

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Fidel showed proletarian internationalism is extension of the revolution itself'  
— PAGES 8-9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 9 MARCH 6, 2023

## Support builds for fight against ban on 'Militant' in Florida prison

BY SETH GALINSKY

The *Militant* is winning broad support in its fight to overturn the ban on a recent issue of the socialist newsweekly by Blackwater River Correctional Facility officials in Florida.

The privately run prison banned issue no. 4 on Feb. 1, claiming articles on a strike by thousands of New York City nurses and on the “Women, life, freedom” protests in Iran were a “threat to the security” and the “rehabilitative objectives” of the facility.

“This seems hard to imagine considering that one of the cited articles discusses how the Iranian government’s sanctioned murder of political dissidents is sparking anti-death-penalty protests in Iran,” Elizabeth Larison, director of the arts and culture advocacy program of the National Coalition Against Censorship, wrote in a letter opposing the ban sent to the prison system’s Literature Review Committee.

“The other article covers the recent

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## No to gov’t attack on political rights! says Communist League in Canada

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in Montreal’s provincial by-election in the Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne riding, turned in all the petitions and was declared on the ballot Feb. 20 for the Quebec National Assembly.

Over the February 18-19 weekend, more than a dozen Communist League campaign supporters fanned out across the area to introduce the campaign to working people and gather the remaining signatures needed. Bernardo is a factory worker and member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union.

The candidate is speaking out on the Feb. 17 report issued by Justice Paul Rouleau, who heads the commission appointed by Ottawa to review the federal government’s imposition of the Emergencies Act against the truckers’ Freedom Convoy in the

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## One year since Moscow invasion: Defend Ukraine independence!

Build solidarity with battle of the Ukrainian people!



Novaya Gazeta Europe/Elena Lukyanova

Art exhibit by Elena Osipova, above, in St. Petersburg, Russia, Jan. 31. Poster says, “Russia, repentant, grieving. Russia is not Putin.” In face of Putin’s police repression, “flower protests” against bombardment of Ukraine cities, one-person pickets and graffiti continue to proliferate.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Feb. 24 marks one year since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine, expecting a rapid victory. Instead, he has run into battlefield reversals from Kyiv and Kharkiv to Kherson at the hands of working people in Ukraine and the country’s armed forces determined to defend their country’s independence and prevent Moscow from crushing them.

Having launched the largest war between two European states in over 75 years, Putin is now hoping he can win a long battle of attrition using Moscow’s greater firepower and by sacrificing countless Russian and Ukrainian lives. The sooner there is a decisive victory against his regime’s army, the better for working people in Ukraine, Russia and worldwide. That means its expulsion

from every inch of Ukrainian territory.

“When Russian forces seized Crimea and infiltrated the Donbas in 2014, Ukraine’s military was in bad shape,” Christopher Miller, wrote in the *Financial Times*.  
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## East Palestine residents, rail workers confront bosses’ disregard for safety



AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar

Plume of black smoke rises over East Palestine, Ohio, Feb. 6 after toxic chemicals in five tankers from derailed Norfolk Southern train were drained, burned, contaminating air, water supply.

BY TONY LANE

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio — Talking to residents here and in nearby areas, *Militant* worker-correspondents find they continue to feel frustrated and angry about the lack of information and help they are getting since the Feb. 3 Norfolk Southern derailment here. The derailment sparked a massive fire that mushroomed hundreds of feet into the air, burning for days.

On Feb. 6, company officials got the agreement of state representa-

tives, the Environmental Protection Agency and local officials to move in. They blew a hole in five overturned tanker cars containing volatile vinyl chloride, one of which appeared on the verge of exploding, drained their contents into a trench and set them on fire.

The resulting conflagration transformed the vinyl chloride into phosgene and hydrogen chloride — dangerous toxic chemicals that are heavily

Continued on page 10

## UMWA announces striking Warrior Met miners ready to return to work

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — Hundreds of coal miners who have been on strike at Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama, for the past 22 months and their families heard from United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts Feb. 15 that the union had made the company an “unconditional offer to return to work.”

They met at a hotel in Hoover, a Birmingham suburb, where Roberts said he was sending a letter to Warrior Met Coal CEO Walter Scheller announcing that the unionists were preparing to return to work March 2.

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## New earthquakes hit, social disaster continues to unfold in Syria, Turkey

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

The course of the Turkish and Syrian governments, alongside intervention by Washington, Moscow, Tehran and others, is exacerbating the disastrous consequences of earthquakes that struck Syria and Turkey Feb. 6.

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# Social disaster in Syria, Turkey

Continued from front page

More than 45,000 people have died as of Feb. 17, making it the worst disaster in the area in modern history.

Another earthquake struck Feb. 20 outside the city of Antakya in southern Turkey, near the Syrian border. At least six people were killed and 294 injured as buildings collapsed in both countries.

An estimated 1 million have been left homeless in Turkey. Many are scrambling for any sort of shelter in the freezing weather, from tents to shipping containers.

In some areas refugees from Syria’s civil war have been barred from tents set up by the Turkish national emergency management agency.

“This is my room for me, my husband and three kids,” Hind Qayduha, a Syrian refugee in Antakya, told the *New York Times*, pointing to a blanket on the floor of a carwash. With a laugh she pointed to another part of the same blanket, “and there’s my mother’s room.”

The civil war displaced more than half of Syria’s 21 million people, with nearly 4 million ending up as refugees in Turkey, many in the southern area most heavily affected by the quake.

For years Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan used real estate projects to showcase claims that his government was leading a rise in prosperity. In fact, it was letting construction bosses profit while they disregarded the installation of reinforcements that would allow buildings to better withstand devastating tremors.

“We rented this place as an elite place, as a safe place,” Sevil Karaabduloglu told Reuters. His two daughters lie under the rubble of a luxury apartment complex where they lived in southern

Turkey. “There is neither cement nor proper iron in it,” said Hamza Alpaslan, whose brother lived in the building for 10 years. “It’s a real hell.”

Half of the 20 million buildings in Turkey contravene building codes aimed at making them more quake resistant.

Erdogan promises to rush through the rebuilding of all houses destroyed in the quake within a single year. The government has no plan on how this can be done. “It is not only necessary to replace the demolished buildings, but also not to build on fault lines,” Esin Koymen, the former head of Istanbul Chamber of Architects, told the media.

Thousands of families in northern Syria have been sleeping outdoors in below-freezing temperatures, lacking even temporary accommodation. Initial estimates say more than 2,276 buildings have collapsed there, though many were already damaged by bombardment from Syrian or Russian government forces. The dictatorial government of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria prevented any international aid from reaching survivors for a week after the earthquake.

Well before the tremor, working people in both countries confronted a deepening economic and social crisis. In Turkey inflation had soared to 57%. In Syria workers and farmers face not only rising prices but also severe fuel shortages. Damascus, the country’s capital, gets a few hours of electricity a day, at best. The country’s capitalist economy has been hit by the collapse of the financial system in neighboring Lebanon and a slowdown in oil shipments from Iran.

### Years of foreign intervention

Throughout Syria’s civil war the governments of Iran, Russia, the U.S.



Reuters/Umit Bektas

**Collapsed buildings in Hatay, Turkey, after Feb. 6 earthquakes. Tens of thousands of people died and millions are homeless in Turkey and Syria because of for-profit building construction.**

and Turkey have deployed forces there to back either the Assad regime or rebel forces, and to carve out influence for their own ruling classes and deal blows to rivals. A half-million people have been killed in the conflict, which began after the Assad regime attempted to crush a popular uprising for political rights in 2011. Moscow’s airstrikes and Tehran-backed militias played a decisive role in propping up his rule.

The U.S. rulers have used the just struggle of the oppressed Kurds in Syria to maintain their forces there and have applied sanctions against Assad. President Joseph Biden refuses to lift these sanctions since the earthquake, but has eased restrictions on financial transactions relating to humanitarian aid for a temporary six-month period.

Six days after the earthquake Washington carried out a helicopter raid in southern Syria Feb. 10 that killed an Islamic State member. Four U.S. troops were injured in a second operation Feb. 16. The U.S. rulers remain the dominant military power throughout the region.

The reactionary bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran continues to arm militias across Syria and uses these forces to funnel weapons to Hezbollah, its ally in Lebanon, and to Hamas in Gaza.

Prior to the quake, Syrian and Turkish defense ministers met in Moscow Dec. 28, the highest-level encounter between

the two governments since 2011.

The Turkish rulers have sent forces to back rebel opponents of Assad’s regime. Erdogan wants Assad to prevent the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) from consolidating their control over an autonomous area in northern Syria. He views the YPG as a threat, fearing their struggle in Syria will amplify struggles by Kurds in Turkey.

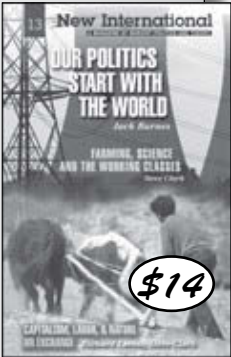
Some 30 million Kurds in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey make up the world’s largest nation without their own country.

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Thousands in Derry, Northern Ireland, Feb. 3, 2002, demand justice for 14 freedom fighters killed by British troops in 1972.

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# No to attacks on political rights!

Continued from front page

capital last February. The commission upheld the government's assault on the rights of working people.

"The purpose of the commission was never to determine if the use of the Emergencies Act was justified," Bernardo told those she met, "but to endorse its implementation, making it easier for the Canadian capitalists' government to use it again in the future — against unions defending workers against government and corporate attacks and anyone else protesting government policies. That's exactly what Rouleau's report does."

Using the repressive law, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called out over 3,000 federal, provincial and municipal police from across the country equipped with military-grade weapons and armored vehicles, elite sharpshooters, horse cavalry, stun grenades, anti-riot weapon launchers, batons and pepper spray, to drive out of Ottawa the three-week Freedom Convoy protest by truckers and others opposed to vaccine mandates and other government policies out of the city. They arrested over 200 protesters.

The Emergencies Act "is nothing but a modern-day version of the discredited War Measures Act" last used in October 1970 to arrest hundreds of trade union leaders, fighters for the national rights of the Quebecois, socialists and leaders of our party in an effort to crush rising trade union struggles and the fight being waged then for Quebec independence, Bernardo said in a press release.

"I will be campaigning for its repeal as well as the dropping of all charges against Freedom Convoy participants," she said.

Campaigners discussed these issues with working people in Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne. A number of them knew 21-year-old aspiring Black rapper Nicous D'Andre Spring, who was killed by Montreal prison guards at Bordeaux Prison Dec. 24. He had lived in the neighborhood.

Bernardo participated in a vigil organized by Spring's family days after he died. She joins in calling for the guards to be charged and put on trial for his death and for the video of the assault on him by prison guards to be released.

AnnMarie Modeste, a flower-ar-

ranger and single mother, met campaigners at her doorstep and decided to come to a Militant Labor Forum Feb. 18. She knew Spring very well. He was a friend of her son.

"I hope these people are called to justice," she said at the forum. "If injustice happens to one, it happens to all."

"Racism has to be addressed," Modeste, who is Black, said. Communist League leader Steve Penner also spoke, saying, "Racism is a class question. It arose with capitalism and was used to justify slavery. It has been an essential part of the rise of colonialism and imperialism and is used to justify the imperialist rulers' exploitation of the world's oppressed peoples."

"The rulers are only a tiny handful of billionaire families. How do they keep power?" Penner asked. "Divide and rule. The only way to fight this is to unite working people to fight against racism, police brutality and every other form of oppression and exploitation. This is a life-and-death question for the labor movement."

## 'Workers need our own party'

When campaigner Sonia Obbadi knocked on Ayesha's door and introduced Bernardo, Ayesha told them,

## Read new book by SWP leaders, get 'Militant' around

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Socialist Workers Party members Ved Dookhun and Candace Wagner visited East Palestine, Ohio, Feb. 19. They got into a discussion with a cook, Michael McIntosh, at his house a few hundred yards from the area where a 150-car Norfolk Southern freight train derailed and burned a couple weeks earlier.

"In the last decade rail companies have cut the workforce and made trains longer and less safe," said Dookhun. Both Dookhun and Wagner are rail workers. "The interests of rail workers and those who live near the tracks are the same."

McIntosh agreed, saying, "I guess Norfolk Southern is going to take a big hit financially." Dookhun said that, in fact, their profits are expected to recover rapidly. "The only way change comes is when working people stand together."

"Donald Trump is coming to



Militant/Francois Bradette

Carolina Martinez, left, a health care worker, met Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate, Feb. 18. Bernardo spoke out against Canadian government attack on truckers, rights.

"There's an urgent need to address the problems of inflation and the cost of life, drugs and street gangs that make people fear for their safety."

"It's the deepening crisis of capitalism that makes life harder for working people," Bernardo said. "Our campaign calls on our unions to fight for cost-of-living protection in all contracts for workers to offset inflation, and to fight for government jobs programs at union wages to build af-

fordable housing, day care and more that we need.

"That's the road to building a labor party, based on our unions," she said, "that can defend our class interests, win allies, wrest political power out of the hands of the rich and create a government of workers and farmers."

To learn more or get involved in the Communist League campaign, contact the party at the address listed on page 7.

## SWP debates constitutional rights at Florida Forum

BY RACHELE FRUIT

Steve Warshell, who was the Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, spoke before the Deerfield Progressive Forum Feb. 18 about the worsening crisis of the capitalist economy, of politics, of morality, of education, of family and of daily life. "None of these questions can be separated from the other," he said. "To solve them we need the democratic right to discuss and to act."

The forum, a weekly discussion in South Florida since 1978, was held virtually this year, this one titled "The Need to Defend Constitutional Rights Today." Some 25 people participated.

"Just two days ago, officials of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, the company responsible for the derailment and disaster now facing people in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, decided to refuse the demands of the people of East

Palestine, Ohio, to attend a town meeting," Warshell said. "They want to know exactly what chemicals were in the railroad tank cars that split open and what are the dangers that people face from exposure to them."

"This disaster shows exactly the dangerous conditions the railroad unions were fighting against in their last contract, as well as how the bosses and their government factor in calamities like this into their profit-and-loss balance sheets," he said.

"It was a foregone conclusion that both the right and left wings of both capitalist parties would come together in November to pass legislation banning the rail workers' right to strike and to impose a ball-and-chain contract on them."

During the discussion, Harold Forester, joining in from Quebec, described the 2013 rail disaster in Lac-Megantic,

Quebec, in which 47 people were killed. "What has been done since then to improve those conditions?" he asked.

Forester also said that he was dubious about the need for a labor party. "Here in Canada when the New Democratic Party became dominant, they jacked up the wages of the public sector way beyond what other workers got. I'm reluctant to give the unions more authority."

"A labor party will come out of the renewed struggles by workers today," Warshell said, "and will have to fight in the interests of our entire class."

"The Democratic and Republican parties are both driven by money and power," said Barbara Drake. "Why are there no viable options?"

Warshell said that it is in the interests of the government and both capitalist political parties to keep working-class alternatives off the ballot.

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es." That's the road to strengthening the labor movement, he said.

McIntosh bought an introductory subscription to the *Militant* and the new book *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark, which lays out the party's perspectives for trade union and broader political work and highlights the opportunities ahead for class-conscious workers.

In discussions with fellow workers in cities and rural areas, at picket lines and protests, members of the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are introducing the book. And *Militant* readers who get or renew their subscriptions can purchase it at half price for \$5.

In Montreal, Katy LeRougetel and Al Cappe met Claudia Sarmientos in the lobby of her apartment building Feb. 18 while campaigning for Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in the Quebec by-election in the Montreal Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne constituency. At the restaurant where I work, Sarmientos said, "We do two or three jobs. I clean tables, do the drive-through, and the cash. The boss said, 'but you're well paid.' But tips don't count, not everyone gets them."

"We need unions to fight for solidarity," LeRougetel said, "like the nurses at Montreal's Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital who protested against forced overtime a few weeks ago." Sarmientos was familiar with their fight. "They should hire more people," she said. She signed the petition to put Bernardo on the ballot, took the campaign flyer and expressed interest in reading *Militant* articles online.

To help expand the *Militant's* reach and introduce books on revolutionary working-class politics as widely as possible, contact the SWP and CL branches listed on page 7.



# Build worker-farmer alliance to fight for our class interests

*Socialist Workers National Campaign Statement issued by Ellie García Feb. 21.*

Exploited farmers and ranchers face skyrocketing prices for fuel, seed, fertilizer, equipment and other inputs today. At the same time, capitalists reap vast profits from land speculation, driving up land prices and preventing small farmers from being economically viable. Under capitalism, working farmers take all of the risks: the burden of crop failures, unstable market conditions, high interest rates and taxes. State and federal regulatory bureaus like the Department of Agriculture tighten restrictions and crush small farmers and ranchers to the benefit of large-scale agribusiness.

Working people, the world over, confront either comparably declining conditions or much worse in the oppressed countries of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The global order imposed by the victors out of the inter-imperialist slaughter of World War II is shattering, with explosive ramifications for workers and farmers worldwide. A decadeslong retreat by the working class and our trade unions has come to an end, in the U.S. and beyond. Trade unionists are resisting the bosses, the capitalist rulers and their parties' attempts to shift the burden of their crisis onto our backs. Deteriorating economic and social conditions are pressing more workers to begin to use their unions and build solidarity.

To move forward, we need an alliance of the exploited producers, an alliance of all workers and all small farmers, together against the capitalist class, our common enemy. They benefit from dividing us, worker against farmer, farmer against farmer, Black against Caucasian. As we build an alliance of the producing classes we will tear down these divisions.

The ruling capitalist families use the Democrats and Republicans, both imperialist parties, to make us think we have a choice as they prepare for the 2024 elections. We need to rely on our own strengths, instead of relying on their parties and politicians. We need a labor party based on the unions. There will be more union struggles, which will have an impact on farmers to find ways to fight back against the debt slavery the capitalists impose on them.

The workers and farmers in Cuba made a revolution in 1959 and established a workers and farmers government. Through this alliance they took

their land out of the hands of the banks, nationalized the land, and fought to carry through far-reaching nationalizations of industry and utilities. Titles to the land were given to tens of thousands of peasants, guaranteeing their families the right to farm.

Here in the United States, trade union struggles will rise, as will farmers' struggles, class against class. There will be more opportunities for workers and farmers to join forces and organize, for a leadership to develop out of those experiences and to build a worker-farmer alliance that can take power out of the hands of the capitalists and establish our own revolutionary political power, a workers and farmers government.



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Socialist Workers Party members Ellie García and Joel Britton visited Will Scott on his Fresno, California, farm last year, discussing challenges for small farmers from rising prices, Moscow's war on Ukraine, and need for workers and farmers to fight together to take political power.

## Workers in China protest gov't attack on their health care



Thousands of older retirees protested in Wuhan, above, Feb. 15, and elsewhere in China, against government cuts to their health benefits, chanting "Give us back our money!"

BY JANET POST

Thousands of working people, mostly older retirees, have been demonstrating in China since the government announced Feb. 1 the most significant health care reforms in over two decades. In reality, the "reforms" give the regime the ability to steal the hard-earned money out of the health care accounts of workers.

At Renmin Square in the port city of Dalian, protesters chanted, "Give us back our money!" Two actions were organized in Wuhan Feb. 15, in Zhongshan Park and in front of Wuhan Union

Hospital. Authorities kept the metro from stopping at nearby stations and "video showed shoving matches" with police, reported the *Washington Post*. "Some tried to climb barriers to escape the melee but were pulled back by uniformed officers." A number of protesters, including retired steelworkers and ironworkers, were detained by police.

Most workers in China have medical coverage from two sources: state-funded communal insurance and an individual health savings plan they and their employers contribute to each month.

Local officials are cutting back the

amount retirees can claim from the personal accounts. For example, medicine is being reimbursed at one-third of the previous amount. These reductions, the government claims, will be used to expand public health care.

Retirees say they were never consulted about the changes. To them, "it looks like local governments are dipping into citizens' personal health savings accounts to cover budget shortfalls," NPR reported. China's local governments are heavily in debt due to a slowing economy and large expenses run up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Wuhan, "Lui Meixiang was shocked when she found out her monthly health care payment had been cut by nearly two-thirds in early February," the *South China Morning Post* reported. "Usually the 66-year-old receives 230 yuan [\$34] per month for her outpatient expenses, but when she checked her balance this month she had been paid just 83 yuan. 'It is a big loss especially to old people who suffer from chronic illness like me,' she said. 'I don't believe in the government's claim that the cuts will finally help us make more savings.'"

Wuhan resident Zhang Hai told Reuters, "This money is very little but to old people, it is life-saving."

On social media, one supporter of the demonstrations posted, "These old people can come out [to protest] not only for themselves but also for future generations." Another said, "If you reduce the basic living allowance for the people, who would trust the government in the younger generation?"

Resentment is rising against senior and retired Chinese Communist Party officials, who "have long had access to generous medical treatments at public expense and without having to pay for basic health care insurance," said the *Guardian*.

The new plan is also pitting workers who have more funds in their personal accounts against lower-income workers, the unemployed and those in poorer regions, who rely solely on state health insurance. "China has one of the world's highest levels of income inequality," the *New York Times* reported Feb. 16. The unemployment rate for those aged 16 to 24 is almost 17%.

The government also said it intends to raise the retirement age starting in 2025. The current retirement age is 60 for men, 55 for women working in offices and 50 for women in industry.

## Forum debates constitutional rights

Continued from page 3

Andrea Baron asked, "Why do you say that abortion is not a constitutional right?"

"Because it's not in the U.S. Constitution," Warshell said. "Whether or not to have an abortion is a medical decision that should be in the hands of the woman without veto or interference from anyone. It should be completely decriminalized. And women need contraception that is safe and affordable."

"At issue with abortion is a potential human life. It's a fallback, something needed when other things fail," he said.

"Contrary to it being a right to be 'enshrined in law,' as some people advocate, we need to fight to make abortion rarer by changing the social conditions that have led to its widespread use."

"The Cuban Revolution is an example worth serious study," he pointed out. "It shows how progress toward the full emancipation of women requires ending the rule of the capitalists."

"Could you explain again why the

investigations against Donald Trump can be seen as an attack on the working class?" asked Gilda Brodsky, who had introduced Warshell.

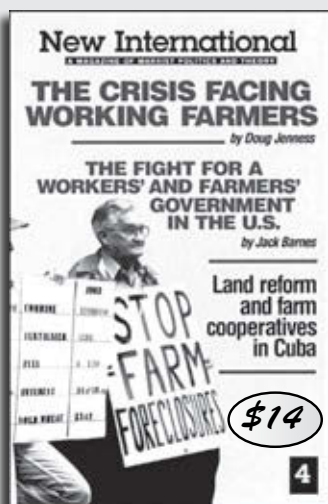
"From politics to the economy, abortion and the emancipation of women, immigration, anti-Catholic bigotry and antisemitism, you see how the question of democratic rights intersects with the class struggle," Warshell responded.

"We should remember that the warrant used to execute the raid at Trump's Mar-a-Lago home cited the Espionage Act, passed with bipartisan support in 1917 and used to frame up and jail Socialist Party leader Eugene V. Debs for his opposition to the U.S. rulers' imperialist aims in the First World War and his support for the Russian Revolution."

"Regardless of who the target is today," Warshell said, "the ultimate target is the labor movement and opponents of capitalist rule."

The entire event will be posted on YouTube.

### New International no. 4



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# SWP Chicago mayor candidate: ‘Need to unite the working class’

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHICAGO — Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party have stepped up campaigning for the party’s candidate for mayor, Ilona Gersh. They’re taking the campaign to fellow workers on their doorsteps, at factory gates and at protests called to defend working-class interests.

Gersh and supporters campaigned in Woodlawn, a working-class neighborhood on the city’s South Side Feb. 19. The area has been in the news since city officials opened a long-shuttered public school as a temporary shelter for immigrants from Venezuela. The media has played up opposition by some residents to the housing of some 250 immigrants, among more than 5,000 recently bused here from Texas, in the predominantly Black neighborhood.

One of those Gersh spoke to was Sean Streeter, a counselor at a local high school and member of the Chicago Teachers Union. “I support amnesty for undocumented workers in this country,” Gersh said. “The unions should champion this demand. It’s the only way for the working class to unite and cut across the divisions that the ruling class foists on us. What do you think?”

“I don’t see a problem with the Venezuelans coming here and staying at the school,” he replied. “But I have a friend who sees things differently. He says we have limited resources and shouldn’t be spending them on immigrants.”

“Our unions need to fight for a federally funded jobs program,” Gersh said, “that can put millions of people to work at union-scale wages building things like housing that workers need. The problem isn’t a lack of resources, but the fact that the capitalists and their government only do what will be profitable for the bosses.”

“What made you decide to run for mayor?” asked Streeter.

“To explain that working people need to build a party of our own, a labor party based on the unions, and break with the Democrats, Republicans and other capi-

talist candidates,” replied Gersh.

“There are more opportunities today for working people to organize solidarity with union strikes and struggles, like the fight of railroad workers for safety on the job.”

Streeter signed up for a *Militant* subscription to learn more about these questions.

Gersh took part in a rally by a few dozen people in Milwaukee Feb. 18, calling for the repeal of Wisconsin’s abortion ban, which forces women seeking an abortion to travel to neighboring states, and to protest against the prosecution of people who violate the law. She was asked by a TV reporter there why she had come from Illinois to join the rally. “We support the fight to decriminalize abortion,” Gersh said, “as part of the fight for conditions that make it possible for workers to support families and not be torn apart — for jobs, child care,



Militant/Dan Fein

Sean Streeter, a school counselor, subscribed to the *Militant* after talking with Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, Feb. 19 in Woodlawn neighborhood.

health care and other necessities.”

Over the week leading up to the Feb. 28 election, Socialist Workers Party supporters plan to campaign outside the Ford assembly plant and the Al-

pha Bakery, where Gersh works. They will go to a farming area south of the city, and join in a rally in defense of Ukraine’s sovereignty on the anniversary of Moscow’s invasion.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Workers at HarperCollins end strike, make gains in contract

NEW YORK — “I’m very proud of what we accomplished,” Laura Harshberger, a senior production editor and chair of the union bargaining unit at HarperCollins Publishers, told the *Militant*. The more than 200 hourly workers — in editorial, sales, publicity, design, legal and marketing — overwhelmingly approved a contract Feb. 16 after more than three months on strike. New York-based HarperCollins is the only major publisher where workers have a union, United Auto Workers Local 2110. Workers will return to work Feb. 21.

Harshberger said that minimum starting wages will immediately increase from \$45,000 a year to \$47,500, and will rise to \$50,000 by the beginning of 2025. The new contract expires at the end of 2025. While those that are already being paid above the minimum for their job category won’t get an immediate raise, she said, “we won language that guar-

antees an annual raise to everyone who is meeting their production goals.” Full-time union members will get a \$1,500 signing bonus.

“Most importantly, we strengthened the union in a way that will help us in the long run,” Harshberger said. “Every new hire will get a letter from the union and we’ll be able to have an orientation session with them when they start work.” This is important because new hires choose whether or not to join the union. As part of preparing for the strike, the majority of workers were won to the union.

In the course of the strike the mostly young workers won support from hundreds of authors and literary agencies that refrained from carrying out business with HarperCollins. In addition to regular picketing at the publishing house, the union organized two rallies at News Corp., HarperCollins’ parent company owned by Rupert Murdoch.

“I voted for the contract,” Doris Al-

len, who is in sales of children’s books and has worked at HarperCollins for 15 years, told the *Militant*. To live in New York, the young workers just starting out really need the \$50,000 a year now, she said. “So the results were a little disappointing, but we made some progress, which is important.”

— Sara Lobman

### Bay Area longshore union shuts ports, marches for Abu-Jamal

SAN FRANCISCO — International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 shut down the ports of Oakland and San Francisco Feb. 16, part of international protests demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Framed up on charges of killing Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner in 1981, Abu-Jamal has been in prison for over 40 years. He is a journalist who had been a member of the Black Panther Party.

Over 200 people joined in a spirited march and rally held that day. The protest, organized by the ILWU, marched 2 miles from Local 10’s headquarters on North Point Street to Harry Bridges Plaza near downtown San Francisco. Along with members of the longshore union, public school teachers from United Educators of San Francisco, Oakland Education Association and other local unionists participated in the action.

The rally was chaired by ILWU member David Newton. Speakers included Trent Willis, past president of Local 10; the grandson of Abu-Jamal; and the brother, sister and a close family member of Tyre Nichols, who was killed Jan. 7 by Memphis police.

Last December Philadelphia County Judge Lucretia Clemons ordered the District Attorney’s Office there to hand over all of its files on Abu-Jamal’s case to his defense lawyers. The documents include many files they have never seen. It’s possible the files long kept hidden by prosecutors will give Abu-Jamal grounds to seek a new trial.

“Protests supporting Mumia are taking place in South Africa and other parts of the world today,” Newton told the rally. “We need to keep up the pressure. Free Mumia! Free all political prisoners!”

— Jeff Powers

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 9, 1998

NEW YORK — The theme of “100 Years of Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism: Africa, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines” drew 200 here Feb. 19.

Félix Wilson, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, explained that the war of 1898 was actually the Spanish-Cuban-American War, and that the invading U.S. forces snatched victory away from Cuba’s liberation army. Today, the rulers of the United States “can’t forgive us for the fact we made a revolution in 1959.”

Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters noted, “Washington is marching working people in the U.S. and the world into a war, that is not our war, against the people of Iraq.”

“In 1898 the imperialists invaded Puerto Rico and saved us from ourselves — they always come to save you from yourself,” Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda said to laughter and applause.



March 9, 1973

FEB. 27 — Today President Nixon threatened to stop the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. Nixon’s threat was in response to an announcement by the North Vietnamese government that it would release no more American prisoners until the U.S. government and the Saigon regime stopped violating the Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

Saigon claims to have killed 10,000 rebel soldiers since the “truce” began. The *New York Times* estimated 200,000 people were made homeless in just the two previous days of fighting. The *Washington Post* reported Saigon’s President Thieu “is continuing to run South Vietnam almost as if the Paris cease-fire agreement had never been signed, with the army and the police as his principal instruments of statecraft.”

U.S. officials bluntly admit their backing of Thieu’s attempts to chip away at territory held by the liberation forces.



March 8, 1948

LOS ANGELES — The long struggle of California farm laborers to achieve organization is being renewed in the heroic strike at the Di Giorgio farm corporation, a 20,000-acre ranch. An outstanding feature of the strike has been the aid and assistance given by the AFL. This help reached a high point when the AFL brought a caravan of some 250 cars and trucks bearing 1,000 AFL members, \$20,000 worth of food and \$6,000 in cash.

The landowners know what is at stake. The example of a successful struggle being waged through the unity of the farm and city workers opens the gates to organization of some 350,000 California agricultural workers.

Di Giorgio tried to bust the union with a three-day lockout, but only made the workers more determined. They won widespread sympathy and support. Committees have worked to spread organizations to other farms.



# Defend Ukraine independence!

**Continued from front page**  
*cial Times*. “Demoralized after years of neglect, it had just 5,000 combat-ready troops.”

But “thousands of Ukrainian volunteers filled the void,” Miller said.

“We will disappear as a nation if we do not fight,” Andriy Zotov, 49, a polar scientist who traveled from Antarctica to join the volunteers, told the *Wall Street Journal*. “We went to the front line not because we wanted to fight,” he said, but “because we had no choice.”

With a population less than one-third that of Russia, Ukrainians have volunteered from all walks of life — truck drivers, construction workers and farm hands, musicians, dancers and professionals. Their determination to defend their country’s existence has deepened since the invasion began, just as it was reinforced during the mass movement in 2014 that toppled the pro-Moscow thug regime of Viktor Yanukovich that ruled Ukraine. Millions of working people joined that struggle, transforming themselves as they faced down Yanukovich’s deadly attacks.

Women were barred from combat roles in the Ukrainian army until 2018. Now 50,000 serve, including in front line positions. The army doesn’t yet have enough women’s uniforms for all the volunteers.

Anastasia Kolesnyk enlisted the first day of the war, “because when a murderer and a thief comes to your house, you don’t just run away — you try to protect it. And everything was at stake.”

“I never held a rifle in my hands and never even saw one up close,” Yulia Bondarenko told the *New York Times*. The teacher volunteered for the Ukrainian infantry during the Kremlin’s failed drive to take Kyiv. Following the Maidan uprising, she said, she had begun to learn about the injustices perpetrated by Moscow against Ukrainians.

Initially fearful she didn’t have the abilities to fight, Bondarenko learned step by step on the job. “It was pleasant when the guys said, ‘It’s working out with you,’” she said. “And they said, ‘I would go into battle with you.’”

Bonderenko’s mother, Hanna, said she “was happy I didn’t have a son because I didn’t have to worry about him going off to war. I never imagined my daughter would sign up.”

After a series of setbacks its forces suffered, the Kremlin has recalibrated, throwing masses of its troops — workers and farmers in uniform — into assaults along Ukraine’s eastern front in the Donbas. Most are

poorly trained and equipped conscripts. Many tens of thousands have been killed or injured, including over 30,000 Wagner mercenaries recruited from among former convicts.

During more than six months of attacks on Bakhmut, the Russian army and private Wagner fighters have only made creeping advances. Kyiv’s forces have so far held Bakhmut despite the fact that Moscow’s relentless shelling has reduced the city to rubble.

### Putin’s war isn’t popular in Russia

The arrests of over 20,000 anti-war protesters last year quelled any sizable public protest in Russia for now. But silent “flower protests” to commemorate Ukrainians killed in Moscow’s airstrikes, solo placard-holding actions and other ways of making opposition known continue.

A Peaceful Art Protest in St. Petersburg exhibiting anti-war posters by artist Elena Osipova was closed down Jan. 31. It was hosted by Yabloko, a liberal bourgeois opposition party.

Osipova, 77, is renowned for standing with her posters against Moscow’s war in Ukraine and against the Putin regime. She is frequently arrested. Her first poster protest was held in 2002 during Moscow’s war in Chechnya. Because she is widely respected by friends, neighbors and others across Russia, cops prefer to take her home rather than risk provoking further outrage by detaining her.

“I am not scared of anything,” Osipova told *Novaya Gazeta*. “Why can’t I



Lynsey Addario

As Russian tanks neared Kyiv, her home, at outset of Putin’s invasion, teacher Yulia Bondarenko volunteered, even though she “never held a rifle” before. Bondarenko, in middle, with her unit before going to fight on the eastern front. They told her, we’re proud to fight alongside you.

say or do something in my country in a peaceful manner, without weapons? I can do anything.”

In the years immediately after the Bolshevik-led 1917 Russian Revolution, the workers and farmers government granted oppressed nations within the former czarist empire the right to determine their own future. There was an explosion of political and cultural activity. This was bloodily suppressed in the course of a bureaucratic counter-revolution headed by Joseph Stalin.

At the end of the Cold War, after decades of crushing political opposition, the Stalinist police state regime came apart. Museums and theaters re-emerged as centers of cultural freedom and places where Russians could learn

some of the truth about the history of Stalin’s repression.

Putin has used his wartime clamp-down on political rights to make new laws against keeping historical records from the Soviet era. The Kremlin shut down the Sakharov Center in Moscow as “undesirable” Feb. 15. It was named after the famous Soviet dissident, Andrei Sakharov.

Memorial, an organization that commemorates victims of Stalin’s gulags and exposes Putin’s attacks on political rights, was shut down in 2022.

“But you can’t ban people from thinking,” Yan Rachinsky, chairman of Memorial, told the *New York Times*. “What the authorities are doing today does not guarantee them any longevity.”

## FBI admits to spying on Catholics, calls them ‘extremists’

BY TERRY EVANS

The FBI will “never conduct investigative activities or open an investigation based solely on First Amendment protected activity,” the spy agency claimed as it shut down plans by its office in Richmond, Virginia, to launch a new spy operation aimed at Catholics.

It only did so after the plan became public and was hit with a firestorm of criticism. In fact, the FBI has a decades-long record of just such unconstitutional attacks on freedom of speech, worship, assembly and more.

Its most recent assault dovetails with the partisan drive by Democrats and the middle-class left to paint Republicans, especially those who are Catholics, as dangerous, racists and opponents of women’s rights. Some 70 million people in the U.S., over 20% of the population, are Catholics.

Ex-agent Kyle Seraphin posted a heavily redacted internal memo from the FBI’s Richmond office dated Jan. 23, revealing plans to spy on and target for “mediation” those Catholic groups that worship with the traditional Latin Mass and have “more extremist ideological beliefs.” The memo refers to these groups as RTCs, FBI-speak for “radical traditionalist Catholics.”

Not only do RTCs have a “disdain for popes elected since Vatican II,” the FBI opines, they are increasingly attracting RMVEs — that is, “racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists.” That means, the memo says, they’re rife with “anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ and white supremacist ideology.”

Citing the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision that held Roe v. Wade unconstitutional last year, the FBI memo claimed “legislative and judicial decisions in such areas as abortion rights” may be “catalyzing events” for dangerous activity by “radical-traditional Catholics” and “racially motivated violent extremists.”

The FBI’s national press office confirmed one of their offices had issued the internal document. Plans by the Richmond office to go after Catholics by searching for suspects included “the development of sources with placement” — FBI doublespeak for recruiting or inserting undercover informers among worshippers. Churches in the Richmond area, the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter and the Society of Saint Pius X, were listed as targets.

What the FBI means by “mediation” is spelled out in a statement by Melissa Godbold, who is in charge of its Oklahoma City office: “We are focused on identifying, investigating and disrupting

persons” that the FBI decides “incite violence and engage in criminal activity,” without the hindrance of going to trial.

Claims like this were the justification used by the FBI to spy on and carry out Cointelpro operations against the Socialist Workers Party and others for decades.

The “sources” the FBI relied on to justify its plan to assault constitutional freedoms include the highly partisan liberal journals *Salon* and *The Atlantic*, along with the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is notorious for branding conservative organizations as “hate” groups.

The memo was so egregious that attorneys general from 20 states sent a letter to FBI boss Christopher Wray and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland condemning the FBI for differentiating “between the Catholics whom the

Continued on page 10



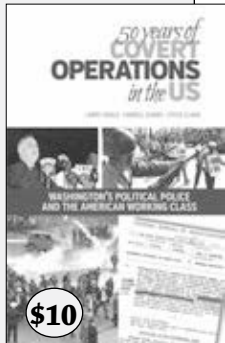
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Decades of spying and disruption by FBI targeting working-class organizations and other opponents of government policies. How expansion of “national security” state used to protect capitalist rule had bipartisan backing.



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# 1918: Soviet forces liberate Ukraine, inspire fighters worldwide

My Life: An Attempt at an Autobiography by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. Under V.I. Lenin, Trotsky was a central leader of the Russian Revolution, including as foreign minister of the young Soviet republic. He led the Russian delegation in 1917-18 talks to end the war with representatives of the belligerent regimes of Germany and Austria. Lenin and Trotsky championed self-determination for nationalities oppressed by czarism and for a voluntary union of the Soviet republics, including Ukraine. The excerpt is from the chapter "Negotiations at Brest-Litovsk." Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

During the last stages of the negotiations, [Richard von] Kühlmann's and [Count Ottokar] Czernin's trump card was the independent action of the Kiev Rada,<sup>1</sup> which was hostile to Moscow. Its leaders represented the Ukrainian variety of Kerenskyism, and differed from their Great Russian prototype only in that they were even more provincial. The Brest-Litovsk delegates of the Rada were never intended by nature for any other fate than to be led by the nose by any capitalist diplomatist. Kühlmann and Czernin both engaged in this business with disdainful conde-



Virtual Museum of the Ukrainian Revolution

Red Army troops welcomed in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Dec. 8, 1917. Bolshevik Revolution in October 1917 put Russian workers and peasants in power, ended Russian involvement in World War I, put an end to czar's "prison house of nations," forming Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

scension. The democratic simpletons felt as if they were walking on air, so elated were they at the thought of the two stalwart firms of Hohenzollern and Hapsburg taking them seriously. When the head of the Ukrainian delegation, Golubovich, after making his due comments, sat down in his chair, carefully separating the long skirts of his black frock coat, one was afraid that he would melt on the spot from the intense joy and admiration that were simmering inside him.

Czernin eventually succeeded, as he himself records in his diary, in inciting the Ukrainians to come out against the Soviet delegation with an openly hostile statement. But the Ukrainians overdid it. For a quarter of an hour their speaker heaped rudeness on arrogance, even embarrassing the conscientious German interpreter. ... I must admit that the scene was most distressing — the distressing thing about it being not, as Czernin thinks, that our fellow countrymen were insulting us in the presence of foreigners, but the frantic self-humiliation of what was after all a representative body of the revolution before vain aristocrats who only despised them. A grandiloquent baseness and a servility that choked with its raptures flowed like a fountain from the tongues of these miserable national democrats who for a moment had been touched with power. ...

With a glance at his patrons after each sentence, as if he were looking for encouragement, the Ukrainian delegate read from his notes all the vituperation that his delegation had prepared. ... I never for a moment doubted that these over-zealous flunkies would soon be thrown out-of-doors by their triumphant masters, who in turn were soon to be ejected from the seats they had been holding for centuries.

At that time revolutionary Soviet detachments were victoriously advancing through the Ukraine, fighting their way through to the Dnieper. And on the very day when the matter came to a head, and it was obvious that the Ukrainian delegates had struck up a deal with Kühlmann and Czernin for the sale of the Ukraine, the Soviet troops took possession of Kiev. When [Karl] Radek inquired over the direct wire about the situation in the Ukrainian capital, the German telegraph-operator, mistaking the person he was addressing for some one else, announced: "Kiev is dead." On February 7, I called the attention of the delegations of the Central Powers to the telegram from Lenin informing us that the Soviet troops had occupied Kiev on January 29; that the government of the Rada, now deserted by every one, was already in hiding; that the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of the Ukraine had been proclaimed the supreme power in the

country and had taken its seat at Kiev; and that the Ukrainian government had adopted a federative connection with Russia, with complete unity in home and foreign policies. At the next meeting, I told Kühlmann and Czernin that they were treating with the delegation of a government whose entire territory was confined to Brest-Litovsk. (By the treaty this town was to be restored to the Ukraine.) But the German government, or rather the German high command, had already decided by that time to occupy the Ukraine with German troops. The diplomacy of the Central Powers was merely drawing up a passport for their admission. [Gen. Erich] Ludendorff worked magnificently to prepare the final agony of the Hohenzollern army.

During those days, confined in a German prison was a man whom the politicians of the Social Democracy were accusing of crazy utopian ideas, and the Hohenzollern judges of state treason. This prisoner [Karl Liebknecht] wrote: "The result of Brest-Litovsk is not nil, even if it comes to a peace of forced capitulation. Thanks to the Russian delegates, Brest-Litovsk has become a revolutionary tribunal whose decrees are heard far and wide. It has brought about the exposé of the Central Powers; it has exposed German avidity, its cunning lies and hypocrisy. It has passed an annihilating verdict upon the peace policy of the German [Social Democratic] majority — a policy which is not so much a pious hypocrisy as it is cynicism. It has proved powerful enough to bring forth numerous mass movements in various countries. And its tragic last act — the intervention against the revolution — has made socialism tremble in every fibre of its being. Time will show what harvest will ripen for the present victors from this sowing. They will not be pleased with it."

1. The Rada, an assembly of representatives of various public organizations in the Ukraine, was formed after the February revolution and claimed to be the spokesman for the Ukrainian nation. After its overthrow by the Bolsheviks, the Rada favored the German occupancy, which, when established, dissolved the Rada government and made Hetman Skoropadsky the sole ruler of the country.

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# ‘Fidel showed that proletarian internationalism isn’t only a foreign policy, it is an extension of the revolution itself’

Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters addresses Havana conference

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

When we pay tribute to Fidel, we are, above all, paying tribute to the working people of Cuba, to the men and women of José Martí, of Antonio Maceo. Fidel was one with them. His greatest achievement was forging in struggle a revolutionary cadre, a communist cadre, capable of leading the workers and farmers of Cuba to establish the first free territory of the Americas and to successfully defend it for more than six decades.

During the early years of the revolution, in 1964, Fidel explained to the world how the working people of Cuba shaped him and made him who he became. I, too, once belonged to an organization, he said, referring to the July 26 Movement. “But the glories of that organization are the glories of Cuba; they are the glories of the people; they belong to all of us. And there came a day that I stopped belonging to that organization.”

As the Freedom Caravan moved through the towns and cities of Cuba in the first days of January 1959, along the road from Santiago to Havana, Fidel said, “I saw lots of men and women, hundreds and thousands of men and women with the red and black uniforms of the July 26 Movement. But many thousands more wore uniforms that weren’t black and red but were the work shirts of workers and farmers and other men and women of the people.”

We realized “we had truly accomplished something that was greater than ourselves,” Fidel said. “They are the strength, the backbone of the revolution! Fist, arm, muscle of the revolutionary people, of the working class, of the peasants, of the workers!”

### Peoples of Cuba and the world

If Fidel belongs first to the working people of Cuba, however, he also belongs to the oppressed and exploited peoples of the world over. And under his leadership, from Latin America and the Caribbean, to Africa and Asia, to North America and Europe, working people of Cuba have shown us in action what proletarian internationalism means.

They have shown us that the internationalism of the working class in power is not primarily a foreign policy. It must be an extension of the revolution itself, inseparable from its strength — even its survival. Fidel explained this to the Cuban people with crystal clarity in July 1976, during the earliest days of Cuba’s internationalist mission to aid the people of Angola and Namibia, who were facing the aggression of the apartheid regime of South Africa and its Washington promoters.

In Fidel’s memorable words, “Those not willing to fight for the



Fidel Castro and Rebel Army fighters enter Havana, Jan. 8, 1959. As the Freedom Caravan stopped in towns and cities across Cuba, huge crowds met them — most not in colors of Castro’s own organization but “the work shirts of workers and farmers,” he said. We saw we’d “accomplished something greater than ourselves.”

freedom of others will never be able to fight for their own.”

Some 15 years later, in May 1991, Raúl closed that chapter of history, which by all measures stands as Cuba’s greatest act of international solidarity. Cuba was already confronting some of the most difficult days of the revolution, the Special Period, precipitated by the implosion of the Soviet bloc and sudden evaporation of some 85 percent of the country’s trade relations.

Receiving the last of the Cuban volunteers returning to Cuban soil, Raúl drew the balance sheet: “When we face new and unexpected challenges we will always be able to recall the epic of Angola with gratitude, because without Angola we would not be as strong as we are today.”

### Moral strengths of leadership

Where did Fidel’s moral strengths as a leader of Cuba’s working people come from? His ability to lead them to accomplish the epic feats of Cuba’s socialist revolution?

He gave us a piece of the answer in the tribute he paid Ernesto Che Guevara in 1987 on the 20th anniversary of Che’s death in combat.

“Che believed in man,” Fidel said. “And if we don’t believe in man, if we think that man is an incorrigible little animal, capable of advancing only if you

tempt him with a carrot or hit him with a stick—anyone who believes this will never be a revolutionary, will never be a socialist, will never be a communist.”

Those were not empty words. Fidel was laying out the ethical foundation, the proletarian morality, our morals, that guided his own course of action, his leadership example, throughout his life. The examples and testaments to this are countless.

### Never killed a prisoner

“The Rebel Army and the militia never killed a prisoner, tortured a prisoner, nor abandoned a single wounded enemy soldier,” explained José Ramón Fernández, commander of the main column of revolutionary forces that routed the U.S.-backed invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. “Not during the struggle in the Sierra, not in the struggle against the bandits, not at Girón.

“That is a matter of principle, of ethics, in our armed forces, one Fidel has strictly demanded from the beginning of the revolutionary struggle.”

From the very first battle in the Sierras, “our medical supplies were used for *all* the wounded, without distinction,” both the Rebel Army’s and those in Batista’s armed forces, Fidel said in Ignacio Ramonet’s 100-hour interview with the Cuban leader.

“Captured soldiers were allowed to



Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Fidel Castro in New York, October 1979, when Castro addressed United Nations. When Bishop was murdered in 1983 counterrevolution led by Bernard Coard, Castro said: “No crime must be committed in the name of revolution and freedom.”

go absolutely free,” Fidel said. “We had an invariable policy of respect for the adversary’s integrity. ... There were cases of enlisted men who surrendered as many as three times, and three times we would release them.”

Since we disembarked from the *Granma*, Fidel underlined, our guidelines have been “no assassination, no civilian victims, no use of the methods of terror,” no acts “in which innocent people might be killed. *That’s* not contemplated in any revolutionary doctrine.

“No war is ever won through terrorism. It’s that simple,” Fidel said. Because if you employ terrorism, “you earn the opposition, hatred and rejection of those whom you need in order to win the war.” That’s why at the end of the war “we had the support of over 90 percent of the population.”

“For us it was a philosophy, a principle, that innocent people must not be sacrificed. It was always a principle — practically a dogma.

“Batista’s soldiers would go around stealing, burning houses and killing people,” Fidel told the interviewer. “The *campesinos* could see that we, on the other hand, respected them. We paid them for the food and other things we got from them.”

Without those policies, “we’d never have won the war.”

### Families of those killed in the war

Teté Puebla was second in command of the Rebel Army’s women’s platoon created by Fidel and later the first woman to reach the rank of general in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces.



Editorial Verde Olivo

Cuban and Angolan combatants celebrate victory in Cangamba, August 1983. Cuban leadership mobilized tens of thousands of volunteers in reply to Angola’s appeal to resist U.S.-backed invasion by South African apartheid regime. “Those not willing to fight for the freedom of others will never be able to fight for their own,” Fidel Castro said.

In her account, *Marianas in Combat*, she describes how the mothers, widows, and children of Batista’s soldiers who died in combat were treated.

The widows weren’t to blame “for the murders the army of the dictatorship committed,” she said. “So we looked after them in the same way. ... Whenever we set up a school with a group of children, we didn’t say who their parents were. Only those of us in charge of them knew. We protected these children,” she said. Now they are part of the revolution. “The widows and mothers of the Batista army collect a pension.”

“We identify with all peoples of the world who fight against misery and hunger,” Teté said. “These principles of the revolution are the moral foundation of our struggle.”

### The value of a human life

As the commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Fidel was deeply concerned not only for the physical well-being of his forces and the care of the wounded. He was concerned for their mental health, their humanity.

Harry Villegas, known the world over by the nom de guerre *Pombo* — given him by Che, as they fought side by side in the Congo in 1965 — served for more than five years as the liaison between the Cuban high command in Angola and the FAR special command post in Havana, headed by Fidel. In Pombo’s book *Cuba and Angola: The War for Freedom*, he recounts a telling example of Fidel’s vigilance over the *moral* conduct of the Cuban internationalists during the Angola mission — not only of their actions, but even the perception of those actions.

“There was an incident in which a Cuban pilot mistakenly dropped bombs on a home in a *quimbo*, a hamlet, and

some civilians were killed,” Pombo recounted. “Fidel insisted the pilot be tried in Angola under that country’s laws. [Angolan President Agostinho] Neto said it hadn’t been done deliberately; the pilot wasn’t prosecuted. ...

Nonetheless, Pombo continued, “Fidel gave the order that the pilot be withdrawn from the war. War starts to affect a person’s psychology, he said. Your interaction with death can begin to lessen how you value life; you start getting accustomed to death.

“Fidel sought in every way to prevent us from becoming psychologically warped and turned into people for whom life had no value.”

### No crime in name of revolution

These same moral foundations underlay the outrage — and bitterness — Fidel expressed on learning of the assassination in 1983 of Maurice Bishop, the central leader of the revolutionary government of the East Caribbean island of Grenada. During a counterrevolutionary coup by a faction led by Bernard Coard, Bishop and other revolutionary leaders were murdered by soldiers acting on orders by Coard’s clique. Working people and youth who had poured into the streets to defend the revolution were also killed.

“No doctrine, no principle or position held up as revolutionary, and no internal division, justifies atrocious proceedings like the physical elimination of Bishop and the outstanding group of honest and worthy leaders killed yesterday,” Fidel announced publicly the very next day.

“No crime must be committed in the name of the revolution and freedom.”

It was the same principles that led Fidel in 2008 to publicly condemn the course of the Manuel Marulanda leadership of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) for kid-

napping civilians and holding them hostage, sometimes for years under harsh jungle conditions. “These were objectively cruel actions,” Fidel wrote in an article July 3, 2008. “No revolutionary aim could justify them.”

And it was the same moral foundation that led Fidel in 2010 to not only recognize the national aspirations of the Palestinian people but also to speak out in unequivocal terms against the Holocaust denial of then Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

“I don’t think anyone has been more slandered than the Jews,” Fidel said in a widely published interview. The Jews have “lived an existence that is much harder than ours. There is nothing that compares to the Holocaust.”

“Without a doubt” the state of Israel has the right to exist, Fidel said.



I’ll finish with one last example. One of the greatest moments of Fidel’s international leadership came in 1979, when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on behalf of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, whose presidency he had recently assumed.

“I have not come to speak about Cuba,” he told the delegates.

“I do not come to denounce before this assembly the aggressions to which our small but honorable country has been subjected for twenty years. Nor have I come to offend with unnecessary adjectives the powerful neighbor in his own house,” he said.

“I speak on behalf of the children of the world who do not have even a piece of bread.”

In the mouths of many, those words would have been sentimental, hollow rhetoric. Coming from Fidel, they captured the course of his lifetime.

## International conference of theoretical publications held in Havana

HAVANA — Mary-Alice Waters made the remarks printed above at a Feb. 10-11 event here called by its organizers a conference of parties and movements of “the left.” Waters is the president of Pathfinder Press and a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. She is the editor of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory published in New York.

Nearly 200 people attended the First International Conference of Theoretical Publications of Parties and Movements of the Left. It was held at Casa de las Américas, a cultural institution founded in the early years of the Cuban Revolution that has encouraged generations of writers and artists throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting was sponsored by *Cuba Socialista*, theoretical journal of the Cuban Communist Party, whose editor Enrique Ubieta was the central organizer of the gathering.

The meeting coincided with the opening days of the annual Havana International Book Fair, Cuba’s biggest cultural event. The 10-day festival featured dozens of book presentations, panel discussions, music and dance performances, and book exhibits by publishers from Cuba and other countries, including Colombia, this year’s country of honor.

A majority of those attending the conference were representatives of Communist Parties and other political organizations, mostly from Latin America and Europe, with a few from North America, Asia and Africa. Among the Cuban participants were academics, journalists, government officials and party leaders, including Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso and Rogelio Polanco, director of political work for the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel joined participants for several hours of the discussion.

Four sessions took place over the two days. The topics were “U.S. imperialism and the new world geopolitical configuration,” “Fidel and international solidarity,” “Socialism and youth” and “Discussion of an action plan.” Waters spoke during the session on “Fidel and international solidarity.” That part of the program opened with talks by René González Barrios, director of the Fidel Castro Ruz Center in Havana, and French-Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet, author of *My Life*, a book-length interview with Fidel Castro. It was chaired by Abel Prieto, president of Casa de las Américas and former longtime Cuban minister of culture.

At the closing session, the chair declared there was “a consensus” for approving the action plan prepared by conference organizers. This came after organizers had accepted an amendment introduced by a representative of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), stating the declaration was agreed to by “the majority” of those present.

— MARTÍN KOPPEL



Militant/Martin Koppel

Audience at Feb. 10 conference. Inset, Mary-Alice Waters speaking. With Fidel Castro’s leadership, she said, “working people of Cuba have shown in action what proletarian internationalism means.”

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# Rail bosses disregard for safety

Continued from front page

er than air, falling onto the soil, homes and streams in the area.

Pennsylvania Gov. Joshua Shapiro sent a letter to Alan Shaw, CEO of Norfolk Southern, Feb. 14 questioning the burn-off. “Norfolk Southern failed to explore all potential courses of action, including some that may have kept the rail line closed longer but could have resulted in a safer overall approach for first responders, residents and the environment,” he wrote. “The company failed to notify state and local agencies responding to the incident about its decision to vent and burn all five cars containing vinyl chloride instead of one.”

Norfolk Southern bosses then shoved the damaged rail cars littering the area aside, rebuilt the tracks and began running trains again.

Norfolk Southern bosses and East Palestine officials agreed to organize a town hall meeting there Feb. 15 to answer questions from local residents. But, claiming they feared attacks by “outside agitators,” the company backed out of the meeting hours before it began. This just made people madder.

People there got angrier when Peter Buttigieg, secretary of transportation in the Joseph Biden administration, tried to minimize the danger of derailments. “While this horrible situation has gotten a particularly high amount of attention, there are roughly 1,000 cases a year of a train derailling,” he told Yahoo Finance.

At the same time, the derailment and its aftermath has intensified discussions among rail workers over the conditions they face, with bosses determined at all costs to boost their profits.

## Rail labor, public are under attack

“As long as it is more profitable to clean up a disaster than to prevent one, these Wall Street-driven rail corporations will continue to hold communities like East Palestine hostage,” Jeremy Ferguson, president of the SMART-Transportation Division union, which organizes over 30,000 rail conductors and engineers, said in a Feb. 16 statement. Some of the country’s largest hedge funds, including BlackRock, J.P. Morgan Asset Management and The Vantage Group, are the central investors in Norfolk Southern and other Class 1 railroads.

Ferguson described the way rail bosses have implemented what they call Precision Scheduled Railroading in a drive to boost profits. “Due to PSR, trains are much longer than they used to be, with some now over 4 miles in length. Even as the trains have gotten longer, the workforce supporting them has gotten smaller,” he said.

This “has led us to the point where fewer railroaders with less training are taking longer trains made up of more hazardous materials down tracks with more wear and tear,” he said.

“Reduced staffing levels and the increased number of cars per train have made it impossible” to “properly inspect equipment to ensure its safety. As an example, car inspection that used to be done with an industry standard of 3-4 minutes per car has been reduced to 60-90 seconds,” he said. “As the heartbreaking images from East Palestine show, this is a recipe for more catastrophic consequences.”

## Residents describe what they face

“My business is 200 yards from the derailment fire,” Michael McKim told Socialist Workers Party members. “I couldn’t understand when the firefighters used all those gallons of water on the fire. You don’t fight chemical fires with water. That’s one way the chemicals got in the waterways, all the way into the Ohio River.”

Ohio State Fire Marshal Kevin Rear-don told News 5 on Feb. 17 that the firefighters — who came from three states to fight the fire — didn’t know it was a chemical fire at first. He said they weren’t even in hazmat suits.

Ohio Gov. Michael DeWine explained that the railroad is not required to inform local governments that highly toxic substances are on trains traversing their area unless they are classified as “high hazardous” trains. This train wasn’t — despite the very real hazard in the derailed tank cars. It wasn’t until 10 days after the derailment that the EPA released information that other toxic chemicals had been released, turning up in creeks around East Palestine. Authorities admit there is still a plume of chemical-mixed water slowly making its way down the Ohio River.

“It shouldn’t be a mystery. We’re entitled to all the information,” Robert Anderson, a mechanic at an auto dealership in town, told us. He and his wife live right by the tracks in Enon Valley, Pennsylvania. “I’m worried about the water in my well. It’s shallow.”

“The trains are going slower now, but they usually fly through town. If the derailment had happened sooner, in the center of the town,” he said, “the fire would have leveled the town.”

Tub Parker, a farmer on the outskirts of East Palestine, pointed to the nearby houses around his farm, saying they all relied on wells for their water. “Nobody has checked these wells; people are afraid to use the water.”

Authorities advise anyone with a well to drink bottled water until it is tested.

Norfolk Southern reported in 2021



AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar

Town meeting of area residents at East Palestine High School, Ohio, Feb. 15, discussed Norfolk Southern derailment, fire and toxic chemicals released. Claiming they feared “outside agitators,” rail bosses backed out of meeting hours before it began. This made people madder.

that over a three-year period they had increased the average train weight by 21% and length by 20%. They have had an increasing amount of train derailments over the past decade. At the same time, Norfolk Southern got rid of 40% of its workforce, going from 30,456 to 18,100 workers.

## Rail bosses cut workers, maintenance

Christopher Hand, director of research at the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, told *Freightwaves* magazine that with the advent of Precision Scheduled Railroading, Norfolk Southern laid off all five specialized maintenance workers responsible for trackside “hotbox detectors” in parts of three states, including East Palestine. These detectors are not required by federal law.

“Most signalmen are exclusively spending time on these government-mandated tests,” he said. “There used to be something called ‘maintenance’ and it was routinely maintaining your apparatus — not just strictly going there when you have a regulated test.”

Surveillance photos now document the fact that one car axle on the train, labeled as 32N by Norfolk Southern, was sending off sparks when it passed a hot-box detector 20 miles before it got to East Palestine. But the train crew only received an alarm from a detector it passed moments before the axle failed, dumping 50 cars on the ground.

# FBI targets Catholics as ‘extremists’

Continued from page 6

FBI deems acceptable, and those it does not,” and treating the latter “as potential terrorists because of their beliefs.”

Their letter points out, “The FBI has been down this road before, having infiltrated countless mosques” after 9/11, and “disavowed this ignominious practice in 2008.”

But this assault on Catholics by the rulers’ political police isn’t a one-off thing.

## Minister acquitted after FBI raid

Last September some 20 armed agents arrested and cuffed Mark Houck at gunpoint at his home in Kintnersville, Pennsylvania, in front of his children. Houck is co-president of The King’s Men, a Catholic men’s ministry, and an anti-abortion campaigner who was involved in an altercation at a clinic in 2021. Despite contacting prosecutors and volunteering

“I came home from work that night and immediately left because I couldn’t breathe,” Michael McIntosh, a cook at a seafood restaurant explained. He and his mother live a few hundred yards from the scene of the derailment and fire. “Since I came back after the burn-off, I’m still having breathing problems.” Other residents have reported rashes and headaches that have come on since the derailment.

Chris Hoeppner, the 2022 Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from District 3 in Pennsylvania and a freight rail conductor and SMART-TD union member, said in a statement: “Rallies organized by rail unions before and after the recent government imposition of a contract on us showed the readiness of rail workers to act for the benefit of, as Jeremy Ferguson puts it, ‘SMART’s members and the American public.’

“I join fellow rail workers in fighting for no train over 50 cars in length, with four-person crews — two workers on the locomotive and two workers on the rear of the train. We need human beings’ eyes and minds on the job, not blind reliance on technology. The failure of the hot box detector to report the fire on 32N hurtling toward East Palestine underscores this. As one trucker told members of my party in the area, a worker on a caboose would have smelled or seen the burning axle.”

to turn himself in, he was the victim of the armed FBI operation.

Facing a possible 11-year jail sentence for allegedly violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, Houck pled not guilty and was acquitted by a jury Jan. 30.

Like the FBI’s now-abandoned spy operation on Richmond-area churches, the arrest of Houck is only one part of its broader targeting of the rulers’ political opponents. Since it was transformed in the late 1930s by the Franklin Roosevelt administration into the capitalists’ central political police agency, the FBI has been unleashed on countless occasions, spying, harassing and disrupting militant workers, communists, fighters for Black rights and opponents of Washington’s wars.

The stakes for working people in opposing similar assaults today and in fighting to defend and extend constitutional freedoms could not be higher.



## The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor

“The capitalist system, and the propertied families who benefit from it in imperialist centers and semi-colonial countries alike, will inevitably continue to ravage humanity and the planet we inhabit. The international working class is the only force capable of resolving the crises produced by capitalism’s degradation of nature and labor.” — Socialist Workers Party statement in *New International* no. 14

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# Earthquake catastrophe fueled by capitalism

Under capitalism, earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters are turned into social catastrophes that fall in sharply different ways on different social classes. They strike workers and farmers with special ferocity.

Countless lives are lost because bosses ignore basic safety precautions — like reinforcing buildings constructed near fault lines — that cut into their profits. The bosses’ priorities and the living conditions they impose on us exacerbate death and destruction.

The social disaster after the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey is the latest example. The same class realities can be seen in every corner of the world, from the least developed semicolonial nations to the wealthiest imperialist powers like the U.S. The grim toll when hurricanes hit is a result of the fact that working people are forced to live wherever housing is least expensive, including on flood plains, and the capitalist rulers’ inevitable decision to leave us to fend for ourselves when a disaster hits.

Bosses and their government’s profit system gambles with our lives. They figure the odds. Is the chance of a catastrophe small enough — or the potential profits large enough — to make taking risks worthwhile? Can they pass off the death toll as an unfortunate but unalterable force of nature? Can they mask the fact that such disasters are a product of social relations based on class exploitation, and

that the resulting losses can be sharply altered by a change in which class rules?

Dog-eat-dog morality is integral to capitalist exploitation. The rulers impose their values in workplaces and schools, and regurgitate them daily in their media. They are truly indifferent to the deadly impact of their system on our class.

Working people can only defend ourselves by turning toward one another and struggling together against the bosses and their twin Democratic and Republican parties. Through working-class solidarity and union struggles, we learn everything in society is class versus class.

Working people in Cuba face numerous hurricanes, as well as Washington’s punishing economic war aimed at crushing their socialist revolution. Despite mounting hardship caused by the U.S. embargo, no one in Cuba is left to fend for themselves when a storm hits. The lesson of the Cuban Revolution is that with communist leadership it is possible everywhere to organize the toiling majority to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government.

It will take a socialist revolution to overturn the destructive social order that dominates the U.S. and the rest of the capitalist world, to prevent further social catastrophes. That’s a good reason to join with the Socialist Workers Party to fight for a future that unleashes the creative potential of humanity.

## Fight against ban on ‘Militant’ in Florida prison

Continued from front page

successful strike of the New York State Nurses Association, in which they demanded staffing increases in part to improve patient care,” she noted. “These news stories of extreme state censorship 7,000 miles away and a nursing strike are hardly a security threat within a Florida Correctional facility.” More than 50 literary, trade union, cultural, religious and other groups belong to the coalition.

At the same time, two other Florida prisons — Wakulla Correctional Institution and Charlotte Correctional Institution — have been withholding the paper from inmate subscribers without any written notification to the prisoner or the *Militant*, in violation of the prison system’s rules and regulations.

“Prisons cannot ban a publication without notice or reason,” the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said in its letter to Florida prison officials. “The impoundment and confiscation of the *Militant* infringes upon the First Amendment rights of both the *Militant*’s publisher and its incarcerated subscribers.” The reporters committee is led by journalists from some of the largest news media in the U.S.

PEN America, an organization of more than 7,000 novelists, writers, editors, publishers and others who defend freedom of expression, also called for overturning the ban. The articles on the New York nurses and protests for equal rights in Iran “have no bearing on the security or order of the facility,” PEN America spokesperson Moira Marquis wrote.

Starting in 2013 Florida prison officials have tried to suppress the *Militant* nearly 50 times. The *Militant* challenged every one and with broad support has overturned the majority of them. And for the last two years the *Militant* hadn’t received notice of any bans there until this one.

A victory for the *Militant* will also help in overturning the suppression of books and other publications in Florida and nationwide. The Marshall Project released a report in December 2022 showing Florida officials have banned 20,000 books, the highest number of any prison system in the country. Texas is close behind, and the two prison systems account for about half of the 54,000 books banned

by prison officials in the 18 states the report covers.

One of those books was *Corrections in Ink* by Keri Blakinger, which recounts her experiences during nearly two years in prison a decade ago. Florida prison officials banned the book in September alleging that it is “dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages” unrest.

The Literature Review Committee upheld the ban at that time, based on two short sections in the book. One reports how an inmate invented an imaginary pet chicken in an attempt to get authorities to decide she was mentally ill. The other describes how a jailer tormented one woman by a “joke search” of her cell, destroying her property.

Blakinger, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, won a victory earlier this month when the Literature Review Committee reversed itself and lifted the ban. “It’s beyond charitable to call the prison and FDOC’s original position as ridiculous,” ACLU attorney Corene Kendrick told the press.

### Ban violates the Constitution

“Blackwater River’s ban has nothing to do with ‘security’ or the prison authorities’ alleged concern with ‘rehabilitating’ prisoners,” *Militant* editor John Studer said Feb. 17. “Nurses strikes across the country and the protests in Iran have been covered by virtually every media nationwide. This ban shows that the prison authorities’ real target is the political perspective of the *Militant*. This is unconstitutional.

“The New York nurses and the protesters in Iran are showing the power of solidarity, of uniting working people whatever their religion, language or skin color,” Studer said. “The *Militant* views those behind bars as fellow workers who are part of the world, who need access to a variety of viewpoints to think for themselves, consider different ideas, have their own opinions.

“Join us in pushing back this blatant attempt to violate the right to free speech and freedom of the press,” Studer said. “This is an especially good opportunity to bring this issue to nurses and other unions and ask them to back the *Militant*’s fight.”

Reach out to your union officials, co-workers, church groups, to nurses and other health care workers’ unions.

Send letters to Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com and Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com or via post office mail to Florida DC Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500.

Please send a copy to the *Militant*.

## Miners ready to go back



Striking United Mine Workers members picket entrance to Warrior Met mine in Brookwood, Alabama, June 15, 2021. UMWA

Continued from front page

“We’re just going to wait and see how the company responds,” Otis Sims told the *Militant* by phone Feb. 16. In the meantime, he said, “I’ll be doing my picket duty.” Sims has worked at the no. 4 mine for 43 years and was a longwall operator when the strike began April 1, 2021.

The union is calling on the company to allow its members to return to work while engaging in negotiations to reach a contract settlement. It says Warrior Met has been paying scabs up to \$2,000 a month, more than what they offered UMWA members in 2021.

“We are entering a new phase of our efforts to win our members and their families the fair and decent contract they need and deserve,” Roberts said in a Feb. 16 statement. “The status quo is not good for our members.”

After the company replied to the union’s offer, Roberts wrote again Feb. 20, “asking several questions that we need to know the answers to before we can discuss the next steps with our members,” a statement on the union website said.

### Miners win solidarity

Since the strike started, miners have held solidarity rallies, including two major actions that drew union miners and retirees from around the country, as well as leaders and members of other unions, including the International Longshoremen’s Association, the Bakery Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA and many more. The UMWA strike fund, which has helped pay strikers’ weekly benefits, has received contributions from UMWA locals and districts, as well as other unions.

Many strikers have had to get other full-time jobs to support their families. Some are now working at UMWA-organized Oak Grove and Shoal Creek mines, also in Alabama.

Warrior Met Coal was set up by the biggest outstanding creditors when the previous owner, Jim Walter Resources, declared bankruptcy in 2015. The new owners told miners they had to accept deep cuts in wages, benefits and working conditions or the mines would be shuttered. Gains the miners had fought for over decades were ripped up, with a company promise to restore them when it started making a profit.

But when the contract expired in 2021, bosses reneged, offering the miners virtually no improvements. UMWA members overwhelmingly rejected the contract and vowed to stay out until they won a better agreement.

Warrior Met then restarted production using scab labor. Over time, some union members crossed the picket line. The UMWA auxiliary, organized by strikers’ spouses, has been helping to keep picket lines up and provided food, household supplies and other necessities so strikers’ families can get by.

In the face of court injunctions that severely restricted union picketing and an unrelenting company campaign to violence-bait the union, the strikers continued their fight. Last July, at the company’s request, the National Labor Relations Board imposed a \$13.3 million fine on the union, saying it had to pay for the mine owners’ losses. The union refused to pay and the fine was later reduced to \$435,000 plus interest.

Earlier this month, a group of some 150 ministers, rabbis and religious leaders from around the country signed a statement calling on Warrior Met to end the strike immediately “in an equitable and just manner.”

### Correction

The article “Working People in Ukraine Fight New War Moves from Moscow,” in issue no. 8 should have said Transnistria is an enclave in eastern Moldova, not western Moldova.