Moscow’s troops out now! Defend Ukrainian sovereignty!

BY ROY LANDERSEN
In one of his most brazen acts of murder of innocent civilians in his invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin sent cruise missiles that hit a busy shopping mall June 27 in Kremenchuk, far from the front lines of combat in Donbas, killing 20 and injuring dozens more. These attacks on civilian urban areas, from Kyiv to Kharkiv to Odesa, are a growing part of Moscow’s war to destroy Ukraine as a country and reimpose its domination. Moscow claimed that the target had been a military installation and the mall was abandoned. Or, they said, the attack was carried out by Ukrainian authorities to make Putin look bad. Russia’s deputy United Nations
Continued on page 8

Rail workers resist govt’, boss attacks on safety, pay

US rail workers fight for right to strike, new contract

BY CANDACE WAGNER
After working for nearly three years under an expired contract on the nation’s Class 1 freight rail lines, 23,000 engineers received strike ballots from their union, the Brotherhood
Continued on page 9

40,000 rail workers in UK strike against wage freeze

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN
LONDON — In the first national strike here by an industrial union in decades, 40,000 rail workers stopped work for three days last week. Striking members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union included station, signal, maintenance and track workers, and train crews. Halting work every other day, their action disrupted the rail network for a week. More strikes are planned.

The workers are fighting 13 rail operating companies, which have imposed a pay freeze on workers over the last two years, and Network Rail, the state-run company responsible for rail infrastructure, which refused any
Continued on page 9

US rulers jack up interest rates, deepen crisis for workers, farmers

BY TERRY EVANS
Facing a spreading economic crisis of soaring inflation, especially in things workers need, the U.S. rulers have launched steps that will fuel a deeper downturn in production and jobs. In a model of understatement, Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell told Congress June 22 that the central bank’s interest rate hikes meant a recession was “certainly a possibility.”

Former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers was more explicit. “The crisis of capitalism is accelerating,” Hoeppner replied, pointing to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine. “The stakes for working people are very high. We need to form a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans to organize to take political power into our own hands.”

‘Workers need our own party, a labor party, to take political power’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“We have a lot of people didn’t and since 2016 it’s been one thing after another. That’s why people are looking for solutions.”

“The crisis of capitalism is accelerating,” Hoeppner replied, pointing to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine. “The stakes for working people are very high. We need to form a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans to organize to take political power into our own hands.”

Continued on page 2

SWP statement:
Defend the working class, our families, women’s rights

This statement by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Texas and the party’s 2020 presidential candidate, was released June 25.

The Socialist Workers Party plans to redouble our efforts — our election campaigns, expanding the reach of the Militant and the work of party members in the unions — in defending the working class and our families amid today’s capitalist crisis and by fighting for women’s emancipation as an essential part of that struggle.

Workers and farmers face an onslaught by the bosses and their gov’t, who are determined to try to solve their crisis — a combination of soaring prices and a downturn in production, trade and jobs — on our backs. All this is exacerbated by the effects of Moscow’s attempt to crush
Continued on page 3

UN commission: End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico

BY MARTIN KOPPEL
UNITED NATIONS — “U.S. laws dealing with Puerto Rico have one purpose — to perpetuate the colony,” said Richard López, speaking for the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party. He was one of two dozen pro-independence petitioners at the annual hearing of the U.N. decolonization committee.

“Calling for support to the fight for independence from U.S. rule, López added, ‘We know it’s not by begging the masters in Washington that we’ll achieve equality and justice.”

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Inside
Quebec gov’t language law is blow to working people
Expand use of nuclear power for world energy needs
Ecuador protests demand lower prices, halt foreclosures
On the picket line, p. 5
Calif. nurses fight against inadequate supplies, staffing
Assa Abloy workers strike for pay rise in New Zealand
Workers need a labor party!

Continued from front page

“...I agree we need a workers party,” Winnicki said. “I’m never going to vote for the Democrats again.”

Winnicki teaches 7th grade social studies and is a member of the American Federation of Teachers. He described how classrooms where he taught were contaminated by asbestos.

“This is just one example of the obstacles to struggles being fought by working people. The capitalists encourage opposition to the Militant.”

The Militant teaches the truth about the immediate result, but in the ever expanding historical movement going on under our very eyes. 

“...Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding historical movement going on under our very eyes.” — Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

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Editorial volunteers: Roger Calcro, Seth Galsky, Emma Johnson, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

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Defend families, women’s rights

Continued from front page the independence of the Ukrainian people.

Mistakes are out of work as bosses impose longer and longer workdays and weeks, low wages and unsafe working conditions for those who have no choice but to accept them.

In the U.S. Capitalism’s economic crisis bears down especially hard on the family, with unaffordable housing, high child care costs and rising pressure to care for the sick and elderly. Many young workers find it increasingly difficult to start a family and birthrates are going down.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Women face harder and harder decisions about when and whether to bear a child and how many to have.

In the U.S., where birthrates are going down,

ably and birthrates are going down.

The pressure to care for the sick and elderly, high child care costs and rising pressure to care for the sick and elderly.

Many young workers find it increasingly difficult to start a family and birthrates are going down.

The following is an excerpt from The Revolution Betrayed by Leon Trotsky. It describes how the Russian Revolution set out to create conditions to advance the fight for the emancipation of women and how this vision was set in motion by imperialists and socialists who fueled civil war and overthrown by Stalinist counterrevolution.

BY LEON TROTSKY

The October revolution honestly fulfilled its obligations in regard to women. The young government not only gave her all political and legal rights in equality with man, but, what is more important, did all that it could, and in any case incomparably more than any other government ever did, actually to secure her access to all forms of economic and cultural work.

This was the sacred duty of the family as a substitute for the state in the matter of maintaining order and the social function of the family.

It proved impossible to take the old family by storm — not because the will was lacking. ... Society proved too poor and little cultured. ... You cannot “abolish” the family; you have to replace it. The actual liberation of women is unrealizable on a basis of “generalized want.” 

[After the Stalinist reaction overthrew Lenin’s revolutionary Bolshevik program and policies, the new bureaucratic rulers moved to outlaw abortion.] These gentlemen have, it seems, completely forgotten that socialism was to remove the cause which impels woman to abortion, and not force her into the “joys of motherhood” with the help of a foul police interference in what is to every woman the most intimate sphere of life.

Further reading

See distributors on page 10 or visit pathfinderpress.com
UMWA rallies build solidarity for 15-month strike in Alabama

BY SETH GALINSKY

“This is an opportunity to send another message to Warrior Met,” United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts said in a video posted for union members, urging workers to come to the weekly strike support meeting at the union hall in Brookwood, Alabama, June 29. Some 1,100 coal miners have been on strike against the company for over 15 months.

Roberts noted that union members voted down the company’s contract offer by a margin of 95% when they went on strike April 1, 2021. Miners rejected the contract because the mine owner refused their proposal to restore steep concessions in wages, benefits and work conditions that the union agreed to in 2016 when Warrior Met Coal took over operations from the Walter Resources, which had declared bankruptcy the year before.

“The rallies are so important to show solidarity and put support for the strike and what we’re fighting for,” said Charles Foster, a young miner who had been working at the company for two years prior to the strike started. “We need to keep showing the company that we’re not going to roll over for them.”

The company is known for being prone to high levels of methane gas. In 2001, 13 miners were killed in two gas explosions at the Jim Walter No. 5 mine in Brookwood.

In its May quarterly report, Warrior Met boasts that “the hard work we undertook over the past few years is paying off, as we continued our strong upward trajectory to deliver our third straight quarter of strong profitability.” Company directors have handed out stock dividends worth more than $28 million so far this year to shareholders.

The company’s increased profits come from the rise in the price of metallurgical coal — used in steel production — and, to a large extent, in Ukraine and U.S. sanctions on Russia. Despite hiring scabs and using mine bosses to keep drivers in their trucks during the work-to-rule in Brookwood mines, production is just two-thirds of what it was before the start of the strike, the company admits.

Warrior Met continues to look for new markets for its coal as part of its plan to open a new mine along the Blue Creek in Pennington Gap, Virginia. Miners have been authorized to conduct warrantless searches of workplaces and seize records and equipment for the law.

The strikers have won considerable solidarity from the labor movement and other workers, Roberts said. More is needed!

Join the miners’ weekly strike support rallies in Brookwood. Send checks made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Fund to UMWA Strike Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026. Send messages of support to District 20, 19202 Hwy. 216, McCalla, AL 35111. Email umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

Susan LaMont in Atlanta contributed to this article.

Quebec govt’s language law is blow to working people

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — The National Assembly adopted Law 96 on May 24, declaring French the province’s official common language and enforcing its use. Under the pretext of combating eventual decline of use of French, the bill restricts the use of English and any other language apart from French. The questions posed here are critical for building the revolutionary workers movement in Quebec.

“Law 96 aims to divide workers. Our unions should fight it,” Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for Montreal’s Anjou-Louis-Riel riding in the upcoming elections to the National Assembly. She was speaking at a Mili- tary Labor Front meeting June 15, which is to be not only the unity of the working class at a time when attacks by bosses are sharpening under the impact of the growing crisis of their system.

Under the law, as of June 1 the Que- bec government will make public ser- vices to the population in French only, with the partial exception for the long-established English-speaking commu- nity. English is the first language of close to 15% of the population and the vast majority of immigrants who don’t speak French.

After six months, newly arrived immi- grants will receive social services only in French.

Medical staff will not be able to communicate with patients or with each other in any language other than French, a step denounced by many doctors and nurses as well as immi- grants because it undermines access to health care.

Government inspectors are now au- thorized to conduct warrantless searches of workplaces and seize records and computers to enforce the law.

It limits access to those public univer- sity colleges (called CEGEPs) where the instruction is in English. In Quebec, only children whose parents or siblings had attended English-language schools in Canada, or who are enrolled in English-speaking schools. Many French-speaking youth have until now enrolled in English-speaking CEGEPs in order to improve their English. This right will now be restricted.

In addition, Law 96 adds three class- es for French to students to graduate at CEGEPs, on top of the two they already have to complete. This new requirement was denounced among others by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec-Labrador and sev- eral other Aboriginal organizations.

Many of the linguistic communities speak English and not French as a second language. Learning a third language in a CEGEP will add further barriers to the education of Aborigi- nal youth, who already face a high dropout rate in schools.

Pushed through by the governing Coalition for the Future of Quebec, Law 96 follows the passage of Law 21 in 2019. In the name of “secularism,” that law prohibited many government employees from wearing religious symbols at work, especially targeting Muslim women, and Jews and Sikhs who wear the veil, skullcap or turban.

An increase in bilingualism

Inhabitants of Quebec who are na- tive French-speakers make up some 80% of the population of the province. Historically, they were oppressed and discriminated against by the Cana- dian rulers. This setup provided boss- es with a weapon to foster divisions based on language, allowing them to lower wages and conditions for a section of the working class, weaken struggles by workers to defend our common interests, and undermine the labor movement as a whole.

But these inequalities and divisions were largely overcome through four decades of massive struggles, includ- ing hard-fought strike battles in the 1970s that won the support of work- ers and unions across Canada.

“Contrary to what the government claims, French is not declining in Que- bec,” LeRougetel said. “In 2016 more than 94% of the population could con- verse in French. It is the language most often used at work.”

What is increasing, she explained, is French-English bilingualism. From 1961 to 2016, the percentage of people who were bilingual in Quebec almost doubled, rising from 26% to 45%.

“It is this growing unity of the work- ing class that Law 96 seeks to reverse,” said LeRougetel. “It’s a threat to the bosses and their governments as they try to resolve the deepening capitalist crisis on our backs.”

She noted that this trend is also happening broadly in our unions and the working class is crucial, pointing out that most trade union offi- cials support Law 96, which undercuts the unity workers need.

On all political questions, she said, unions need to act independently of the bosses’ parties and their govern- ments and start from workers’ com- mon interests. That requires building our own party, based on the unions, to lead the fight to take political pow- er out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government.

The forum launched LeRougetel’s campaign for elections that take place Oct. 3. The Communist League will also run Félix Vincent Ardea in the Mar- quette riding, in the west of Montreal.
The Militant July 11, 2022 5

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Calif. nurses fight against inadequate supplies, staffing

Daly City, Calif. Nurses and other workers at the Seton Medical Center here led a successful fight two years ago to keep the hospital from closing, something that would have created a health care desert in this mostly working-class city south of San Francisco. Now the nurses are fighting against unacceptable conditions at the hospital. “Most of all we need adequate supplies and more staffing,” intensive-care nurse Emely Collado told this Militant worker June 23 as she picketed during a two-day strike called by the California Nurses Association.

Necessities that are often surgery supplies, towels and even bed sheets have been lacking. Given these conditions, Collado said, there has been a big turn-over of nurses. Many of the hospital patients are on Medi-Cal and Medicare.

The nurses are protesting the bosses’ decision to close a skilled nursing facility for elderly patients who need ongoing treatment and a general psychiatric ward. That has been closed for seismic repairs.

The nurses have been in contract negotiations since December 2021. According to union spokesperson Julie Tran, hospital management has consistently missed scheduled negotiations. A large “Wanted” sign was posted at the picket line, asking for a new permanent and 50 temporary workers on the permanent and 50 temporary workers on the 

The Militant  July 11, 2022

Bakery workers locked out in Quebec fight for wage raise

Boucherville, Quebec — Near- 

able to sustain yourself and lead a living. “The general perception is that 

It’s all solidarity,” nurse Gina Jacob-

way to make profits while undermining quality health care,” Rosenfeld said. “As long as health care is seen as a business first and foremost, short-term profits will be the only thing that matters to the owners. Only the working class has an interest in organizing society on the basis of human solidarity.”

Gabrielle Prosser

July 14, 1972

“If you work 10 hours a day, you’re not at your peak,” nurse Angie Nolle told this Militant worker June 23, part of a 24-hour strike demanding a pay raise.

The plant employs some 80 perman-
tent and 50 temporary workers, members of the E tu union, who have 20 years seniority but who are being forced to work overtime, said. New workers are hired as an electrical mechanic, said, “We’re going to be giving the best patient care that you can.”

“The profit-first policies of hospital CEOs have created a staffing and retention crisis,” Mary C. Turner, Minnesota Nurses Association president and a registered nurse at North Memorial Hospi-
tal, told the press. “Putting nurses away from the bedside and putting the bottom line ahead of patient care.”

David Rosenfeld, Socialist Work-
er Party candidate for U.S. Congress, spoke with nurse Mary McAlpin about how hospital management is taking humanity out of health care. “Tele-

health shouldn’t be developed into rou-
tine care,” nurse McAlpin said. “There’s too many negatives.”

That’s an example of how every innovation gets warped into another

Over 15,000 nurses across Minnesota are in negotiations. Thousands picketed throughout Twin Cities June 1. Though they face different contracts, demands are a general picture — all to improve pay and benefits. The condition of human solidarity has been made worse by the effects of the COVID pandemic.

“When you’re working and your eight hours or 12 hours, you’re not at your peak,” nurse Angie Nolle told CBS-5 in Duluth, “and it’s your third double that week. Do you think you’re going to be giving the best patient care that you can?”

“The profit-first policies of hospital CEOs have created a staffing and retention crisis,” Mary C. Turner, Minnesota Nurses Association president and a registered nurse at North Memorial Hospital, told the press, “putting nurses away from the bedside and putting the bottom line ahead of patient care.”

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tine care,” nurse McAlpin said. “There’s too many negatives.”

That’s an example of how every innovation gets warped into another

Bakeries and other small plants here organize militantly to strengthen the picket lines. Also participating were striking workers from Rolls-Royce, where workers repair jet engines, and from Novago, a hardware manufacturer.

“We want better working conditions and wages that cover the cost of living,” striker Odette Murekatete told this Militant worker-correspondent. Pickets described how the bosses demand they keep production up with half of the normal workforce. According to Karine Morisciau, a union business agent, there should be 400 workers on the job, but the bosses are running the plant with 300.

Samuel Morin, who was recently hired as an electrical mechanic, said, “We’re fighting for the other workers who have 20 years seniority but who are still not even getting $20 an hour.”

—Joe Young

Militant/Betsey Stone

Quebec fight for wage raise

Boucherville, Quebec — Near-

July 14, 1947

As greedy landlords across the U.S. pressed their organized drive to intimi-

date tenants into signing “voluntary” leases for 15% rent boosts, mass resis-
tance of tenants, largely spontaneous, began to erect a road block in the path of the rent gougers.

In most areas, tenant groups and labor organizations are demanding state and local laws to protect tenants. These include rent-freeze laws without loopholes, moratoriums on evictions and heavy penalties on landlords who try to coerce tenants into paying higher rents in violation of existing laws.

The chief problem facing workers on 10-hour shifts, four days a week. But union shop steward Ralph Greig, who has been consistently using an undis-

“Most Americans thought it horrifying when Gen. Curtis LeMay spoke in 1965 of bombing the North Vietnamese into the Stone Age,” David Rosenfeld, Socialist Work-
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“Now the nurses are fighting against working people,” he said. “Our health care for profit system is stacked against the working class. Only the working class has an interest in organizing society on the basis of human solidarity.”

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Mary C. Turner, Minnesota Nurses Association.
Democrats’ fear of losing 2022 elections, ‘deplorables,’ drives attack on political rights

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Democrats’ probe into the Jan. 6 insurrection into the Capitol building a year and a half ago continues to broaden, with the House select committee convening June 28 of the House select committee probing the incursion. Cassidy Hutchinson, a former White House aide, alleged Donald Trump wanted to join the Jan. 6 march on the Capitol, which he didn’t do. The committee didn’t call a single eyewitness to any of the events to testify.

Officials from the U.S. Secret Service have announced that Tony Ornato and Bobby Engel, the two agents named by Hutchinson, are willing to testify before the panel and dispute her story, CNN reported June 29.

Despite weeks of testimony, the committee has yet to come up with any real evidence of criminality except by Trump that the Justice Department could charge him with. That hasn’t stopped Democrats from expanding their political investigations and their drive to maximize profits at all cost and all of whose economies are distorted in so-called developing countries — about 1,000 transcripts of interviews with the Proud Boys before September, leaving the five locked in jail. Attorneys for one of the defendants, Ethan Nordean, told the Washington Post that the panel was forcing Nordean to choose between a fair trial or the speedy one the Committee on Social Security claimed he was entitled to. He’s been in jail since April 2021.

Enrique Tarrio, the group’s former head, who wasn’t in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6 but was charged and jailed, testified he didn’t expect a fair trial in August or December. The committee hired James Goldston, the former president of ABC News, to produce the hearings as if they were a must-watch docudrama. With seven Democrats and two Republicans on the panel all handcuffed by Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi based on their record of despising Trump, there’s not much they will debate.

“Would he go down in the history books as having been impeached twice,” the Washington Post crowed June 17, “and accused of a crime or crimes by Congress.” But there’s a world of difference between being accused and becoming convicted beyond a reasonable doubt. The hearings are an affront to anyone interested in defending the pre-emption of innocence, something working people have fought to win over centuries.

During the 18 months Democrats have controlled the White House and both chambers of Congress, the crisis facing working people has steadily grown worse with no end in sight as skyrocketing costs for food, housing and gas push families to the brink and conditions on the job become increasingly dire. Recent polls show that six out of 10 Americans disapprove of President Joseph Biden. “I don’t know how much worse it can get,” Milan Ramsey told The Associated Press. A high school student and a Democrat in Santa Monica, California, said she and her husband moved into her parents’ house while her infant son sleep in a car seat.

The party, deeply divided, is pinning its hopes for the 2022 midterm elections and the 2024 presidential vote on the House committee hearings viliifying Trump after allegations he led a “coup.” Their evidence? “Trump Sought to Join Jan. 6 Mob, Enraged He Lunged for Limo Wheel to Go to Capitol,” screamed a headline across the top of the columns of the online front page of the June 28 New York Times, after former White House aide Hutchinson testified.

Democrats tried to impeach Trump in 2021. That failed — just as their first attempt to impeach him in 2019 did. Now they’ve cooked up this panel hoping they can initiate legal proceedings that will end with the former president barred from running again for office.

Television viewership of the House committee’s hearings dropped twice after the first day. A poll cited by CNN found that few have changed their minds during the hearings, with 46% of adults saying the president is guilty and 47% saying he wasn’t.

No matter what your view, trial-by-TV-show is a blow to political rights. Today the working class, more than ever, has a stake in defending constitutional rights, protections and the political space we need as we organize and fight. It’s only by acting together with fellow workers that we will be able to defend ourselves from the sharpening attacks by the bosses and their government.

Expand use of nuclear power for world energy needs

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

For all their pious talk about the climate crisis and the need to end the use of fossil fuels, most capitalist rulers have reversed their overwhelming dependence on nuclear power for the production of electricity sorely needed today.

What is needed is a labor movement that fights for workers control of all aspects of production, backed by the power to shut it down if it poses a risk. It’s the capitalist bosses and their governments and their dog-eat-dog maximization profits — as well as between working people in urban and rural areas here at home.

Across the world, about 930 million people have no access to electricity, most in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. There are also 3 billion with no access to clean fuels for cooking, resulting in many millions of premature deaths each year from indoor smoke and other air pollutants. But the world “energy crisis,” exac-
Continued from front page

Workers need to fight against any rise in unemployment. It would intensify competition for jobs, which the bosses will use to accelerate their assaults on wages and conditions. Summers isn’t too optimistic about the future of capitalism either. At best, he says, it’s a return to what he calls “secular stagnation.” That doesn’t bode well for working people.

The coming slump comes on top of a 40-year-high inflation rate. Capitalist economists blame workers fighting for better wages for causing inflation. The Wall Street Journal’s James Mackintosh bemoans the number of strikes today “...undermining the workers’ ‘empowerment.’” “Stronger unions make for a more inflationary environment,” he claimed June 27.

Whenever workers and farmers face bouts of ruinous price rises, bosses blame those who are striking to defend their living standards. It’s not our wage demands, but the way the profit system works that leads to inflation.

The long-term decline in profit rates, which began in the 1970s, spurs bosses to cut investment on capacity-expanding production and equipment. Instead, they turn to speculation in search of profits. As competition for markets inevitably sharpens, capitalists search for new markets to satisfy competition for jobs, which the ruling class can only afford by dividing Indigenous communities, the working class, and farmers off the land.

Under these conditions, workers are forced to go on strike for higher wages. “Uniting and winning higher wages only means a greater share of the wealth our labor produces goes to us, not into the pockets of bosses,” Conaie leader Leonidas Iza Salazar said at a mass meeting June 27.

Disastrous consequences of the capitalist crisis are being felt by working people worldwide. In the U.K., working people were hit with a 5.4% increase in household energy bills in April. Rail workers there are striking to defend living standards, and other unions are holding strike ballots.

For workers and farmers in the semi-colonial world, the crisis is devastating. From Peru to Sri Lanka, Ecuador to Zimbabwe, tollers are protesting demanding higher wages and action by governments to cut soaring prices.

In Harare, Zimbabwe, hundreds of tobacco workers marched demanding higher wages at Pararenyatwa Hospital June 21. They rejected the government offer of a 100% raise, saying it didn’t come close to the inflation rate of 130%.

Protests took place in Burkina Faso, where in some provinces the price of corn and millet has risen by 122%. “As far as this cost of living that keeps increasing is concerned, we realized that the authorities have betrayed the people,” said Issaka Porgo, president of the coalition organizing the actions against the ruling military junta.

“Working people confront an international crisis,” Kuniaysky said, “and we share interests in common with fellow working people worldwide. We need to organize together against the bosses and governments.”

Workers face broad social crisis

The squeeze on working people is tightening on many fronts. New York City authorities imposed the sharpest rent rise in nearly a decade on over 2 million tenants who live in “rent-stabilized” apartments. Moving across the Hudson River provides no respite. Landlords in New Jersey have filed 40,600 eviction notices in the first half of this year.

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Protests have erupted worldwide fighting soaring inflation. Above, hospital nurses and medical workers protest in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 21. They rejected government pay offer of 100%, saying it didn’t come close to inflation rate of 130%: as food costs, fuel prices are exploding.

Ecuador protests demand lower prices, halt foreclosures

After two weeks of escalating protests by Indigenous groups, the government of Ecuador has given in to some of their demands and is negotiating with them on others. The protests by thousands of workers and peasants provoked by the impact of skyrocketing prices began June 13, initiated by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie).

Above is a June 28 march in Quito, the capital, where thousands of Indigenous protesters have camped out. Sign says, “Cut fuel prices.”

At the top of the groups’ list is the demand to roll back the price of fuel. Diesel has nearly doubled in the last two years. On June 27 Ecuador President Guillermo Lasso cut fuel prices by 10 cents a gallon and lifted the state of emergency he had declared in six provinces. The moves “are not enough,” but are a sign that the movement is making gains, Conaie and other Indigenous groups said in a statement.

Crude oil accounts for nearly half of Ecuador’s export earnings. While profits go up for the oil companies, higher prices of everything from fuel to fertilizer and cooking oil are hitting working people. Nearly one-third of the population lives on less than $3 a day.

The protesters demand debt relief for working farmers, including a cut in interest rates and a moratorium on home, farm and vehicle foreclosures; “fair prices” for farm products; government jobs programs; and a moratorium on new oil drilling and mining.

Protest roadblocks on major highways have virtually paralyzed Quito. Violent clashes with riot police and soldiers, including near the National Assembly, have left five protesters dead and hundreds injured.

“Look around you. You will see some who are whiter, some who are blacker,” Conaie leader Leonidas Iza Salazar said at a mass meeting June 27, answering the government’s accusations that the protesters are a Mafia, not the working people. “People are demanding debt relief...We are not a Mafia, but a protest movement.”

“The workers’ spirits are high and we’re resolved to stay out as long as it takes,” said Borgan. “We demand that the government roll back the price of fuel and other necessities to run a farm.”

The workers’ spirits are high and they’re resolved to stay out as long as it takes. Borgan said that workers had watched the BCTGM strike over the past year at Frigo-Lay, Nabisco, Kellogg’s and the Jon Donaire bakery, all of which show you have to fight to get what you deserve.
Fissures in imperialist "world order" now be on the hot seat, the Moscow attack was "a new Bucha-style Ukrai- nian provocation." There was a brutal- tal occupation of the Bucha suburb of Kyiv in March by Russian forces be- fore they were driven out. The Krem- lin tried to cover up there after the exposure of killings and abuse of residents perpetrated by Moscow’s military command.

In response, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky called on the United Nations to organize an interna- tional visit to the mall, saying it would see that “this is a calculated Russian strike, exactly at this shopping mall.”

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continuing demoralization among shifting commanding officers in frus- tration over the slow pace of advances and continuing demoralization among Russian soldiers. Gen. Alexander Dvornikov — who reportedly took command of Moscow’s invasion with the shift to focusing on Donbas — is now at fault, according to the Col.-Gen. Genady Zhidko appears to now be on the hot seat, the Moscow Times reported June 29.

Fissures in imperialist “world order”

The war — the largest on European soil since the Second World War — has heightened shifts and fissures in the imperialist “world order” that emerged from that war, with Washing- ton as top dog.

As recent battles raged, imperialist leaders held G-7 and NATO summits in Europe.

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy capitalist countries — Cana- da, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S. — met in Bavaria, Germany, June 26-28, followed by a larger NATO gathering in Madrid.

The pretense of unity among these alliances, all heavily dependent on Washington, is increasingly strained as the war drags on. The rulers face their own crises and divisions at home, and are seeking the best path to defend their own imperialist interests, markets and profits. All are embarked on expanding their military capability.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is relying on these frictions and on “war fatigue” among the major capi- talist powers to weaken their moves to stand by Ukraine.

The June 28-30 NATO summit for the first time included Australia, Ja- pan, New Zealand and South Korea. This reflected that while making a show of wide support to Kyiv, all these capitalist governments are increas- ingly focused on the rising challenges posed by Beijing.

President Joseph Biden announced a new escalation of the U.S. “force pos- ture” in Europe to bolster its place as the key European power. This includes a permanent U.S. army headquarters in Poland, a “rotational brigade” in Romania of 5,000 troops and “more defense and other capabilities” in Ger- many, Italy and the Balkans.

Like its European imperialist ri- vals, Washington’s goal is to be in a position to force a deal to its advan- tage onto the Ukrainian government when the time is right.

Openings for fraternization

The Kremlin is scrambling to re- cruit men to fight in Ukraine after heavy losses in the first months of the invasions. The Putin regime has been able to impose a general draft because it would have to admit that this is a protracted war that it isn’t winning, not the “special military operation” paint- ed in state media.

Recruitment offices across Russia are popping up to lure reservists and others into contracts with pay offers and bonuses, up to six times the me- dian Russian salary of $660 a month.

A Russian worker, Vadim Shatrov, who signed up, wrote in his online diary that he enlisted both for financial reasons and because of his patriotic views. Within two days, he was assigned to the 138th motorized rifle brigade in the Belgorod region on a three-month contract.

“The way I see it,” he wrote, “I’m not going to fight against ordinary Ukrai- nians, I’m going to fight with NATO, Nazis and terrorists!”

But as he got closer to the Ukrainian border, he grew more disenchantment. Fellow volunteers returning from “behind the ribbon,” slang for being in Ukraine, told him horrifying war stories. He said, “Out of the four people from Yaroslavl, only one guy came back. He said his com- manders abandoned them there.”

“We’ve had several hundred re- quests from people who wanted to save their contract prematurely,” said Sergei Krivenko, director of the hu- man rights group Citizen. Army. Law. “They say the war is brutal, and it’s not clear to them what they are doing there and who they are fighting against.”

Examples like this show the poten- tial for fraternization between Ukrai- nian and Russian workers, including those in uniform.

Ukrainian resistance continues in occupied Kherson

Kherson, a Ukrainian port on the Black Sea, was the first major city to fall to Russian forces when they invaded Ukraine Feb. 24. It lies near the Crimean Peninsula, which was seized by Moscow in 2014.

“In the first days of the occupation in March, Russian troops faced fierce resistance in Kherson,” Kyiv reporter Olena Mukhina, wrote in Eu- romanian Press. But Moscow’s forces dispersed protesters with rubber bullets and stun grenades. Some 250 civilian leaders were “disappeared” and 70 have since been released, often after being tortured.

Half the population left Kherson in the first three months of the war. Eventually public protests, like that above, dwindled, said Mukhina, “but the resistance didn’t vanish — it went underground.”

Russian flags continue to be replaced by Ukrainian flags in the night. Leaflets saying “Kherson, 10 km to freedom” appeared, warning Russian soldiers that the counteroffensive by Ukrainian forces keeps getting closer to the city.

The occupying forces have shut down Ukrainian TV and radio, im- posed Russian banking and closed Ukrainian phone services. Despite this “Russification,” Moscow’s puppet administration faces serious dif- ficulties. It announced June 7 it would hold a referendum on whether the city should join the Russian Federation, but has never set a date.

When the mayor, refused to cooperate with the oc- cupiers, he was replaced by an official loyal to Moscow. But Kolikhaev set up shop in a public building and has continued running city services.

— R. L.
US rail workers resist attacks

Continued from front page

Free Press. For years he never knew if he’d be home for holidays and other special events. “The only thing faster than a speeding bullet is how fast rail workers are quitting because of the unsafe working conditions and rail bosses’ daily harassment,” Lance Anton, a railroad conductor for BNSF in Lincoln, Nebraska, told the Militant by phone June 20. “From my experience, most of the rail union members I talk to fight the most work rules. We’re told we’ve got to move the freight, then we should have the right to work safely without being pushed to the edge.”

“Rail workers have become second to the huge profits being paid out to stockholders,” he said. “We need to organize, because all rail workers are one big industrial union to fight for workers control over road and yard service.”

Under these conditions, the danger of deadly derailments grows. One freight train derailed at a crossing in Marlin, Texas. Then, four days later, an Amtrak passenger train running from Los Angeles to Chicago hit a truck at an unmarked crossing, derailed outside the town of Mendon, Missouri, killing four and injuring at least 150 more.

Area farmers had been complaining for decades that the crossing and neither the railroad nor area authorities have done anything. “We have to cross this with farm equipment to get to several of our fields,” Mike Spencer told the Kansas City Star. “We have been on the railroad for several years about fixing the approach by building the road up, putting in some lights or just cutting the brush back.”

“They knew it was unsafe,” he added. “That was pretty much a no-brainer.” He said some 85 trains run through every day. The 1926 Railway Labor Act — passed with bipartisan support after workers in a solidarity wave of the four years earlier — was designed to aid the rail bosses and make strikes as difficult as possible.

“We need the right to strike!” “The law is designed to tie us in knots and keep us from using the only power that members of the railroad unions could hold our labor,” Seattle conductor and SMART-TD member Henry Dennison told the Militant June 25. Dennison is also the Socialists in the Workplace candidate for U.S. Senate from Washington state.

“We need to fight to be able to bring our members in railroad and labor four-fairly to bear. These anti-labor laws need to be swept aside,” Dennison said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps and other ministers appear daily on TV, slamming striking workers for inflation by claiming higher wages will lead to an unaffordable “wage-price spiral.” In addition, ministers say public sector workers will also be offered raises below the inflation rate.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer once said workers were “greedy” and said he would back below inflation rises for nurses, teachers and others.

The government announced May 26 one-off payments of up to $650 (579) to millions of workers hardest hit by the current crisis. It hopes this will prevent further union action.

“Workers don’t work for the Chancel-lor Rishi Sunak’s one-off bribes but wages that protect against inflation,” said Pete Clifford, a Manchester rail worker, union activist and leader of the Communist League. Clifford just won his job back after a union-led fight against his sacking by bosses at Carlisle Support Services.

“How can any negotiation pay deal should include automatic cost-of-living rises?,” Clifford said. “The govern-ment’s talk of a wage/price spiral is a cover for what the bosses really don’t like — wages rises that eat into their profits. Rising inflation is not caused by workers’ wage demands, but by the bosses’ profit system. What scares the rulers is that a victory for the RMT would inspire other workers.”

40,000 UK rail workers strike against wage freeze

Continued from front page

Pay increase last year. With U.K. retail price inflation running at over 11%, the rail bosses’ pay offer amounts to another wage cut. Network Rail has offered 3% if the workforce agrees to an efficiency “savings plan,” such as treating Sundays as a normal working day. Most rail workers already face shift schedules that are dangerous and disrupt family life. Rail bosses also plan to throw 2,500 workers out of their jobs.

Workers, unions support strike

“Our pickets have been well supported,” said Clayton Clive, secretary of Manchester South RMT branch, that has called the strike for members at three picket locations around Manchester Piccadilly station at any one time — a real spread of all workers.”

The strike’s fight is winning solidarity. A steady stream of passersby at the busy St. Pancras station in Lon-don expressed support, bringing water and snacks to strikers.

“I work in a nonunion workplace but I support the rail workers and any workers fighting to protect their liv-ing conditions,” said striker Jonathon Murdoch Scott said after delivering the brush back.

“We face very similar attacks on wages and conditions,” striker Milli-can told the Militant.

Government figures reveal the vast majority of workers are getting wage raises below inflation, on average about 4%. Seven hundred British air-ways workers at Heathrow airport are facing a similar cut to real wages and have also voted to go on strike.

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Cuba's women made 'a revolution within the revolution'

Women and the Cuban Revolution, which includes speeches and documents by Fidel Castro, Violeta Espín and others, is one of Pathfinder's book club selections for the Month of July. The excerpt below is from "The Revolution Within the Revolution," a December 1966 speech by Castro given to the Fifth National Plenary of the Federation of Cuban Women. The book explains women's changing role in Cuba as workers and farmers too, a point Fidel Castro discussed in his book about the gains made in fighting against women's oppression in Cuba and how "discrimination with respect to race and sex can only be wiped out through a social revolution." Copyright 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Pathfinder Readers Club Specials

Women and the Cuban Revolution

BY FIDEL CASTRO

This phenomenon of women's participation in the revolution was a revolution within a revolution. [Applause]

And if we were asked what the most revolutionary thing is that the revolution is accomplishing, we would answer that it is precisely this — the revolution that is occurring among the women of our country! [Applause]

If we were asked what things in the revolution have been most instructive, we would answer that one of the most interesting lessons for revolutionaries is that being offered by our women. [Applause] …

We are finding that, in reality, this potency of force is superior to anything that the most optimistic of us ever dreamed of. We say that perhaps at heart, unconsciously, something of a bias or underestimation existed.

For events are demonstrating, even now, the possibilities of women and the role that women can play in a revolutionary process in which society is liberating itself, above all, from exploitation, and from prejudices and a whole series of circumstances in which women were doubly exploited, doubly humiliated. …

This is perhaps one of the greatest victories over prejudices that have existed, not for decades or centuries but for thousands of years. We refer to the behavior that women should do the dishes, wash and iron clothes, cook, keep house, and bear children — [Applause and exclamations] age-old prejudice dismantled.

What have we found? What is being found everywhere in this revolutionary program, as far as the Cuban women are concerned? Well, we are finding a whole series of things such as those I mentioned before: a great sense of responsibility, great seriousness, great discipline and enthusiasm. …

If women in our country were doubled exploited, doubly humiliated in the past, then this simply means that women in a social revolution should be doubly revolutionary. [Applause]

And perhaps this is the explanation, or at least the social basis, for the resolute, enthusiastic, firm, and loyal support given by Cuban women to this revolution. This revolution has really been two revolutions for women; it has made the double liberation of the exploited sector of the country, and second, as women, who were discriminated against not only as workers but also as women, in that sector of society.

The attitude of Cuban women toward the revolution corresponds to this reality. They have suddenly discovered what the revolution has meant to them. And the support of the popular masses for the revolution is directly proportional to what the revolution has meant to them in terms of their liberation.

There are two sectors in this country, two sectors of society which, aside from female emancipation, elicit those motives for sympathizing and feeling enthusiasm for the revolution. These two sectors are the Black population of Cuba and women.

I suppose you recall that in Cuba's old bourgeois constitution, there was an article that declared illegal any discrimination for reasons of race or sex. The constitution declared such discrimination illegal. But a constitution in a capitalist society, or such an article in a capitalist society, serves only as a means for concealing discrimination for reasons of race and for reasons of sex existed in practice. And the basis for all of this was the existence of a class society which practiced exploitation.

In a class society, which is to say, a society of exploiters and exploited, there was no way of eliminating discrimination for reasons of race and sex. Now the problem of such discrimination has disappeared from our country, because the basis for this two types of discrimination has been, quite simply the exploitation of man by man, has disappeared. [Applause]

Much news reaches us from the United States, for example, about the civil rights struggle of Blacks. Nevertheless, racial discrimination in the United States will not disappear until capitalist society itself disappears. That is, discrimination will never be wiped out within the framework of capitalist society. Discrimination with respect to race can only be wiped out through a socialist revolution, which eradicates the exploitation of man by man. [Applause]

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

July

New Jersey: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City, NJ 07087. Tel: (510) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

New York: 366 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Tel: (646) 454-8117. newyorkwp@gmail.com

Ohio: Cincinnati: 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: (513) 837-8308. swpcincinnati@gmail.com

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia: 2824 Coronation Ave., Suite 16. Tel: (215) 708-1270. dflphilaw@hotmail.com

Texas: Dallas-Fort Worth: 6815 Maumathan Blvd., Suite 308 Fort Worth, TX 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. dfwswp@gmail.com

Washington, D.C.: 13th Floor. Tel: (202) 610-2402. dfwswp@gmail.com

Canada:

Quebec: 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Tel: (613) 792-6160. Swpcanada@fastmail.fm

New Zealand:

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1143. Tel: (900) 63-3189. claukx@xxtra.co.nz

United Kingdom

England: London: 5 Norman Road (off the Royal Mail Sorting Office). Post code: N1 4ND. Tel: 020-3358-8900. Email: cdonjon@fastmail.fm Manchester: 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, Manchester M3 3EF. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 321-819. Email: chinmarch@gmail.com

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP
Socialist Workers Party Statement
Back Fight for Puerto Rico independence!

Statement by Sara Lobman for the Socialist Workers Party to the hearing of the U.S. Special Committee on Decolonization of Puerto Rico, June 20, 2022.

Distinguished chairperson and committee members:
My name is Sara Lobman. I am the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate here in New York. My party adds its voice in support of the fight for Puerto Rico’s independence from U.S. colonial rule.

The U.S. rulers have used their colonial domina
tion plus their capitalist plunder to ravage Puerto Rico for a century. From the pharmaceutical plants to the food-processing industry, it is workers who produce that wealth, and U.S. and other capitalists who rake superpro
erfits from their labor.

The U.S. exploits a squeeze working people with cuts in wages, pensions and living standards enforced by the U.S.-imposed fiscal control board to pay wealthy U.S. bondholders on a $72 billion debt. We demand Washington cancel that debt. It is not the workers’ debt, it’s the bondholders’ debt!

My brothers and sisters here have highlighted some of these brutal assaults, which are magnified by colonial rule. Here in the U.S., workers and farmers are ravaged by the same capitalist disaster, by the same bosses producing the same goods, committed to the same profit-seeking ends, knowing that if they don’t, they will be displaced, perhaps by other workers and farmers buying up properties on the island, driving up real estate prices.

The root of the problem, said Juan Dalmay of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, is “that this day, 124 years after making us a possession through military conquest, the U.S. government insists on maintaining Puerto Rico, a Latin American and Caribbean nation, subordinate to its rule. All fundamental decisions on our collective lives are made by Washington.”

Since 1952 the U.S. government has tried to disguise its colonial rule by declaring Puerto Rico a “Commonwealth.” But the U.S. Senate and the neighboring Commonwealth of Puerto Rico movement (MUS) said. But over the years, “this so-called democracy of the Caribbean has been shattered,” leading to decades of economic crisis.

“Puerto Rico is a classic colony,” said Christina Mo
dela of Boricua Unidos in the Diáspora. As a colony, its people have been hit with an on
goingseries of attacks by their overlords in Washing
ton. Norman Perez of Call to Action on Puerto Rico said, “For decades, the U.S. has been running a disaster through its so-called governance.”

Since 2016, thousands of U.S. troops have occupied Puerto Rico. The island’s government has been terrorized by military brutality.

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