

'Militant' builds strike support, protests Putin's war in Ukraine

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Socialist Workers Party is campaigning, using the *Militant* to get out its program, and seeking to put its candidates in New Jersey on the ballot. The drive got off to a solid start April 17. The party is running Joanne Kuniansky in the 8th Congressional District and Lea Sherman in the 9th District. So far 88 people have signed petitions toward the goal of 300, triple the amount required.

Party members are using the SWP statement, "Defend Ukraine's independence! For defeat of Moscow's invasion! U.S. troops, nuclear arms out of Europe, *all* of Europe!"

"The capitalist rulers use war to step up exploitation and oppression at home," Kuniansky said. "Our response is to deepen our participation in union battles," including winning solidarity for striking miners at Warrior Met in Alabama, as well as joining fights against cop brutality and championing the actions of other victims of capitalist "justice." Everywhere SWP candidates

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Miners strike passes 1-year mark, wins new solidarity

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — Opportunities to build solidarity for the 1,100 members of United Mine Workers of America on strike for over a year at Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama, are growing. The April 6 solidarity rally near the mine that drew some 1,500 union members and supporters from around the country showed what is possible if unionists spread the word and build support.

"We all thought the rally was great," UMW Local 2245 member Otis Sims told the *Militant* by phone April 18. Sims, who has worked underground for 43 years, was one of the many Warrior Met strikers at the rally. He has been talking with fellow strikers on the picket line since the solidarity action. "At our weekly strike rally on April 13, District 20 officials announced that we'll be expanding our picket lines further."

Warrior Met was set up by the biggest outstanding creditors when the

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Moscow's troops out of *all* of Ukraine now!

Defend Ukraine independence, sovereignty!



Chernobyl trade union youth organization in Slavutych

April 12 rally in Slavutych, where Chernobyl workers live, in solidarity with fellow workers resisting Russian occupation of Energodar, Ukraine, home of largest nuclear plant in Europe.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Attempting to reverse a series of embarrassing setbacks in his effort to crush independent Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched an

US troops, nuclear arms out of Europe! End US sanctions!

offensive April 18 in the eastern part of the country closest to Russia.

He coupled the drive in Donetsk and Luhansk with continued bombing attacks on Ukraine's major cities, from Kharkiv to Kyiv, Lviv to Dnipro. Ukrainian working people have mounted nearly two months of tenacious defense of their sovereignty,

forcing Russian units to retreat from the entire region around the capital, Kyiv, as well as Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv. Moscow's withdrawal has revealed a trail of civilian deaths and massive destruction.

In just two months, the Kremlin's war on Ukraine has shaken up alliances between imperialist govern-

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Protests spread worldwide as soaring prices devastate workers and farmers



Tirana Post

Protests in Tirana, Albania, March 14 over soaring prices, exacerbated by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "Really baby!?" says sign, after Albanian president admitted, "We are in crisis."

BY TERRY EVANS

Over the last month, tens of thousands of working people have taken to the streets demanding government action to curb the devastating impact of soaring prices in Iran, Albania, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan and elsewhere. They refuse to accept that they must go without food and other basic necessities they can no longer afford. The actions take place as the World Bank predicts Moscow's invasion of Ukraine will both deepen economic

stagnation and spur yet more inflation.

Winning protection from the scourge of price hikes is a growing challenge. Even with two or three jobs, "we do not make ends meet," bricklayer José Luis Rodríguez in Argentina told Reuters. Annual inflation there just hit 55.1%.

In Sri Lanka days of protests following price hikes on rice and other essentials deepened a government crises, forcing ministers to quit. Peruvian Pres-

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Marchers: 'Indict Grand Rapids cop who shot Patrick Lyoya in the head'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Daily protests have taken place here since April 12, when police released a video showing the fatal shooting of unarmed Patrick Lyoya by a Grand Rapids cop following a traffic stop. Lyoya, 26, worked in an auto-parts factory and had two children. He immigrated here from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2014 with his parents and siblings.

"I didn't know that here in America there can be execution-style ... to be killed by the police officer," Peter Lyoya, Patrick's father, said at a news conference April 14. Attorneys representing the family are calling for the cop who killed Lyoya to be identified, fired and

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Prime Minister of Pakistan toppled amid shifts caused by Moscow's war

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Economic turmoil and political conflicts are rising across Asia in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, as governments seek the best course to defend their interests in a shifting world. Alongside the rulers of China and India, the capitalist

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Toronto truck drivers: 'We'll stay out as long as we need to'

Anticipation greets opening day of 30th Havana book fair

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

HAVANA — After a two-year hiatus, the 30th Havana International Book Fair opened here April 20. Organizers have overcome big challenges to ensure it can take place: the impact of COVID, the world capitalist crisis and Washington’s intensified economic sanctions. Despite a resulting paper shortage, dozens of new books have been published, and exhibitors from Cuba and around the world have stands. Mexico is the country of honor.

Book fair banners proudly announce, “To read is to grow.”

Presentations include a new title on Cuba’s internationalist volunteers during the COVID pandemic by Enrique Ubieta. His 2015 book *Zona Roja*, on Cuba’s aid to eliminating Ebola in Africa, was published by Cuba’s Casa Editora Abril in Spanish and French (*Zone rouge*), and in 2019 by Pathfinder Press in Spanish and English (*Red Zone*).

The book fair will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Cuban magazine *Mujeres* (Women), and award a literary prize to Norberto Codina, a poet and long-time editor of the cultural magazine *La Gaceta de Cuba*. Verde Olivo, publishing house of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, will mark the 61st anniversary of the Cuban people’s victory over the Washington-instigated invasion at Playa Girón.

Pathfinder Press — the only U.S.-based publisher present — has been at every Havana book fair since 1982. Staffing its stand are volunteers from Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom, as well as the Socialist Workers

Party in the U.S. Pathfinder is presenting two new titles: *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History* by Frederick Engels, Karl Marx, George Novack and Mary-Alice Waters; and *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon, with a new introduction by SWP leader Dave Prince.

The book fair closes April 30, followed by three days of activities by working people organized by unions and other organizations in Cuba to mark May Day, international workers day. The *Militant* will feature regular reports from Havana.



Volunteers setting up Pathfinder Press booth on eve of Havana International Book Fair.

Author of book on Attica fights ban by prison authorities

BY SETH GALINSKY

Well-known author Heather Ann Thompson is suing the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for banning prisoners in the state from reading her award-winning book on the Attica prison rebellion, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*.

“People have a right to read, and people have a right to history,” Thompson said in a press release. Authors “also have a right to have our books read. It’s a shame we live in a country where we censor people and ideas.” The New York Civil Liberties Union and the Civil Rights Clinic at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law filed the federal lawsuit on her behalf.

The suit charges prison officials with violating the First and Fourteenth

Amendments, which guarantee freedom of speech and prohibit depriving anyone of “life, liberty or property” without due process of law.

Blood in the Water tells the story of the rebellion, which began on Sept. 9, 1971, using previously suppressed government documents along with interviews with prisoners and guards who were at the prison then, and with their families.

The rebellion by 1,281 prisoners took place because of abusive prison conditions. In a statement that reverberated across the country and the world, prisoner Elliot “L.D.” Barkley proclaimed, speaking for his fellow prisoners, “We are men. We are not beasts and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such.”

They presented authorities with a list of demands to guarantee their basic rights and their dignity as human beings.

On the order of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, prison guards and state troopers responded by storming the prison yard in an orgy of terror, killing 43 people — 29 inmates and 10 prison employees who were being held hostage — and then tried to justify their assault by falsely claiming that prisoners had killed the hostages.

The lawsuit notes that inmates at other prison systems across the United

States have access to the book. And in New York the Department of Corrections has permitted prisoners to receive *Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson*, and other similar titles.

The Department of Corrections’ Central Office Media Review Committee claims the book violates its guidelines against materials that “advocate expressly or by clear implication acts of disobedience” towards “law enforcement or prison personnel.”

Thompson’s suit points out that there is no evidence that the book’s presence in prisons “has ever caused disruptions or safety concerns between officers and incarcerated persons.”

This is not the first time that New York prison authorities have violated the Bill of Rights and denied prisoners access to books or periodicals, including about the Attica rising.

In 2016 officials impounded several issues of the *Militant* going to a prisoner subscriber in Attica, starting with an issue featuring an article on the anniversary of the rebellion. Thompson was one of many prominent individuals and organizations who protested the ban and backed a challenge to it filed by the paper.

Prison officials never responded and the case became moot when the

Continued on page 6

THE MILITANT

Build support for union fights today

The ‘Militant’ urges solidarity with workers’ struggles around the world. From nurses in Australia, to truckers in Canada and coal miners in Alabama, unions are fighting for needed wage increases, for safety on the job and in the communities around them.



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‘Militant’ backs labor, fights war

Continued from front page

are running, they explain the working class needs to advance on a road toward taking political power from the capitalist rulers and into our own hands.

Washington’s harsh sanctions against Russia “have no impact on the higher classes. The working classes get hurt the most,” student Imani Hutchinson told James Harris, SWP candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C., at an April 11 rally backing a one-day work stoppage by the District of Columbia Nurses Association, who are demanding bosses hire more workers.

Regardless of who they target, “sanctions are used to cause pain to workers,” Harris said, pointing out that their devastating impact is used by Russian President Vladimir Putin to try to rally support for his regime and its war. They’re an obstacle to building solidarity between working people in Ukraine and Russia against Putin’s war.

“U.S. sanctions are also used against Cuba’s socialist revolution, where the government there fights in the interests of the working class,” Harris said. Hutchinson purchased a *Militant* subscription and the book *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*, by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and SWP leaders George Novack and Mary-Alice Waters.

Discussions with working people like this are at the heart of the international propaganda campaign by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. The goal is to win 1,600 new readers to the *Militant*, sell 1,600 books and raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. Contributions to the fund go a long way toward broadening the reach of the paper, as opportunities expand for presenting a working-class road forward.

“I’m disgusted by what the cop did,” Chelsea Miller told Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for Illinois governor, when Craine visited Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 17, shortly after the cop killing of factory worker Patrick Lyoya in the city.

“I’m also disgusted by what I see in health care,” said Miller, who works in a hospital and is studying to be a registered nurse. “I see medical techs working their tail off and they can’t make ends meet. It shouldn’t depend on your income whether people get health care or not.”

“Only the working class organizing to take political power can open the door to ending the profit-driven crises and brutality of capitalism,” Craine said. Miller subscribed to the *Militant* and purchased *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Later that day, Craine was one of the speakers at a rally of nearly 50 people in downtown Grand Rapids to demand the prosecution of the cop who killed Lyoya.

“Police brutalizing working people is built into capitalist society, along with the wars like we’re seeing in Ukraine,” she said. “We call for Russian troops to get out of Ukraine, and for U.S. troops out of Europe.” Two participants subscribed to the *Militant* and bought books.

Attracted to Sankara’s speeches

At an apartment complex in St. Cloud, Minnesota, April 16, David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for Congress, met Brunette Mawambe, a caregiver at an assisted living facility who is originally from Cameroon. Mawambe said that they were short-staffed at her workplace and this makes it more difficult for both workers and patients.

Rosenfeld showed her the *Militant* and some books drawing lessons of past working-



James Harris, SWP candidate for Washington, D.C., mayor, right, talks with Howard University student Imani Hutchinson at April 11 rally supporting one-day strike by D.C. Nurses Association.

class struggles. Mawambe was immediately attracted to books containing speeches by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, West Africa. “I know about Sankara, and that he was a champion of the people,” she said. “I want to find out more about him.”

She purchased a *Militant* subscription along with the book *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*, where Sankara explains why fighting to end the subjugation of women was crucial to advancing the revolution he led.

A special campaigning effort is being organized May 17-31 to place the SWP candidates in Minnesota on the ballot. In addition to Rosenfeld, the SWP is running Gabrielle Prosser for governor and Kevin Dwire for lieutenant governor.

Rulers’ attacks at home and abroad

In Montreal, Communist League members Annette Kouri and Katy LeRougetel spoke with nurse Monique Wilson at her doorstep April 17.

“Working people have to defend ourselves against attacks by wealthy rulers,” Kouri said as she described the stakes for working people in defending Ukrainian sovereignty.

“During the pandemic I worked up to 106 hours a week,” Wilson said. “But then I had to take a vacation. And when I came back, I fought to reduce my hours. Now they hire new people, but after a week I don’t see them anymore. They leave.”

“We need to use our unions to fight against conditions like these,” LeRougetel said. “That’s why we encourage people to join strikers’ picket lines and build solidarity through our unions.” Wilson got a *Militant* subscription and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

To help expand the reach of the *Militant*, contact the SWP nearest you, listed on page 11. To contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, make out a check to the *Militant* and send it to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, or donate at themilitant.com

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund March 12-May 17 (week five)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	90	25	90	41	\$8,500	\$3,876
Atlanta	90	49	90	41	\$11,500	\$3,849
Chicago	125	61	125	61	\$14,000	\$7,689
Cincinnati*	90	43	90	41	\$5,800	\$3,523
Dallas-Ft. Worth	65	52	65	38	\$4,500	\$1,845
Lincoln	15	10	15	13	\$400	\$205
Los Angeles	100	57	120	38	\$14,500	\$4,296
Miami	35	11	35	24	\$5,000	\$2,150
Minneapolis	70	36	70	47	\$5,500	\$3,176
N. New Jersey	90	56	90	55	\$7,250	\$3,546
New York	125	61	125	73	\$17,500	\$11,103
Oakland	100	64	100	67	\$14,000	\$8,154
Philadelphia	40	17	40	24	\$4,250	\$3,790
Pittsburgh	50	29	50	19	\$5,000	\$3,037
Seattle	70	27	70	28	\$13,000	\$7,180
Washington	65	33	65	37	\$5,000	\$3,385
Other		1				\$0
Total U.S.	1220	632	1240	647	\$135,700	\$70,804
Prisoners	45	55				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	55	46	60	52	\$4,000	\$564
Manchester*	50	32	50	36	\$2,000	\$1,200
Total U.K.	105	78	110	88	\$6,000	\$1,764
Canada	110	64	110	63	\$13,670	\$6,667
New Zealand	35	23	35	18	\$4,000	\$2,280
Australia	35	20	35	11	\$2,500	\$550
Total	1,550	872	1,530	827	\$161,870	\$82,065
SHOULD BE	1,600	880	1,600	880	\$165,000	\$90,750
*Raised goal						

‘Indict Grand Rapids cop who shot Patrick Lyoya’

Continued from front page

prosecuted. The videos of the April 4 shooting include recordings from the officer’s body camera, a squad-car camera, a nearby home security system and a cellphone taken by Lyoya’s passenger.

They show Lyoya being pulled over by the lone officer while driving through a residential neighborhood around 8 a.m. Lyoya gets out of his car and seems confused, asking the cop why he was being stopped. The cop says the license plate doesn’t match the vehicle and asks if he has a driver’s license. Lyoya points to the wallet on the seat but then starts to walk away. Instead of waiting for more officers to arrive, the cop tries to detain Lyoya himself and Lyoya runs.

A series of scuffles take place. The officer pulls out his Taser and fires it a couple times at close quarters. It’s unclear whether it hits Lyoya. As they grapple the young man’s hand lands on the stun gun. The cop can be heard yelling,

“Let go of the Taser.” About a minute later the cop has wrestled Lyoya to the ground and is holding him face down. As Lyoya tries to stand back up, the cop gets out his gun and fires one shot to the young man’s head.

The officer was placed on administrative leave. The county prosecutor, Chris Becker, opposed releasing the videos until the Michigan State Police finish an investigation into the shooting. More than 100 people marched to the Grand Rapids City Commission meeting April 12 protesting the shooting, and authorities released the recordings the next day.

Authorities should “release the cop’s identity. Hold him responsible for every action he did,” Jimmy Barwan, Lyoya’s cousin, told reporters at a rally of several hundred people April 14. “We’ve seen the whole video. How can you feel in danger when you’re holding somebody?”

Lyoya had “just bought the car so he could go to work,” Barwan said. “We didn’t come here to feel like animals.”

“Charges have to come and have to come quickly,” Bernie Langerak told the *Militant* April 17 in front of the makeshift memorial on the street where Lyoya was shot. He had stopped by to lay a flower there, as many others have done. “All communities should be concerned, not just the Black community.” He was glad to see the protests and that they’ve stayed peaceful.

“This was unnecessary, it breaks my heart,” said Tameeka Aleman, who lives a block from where the shooting happened. The cop’s actions were “strictly about power,” she added. “He could have called for backup. He could have let Lyoya run.”

That was the common sentiment among workers in the neighborhood who this reporter spoke to.

That evening, Easter Sunday, nearly 50 people rallied again downtown, for the fifth day in a row. “I’ve been at every protest,” said Deandre Jones. He and others said they would continue to demonstrate until charges are brought.

The funeral for Lyoya has been set for April 22.

Join May 17-31
Socialist Workers Party
campaigning and ballot
drive in Minnesota!

Gabrielle Prosser for governor;
Kevin Dwire for lt. governor
David Rosenfeld, U.S. Congress

Anyone interested in helping should contact: SWP Minnesota campaign (612) 271-1930 or swpminneapolis@gmail.com 2401-1/2 Central Ave., NE, Unit B, Minneapolis, MN 55418

In victory for Sankara's legacy, court finds killers accountable

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Thirty-five years after his assassination in 1987, a court in Burkina Faso, West Africa, rendered guilty verdicts April 6 following a six-month trial for the assassination of President Thomas Sankara, and 12 of his comrades and guards.

Blaise Compaore, along with his right-hand man Gen. Gilbert Diendere, and Hyacinthe Kafando, the soldier charged with leading the hit squad, were found guilty and sentenced to life in jail. Eight others were also found guilty and sentenced from three to 20 years in jail. Two had their sentences suspended. Three were acquitted.

Compaore, who lives in exile in neighboring Ivory Coast, and Kafando, who is on the run, were tried in absentia. Diendere is already serving jail time for a 2015 coup attempt. He and others charged in the assassination were present at the trial.

Sankara was 33 years old when he led a popular democratic revolution in 1983, one of the most profound revolutions in the history of the African continent. Compaore was a member of the National Council of the Revolution that Sankara led.

A popular revolution

With a population among the poorest in the world, the revolution led by Sankara opened the road to Burkina Faso's development. Millions of toilers backed by the revolutionary government carried out deep-going economic and social measures.

These included nationalization of the land to guarantee peasants the fruit of their labors as productive farmers; irrigation projects; and planting 10 million trees to stop encroachment of the desert.

Steps were taken to combat the centuries-old subjugation of women. Three million children were vaccinated against common diseases. Far-reaching literacy campaigns were organized; roads, schools, housing and a national railroad were built.

Sankara's revolutionary government extended international solidarity to those fighting oppression worldwide, including standing with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and pointing to the example of Cuba's socialist revolution.

"To achieve the new society," Sankara said in an Aug. 4, 1987, speech celebrating the fourth anniversary of the revolution, "we need a new people, a people who have their own identity, a people who know what they want, who know how to assert themselves.

"After four years of revolution, our people have begun to forge themselves

as this new people."

With the murder of Sankara, Compaore unleashed a bloody counterrevolution, imposing his tyrannical rule. Gains of the revolution were reversed, and Burkina Faso's government once again served the interests of the country's exploiting classes and those of the French and U.S. imperialists.

Twenty-seven years later, in 2014, a popular uprising drove Compaore from power and millions of Burkinabe demanded "Justice for Sankara!" The government was finally forced to initiate legal proceedings demanded for 34 years by the Sankara family and the families of others murdered in the coup. The aim was justice, not revenge, Prosper Farama, a Sankara family lawyer, told the court.

The trial opened Oct. 11, 2021. It featured depositions and testimony from more than 100 witnesses and forensic experts and 20,000 pages of evidence.

"We had a real trial with ballistic experts and interventions on the facts: how people were killed, when, what happened in the months before Oct. 15 [1987] and after," Anta Guisse, another Sankara family attorney, said in an interview with JusticeInfo. "The crimes were really premeditated."

"Oct. 15 was meticulously prepared and skillfully orchestrated," Boukary Kabore testified. "It was Compaore who 'ran things with his civilian friends.'"

Kabore, a military captain and Sankara supporter, led a battalion west of the capital city of Ouagadougou that was crushed in the coup. Eleven of its soldiers were executed by Compaore's forces, who were fearful they would resist.

Damning evidence of betrayal

Evidence at trial included:

- Testimony that individuals who defended the revolution were targeted to be eliminated by Compaore's coup plotters; and details of their arrests, imprisonment and torture;
- How Sankara's murder had been planned and carried out, along with forensic evidence gathered from the exhumation of his and other bodies that had been dumped and buried in shallow graves on the outskirts of the capital city;
- Glimpses of information about the complicity in the coup of the French foreign intelligence service, the government of the Ivory Coast, and of the Libyan government of Muammar Gadhafi, despite court rulings to limit the proceedings to the charges against the accused.

Diendere and other defendants attempted to paint Sankara as the criminal, repeating false claims he conspired to have Compaore arrested.

Sankara was killed accidentally by Compaore's personal guards, Diendere alleged, repeating the line peddled by Compaore after the assassination.

Trial testimony revealed



June 29, 2013, protest in Burkina Faso against dictatorial rule of Blaise Compaore, who had Thomas Sankara, pictured above, assassinated during October 1987 counterevolutionary coup. Compaore was toppled and forced to flee the country in 2014 by a popular insurrection.

how a slander campaign in the weeks leading up to the assassination was orchestrated by Sankara's opponents and Compaore's accomplices within the revolutionary government, vilifying Sankara and claiming he was power hungry.

"When I hear people say that Sankara's death was an accident, I say no," Blaise Sanou, a military officer at the time of the revolution, testified. "They planned his death and executed him."

Other witnesses recalled how they informed Sankara of Compaore's subversion and urged preemptive action, but Sankara refused. Sanou said Sankara would not allow himself to be drawn into factional political violence. "It is better to take one step with the people than to take 100 steps without the people," Sanou said, paraphrasing Sankara.

"The one who was addicted to power was Blaise," Sanou told the court. He noted how Compaore had other leaders of the revolution killed, and attempted to permanently hold on to power by rewriting the country's constitution in 2014.

In the 1987 speech celebrating the revolution's anniversary, Sankara warned, "We've been subjected to ever more slanderous attacks from both our traditional enemies and from elements springing from the ranks of the revolution itself; from impatient people infected with the dubious zeal of the novice, when it's not from a frenzy of schemers with undisguised personal ambitions."

An example for revolutionaries today

While the trial exposed many important facts about the murders, the courtroom could not serve as a place to draw the political lessons from the fight Sankara led to defend and advance the revolution. That task is in front of work-

ers, peasants and young people today, and coming generations of revolutionists across Africa and worldwide. They will find invaluable lessons in the legacy of the Burkina Faso Revolution, as they seek to emulate Sankara's example.

Sankara's speeches and interviews over the four years the revolution held power are the place to start. They show his views and course of action, and provide insight into his leadership, integrity and selfless devotion to the emancipation of the oppressed and exploited worldwide from the "dog-eat-dog" values of the "capitalist jungle."

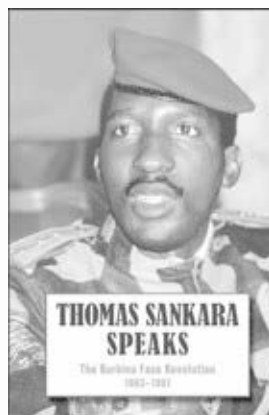
Readers will find that Sankara opposed resolving political differences among the people and revolutionaries using violence and thuggery. He said those methods were a danger to the revolution.

In the fourth anniversary speech he gave in 1987, just weeks before his assassination, Sankara publicly expressed his determination to wage a political fight to keep the revolution on track. He insisted that the "revolution needs a convinced people, not a conquered people ... not a submissive people passively enduring their fate."

Sankara was a Marxist. He studied previous revolutionary struggles and saw the revolution he led as building on the continuity of earlier battles — from the American and French Revolutions at the end of the 18th century, to the Paris Commune of 1871, the 1917 October Revolution in Russia and the Cuban Revolution of 1959. "We are the heirs of those revolutions," he explained.

Readers can pick up a copy of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a collection published by Pathfinder Press, to learn more. See the ad on this page or visit distributors listed on page 11.

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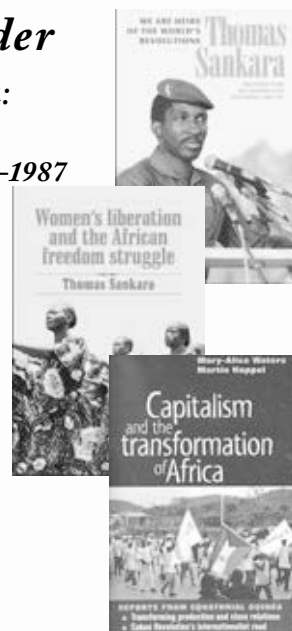
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Why Working People Everywhere Have a Stake in Backing The Ukrainian People's Fight for Independence. Moscow's Troops Out Now! End the Sanctions, Which Hit Hardest on Russian Workers and Farmers. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 7, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Rally boosts Chevron refinery workers strike in California

RICHMOND, Calif. — Several dozen workers and their families joined striking refinery workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 5, at a picket line rally outside the Chevron refinery here April 7. The expanded picketing was part of ongoing efforts by the strikers to broaden support for their fight for a contract with higher pay, better safety protections and badly needed increased staffing. Over 500 workers staff the refinery.

Union members came from the Operating Engineers, UNITE HERE, Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers and others. Many brought their children.

Strikers say workers get fatigued by constant overtime, often working 50 to 60 hours a week. They're demanding the bosses hire more workers and pay higher than the national contract rate, given the high cost of living in the Bay Area.

One senior operator wore a handmade T-shirt saying, "Run like hell is not a contingency plan," pointing to bosses' lack of concern for the safety of workers and people who live near the refinery. In 2012 a 40-year-old pipe ruptured, having worn away to the point where it was paper thin, leading to a huge fire and cloud of toxic smoke over the plant and neighboring communities, sending hundreds to the hospital.

Workers had warned management about the deteriorating condition of the pipe many times, but nothing was done. Chevron faced action by Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the state attorney general's office and a lawsuit by the city of Richmond. The company pleaded no contest to six misdemeanors and was fined \$1.28 million and had to pay \$575,000 in fees.

Workers on the picket line say it's only the operators and maintenance workers who stand up for plant safety, while management defers maintenance.

Strikers also fault the company for not organizing a safe shutdown of the facility before the strike. Now that

there are scab operators inside, there have been several flaring incidents since the strike began.

Chevron is recruiting scabs online, telling them they can look forward to \$70 an hour for up to five months work, Reuters reported April 11. Refinery workers average \$45 an hour.

"They are throwing money at scabs trying to break our union," B.K. White, USW Local 5 first vice president, told the press.

Picket lines are up 24/7. "We need fewer hours, more work and family balance," striker Jason Rohrbach said April 14 on the picket line. "We're staying out until we see motion by management on the issues."

— Eric Simpson

Toronto truck drivers: 'We'll stay out as long as we need to'

MONTREAL — "We'll stay out as long as we need to," to force the excavation bosses to sign a contract, Jasvir Dhaliwal told the *Militant* April 16. Some 1,500 truck drivers who have been out on strike in the Greater Toronto area since March 21 are fighting for higher rates that they can live on, stronger safety measures, workers' rights and respect from the bosses.

"The biggest issue is just surviving right now," said driver Sarjbit Singh. Costs for diesel fuel, parts and insurance have skyrocketed. They're so high, "we can't survive" on what we're paid, he said.

The truckers are fighting for an increase in rates to 130 Canadian dollars an hour (\$103), as well as a standard rate for all truckers in the construction industry. Rates now vary enormously, with some truckers paid as low as CA\$65 an hour. And the truckers are not guaranteed any minimum amount of work.

Dhaliwal, a leader of the Ontario Dump Truck Association, said that the bosses' umbrella organization, the Associated Earth Movers of Ontario, is insisting on a verbal agreement, not a signed contract, claiming that the truckers' association is not a recognized union.

"We agreed to a verbal agreement after strikes in both 2007 and 2013," he



Militant/Eric Simpson

Striking United Steelworkers Local 5 members and supporters rally outside Chevron refinery in Richmond, California, April 7 in fight for safety, higher pay and hiring more workers.

explained. "But we found that without a signed contract we had no way to make sure" the bosses lived up to the agreed rates or respected the truckers' rights.

The dump truck drivers are convinced that they're in a stronger position this time, since truckers who haul sand and gravel for producing ready-mix concrete for construction just won a 20% wage increase through their own strike.

"Other truckers are standing behind us in our fight," Dhaliwal said. He described a recent joint meeting of the Ontario Aggregate Trucking Association, which organizes the sand and gravel haulers; Ontario Dump Truck Association; and the AZ Canadian Truckers Association, the long- and short-haul truckers, where they discussed the need for united action.

"We have close to 90% of the industry shut down," Inder Singh, an owner-operator, told the *Militant*. "We're not backing down. We're staying out until we get a signed contract."

— Steve Penner

Quebec Molson brewery workers strike for wages and respect

MONTREAL — Over 400 workers at the Molson-Coors brewery and distribution center here went on strike March 25. Key issues are the bosses' inadequate wage offer, where work-

ers would actually lose ground to inflation, and the company's demand to impose mandatory overtime. Teamster union members voted 99% to reject the bosses' latest offer and to strike.

Molson-Coors is a joint Canadian-American brewing company built out of the 2005 merger of Molson and Coors and the acquisition of SABMiller in 2016. This is the first strike at Molson in 40 years.

"There was no desire on the part of the company to negotiate," Jean Marie Savin, a packer, told the *Militant* April 13 on the picket line at the east end distribution center. "It was take it or leave it."

The company's offer of 2.25% a year over a five-year contract is nowhere near the official rate of inflation of 5.7%. The union had previously accepted concessions, like taking a bonus of 1,000 Canadian dollars (\$793) instead of a wage increase, Savin said, but workers are now drawing the line.

The proposed contract would mean that "in packing and shipping you would not have the option of bumping someone with less seniority if there are layoffs," Savin explained. "This is an attack on seniority." He said it takes 1,850 hours work in one year to become a permanent employee, and with company layoffs it's almost impossible to make it.

The company wants electricians and mechanics to be on call during the weekend, disrupting family life, mechanic David Veilleux said. "You have to be there in an hour. This makes it impossible to plan ahead to go out on your free time. And that's on top of the regular workweek. They can't keep workers, so they put all the extra work on our shoulders."

The owners tried to use strikebreakers to keep operations going, which is illegal in Quebec. After a union complaint, the company was ordered to stop.

— Joe Young and Félix Vincent Ardea

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 5, 1997

STOCKHOLM — As Washington leads the imperialist drive to extend NATO into eastern and central Europe, the Swedish ruling class has become increasingly active in defending its imperialist interests in the Baltic region. Both the Social Democratic foreign minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Conservative opposition leader Carl Bildt have made statements in favor of the Baltic states to be included in the NATO expansion.

The foreign ministers of Sweden and Finland made a joint statement demanding that while they remain nonaligned countries for the time being, the doors of NATO should be open if they want to join later.

Finland is the only imperialist country that has a long border with Russia, and it was in the Baltic states that the Soviet Union concentrated most of its military installations to counter an attack by NATO during the Cold War.



May 5, 1972

It is now clear that the renewed revolutionary offensive is on a significantly larger scale than the Tet offensive. After one month, the revolutionary forces are sweeping across central South Vietnam, threatening to divide it in two. There have been massive desertions from the Saigon army on all fronts.

Why, when the puppet armies outnumber the revolutionary opponents, have more sophisticated weaponry, and are backed up by massive round-the-clock U.S. bombing, do they fail to stem the advance?

The answer lies in the political realities of the Vietnamese civil war. On one side stands the hated capitalist-landlord regime, imposed on South Vietnam, armed, financed, and militarily supported by Washington. On the other side are the revolutionary forces, who have been struggling to throw off the imperialist oppressors for more than three decades.



May 3, 1947

DETROIT, Apr. 24 — In the biggest demonstration of labor's power, more than 275,000 white and Negro workers, men and women from office and factory, marched into Cadillac Square this afternoon. Expressing their hostility toward the Big Business drive for vicious anti-labor legislation like the Hartley and Taft bills, the demonstrators filled the square.

The shutdown of the auto plants was complete. The local capitalist press admitted that 500,000 workers left the plants, striking proof of the virtually unanimous support of this demonstration.

But no speaker told the workers how to really fight politically. No speaker mentioned the great and crying need for a labor party. The growing political consciousness of the workers was expressed by the UAW-CIO Briggs Local 212 delegation, which bore slogans demanding the building of a labor party.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



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Moscow troops out of Ukraine!

Continued from front page
ments worldwide as the capitalist rulers search for how best to defend their national interests. The invasion has disrupted trade and delivery of everything from wheat to oil and increased the volatility of financial markets. Every capitalist regime is beefing up its military capacity in anticipation of more wars to come.

Russian forces launched an attack on Ukrainian defensive lines dug in along a nearly 300-mile front in an arc from Kharkiv in the northeast through Luhansk and Donetsk to the still surrounded and besieged city of Mariupol in the southeast, to Kherson further west. “The battle for Donbas,” which is the main industrial and mining region in Ukraine, looms.

Amassed Russian troops and tanks are being hurled at Ukrainian defenses in a drive to conquer territory adjacent to the parts of Donetsk and Luhansk that Moscow-backed separatists, reinforced by Russian agents, seized in 2014. This covered roughly a third of the two Ukrainian provinces. While Putin claims the inhabitants there are all Russians, he is planning a massive war against them.

While the Russian military commands much greater heavy armor and air power, its growing number of troops there are weakened by earlier losses and morale problems. They also face determined resistance by 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers seasoned in battle since the 2014 conflict and today’s combat.

‘Butcher’ of Aleppo and Grozny

Putin showed the kind of slaughter he plans to inflict by appointing a new overall commander of his war against Ukraine, Gen. Alexander Dvornikov. Known as the “butcher” of Aleppo, Dvornikov was in charge of Moscow’s intervention to back the crumbling Syrian dictatorial regime of Bashar al-Assad. “Dumb” bombs were used to pulverize Aleppo and other Syrian cities held by rebel forces. Tens of thousands were killed and the city reduced to rubble.

Dvornikov also led the bloody siege of Grozny when Chechens rose up to fight for independence from Russia in 2000. After massive bombardment, his troops moved in, shooting anyone they

saw. Most recently he has been in charge of Moscow’s occupation of Crimea and its relentless assaults against the oppressed Tatar people there.

Kyiv says over 900 Ukrainian towns and villages have been freed from Russian occupation. Counterattacks pushed Russian units back from around Kharkiv and in the south, near Kherson, the only major city taken by Russian forces so far.

“The Socialist Workers Party hails the courageous resistance by Ukrainians, arms in hand, and the protests Ukrainian working people have mounted in occupied areas to defend Ukraine’s national sovereignty and independence,” Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Nebraska, said April 19. “We also hail the vanguard protests in Russia against Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, despite growing repression there.

“The governments in Washington and Europe cry crocodile tears for the Ukrainian people, while their real aim is to defend the markets and predatory interests of their imperialist rulers,” he said. “The far-reaching sanctions imposed by the U.S. rulers and their allies, whatever their supposed ‘target,’ in fact fall heaviest on working people in Russia. They make it more difficult for Ukrainian workers and farmers to forge links of solidarity with working people in Russia, the class forces needed to build mounting pressure on Moscow to back off.

“No capitalist rulers anywhere have any interest in the deepening solidarity of working people,” Swanson said.

Thousands of besieged Ukrainian defenders in the strategic port of Mariupol ignored Moscow’s latest ultimatum to surrender April 20. This last holdout resistance continues to frustrate Putin’s goal to secure the city, creating a “land bridge” to the occupied Crimean Peninsula.

After weeks of heavy street fighting and constant bombardment, Russian troops have taken most of the city, which has been reduced to rubble. But 3,000 Ukrainian fighters have regrouped, along with at least 1,000 civilians, holed up in a maze of tunnels under the giant Azovstal steelworks, one of the largest in Europe. They



Oleksandr Osipov

Ukrainian musicians gather to play in bombed out Palace of Labor in Kharkiv, April 14. In the face of death and destruction raining down from the invading Russian military, Ukrainian people are showing an irrepressible spirit of resistance to Moscow’s invasion.

have been targeted by Tupolev heavy bombers with bunker-buster bombs.

The devastating siege of Mariupol gives the lie to one of Putin’s rationales for his invasion — that he is intervening to protect Russian speakers in Ukraine from “genocide” at the hands of Kyiv’s “Nazi” government. According to Ukrainian officials, at least 21,000 mainly Russian-speaking civilians have been killed there by Moscow’s siege, punished for refusing to embrace Putin’s invasion. Those that remain have become ever stauncher supporters of Ukraine independence.

Russian toilers question Putin’s war

The April 14 sinking of the Russian warship Moskva, the flagship of Russia’s Black Sea fleet, has raised anger and questions from family members of missing or injured sailors back home.

Kyiv said its rockets hit the missile cruiser, with a crew of nearly 500. Moscow claimed the fire was an accident and the ship sank in bad weather.

Irina Shkrebits, searching in a Crimean hospital for her sailor son, Yegor, saw at least 200 badly burned sailors there. “Where’s the rest of them?” she asked on Russian news outlet The Insider. After hearing their son was missing, her husband, Dmitry, posted on the online site VKontakte that Moscow said, “The entire

crew had been evacuated. It’s a lie! A blatant and cynical lie!”

Another woman told *Noveta Gazeta* that her hospitalized sailor son hadn’t expected “to end up in such a mincegrinder in peacetime.” Numerous parents are searching for their missing sons who were conscripts, and weren’t supposed to be sent to combat zones.

Despite escalating troop losses, the Kremlin keeps up the fiction that it is only waging “a special military operation,” not a war. In fact, it’s a crime in Russia to say anything else.

The Kremlin clamped down on widespread protests in the immediate aftermath of the

invasion, arresting over 15,000 demonstrators. A new law imposing jail terms of up to 15 years for “discrediting” the Russian military was passed and is being enforced, with hundreds more now facing charges.

Beneath Putin’s repressive crackdown, opposition to the war continues to bubble. The most visible sign of dissent in St. Petersburg has been the spread of green ribbons — symbols of opposition to the invasion — tied to lanterns, fences, statues and buildings. One man was detained outside the Kremlin for holding up a copy of Leo Tolstoy’s novel *War and Peace*. Others have been arrested for holding up blank pieces of paper, packages of food or even a bank card.

Kremlin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza was arrested in Moscow April 11 on charges of opposition to Putin’s “regime of murderers.” In an op-ed forwarded to the *Washington Post* by his lawyer, Kara-Murza said he was being held alongside hundreds of young anti-war protesters.

“When you are told that no one protests against the war in Russia, don’t believe it,” he wrote. “The night, as you know, is darkest just before the light.”

Attica book ban

Continued from page 2

subscriber was transferred to another prison.

In 2017 an outcry forced New York authorities to rescind a test program that limited prisoners to ordering books from a sharply limited list of approved vendors with an extremely small selection. “They offer five junk sex novels, 14 bibles and religious books, 24 drawing/coloring books, 21 puzzle books, 11 guitar/chess/how-to books, one dictionary, one thesaurus,” writer and artist Molly Crabapple protested. “No other books can be sent.”

“We live in a world of increasing class conflicts, wars and resistance to oppression and injustice,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “Working people inside prison walls have the same right to read about these developments, to think for themselves, read literature of their choosing and form their own opinions as those of us on this side of the walls.

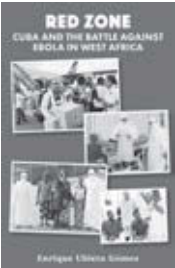
“We join in calling on New York prison authorities to stop violating constitutional rights and allow prisoners to receive *Blood in the Water*.”

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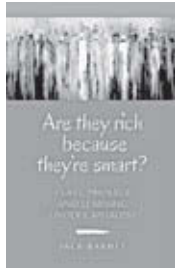
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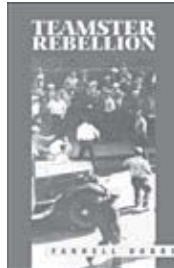
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Northern California nurses strike for safety, hiring, higher pay

BY ERIC SIMPSON

OAKLAND, Calif. — When nurses and other health care workers organized a one-day strike at 15 Sutter Health facilities across Northern California April 18, part of their nearly yearlong fight for a new contract, hospital bosses locked out the 8,000 union members for five days. The lockout of the California Nurses Association and affiliate Caregivers and Health-care Employees Union was announced while the strike was going on.

“They have locked us out until Saturday at 7 a.m.,” Michael Hill, a registered nurse and chief nurses’ representative at the Sutter Alta Bates Summit Medical Center here, told dozens of strikers rallying outside the hospital. “Nobody goes back until we all go back together! Our power is in being united!”

Bosses say they will keep their facilities open, using temporary personnel.

The chief issues are more staffing, better working conditions, more input on supplies of Personal Protective Equipment, higher pay and respect.

Union members voted to authorize the strike in March. “Sutter called us to negotiate the contract, but they came three hours late,” Hill told the crowd. “This pattern was repeated at their other hospitals. Instead of proposals, they



Militant/Eric Simpson

Nurses locked out for five days at 15 Sutter Health facilities after one-day strike April 18. Above, nurses on picket line at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland.

presented ‘Supposals’ — ‘Suppose we did this, what would you do?’

“So what are we going to do? We are striking! Why are we here today? Staffing! Every day we come to work we are short-staffed,” he said. “There is not enough staff to work relief, so nurses end up working through their breaks.

“They want total control over our

lives. They are proposing that we could be forced onto a 12-hour schedule with no overtime pay until after 40 hours. ... They are interested in the million dollars this will put in their pockets,” Hill said. Sutter, which claims to be a nonprofit, “made \$10 billion in 2021. Their top executives make \$18.5 million a year. But they propose to give us 2% annual raises

Protests spread worldwide as soaring prices devastate working people

Continued from front page

ident Pedro Castillo had to rapidly reverse a curfew his government imposed April 5 after the measure was widely ignored by demonstrators demanding relief from the rising cost of food, fuel and fertilizer.

As the impact of this worldwide crisis continues to reverberate, the International Monetary Fund is holding talks with governments in Egypt, Sri Lanka and Tunisia on “restructuring” their staggering debts. This is to ensure that payments to the wealthy bondholders are made, putting the devastating consequences on the backs of the toiling majority. “Developing-country debt has risen sharply to a 50-year high,” David Malpass, president of the World Bank Group, noted last week.

In the U.S. annual inflation reached 8.5% last month, while average wages only rose 5.6% — the biggest drop in real wages for 40 years. Gasoline prices were up 48% over the year, while meat,

poultry, fish and eggs rose by 13.7%.

In the face of this squeeze, strike struggles for wage hikes by miners at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama, nurses at Sutter Health facilities in Northern California and unionists elsewhere deserve widespread support and set an important example to millions.

“We need to spread the word about each of these fights and build solidarity from working people and our unions,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, told the *Militant*. “Workers can’t stop inflation, but we can turn to our unions and use them to fight for protection from its effect. We need to fight for wage raises and automatic cost-of-living adjustments in all contracts. And to extend these protections to all benefits and pensions, as well as government programs like Social Security, so whenever prices rise, our wages go up.”

President Joseph Biden blames Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine for 70% of

recent inflation. Kristalina Georgieva, head of the IMF, echoed his views, calling the war “a massive setback” to “our collective prosperity.” For millions of working people there has been no prosperity, “collective” or otherwise.

Price raises were wreaking havoc on working-class livelihoods long before Putin’s invasion, but the war tightened the squeeze. Russia and Ukraine export one-quarter of the world’s wheat, but since the war began much of it isn’t getting moved. As a result the price of bread has risen 70% in Lebanon from the start of March. David Beasley, executive director of the U.N.’s World Food Program, says millions more people worldwide now face starvation, as the agency has halved its shipments of grain.

All of this worsened but didn’t trigger current inflation. Price hikes result from capitalist governments printing huge sums of money, lowering their currencies’ purchasing power, in response to rising debt levels. This follows sharpening competition for markets after decades of stagnating profit rates. Wars and military buildup — which cost billions but produce nothing of value — spur inflationary pressures.

Both the current Democratic administration and its Republican predecessor printed \$5 trillion as part of “stimulus” packages during the pandemic. Both expanded the U.S. military murder machine. A similar course was carried out by other capitalist governments, resulting in more cash being available for fewer goods, pushing up prices.

The cost of a house mortgage in the U.S. has surged by more than a third over the past year. Mortgage interest rates hit 5% for the first time since 2011. House repossession are now rising sharply, with foreclosures going up sevenfold in January over the previous month. And the cost of renting a place to live in the 50 largest metropolitan areas of the U.S. soared by 19.3% over the last year.

These conditions add special obsta-

each year for the next three years,” not even close to covering inflation.

In calling the strike, the California Nurses Association put out a press release to the public April 8. “We have a moral and legal obligation to advocate for our patients,” said RN Amy Erb, who works in critical care at Sutter’s California Pacific Medical Center. “We advocate for them at the bedside, at the bargaining table, and if we have to, on the strike line.”

Nurses on the picket line held up a big photo of Janine Paiste-Ponder, a nurse at the Alta Bates hospital, who died of COVID-19 in July 2020 because of lack of PPE. N95 masks were kept locked up, the union said. Paiste-Ponder had only a less-protective surgical mask to wear, as was company policy.

The California Division of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined the hospital over \$150,000 for her death and other violations of infectious disease control standards.

“Sutter calls us heroes, but if they really meant it we wouldn’t be out here,” retired RN Paula Lyn told the strikers. “Nurses, we are not martyrs. We did not sign up to sacrifice our lives.”

The last time the nurses struck at Sutter was in 2012. The contract wasn’t settled until the next year.

cles to young workers wishing to start a family. Nearly 18% of the U.S. population now is crammed into multigenerational households, four times as many as in 1971. More and more are unable to afford a place of their own, distorting the choices working people — women and men — make about how to live their lives and the options women face about when and whether to give birth.

Higher wages don’t cause inflation

Bosses and press commentators turn the causes of this crisis on its head. Typical was an April 12 article by *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman. “The U.S. economy still looks overheated,” he complained. “Rising wages are a good thing, but right now they’re rising at an unsustainable pace.”

Under capitalism employers grab for themselves as large a portion of the wealth our labor produces as they can, pushing to hold down wages and intensifying our exploitation through speedup and longer hours. When we win higher wages it doesn’t result in price hikes, but cuts into the profits the exploiting class appropriates from us.

Krugman then offers his “solution” to inflation, saying, “We need to see unemployment tick up at least a bit.” The capitalists and upper-middle-class layers that he writes for vociferously denounce workers fighting for better wages.

The boss press crows about low unemployment today. But that isn’t the real story. In fact, more of us are out of work than two years ago. The labor force participation rate — a measure of the number of workers employed or actively looking for work — remains far lower than before the pandemic. People have either given up looking, or have to succumb to pressure to stay home, from the lack of affordable child care or elderly care.

“The workforce dropouts tend to be women, lack a degree and have worked in low-paying fields,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported April 16.

MAY 1: DEMAND AMNESTY FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS

California - Los Angeles

Assemble 11 a.m. March 12 p.m. from Olympic Blvd. and Broadway to Grand Park. Sponsor: May Day Coalition.

Oakland

Assemble 10 a.m. at Embarcadero. March 10:30 a.m. to Civic Center for rally. Sponsor: San Francisco Labor Council.

Florida - Miami

1 p.m. Downtown Miami Sponsors: WeCount! Miami Workers Center; Labor Community Alliance, South Florida AFL-CIO.

Michigan - Grand Rapids

Assemble 12 p.m. 28th Street and Division Avenue. Sponsor: COSECHA Michigan.

Minnesota - Minneapolis

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Four Directions parking lot 1527 E. Lake St. Sponsors: Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee and Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue.

New York City

Rally 12 p.m. Washington Square Park. Sponsor: Laborers Local 79

Oregon - Salem

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE. Email: lorena@causaoregon.org

Washington - Mt. Vernon

Farmworkers March Assemble 9 a.m. Edgewater Park, 600 Behrens Millett Road. Sponsors: Familias Unidas por la Justicia, Community to Community Development, UFCW 3000, Bayan, Seattle.

Washington, D.C.

Assemble 11 a.m. Benjamin Banneker Park, 429 L’Enfant Plaza SW. Sponsors: Carecen, Congregation Action Network.

Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Meet 11 a.m. 737 W. Historic Mitchell St. Sponsor: Voces de la Frontera. More info call (414) 828-2692.

Writer’s life converged with work to build revolutionary party in Iran

Continued from page 9

— were active on many fronts of the class struggle. They were workers in oil and petrochemical refineries, garment and textile plants, and other industrial workplaces. They were militants in factory shoras, councils set up by workers to combat capitalist sabotage and the bosses’ speedup, assaults on job safety, and low or often unpaid wages.

The HKS called for land distribution under control of peasant shoras, as well as national self-determination and language rights of Kurds and other oppressed peoples. They joined with women workers fighting for equal pay for equal work, child care and against compulsory veiling or any other degrading treatment.

From the outset, there was repression by the new bourgeois government, as forces loyal to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini sought to play on the cleric’s influence as a decadeslong opponent in exile of the shah. Their aim was to consolidate a Shiite-based bourgeois-clerical regime, in order to stem and reverse advances of the revolution.



In August 1979, a secret tribunal sentenced 12 members of the HKS to death and two to life in prison. Baraheni was among signers in Iran of international call for their release, which won freedom for all 14.

The balance of class forces between working people and the oppressed, on the one hand, and what was soon ratified as the Islamic Republic, on the other, shifted with stops and starts for nearly four years.

The HKS’ first public meeting, held March 2, was assaulted by gangs of both Islamist and Maoist thugs. Brandishing switchblades and chains, the attackers bellowed smears of Baraheni and HKS leaders, who were at the meeting. More than 2,000 people had turned out, including delegations of cement workers, workers from the General Motors and Iran National auto plants, teachers, students, rail workers and others. Although marshals prevented the goon squads from provoking a bloody clash, meeting organizers suspended the event and launched a public campaign demanding enforcement of the right to assemble and carry out political activity.

Less than a week later, tens of thousands of women, workers, and youth took to the streets of Tehran and other cities on International Women’s Day to push back Khomeini’s initial decree that female government employees be compelled to wear veils and other traditional clothing to work. Demonstrators defended themselves in face of government-instigated attackers, forcing the regime not only to back off for a period of time but also to concede

to women in factories and other workplaces the right to participate and hold office in workers’ shoras.

In August 1979 a secret tribunal in oil-rich Khuzestan province handed down death sentences to 12 HKS members and life terms to two others. The government refused to announce charges. In fact, the only “crime” of the arrested militants was popularizing the HKS’ revolutionary working-class views among workers — many from Iran’s Arab national minority — in the region’s oilfields, refineries, steel mills and elsewhere. By April 1980 an international defense campaign, among whose signers in Iran was Reza Baraheni, had won freedom for all fourteen.

The HKS ran 17 candidates in the August 1979 Constitutional Assembly elections, including three of its imprisoned members (Mustafa Gorgzadeh, Mahsa Hashemi, and Hamid Shahrabi), as well as the only soldier running for the Islamic Republic’s so-called Assembly of Experts (Nourik Aghazian). In the January 1980 election for president of Iran, the HKS ran Mahmoud Sayrafiezadeh. And in March 1980 the party fielded eight candidates for Iran’s national parliament.

In September 1980 the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched a full-scale invasion of Iran, with tacit backing and arming by Washington, Paris and other imperialist powers. Working people in Iran responded to the war as a bid to deal a deathblow to the revolution. Members of the new party were among hundreds of thousands of working people who volunteered to serve and fight on the front. This mobilization against the Iraqi regime’s reactionary attack gave a second wind to popular resistance to the counterrevolution at home.

Baraheni arrested, then fired

In October 1981 Baraheni, who had resumed teaching at the University of Tehran, was picked up by police as he left campus. He was secretly held and interrogated for 84 days, with no charges or news of his whereabouts. Baraheni again won his freedom due to an international defense campaign, in which those who had founded the new party in Iran took an active part.

Baraheni was fired from his university teaching job, however. Refusing to be either gagged or caged, he helped convene a clandestine meeting of the banned Writers’ Association in 1994. Baraheni joined with other members in drafting and signing a declaration — the Text of 134 — calling for “freedom of expression, without limits or exceptions.” He translated the manifesto into English and organized to smuggle the manifesto out of Iran to the well-known U.S. playwright Arthur Miller, and Miller read it to delegates at the 1994 Prague Congress of PEN International,



Hamidreza Nikoomaram/Fars News Agency via AP
Isfahan, Iran, November 2021: Farmers and workers protest on dried-up riverbed demanding government action in face of devastating drought. Since 2017 working people have mounted actions against Tehran’s bourgeois-clerical regime, especially deaths and sacrifice from the rulers’ expansionist wars.

the worldwide writers’ association.

With the secret police again on his heels, Baraheni evaded border guards and by 1997 took refuge in Canada. Settling in Toronto, he resumed his writing and teaching for as long as his health allowed, serving as president of PEN Canada from 2001 to 2003.

When Reza Baraheni’s death was announced by his family in March, no condolences were forthcoming from the London-based Iranian monarchist TV network Manoto, which broadcasts to concealed satellite dishes across Iran. Baraheni “had 43 years to say he’d made a mistake,” wrote a commentator, “and he could have apologized to the Iranian people, but he preferred to leave this world as a traitor.”

A traitor to the crowned cannibals of capital the world over, yes. And proud he was of being so. But not to the fight for freedom of speech and expression to which he devoted his life.



By the end of 1982, an escalating government offensive of arrests, executions, and thug terror in Iran made it impossible for revolutionary-minded workers to any longer organize and build a proletarian party there.

Some 35 years later, however, ever since the close of 2017, those who produce the wealth depended on by Iran’s rulers to sustain their profits and comforts have begun to display mounting defiance of the bourgeois-clerical regime and all its wings.

Working people in cities, small towns and rural areas — oil and petrochemical workers; sugar workers and teachers; small farmers; Persians, Arabs, Kurds, Azeris and others; young and old; wom-

en and men — have time and again taken to the streets in their thousands and tens of thousands. They’ve demanded unpaid wages, water rights, affordable fuel prices, dignity for women and oppressed nationalities, and the freedom to speak their minds, organize and act in their own class interests.

Above all, more and more workers, farmers, and their families are sick and tired of Tehran’s counterrevolutionary wars waged to serve Iranian capital’s expansionist aims. They want no more military adventures, stretching from the Afghan border, across Iraq, Syria, and the Arabian peninsula to Lebanon’s Mediterranean shores. No more body bags and funerals. No more enforced sacrifice at working people’s expense and the rulers’ enrichment.

In a congratulatory message to the Hezbe Kargaran Socialist in January 1979, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes hailed the party’s founding as “an historic and inspiring event,” one prepared through “patient propaganda” and “painstaking tasks.”

From the assembling of a cadre in North America and Iran almost half a century ago, through today’s social crises and mobilizations, the patient and painstaking effort to translate, keep in print, and distribute the programmatic lessons working people need has never stopped. It continues in the growing catalog of books produced by Talaye Porsoo and other publishing houses in Iran. It continues in the wide circulation of those publications, including two translated by Reza Baraheni, in bookshops, stalls at the Tehran International Book Fair, among students and within the working class.

That work continues to this day.



Three Farsi titles published by Talaye Porsoo. From left, *The Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels; *Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun* by Jack Barnes; and *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters (also available at pathfinderpress.com). They keep in print and distribute books containing key programmatic lessons working people in Iran need to this day.

Marxism, historical materialism help arm working-class fighters

The Challenge of the Left Opposition (1928-29) by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. The book documents the opposition led by Trotsky in the Soviet Communist Party to defend the proletarian and revolutionary internationalist course of V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, against a rising bureaucratic counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin. This included the fight to advance the worker-peasant alliance and overcome national oppression by defending the right to self-determination. Below is an excerpt from "Philosophic Tendencies of Bureaucratism." Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

What is Marxism? Let us review once again its main elements.

First of all, the dialectical method. [Dialectics considers the world in its movement and changes, interrelations and development, the process of becoming and withering away, to discover its laws of motion.] [Karl] Marx was not its originator and of course never pretended to be. [Frederick] Engels felt that it was the merit of Marx that he revived and defended dialectics at a time of epigonism in philosophy and of narrow empiricism



Depiction of peasant uprising in Germany, 1525. Leon Trotsky cites Frederick Engels' *The Peasant War in Germany*, which explained this class conflict disguised as religious ideas against oppressive aristocratic landowners, as a "brilliant illustration" of Karl Marx's materialist conception of history.

in the positive sciences. Engels in the "Old Preface" to *Anti-Dühring* said the following: "It is the merit of Marx that, in contrast to the 'peevish, arrogant, mediocre *epigono*i (epigones)' he was the first to have brought to the fore again the forgotten dialectical method" ...

Marx was able to accomplish this only by freeing dialectics from idealist captivity. Here there is an enigma: How is it possible to separate dialectics from idealism in such a mechanical way? The answer to the enigma in turn lies in the dialectics of the cognitive process itself. Whenever primitive religion or magic acquired new knowledge about some force of natural law, it immediately numbered that law or force among its own powers. In the same way cognitive thought, having extracted the laws of dialectics from the material process, attributed dialectics to itself; at the same time, through Hegelian philosophy, it assumed absolute omnipotence for itself. ... Hegel erred in making dialectics an immanent attribute of absolute Spirit. But he was right that dialectics holds sway in all processes of the universe, including human society.

Basing himself on all preceding materialist philosophy and on the unconscious materialism of the natural sciences, Marx led dialectics out of the barren wastelands of idealism and turned its face toward matter, its mother.

It is in this sense that dialectics,

restored to its rights by Marx and materialized by him, constitutes the foundation of the Marxist view of the world, the fundamental method of Marxist analysis.

The second most important component of Marxism is historical materialism, that is, the application of materialist dialectics to the structure of human society and its historical development. It would be wrong to dissolve historical materialism into dialectical materialism, of which it is an application. For historical materialism to be applied to human history, a very great creative act by cognitive thought was necessary. That act opened up a new epoch in the history of humanity itself, the class dynamics of which it reflected in itself.

It can be said with full justification that Darwinism is a brilliant application — though one that, philosophically, was not thoroughly thought out — of materialist dialectics to the question of the development of the organic world in all its multiplicity and variety. Historical materialism falls into the same category. It is an application of materialist dialectics to a distinct, although enormous, part of the universe. The immediate practical importance of historical materialism is at this time immeasurably greater, since for the first time it provides the vanguard class with the opportunity of approaching the question of human destiny in a fully conscious way. ...

The third component part of Marx-

ism is its systemization of the laws of capitalist economy. Marx's *Capital* is an application of historical materialism to the realm of human economics at a particular stage of its development, just as historical materialism as a whole is an application of materialist dialectics to the realm of human history. ...

The historical and theoretical economics of Marx shows that the development of the productive forces at a definite, exactly describable phase destroys certain economic forms with other forms and in the process disrupts law, morals, views, beliefs; it shows also that the introduction of a system of productive forces of a new and higher type creates for its own needs — always through people, through the agency of human beings — new social, legal, political, and all other norms, in the framework of which this stage provides itself with the dynamic equilibrium it requires. Thus, pure economics is a fiction. ...

But at the same time it would be absolutely wrong to simply dissolve the economic system of Marx into his sociological — or, to use the old terminology, his historico-philosophical — theory. In relation to historical materialism Marx and Engels established the fundamental methods for sociological research ... works primarily devoted to revolutionary crises or revolutionary periods in history — for example, Engels's essay on the peasant war in Germany, the writings of both men on the period 1848-51 in France, the Paris Commune, and so on. These writings are brilliant illustrations rather than exhaustive applications of the doctrine of historical materialism. Only in the field of economic relations did Marx provide a more thorough application of his method in theoretical respects ... in a book that is one of the most accomplished products of cognitive thought in human history — *Capital*. ...

Marxism does not pretend to be an absolute system. It is aware of its own historically transitory significance. Only a conscious application of materialist dialectics to all fields of science can and will prepare the elements necessary for the transcending of Marxism, which dialectically will at the same time be the triumph of Marxism. ...

In itself Marxism is a historical product and it must be grasped that way.

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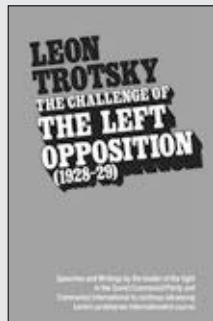
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Join in charting new course for working class

The bosses and their political parties — facing increasing cutthroat competition and conflict worldwide — are stepping up their assaults on working people at home and abroad. To defend their dog-eat-dog profit system, they're driving to lower our living standards, speed up production, undermine our rights and further build up their military forces for a future of spreading wars, including the threat of nuclear destruction.

The Socialist Workers Party and its candidates for office in 2022 are campaigning to get out the truth about what working people face and pose a road forward. They join discussions about what we can do together to end the death and destruction brought down on our class worldwide by the capitalist rulers. Join us in helping get the SWP on the ballot!

The SWP campaigns against the invasion and destruction being visited on working people in Ukraine by the KGB-style regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin — the first major land war in Europe in decades. Putin's invasion — and his brutal repression aimed at Russian working people — is a reflection of capitalism's inexorable march toward more national conflicts and a third world war. The SWP demands: Moscow out of Ukraine now! Defend Ukraine Independence! U.S. troops and weaponry — including its nuclear arsenal — out of Europe!

As capitalism's bloody wars expand, they will be accompanied by the rise of fascist movements the capitalists turn to amid their death agony, seeking to protect their crisis-ridden rule from mounting revolutionary struggles. "The future of humanity depends on the independent political organization of the world's toilers to resist the devastation the rulers seek to impose on us," explains Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary, in the article "Washington's Assault on Iraq: the Opening Guns of World War III" in *New International* no. 7. "It depends on our capacity to fight, to win revolutionary battles, and to take war-making powers out of the hands of the exploiters and oppressors by establishing governments of the workers and farmers."

To do this, working people have to overcome a serious obstacle. We have no party of our own. The ruling class uses their two main parties, the Democrats and Republicans, to try to corral workers into "choosing" which is the lesser evil. But *both* serve the interests of capitalists on every question at all times. Neither can be bent to serve the needs of working people.

Working people need to break once and for all from the shackles of capitalist politics and organize our own party, a labor party, to organize and centralize our struggles on the road to taking political power into our own hands. Along this course we can mobilize union solidarity with today's strikes and other battles and fight to overcome the divisions the capitalists use to try to pit working people against each other.

A labor party would advance a working-class foreign policy, based on the common class interests we share with working people in Ukraine, Russia and around the world. It would reject backing our own ruling class, which first and always looks to defend and advance its own predatory interests worldwide.

The Socialist Workers Party and its candidates point to the example set by the socialist revolution made by the workers and peasants of Cuba. Led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, working people in their millions ousted the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. They established a workers and farmers government and nationalized the land, to put it in the hands of the tillers — as well as the country's industry, to produce what workers need, not for private profit.

They reached out the hand of solidarity to workers worldwide, including to 25,000 Ukrainian youth who they treated free of charge after they were stricken by the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl caused by Stalinist disdain.

SWP supporters are campaigning and gathering signatures for the next couple weeks to get on the ballot in New Jersey, and in Minnesota May 17-31. Join us!

Miners strike passes 1-year mark, wins support

Continued from front page

previous owner, Jim Walter Resources, declared bankruptcy in 2015. BlackRock — the largest hedge fund in the world — and other new owners told miners they had to accept deep cuts or the bosses would shut the mine down. Wages, benefits and other gains made by the miners over decades of struggle were slashed. The bosses said when they got back on their feet, they'd make it up to the miners.

But when that contract ran out last year, the bosses refused to budge. The miners went on strike April 1, 2021. The company responded with a war of attrition, including hiring scabs and restarting some production.

They charged that the union was threatening scabs, even though the only violence on the picket line was from scabs or company people who drove their cars into pickets on the road. The company found a compliant judge in Tuscaloosa, who ordered the union to stop all picketing or any union activity within 300 yards of the mine entrances.

The strikers were forced to stop picketing for several months over the winter. They were finally able to win back the right to resume limited picketing a few months ago and are now building on that. "Come and walk the picket line with us!" UMWA President Cecil Roberts told participants at the April 6 rally.

Many unionists joined the miners there. The United Auto Workers from Atlanta organized two buses, and UAW members from Louisville came on the Kentucky AFL-CIO bus, along with other unionists.

Kathy Fowler, president of UAW Local 10, which is made up of retirees from GM's now-closed Doraville plant here, brought a contribution of \$1,000 for the strike fund, one of many contributions and messages from international and local unions that were announced that day.

Anthony Shelton, president of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers In-



Militant/Susan LaMont

Warrior Met miners strike rally, McCalla, Alabama, April 6.

ternational Union, spoke at the rally. "The BCTGM had four strikes last year and we got solidarity and won them," he told the crowd, including in hard-fought battles at Frito-Lay, Nabisco and Kellogg's. "The UMWA and other unions helped us and we're helping you. We're going to win this one!"

SMART Transportation Division, which organizes rail workers, carried an April 4 article on its Facebook page reporting on the yearlong strike, urging union members to attend the April 6 rally. It said, "SMART Transportation Division members are encouraged to show their solidarity with the UMWA."

Delegations also came from UNITE HERE; the Amalgamated Transit Union; United Steelworkers; United Food and Commercial Workers; Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union and others.

Help spread the word about the strike! Organize to get union messages of support and contributions. Checks should be made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Fund and sent to UMWA Strike Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026.

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

Pakistan PM toppled

Continued from front page

leaders of Pakistan are calibrating the best place for themselves.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was ousted April 10 after a vote of no confidence in parliament and replaced with former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Military chiefs dropped their support for Khan after his trip to Moscow on the eve of the Putin regime's invasion, where he was caught on camera telling a Russian official, "What a time to come. So much excitement!"

The U.S. government congratulated Sharif on resuming office. It has long sought an alliance with the rulers of Pakistan. Since 2002 Washington has given the regime in Pakistan more than \$14 billion in military aid. With support by U.S. special forces and drones, the Pakistani government waged deadly attacks on people in areas of the country controlled by the Taliban in 2009.

After Khan took office in 2018, he increased Islamabad's allegiance with the Chinese government. He refused to host U.S. military bases and welcomed last year's Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. In recent years Beijing has expanded its influence in Pakistan at the U.S. rulers' expense.

Like numerous capitalist governments across the region, Pakistan's has become more dependent on economic relations with Beijing. Since 2015 the Chinese government has invested \$75 billion in roads, railways, energy production and pipelines linking China to the Pakistani port of Gwadar. Regular joint military exercises are carried out.

After his election Sharif told parliament, "We will make sure we make Pakistan a paradise for investment." He focused on extending collaboration with Beijing on China's Belt and Road Initiative.

After Khan was booted out, tens of thousands protested across the country. He began laying the groundwork for a political comeback with further rallies planned days after his ouster. Khan denounced the new government as "slaves to America," alleging he was removed in a U.S.-led conspiracy.

Army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Babar Iftikhar denied Khan's claims.

'Everything is more expensive'

The impact of the deepening economic crisis on millions of workers and farmers during Khan's time in office was used by his opponents to get rid of him, and makes his bid to return tough.

Double-digit inflation, including on essential food items, is pushing many toilers to the brink. The cost of fuel is soaring. "I voted for Imran Khan in 2018 but that was the biggest mistake of my life," Hidayat Khan, a taxi driver in Islamabad, told the press. "In the last three years, everything has become more expensive."

Khan's "years in power have seen many poor people simply becoming unable to afford anything other than food," nurse Zarina Bibi said.

Sharif immediately announced a series of social measures to appeal to working people, including an increase in the minimum wage and a plan to raise civil service pensions. He made no proposals on how to fund these.

International Monetary Fund officials put the agency's loan program to Pakistan on hold in February, angered at Khan's announcement of \$1.5 billion in subsidies for fuel and electricity. Payments of \$7 billion to wealthy bondholders on the government's immense national debt are due later this year, but it doesn't hold the cash reserves to make the payment.

Sharif's government also cut electricity to households and industry, as it can no longer afford coal or gas to keep power plants running.

Pakistan is strategically located, with borders on Afghanistan, India and China. The military remains the key decision maker on policy there.

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