

# THE MILITANT

**SWP CAMPAIGN STATEMENT**  
**Fight for workers**  
**control of production!**

— PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 85/NO. 24 JUNE 21, 2021

## Back workers standing up to boss attacks, build solidarity

BY ROY LANDERSEN

“We think workers should support unionists standing up to the bosses’ attacks, like striking miners in Alabama, and refinery workers in Minnesota and Texas,” Socialist Workers Party member Samir Hazboun told truck driver Dale Robinson in Louisville, Kentucky, June 5.

Hazboun and SWP member Jacquie Henderson were going door to door in a trailer park there. At first Robinson was skeptical when they introduced the party and the *Militant*.

“Socialists? No way. I’m sorry I don’t mean to be rude, but I get enough of the socialists in Washington, D.C., every day,” he said.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and other politicians in the Democratic Party calling themselves socialist, are the opposite of what the working class needs, Hazboun said. The Socialist Workers Party urges “a fight for jobs, not one-time handouts. Workers need to organize independently of the Democrats and Republicans to bring to power

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## Alabama miners strike is in interests of all workers

Unionists demand raise, safe working conditions



Militant/Susan LaMont

**June 2 rally in McCalla, Alabama, backs 1,100 mineworkers standing up to Warrior Met Coal.**

BY SUSAN LAMONT

MCCALLA, Ala. — “We now have \$100,000 more in the strike fund to support Warrior Met miners,” United Mine Workers of America International District 20 Vice President Larry Spencer told the union’s weekly solidarity rally here June 2. “We’ve

received even more, but that’s what we have access to right now. More than 800 people have contributed to the fund.”

State AFL-CIOs from 14 states have contributed, along with many unions, from the American Federation of Teachers to the United Steelworkers, and from several dozen UMW local. Donations from Walmart workers at two stores in Atlanta, including

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## Working people worldwide look to fight effects of rising prices

BY TERRY EVANS

Food prices and the cost of other necessities for working people are soaring worldwide, highlighting the urgent need for workers to join together to fight for jobs, higher wages and automatic cost-of-living adjustments on our wages and retirement pay. Millions face hunger, especially in the semicolonial world, because under capitalism food is produced and marketed solely to generate the highest profits for the employing class, not to meet the needs of humanity.

Last year official world food price inflation rose from 4.6% to 6.3%, the highest level in a decade, according to the United Nations. But that figure hides the real severity of price hikes in less developed countries where working people are forced to spend a much larger proportion of their income on food. In Latin America food prices are up 21%.

The governments of most of these

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## The working-class road forward in tackling crime and cop violence



Above, AP Photo; Inset, Militant/Mary Martin

**SWP candidate for Minneapolis mayor Doug Nelson, inset. Campaign points to how 1964 Black rights protests led by Gloria Richardson, above, in Maryland built solidarity, cut crime.**

BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Supporters of Socialist Workers Party candidates Doug Nelson for mayor and David Rosenfeld for City Council in Ward 12 here had a successful weekend June 5-6 campaigning with workers on their doorsteps and collecting signatures to put Nelson on the ballot. Several party members from Chicago joined the effort, capped by a Militant Labor Form where the candidates addressed the recent rise in

shootings, assaults and robberies in working-class neighborhoods across the country — a topic campaigners have found is on the minds of many working people.

At the end of the weekend some 260 signatures were in hand, over half the requirement of 500. Campaign supporters plan to go well over that by the beginning of July to assure Nelson’s spot on the ballot.

Campaigners went to several neigh-

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## Jewish and Arab workers join to advance class solidarity in Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

The brief wave of clashes in Israel in mid-May shows the challenges and the desire of Jewish and Arab working people there to come together to advance their class interests.

Attacks against Jews and Arabs alike took place as tensions heated up over the threatened eviction of some Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem and clashes between Israeli police and Muslim protesters at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Small rightist Jewish groups, many bused in from other parts of the country, chanted “Death to Arabs” before attacking passersby and damaging Arab businesses and cemeteries. Groups of Arab youth attacked synagogues, homes and businesses. Some waved the flag of Hamas, the reactionary bourgeois party that runs Gaza and used the developments in East Jerusalem as a pretext to lob thousands

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## Join the ‘Militant’ in its campaign to overturn ban in Indiana prison!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Militant* attorney David Goldstein filed an appeal June 3 urging the Indiana Department of Correction to overturn the impoundment of two issues of the paper held from subscriber Kevin “Rashid” Johnson at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle.

The *Militant* received a notice from prison officials there May 7 that issue no. 18 was banned because “images of guns not allowed.”

The “image” they’re referring to is a well-known historical photo of Cu-

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# Book on Chinese Cubans in the Cuban Revolution out in Greek

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece — Publisher Diethnes Vima publicly launched its newly released Greek-language edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* here May 30. The book is a series of interviews with Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong, three Chinese Cuban generals who joined the revolutionary struggle in Cuba as teenagers. The meeting was held at the outdoor venue of the Serapheio Athletic Complex.

The 65 people at the event included steelworkers, airport workers, school teachers, janitors, metro workers, retail and warehouse workers, tech-sector workers and others interested in learning more about the Cuban Revolution. Members of different associations doing solidarity work with Cuba and campaigning against Washington’s more than 60-year-long economic war against Cuba participated in the event.

Behind the speakers were attractive blowups of the covers of the book in the six different languages in which it has been published — English, Spanish, French, Farsi, Chinese and now Greek.

Natasha Terlexi, chief editor for Diethnes Vima, chaired the meeting. “This new book is the 12th in a series of books published by Diethnes Vima on the history and program of the Cuban Revolution. They provide an essential tool for our class as we face the consequences of the capitalist crisis on our lives,” she said. “All these books were translated, edited, and page set by workers, many who are here with us.” Terlexi

introduced close to a dozen who “volunteer their time after their jobs.”

“In the 19th century, Cuba fought for its independence from Spain,” the Cuban ambassador to Greece, Zelmys María Domínguez Cortina, said. “In that fight the Cuban nation was formed, the melting pot where whites, blacks, mestizos, Chinese were united, all those who fought for the independence of Cuba from the Spanish colonial yoke.”

### Cuban people made a revolution

“It was not until 1959 that true independence was achieved in Cuba and the people took charge of their destiny with the revolution led by Fidel Castro,” she said. “Many wonder why Cuba was able to resist. The answer is the Cuban people, who are the true architect of their history, who were the ones who made their socialist revolution.”

This book “shows this Cuban reality and its history in the voices of Cuban descendants of those Chinese coolies who were brought to Cuba in the 19th century to replace African slaves, and of others who arrived later. For many it is a surprise to know that the Cuban nation was nourished not only from Africa and Spain but also from China,” Domínguez Cortina said. “In Havana a monument is erected to the fighters of Chinese origin with a phrase that highlights the pride and dignity of those, since it says, ‘There was not one Chinese-Cuban traitor.’”

Terlexi then introduced the next two panelists as working-class fighters. Vasilis Revelas, a volunteer who worked on the book, works in the technology industry and helped lead a successful fight against company firings during



Diethnes Vima/Ada Tzougraki

Cuba’s Ambassador in Greece, Zelmys María Domínguez Cortina, left, and book editor Natasha Terlexi, speak at May 30 book launch of *Our History Is Still Being Written* in Greek.

the COVID-19 confinement, she said. Nasos Pavlakis, a metal worker, was a “rank-and-file leader of the nine-month strike at the Halivourgia steel mill.”

Revelas said he was 24 when a co-worker, one of the founders of the Diethnes Vima, invited him to a book presentation like today for “Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun,” by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes in *New International* no. 12. The article “explains that we have entered the early stages of a prolonged global economic downturn,” he said, with “decades of economic, financial and social upheaval and class struggles ahead.”

“A year later, my co-worker gave me the English version of *Our History Is Still Being Written*. The first book he introduced me to explains the cause of the problems we see in the world today, in our lives and our jobs,” Revelas said. “Today’s book shows us what we can do about these problems.”

Revelas explained that he comes from a family of Greek immigrants who lived in apartheid-era South Africa. The battle against racism in Cuba and Cuba’s role fighting side by side with the Angolan people in their struggle for independence that’s discussed in the book impressed him. “Moisés Sío Wong says this is mainly because we have put an end to unequal property relations. This is what made it possible for a Chinese child to be a representative of the government. The

difference lies in the triumph of the socialist revolution,” Revelas said.

“During our strike,” Pavlakis said, the workers withstood “the bosses’ attacks for nine months due to our unity and the solidarity” they got. “The Cubans have withstood the U.S. assaults for over 60 years. How is that possible? By reading this book we learn that in Cuba solidarity is a holy word. We see the possibilities of a different society where the exploitation of man by man is no longer.” This book “allows us to see our humanity.”

Greetings were presented by Yannis Tsalavoutas on behalf of the José Martí Cultural Association-Solidarity with Cuba; Haig Apamian, president of Popular Solidarity; Dina Kaklamanaki, one of the translators of the book; and written greetings were read from Nikos Karandreas, a long-time leader of solidarity work with Cuba in Greece.

The evening was closed by a live musical program by Cuban singer and guitarist Remy Mailan, who brought the crowd to its feet to dance.

Participants bought 15 copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* — 13 in Greek, one in Farsi and one in Chinese. Eight other books on revolutionary working-class politics, translations of titles by Pathfinder Press in the U.S., were also sold.

At the José Martí Cultural Association table, signatures were collected on a petition against the U.S. embargo. So far 2,800 people have signed.

# THE MILITANT

*Is ‘seeking the right answer’ in math racist?*

*Liberals on California school board claim “the concept of mathematics being purely objective is unequivocally false” and perpetuates white supremacy. The ‘Militant’ says aim of critical race theory is to deny need for class-struggle strategy to fight racist oppression.*

Proposed California school curriculum says “old math” perpetuates “white supremacy.”

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899  
Fax: (212) 244-4947  
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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.



# Back workers standing up

**Continued from front page**  
a workers and farmers government.”  
“You *are* different,” Robinson responded.  
“I had my own rig for a while,” he told the SWP members, “but I couldn’t afford to keep it so I went to drive for a company. One time we went on strike. We had all the workers on the same page. Then a ‘friend’ who had a company down the road crossed the picket line and hauled the freight we had tied up.”  
“The only way forward is for us to stand together as a class and back each other’s fights,” Hazboun said.  
Robinson thanked the campaigners for talking with him. “I’d really like to read that newspaper,” he said and got a subscription to the *Militant*.  
Socialist Workers Party campaigners are finding widespread interest in discussing what workers and farmers can do together standing up against the bosses’ assaults, as they campaign on workers’ doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas, at union picket lines and social protests.  
Party campaigners are now into the seventh week of a nine-week drive to sell 1,400 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,400 books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders, and to raise \$145,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund.  
Members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are taking part in the drive and report a similar response.

**Unite workers in struggle for power**  
CL campaigners visited the picket line of workers at Jacobs Douwe Egberts in Banbury, England, June 5, Jonathan Silberman reports. Three days earlier, all 291 workers had received dismissal letters from the coffee company for refusing to sign a new concession contract.

Xavier Mukombe, a worker there for 26 years, subscribes to the *Militant*. He asked Silberman about his recent visit to the picket line of striking bakery workers at Hovis in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The trade unionists had returned to work after winning a wage raise.  
Silberman pointed to “the proud unity of workers from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds” during the strike.  
“It’s like the photo in last week’s *Militant* of workers in Israel,” Mukombe said. That picture showed Jewish and Arab workers holding signs in Arabic and Hebrew reading, “Jews and Arabs refuse to be enemies.”  
Another striker, Azar Iqbal, put his arm around Silberman and told a fellow union member, “I’m a Muslim, he’s a Jew, but we’re both children of Abraham — as are you!”  
Silberman pointed to a 2017 SWP statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.” He said the Communist League is for “whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power.”  
Iqbal bought a couple of issues of the *Militant* to read its coverage of conflicts in the Middle East. Mukombe got a copy of the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.  
CL members also campaigned in Grimsbury near the picket line, building support for the coffee workers’ fight and discussing the need for independent working-class political action.  
“No, no, I don’t want anything to do with Labour,” construction worker Paul Hawkins told Andrés Mendoza and Hugh Robertson on his doorstep when they introduced the Communist League’s campaign. Mendoza explained the CL has nothing to do with the Labour Party, which defends the interests of the bosses

## Hong Kong protests defy ban, mark Tiananmen massacre



Hong Kong Free Press/Kelly Ho

Despite facing over 7,000 police, ostensibly mobilized to block “illegal assemblies,” throngs of people gathered outside barricaded Victoria Park in Hong Kong June 4. They were honoring hundreds killed 32 years ago when Beijing brutally crushed mass protests for political rights in Tiananmen Square. At the University of Hong Kong, above, students cleaned the “Pillar of Shame,” a 26-foot-high statue of mangled bodies “to remember the bloody lesson” about that 1989 attack. Forbidden elsewhere in China, the annual Hong Kong vigil is now a symbol of opposition to Beijing’s tightening assault on political space.  
Hundreds went into the streets holding cellphones or other lights, while others “stayed at home, holding candles in memorial of the massacre,” Daniel Chan told the *Militant* from Hong Kong. The mass deployment of cops caused such widespread traffic jams that “many people say [the police] made sure nobody would forget it was June 4.”  
Memorial Masses were held to mark the anniversary at a number of Catholic churches, Chan said. “A few days ago, some people put up banners outside” the churches, denouncing the commemorations as “evil heresy.”  
Alarmed by huge anti-government demonstrations in 2019, the Chinese rulers pushed Hong Kong authorities to use pandemic restrictions and new national security legislation to clamp down harder on political space by arresting and imprisoning hundreds of protesters. They fear the example the protests set for millions of workers and farmers in the rest of China.  
— ROY LANDERSEN

against those of working people.  
Hawkins liked the photo in the *Militant* of Jewish and Arab workers in Israel engaged in common action as well as the article “Liberals Claim Teaching Math Reinforces White Supremacy.” He got a subscription.  
To subscribe to the *Militant* and get books on revolutionary working-class politics, or to contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, see the directory on page 8 for the distributor nearest you. Or visit themilitant.com to purchase a subscription and contribute online.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
April 24 - June 29 (week six)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	80	48	80	42	\$8,000	\$3,047
Atlanta	80	55	80	58	\$11,000	\$8,328
Chicago	115	81	115	69	\$13,200	\$10,478
Dallas	40	43	35	31	\$3,000	\$2,240
Lincoln	15	9	15	8	\$400	\$206
Los Angeles	105	77	105	98	\$13,250	\$7,055
Louisville	90	62	90	65	\$5,000	\$3,292
Miami	35	13	35	16	\$4,000	\$3,736
N. New Jersey	80	59	80	55	\$6,250	\$3,420
New York*	100	73	120	106	\$16,000	\$11,270
Oakland	90	55	90	60	\$13,000	\$9,677
Philadelphia	30	22	30	23	\$3,500	\$3,135
Pittsburgh	50	35	50	40	\$3,000	\$2,085
Seattle	95	55	95	55	\$12,500	\$7,040
Twin Cities	50	32	50	43	\$4,500	\$3,099
Washington	65	42	65	44	\$6,000	\$2,817
Other						
Total U.S.	1120	761	1135	813	\$122,600	\$80,925
Prisoners	25	31				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	36	45	55	\$4,000	\$1,485
Manchester	40	32	40	26	\$2,000	\$1,550
Total U.K.	85	68	85	81	\$6,000	\$3,035
Canada*	95	62	115	92	\$12,200	\$9,736
New Zealand	30	27	30	19	\$3,500	\$3,360
Australia	30	22	30	20	\$2,000	\$1,680
Total	1,385	971	1,426	1,025	\$146,300	\$98,736
SHOULD BE	1,400	938	1,400	938	\$145,000	\$97,150
*Raised goal						

## Autoworkers back on picket line in Volvo Truck strike



WDBJ7 News

**Picket at Volvo Truck plant in Dublin, Virginia, June 7. UAW members voted down contract offer for second time by 90%.**  
**BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN**  
After twice voting down proposed contracts by 90%, 2,900 United Auto Workers Local 2069 members at Volvo Truck’s New River Valley plant in Dublin, Virginia, went back on strike June 7. Horns blared as workers drove out of the plant at noon to park and join the picket line. Volunteers set up a lunch buffet at the union hall across the street.  
After an earlier 13-day strike, pickets had been taken down April 30, and the unionists returned to work, but the fight for a contract continued. Now they’re back on the picket line.  
“We are sticking together and united. The community is with us,” Local 2069 President Matt Blondino told the *Militant* by phone.  
Melissa McDaniel, who started in the plant in February, told the *Roanoke Times* she gets the workers’ message out everywhere she goes. A sign written in large print in her rear car window says, “Beep Beep, Volvo’s Cheap.”  
“Last night, the company pushed our pickets back four feet,” Blondino said. “Apparently they recently resurveyed their property. Now our canopies stick into a ditch.”  
Workers are determined to make gains in wage increases, divisive pay tiers, work schedules, health and safety, seniority, pensions, health care and prescription drug coverage, overtime and defending retired workers.  
Bosses are expanding the plant, budgeting \$400 million for technology upgrades and other preparations for building electric-powered trucks. They’ve added 1,100 jobs over the last five years and say they plan to hire 600 more this year.  
The picket line is up 24/7, and the strikers welcome company. Send messages of solidarity to UAW Local 2069, P.O. Box 306, Dublin, VA 24084 or UAWLocal2069@gmail.com.



# Ongoing protests in Colombia hit jobs crisis, police brutality

BY RÓGER CALERO

Nationwide strikes and protests demanding jobs and an end to police attacks have paralyzed Colombia for almost two months. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets again June 2 after negotiations between the government and protest leaders stalled. The National Strike Committee, which includes Colombia's main trade union federations, farmer associations, organizations of indigenous people, student groups and others, called a march on Bogotá, the country's capital, for June 9, to press the government to rejoin talks.

The mass demonstrations were initially sparked by a tax reform proposed by President Iván Duque's government that would have imposed new sales taxes on hard-pressed struggling working people. But the outpouring of pent-up popular outrage has continued even after Duque withdrew the proposals. Protesters are demanding the dismantling of the hated riot police force Esmad; a basic income; jobs, loans and subsidies for small farmers and small businesses; and free university tuition, among others.

Colombia's economy, like in the rest of Latin America's, registered sharp economic contractions in 2020, deepening the squeeze on working people that was already visible well before the pandemic. This has had devastating consequences for tens of millions of workers and peasants. Colombia's official unemployment rate is more than 17%, climbing to over 20% in some cities. The share of Colombians between 14 and 25 years old who are neither working nor in school soared to 27.1% last year. Many of these urban working-class youth have been at the heart of the protests.

The government's response to the demonstrations has been brutal repression. President Duque ordered the deployment of 7,000 troops to eight provinces May 28, claiming he was moving to help clear roadblocks set up by demonstrators that have impeded access to food, fuel and other goods. Over 1,100 soldiers were sent to Cali, the capital of Valle del Cauca province, an epicenter of the protests.

The Duque government has insisted all roadblocks be removed as a precondition for further negotiations. The strike committee has called on protesters to remove them, but many remain up. While there is majority sympathy and support for the protesters, growing numbers want to see the roadblocks dismantled to relieve the scarcity of

food and other items they face.

The protests this year — which many consider a continuation of the national strike and mass mobilizations that took place in 2019 and 2020 — also reflect the widespread distrust and dissatisfaction with the capitalist political parties and “progressive” forces that claim to speak for working people in Colombia.

In the absence of a working-class leadership capable of harnessing this combativeness toward a fight for political power by the working class and its allies, and wrest concessions from the rulers along the way, other forces across the political spectrum seek to divert this discontent into next year's presidential elections. This is a dead end for working people.

In addition to the deepening social and economic crisis of capitalism, exacerbated by the coronavirus epidemic, workers and farmers in Colombia confront the legacy of five decades of civil war.

A major aspect of the protesters' discontent is the Duque government's refusal to carry out the 2016 peace accord reached between the Colombian rulers and the FARC guerrillas. The government has reneged on promises to provide land and aid for former guerrillas. Political assassinations of trade union, peasant and indigenous leaders by thugs at the service of capitalist landowners, mining companies and drug lords have continued. Some 1,000 union, indigenous and peasant leaders have been killed since 2016.

## Cuba's role in peace talks

Cuba's revolutionary government was instrumental in facilitating the peace agreement negotiations. Cuban



AP photo/Fernando Vergara

**Indigenous Misak join in anti-government protest in Bogotá, Colombia, June 2, demanding jobs, guaranteed income, subsidies for small farmers and dismantling of hated riot police.**

leader Fidel Castro was a strong proponent of a negotiated end to the conflict, and a strong critic of the anti-working-class political course of the FARC, including rampant kidnappings and taking hostages.

“The civilians should never have been kidnapped, nor should the soldiers have been kept as prisoners in jungle conditions,” Castro wrote in 2008. “These were objectively cruel actions. No revolutionary aim could justify them,” he said, urging the FARC to release all remaining hostages.

Far from advancing the struggles of workers and farmers, the actions of the FARC were an obstacle. They pushed working people off to the sidelines, making it more difficult for them to develop class consciousness and gain confidence in their own capacity to mobilize in their millions against the capitalist rulers' exploitation and oppression. The FARC carried out bombings, assassinations and kidnappings, which were used by the capitalist rulers and landowners as a pretext to

clamp down on political rights.

The peace agreement set up a tribunal charged with investigating and prosecuting crimes committed during the conflict. FARC leaders admitted April 30 that it was their official policy to take hostages for ransom, to pressure the government to carry out prisoner exchanges, or to gain control of territory. Until then, FARC leaders had categorically denied this was their policy. Between 1990 and 2015, 21,396 people were kidnapped or taken hostage by the FARC, the tribunal has calculated.

The government uses these facts to try and undermine the peace agreement and to continue attacks and assassinations aimed at worker and peasant struggles.

The peace process, however, has opened up political space for protests and organization of working people. It has become more difficult for the government to portray working-class protesters as being fronts for the guerrilla groups.

## Graves of Indigenous youth provoke outrage in Canada

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — The discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children in an unmarked mass grave on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, confirmed May 27, has provoked outrage among working people across Canada.

Vigils to mark the deaths have been held by Indigenous people and supporters. Pairs of children's shoes have been placed symbolically in front of government buildings, churches and former residential school sites. Indigenous organizations and the Alberta Federation of Labor have called on the government to make funds available to search for mass graves at all 130 former residential schools.

Under a policy of forced assimilation, some 150,000 children of Indigenous people were seized from their parents and placed in residential “schools” from the 1870s to 1996. Many were subjected to malnutrition, forced labor and sexual abuse. More than 4,000 “students” died or disappeared. Today there are about 80,000 living survivors.

“They would just start beating you and lose control and hurl you against the wall,” Geraldine Bob told the government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015, recalling her experience at the Kamloops school.

The revelations helped spur protests by Indigenous groups on other abuses. Some 1,000 Indigenous people and supporters marched in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, June 2 to protest the death of Joyce Echaquan, a member of the Atikamekw nation in a Joliette, Quebec, hospital last year. An hour before she died, Echaquan recorded hospital staff yelling racist abuse at her while she was appealing for her family to take her home because she was not getting the care she needed.

## Oppression of Indigenous peoples

Totaling 1.6 million, Indigenous people compose 4.9 percent of Canada's population of 38 million. But they are about one-third of the federal prison population. Twenty-three percent live in poverty, twice as high as the rest of the population. Many still do not have access to clean water on reservations.

Following the discovery of the graves, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for “reconciliation” between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The deaths of children at the institutions “is the fault of Canada,” he said.

“Trudeau's attempts to blame ‘all Canadians’ for the oppression and discrimination of Indigenous people is designed to cover up the reality that it is the capitalist system and its governments that are the root cause,” Philippe Tessier, Communist League

candidate for mayor of the Montreal borough of Ville St-Laurent, told the *Militant* June 3.

The rulers seek to profit, Tessier said, by fostering “divisions among working people and undermining working-class solidarity.”

“Workers and our unions need to fight for a government-funded public works program,” the CL candidate said, “to generate millions of jobs — building houses and hospitals and providing services working people, especially Indigenous people, need. We need to fight for affirmative action measures for Indigenous people in all union contracts to ensure they have access to union-scale jobs.”

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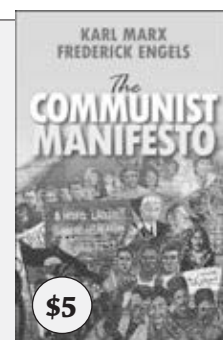
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# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Locked-out Marathon workers fight for safety at oil refinery

ST. PAUL PARK, Minn. — Teamsters Local 120 members are in their fifth month picketing 24/7 at the Marathon Petroleum oil refinery here. They were locked out by the bosses Jan. 22 after a one day strike in a fight for safety, both on the job and for those who live in the surrounding community.

In the face of court rulings that restrict picketing to six people at the refinery gate, workers have organized informational pickets at Speedway gas stations — also owned by Marathon — in the “Burn Zone,” a 19-mile radius around the refinery at risk in the case of an explosion or fire. The refinery uses hydrofluoric acid, a highly volatile and toxic chemical, that would pose a lethal threat to the 1.7 million inhabitants in this zone. Marathon Petroleum is the largest oil refiner in the U.S.

“They call it a financial strike, but to us it’s a safety strike,” Dave Serres, who has worked there for over 37 years, told the *Militant*. His father worked at the refinery before him.

Serres said that Nick Gunter, one of his co-workers, died in the plant in 2007. Serres was part of the response team that searched for his body. “I never want to look for a body again. That was my worst day on the job,” he said.

After the accident, workers pressed refinery bosses to step up attention to safety, and they said they would. Serres thought they were sincere, until they sold the refinery in 2010. Marathon Petroleum acquired it again in 2018.

Serres said he realized the bosses’ safety talk was just for the record. “We demand safety. I’ve been injured, I’ve seen others injured, I’ve seen people die,” he said.

He was thrilled to see the photo in the *Militant* of Rebecca Williamson and her co-workers at Walmart in Seattle. They had raised over \$300 for the locked-out Teamsters. Williamson visited their picket line in February. Serres said he’ll copy the photo box, laminate it, and put it up in the union picket trailers.

“I hope to get the chance to repay them someday,” he said. “We’ve had a lot of outpour in response. Our fight, this

is just pebbles, an avalanche is coming.”

Matt Foss, who has worked as a fire mechanic in the emergency response team at the St. Paul Park refinery for 22 years, helps organize the informational pickets at Speedways. “The response we get is mostly good. People ask us what we’re doing there, and we tell them: Marathon is putting employees at risk to cut their costs,” he said.

“We’re not stepping down until there’s a full-time fire department and experienced workers in the refinery. We’ve lost folks, and that’s what happens when people get put into jobs they weren’t trained for,” Foss said. “A refinery is not the place to cut costs.”

The Teamsters welcome all who want to join the Speedway pickets. Send support messages to Teamsters Local 120, 9422 Ulysses St. NE, Blaine, MN 55434.

— Mary Martin



Militant/Mary Martin

Members of Teamsters Local 120 picket at entrance to Marathon Petroleum refinery in St. Paul Park, Minnesota, June 2. Company locked them out Jan. 22 after one-day strike. Workers say the central issue is safety for both the workers and the surrounding community.

## Alabama miners strike is in interests of all workers

### Continued from front page

some raised by this *Militant* worker-correspondent, are among the contributors listed on the union’s website.

The strike fund is to aid the 1,100 UMW members who are on strike against Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, one of the largest labor battles in the country today. They walked off the job April 1 after the expiration of their old contract, which had been forced on them in 2016 by the bankruptcy and reorganization of the previous mine owner, Jim Walter Resources, out of which Warrior Met was set up by creditors.

Miners took a \$6 to \$8 an hour pay cut, reduced health insurance and retirement benefits, and other concessions, with the promise that when the company got back on its feet, miners would regain what they had fought for and won over decades in wages and working conditions. The bosses never kept their promises.

One of the most onerous features of the 2016 contract was the attendance policy. “We were required to work six, sometimes seven days a week, for 12 hours a day,” James Traweck, who

works at Warrior Met’s No. 7 mine, told the press June 1. “We worked on a four-strike system, which meant missing four days in a year resulted in termination. The only thing that was accepted as an excuse was a death in the immediate family. We had to work sick with the flu and many other illnesses in fear of losing our jobs.”

Many miners tell similar stories about getting “strikes” for having to leave work when their spouses or children had been rushed to the hospital or they faced other emergencies.

The miners get strike benefits from the UMW fund, which also helps cover some health insurance.

A number of miners’ wives have organized a food bank to help strikers’ families make ends meet, providing food, diapers and other necessities. They set up distribution tables at union halls and the weekly solidarity rallies. They got donations from larger area food banks and financial contributions from unions and others to help buy additional food. “We have to take care of everyone,” one miner’s wife told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. So far, strikers aren’t

eligible for state unemployment benefits because Warrior Met bosses have challenged their claims, tying them up in red tape.

Union members are picketing around the clock at the No. 4 and No. 7 mines, the preparation plant, central shops and railroad crossings surrounding the mines. The company is using contract workers, management personnel and scabs to mine coal at the No. 7 mine.

“We want to keep the picket lines peaceful,” Spencer told the rally. “We need to talk to the scabs, to try to make them understand that what they’re doing is wrong.” He also asked strikers to let the union know if they had received any calls from the company to come back to work. A few miners at the rally indicated that they had.

“We want better pay, we want fair treatment, and we want better insurance, but above all, we want to spend more time with our families,” Levi Allen, UMW international secretary-treasurer, said, referring to the bosses elimination of all holidays for the miners except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. “We are so proud of you for walking the line to win this strike, and we have to say ‘thanks’ to the wives and husbands who are with you every day, helping to win it. They know the union had no choice but to strike.” He said there were no negotiations over the last week, but the union was pressing the company to return to talks.

Support and solidarity are needed. Help to spread the word about the strike! All donation checks should be made out to UMW 2021 Strike Aid Fund and sent to P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026.

Messages of support can also be sent to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216, McCalla, AL 35111. Email: umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

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## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 24, 1996

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Arsonists burned down a portion of an historic Black church here June 6. This is one of more than 30 fires set in Black churches in the South since early 1995. The attacks have intensified calls for effective federal investigation and prosecution of those responsible.

The list of 30 Black southern churches that are victims of this wave of arson attacks includes five in southern Alabama in the last six months, and it is far from complete.

Rev. Mac Charles Jones reported to a recent board meeting of the National Council of Churches that investigators have often focused their probes against the victims of the attacks. “Rather than investigating the perpetrators of the church bombings and fires,” said Jones, “the agents are questioning pastors and their congregants as though they are responsible for the disasters.”



June 25, 1971

The *New York Times’* publication of top-secret Pentagon documents on the origins of the war in Vietnam has precipitated a major crisis for the Nixon administration. This crisis will not be alleviated by Nixon’s moves in federal courts to block completion of the series.

This attempt by the federal government to impose direct censorship on a major capitalist newspaper underlines the depth of the divisions in the ruling class itself.

Such papers are sometimes revealed years after the incidents and after they have been prepared for public consumption by government censors and apologetic historians. But this study was prepared specifically for the highest layers of government only. It shows that every major escalation of the war was deliberately prepared months in advance and that all top U.S. officials lied repeatedly to the public about their plans.



June 22, 1946

Brazenly violating repeated promises to refrain from military intervention in China and to withdraw its armed forces from that country, the United States government is using its armed might on a continually growing scale to support the reactionary regime of the Kuomintang in the civil war that is now raging in China.

What is occurring is full-scale American intervention short of actual participation in the fighting by American soldiers. Already heavily committed to a policy of intervention in line with its predatory imperialist aims, the U.S. government has no intention of withdrawing its armed forces from China.

Chiang Kai-shek’s rotten and reactionary regime is universally hated by the masses. Only the military might of American imperialism prevents the insurgent nation from settling scores with the regime of reaction and oppression.



# Fight effects of rising prices

**Continued from front page**  
countries face relentless pressure from the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. rulers to carry out “austerity” programs to bring down their national debt. That is, to assure the imperialist bankers and bosses get their loans paid back with interest.

In 2020 some 155 million people faced what the U.N. World Food Program euphemistically calls “food insecurity,” a rise of 20 million over the previous year.

These conditions are part of a broader crisis across the capitalist world. Bulk food prices for coffee, milk, sugar, oats, pork and orange juice on world futures markets have jumped by 32% since 2019. Major capitalist food processors say they’ll keep passing that rise onto workers who consume their products.

The scourge of soaring prices of basic necessities today comes on top of continuing widespread joblessness. The U.S. Department of Labor’s most recent report says 15,435,982 workers and their families are still trying to get by on some kind of unemployment “benefit.” The Democratic Party administration of Joseph Biden is moving to expand the money supply, hoping this largesse to the bosses will lead to some hiring.

“Sooner or later, some capitalist governments will panic and simply begin pumping out money in hopes of buffering the shocks,” Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes writes in *New Internationalist* no. 10. “When that happens, workers and working farmers get slammed with the worst of both worlds — high levels of unemployment and explosive inflation.”

Determined to change intolerable conditions resulting from rising prices, persistent unemployment and bosses’ growing disdain for safety, workers have gone out on strike today at ATI steel, Volvo Trucks and the Warrior Met coal mine, and are fighting boss lockouts at ExxonMobil and Marathon Petroleum refineries.

Working people have taken to the streets to protest lack of jobs and high prices in Oman, Yemen and Syrian

Kurdistan in recent weeks. On May 17 demonstrators in several towns in Syrian Kurdistan forced the region’s government to halt a price hike it had imposed on the cost of fuel and cooking oil.

“We are dying of hunger [and] high prices,” Wafaa Al-Silwi told the Middle East Monitor during a demonstration in Taiz, Yemen’s third-largest city, June 3. Elsewhere in the Mideast, hundreds of men in several cities in Oman protested May 25, demanding the country’s ruler, Sultan Haitham, provide them with jobs.

### Capitalist rulers offer no solution

Inflation hit a decadelong high in the U.S. through mid-May. Capitalist politicians argue over how to buffer the effects of this crisis. Some, like former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, claim Biden’s recent government spending spree will make inflation worse. Biden and others in his administration denounce Summers, claiming their policies won’t hurt anybody and can eventually create some jobs.

Farmers and other small businessmen, who are forced to rack up heavy debts to try to survive, sometimes think inflationary “cheap money” policies can be of benefit. They hope currency devaluations will eventually diminish the value of their debts to nothing.

Neither proponents of increasing the supply of money, through government borrowing or just printing more dollars, nor those who press for a tighter money supply and higher interest rates, saying that’s what’s needed to prevent runaway inflation, offer workers and farmers a way to defend ourselves. “To protect ourselves from unemployment and ruinous price rises, workers and our unions must fight for a sliding scale of hours



**Demonstration during Friday prayers in Taiz, Yemen, June 4, protesting devastating impact of inflation, deterioration of government social services and widespread official corruption.**

and wages,” said Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Louisville, Kentucky. “We need a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the jobs around. And we’ve got to fight for cost-of-living adjustments in every union contract, so anytime prices go up, so do our wages, pensions and Social Security benefits.

“The SWP says workers should join with fellow consumers — farmers, small proprietors, housewives and others — to form committees to control prices,” Trowe said. “Together we can fight to make the bosses open their books to public inspection and demand control over setting prices. This will help make it clear that high prices aren’t caused by wage gains, but by capitalist profits and the anarchy of capitalist production.”

The current crisis hits women workers disproportionately. At least 7.3 million workers, primarily women, couldn’t get work May 12-24, because they were

caring for children who can’t get to school or day care.

One sign of the impact on workers of the still modest uptick in hiring is the rate at which workers quit their jobs. It rose to a 20-year high in March. The boss press worries this is a sign of increasing confidence workers have in our ability to find another job with higher pay, and corresponding willingness to fight for better conditions.

“Coming together in working-class struggle is the road forward to build a powerful movement of workers, farmers and all those exploited and oppressed by capital to form our own political party, a labor party, take political power and establish a workers and farmers government,” said Trowe. “That is the strongest tool possible for us to make decisive inroads against capitalist property relations and end the twin scourge of unemployment and inflation once and for all.”

## Women in Dominican Republic protest ban on abortion

**BY TAMAR ROSENFELD**  
NEW YORK — The Dominican Republic is one of four countries in Latin America — along with Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador —

where abortion is completely illegal, no exceptions. Only four Latin American countries have legalized abortion: revolutionary Cuba, Uruguay, Guyana and, since December after mass mobilizations, Argentina.

Patricia Encarnacion and Gina Goico from the Butterfly Effect, a group that has organized actions in New York in solidarity with the fight for legal abortion in the Dominican Republic, explained this struggle at a Militant Labor Forum here May 29. They spoke along with Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan Borough president.

They described how an encampment was set up in front of the National Palace in Santo Domingo for 73 days, calling for adoption of the “three exceptions.” On its last day, May 23, there were internationally coordinated protests, including in New York City.

“The camp was dismantled because it was not sustainable,” Goico explained, but it mobilized “a new generation, including 18- to 20-year-olds, 10 people at a time sleeping in shifts, with lots of teach-ins.” Among those staffing the camp were members of Conamuca (Confederación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas), a collective of women farmers, said Goico.

Before Luis Abinader was elected Dominican president in July 2020, he campaigned in favor of legalizing abortion when a pregnant woman’s life is in

danger, in cases of rape or incest and when the fetus cannot survive, what become known as “the three exceptions.” Encarnacion said Abinader has since backtracked on his promise, and that provoked the nationwide protests.

Encarnacion and Goico said that alongside lack of abortion rights, contraceptives are priced out of range of most working-class women and no sex education is permitted in school in the Dominican Republic.

Goico described the death of 16-year-old Rosaura Almonte in 2012. She was diagnosed with leukemia, and, in the course of medical tests, doctors discovered she was seven weeks pregnant. Though they thought chemotherapy could save her life, it could also harm the fetus, so she was denied treatment.

“In 2020 alone, 208 women died from problems related to pregnancy. There is a cycle of poverty and of child pregnancy,” Encarnacion said. “Between 2015 and 2019, almost 30,000 girls under the age of 16 gave birth, 1,228 were aged 12 or younger.”

“This fight is not over until we guarantee health access and human rights to all Dominicans, especially those who continue to be neglected by the state in working-class neighborhoods, rural areas, and independent of their immigration status,” including Haitian women, Goico said. Haiti and the Dominican Republic occupy the same island, Hispaniola.

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# Working-class road forward in tackling crime, cop violence

Continued from front page

borhoods across the city, including Powderhorn, where George Floyd square is located, a center of protests against police brutality and the site of a memorial for Floyd, who was killed by Officer Derek Chauvin in May 2020. During the protests parts of this area were hit by arson and looting, which shut down groceries, pharmacies and other stores that employed and serviced many from the neighborhood.

“During the riots you would wake up in the morning and see that the gas station that was on the corner was gone,” Powderhorn resident Jean Marshall told this reporter at her doorstep. “You would go to work in the morning and come home at night and find the corner store burned to the ground. And the people who did this don’t live here. I’m also not for getting rid of the police. I don’t see how that would work.”

While virtually every block of the city is dotted with signs supporting the fight against police brutality, SWP campaigners have found opposition widespread in working-class areas to calls by some liberal politicians, middle-class radicals and Black Lives Matter misleaders to disband or “defund” the police.

“Because workers have to deal with the consequences of the real world and its contradictions on a daily basis, they can’t afford to act as if they live in a ‘woke’ fantasy,” Nelson said at the forum, attended by a couple dozen workers and youth, including some who learned about the event from campaigners.

“Crime is defined by the capitalist rulers to maintain their power and privileges,” Nelson said. “Their laws and the way they’re enforced are designed to keep workers in line and to brand substantial layers of us as criminals, particularly those who are Black or from other oppressed nationalities. To the bosses and landlords in power, all workers are viewed as potentially dangerous.

“What is of great concern to workers, however, is anti-social violence within working-class communities,” he said. “In addition to the immediate consequences for those affected, it breeds fear and demoralization; it saps workers’ confidence and tears at social solidarity. This in turn feeds into more anti-social behavior and spreads the infection of capitalist dog-eat-dog morality. The rulers’ cops and courts are aimed against us, but it is far better to live under their rule of law than without it, where warlords, gangs and vigilantes fill the gap.

“One of the obvious factors in the recent rise in violent crime has been the systematic withdrawal of police in certain working-class neighborhoods, particularly those with the highest crime rates,” Nelson said. “The effect was no surprise to anyone, least of all the government officials who organized it as part of the rulers’ political responses to the broad popular demonstrations that exploded across the country following the death of Floyd, as well as the unpopular and anti-social rioting and looting. They decided to sacrifice some beat cops responsible for Floyd’s death, and to have the police pull back from



Pioneer Press/Scott Takushi

**Mass protest in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 31, 2020, against cop brutality, death of George Floyd. People in working-class neighborhoods where shops were hit by arson and looting, and who face growing anti-social violence, don’t support liberals’ calls to “defund,” abolish the police.**

many of our communities.

“Calls by some capitalist politicians to ‘defund’ or remake the police were always phony. It is the police force of the class they support, not ours, and they will pay them and use them wherever they need them. At the pickets against the Marathon Petroleum lockout in nearby St. Paul Park, the oil bosses pay local cops handsomely to act as strike-breakers. In this capacity the cops are fulfilling their primary role, a fact that is less obvious today in the absence of big union battles,” Nelson said.

## Working-class solidarity

“During the big union organizing drives described in *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs that took place here in the 1930s, the capitalists faced growing popular resistance that posed a threat to their political power, unlike today,” he said. “Following a mass demonstration of 40,000 against a cop killing of a worker, the city quickly transformed its police into a force ca-

pable of meeting out violence against the strikers. They systematically weeded out every cop who could not be relied upon to shoot workers on order, and augmented this by organizing thugs to carry out extralegal violence.

“Since the police exist to protect the profit-driven system that breeds crime, there is no ‘policing policy’ solution to it,” Nelson told the forum. “In decades past, the rulers encouraged ‘broken windows’ policing, stop and frisk, and the massive railroading of workers to prison for longer and longer sentences. Crime statistics declined, but at an enormous social and moral price for working people.

“Communists are for dismantling the capitalist police, but only when the workers have taken political power and have forged experienced class-conscious combatants to replace them. This is precisely what workers have done every time they have taken power and set up their own government — from the Paris Commune of

# Jewish, Arab workers join to advance class solidarity

Continued from front page

of rockets at residential areas in Israel. Most people in Israel, Jews and Arabs alike, were appalled at the violence.

Most Arab citizens of Israel — some 20% of Israel’s 9 million people — live in all-Arab towns. There are a handful of “mixed” cities, including Acre, Lod, Ramla, Haifa and Jaffa. But most contact between Jews and Arabs is on the job and through their unions, Yaniv Bar Ilan, spokesperson for Koach la Ovdim (Power to the Workers), a union federation with some 30,000 members, told the *Militant* by phone from Tel Aviv June 3.

Jews and Arabs work side by side in hospitals, factories, tourist centers and other workplaces. Arab working people face discrimination in jobs, housing, education, access to social services and more.

Many lower-paying jobs — like in agriculture — are mostly filled by migrant workers from Thailand and China or Palestinians. Construction workers are often Palestinians from Jerusalem and the West Bank. “And there is a big difference in their conditions,” Bar Ilan said. Few of these workers are members of any union.

“Arab workers in Israel work longer

hours, and get lower wages,” Dr. Fawzi Shaaban, for the Palestine General Trade Union Federation, said from East Jerusalem June 8.

## ‘Class brothers and sisters’

Koach la Ovdim distributed a flyer the week of the attacks at the workplaces it organizes. “We are class brothers and sisters,” it said, “and this violence does not serve any of us.”

“These riots did not penetrate into the working class,” Avi Gabbay, chairman of the Tiberias Regional Labor Council of the Histadrut, Israel’s largest trade union federation, told the *Militant* June 5.

Gabbay said that was not the case in 2000 during the “second intifada,” a wave of protests by Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and inside Israel. At one point, “tensions between Jewish and Arab workers were so severe, that a hotel manager requested that I come down,” Gabbay said. “We needed to have special discussions between Jews and Arabs to mitigate the situation. Not this time. Relations

1871 to the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro in Cuba, where gangsters, cops and government henchmen terrorized workers and peasants until these forces of repression were replaced by the Rebel Army and a new revolutionary police force that eliminated the vast majority of anti-social violence and other crime.”

## People must wake up to their worth

Rosenfeld talked about the legal violence of capitalism and social consequences for the breakdown of the family it breeds. There is no pat solution to stop violent crimes and shootings under capitalism and its dog-eat-dog values of competition that undermine solidarity and working-class consciousness. The normal workings of capitalism result in over 2 million deaths and disabling injuries worldwide of workers on the job every year as a necessary part of production for profit.

One forum participant described attending a funeral in which the ushers were armed, and asked, “What can be done about the proliferation of guns among youth?”

“We have to fight for social solidarity and draw the broadest numbers of people into supporting the strikes and social struggles that exist today and will grow,” Rosenfeld said. “This may not seem realistic to some, yet it is the only realistic solution.”

Rosenfeld described how anti-social crime fell by 75% during the sustained mobilizations against Jim Crow segregation in Cambridge, Maryland, in 1964 led by Gloria Richardson.

“Strengthening working-class solidarity and organization in struggle is our answer to those who prey on other working people, as well as to cop violence, until we can make a revolution, take power into our own hands and begin to rebuild society based on *our* morals, not theirs,” Rosenfeld said.

on and off the job are good.”

While Tiberias is not a mixed city, Muslims, Christian Arabs, Druze and others come to work from nearby villages. This is reflected in the union. “On the elected workers committees there are many Arabs, as are many of the shop stewards,” Gabbay said.

The city of Acre (Acco) is nearly 32% Arab, the highest percentage of any mixed city. The Acco Theater Center, established in 1985 to promote artistic freedom and host music, dance and plays in Hebrew and Arabic, was severely damaged during the rioting.

“We’re not sure that those who threw those little bottles that burn realized they were throwing it at the theater,” because the entrance is on

Continued on page 9

**For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel**

**Socialist Workers Party statement**

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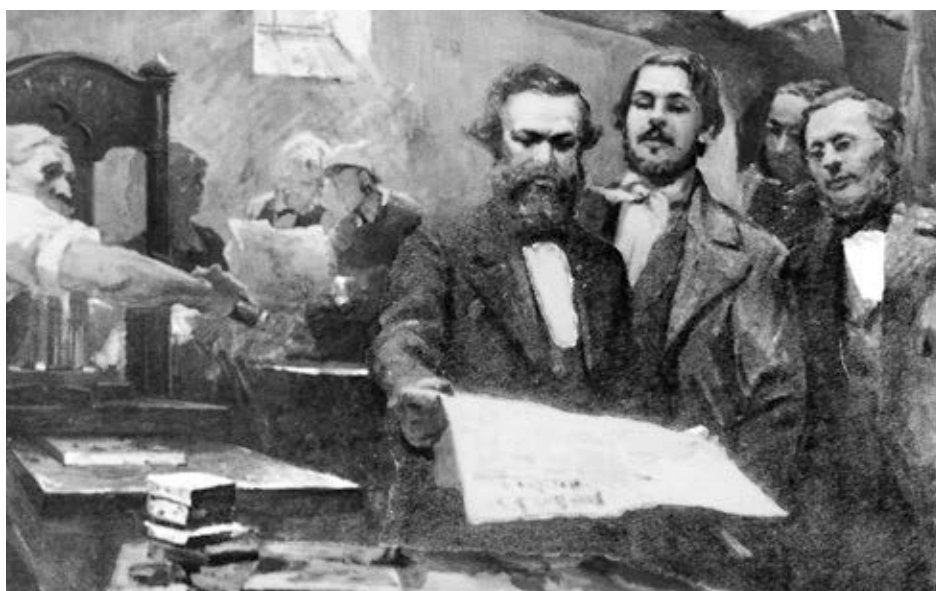
# Scientific socialism grew with the working-class movement

The excerpt below is from one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June*, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* by Frederick Engels. Engels helped found the modern communist movement alongside Karl Marx. In this book, written by Engels with the collaboration of Marx in the 1870s, he explains how utopian socialism arose in the early 19th century as a response to the horrors of the development of capitalism. Engels explains how socialism was put on a scientific foundation as the theoretical expression of the working-class movement in its revolutionary struggle to overturn capitalist rule and conquer state power. Copyright © 1989 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY FREDERICK ENGELS

Modern socialism is, in its essence, the direct product of the recognition, on the one hand, of the class antagonisms existing in the society of today between proprietors and nonproprietors, between capitalists and wageworkers; on the other hand, of the anarchy existing in production. But in its theoretical form, modern socialism originally appears ostensibly as a more logical extension of the principles laid down by the great French philosophers of the eigh-



Karl Marx, holding *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* with Frederick Engels in 1848 German revolution, helped build Communist League, first modern working-class party. Engels wrote, “Communism is not a doctrine but a *movement*; it proceeds not from principles but from facts.”

teenth century. Like every new theory, modern socialism had at first to connect itself with the intellectual stock-in-trade ready at hand, however deeply its roots lay in material economic facts. ...

We know today that this kingdom of reason was nothing more than the idealized kingdom of the bourgeoisie; that this eternal right found its realization in bourgeois justice; that this equality reduced itself to bourgeois equality before the law; that bourgeois property was proclaimed as one of the essential rights of man; and that the government of reason, the *contrat social* of Rousseau, came into being, and could only come into being, as a democratic bourgeois republic. The great thinkers of the eighteenth century could no more than their predecessors go beyond the limits imposed upon them by their epoch. ...

While, however, the revolution in the conception of nature could only be made in proportion to the corresponding positive materials furnished by research, already much earlier certain historical facts had occurred which led to a decisive change in the conception of history. In 1831 the first working-class rising took place in Lyons; between 1838 and 1842 the first national working-class movement, that of the English Chartists, reached its height. The class struggle between the proletariat and bourgeoisie came to the front in the history of the most advanced countries in Europe, in proportion to the development, upon the one hand, of modern industry, upon the other, of the newly acquired political supremacy of the bourgeoisie. Facts more

and more strenuously gave the lie to the teachings of bourgeois economy as to the identity of the interests of capital and labor, as in the universal harmony and universal prosperity that would be the consequence of unbridled competition. All these things could no longer be ignored, any more than the French and English socialism, which was their theoretical, though very imperfect, expression. But the old idealist conception of history, which was not yet dislodged, knew nothing of class struggles based upon economic interests, knew nothing of economic interests; production and all economic relations appeared in it only as incidental, subordinate elements in the “history of civilization.”

The new facts made imperative a new examination of all past history. Then it was seen that *all* past history, with the exception of its primitive stages, was the history of class struggles; that these warring classes of society are always the products of the modes of production and of exchange — in a word, of the *economic* conditions of their time; that the economic structure of society always furnishes the real basis, starting from which we can alone work out the ultimate explanation of the whole superstructure of juridical and political institutions as well as of the religious, philosophical, and other ideas of a given historical period. ... [N]ow a materialistic treatment of history was propounded, and a method found of explaining man’s “knowing” by his “being,” instead of, as heretofore, his “being” by his “knowing.”

From that time forward, socialism was no longer an accidental discovery of this or that ingenious brain, but the necessary outcome of the struggle between two historically developed classes — the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. Its task was no longer to manufacture a system of society as perfect as possible, but to examine the historico-economic succession of events from which these classes and their antagonism had of necessity sprung, and to discover in the economic conditions thus created the means of ending the conflict. But the socialism of earlier days was as incompatible with this materialistic conception as the conception of nature of the French materialists was with dialectics and modern natural science. The socialism of earlier days certainly criticized the existing capitalistic mode of production and its consequences. But it could not explain them and therefore could not get the mastery of them. It could only simply reject them as bad. The more strongly this earlier socialism denounced the exploitation of the working class, inevitable under capitalism, the less able was it clearly to show in what this exploitation consisted and how it arose. But for this it was necessary (1) to present the capitalistic method of production in its historical connection and its inevitableness during a particular historical period and therefore, also, to present its inevitable downfall; and (2) to lay bare its essential character, which was still a secret. This was done by the discovery of *surplus value*. It was shown that the appropriation of unpaid labor is the basis of the capitalist mode of production and of the exploitation of the worker that occurs under it; that even if the capitalist buys the labor power of his laborer at its full value as a commodity on the market, he yet extracts more value from it than he paid for; and that in the ultimate analysis this surplus value forms those sums of value from which are heaped up the constantly increasing masses of capital in the hands of the possessing classes. The genesis of capitalist production and the production of capital were both explained.

These two great discoveries, the materialistic conception of history and the revelation of the secret of capitalistic production through surplus value, we owe to Marx. With these discoveries socialism became a science.

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# **SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT**

## **Fight for workers control of production!**

Statement by Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, June 9.

Safety is at the heart of many working-class struggles today as the bosses drive to increase productivity and profits, leading to deadly speedup and disdain for livable working conditions. This is clear in fights by oil refinery workers against lockouts by ExxonMobil in Texas and Marathon Petroleum in Minnesota.

Teamsters at Marathon are fighting to prevent bosses from subcontracting out union jobs, a threat to safe operation. The lives of some 1.7 million people living in a 19-mile radius around the refinery would be at serious risk from an explosion there. Steelworkers at ExxonMobil are fighting to ensure every crew has at least one experienced worker to lead in bringing down and starting up production units.

Under capitalist rule, production is organized with no concern for workers' lives or limbs, on the job or for others living nearby, nor for the soil, air and water being fouled by pollution. Driven to compete or die in the fight for markets, bosses cannot operate any other way. Regulations by all-too-complicit government bureaucrats do nothing to stop bosses determined to maximize profits at the expense of workers' lives and our planet. I'm all too familiar with this from working at an ARCO refinery in Texas in the 1980s.

All work *can* be performed safely and in ways that protect our natural resources for use by future generations. But for that to become a reality, workers must fight to take control of production out of the bosses' hands. This should be on the banner of every union. Workers control of production would allow us to put a halt to the backbreaking pace of work the bosses impose, take charge of decisions on the number of workers needed to do a job safely, and to eradicate the production of substandard goods.

Coal miners took steps in that direction in the late 1960s and '70s that show the way. They carried out a revolution in the United Mine Workers union and won union control over key aspects of mine safety, including the right to halt production if dust levels were too high. They fought and won construction of clinics throughout the coalfields that succeeded in sharply reducing the scourge of black lung disease. The record of what that working-class struggle accomplished shows we have the capacity to push



Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, at March 6 Union City campaign rally.

back the bosses' assaults on our health and safety.

Opening the bosses' books for inspection by trade unionists and consumers' committees is an integral part of the fight for workers to take control of production and to show all toilers how the capitalists steal most of the vast wealth our labor produces.

Workers control is a school for class consciousness. We come to realize our own capacities and worth. We see more clearly that our class can and must take over the management of the entire economy, and gain confidence that we can do so.

We need to build our own party, a labor party, based on fighting unions, that acts independently of the bosses and their twin Democratic and Republican parties to advance workers' struggles for jobs, safety and higher wages. Such a party would champion every struggle that points toward workers taking control of production.

With our own party workers can lead millions of the exploited and oppressed to overthrow capitalist rule and bring to power a workers and farmers government. It would mobilize workers and farmers to take the factories, banks and farmland into our own hands and to run them ourselves.

Ending capitalist exploitation and social relations is not a pipe dream. The socialist revolution made by working people in Cuba shows it is possible. Join the SWP fighting to do the same here!

## **Jewish, Arab workers join to advance solidarity**

Continued from page 7

the other side of the building, Smadar Yaaron, a founder of the theater, said by phone June 7.

The morning after, she said, "the Palestinian residents came to help clean," as well as some Jewish residents. "Most people, Jewish and Arab, in Acco don't want the violence, they want to live together," Ziwari Bahlul, a Palestinian musician and actor who is part of the theater, told the *Militant*.

Gangs from outside the city were joined by some local Arab youth. "Most of them are not working and are from poorer families," Bahlul said. "They want to let the other side know that they're not happy." Arab youth face high unemployment and harassment from the police. There is also resentment over "gentrification," Yaaron said, as more Jewish-owned businesses have moved into the traditionally Arab "Old City."

Anti-Arab attacks in Acre were by outsiders who came in buses, Bahlul said, including from La Familia, the notorious racist fan club of the Beitar Je-

rusalem soccer team. "The Jewish people in Acre came out and told them to go away. They protected their Arab neighbors," he said.

Fadi Kasem, a 28-year-old nurse, and other Arab Acre residents headed to the scene of the May 12 rioting to try to stop the violence. They found Mor Janashvili, an Israeli Jew, being severely beaten by a mob of young Arabs.

Kasem shielded Janashvili from the attackers, bandaged his wounds and made sure he made it to the hospital.

"We have a system in place" to act when tensions break out, Kasem told the *Militant* by phone. At the same time, Kasem said, "the government needs to treat all citizens as equal" if it's to prevent attacks in the future.

All these reports indicate the potential for collaboration between Jewish and Arab workers, including in labor struggles and broader efforts to press Israeli leaders and leaders of Palestinian groups to negotiate and agree to recognize both a sovereign Palestinian state and Israel.

When Kasem went to the hospital to check up on his new friend, Janashvili said he won't return to Acre any time soon.

"Don't talk like that," Kasem replied. "In 2008, when there were severe riots in Acre, people did not believe coexistence would return." But it did. "I will take you to eat hummus in Old Acre," Kasem said. "My home is your home."

## **'Militant' prison ban**

Continued from front page

ban militia members celebrating after the defeat of the U.S.-organized mercenary Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961. It was one of the photographs accompanying a feature article in Spanish on key turning points in Cuba's socialist revolution and the example it sets for working people in the U.S. and worldwide.

The same article and photo appeared the previous week in English. An associate of Johnson's informed the *Militant* that this issue had also been impounded, although prison authorities never informed the *Militant*.

"Wabash's decision to withhold these issues of the *Militant* violates the First Amendment" of the U.S. Constitution, wrote Goldstein. "The U.S. Supreme Court has explicitly held that the rights of prisoners to receive publications extend to the rights of publishers to reach willing subscribers" and to "disseminate political views."

Nothing in the Indiana Department of Correction's regulations "prohibits inmates from receiving publications containing 'images of guns,'" Goldstein points out. Otherwise, "it would be virtually impossible for any newspaper to be admitted to Indiana prisons."

To emphasize this point, several photos from the June 3 *Indianapolis Star* were filed along with the appeal, showing cops with guns confronting protesters and firing tear gas at them.

Goldstein also noted that Johnson has informed the *Militant* that prison authorities at Wabash regularly show and rent movies and television programs to inmates that feature guns and gun violence, including recently "The Courier" and "Monster Hunter."

Johnson is a leader of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party. The *Militant* fought successfully to reverse impoundments of his subscription last year and the year before.

"If you ban newspapers because they show pictures of political developments that include images of guns, then are pictures from the American Revolution, Civil War, U.S. wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan also to be banned?" *Militant* editor John Studer asked. "The authorities at Wabash Valley are clearly trying to suppress the political views of the *Militant*. This is a clear violation of freedom of speech and of the press, and the right of workers behind bars to read and think for themselves. And to form their own opinions on what road forward to deal with the deepening capitalist economic and social crisis working people face today."

Letters are starting to be sent to prison officials protesting the ban. "Mr. Johnson must have access to literature that serves his interests and that informs him of the events happening in the world," wrote Michael Zimmerman, a retired combat veteran and *Militant* subscriber in an email sent from Indiana June 1. "The paper's contributors do not incite violence or in any other way promote messages that would threaten the safety of himself or correctional facility staff."

"I am writing to protest the censorship and banning of issues of the *Militant* newspaper to prisoner Kevin Johnson," wrote James Horn, a retired factory worker from Sellersburg, Indiana. "This is a violation of the constitutional rights of the *Militant* under the First Amendment. I urge you to correct this violation immediately."

Join the fight! Send letters urging Indiana prison officials reverse the ban on the *Militant*. Write to Anna Levitt, Senior Attorney of Operations, Indiana Department of Correction, 302 W. Washington St., Room W341, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or email alevitt@idoc.in.gov. Please send a copy to themilitant@mac.com.



Indiana prison officials banned historic photo of Cuban militia.

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