intend, Israeli forces attack. The Israeli

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## Back coal miners on strike in Alabama!



Militant/Susan LaMont

Warrior Met No. 4 mine picket line, in Brookwood, Alabama, May 16. “The company knows we’re only asking for what they took from us in 2016,” striker Harold Young, at right, said.

BY JOHN HAWKINS  
AND SUSAN LAMONT

BROOKWOOD, Ala. — “We need national exposure for our strike,” Harold Young, a United Mine Workers of America union member on strike at Warrior Met Coal’s No. 4

**ATI STEELWORKERS  
WIN SOLIDARITY**

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mine, told the *Militant* on the picket line here May 16. Spreading the word about the strike is crucial for building solidarity.

“The company knows we’re only asking for what they took from us in 2016 and what other union miners have. We deserve more, with the cost of living going up all the time,” he

## Quebec iron ore workers strike against attacks by ArcelorMittal

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

PORT-CARTIER, Quebec — After rejecting ArcelorMittal’s “final” offer, 2,500 iron ore miners and processing, rail, and office workers here and in Fermont went on strike May 10.

“The stakes in our strike include wages, medical premiums, the retirement fund and working conditions,” Krystelle Levesque-Leclerc, a production worker in the pelletizing plant and a member of United Steelworkers Local 8664, told the *Militant* on the picket line May 13. “We have been without a contract since Feb. 28.”

The workers, members of five Steelworkers union locals, had earlier rejected a tentative agreement between

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said. Young has worked at the mine for 10 years.

Some 1,100 miners walked out April 1 in the first contract strike at these mines since 1981. They are staffing more than a dozen round-the-clock picket sites at two underground mines, No. 4 and No. 7, a preparation plant and central shops, along with several railroad crossings.

With the aid of a pro-boss bankruptcy court, the previous company,

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## Help to overturn Florida, Indiana prison officials’ ban on ‘Militant’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Charles Huber, the new chair of the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee, told *Militant* attorney David Goldstein May 14 that it is scheduled to review the decision of Century Correctional Institution prison authorities banning all five March issues of paper from subscribers there. The meeting is set for May 20.

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## Indian farmers in fifth month of protests to defend their livelihood



Bharti Kisan Union Ekta Ugrahan

May 12 protest on the outskirts of New Delhi by women participants in Indian farmers’ movement. They called for more women to join the struggle against gov’t’s anti-farmer “reforms.”

BY ROY LANDERSEN

For over five months about 200,000 farmers at a time have lived in three main protest encampments on roads into New Delhi, India’s capital, despite government efforts to use the rise in deaths from coronavirus to get them to leave.

Farmers are demanding the elimination of laws that would end government price supports and undercut state-organized wholesale markets that help ensure they receive a sufficient income to

keep their livelihoods.

“The government is using COVID” to try to weaken the protests, Gursimran Singh, a student in Canada, told the *Militant* by phone April 29. His parents are farmers in Punjab who have joined the camps. “If the government really fears COVID deaths,” they say, “scrap the law and we will go home.”

Some 4,000 people died from the virus in India for the third straight day

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Hundreds of coal miners protest in Ukraine over lack of pay

Frito-Lay strikers angered by injury to temporary worker



# India farmers continue protests

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May 14 and infections are multiplying. Farmers’ leaders say they won’t be holding big rallies until the current health crisis subsides, Singh said.

“We have followed coronavirus guidelines,” Rakesh Tikait, a leader of Bharatiya Kisan Union, one of the main farmers’ organizations, told the press in mid-April. He said the protesters “plan to stay put” through the end of the year “if the government doesn’t listen to us.”

**Family farmers’ livelihoods at stake**

The new laws rammed through parliament by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last September make farmers more vulnerable to exploitation by big capitalist traders, who are determined to drive down prices. More small farmers will face ruin as the government pushes to open up the country’s vast agriculture to greater domination by some of India’s wealthiest capitalists.

Farmers are demanding the national extension of the state-backed price support system to encompass 23 basic crops. This would cover all their costs of production, including upkeep for family labor.

Contrary to Modi’s hopes, the numbers joining protest camps have not been affected by farmers’ need to return to the fields for harvest season. In the northern bread basket region, this is mid-April to mid-May.

“Because we live in extended fami-

lies, two people can stay in the camp and the rest are home in the fields,” Brinder Bajwa told the *Militant* May 9. He is a student in Canada whose family is from Punjab, India. Following rosters drawn up for every village, “they rotate who joins the protest.”

Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims have participated in the camps, including increasing numbers of women. Protests have spread to 20 states, including Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, despite vicious cop assaults on farmers’ demonstrations in New Delhi and elsewhere.

Government ministers have tried to undermine support for farmers by claiming the protests are orchestrated by rich farmers, Sikh separatists or foreigners. Talks between government and farm representatives haven’t resumed since February.

Over half of India’s 1.3 billion people live in the countryside and are reliant on agriculture. But the vast majority of farmers work small plots of a few acres, which are often subdivided as they are passed on to new generations.

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana, where protests began, grow more than half of India’s wheat and rice. Many are forced into greater debt to buy machinery and chemicals. In these parts of the country land is relatively dry and farmers have to pay for deeper irrigation wells and stronger pumps to access water. The growing depletion of ground-water adds to the crisis.

An estimated 300,000 Indian farmers, crushed by debt, have committed suicide in the last two decades. “Farm laws are more dangerous than the COVID,” Singh said.

In early March India’s health minister, Harsh Vardhan, declared the end of

## Walmart workers back locked-out Marathon oil workers



FEDERAL WAY, Wash. — Workers at the Walmart store where I work have organized to win support for locked-out oil refinery workers half way across the country. Members of Teamsters Local 120 at the Marathon Petroleum refinery in St. Paul Park, Minnesota, have been locked out since Jan. 22. The bosses are demanding job subcontracting that jeopardizes worker and community safety in a plant that uses lethal hydrofluoric acid. The three-week collection, led by several workers who have collaborated in solidarity actions, raised \$344 from over 30 co-workers off the clock. As one co-worker said as he handed over \$20, “We might need their help someday.”

— REBECCA WILLIAMSON

the pandemic. The Modi government abandoned health precautions at mass rallies during five state election campaigns. And it didn’t place new orders for vaccines or hospital equipment.

The subsequent rapid surge of CO-

VID infections overwhelmed hospitals. Just 2.9% of the population has been vaccinated as of May 14.

*Katy LeRougetel in Montreal contributed to this article.*

## SWP ‘stimulus’ fund climbs up to \$163,760!

The SWP “stimulus” appeal now totals \$163,760 from 137 contributors over the last three months! A tremendous accomplishment!

The U.S. government reports the overwhelming majority of \$1,400 payments have been sent out.

We’ll plan a roundup of the effort two weeks from now, as we still continue to receive contributions. Take the opportunity to join the effort.

A certain number of government payments will continue to be sent in the coming months. Further contributions from those government payments will continue to be welcome, as part of the special character of this appeal.

Each contributor makes a difference toward expanding the ability of the party to bring its program to many thousands of workers and exploited toilers, and to join with other fighters in labor and social struggles. To build on a course toward the working class taking political power in the U.S. and joining with toilers worldwide to end social relations based on exploitation — class vs. class — and build a socialist society based on human solidarity.

The many notes we carried from contributors around the country have captured the political confidence in the working class and commitment to building a revolutionary working-class party in the U.S.

To contribute, make out your check to the Socialist Workers Party and send it to SWP, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

**The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund**

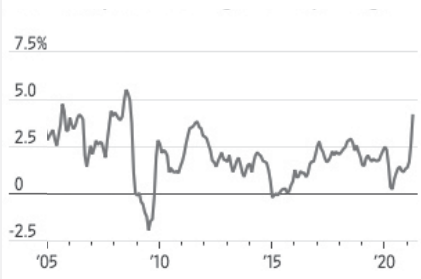
makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the Militant earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

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**Consumer Price Index percent change**



U.S. Labor Department

Government chart shows 2021 jump in inflation, biggest hike in prices since 2008.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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



‘Working-class discontent’

Continued from front page  
raising the need for working-class action independent of both Republicans and Democrats and building solidarity with strikes and joining fights against cop brutality.” In the course of such struggles a movement and leadership can be forged to overturn capitalist rule and establish a workers and farmers government.

Desperate to avoid being recalled, Newsom is proposing a \$100 billion “stimulus” plan that includes \$600 checks doled out for two-thirds of Californians. “Unlike the Democrats who offer handouts, the SWP calls for a fight for a massive public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, child care centers and other things workers need,” Richter said. “We are for the unions fighting for such a program, getting us working where we can organize together. This is what gives us power to change things.”

Alyson Kennedy, Texas SWP campaign chair, addressed the meeting, urging solidarity with the strikes by miners, steelworkers, refinery workers and others. “With the lifting of the shutdowns, we are seeing a stirring in the working class,” she said. “Employers are on the offensive to make the working class pay for any profits they lost in the pandemic. But with more of us getting called back to work, confidence is growing and workers are starting to fight back.”

Campaigning in Long Beach the next day, Richter and Kennedy met Javier Marquez, a port worker and member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 13. Kennedy told him that when she and other coal miners were on strike in Utah in 2003-2004, the longshore union sent its drill team there in an act of solidarity.

Marquez knew about the 1934 San Francisco longshore strike that established union power on the waterfront. That same year strikes and organizing

drives by truck drivers in Minneapolis transformed the Teamsters union into a fighting social movement. Marquez got a copy of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, a leader of those struggles and of the SWP, along with a subscription to the *Militant*.

‘Neither Democrats nor Republicans represent us’

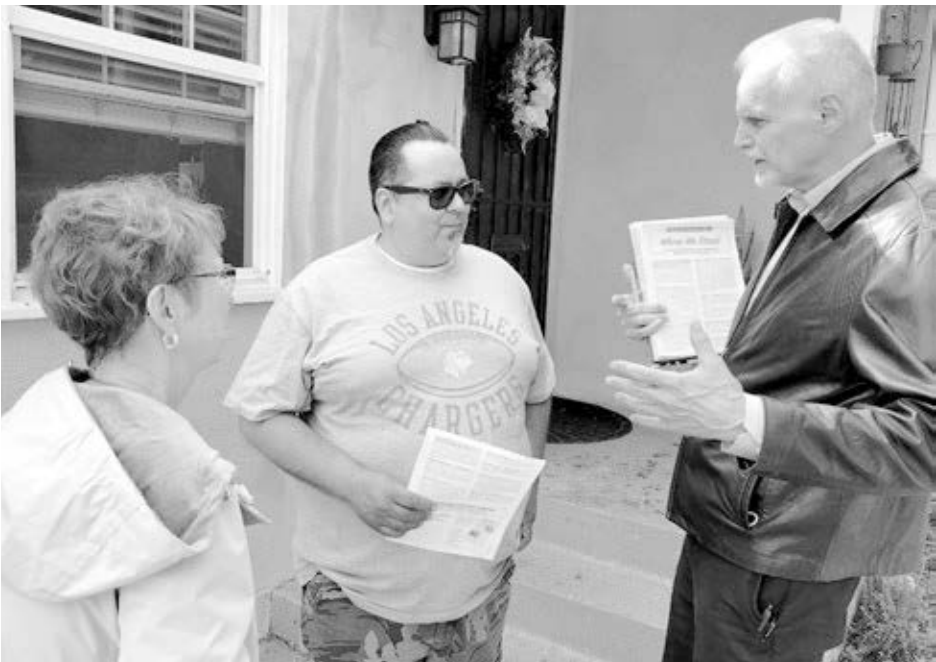
BY ROY LANDERSEN

Sara Lobman, the SWP candidate for Manhattan Borough president, and campaign supporters Tamar Rosenfeld and Steve Clark were invited into the apartment of Heriberto Nuñez and his mother Maria, a retired garment worker, May 14.

Nuñez was a driver and dispatcher in New York until he had two strokes a year ago. Partially paralyzed, he is no longer able to drive. When he went to the Social Security office about his disability insurance, he asked for help finding a job compatible with his medical situation. “I’m able to be a productive citizen,” he told officials. “Help me get work.” But they just looked at me, he told the campaigners.

Lobman said that this is what millions of workers face, disabled or not, and pointed to the SWP’s proposals aimed at uniting employed and unemployed workers to fight to get millions of workers back into jobs. Both the Democrats and Republicans are parties of the wealthy rulers, she said. Workers need our own party to speak and act in our own interests.

Nuñez, who said he’s been a registered Democrat, agreed, saying, “Neither party represents the working class. Neither party represents us.” He and his mother got a subscription to the *Militant* and a Spanish edition of *Are They Rich Because They’re*



Militant/Betsey Stone  
Dennis Richter, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, and campaign supporter Alyson Kennedy talk to Long Beach port worker Javier Marquez May 16. Marquez got *Teamster Rebellion* to learn how revolutionary-minded unionists fought in 1930s.

*Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Striking miners pick up the *Militant*

Susan LaMont and Maggie Trowe were part of a team of SWP campaigners who visited the picket lines of coal miners on strike against Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama, May 16. Some 1,100 miners in the United Mine Workers at several sites have been out since April 1.

When the team stopped to eat at the Pottery Grill in Cottondale, the owner, Tim Foster, told them he often sends food to the pickets. He added a pound of pulled pork and some sides to what they’d ordered to take to the picket line, and subscribed to the *Militant*.

When Trowe and LaMont campaigned in nearby Northport, they met two young miners, Skyler Yocum and Steven Voltz, on strike for the first time. Both had worked at nonunion mines outside Alabama and thought they and other miners who came from out of state had been hired because bosses thought they were more likely to cross a picket line than miners from Alabama. Voltz got a subscription to the *Militant*. The campaign team sold six subscriptions to the *Militant* and five books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders.

Recognize Palestine, Israel

SWP campaigners Dan Fein and Naomi Craine May 15 discussed the party’s program with working people they met in Bridgeview, a Chicago suburb, where many people from the Middle East live. They distributed the SWP’s 2017 statement, “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

“There needs to be peace and respect for everyone,” said Abdelsamad Ali, a delivery driver originally from Sudan, when Fein and Craine knocked on his door. Craine said that the capitalist rulers of Israel and the Arab states as well as the Hamas leaders all treat working people as cannon fodder and foster religious and national di-

visions to advance their own interests.

“Yes, in my country too, the rulers divide people,” he said. Ali got a subscription to the *Militant*, along with the book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes.

Joanne Kuniansky, the SWP’s candidate for New Jersey governor, will file some 1,500 signatures at the state election office in Trenton May 20. Campaign supporters collected nearly double the 800 signatures required, reflecting the widespread interest in a working-class road forward and support for the SWP to be on the ballot. During the ballot drive scores of subscriptions to the *Militant* and books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders were sold.

To help expand the readership of the *Militant* and books on revolutionary working-class politics, or to contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, see page 8 for the distributor nearest you. Or visit themilitant.com to purchase a subscription and contribute online.

—MILITANT  
LABOR  
FORUMS—

ILLINOIS  
Chicago  
The Trial of Derek Chauvin: A Blow to Workers’ Rights, Not an Advance in the Fight Against Police Brutality. Speaker: Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 28, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Tel.: (312) 792-6160.

Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran  
by Steve Clark

Read online or download at  
www.themilitant.com

Join the Syringes for Cuba campaign!

Global Health Partners and the U.S.-Canada Saving Lives Campaign are raising funds to supply millions of syringes to Cuba over the next several months to help health workers there vaccinate the entire Cuban population against COVID-19.

The Cubans are also organizing to send millions of doses of their vaccines to people in need worldwide.

Washington’s decadeslong economic embargo of the island has made access to syringes, as well as many other medical supplies and basic necessities, far more difficult. Cuba’s revolutionary government needs 33 million syringes to conduct this mass vaccination campaign. The international effort to provide these is picking up steam.

The Canadian Network on Cuba is sending a container of 1.9 million syringes and needles to Cuba. Over \$109,000 has been sent from Spain through early May. A continentwide effort in Latin America to provide 1 million syringes is making progress, Elena Flores, president of the Honduras-Cuba Association, told Prensa Latina May 7.

In New York, The People’s Forum has raised \$17,400 from 394 donors toward its goal of \$20,000. You can help! Contact [www.ghpartners.org](http://www.ghpartners.org).

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
April 24 - June 29 (week three)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	80	22	80	18	\$8,000	\$650
Atlanta	80	30	80	23	\$11,000	\$2,492
Chicago	115	52	115	46	\$13,200	\$4,425
Dallas	40	28	35	18	\$3,000	\$850
Lincoln	15	5	15	4	\$400	\$100
Los Angeles	105	55	105	65	\$13,250	\$1,600
Louisville	90	30	90	19	\$5,000	\$1,000
Miami	35	5	35	7	\$4,000	\$2,425
N. New Jersey	80	32	80	37	\$6,250	\$1,280
New York	100	54	100	86	\$16,000	\$3,890
Oakland	90	36	90	28	\$13,000	\$3,273
Philadelphia	30	11	30	12	\$3,500	\$1,905
Pittsburgh	50	14	50	10	\$3,000	\$800
Seattle	95	35	95	26	\$12,500	\$870
Twin Cities	50	18	50	22	\$4,500	\$700
Washington	65	25	65	30	\$6,000	\$805
Other						
Total U.S.	1120	452	1115	451	\$122,600	\$27,065
Prisoners	25	17				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	20	45	22	\$4,000	
Manchester	40	16	40	17	\$2,000	
Total U.K.	85	36	85	39	\$6,000	
Canada*	95	35	115	46	\$12,200	\$2,562
New Zealand	30	22	30	14	\$3,500	\$2,940
Australia	30	12	30	12	\$2,000	\$1,050
Total	1,385	574	1,392	631	\$146,300	\$33,617
SHOULD BE	1,400	462	1,400	462	\$145,000	\$47,850
*Raised goal						



# Recognize Palestine and Israel

**Continued from front page**  
regime says that 130 of the more than 200 dead are Hamas or Islamic Jihad combatants. Gaza’s health ministry says that 63 children and 35 women are among those killed.

Hamas cynically claims its rocket attacks support protests over the threatened and unjust eviction of 13 Arab households in East Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and Israeli police presence at Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Protests had been growing in anticipation of a May 6 Supreme Court hearing, now postponed, on evictions of Palestinians who have lived in Sheikh Jarrah since the 1950s. Israeli cops used rubber bullets, water cannon and arrests to break up Palestinian protests at the mosque, injuring some 200 people May 7.

Ultra-rightist groups — some linked to followers of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who won a few seats in the recent Knesset elections — staged reactionary actions in East Jerusalem April 22, chanting “Death to Arabs.” Police arrested some of the rightists and dispersed their demonstrations.

On May 10 small groups of Palestinian youth, waving Palestinian and Hamas flags and throwing stones and firebombs, attacked Jewish residents, homes, a school and a synagogue in Lod, a city where Jews and Arabs have lived together for years. Arab Israeli Mousa Hassouna was shot and killed by armed Jewish residents.

That evening Hamas began its rocket attacks aimed at civilian areas across Israel. The Israeli government responded with strikes on Hamas’ network of tunnels, command centers, missile factories and weapons storages in Gaza. Tens of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their homes, and civilians were killed.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians responded to a call for a general strike inside Israel and on the West Bank May 18 to protest the Israeli strikes in Gaza, attacks at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and threatened evictions. In many areas, most shops were shuttered.

Many liberals and middle-class radicals worldwide have responded by organizing actions in the U.S. and elsewhere echoing Hamas’ anti-Semitic slogan, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” a call for the destruction of Israel and driving Jews out. They’ve said nothing about the thousands of missiles launched by Hamas and Islamic Jihad against civilians in Israeli cities and towns.

The liberal imperialist media has joined in the campaign against Israel. One example is particularly telling. When an Israeli airstrike destroyed a

building said by the Israeli government to house a Hamas intelligence center along with offices of the Associated Press and Al Jazeera, AP president and CEO Gary Pruitt claimed, “We have had no indication Hamas was in the building.” (Israeli officials had alerted occupants an hour in advance, allowing them to get out before the building was hit.)

As far back as a 2014 article in the *Atlantic* magazine, however, a former AP editor in Jerusalem reported that AP officials not only knew of the group’s presence but also that Hamas fired rockets from right near the building but decided to report nothing about it.

### Jewish-Arab solidarity in Israel

As Hamas began its rocket barrage, anti-Jewish attacks as well as anti-Arab violence spread to “mixed” cities in Israel.

Yigal Yehoshua, a 56-year-old Jewish resident of Lod, died May 17. He was hit in the head by a brick hurled at him there May 11. “Yigal was a paragon of coexistence,” his wife Irena told Israel’s Channel 12 news. “He worked as an electrician and repaired homes for all, Arabs and Jews.”

Saeed Mousa, an Arab man savagely beaten by a mob of Jewish rightists in Bat Yam May 12, was hospitalized in serious condition. The rightist rioters also vandalized an Arab-owned ice cream parlor. The next day crowds of Jewish well-wishers flocked to the store to show solidarity. Jewish and Arab workers alike were aghast at these attacks. There are numerous instances where Jews protected Arab neighbors or co-workers facing rightist mobs and Arabs who protected their Jewish neighbors.

Lod resident Nisim Dahan, 72, told the *Wall Street Journal* that his lifelong Arab friends protected him from arsonists. “Jews and Arabs are destined to live with each other,” he said.

In Tiberias May 12, when a rightist mob headed toward the bus station looking for Arabs to beat up, “the Jewish drivers informed their Arab co-workers and hid them,” Yaniv Bar Ilan told the *Militant* by phone May 15. Bar Ilan is a spokesperson for Koach la Ovdim (Workers to Power), a trade union federation that represents the drivers.

## Overturn Florida, Indiana prison bans on ‘Militant’

### Continued from front page

If the bans aren’t overturned, Goldstein said, the paper will file an appeal seeking to reverse the impoundments.

The reasons Century officials gave for the bans reflect nothing other than a flagrant bias against the *Militant* and its political point of view. Almost every article they point to in justification for their bans has nothing to with prison conditions.

Articles prison authorities deemed “inadmissible” include the paper’s coverage of the labor movement: from the union-organizing drive at Amazon in Alabama to strikes by steelworkers against ATI and by bus drivers in Manchester, England, over pay and work hours.

Prison officials also expressed strong objections to articles reporting on the success that the *Militant* and Socialist Workers Party have had in getting donations from readers giving all or part of their government “stimulus” checks.

The 11 articles listed as reasons for impoundment also included, “Protest:

### Protests continue against military rule in Myanmar



Myanmar Labour News

Despite bloody government repression, protests continued May 17 in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second-largest city, above, demanding the military junta that seized power in the country Feb. 1 stand down. Police and soldiers had broken up a protest march in Mandalay’s Pyigyidagun neighborhood May 12 before it could start, arresting more than 30 people.

The president of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar, Maung Maung, told a May 12 online program that “dismissals are taking place, not in hundreds, but in thousands,” as the regime works with the bosses to fire striking workers and union activists.

The junta declared martial law May 13 in the small town of Mindat, where some residents had joined the recently formed Chinland Defense Force to resist the regime, arming themselves with homemade hunting rifles. Army units occupied the town after attacking it with artillery, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, forcing opposition fighters to withdraw.

As of May 16 more than 796 people have been killed by the junta. More than 4,000 people are in jail. Many of those killed were tortured to death after being detained.

— SETH GALINSKY

While police blocked the rightists from getting into the terminal, the cops then left many Arab bus drivers trapped in the station, unable to get home to celebrate the end of the Ramadan month of fasting. Jewish co-workers in the union, together with local residents, organized to get the Arab drivers home safely.

Many of the Jewish bus drivers support the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, Bar Ilan said. “But they understand the need for solidarity,” he added. “There is an understanding of the need to work together in the union. It’s truly amazing.”

### Diplomatic relations

In the last year of the Donald Trump administration, the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Mo-

rocco, Bahrain and Kosova established diplomatic relations with Israel. This reversal of treating Israel as a pariah state strengthened prospects for the one development that can offer a way out of decades of conflict dividing working people in the region — negotiations between Israel, Palestinian groups in Gaza and the West Bank, and Arab governments for mutual recognition of Israel and of a sovereign Palestinian state.

The recent diplomatic moves — called the Abraham Accords — were popular among many Jews and Arabs inside Israel and the Palestinian West Bank.

Some Democratic Party voices blame the growing recognition of Israel for the latest crisis. Liberal *New York Times*

**Continued on page 9**

**Join caravans  
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*Militant* distributors on page 8.

# Quebec miners strike, rally

**Continued from front page**

the union and the company. Bosses had pressed to make wages dependent on the price of iron.

Iron ore prices have reached record highs. “We have to fight while the iron is high” and “You take our wealth, we want our piece of the cake” were two of the handwritten signs at the three picket lines this reporter visited May 13-14.

## ‘Right to be respected’

“Our predecessors fought for us to have the right to be respected by the big capitalist companies. And that’s why we need to continue to defend ourselves,” Francis Gallant, a heavy-machinery operator, told the *Militant* on the picket line at the Wagon Workshop May 14.

“When times are tough for the company, they call us their partners, but when they’re making a lot of money, they say we’re just workers,” Local 8664 Vice President Denis Tanguay told the *Militant* at the union office.

ArcelorMittal, the largest private employer on Quebec’s North Shore, obtained an injunction May 13, valid until May 25, limiting the number of pickets to 30 at the pelletizing plant and ordering strikers not to block entry to the company’s property.

In a further attack on the workers’ right to strike, nine tickets were issued against strikers in Fermont and five more here in Port-Cartier May 12 for violating the Quebec government’s 9:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew enforced under the pretext of stopping the spread of COVID-19. The workers had letters from their local union presidents authorizing them to be on the line.

“It is ironic that our members could go to work at night without any problem while it was a question of making profits for the multinational, but they are fined when they exercise their completely legal right to strike,” said Steelworkers Quebec Director Dominic Lemieux. The union will challenge these fines in court.

The strikers are receiving solidarity. “Our union is organizing for us to go to the picket line next week,” said

Remi Fortin, a member of Steelworkers Local 5254 at SFP Pointe-Noire, when this *Militant* reporter knocked on his door in nearby Sept-Iles.

Members of Steelworkers locals at ArcelorMittal in Monterege and Montreal will send regular payments to support the strike. Steelworkers Local 5795 at the Iron Ore Company of Canada will contribute a dollar a week per member, returning the solidarity they received during their nine-week strike in 2018. The striking workers’ union is encouraging supporters to visit the picket lines — with coffee and donuts.

To support the ArcelorMittal strikers, send messages and checks to: Syndicat des Metallos, 737 Boulevard Laure, Bureau 200, Sept-Iles QC G4R 1Y2, Canada.



Krystelle Levesque-Leclerc

**Striking steelworkers rally May 12 in Port-Cartier, Quebec, against “final” contract demands by ArcelorMittal. Strikers include 2,500 iron ore miners, processing, rail and office workers.**

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### 15,000 Quebec teachers wage three-day strike

SEPT-ILES, Quebec — Teachers, joined by staff members and students, picketed in front of the CEGEP school here on Quebec’s North Shore May 13. “An urgent need to act; public services to rebuild,” read the picket sign of one striker. The action was part of a broader May 11-13 strike action by 15,000 CEGEP teachers throughout Quebec. The workers are organized by the National Federation of Quebec Teachers, which is affiliated with the CSN, the National Council of Trade Unions.

CEGEPs are post-secondary, pre-university schools.

The teachers are fighting for a contract after 18 months of fruitless negotiations. Wage increases, improved working conditions, and stronger job security are the central issues.

The 6,500-strong CEGEP support staff workers, also organized by the CSN, are set to strike May 19-21. They’re resisting demands by the Quebec government to impose even worse working conditions and insufficient wage increases.

“Our working conditions are the

learning conditions for students,” union president and history teacher Raphael Rousseau told the *Militant*.

— Beverly Bernardo

### Hundreds of coal miners protest in Ukraine over lack of pay

Over 500 miners from state-owned coal mining operations in Donetsk, Volyn, Lviv and Luhansk protested at government offices in Kyiv May 12 over months of government nonpayment of wages. The main demands of the miners, the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU) said, are for the government of Volodymyr Zelenskyy to pay 2 billion Ukrainian hryvnia (\$73 million) of outstanding wages and drop draft laws targeting trade union rights.

“You cannot humiliate people who work in dangerous conditions, who risk their lives every day,” NPGU Chair Mykhailo Volynets said at the demonstration.

Nonindustrial workers in the mining sector, many of whom are women, veterans and other workers with wages lower than miners, are also fighting to get unpaid wages.

After negotiations with the union, as the protest continued, Volynets an-

nounced that the new minister of energy, Herman Haluschenko, had agreed to transfer more than \$30 million to pay miners’ back wages and also to pay wage arrears for January, February and March to the nonindustrial workers.

“The protest action has been suspended,” because of the concessions, Volynets said. “However, the miners are ready to return with protests if the authorities, the government, the minister of energy do not listen and do not respond in a dignified manner to the problems.”

— Brian Williams

### Frito-Lay strikers angered by injury to temporary worker

On the picket line at the Frito-Lay plant in Topeka, Kansas, May 12, members of Local 218 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union expressed anger over an injury to one of the temporary workers bosses recently brought into the plant. The picket, the third organized in the past three months, is part of the fight by workers there for a new contract.

The temp worker fell off while operating a forklift that then “rolled up onto her leg,” local union President Brent Hall told WIBW-TV. “This is something we let [Frito-Lay] do, we let them bring in a temporary company because they were skilled drivers, let them drive the forklifts and then, hear somebody don’t know what they’re doing.

“It just hurts that you’re somewhat responsible for it,” he added, “because we let them come in.”

The workers are fighting for a pay raise, improved benefits and against forced overtime the bosses routinely order with almost no notice. Seeking to alleviate this onerous overtime was the reason Local 218 agreed to let the bosses bring in the contract workers. The local represents some 800 workers at the plant.

On March 31 the unionists voted 265-36 to reject what the company insisted was its “last, best final offer.” “A lot of people haven’t gotten raises in six to eight years,” Dan Negrete, chief steward on the local union’s contract negotiations committee, told the *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

The union says there will be a vote on a new company proposal May 15.

— Brian Williams

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



**June 3, 1996**

Fidel Castro speaks on 35th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces at the Bay of Pigs:

We know that the United States would not pardon us for making a revolution.

What kind of revolution was it? It was a revolution of justice in a country that was enslaved, exploited, humiliated, where there lived a valiant, heroic people who had struggled a long time so that their powerful neighbor would not take them over.

They were not going to allow our revolution to be an example for the peoples of Latin America living under similar conditions, and they believed, with disdain, that they could crush us. This was a different kind of revolution, this was a popular revolution of the people, by the people and for the people which defeated one of the best organized and trained armies in the hemisphere.



**June 4, 1971**

In the past weeks, several victories have been won in the struggle to eliminate all legal restrictions on the right to abortion.

The New York Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional an order to deny state payments for abortions requested by women who receive Medicaid assistance. A New York Supreme Court justice ruled unconstitutional an attempt to declare abortions done in doctors’ offices illegal. Another concession was the decision of the California Supreme Court that a pregnant minor does not need her parents’ consent to have a therapeutic abortion (“therapeutic” abortions are performed to preserve the physical or mental health of the woman).

These victories, although modest, show that the women’s movement can win gains through a struggle to mobilize masses of women and win public opinion for the repeal of antiabortion laws.



**June 1, 1946**

Climaxing his savage strikebreaking offensive against American labor, President Truman on May 25 called on a special joint session of Congress to enact the most repressive legislation against the labor movement ever advocated by a head of the U.S. government. The most drastic proposal was his request for Congress “immediately to authorize the President to draft into the armed forces” all workers “who are on strike against the government.”

This means that the President could break any strike by ordering a plant “seizure” and then driving the workers back to work under penalty of imprisonment for draft evasion or desertion.

Not only striking workers, but “officials of labor organizations representing the employees” can be “inducted into the Army ... at such time, in such manner and on such terms as may be prescribed by the President.”



# The Cuban Revolution: An example for us today

## Black liberation, workers' stake in defending due process and how cops and courts serve capitalist rule

“Cuba and the Coming American Revolution: The 60th Anniversary of Two Historic Victories of the Cuban Revolution and Their Significance for Building a Revolutionary Party in the United States — Then and Now” was the featured talk at the Socialist Workers Party’s Midwest conference held in Chicago April 24. The speaker was SWP National Committee member Mary-Alice Waters. (See article in May 10 *Militant*.)

Waters focused on how Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other leaders of the revolution led workers and farmers in Cuba to take political power, mobilize to make deeper and deeper inroads against capitalist exploitation and property relations, recognize the socialist character of their accomplishments and Marxist politics of their leadership, and thus transform themselves in the process. Through these mass proletarian mobilizations, the Cuban toilers carried through the first — and so far the only — socialist revolution in the Americas.

She described the impact of that powerful revolution on revolutionary-minded youth in the U.S. who were active in the growing proletarian, Black-led battle to overturn Jim Crow segregation, and how they were won to joining and building the Socialist Workers Party.

The following are Waters’ concluding remarks. They center on lessons working-class fighters and youth in the U.S. today can learn from the example set by the men and women who made and have defended Cuba’s socialist revolution for more than 60 years in the face of Washington’s unremitting efforts to crush them.

### BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Sixty years ago today, Cuban workers, farmers and young people were



Fidel Castro, left, addresses crowd in Colón, Cuba, Jan. 7, 1959, as Freedom Caravan crosses Cuba on way to Havana after overthrow of U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. Cuba’s socialist revolution, along with struggle to bring down Jim Crow segregation, helped us “understand the kind of revolutionary transformation of ourselves necessary to defeat capitalist rulers,” said Mary-Alice Waters at Midwest Socialist Workers Party meeting April 24.

advancing their socialist revolution and transforming themselves by the hour. That is what was registered by their victory over the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961, and the mass working-class campaign that same year that in less than 12 months taught a million and a half adults of all ages to read and write.

At the same time, here in the U.S. a new stage was opening in the battle to bring down the apartheid-like system of Jim Crow segregation across the South, with its extensions and ramifications for social relations throughout the United States.

Building on the victory of the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott movement, the new wave included the Woolworth and other lunch counter sit-ins in the South beginning in 1960, led by Black students; sit-ins and picket lines by students in the North; the 1961 Freedom Rides to desegregate

interstate buses; the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer; the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march; the ever-clearer revolutionary internationalist voice of Malcolm X; and much more.

In the South it was a brutal, deadly battle. When we learned that U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries in Cuba had tortured and murdered literacy campaign brigadista Conrado Benítez, we identified immediately. The same thing was happening to civil rights fighters here.

The powerful, advancing Cuban Revolution, side by side with the deepening struggle to bring down Jim Crow, helped us understand better than anything the lengths to which the capitalist rulers will go to maintain their power and property. Even more important, we began to understand the kind of revolutionary transformation of ourselves that would be necessary to defeat them.

In the Cuban Revolution we saw the kind of disciplined, revolutionary, proletarian party that must be built. The cadres of the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra and Escambray mountains, the July 26 Movement urban underground, and those who took the city of Santa Clara became our heroes.

We looked for those here in the U.S. who were on the same course. And we found them in the cadres of the Socialist Workers Party, the veteran communist leaders who went back to the days of the Russian Revolution and the founding of the communist movement here. We joined up, learning from their years of class-struggle experience.

The proletarian-led movement that brought down Jim Crow didn’t advance and win by dwelling on victimhood. To paraphrase Malcolm X, these men and women were awakening to their humanity, to their own *worth*. They were awakening to their power.

For me nothing captures that more vividly than the photos of the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in 1968, marching with discipline, courage and dignity, wearing signs proclaiming: “I Am a Man.”

Those photos capture the proletarian heart of the battle against Jim Crow. The class forces that were its backbone.



That battle remains an example for us today, as the pent-up anger explodes over decades of police brutality and cop shootings.

For those of us just awakening to proletarian class consciousness in those early years of the 1960s, it was obvious that the source of reaction and racism was not backwardness on the part of “white workers.” Jim Crow was a creature born and nurtured by the capitalist ruling class. And the working class, Black and white, was being transformed by the unfolding social revolution against it. More and more workers, whatever our skin color, confronted the same bosses, had jobs in the same workplaces, fought alongside each other in the same shop-floor and union battles.

That was the same lesson we were learning from our Cuban comrades, and for more than six decades that example of the Cuban Revolution has continued to enrich our understanding of the class road forward for the working class and our allies here.

I want to give two examples that are relevant to the social struggles we’re all in the midst of today.

### ‘Systemic,’ yes. But what system?

“Systemic racism” is a term that has recently come to be widely banded about in the U.S. by liberals and many who consider themselves “progressives.” For many it’s a code word, another way of saying the enemy is

“white people” or, more vaguely, “white supremacy.” It’s often wielded with a great deal of venom, as a battering ram against “white workers.” It has become an outright assault on class solidarity.

But you have to ask yourself, “Is there systemic racism in the U.S.?”

The only possible answer is, “Of course there is.” *But the system is capitalism.* Not light-skinned people. Not what is portrayed as deeply ingrained attitudes of white supremacy.

Capitalism cannot exist without pitting workers against each other. It can’t exist without fomenting divisions to weaken our collective ability to limit the owners’ exploitation of our labor power and their drive to increase their portion of the value we produce.

This is what the communist movement has explained and educated about for 175 years. Racism, like women’s oppression, the destructive plunder of nature’s bounty, and imperialist wars, won’t be eradicated as long as capitalism exists. Moreover, it will take a mighty, consciously led battle to eliminate the legacy of all capitalist oppression and degradation when the working class takes power out of the hands of the propertied rulers.

The only road to eradicating systemic racism is deepening *working-class* unity, *class* struggle, *class* consciousness, which increasingly becomes communist consciousness — an understanding of capitalist power and property.

If we don’t know where “systemic racism” comes from, then we can’t explain the deep inroads that have been made in Cuba over the last 60 years in the fight against racism.

At the same time, there is one big difference between Cuba and the United States that we should take note of.

African Americans are not simply an ethnic or racial minority. They are an *oppressed nationality*, registered by statistics on health, education, jobs, housing, maternal and infant mortality, and more. That nationality wasn’t created by slavery. It was forged over decades in struggle against the bloody counter-revolution that drove back gains fought for and won by working people, Black and Caucasian, during Radical Reconstruction in the decade after the Civil War and abolition of slavery. The system we knew as Jim Crow was born in the wake of the bloody defeat of Radical



**Above**, striking sanitation workers march in Memphis in 1968, registering courage, discipline and dignity at proletarian heart of battle against Jim Crow segregation. “That battle remains an example for us today, as the pent-up anger explodes over decades of police brutality and cop shootings,” Waters said. **Left**, demonstration in Minneapolis May 28, 2020, one of thousands in cities and towns, large and small, after death of George Floyd at hands of the police three days earlier.

Reconstruction throughout the territory formerly ruled by the slavocracy.

This defeat in the late 19th century was the greatest one ever suffered by the working class in the U.S., and we’re still living with its consequences. The African American nationality was forged in struggle against these conditions imposed on them. As explained by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, it’s a proud history of battle. In fact, a “mind-boggling” one.

But the history of the class struggle in Cuba is different. They never lived the experience of the U.S. Civil War, the conquests of Radical Reconstruction, its defeat and then decades of Jim Crow.

In Cuba the battle for the emancipation from slavery was intertwined from the outset with the decades of war for independence from the Spanish crown. Those twin battles against Spanish colonial rule and the slave-holding planter class brought together leaders who themselves were former slave owners, such as Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, as well as liberated slaves and escaped Chinese indentured laborers. Together they were the backbone of the “Mambi” army.

Elements of Jim Crow were brought into Cuba by the rising U.S. imperialist power as Washington imposed its rule on Cuba in the first half of the 1900s. But it was a pale reflection of the Jim Crow violence and terror that reigned in the U.S. for decades — the closest thing to fascism that ever existed on this continent.

Do prejudice and discrimination based on skin color still exist in Cuba? Yes, of course they do. There remains a job to be done that Cuban revolutionists are the first to recognize. But unlike in the U.S., dark-skinned Cubans are not an oppressed nationality.

When Cuban President Fidel Castro in 1975 told a cheering crowd of hundreds of thousands that “African blood flows freely through our veins,” he was not speaking of a minority. He was speaking to the large majority of Cubans — proud of their history, their African blood and their culture.

It’s a difference most U.S. visitors to Cuba don’t understand. It flies in the face of the distorted “history” increasingly taught in U.S. schools under the banner of what’s called critical race “theory.”

Visitors coming to Cuba from the

working-class neighborhoods.

Before such misleaders began to single out people who are Caucasian — sometimes simply enjoying a meal at an outdoor cafe — for abuse and intimidation for no other reason than the color of their skin.

The staging in the courtroom said it all. On one side you had the prosecution with a legal team of I don’t know how many lawyers. They included a team of “volunteers” from top corporate law firms, perhaps a dozen or so, who were assembled on orders of Minnesota’s Democratic Party governor and attorney general. On the other side was Derek Chauvin, with his one defense lawyer and a legal assistant retained by the Minnesota police association, sitting alone.

The traditional “blue wall” of support for a fellow cop was scarcely to be seen, inside the

courtroom or beyond. To the contrary, you had an unprecedented lineup of one after another after another top-ranking officers of the Minneapolis cops testifying against Chauvin, insisting that nothing in “their” police training or procedures or practice had anything to do with what happened.

You had a courthouse ringed with barbed wire and cops, and a revengeful crowd being spurred onward by capitalist politicians like California Democratic congresswoman Maxine Waters, who called on people “to get more confrontational” if the jury didn’t return a murder conviction. You had media personalities like Chelsea Handler declaring it was “pathetic” that a trial was needed “to prove that Derek Chauvin killed George Floyd when there is video of him doing so.”

And Joseph Biden, president of the United States, stating publicly — *before the jury even told the judge they had a decision* — that he was “praying” for “the right verdict.” In fact, Democratic Party politicians, from Biden and Kamala Harris on down, had been striving for months to channel the justified outrage against cop brutality to their benefit at the ballot box in November 2020.

They had been working overtime to divert the rising anger and to demobilize the explosion of struggles that had initially spread across the country. Prospects to draw in broader layers of the population had already been undermined by self-proclaimed “leaders” who refused to condemn the looting and burning of retail or government targets. Disciplined actions to demand the arrest and prosecution of cops involved in cases of brutality and killings were often derailed by lobbying for so-called police reform, sometimes demagogically and falsely packaged as calls to “defund” the police.

Every day, as the Minneapolis trial went on, this atmosphere intensified. It was like a Roman circus cheering for the lions. A trial by “social media.” For the first time ever, a criminal trial in Minnesota was broadcast over television — nationwide over most major TV news networks. A spectacle, not a trial!

There were few voices to be heard reminding those who would listen that every person has the right to a trial by a jury of their peers. That the accused

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SWP National Committee member Mary-Alice Waters speaking at April 24 Midwest conference in Chicago.

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# Cuban revolution's example

Continued from page 7

is innocent until proven guilty, beyond the reasonable doubt of a reasonable person. That the jury's verdict must be unanimous.

As any worker who has ever found himself or herself entangled in the U.S. "justice" system knows, these constitutional guarantees of due process are important to us. These are rights the working class has fought for and won during centuries of struggle. We need them to protect us *against the state* and against its court system. The methods that have been used against Chauvin have been, are, and will again be used against us.

As Ramón Labañino of the Cuban Five so memorably said, "It's the poor who face the savagery of the U.S. 'justice' system."

That's why, certainly for myself and I think for most of us here, we're not joining in the chorus, "Oh what a wonderful trial and verdict!" I have no sense of satisfaction, no joy.

For the working class, this trial was not a victory. It set precedents that undermine our rights.

## Moral high ground

It's useful to go back to a controversial episode in the opening months of the Cuban Revolution. Following the defeat of the Batista dictatorship, revolutionary tribunals were established by the new government to try the defeated regime's most notorious, brutal torturers and murderers who had not managed to flee to the U.S. or elsewhere.

Reading Fidel's assessment of those events half a century later is a real education. As he so often did, Fidel took the moral high ground for the working class. You'll find this in the book-length autobiographical interview with Fidel conducted by journalist Ignacio Ramonet. It's published in English under the title *My Life*, and in Spanish *Cien horas con Fidel*.

"When the war ended," Ramonet asked Fidel, "you and your followers had promised to bring to trial and eventually put to death members of Batista's repressive forces, and you created the 'revolutionary tribunals' that carried out a purge that many observers characterized as excessive."

Fidel replied, yes, "They were tried, and quite a few were given the death penalty." Ramonet followed up and asked Fidel if he thought those trials were a mistake.

And Fidel answered: "I think the error may have been in the manner, shall we say, that those trials were conducted, using public places and allowing the proceedings to be attended by a great number of our countrymen who were justly outraged by the thousands of crimes that had been committed. That might be in conflict, and in fact was in conflict, with our own ideas of justice. And it was very much exploited by the United States.

"We lost no time in rectifying what was unquestionably a mistake," Fidel said. "But those guilty of genocide were tried and punished according to laws that had been passed long before by the revolution, during the war. We don't regret having done it, although I do feel pity when I remember how bitter it must have been for [the accused] to experience the hatred that the people quite rightly felt for them because of their repugnant crimes."

Fidel's clarity and class understanding of justice were an example for all of us. He went on to explain how he and other leaders of the revolution came to the opinions he was expressing.

In Cuba in 1933 when the Gerardo Machado dictatorship — which was far less brutal than the Batista regime in the 1950s — fell, Fidel said, "Machado's people were dragged through the streets; there were lynchings, houses were invaded and attacked, people sought vengeance, revenge. ... So throughout the entire [revolutionary war in the mountains], thinking about the mass violence that can accompany the victory of the people, we warned our country about that. ...

"[T]his may have been the only revolution in which the main war criminals were tried and brought to justice, the only revolution that didn't rob or steal, didn't drag people through the streets, didn't take revenge, didn't take justice into its own hands," Fidel said.

"No one was ever lynched here," and there were no bloodbaths, "because of our insistence and our promise: 'War criminals will be brought to justice and punished.'" But, Fidel added, "We committed the error I explained to you: too many people taking part in it. ... [Y]ou see a man who's being tried before thousands of people, and even if he's the worst sort of murderer, you tend to take pity on him."

## Police serve rulers and their state

Police in a capitalist state exist to defend the property and prerogatives of capital and the dominance of that state. That's *why* they exist. That's the class they serve. That won't be changed by "police reform" peddled by one or another wing of the rulers and their parties.

In Cuba when Batista fell, the revolutionary forces took over every single police station. They disarmed the police. The torturers and murderers were arrested and tried. The rest were sent home without their weapons and told to report back in a month to be given a new job. Not in the police department; you'll be given a new job.

The new Revolutionary National Police was built from the ground up, from scratch. Led by combatants of the revolution who had fought in the Sierras, in the Escambray, in the cities.

And it was the Revolutionary Nation-



United Steelworkers

**March 16 rally, Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, backing steelworkers on strike at ATI. Job actions, on the uptick today, are actions from which our class can learn and gain confidence. Our job is not to bask in accomplishments of Cuban Revolution, Waters said. Our job is right here.**

al Police who suffered the highest rate of casualties in the battle of Playa Girón.

That battle smashed forever the myth of the invincibility of U.S. imperialism. Just as the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola, nearly 30 years later, smashed the myth of the invincibility of the South African apartheid army and air force.

The Cuban Revolution is living proof in our lifetime of what working people are capable of accomplishing with class solidarity; class consciousness; focused, persistent education; and a revolutionary leadership of the caliber of Cuba's revolutionary cadre. A leadership forged in struggle, in combat, including, to paraphrase Fidel, "the kinds of sacrifice that entails."

It gives us tremendous satisfaction to be able to celebrate all of this here tonight. We learn from the triumphs of the Cuban Revolution, as well as from its errors. It's our revolution too.

But our responsibility is not to applaud the accomplishments of Cuba's toilers. Our job is right here. We must never forget that. We'll hear from many of you during the discussion this evening about struggles we've been part of, experiences we're having along this course — on the job, in the union, and as part of the fight for Black rights, for women's rights, and other social issues of importance to our class.

We're beginning to see a slight increase in job actions against the conditions employers have taken advantage of the pandemic to impose on us. A few small strikes, not small in importance, but small in the economic and social weight they have today. But each one

is an example from which our class can learn and gain confidence.

Whether it's the Teamsters locked out at Marathon Petroleum in Minnesota, coal miners at Warrior Met in Alabama, steelworkers at Allegheny Technologies, actions by nurses, or resistance by workers at Walmart, Amazon and elsewhere.

These are part of the expanding union of workers along this line of march.

In the pages of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, you'll find the account by Jack Barnes of his experiences in Cuba in the summer of 1960, as the revolutionary consciousness of working people was accelerating at breakneck speed. Everyone knew an invasion organized by U.S. imperialism was coming. It was just a question of when, a race against time. Everything was focused on being prepared.

The course of action was, "Learn in the morning, teach in the afternoon."

Jack told a militia commander he had gotten to know, and whose opinions he respected, that he wanted to stay in Cuba to be part of that battle. The militia commander's response was, "No. We will be ready for the invasion, and we will defeat it. Your job is not here. You should return and find others who feel the way you do about the Cuban Revolution and work to make a revolution like ours in the United States."

And he added, "Find the party that you think is on that course and join it."

That's exactly what Jack did. It was a course of conduct for a lifetime. It's our course that we celebrate here today.

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# **SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT**

## **Build solidarity with labor struggles!**

*Statement by Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh mayor, May 19.*

“Our strength does come from our sticking together,” Dave McCall, international vice president of the United Steelworkers, told a May 15 rally of striking steelworkers and their supporters in Louisville, Ohio. The support steelworkers are winning gives a glimpse of the potential for strengthening their strike against the union-busting bosses at ATI.

Solidarity can make a difference in their fight, as well as the strike of miners at Warrior Met in Alabama and other union battles. Workers in the mines, mills, factories, transportation and retail industries all face bosses trying to boost their profits off our backs.

Use the *Militant* to help get the word out about these strikes. Send messages of support and bring fellow workers to join strikers’ picket lines and rallies. Press your union to weigh in and to help turn today’s labor battles into a broader social cause. This is in the interests of all working people.

I use my campaign to help in every way I can. I’ve gotten word out to my Walmart co-workers and to area unionists I’ve brought solidarity to in the past, helping win contributions and messages of support.

Some 2,500 iron ore workers at ArcelorMittal, also members of the United Steelworkers at two plants in Quebec, are striking for a new contract. Oil refinery workers at Marathon in St. Paul Park, Minnesota, and at ExxonMobil in Beaumont, Texas, are fighting boss lockouts to defend safety for themselves and those liv-

ing near the refineries. Bosses count on keeping these struggles isolated from each other, knowing they can count on the capitalist-owned media to keep word about them from reaching other workers. The courts readily grant bosses injunctions to limit picketing in an effort to blunt the effectiveness of our strikes. Ultimately, our power is the power to stop production.

Bosses always say that to get ahead, you should worry about number one, yourself and your family. But we learn through bitter experience that it is only by joining together and standing up to those who exploit us that our class can make gains.

Whatever the immediate results of today’s union struggles, workers involved become stronger. We learn what we can accomplish as part of a class, and what our class can accomplish through courageous, united and disciplined action. We learn to rely on fellow workers and the potential for working-class solidarity, not the bosses and the Democratic and Republican parties that serve them.

Along this road we will chart a course to organize independently of the exploiting class and build our own political party, a labor party.

The mighty revolution made by workers and farmers in Cuba, and defended from the U.S. capitalist rulers’ economic, political and military assaults since, is a powerful example. It shows how in struggle we can forge the working-class leadership we need and build a millions-strong movement to overturn capitalist rule, establish a workers and farmers government, and join fellow toilers to change the world.

## **Striking ATI workers rally in Louisville, Ohio**

**BY TONY LANE**

LOUISVILLE, Ohio — Some 150 striking steelworkers, fellow United Steelworkers union members, retirees and other supporters rallied May 15, as 1,300 steelworkers here and in four other states continue their strike against Allegheny Technologies Inc.

ATI announced last December they were planning to shut down the Louisville plant. Since then no closure date and no severance package have been set.

“The company won’t give us a shutdown date, so do they want to shut it down?” Dave Burgess, one of the Louisville strikers, told the *Militant*. “They’re trying to sway the union to take a bad contract.”

ATI “doesn’t care about the cost of health care. Their only agenda is to get us to pay premiums. That’s why I drove up here to be a part of this rally,” Keith Beavers, president of USW Local 1138 in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, told the *Militant*. Beavers and a group of fellow strikers made the 100-mile-plus trip on their motorcycles. Bosses insist workers must accept higher costs for health insurance, a cut to retirees’ benefits and an expansion of divisive lower wage and benefit tiers for new hires.

“There’s been no wage increase since 2014 and they say they’ll only give a wage increase if we take concessions,” Dave McCall, international vice president of the USW told the rally. “At the end of the day we’ll succeed, because of our determination. Our strength does come from our sticking together.”

Steelworkers came from USW Locals 169 and 979 at two Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.-owned plants in Mansfield and Cleveland.

“We just got done negotiating a contract at the place I work,” Steve Ackerman, president of Local 169, told the *Militant*. “So we saw what was happening at ATI, what they were doing, and knew we had to come and show our support. This fight is important because every fight today is important.”

USW District 1 Director Donnie Blatt and Melissa Cropper, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio AFL-CIO and president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, also addressed the rally. Two carloads of workers from USW Local 1010 drove six hours to the rally. They work at another Cleveland-Cliffs-owned plant in East Chicago, Indiana. Two weeks earlier a delegation from the local had joined the picket lines at the Brackenridge mill in Pennsylvania.

“It’s important to get the word out,” said Courtney Almazan, one of the workers from East Chicago.

“When we went to Brackenridge, we saw tremendous community support.”

Mike Galati, a rail worker and member of the SMART union’s Transportation Division in Virginia, brought a message of solidarity from co-workers, that was read to the rally.

The USW reported after the event that ATI would resume talks with the union May 21. Send messages of support or strike fund contributions to USW Local 1046, 925 W. St. Louis Ct., Louisville, OH 44641, or USW Local 1196 at 1080 Brackenridge Ave., Brackenridge, PA 15014.



*Militant/Tony Lane*

**Steelworkers on strike against ATI and supporters rally May 15.**

## **Fight for talks to recognize Palestinian state, Israel**

**Continued from page 4**

columnist Michelle Goldberg claims that the accords allowed the Israeli government to ignore the just demands of Palestinians, who face discrimination in jobs, housing and education in Israel, fueling the current explosions.

In fact, the accords presented openings that made it more possible for Palestinians to win allies and fight for improved conditions inside Israel and beyond. But reactionary forces in Israel and the region — including the clerical-bourgeois rulers in Tehran, who sponsor reactionary political forces and militias in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, as well as Gaza — have been emboldened by the lack of progress since Joseph Biden took possession of the White House. Instead of encouraging more Arab governments to enter talks with Israel, Biden has focused on efforts

## **Back Alabama miners!**

**Continued from front page**

Jim Walter Resources, was “restructured” in 2016 and emerged as Warrior Met Coal. It is now highly profitable, due to strong demand for the metallurgical coal produced at its mines, used mainly to make steel.

When the company made a tentative offer to settle the strike just a few days after it started, miners were outraged when they learned the “offer” consisted of a \$1.50 an hour raise over five years.

The union had agreed to concessions under pressure of the 2016 bankruptcy, where workers took a substantial pay cut and lost most paid holidays, overtime pay after eight hours, and paid half-hour lunches. They also took cuts in vacation days, personal days and were forced to pay more for medical care.

“All 700 of us got up, every one of us, and walked out of the room,” said Young. Miners voted overwhelmingly to continue the strike.

“We didn’t expect a strike,” Frankie Jackson, who has worked underground for 13 years, told the *Militant*. “A lot of us thought they would come across with something. It seems like they’re trying to break the union.”

“Have you been to the unity rallies?” miner Steve Smith asked John Hawkins and Maggie Trowe when they visited the picket line at the preparation plant May 16. “I urge everyone to come.” Hawkins, who lives in Chicago, worked in the Jim Walter mines from 1985 to 1997.

“At the last rally, [UMWA President] Cecil Roberts said he’s getting calls from all over the country from unionists asking how they can help,” Smith added. After talking with Hawkins and Trowe, Smith got a copy of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs to learn more about the class-struggle battles that built the industrial unions in the 1930s, and subscribed to the *Militant*.

The union organizes rallies every Wednesday night at nearby Tannehill State Park. UMWA members from other mines, members of area unions, retired miners, family members of the strikers and others have been turning out. A concert to raise money for the strike fund is planned for Saturday, May 22 at noon, at 16946 Highway 216 in Brookwood, with free entry for UMWA members and their families and a suggested \$20 donation for everyone else.

Some miners organized a “peaceful sit-in” at Warrior Met’s parking lot May 14. Jeff Fleenor, a heavy equipment operator at the mine, told the *Tuscaloosa Thread*. They blocked traffic for a few minutes before Brookwood police and Tuscaloosa County sheriff’s department deputies arrived. The miners decided to end their protest before getting arrested.

Strikers have filed for unemployment from the state of Alabama, but Warrior Met is contesting the claims. They get weekly strike benefits from the union.

Support and solidarity are needed. All donation checks should be made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Aid Fund and sent to: UMWA Strike Aid Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026.

Messages of support can also be sent to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216 (Miners’ Memorial Parkway), McCalla, AL 35111. Email: [umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net](mailto:umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net). Tel.: (205) 477-7500. Fax: (205) 477-0004.

*Maggie Trowe and Kaitlin Estill from Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this article.*