

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Soaring prices wreak havoc on working people worldwide

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 38 OCTOBER 17, 2022

Protests in Iran grow over death of Mahsa Amini, gov't repression

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Despite brutal repression by government forces, protests against the police killing of Mahsa Amini have spread to all of Iran's 31 provinces, and among working people from the country's main nationalities and religions. Amini, a Kurdish woman, died Sept. 16, three days after being arrested in Tehran for contravening oppressive dress codes imposed on women. The demonstrations are the largest since 2019 and have inspired solidarity actions worldwide.

In addition to the widespread support for women's equality, the protests are fueled by deep-seated opposition among millions toward government oppression, the denial of fundamental freedoms and the rulers' deadly assaults on those taking to the streets; rampant inflation and growing shortages; and the human and social costs of the Iranian regime's endless military adventures in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. These are paid for in blood by the toiling population in Iran and across the region.

Students and teachers at more than 20
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Back rail workers' fight against boss, gov't attacks on schedules, safety

BY JOE SWANSON

Three days before a Sept. 29 strike deadline set by vote of the 6,600 members of International Association of Machinists District 19 — locomotive machinists, track equipment mechanics and facility maintenance workers — the union announced it had reached a second tentative agreement with most of the national Class 1 railroads and other smaller carriers.

Over 115,000 rail workers in 12 different unions have been negotiating over the past two years or more, confronting rail bosses' demands for further attacks on their schedules, lives and working conditions. At the same time, they've faced the notorious anti-working-class Railway Labor Act, enforced by the Joseph Biden White House, that has kept their fight to advance workers' interests wrapped up in red tape and barred them from striking until now.

The IAM's second tentative agreement includes a cap on health care costs through 2025; reimbursements, including for their own sleeping rooms for
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Kyiv gains ground in east, south Support Ukraine independence!

Putin claims he has 'annexed' Ukraine provinces



OVD-info

At Moscow's Tretyakovskaya metro station Sept. 15, Pyotr Safroshkin's placard reads, "200 days of blood and pain. Do you really want more?" Anti-war protests continue across Russia.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Ukrainian forces reconquered more territory in the country's south and east as they advance against Moscow's seven-month invasion aimed at destroying Ukraine's independence. As his war falters, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed four regions of Ukraine seized by Moscow were now part of "our vast Motherland" Sept. 30. But he controls less of that territory each day.

Ukrainian troops retook the strategic town of Lyman in the country's northeast the next day. Two days later they broke through Russian lines south along the Dnipro River toward Kherson.

Determined to defeat Moscow's drive to conquer their country, Ukrainian

forces are breaking through demoralized Russian troops running out of food and supplies and treated by their commanders as cannon fodder. Most don't want to be in a foreign land and willingly retreat. Putin's response to their losses is to blame his military chiefs.

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Use the 'Militant' to build solidarity with Iran protests, rail workers' fight!



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Demonstrators at Oct. 1 Los Angeles rally in solidarity with protests in Iran discussed road forward with Socialist Workers Party campaigners, getting 11 *Militant* subscriptions, 8 books.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Socialist Workers Party members and *Militant* supporters are joining with thousands around the world who have taken to the streets in solidarity with protesters in Iran, outraged after Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman, died after being detained by the "morality" police in Tehran for not "properly" covering her hair. Many are attracted to the paper's coverage of the continuing pro-

tests in Iran, as well as union struggles in the U.S. and discussing the key questions on how best to defend the interests of working people across the globe.

"We oppose the Iranian bombardment of Kurdish villages," Hikmet Baramani, a Kurd now living in Herndon, Virginia, told Arlene Rubinstein, at a protest of 300 organized by Kurdish groups in Washington,
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The difference a revolution makes — How Cuba, Florida faced Hurricane Ian

BY SETH GALINSKY

Both Cuba and Florida suffered serious damage from Hurricane Ian. In Pinar del Río, Cuba's hardest hit province, some 53,000 homes were damaged, more than 5,000 destroyed, and the tobacco processing industry — a major source of hard currency — was almost wiped out. The electrical grid was completely shut down for the better part of a day, the first time that has ever happened.

In Florida, thousands of homes and acres of vegetables and other crops were destroyed when the storm hit Sept. 28. The hardest hit areas still had no electricity or drinking water five days later.

That's where the similarities end.

In Cuba only three people died, while in Florida, six days after the storm made
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Get out the truth about White House, Democrats' assault on constitutional rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The sweeping assaults being carried out against constitutional freedoms by the Joseph Biden White House, other Democrats and the FBI is the central issue for working people in the class struggle today. Their target is to crush Donald Trump and drive him out of politics and, more importantly, to put harsher restraints on the tens of millions of working people who voted for him, those
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Locked-out Quebec longshore workers fight 12-hour shifts

UK unions broaden strikes against inflation, boss attacks

Assault on constitutional rights

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Biden insists are all “semi-fascists.”

The FBI’s drive to get Trump began before he was elected in 2016 and has escalated and expanded ever since. Its methods include spying, raids and disruption operations, along with feeding cooked-up “evidence” to prosecutors and Democratic-run congressional committees. To aid their work, the Democrats and the liberal press heap praise on the U.S. rulers’ chief political police, working overtime in an attempt to refurbish the spy agency.

Along with their prosecutors, courts and prisons the FBI is key to the capitalist rulers hold on state power. This campaign by the Democrats is a deadly threat to the working class. It’s the result of the deep crisis of the rulers’ two-party system.

Freedom of speech, the press and assembly; protection from unreasonable search and seizure; the right to a speedy trial by our peers; against cruel and unusual punishment; and many more freedoms codified in the Constitution are crucial for working people. They’re essential when we seek to use our unions to fight for better wages and conditions, to speak out against oppression and injustice no matter who is being targeted, and to mount opposition to the U.S. rulers’ imperialist wars.

Each of these freedoms has been trampled on during the six-plus years Democrats have driven to break Trump and his family.

Under the guise of protecting “national security” — trotted out whenever the rulers seek to violate the Constitution — the Justice Department demanded the reversal of a review of materials snatched in the FBI raid on Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home, in a Sept.

30 court motion. It seeks to use the material against Trump leading up to the November elections.

As the FBI becomes an increasingly important weapon for the Democrats’ drive to hold onto office, its political police methods have been turned loose on others.

Mark Houck, co-president of The King’s Men, a Catholic men’s ministry, and regular participant in protests outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Philadelphia, became an FBI target and was arrested in a raid by at least 20 FBI agents at his home in suburban Kintnersville in front of his children Sept. 23.

He had been charged with violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act for his involvement in an altercation with a patient escort at the clinic in October 2021. Even though the notoriously liberal Philadelphia district attorney, Larry Krasner, chose not to prosecute Houck, the Biden Justice Department decided to go after him anyway.

Houck contacted prosecutors and volunteered to give himself up whenever they asked. But the Justice Department chose to ignore his offer so they could stage the publicized raid on the family’s home, branding him as a dangerous criminal.

His wife, Ryan-Marie, says agents had “guns drawn” before shackling her husband. “The kids were all just screaming.”

Political police operate in secrecy

The capitalist ruling families need a political police that operates in secrecy, lies with impunity and is free to go after whoever the rulers target.

That is how the FBI carried out its spying on Trump’s 2016 campaign. Ex-FBI

Protest FBI raids on African People’s Socialist Party, Uhuru



MINNEAPOLIS — Thirty people took part in an Oct. 1 meeting here to demand, “Hands off the Uhuru Movement: Stop FBI attacks on the African People’s Socialist Party groups, African People’s Solidarity Committee, and Uhuru Solidarity Movement.” The meeting was organized by Uhuru to oppose the predawn raids by the FBI on the offices and homes of leaders and members of the African People’s Socialist Party and Uhuru on July 29 in St. Petersburg, Florida, and St. Louis, on the pretext that the groups are unregistered foreign agents of Moscow.

African People’s Socialist Party Chairman Omali Yeshitela, above center, described how armed FBI agents backed by local cops used battering rams to break down the doors and threw flashbang grenades. Brandishing automatic weapons, they handcuffed those there at gunpoint, while agents seized laptops, financial records, office equipment and files.

Gabrielle Prosser, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor, participated in the meeting with a campaign statement against the raid.

“The Socialist Workers Party campaign condemns the violent, armed raids by the FBI on the African People’s Socialist Party and Uhuru,” the statement said. “The use of the political police by the ruling class and their government — this time by the Democratic Party Biden administration — is a deadly threat to the democratic rights of the working class. We must all act on the labor motto, ‘An injury to one is an injury to all!’”

— HELEN MEYERS

spy Igor Danchenko will go on trial Oct. 11, charged by a special federal prosecutor appointed while Trump was still president for lying to the agency about his part in fabricating the notorious and lurid Steele dossier in 2016. It was full of false allegations that Trump was a pawn of Moscow. The dossier’s author, former British spy Christopher Steele, was cut off by the FBI in November 2016. But that didn’t mean they backed off using his report to justify targeting Trump, his family and allies for FBI assault.

In March 2017, FBI bosses started paying Danchenko, who they knew to be the primary “source” of Steele’s fabrications, as an informer, part of former-FBI boss Robert Mueller’s impeachment probe aimed at bringing down Trump.

Danchenko is now accused of hiding the fact that his “evidence” that Trump colluded with Moscow in fact came from a Democratic Party operative linked to Hillary Clinton.

The FBI kept Danchenko on its payroll until October 2020, when Trump’s Justice Department announced a probe into FBI spying on the former president.

A new book, *Unchecked: The Untold Story Behind Congress’s Botched Impeachments of Donald Trump*, by Rachael Bade and Karoun Demirjian, recounts some of the frame-up methods used to shred constitutional protections against government attack. The authors document how Democratic House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler

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THE MILITANT

Lebanese toilers protest banks freezing their money

As Lebanon faces its worst-ever economic disaster, with the world’s highest inflation and its currency’s loss of 90% of its value, banks have frozen deposits, limited withdrawals. The ‘Militant’ covers protests by workers against effects of the deepening capitalist crisis.



AFP/Anwar Amro
Sali Hafiz, right, May 23 in Beirut, who demanded her money after bank froze funds.

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Use 'Militant' to build solidarity

Continued from front page

D.C., Oct. 1. Rubinstein is the SWP candidate for Washington, D.C., delegate to the House of Representatives.

The regime in Tehran has unleashed deadly attacks on villages in the Kurdish region of Iraq as part of its repression against those speaking out against the death of Amini. "We are not just speaking out for the Kurdish people," Baramani added. "We are expressing ourselves with solidarity for the Iranian people who are struggling for freedom against a regime that opposes its people."

Rubinstein showed Baramani the *Militant*, which along with articles on the protest movement in Iran, featured coverage of Moscow's war on Ukraine. "I support the Ukrainian people, whose only crime is defense of their country," he said.

"It's in the interests of all working people to act in solidarity with the fight for women's freedom," Rubinstein said. "The solidarity and unity of Iranians and Kurds is important." That kind of unity is also important in Ukraine. "The fraternization between the workers of Ukraine and Russia has the power to end the war," Rubinstein said. Baramani subscribed to the *Militant*.

Many at the protest headed to Faragut Square to join an action of 2,500. Chants in Farsi and English called out "Women, life, freedom." At the two protests participants picked up 10 copies of the *Militant* and two Farsi language books, *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* and *Pages from History: Women and Revolution* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. The Farsi books are published by Talaye Porsoo Publications, which has translated over 40 Pathfinder titles.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are on an eight-week campaign to sell 1,350 *Militant* subscriptions and the same number

of books and pamphlets that offer a revolutionary road forward. In the U.S. they are also raising \$140,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund. (See chart below).

Everywhere they go — from Iran protests to knocking on workers' doors, on union strike picket lines, rail yards where workers are discussing proposed national contracts, actions in support of the year-and-a-half long strike by Warrior Met coal miners in Alabama and other labor battles — they're introducing people to the *Militant* and inviting them to join them in backing these strikes and taking part in other struggles.

Members of the Communist League participated with the thousands, many Iranians and Kurds, who filled Trafalgar Square in London Oct. 1, in solidarity with the protests in Iran.

Protests can make a difference

"The outcome of the struggle in my country will affect people in every country," Azalia Khosravi told Dag Tirsén. She described how her mother had been part of the resistance in Iran, while being forced to wearing a hijab over 40 years ago as counterrevolutionary Islamist forces were consolidating their regime by rolling back the gains of the 1979 revolution. Khosravi was among the protesters who bought six subscriptions to the *Militant* and 19 books.

In East Orange, New Jersey, Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, and SWP member Terry Evans knocked on the door of Antoinette Coke Oct. 2. Coke told them she had quit her job as a home care worker because of escalating costs for transportation and several on-the-job injuries.

"Too many people have to work two or three jobs," Coke said, adding she wasn't convinced there was anything unions alone could do to change that. But when Kuniansky — a member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union — described some of the strikes her union was waging at Ingredion in Iowa and Corn Nuts in California, Coke wanted to learn more.

"Unions are our organizations," Coke said. "They're all we've got to defend ourselves."

"Real change comes when working people join together to fight," Kuniansky said, describing the Black-led working-class movement that overturned Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and '60s and the fight by coal miners to take back their union and use it to win health care and union control over working conditions underground in the '70s.

"There's a lot of history they don't want us to know about," Coke said. "We need to change the system." She got a subscription to the *Militant* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

At the Brown County Fair in Georgetown, Ohio, Sept. 29, SWP member Anthony Dutrow introduced Jacquie Henderson,



Brown County 4-H

4-H members show animals at this year's Brown County Fair in Ohio. SWP candidates and supporters met farmers at the event, discussed need for fighting alliance of workers and farmers.

the party's candidate for Congress, to Brenda Murray. Murray was at the fair with her family, helping her great-grandchildren exhibit their animals in the 4-H tent.

Campaigning at Ohio fair

Dutrow explained the party was running candidates across the country, discussing with workers and farmers the need for us to come together in our millions and build our own party, a labor party based on our unions. Such a party could point a road forward toward working people taking political power.

"This is great," Murray said, shaking hands with Henderson and looking through a copy of the *Militant*. "I do think people who work need to stand together. I have learned that from my own family's experience."

"My dad was a coal miner in Ken-

tucky," she said. "He was part of the struggles with the coal bosses there and died of black lung. My husband was strong in the bakery workers union, the BCTGM, and he ended up dying from what he breathed in the factory."

"I just didn't know that there was a party like yours, I want to know more," she added as she looked over books by SWP leaders. She chose *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* and *In Defense of the US Working Class* along with a subscription. She donated \$5 to the SWP Party-Building Fund and exchanged phone numbers with Henderson and Dutrow so they can continue talking.

Join in getting out the word about today's working-class strikes and struggles and building solidarity, using the *Militant* to get out the truth. Contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

Fight assault on constitutional rights

Continued from page 2

concluded the first impeachment drive would appear to be "unconstitutional." "We don't have due process," Nadler admitted, and the president was not given "ample opportunity to defend himself."

To get around Nadler's doubts, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi removed Nadler's Judiciary Committee from any role in the impeachment show trial, replacing it with the House Intelligence Committee headed by Adam Schiff. Schiff had none of Nadler's qualms.

The presumption of innocence, the right to call witnesses and to confront your accuser are hard-fought con-

quests won over decades. Workers must defend them, regardless of who is charged. Frame-up methods commonly used to chew workers up in the capitalist "justice" system are now used by Democrats against a rival capitalist politician, aided and abetted by FBI spying and disruption.

This will pick up as the election draws closer. In the long run, the capitalist ruling class increasingly fears what is building up among millions of workers and farmers who bear the brunt of the unfolding capitalist crisis today. The rulers know they're going to need their political police more and more.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund Sept. 17 - November 15 (week two)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	75	29	75	22	\$9,600	\$658
Chicago	110	59	110	37	\$14,000	\$1,760
Cincinnati	70	16	70	6	\$6,000	
Dallas-Fort Worth	65	24	65	27	\$5,000	
Lincoln	15	5	15	2	\$500	
Los Angeles	90	26	90	30	\$15,250	
Miami	45	8	45	4	\$5,750	\$790
Minneapolis	70	12	70	16	\$5,500	
N. New Jersey	70	23	70	22	\$7,500	\$491
New York	115	25	115	15	\$21,000	\$294
Oakland	90	22	90	25	\$15,500	\$2,520
Philadelphia	50	11	50	12	\$6,000	
Pittsburgh	65	20	65	10	\$6,000	
Seattle	75	16	75		\$14,500	
Washington	50	8	50	11	\$4,600	
Other				47		
Total U.S.	1055	304	1055	286	\$136,700	\$6,513
Prisoners	50	36				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	15	40	25		
Manchester	40	10	40	9		
Total U.K.	80	25	80	34		
Canada	80	11	80	31		
Australia	30	12	30	6		
Total	1,295	388	1,245	357	\$136,700	\$6,513
SHOULD BE	1,350	338	1,350	338	\$140,000	\$35,000

Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidates

California

Eleanor Garcia, US Senate
Joel Britton, Governor
Deborah Liatos, US Congress

Florida

Rachele Fruit, Governor
Steve Warshell, US Senate

Georgia

Lisa Potash, US Senate
Sam Manuel, Governor

Illinois

Naomi Craine, Governor

Minnesota

Gabrielle Prosser, Governor
Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor
David Rosenfeld, US Congress

Nebraska

Joe Swanson, US Congress

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, US Congress
Lea Sherman, US Congress

New York

Sara Lobman, US Senate
Willie Cotton, Governor

Ohio

Samir Hazboun, US Senate
Jacquie Henderson, US Congress

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate
Candace Wagner, Governor
Chris Hoepfner, US Congress

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, Governor
Gerardo Sanchez, US Congress

Washington, DC

James Harris, Mayor
Arlene Rubinstein, Delegate to House

Washington state

Henry Dennison, US Senate

Soaring prices wreak havoc on working people worldwide

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Rising prices are wreaking havoc with the lives of working people and our families worldwide. Inflation reduces the value of our wages as we confront higher costs for food, fuel, housing and other essentials, and rising debts.

Now we confront an expanding slowdown in capitalist investment, production and trade, increasing prospects that workers and farmers will confront an extended period of stagflation — where inflation eats into our living standards at the same time bosses cut back amid tightening markets, and competition among workers for jobs sharpens.

Despite this, the big-business media claim the economy is doing just fine, pointing to an unemployment rate of only 3.7%. They contend many new jobs are being created. But this masks the situation working people face.

A large number of newly created jobs are at low pay, forcing an increasing number of workers to take on a second

or even a third job to make ends meet. At the same time, bosses are hiring part-time workers with few if any benefits, and pushing speedup, as part of their drive to defend their profits and to weaken our unions.

In August those working full time actually dropped by 242,000, the third monthly decline in a row. Soaring prices for food, energy and housing hit working people especially hard.

Sizable protests against these assaults have been held in many countries. In France thousands joined protests in dozens of cities Sept. 29 during a one-day walkout called by the CGT union federation. They denounced rising food prices and moves by French President Emmanuel Macron to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 or 65. “Increase our salaries, not the age of retirement,” Metro conductor Ludovic Le Ny, told the *Wall Street Journal* in Paris.

The day before in the Czech Republic thousands protested in Prague. “I can’t



Reuters/David W Cerny

Thousands protest ruinous inflation in Prague, Czech Republic, Sept. 28, one of several actions around the world demanding relief from the crushing impact of unfolding capitalist crisis.

provide my daughter with the things I had as a kid,” Claudia Trantina told the *New York Times*. “I can’t do things like take her to the zoo or restaurants.”

In the U.S. workers have not seen a rise in real wages since the 1970s, making it increasingly difficult for young workers to move out of their parents’

homes and have a family.

The increase in interest rates Sept. 21 by the Federal Reserve raised what workers owe on credit card debt, mortgages and car loans. Average home mortgage rates rose to 6.7%, the highest rate in over 15 years.

The depth of the social crisis is reflected in the fact that opioid overdoses remain at record levels; suicides are on the rise, particularly among males ages 15 to 24; the birthrate has fallen to its lowest level since 1979; and life expectancy has declined to 76 years, its lowest level in more than 25 years.

Rising prices worldwide

Inflation in the 19 European Union countries that use the euro as a common currency hit a new high at 10% in September, the 11th consecutive monthly rise. The crisis is deepened by Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and its impact on gas supplies. Energy prices rose 40.8% across the eurozone, where workers in half the countries face double-digit inflation. In three Baltic states prices jumped over 20%.

In September inflation in Germany, Europe’s strongest economic power, hit a 71-year high of 10.9%, while production declined. The European Central Bank is considering raising interest rates again in October. Three months earlier it did so for the first time since 2011.

Protests have been organized across Asia, Latin America and Africa, where working people have been hit hardest by out-of-control price rises. Rail and port workers in South Africa, members of the United National Transport Union at Transnet, will strike Oct. 6 after rejecting a paltry 1.5% pay raise. Prices, especially for housing and health care, the union points out, are soaring.

For decades China has been a haven for investment and profits for imperialist powers and its own capitalists. Today it is increasingly affected by the worldwide crisis. The World Bank has slashed its economic outlook for the Asia-Pacific region, and is projecting the Chinese economy to grow by just 2.8% this year. Meanwhile, China’s currency, the renminbi, fell to its lowest level since 2008 against the dollar, which has been strengthened in relation to other currencies by the Federal Reserve’s decision to raise interest rates.

The social and economic crisis in China increases prospects for struggles by workers and farmers. Protests swept Shanghai in April against a brutal government lockdown, and Zhengzhou in July by residents angry at banks that froze access to millions of dollars of their lifesavings.

The difference a revolution makes — Ian hits Cuba, Florida

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landfall near Fort Meyers, more than 90 were confirmed dead. With hundreds of homes washed into the sea, entire mobile home parks wiped out, and farmworkers trapped on flooded farms, the real number of deaths will never be known.

This is not the result of a huge disparity in the destructiveness of the storm. It’s because in the U.S. working people are largely left on their own before, during and after a storm. In Cuba, the government mobilizes and leads working people to be prepared in advance, to make sure no one is left on their own, despite hardships and scarcities caused by Washington’s brutal 60-year economic war against the Cuban people and their revolution.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a “mandatory” evacuation order, but offered no government help for workers to do so. In the absence of serious government action, working people there stepped forward themselves to save others during the storm.

Rafael Baca, who lives in Tampa’s Palmetto Beach, was one of those who stayed. “We don’t have the money for it now, to just leave,” he told the *Washington Post*. Baca was lucky. Tampa missed the brunt of the storm, which struck further south, including Lee County.

Many who tried to evacuate were caught in bumper-to-bumper traffic. For workers without a car, DeSantis announced people could get a \$30-off voucher if they called Uber for a ride to a shelter.

As the storm neared, the governor changed course. He told people it was no longer safe to evacuate and they should “hunker down” wherever they were.

They didn’t get much help after the storm either. “Our cars are ruined. We haven’t had any water or food delivered to the area,” Craig Ruke in Fort Meyers Beach told the *Miami Herald* Oct. 2. “Everyone on this island is cut off.”

“As of this morning, nobody has brought in supplies besides the people trying to get to the island themselves to check on loved ones or if they still have a home,” Denise Martinez on Pine Island posted on Facebook. “All of the people on the island need food, water,

gas, propane, they do not even have a roll of toilet paper.”

Thousands are now homeless and, because of prohibitive cost, less than 20% of homes in the hard-hit areas had flood insurance.

Cuba: No one left on their own

Despite the U.S. economic war against Cuba, the government ensures no one is left on their own. That’s because working people led by Fidel Castro ousted the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959, bringing to power a government of workers and farmers, and opening the road to a socialist revolution.

The Civil Defense Committee — which is organized by the government and works with the neighborhood Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Federation of Cuban Women and other mass organizations — organizes practice sessions so that people across the island know what to do and where to go when a storm is on its way.

Nearly 40,000 people in Pinar del Río alone were evacuated from their homes. Similar evacuations took place from high risk areas across the country.

Up to the last minute, workers and volunteers across the country were cleaning drainage ditches and gratings, removing gasoline pumps from gas stations and doing what they could to protect critical infrastructure.

Medical personnel along with food and medical supplies were sent to more isolated areas ahead of time to make sure they had the resources needed.

Even so, given their resources and the U.S.-rulers’ embargo, the storm shut down the island’s entire electrical system. Without electricity, food spoiled in a country already facing shortages.

Over the last two decades, the revolutionary government and electrical workers have worked to build safeguards into the grid, which was designed in the 1960s with antiquated technology from the Soviet Union. That interlinked system was very vulnerable if even one major unit went down.

Today there are some 20 interconnected electrical subsystems — more than twice what existed up until 2005 — that made it possible to restore power

step by step in the eastern, central and western regions and then relink most of the system. In Pinar del Río, where the damage was the most severe, it will take longer.

After several days of power outages some young people in Havana and other parts of the country staged protests demanding speedier restoration of power.

“Protesting is a right,” Luis Antonio Torres Iríbar, president of the Provincial Defense Council in Havana and head of the Communist Party there, said on TV Sept. 30. He noted that Cuban leaders went to the protests to discuss and explain what was being done.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel was on the scene in the hardest hit provinces soon after the storm was over. “We have to resolve this ourselves, with our own efforts, our own talent,” he said in an Oct. 2 statement from Pinar del Río. Members of the Federation of Cuban Women are going door to door to organize everyone into the effort.

An Oct. 1 article in the daily *Granma* noted that repairing the damage from Ian is a challenge. It comes on top of an Aug. 5 fire that destroyed half of the oil storage tanks at Cuba’s largest distribution facility in Matanzas.

The article reported workers stepped forward, including “those who have turned their homes into a recharging center for cellphones, those who share their stored water with their neighbors, those who cook for the family on their block who doesn’t have gas, those who after protesting, joined shoulder to shoulder with the president of the Municipal Defense Council to clear the streets of trees and debris.”

“When to some it seems there is no way out,” the paper editorialized Oct. 1, “Cuba has always found it with united work, solidarity and the participation of its own people.”

Unlike Florida, where most government “aid” will be channeled through capitalist contractors who will enrich themselves, in Cuba volunteer brigades of workers and youth from across the island are already joining together to clean up, replant crops and to rebuild homes.

That’s the difference a revolution makes.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Locked-out Quebec longshore workers fight 12-hour shifts

QUEBEC CITY — Spirits were high at the union tent on the main road into the Port of Quebec City Sept. 26, when Felix Vincent Ardea, a Canadian National Railway train conductor and member of the Teamsters union, and this *Militant* correspondent visited the picket line to bring solidarity.

The 81 dockworkers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, were locked out Sept. 15 two weeks after they voted to take strike action. They had been working-to-rule to put pressure on the port bosses to negotiate, workers told us. Then security guards told them to get their things and get out.

A sign painted on a wall of the tent said, “81 families thrown onto the street.” A second sign listed the names of 14 management “scabs,” charging them with “betraying the longshore workers.”

Another sign used biting irony to refer to the central issue in the fight — the bosses’ efforts to impose 12-hour work shifts. It said, “Wanted, longshore workers. Single, no children, no friends, available 24/7.”

Vincent Ardea pointed to the similarity between the conditions the longshore workers face and those of rail workers, whose work schedules also wreck family life and create exhaustion on the job. This is a recipe for accidents that can cause injury and death to the workers and others living near the tracks, he said.

“With our eight-day ‘strike for safety’ in 2019 we were able to prevent the CN bosses from imposing worse and more dangerous conditions on us,” he said. He told pickets he was standing as a Communist League candidate in the Oct. 3 Quebec provincial election.

“It’s really terrible that the employer is capable of showing our members the door while we’re still at the bargaining table,” said Dominic Cordeau in a Sept. 15 Canadian Union of Public Employees statement. Negotiations for a new contract began last June.

The port bosses claim that the longer shifts are required because of a labor shortage. “Diminishing the quality of working conditions is no way to attract

new workers, and the members are mobilized on this issue,” Cordeau said.

“The position of the parties are irreconcilable,” the company says. “In the present context the union demands are impossible to satisfy.” Negotiations are scheduled to take place this month.

The Port of Quebec City is one of the five most important ports in Canada, handling both container cargo ships as well as passenger cruise liners.

— John Steele

UK unions broaden strikes against inflation, boss attacks

MANCHESTER, England — More than 160,000 workers, including rail, postal, dockworkers and others, held a one-day strike across the U.K. Oct. 1, protesting sharp price raises and attacks on job conditions.

Railroad signalers, platform workers, conductors and drivers joined a lively picket line at Manchester Piccadilly rail station here. This was the first strike bringing together workers from all three main rail unions — Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and Transport Salaried Staff Association.

“I’m proud of this,” Andy Hourigan, ASLEF North Western district organizer, told the *Militant*. “The rail companies play one off against another. We’ve not fallen for this. To see the unity today is important.”



Manchester South RMT

Some 160,000 workers, including rail, postal and dockworkers, held a one-day strike across the U.K. Oct. 1 to protest rising prices, job conditions. Above, at Manchester Piccadilly station.

In all, 54,000 rail workers joined the Oct. 1 action. Backed by the government, rail bosses say they will only offer a pay raise that matches inflation if workers accept attacks on jobs and conditions. The ASLEF plans a further strike Oct. 5 and the RMT Oct. 8.

“Royal Mail bosses aren’t budging,” Communication Workers Union representative Darryl Daly told the *Militant* on a picket line of 30 workers at the postal delivery office in nearby Ashton.

“They want to make our conditions like the gig economy, with new starts on different terms and conditions, no sick pay and less holidays. You can’t be work-

ing alongside someone on less money. They want enforced Sunday working at straight time instead of double time.”

Here in Manchester a rally held on the Oct. 1 strike day drew more than 500 people.

“It’s on the picket line and organizing by the unions that we’ll survive the cost-of-living crisis,” Clayton Clive, RMT Manchester South branch secretary, told the crowd to loud applause. The rally was organized by Enough is Enough, a group of national union officials and Labour Party members of Parliament.

—Pete Clifford, member of RMT in Manchester

Corn Nuts strikers ‘more united than when we started’

BY BETSEY STONE

FRESNO, Calif. — After a month and a half on the picket line, the 40 workers on strike at the Corn Nuts plant here remain determined to win a union contract that includes affordable medical insurance. They’re members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Local 85.

“We are more united than when we started — Hormel underestimated us,” striker Larry Cuevas, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent at the picket tent Oct. 2. The plant is the only one in the country that produces the popular snack.

When Hormel bought the Corn Nuts factory from Kraft Heinz in June 2021, the international food conglomerate bosses refused to negotiate with the union and replaced its health plan with one substantially inferior.

As a result, striker Lulu Castro said, she now has thousands of dollars of medical debts. Her picket sign read, “Workers for Affordable Healthcare.”

Local 85 Financial Secretary Jerry Gil and International Business Agent/Organizer Alejandro Ahumada described how 13 emergency vehicles had to be called in to respond to a fire in the

plant Sept. 30, after untrained and inexperienced strikebreakers lost control of the roasting process. Dangerous levels of carbon dioxide triggered alarms, forcing a complete evacuation of the plant.

Cuevas, who has worked there for 33 years, said too much carbon dioxide in the confined space of the plant can displace the oxygen needed for breathing and be deadly.

The strikers have been encouraged by the support they’ve gotten from Teamster truck drivers, who have honored their picket lines and refuse to make deliveries. Locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, whose members work for Hormel at plants in Georgia, Minnesota and elsewhere, have lent their weight to the strike, demanding Hormel settle with the BCTGM. UFCW workers at Hormel face contract negotiations in the coming months.

BCTGM President Anthony Shelton and Secretary-Treasurer David Woods came here to picket with strikers for two days in September.

The strikers need all the help they can get! Join the picket line and drop off supplies at 4343 E. Florence Avenue in Fresno. Donate to Local 85’s Strike Fund/GoFundMe page. Send messages of support to Jerry Gil at Jerry@BakersUnion85.com. Follow the strike on the BCTGM website, its Facebook page and #CornNutsStrike.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 20, 1997

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Tens of thousands of workers and youth marched here Oct. 1 as part of a 24-hour general strike to protest the proposed sale of the Puerto Rico Telephone Co. One of the most popular slogans was “Puerto Rico is not for sale!” Estimates of the number of people at the march ranged from 150,000 by the union organizers to 60,000 by police.

The strike stopped ferry service to the island of Vieques, where several hundred marched. Of the 6,000 union members at the telephone company, only 28 crossed the picket line. Participation was high among other utility workers. There were no classes at any of the 11 campuses of the University of Puerto Rico.

The general strike marks the second time in seven years that the trade union movement has organized mass protests against selling the telephone company.



October 20, 1972

The following statement was released by Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Linda Jenness Oct. 10.

The Nixon administration has announced it is “screening” all Arabs living in this country or traveling through the U.S. Representatives of various Arab organizations have reported that FBI or other government agents have been following them around, holding them for interrogation, fingerprinting them, and issuing threats of unspecified reprisals against them.

These moves pose dangers for democratic rights. Such measures as surveillance, detention, interrogation, and travel restrictions are infringements on civil rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

I urge all supporters of democratic rights to unite in defense of any persons victimized by these measures and to speak out immediately against restrictions on our rights.



October 20, 1947

[President] Truman’s campaign to reduce the food consumption of the American people — The “Eat Less-Waste Less” program — has quickly been revealed as a fraud. The workers are eating less, all right, but that’s because prices have taken another spurt.

Truman’s “Meatless Tuesdays” and “Poultryless and Eggless Thursdays” are pure ballyhoo. The net effect has been a “run” on scarce food items, as people with money stocked up. The real purpose of the program is to shift the responsibility for high prices from the profiteers to the working people. When the program fails, the blame will be placed on the low-income consumers who “refuse to sacrifice.”

Workers can protect their living standards most immediately and effectively by winning higher wages supplemented by adjustable cost of living bonuses automatically rising with rising prices.

New International
A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934-present
Intercontinental Press
International news magazine
1963-86
Online at themilitant.com
pathfinderpress.com

Back rail workers' fight for safety

Continued from front page

away-from-home assignments and per diem for travel expenses; and yet more negotiations over the bosses' call for forced overtime.

IAM members still need to vote on these proposals. Their first agreement was rejected Sept. 14 by 75%.

Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 4,000 strong, voted up an agreement Sept. 28, joining 13,000 members of two other rail unions — the Transportation Communications Union and Brotherhood of Railway Carmen — with ratified contracts.

Many conductors and engineers, members of the two largest rail unions — the Transportation Division of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD) and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, combined totaling over 60,000 workers — remain dissatisfied and angry about the tentative agreements they've been sent.

Ratification votes have been set for mid-November, after the upcoming midterm congressional elections. This means Biden and the Democrats won't face the possibility of a strike or boss lockout and the disruptions this might cause going into the voting.

Central questions outstanding

The key questions of unsafe working conditions, torturous schedules and punitive attendance policies are not addressed in the tentative proposal. Under these conditions, hundreds of workers quit this year. And the rail bosses are demanding further reductions in crew size down to one!

"As far as the pay raise goes, the vast majority of us are more than OK with it. The main issue with the tentative agreement comes from the 'quality-of-life issues,'" Travis Zuluaga, a conductor and engineer and member of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen in the Albany, New York, area, told the *Militant*.

All 12 rail unions have similar tentative agreements on monetary issues brokered by Biden's Presidential Emergency Board, including offers of a 24% compounded general wage increase, a \$5,000 bonus, and retroactive pay, payable within 60 days of ratification.

Zuluaga said the money issues are not at the top of their concerns. "We just want to be able to be a natural human without being penalized. It is bad enough that we miss birthdays, holidays, graduations, weddings, funerals and any other special occasion that most people are able to get time off for," he said. "We are literally being told that we are not allowed to be sick without being penalized for it. The tentative agreement would give us three doctor visits a year,

and they have to be scheduled on a day that is convenient for the company at least 30 days in advance. It's laughable." "Some people argue, 'This is the best we're going to get, so we may as well take it,'" Joe Allen, a SMART-TD conductor in Albany, said. "Others see through what the railroads are offering. They say, 'The money's not enough and there is no time off work, so I think this is the best opportunity to fight them.'"

"And some people say, 'What do other unions have to do with me?' But this has everything to do with you. This is across the country. We should be going public, we will get support. So, when the politicians tell us, 'You're screwing up the country,' we'll say, 'No, you're screwing it up.'"

Deadly schedules

Another problem the proposal doesn't address is having a regular job and schedule. "I hate the automatic bid system. This is what engineers where I work live under, a weekly bid system," said engineer and BLET member Robin Smith from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "It means engineers don't know until Thursday at noon what job we'll work starting that coming Saturday. That's only 36 hour notice."

"And if you're on the extra board your group can change weekly, which changes your rest days," she said. "You thought that finally after six weeks you will have the weekend off only to find out 36 hours ahead of time that your rest days are now Monday and Tuesday!"

"Being able to get to a doctor's appointment, scheduled a month in advance, is a joke. What if the doctor says you need to have a test and need to return the following week for a follow-up?" she said. "This happened to me last month. Women usually need to visit the doctor more than three times a year."

"And one extra personal day, which needs to be scheduled in November during vacation bidding! You don't know what job you will be on week to week, how can you schedule that far in advance?"

These conditions — uncertain schedules, long hours all the time away from home, demands for even



Derailed runaway oil tanker train killed 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, July 6, 2013. Rail bosses' profit drive leads to long, fatiguing shift schedules; one-person "crews"; longer trains; and running dangerous cargo through urban areas, threatening more disasters.

smaller crews and more — are a recipe for disaster. They exhaust workers and deny them and their families the time to have a life together. Accidents are a constant concern.

Fifteen rail cars, including tankers full of gasoline that spilled out, derailed on a BNSF train near Bridger, Montana, Sept. 30. Luckily, crew members, people in the area, livestock and nearby rivers were reported to be unharmed.

But three rail workers have been killed on the job in the past six weeks.

Thousands of SMART-TD rail workers were angered when Jeremy Ferguson, their union president, reported Sept. 30 that the carriers responded in negotiations "with nothing more than 'labor doesn't contribute to profits.'"

Workers printed up union T-shirts with that quote and wore them at Nebraska Labor Day festivities in Omaha and at union meetings.

Crew size

Conductor Brian Raleigh started working for Norfolk Southern Railway in 2004. Working out of Decatur, Illinois, he got very ill on the job in January 2022. His engineer, Travis Pierce, notified the dispatcher, who called an ambulance. It turned out Raleigh had coronavirus and was burning up with fever, reported FreightWaves.

Norfolk Southern, like most Class 1 railroads, is pushing to cut crews

from two to one person, who would have to do the work of both conductor and engineer.

"If it would have been just him on there, who knows how long it would have been until [the ambulances] got there?" Pierce said. "If it was just me, what would have happened? Would I have died?"

Norfolk Southern bosses declined to comment.

Exhaustion is already slamming his co-workers, Raleigh said. "These engineers are so worn out, they're going to fall asleep at the wheel if they're all by themselves."

"It's not just about saving my partner," he said. "It's about saving my community."

"I understand the desire amongst many of you to strike. I know the contempt the carriers treat you with at work and have faced it in negotiations," Ferguson told SMART-TD members in his Sept. 30 letter.

That acknowledges the years of anger and frustration by tens of thousands of working union rail workers. It also recognizes the potential power of the rail unions in withholding labor power.

If even one of the unions does reject their deal, they all agree they'll go on strike. But it wouldn't be until Dec. 9, because union officials have agreed to delay any walkout until then.

Stay tuned.

Protests in Iran grow over death of Mahsa Amini, gov't repression

Continued from front page

universities staged a strike Sept. 28. And thousands of high school students have walked out. At a high school in Shahrivar, outside Tehran, students chanted, "No hijab, no hijab, freedom and equality."

"I am here to accompany and support my daughter," Abdolali, a teacher in Tehran who didn't want to give his last name, told The Associated Press. He said he'd participated in the 1979 Iranian Revolution that had "promised justice and freedom; it is time to materialize them."

On Oct. 2 the regime's thugs surrounded Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, preventing student protesters from leaving and then fired tear gas at them. Hundreds were arrested. Days later demonstrators at dozens of other universities marched to demand the release of the jailed students.

At first the regime was cautious, even contacting Amini's family to promise an investigation. But as protests spread the response of the government has been brutal, particularly against Kurds both in Iran and Iraq. News reports say 83 deaths have occurred, as government forces have opened up with live fire. On Sept. 30 at least 42 were killed in clashes in the Iranian city of Zahedan.

Thousands have been arrested, including Niloufar Hamed, who reported on Amini's death and funeral. Her husband said cops ransacked their home, confiscating laptops and mobile phones. She is being held in solitary confinement without being told what the charges are.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tried to shift the focus, casting blame on agents of the Israeli and the U.S. governments Oct. 3 for allegedly inciting protests.

Tehran bombs Iraqi Kurds

The Iranian government unleashed a wave of missile and drone strikes beginning Sept. 28 on areas where three Iranian Kurdish opposition groups in exile in Iraqi Kurdistan are based. Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Pakpour, the top commander of the Islamic Revolutionary



Teachers involved in school sit-in in Shiraz, Oct. 4 supporting sweeping protests over death of Mahsa Amini, an Iranian Kurdish woman, after her arrest by Iran's "morality police."

Guard Corps, bragged that Tehran had "completely demolished" the villages with 73 ballistic missiles and drones. At least 14 people were killed. Many farmers and nomads had to flee the area.

One Iranian drone directed toward Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, was shot down by U.S. forces. Nineteen years since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the U.S. rulers still deploy some 2,500 troops there.

Iranian officials claim the popular

protests sweeping Iran are stirred up by Kurds. An estimated 10 million Kurds, around a tenth of Iran's population, have long been denied political and cultural rights. The solidarity shown by non-Kurdish Iranians with the country's Kurds following Amini's death is intolerable to them. At least 1,500 Kurds have been arrested in the last few weeks.

The Kurds are the largest oppressed people without a homeland worldwide — with some 30 million spread across

The compulsory hijab is not a symbol of Iran's 1979 revolution

Below is an excerpt from an April 2018 article on the social and political roots of protests by workers and youth that swept 90 cities and small towns across Iran. It points to an article that had appeared in the Feb. 4 New York Times about how women being forced to wear the hijab to cover up their hair was "a symbol" that "has been enforced since the 1979 Islamic Revolution."

BY STEVE CLARK

But the compulsory hijab — a headscarf covering the hair and neck

— is not "a symbol of Iran's revolution." To the contrary.

Yes, most working people and youth who made the 1979 revolution opposed the royal decree imposed in the 1930s by the imperialist-backed shah of Iran, in the name of capitalist "modernization," denying women the right to decide for themselves how to dress in public. The shah's cops who ripped veils off women's heads and faces were the same ones who dragged workers and youth to torture centers and prisons across Iran.

But in March 1979, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini declared that female employees of government ministries must not go to work "naked" but be "clothed according to Islamic standards," students, workers and other women and men took to the streets by the tens of thousands across Iran — the largest International Women's Day outpouring anywhere in the world that year. Demonstrators fought off organized thugs and forced Khomeini to back down.

What's more, the government's labor ministry later that month announced that women in factories and other workplaces were entitled to equal rights on the job, including the right to participate in elections to the workers councils (shoras) and to hold office.

It was not until mid-1983, as the counter-revolution consolidated its stranglehold, that the Iranian regime was finally able to impose legislation barring women from "appear[ing] in public without religious hijab." Over the next couple of years, the government increasingly unleashed special "anti-vice" squads to confront women on the streets and compel observance.

The acts of public defiance of this law since December, as well as longer-term resistance to enforcement the regime has

Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey.

Workers and farmers in Iran bear the brunt of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis, compounded by U.S.-led sanctions that make it harder for Iranian companies to sell oil and get access to the global financial system. The Biden administration issued a fresh round of sanctions on Iran Sept. 29. They fall hardest on working people.

Today's protests come on top of countryside demonstrations that broke out in May when the government cut subsidies on essential food items. Iranians now pay about 75% more for food than they did a year ago. The official inflation rate in August was 52%. Nader, a construction company employee in Tehran, told the press, "I can't keep up with the rising prices, no matter how hard I run." With his savings gone and his rent doubled even cheese and eggs are becoming luxuries, he said.

"We support the people's struggles against organized and everyday violence against women and against the poverty and hell that dominates the society," the Organizing Council of Oil Contract Workers said on Sept. 26

The Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Trade Union Associations called on teachers across the country to join the protests and appealed to soldiers to "put down your guns" and join the people.

met in recent years, are a manifestation of mounting consciousness and struggles against the indignities, abuse and discrimination faced by women *the world over*. Far from being a hobby horse of wealthy and middle-class women in Iran (as often caricatured in the bourgeois press), demands for women's rights — in word and deed — were central to struggles by millions, including working women and men, during the 1979 revolution. They are among the revolution's eroded conquests. Prospects for defense and advance of such gains have been renewed by the recent working-class protests and others to come.

There will be no end to Tehran's counterrevolutionary wars, expansionism and reactionary social policies without an end to the counterrevolutionary bourgeois clerical regime. The factional divisions within the bourgeois government and ruling layers are creating greater political space for workers and farmers, who acted on these openings in late December and early January.

Protest FBI attacks in Puerto Rico, US embargo on Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Milagros Rivera, president of the Cuba Solidarity Committee of Puerto Rico, will be in New York City Oct. 27 to 29 on a speaking tour to strengthen the fight against FBI harassment of opponents of the U.S. economic war on Cuba, and to join in a solidarity march demanding the end of Washington's sanctions against Cuba.

On Friday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. Rivera will be the featured speaker at a public meeting at the First Spanish United Methodist Church (The People's Church) at Lexington Avenue and 11th Street in East Harlem. She will also speak at Hostos Community College in the Bronx Oct. 27.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 she will join hundreds of others on a march calling for an end to U.S. sanctions on Cuba, sponsored by the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Committee Coalition. The action takes place a few days before the United Nations votes on a motion

demanding an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba, an annual vote that has passed overwhelmingly for over 30 years.

Protesters will gather at Times Square at 12 noon and march to the U.N.

FBI agents called or visited nearly 60 people in Puerto Rico in late August, claiming they were investigating the violation of "federal law." Most of the people the U.S. political police tried to interrogate were in Cuba for a month in July on the Solidarity Committee's 31st annual Juan Rius Rivera Brigade. In September the FBI contacted at least six people in the U.S. involved in opposing the embargo as well.

The Solidarity Committee held a press conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, publicly denounced the harassment, and let brigadistas know there is no reason to talk to the U.S. political police. To show it would not be intimidated, it began inviting people to sign up for next year's brigade to Cuba, which will be part of celebrations of the 70th anniversary of

the attack on the Moncada Barracks, led by Fidel Castro, that marked the opening of the Cuban Revolution. It also marks the 125th anniversary of the U.S. occupation of Puerto Rico and its transformation into a U.S. colony.

The FBI has an over 80-year history of going after freedoms and constitutional rights of unions, opponents of U.S. war moves, supporters of Black rights, fighters for the independence of Puerto Rico, the Socialist Workers Party and others.

The FBI is targeting the Cuba Solidarity Committee "because even though we live in a U.S. colony, we dare to give solidarity to Cuba and the Cuban people," Rivera told the *Militant* in September. "We're going to keep telling the truth, that Cuba is an example for the whole world."

For information on the Oct. 28 meeting contact frentendependentstaboricua@gmail.com. For the Oct. 29 march against the U.S. economic war on Cuba: unvot4cuba@gmail.com.

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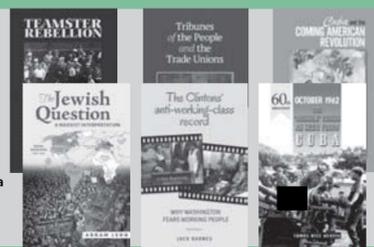
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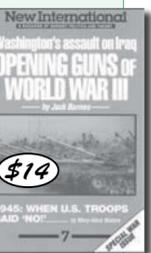


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Women's emancipation is tied to working-class fight for power

This week's selection from *October Books of the Month* is *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Frederick Engels, first published in 1884. Engels was the lifelong political collaborator of Karl Marx in founding the modern international communist movement. The excerpt is from the introduction by Evelyn Reed, author of *Woman's Evolution and other works developing Engels' pioneer work*. Engels showed how the oppression of women begins with the development of private property, and the emergence of the modern working class creates the basis to end that oppression. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Frederick Engels with Clara Zetkin, fellow German revolutionary leader, at international congress in Zurich in August 1893. Engels wrote that only when the exploitation of the working class by capital has been ended "can true equality between men and women become a reality."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

Although some uncertainty remains on the exact time scale of these three epochs, they can be approximately measured as follows: Savagery began with the emergence of the first humans (or hominids) from our ancestral branch of the anthropoids about a million years ago. Barbarism came in about eight thousand years ago, and gave way to the first urban populations from Egypt through Mesopotamia and India to China. The Greek and Roman city-states of some three thousand years ago repre-

sent the beginning of Western civilization. The period of savagery, therefore, was by far the longest epoch, lasting for more than 99 percent of human existence on earth, while the two later periods of barbarism and civilization together cover less than one percent.

But the pioneer anthropologists did more than disclose this uneven tempo of progress. They discovered that primitive society was different from civilized society in every major respect. Engels shows in his book how and why they were opposite socioeconomic systems. Civilized society is founded on the private ownership of property; it is class divided, with a wealthy possessing class exploiting the working mass. A state apparatus enforces this rule of the rich. It is characterized by inequalities of all kinds, economic, social, and sexual. Male supremacy and female inferiority are integral features of this patriarchal class system.

Savage society, on the other hand, was based upon the collective ownership of the means of production, cooperative social relations, and complete equality in all spheres of life, including sexual equality. Due to the absence of private property, such key institutions of the private-property system as the state and the patriarchal family were nonexistent. Tribal society was a self-governing community in which the elected chiefs claimed no superiority

to any other members.

There was no compulsory family institution with the father in command, exacting subservience, obedience, and conformity from wife and children, any more than there was a coercive state apparatus. Savage society was founded upon the cardinal principles of liberty and equality for all; it was a sisterhood of women and a brotherhood of men in a tribal commune which [Lewis] Morgan and his cothinkers called a system of "primitive communism." One of its most striking features was the influential and esteemed position of women. ...

These disclosures indicate that a drastic social change occurred in the transition from savagery to civilization, that is, in the period of barbarism. Although this process has yet to be studied in depth, it is clear that hidden in the period of barbarism a major social and sexual changeover took place. The structure of society became transformed from an equalitarian commune to an oppressive class system serving the interests of private property; and women fell from their former high position in the primitive commune to a degraded status in civilized patriarchal society.

This momentous transformation did not occur in one stride but gradually, over some five thousand years of the barbaric period. In the first agricultural stage, although the tribal system was beginning to break up into village

communities and farm families, the communal relations inherited from the past continued on and women still retained their influential position. In fact, it was precisely in the first agricultural period that women reached the apex of their prestige; they appear now in the various guises of Earth Mother, Goddess of Fertility, and the like. ... It was at the peak of this matriarchal development, in the first stage of barbarism, that women's downfall proceeded side by side with the decline of the social system that bears their name.

This came about through the rise of private property and the unleashing of new social forces that gained ascendancy in the later stages of barbarism. With the advent of civilization and class society, the twin changes were consummated: the private-property system was victorious and women plummeted from their former high status to become the oppressed sex of patriarchal society.

The exceptional value of Engels's exposition is that he links together these two epoch-making developments. He clarifies the causes and consequences of the social upheaval that gave the wealthy class its exploitative power over the working people and in the same process brought about the "historic defeat" of the female sex. ...

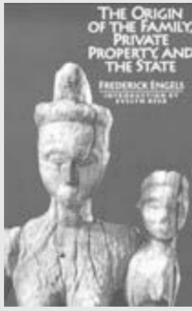
The renewed interest of women in his book is also a tribute to the value of the author's Marxist method. The outstanding merit of Engels's exposition is that he shows the real historical causes behind the catastrophic downfall of women and thereby illuminates the road ahead for female emancipation. The oppression of women came into existence for the same reasons and through the same forces that brought private property and class society into existence. It did not exist before that. But as Engels indicates, class society is itself a transitory phenomenon, the product of specific economic conditions at a certain stage of social evolution. It has been — and will be — only a brief interlude in the forward march of humankind. Through further evolution — and socialist revolution — this oppressive system and its degradation of women will be done away with. ...

The implication is clear. The replacement of the oppressive system of capitalism by a new order that will remake human relations from top to bottom is the ultimate road to female liberation.

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—SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT—

Build solidarity with union struggles today

Statement by Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from New Jersey, Sept. 30. Kuniansky is a member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union.

Working people confront both deteriorating living standards caused by soaring prices and the growing likelihood of rising joblessness as the capitalist economy contracts. More workers recognize we need unions today and more of us are on strike. Expanding solidarity with these struggles is crucial for fighting the bosses' drive to unload the burden of the capitalist crisis on our backs.

Rail workers face concerted efforts by the bosses, abetted by the Joseph Biden administration, to force debilitating schedules, onerous attendance policies and dangerous reductions in crew size. BCTGM union members on strike at Corn Nuts in California, and United Auto Workers members on strike at Case New Holland in Iowa and Wisconsin are fighting boss attacks.

United Mine Workers at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama have been on strike for more than 18 months, battling to reverse concessions on wages, benefits and working conditions that were forced on the union.

Spread the word about these labor struggles! Win contributions from your union, friends and family for strikers to help put these workers in a stronger position to win. Every union victory sets an example and strengthens the labor movement.

To advance the unity, self-confidence and fight-

ing capacities of working people, our unions need to fight for demands that offer a road forward for workers and our families.

We need cost-of-living clauses in every union contract, as well as Social Security and pensions, so our wages rise automatically to cover the complete cost of inflation.

Unions need to fight for 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to prevent layoffs, and for a federally funded national public works program to provide millions of jobs at union-scale pay to build houses, hospitals and the other things working people need.

The labor movement must ensure that everyone has the right to a job. Millions today are forced to work two or three jobs, or debilitating overtime, leaving next to no time for family life. Our unions should fight for a basic income *for all families* that guarantees we can work, cover all necessities, and engage in political and union life.

These demands highlight the fact that the interests of working people cannot be reconciled with the bosses' relentless drive for profits. Workers need to organize independently of the bosses and the Democrats and Republicans — the political parties of the bosses. Just as we need our unions, we need our own political party, a labor party based on the unions. Such a party can be built in the course of broader union battles and social struggles. We advance this day coming by using our unions right now to defend ourselves on the job and to extend solidarity with those fighting against the exploitation and oppression of capital.

Ukraine coal miners break ban on strikes, protests

BY JOHN STUDER

Despite the Ukraine capitalist government's imposition of a ban on strikes and protests following Moscow's invasion in February, coal miners went on strike at Mine No. 9 in Novovolynsk Sept. 14 to block a new manager from seizing control of the mine. Miners believe his appointment would signal a return to corrupt management, delays in payment of wages, cuts in maintenance and the closing of the mine.

A few days earlier Sergei Trotsko had showed up there with some papers from the Ministry of Energy and a band of "Titushkis" — thugs in Ukrainian — saying he was the new manager.

This is not the first time Trotsko has tried to take over a coal mine. Three years ago he showed up at the Lvivuhillia state coal mine in Lviv oblast, but was blocked by coal miners there. Before coming to Novovolynsk, he had gone to the Nadiya mine, also in Lviv, where he used to work, saying he was there to install a new manager. Miners there held a sit-down strike underground for three days.

It also wasn't the first time people associated with the energy ministry had tried to impose a new manager in Novovolynsk. Dozens of workers rallied outside the mine office Aug. 2, using a tractor as a barricade, to stop the installation of Viktor Herashchenko. He

had been part of management at another mine where officials are under investigation for embezzlement.

At a Sept. 9 general meeting, 245 Novovolynsk miners signed a motion of no confidence in Trotsko. Mykhailo Volynets, president of the Ukrainian Independent Union of Coal Miners, tried to intervene on their behalf. Trotsko called the cops, who opened an investigation of "obstruction" of his work.

What happened after these confrontations? Kateryna Semchuk, a reporter from openDemocracy, visited the mine and found that 48 miners had received mobilization orders from the armed forces. Miners felt the orders were reprisals aimed at getting them to stop their fight.

There is no question about the miners' support for Ukraine's fight to defend its independence. "Mine No. 9 workers bake pies for Ukrainian soldiers in their canteen and sent the equivalent of \$44,375 to the army — a month's salary for all of the mine's workers," wrote Semchuk. "About 50 workers from the mine have already been conscripted to the army and are fighting on the front," with those left trying to keep up production.

The fight is unresolved. "We are ready to stand till the end," Serhiy Petryk, a miner with 18 years experience there, told Semchuk.

Ukraine gains ground

Continued from front page

The Kremlin decided to annex the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions in Ukraine following sham referenda held at gunpoint in some areas last month. But even Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had to admit they don't really know what are the borders of these areas Russia controls. They change daily as Ukraine advances. The Ukrainians are highly motivated, while Russian troops are not.

Russian authorities at Vasylivka in southern Ukraine are trying to build a "state border," extending the Russian frontier and imposing a "visa" application process for anyone trying to get out. Long lines to leave are forming in towns "incorporated" into Russia. It took 19-year-old Maksym Bezhan, his family and their cat four days to travel out of the Moscow-occupied area they come from near Berdyansk in the south.

"After the invasion," he told the BBC, "I became very pro-Ukrainian."

Putin's Sept. 21 decree calling up the first major military mobilization in Russia since World War II triggered demonstrations in cities all across Russia. Despite police beatings and mass arrests, smaller protests around the country continued for a second week.

Resistance to mobilization remains strong even as over a quarter million fighting-age men fled across Russia's borders, nearly 100,000 into Kazakhstan alone. Among many who did answer the call-up, thousands have been sent home as "unfit for duty."

The *Moscow Times* interviewed veterans opposed to the war. Putin "created circumstances in which we cannot win," Vitaly Votanovsky, a retired air force officer from Krasnodar, told the paper Oct. 3. He "has gotten himself into the war with the entire world." Votanovsky is often detained as he photographs soldiers' graves to show the true extent of the country's losses.

Ukrainians "are my friends and comrades, so I am deeply outraged by what is happening," said Nikolai Prokudin, a veteran of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. "I would of course defend our country. ... But only when we are attacked."

He explained that his life had been saved by a Ukrainian soldier in Afghanistan.

"I saw all those ruined houses in Grozny," said Igor Knyazkov, a veteran of Moscow's war in Chechnya. With "what is happening in Ukraine right now and how [the Kremlin chiefs] are trying to take over territories ... [it's clear] we'll be paying for their mad ideas."

Pointing to Putin's deepening problems, H.R. McMaster, a retired U.S. Army general and former national security adviser, said Oct. 3 that the Russian army in Ukraine is on the verge of "a moral collapse."

Putin expresses his frustration at these developments by targeting urban civilian areas for bombardment. Russian missiles killed dozens in Sept. 30 strikes against a car convoy outside Zaporizhzhia, and on a building in Mykolaiv.

Putin's speech raises nuclear threat

As his crisis at home deepens, Putin tried to rally support by appealing to all Russians to take a stand against "aggression" from the "collective West."

In a thinly veiled threat he said a "precedent" was set by the U.S. rulers' use of "nuclear weapons twice, destroying Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan" at the end of the second imperialist world slaughter.

In another repercussion of the war, four simultaneous explosions Sept. 26 damaged Nord Stream 1 and 2 natural gas pipelines from Russia to Europe under the Baltic Sea. Berlin halted the opening of Nord Stream 2 when the war started in reaction to Putin's war and began seeking alternative energy sources. In retaliation, Moscow shut off supply through the older line.

Putin hoped that choking off Russian gas supplies to Europe could weaken opposition of governments there to his expansionist war.

After the explosions, governments in the U.K., Germany and France immediately offered the Norwegian government military backup to guard against attacks on its vast North Sea oil and gas installations. The role of Oslo as an energy supplier to Europe has grown as Russian imports diminish.

Moscow's invasion began what is the largest war on European soil since World War II. It has pushed capitalist rulers everywhere to reexamine their alliances, step up their armaments and look afresh at how best to defend their own national interests.

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