

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

UMWA miners fight move to oust union at Warrior Met

— PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 17 MAY 1, 2023

Back Ukraine people's fight to defend their independence

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The morale and determination of working people who make up the backbone of the Ukrainian armed forces, backed by volunteer territorial defense units, has prevented Russian President Vladimir Putin from crushing Ukraine's independence for over a year.

And at home Putin's regime is intensifying its clampdown on free speech and imprisoning opponents, but opposition is growing and he is failing to silence people speaking out against the war.

In Izhevsk, 600 miles east of Moscow, Nikita Gorbunov stood in Kirov Park with a sign, "Hug me if you're against the war," with Ukrainian and Russian flags on it March 19. For over an hour he was constantly embraced by many passersby before being arrested.

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Help get out the 'Militant,' books, raise needed funds

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

At an April 15 rally of over 600 UPS workers and their supporters in Orange, California, Socialist Workers Party members Norton Sandler and Fredy Huinil extended solidarity and joined discussions with Teamsters union members there. They're fighting for a new contract.

During a conversation with Eric Sanchez, who is a driver and union shop steward, Sandler pointed to the significance of this fight for all working people. "The union movement is handicapped by relying on the Democratic Party, which protects the interests of the rich," Sandler said. "Workers need our own party, a labor party based on our unions that fights in our interests."

"I agree," Sanchez replied, "but how we get there is the question."

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Solidarity with the struggle by people of East Palestine!

Working people need control over cleanup, health



Ohio Governor's Office

Covered piles of contaminated soil still sitting in East Palestine, Ohio, after Feb. 3 train derailment, fire caused social disaster. Workers, farmers and small-business people are fighting for control of their future in face of contempt for working people by rail bosses, government.

BY TONY LANE

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio — Workers, farmers and small-business people here continue to receive support and solidarity from working people across the country. They are fighting to take control over the cleanup, to guarantee lifelong health care and to rebuild their lives, paid for by the rail bosses and government agencies after the Feb. 3 Norfolk Southern train derailment here and subsequent fire, burn-off and social disaster.

"Two hundred and ninety air purifiers have been distributed, another 120 are coming with 129 spoken for," Mallory Aponick, disaster services coordinator for the First Church of Christ, told *Militant* worker-correspondent Kathie

Fitzgerald. The two shipments so far have been paid for by Norfolk Southern. The church has been serving as a distribution center for aid. She said water is being brought in now by churches with

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Rallies kick off Teamsters union national contract battle at UPS



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Hundreds of Teamsters, supporters, rallied April 15 in Orange, California, as 340,000 package delivery and warehouse workers prepare for national contract battle with UPS bosses.

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

ORANGE, Calif. — Over 600 members of the Teamsters union from various workplaces and locals throughout Southern California and their supporters rallied at the Local 952 hall here April 15. The union is gearing up for negotiations with UPS Inc. bosses on a new contract to cover 340,000 package delivery and warehouse workers nationwide.

Negotiations started two days later. The Teamsters contract at UPS is the largest private sector collective bargaining agreement in North America. The current five-year agreement expires

July 31.

Negotiations come just months after UPS reported record profits, with revenue exceeding \$100 billion for the first time.

155,000 PUBLIC WORKERS STRIKE IN CANADA

— See page 7

The Teamsters are fighting to guarantee better pay for all workers; eliminate two-tier wages; increase the number of full-time jobs; end excessive overtime;

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Biden White House unleashes FBI to go after the Catholics

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

President Joseph Biden's Department of Justice has recommended against any jail time being handed down for Maeve Nota, who admits to vandalizing St. Louise Catholic Church in Bellevue, Washington, last June. She had been arrested and charged after smashing the church's windows and doors, destroying a statue, spray-painting profane anti-Catholic messages and attacking one of the church's workers. Damages amounted to over \$30,000.

It was one of nearly 300 attacks on U.S. Catholic churches since May 2020, 118 of them since the May 2022 leak of the draft U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

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Leaks shine light on breadth of US spy operations around the world

BY TERRY EVANS

The leak of top-secret papers from the CIA and the Joint Chiefs of Staff has shone a spotlight on Washington's vast spy operations aimed at allies and antagonists alike. This material was appar-

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Socialist Workers Party: End all US war ‘games’ aimed at NKorea!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington, Seoul, and Tokyo have been carrying out a series of overlapping and provocative war games in South Korea aimed at intimidating the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the North. They are the largest military maneuvers there since 2018 when the U.S. government scaled back the annual “exercises” as part of talks between then-President Donald Trump with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Those talks — which pointed toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula — stalled in the face of Washington’s refusal to end economic, financial and trade sanctions against North Korea and its refusal to pledge to never invade the North.

Amid the talks with Trump, the government of the DPRK had dismantled some of its nuclear facilities and had not conducted a test of nuclear weapons since 2017.

At the end of World War II, following the defeat of the Japanese rulers — who had brutally occupied Korea since 1910 — the peninsula was divided into North and South by Washington, with the connivance of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, against the will of the Korean people. The U.S. Army occupied the South and by 1948 installed the bloody dictatorship of Syngman Rhee, who put down popular mobilizations in blood.

In the North, workers and farmers began organizing to carry out a land reform, expropriation of capitalist businesses and measures to guarantee equal rights for women.

Then in 1950 Washington provoked the Korean War. North Korean soldiers

and guerrilla fighters nearly succeeded in pushing the U.S. occupation troops out of the country, but Washington counterattacked, using massive carpet bombing and napalm in the North, reaching almost to the Chinese border before being forced back.

The war ended in a stalemate in 1953, the first defeat ever for U.S. imperialism. More than 4 million people were killed and the U.S. had reduced northern Korean cities — and a good part of the South — to rubble. Washington signed an armistice, but to this day has refused to sign a permanent peace treaty.

There are 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea today.

Biden restarts war games

Under the Joseph Biden administration, Washington has escalated provocative annual joint military drills that mimic attacks on the North. In November, Washington and Seoul held a joint air exercise “Vigilant Storm,” which carried out 1,600 sorties with 240 warplanes.

The largest of the U.S.-South Korean joint maneuvers, the two-week “Ssangyong (Double Dragons) Exercise,” ran from March 20 to April 3. Conducted at sites around the peninsula, it involved some 9,500 U.S. Marines and sailors and 3,000 of their South Korean counterparts, as well as 30 British Royal Marines. This included the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, with its accompanying strike group of smaller ships and planes.

The four-day U.S.-South Korean “Warrior Shield” exercise, which ended March 23, included live-fire artillery



Stars and Stripes/David Choi

South Korean marine takes position as U.S. Marines disembark during provocative “Double Dragon” joint military exercise in Pohang, South Korea, March 29, targeting North Korea.

drills and some 1,200 troops as close as 16 miles from the Demilitarized Zone.

In a separate naval exercise April 3, the Nimitz Strike Group and South Korean destroyers were joined by Japan’s JS Umigiri destroyer near Jeju Island to practice underwater targeting of North Korean submarines, drones and torpedoes.

On April 14, two B-52 Stratofortress bombers — which are capable of launching nuclear bombs — several South Korean warplanes and four Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-15 fighters flew over the East Sea, a day after North Korea conducted a successful test of a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile.

Ri Pyong Chol, vice president of the North Korean Workers Party’s Central Military Commission, issued a statement calling the deployment of the B-52 bombers “clear evidence that the U.S. nuclear threat and blackmail against us has reached a level that cannot be overlooked.”

SWP champions reunifying Korea

We continue to “champion the fight to reunify Korea,” Steve Clark wrote for the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in a letter to the leadership of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to commemorate their April 15 national holiday. He noted that some of the latest U.S. sea maneuvers “were carried out off the coast of Jeju Island, where almost seventy-five years ago the

US rulers were complicit in the massacre of up to 30,000 working people rebelling against the proimperialist regime imposed on South Korea.”

“The Socialist Workers Party demands that the US government immediately and unconditionally cancel all joint military exercises with Seoul, Tokyo, and other capitalist powers,” Clark said. “Withdraw US military personnel and weaponry from Korea. Lift all sanctions against the DPRK. Sign a peace treaty ending the decades-long state of war by the US imperialist government. Reopen talks to end the deployment in Korea and its skies and waters of nuclear weapons and delivery systems by all sides.

“Support for Korea’s national sovereignty and unification can be won among toilers and others in the US and worldwide.”

US out of Korea! An unknown history of US intervention in Korea

by Steve Clark



Printable PDF available at www.themilitant.com

THE MILITANT

Get out the truth about Cuba’s socialist revolution

In Miami, for the first time since the Cuban Revolution, Cuba’s team played the U.S. in the World Baseball Classic March 19. They played with dignity in face of a group of disrupters. The ‘Militant’ defends and tells the truth about the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko
Cuban players celebrate win in World Baseball quarterfinal in Tokyo, March 15.

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‘Militant,’ books, fund effort

Continued from front page

Third parties have tried but haven’t gone anywhere.”

Conditions are changing under the impact of the employers’ attempt to take their crisis out on our backs, Sandler said, and workers are more open to the idea of a labor party than they have been in some time.

Sanchez got a six-month subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs. The book recounts the strike battles and union-organizing drives carried out by Teamsters in Minneapolis in the 1930s — struggles that pointed the road toward independent working-class political action.

Before the Teamsters rally, Huinil and Sandler approached a group of workers from the San Marcos UPS terminal, showing them the *Militant* and *Teamster Rebellion*. They were especially interested in the book as they had recently listened to a recording of a talk by Farrell Dobbs. Three got copies of the book along with

three *Militant* subscriptions.

One worker at the protest also purchased *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.

Discussing new openings for advancing a working-class course forward is at the heart of the spring campaign to get 1,350 subscriptions to the *Militant*, sell 1,350 books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders, and raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund by May 16.

Members of the SWP and of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are talking to working people on their doorsteps in cities, towns, farms and rural areas; on union picket lines; and at protests called to defend the interests of workers from Ukraine to Iran.

‘Learn from experience’

“We learn about socialism online, but I want to learn from people who have had real experiences,” Florida

International University student Thaly Marcu told Socialist Workers Party members Rachele Fruit and Alex Huinil, on the campus April 13.

Fruit pointed to the fight of workers, farmers and small-business owners in East Palestine, Ohio, for control over the cleanup following the train derailment there and the role of the *Militant* in organizing solidarity for this and other working-class struggles.

Marcu looked over *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon. “People always say, ‘How can you oppose antisemitism if you are critical of the Israeli government, if you don’t support Netanyahu?’” she asked.

“The SWP supports the right of Israel to exist 100%,” Fruit responded.



Militant/Fredy Huinil

SWP member Norton Sandler, left, with UPS driver Andrew Jones at Teamsters rally in Orange, California, April 15. Jones got a *Militant* subscription and a copy of *Teamster Rebellion*.

“Since the Holocaust it has been a refuge for Jews fleeing antisemitic attacks. But we don’t support the anti-working-class policies of the Israeli government any more than we support the U.S. government.”

Marcu got the book and a *Militant* subscription to share with others.

Communist League members Dag Tirsén and Andrés Mendoza spoke with Ishak Milani at the Kurdish Community Centre in north London April 9. After seeing the *Militant*’s coverage of the fight for Ukraine’s sovereignty, Milani said, “We support Ukraine because we identify with their struggle. Putin is trying to do the same to Ukraine as [Turkish President] Erdogan does to us Kurds. We’ve been living this for 400 years.”

Mendoza showed him the book *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*, explaining that the fight for Ukrainian independence is part of a growing number of struggles by working people and the oppressed around the world. Milani got the book and a year’s subscription.

Funds keep arriving both by mail and online for the Militant Fighting Fund. “The *Militant* really captures

the growing resistance by working people in the U.S. and worldwide, and the openness to revolutionary ideas!” writes Ray Parsons from Delmar, New York, in a message he sent with his donation.

To join in the campaign to expand the reach of the *Militant*, to get out books that explain that workers are capable of leading revolutionary struggle, and to contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, see page 8 for the party or Communist League branch nearest you. Donations to the fund can also be made online at the-militant.com.



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

Diego Contreras Lévesque, left, on *Militant* team to Lac Mégantic, Quebec, April 16. Giles Fluet described being feet from runaway train that derailed, exploded in 2013 disaster.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
March 18-May 16 (week four)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	50	22	50	35	\$9,500	\$4,961
Chicago*	100	39	125	89	\$14,000	\$9,120
Cincinnati	50	26	50	34	\$6,000	\$2,400
Dallas-Fort Worth	60	26	60	41	\$5,000	\$2,756
Lincoln	15	9	15	10	\$500	\$272
Los Angeles*	90	74	110	91	\$16,000	\$2,617
Miami*	45	21	70	64	\$5,500	\$3,055
Minneapolis	70	41	70	55	\$5,500	\$1,720
N. New Jersey	85	42	85	56	\$7,000	\$3,584
New York	100	43	115	81	\$20,500	\$10,034
Oakland	90	59	90	53	\$15,000	\$6,999
Philadelphia	50	31	50	42	\$6,000	\$2,510
Pittsburgh	45	19	45	18	\$6,000	\$2,088
Seattle	75	39	75	39	\$14,000	\$4,580
Washington	50	28	50	27	\$4,500	\$2,303
Other						
Total U.S.	975	519	1060	735	\$135,000	\$58,999
Prisoners	50	54				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	30	40	36	\$2,450	
Manchester	35	22	40	27	\$1,200	\$360
Total U.K.	75	52	80	63	\$3,650	360
Canada	90	47	90	84	\$12,000	\$4,870
Australia	35	20	35	28	\$6,000	\$2,450
Total	1,225	692	1,265	910	\$156,650	\$66,679
SHOULD BE	1,350	675	1,350	675	\$165,000	\$82,500
* Raised goal						

FBI unleashes spies on a Chicago bookstore

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — The owners of Pilsen Community Books here discovered the FBI has been spying on them. “They called us ‘pro-abortion extremists’ because we had a sign-painting event for the June 22 [2022] action supporting a woman’s right to choose abortion that [Illinois] Gov. Pritzker spoke at,” Mandy Medley, a worker-owner of the bookstore, told the *Militant*. “And ‘anarchist violence extremists’ for hosting a teach-in on the fight in Atlanta against building a huge new police training center.”

“They don’t want us to get together to share experiences, to think and dream of a better world and how to create it,”

Medley told Unicorn Riot, a Minneapolis-based independent news outlet that obtained the heavily redacted 30-page FBI document on the bookstore. “That’s exactly what the FBI doesn’t want us to do.”

“We’re open to the public, open to the community,” she told the *Militant*. “Everything is very much out there in terms of what we believe and what we do. I was shocked that the FBI would be interested in us this way.”

Medley said she thought “we were on the police radar before that. This is a police-free place, so people will feel comfortable here. We asked a Latina cop to leave. She claimed she was looking for a Bible. And then she left.”

“This is designed to intimidate us, but only strengthens my resolve to continue organizing for a better world,” she said. “Calling you names is also a way to discourage people from coming into the bookstore.”

Its website describes the worker-owners’ goal is “to unite their passion for bookselling with their belief that

labor is entitled to all it produces.” They frequently hold public activities at the storefront.

They have gotten support against FBI spying from City Lights bookstore in San Francisco, Blue Stockings in New York and Firestone Co-op in Ashville, North Carolina.

As Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in the April 4 elections here, I offered our support as well.

—MILITANT
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Atlanta
What’s Behind U.S.-China Competition? The Working Class Needs Our Own Foreign Policy. Speaker: Marklyn Wilson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 29, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel: (678) 528-7828.

New Iran-Saudi pact reflects cracks in US-led ‘world order’

BY SETH GALINSKY

The reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Iranian and Saudi regimes — finalized in Beijing — is a reflection of the weakening of Washington’s role in the Middle East, although it remains the dominant imperialist power intervening there.

The ruling classes in Tehran and Riyadh have been rivals for decades, but their relations further deteriorated after the popular 1979 overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the shah in Iran and then the consolidation of a cleric-led capitalist counterrevolution there by 1983. They broke relations in 2016.

The reactionary regime in Iran paints itself as the defender of Shiite Muslims against Sunni-led regimes and U.S. imperialism. The monarchy in Saudi Arabia defends the interests of a mostly Sunni merchant, banking and oil-rentier ruling class.

Pressured by today’s deepening capitalist crisis, Washington’s sanctions and mass resistance inside Iran, the rulers there hope to break out of their isolation.

The Saudi monarchy is no longer convinced it should continue relying solely on the U.S. rulers’ military might to protect its interests.

Saudi Arabia’s rulers sell at least five times as much oil a day to China than to the U.S. But Beijing’s military weight in the region, with just one base in Djibouti, pales in comparison to U.S. bases in at least 10 countries there and tens of thousands of troops.

Tehran and Riyadh back opposing sides in Yemen’s civil war. The deal is aimed at tamping down the conflict. Tehran has been arming Houthi rebels, who control the capital and use drones to strike oil production inside Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition has carried out years of devastating bombings in Yemen trying to restore the previous government.

More than 350,000 died in the war, including many from starvation. Millions more have faced famine and disease. Today 80% of the population depends on foreign food aid. On April 9 Saudi officials met with Houthi representatives to discuss a cease-fire.

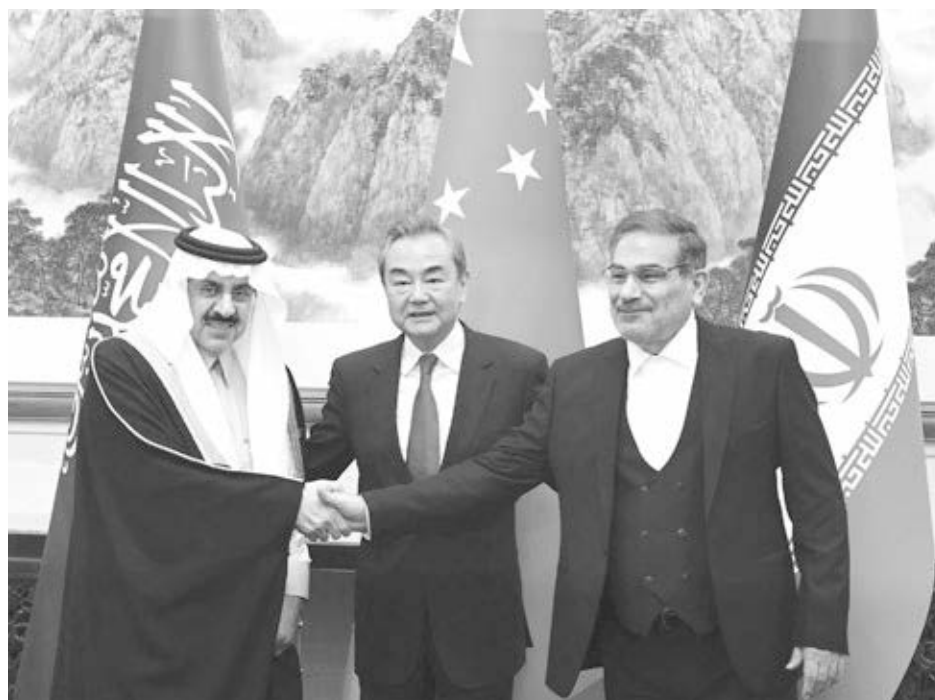
Elsewhere in the region, regimes that had shunned Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for over a decade are discussing inviting a Syrian representative to next month’s Arab League summit. This would be the first time since the beginning of Syria’s civil war, which erupted after Assad tried to crush a popular uprising. Military intervention by Moscow and Tehran enabled

the Assad regime to retake swathes of the country. Washington continues to impose sanctions on Syria.

Tehran claims the deal with Riyadh signifies the death of the “Abraham Accords” — the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Israeli government and the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kosovo, Morocco and Sudan — signed in 2020. The agreements were brokered by the administration of President Donald Trump with the behind-the-scenes backing of the Saudi regime.

The accords ended the seven-decades-long boycott of the Jewish state by a number of Muslim and Arab governments, imposed on the pretext of defending the Palestinian people. While Trump’s goal was more stability for U.S. capitalism in the Middle East, the accords widened openings for working people of different religious beliefs and national origins to travel, work side by side and find ways to join together to defend their class interests.

President Joseph Biden has shown little interest in expanding the number of



China Daily via Reuters

Agreement finalized in Beijing March 10 restoring diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia reflects shifts in position of Washington, Beijing in Middle East. Above middle, Wang Yi, China’s top foreign policy official, with representatives from both Arab-Persian Gulf countries.

Arab governments recognizing Israel. He scaled back Washington’s support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen and took the Houthis off its list of alleged terror groups. But the accords remain in place and an Israel-UAE free trade agreement was finalized in early April.

To consolidate their power, the Iranian rulers have extended their counterrevo-

lutionary influence, directing militias and political parties in Iraq; training and arming Hezbollah in Lebanon; backing Hamas in Gaza; and stationing forces in Syria. Emboldened by the deal with the Saudis, they’re stepping up threats of war against Israel, which they vow to wipe off the face of the earth.

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Leaks shine light on Washington spy operations

Continued from front page

ently ferreted out not by a foreign agent, but a 21-year-old gamer in the military.

The U.S. rulers’ spy operations are an integral part of the drive to defend their class interests. Amid Moscow’s war on Ukraine and mounting friction with the expansionist regime in Beijing, Washington sees cracks and fissures in the “world order” it has lorded over since emerging as the victor in the second imperialist world war.

The leaked files detail Washington’s spying on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to double-check on whether his government plans to launch airstrikes inside Russia. They show the vulnerabilities in Ukrainian air defenses and limits Washington has placed on providing weaponry. One file predicts the war is “heading for a stalemate throughout 2023.”

The documents show the depth of U.S. spies’ infiltration of Moscow’s military and spy apparatus. “U.S. intelligence appears to have penetrated nearly every Russian military body, including the General Staff, the Defense Ministry and the GRU military intelligence agency, as well as the private mercenary group Wagner,” the online Moscow Times reported.

Spy operations against allied governments in Egypt and Israel are also disclosed.

The alleged source of the leaks, Jack Teixeira, a member of the intelligence wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, was seized at his home in Massachusetts by heavily armed FBI agents in full combat gear April 13. He was charged under the Espionage Act with unauthorized retention and transmission of national defense records and willful retention of classified documents. He faces up to 15 years in prison.

Teixeira is alleged to have disclosed the secret documents — which he had crumpled, stuffed into his pants pockets, waltzed out of work with, photographed on his kitchen countertop and put online — to impress some other young people in an online chat group.

After decades of revelations of political spying and disruption aimed at workers and social struggles, the FBI is keen to refurbish its reputation. It boasted Teixeira’s arrest “exemplifies” its role targeting “those who betray our country’s trust.” In addition to spearheading the criminal investigation, the FBI is working with Pentagon officials on “damage limitation.”

The leaked material, however embarrassing, shows nothing new about the skullduggery of the U.S. rulers and their government.

Under capitalism there has never been a time when the ruling-class families — driven by competition to maximize their profits — haven’t spied on any and all to strengthen their ability to get their way, whether by arm-twisting or unleashing their military might.

Their international intrigues are an extension of decades of undercover surveillance and assaults on the working class in the U.S. and its vanguard, who the rulers recognize as the most important threat to their system of exploitation and oppression during times of heightened working-class struggles.

Leaks reveal sharpening conflicts

The recent disclosures show the growing instability and sharpening conflicts the U.S. rulers face worldwide today. Competing capitalist regimes are being driven to seek new alliances and support while stepping up moves to build up their militaries in preparation for the inevitable clashes and wars on the horizon.

In the face of growing challenges, Washington maintains some 750 military bases outside its borders to defend the ruling families’ profits and prerogatives, far more than any other ruling class, with more being constructed. By contrast, with all its expanding intentions, China has only five, all — except one in Djibouti, Africa — on islands Beijing built in the South China Sea.

Leaks of Washington’s far-reaching intelligence efforts highlight just how much governments in Asia rely

on the U.S. rulers to counter the rising economic, political and military reach of Beijing.

The South Korean government “has found no ill will from our ally in the U.S.,” its National Security Office claimed, putting its best face forward despite documents showing Washington spied on its security agencies. Seoul has expanded its military collaboration with both Washington and Tokyo in recent months.

Taiwan’s defense ministry says it “respects outside opinions about its military preparedness,” after the leaked Washington spy reports revealed concern about Taiwan’s military weaknesses in the face of Beijing’s growing military capabilities and its threats to invade.

The documents also show Washington’s concern over the Russian rulers’ rising influence with U.S. rulers’ allies amid swirling deals playing out in the Middle East. In one file, U.S. spies say they uncovered plans for a Russian defense company to build a service center in the United Arab Emirates for missiles purchased from Moscow. UAE officials denied this.

The Egyptian government, one of the world’s largest recipients of U.S. weaponry, said reports in the leaked materials that it planned to send Moscow 40,000 rockets weren’t true.

Writing in the *Washington Post*, columnist Josh Rogin says the leaks show that Beijing is “improving its capacity to strike thousands of miles from its shores and prevent the United States from intervening.” He urged a further escalation of the U.S. rulers’ massive military arsenal “to nullify the new threat.”

The far-flung spy operations maintained by U.S. imperialism worldwide are mirrored by the extensive reach of the FBI here at home. Today they are part of an expanding assault on constitutional freedoms being pushed by the Biden administration and the Democrats as they try to keep a grip on the White House. The real target of this spy and disruption operation is the working class.

Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran

by Steve Clark



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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Faculty strikes three Rutgers campuses in New Jersey

NEWARK, N.J. — Spirited picket lines went up April 10 at Rutgers University's three campuses in New Brunswick, Newark and Camden. The strike by 9,000 faculty members — the first in 257 years — is the biggest public sector strike in New Jersey's history.

After five days on the picket line two of the three unions announced a framework agreement winning significant wage increases for part-time faculty and graduate students and a return to work on April 17. Outstanding issues are still being negotiated. The smallest union, representing medical faculty, has not reached an agreement.

The three striking unions, which had been working without a contract since July 1, are Rutgers American Association of University Professors-American Federation of Teachers, which represents full-time faculty, graduate workers, postdoctoral associates and some counselors; the Rutgers Adjunct Faculty Union, which represents part-time lecturers; and a division of AAUP that includes faculty in the biomedical and health sciences at Rutgers' medical, dental, nursing and public health schools.

Picket captain Soili Smith told the *Militant* the main issues are equal pay, health insurance and job security. Smith described how the university has the faculty divided into tiers, with vastly different wages and benefits. Part-time adjunct lecturers, for example, don't have health insurance, and are paid from \$5,799 to \$7,234 per course.

"I'm trying to live in the Newark area but must have several roommates," said Christopher Terra, a fourth-year teaching assistant in earth and environmental science. "I don't have a livable wage."

Ajua Kouadio said, "Graduate student workers like myself get paid \$30,000 per year. We are expected to be available at all hours. Our private time is not respected. I get calls at all times of the day and night."

Chris Hoepfner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Philadelphia and a union rail worker, joined

the picket line in Camden April 13. He spoke with David Marchino, a first-year graduate student on strike for the first time. He said he agreed when his professor said, "They say we are shutting down education, but the real education is out here on the picket line." Marchino subscribed to the *Militant*.

— Joanne Kuniansky

Cleanaway garbage-collectors strikes spread across Australia

SYDNEY — Around 100 Transport Workers Union members rallied April 11 at the Cleanaway depot in Erskine Park in western Sydney as part of their fight for new contracts. Workers at the depot there were joined by union members from the Silverwater, Hillsdale and Randwick depots, who were all taking 24-hour strike action.

Cleanaway is the biggest garbage collection company in Australia, with around 5,000 trucks operating out of more than 200 locations. Contracts are negotiated depot by depot.

"Waste worker shortages at Cleanaway have put enormous pressure on workers to work faster and longer," TWU State Secretary Richard Olsen said at the rally, adding that Cleanaway seeks to impose seven-day rosters and cut penalty rates across the country.

Noting the Australian Council of Trade Unions has demanded the government increase the minimum wage



Carrie Lobman

Faculty and graduate student workers picket Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, April 12. Five-day strike at three campuses statewide won wage raise for part-time teachers.

by 7% to keep up with inflation, Olsen said, "We haven't been offered anything like that."

Steve Bisley, the TWU delegate at Randwick, told the *Militant* one way the company was piling work on is "Cleanaway expects the rest of the workforce to cover for any absences" for illness or holidays.

An Erskine Park driver, who didn't want his name used, said the seven-day roster was a big issue. "We're doing this for our families," he said. He works Monday to Friday, eight hours a day starting at midnight, plus overtime

as some businesses he picked up trash from didn't open until 8 a.m. "They just treat us like a number."

The Transport Workers Union says six people have died in crashes involving Cleanaway trucks in Australia since 2011. In February this year a worker was crushed between two machines at Cleanaway's Badgery Creek landfill.

Workers at the Canberra depot also struck April 11. Workers at Cleanaway depots in Queensland, Western Australia, and Victoria have voted to take similar action.

— Bob Aiken

UMWA miners fight move to oust union at Warrior Met

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — "A few of our union members who are back at work have told us that there is a petition to decertify the union circulating in the mine," United Mine Workers of America member Charles Foster told the *Militant* by phone April 16. Foster was one of some 1,100 UMWA members who were on strike at the Warrior Met Coal mines in Brookwood, Alabama, for nearly two years.

The hard-fought strike ended in mid-February when UMWA President

Cecil Roberts made an "unconditional offer to return to work," which was accepted by the company.

Foster, who had worked for Warrior Met for two years before the strike started April 1, 2021, had been working another job during the strike, while maintaining his weekly picket duty, as did many other strikers.

"I took my drug test already and am scheduled for my physical this week," Foster said. "Then next week I'll have my retraining before going back to work. The daily schedule down there is

two 12-hour shifts — not like the three eight-hour shifts we were used to. And we only get overtime pay after 40 hours!

"Some union members who are back have told us that some of the scabs who were hired recently want to join the union," Foster said, "and some former union members who crossed the picket line during the strike want to rejoin. I hope that we can get most of those who have been working during the strike back into the union."

The decertification petition was filed with the National Labor Relations Board April 6. According to the government board's rules, at least 30% of the workers on the job must sign a decertification petition for a vote to be held. The NLRB lists 795 employees at Warrior Met's two underground coal mines, the coal prep plant and central shops.

"It's unfortunate that this is happening at the very moment our members are going back to work and all parties are trying to move forward and the fact is that the company's consistent refusal to bargain in good faith from the outset of this process has created an atmosphere where this kind of union busting could exist," UMWA Communications Director Erin Bates told the Valley Labor Report.

"We believe at the end of the day, this petition will be dismissed," she said.

The process of rehiring former strikers is proceeding slowly, "but some are getting back to work every day," veteran miner Otis Sims, who recently retired, told the *Militant*.

The strike began when Warrior Met Coal bosses, who had taken over the Brookwood operations of bankrupt Jim Walter Resources in 2015, refused to restore any of the major concessions in wages and working conditions forced on the union when they took over.

Continued on page 7

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 4, 1998

HAVANA — Three thousand delegates from 79 countries came here for an "International Meeting of Solidarity Between Women." The focus of discussion was how to confront the growing attacks on the standard of living of working people worldwide as the crisis of the world market system worsens.

Closing the conference, Cuban president Fidel Castro discussed the devastating impact of the policies of the exploiting classes on millions of human beings. A discussion of women's issues must start with the main issues of today's world, he asserted, such as underdevelopment, poverty, and the debts to the imperialist banks that are strangling the Third World.

Castro pointed out that the gap in economic conditions is widening, the rich are richer and the poor increasingly poor. He argued that this will continue until the capitalist economic order is replaced.



May 4, 1973

Protests against the squeeze on the standard of living are being organized for May 5 nationally. Organizers have turned to methods of struggle that can mobilize the power of masses of people. The union movement should be in the front ranks of the defense of the standard of living of all workers. The current protests can become powerful backing for union demands for cost-of-living escalator clauses.

We can't look to the Democrats or Republicans to solve the problem of inflation. What is needed is an independent party of labor, based on the trade unions, to fight in the political arena to champion workers' interests against the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties.

The unions should organize a big campaign to expose the lie of the ruling class that wages are the cause of inflation. Inflation is built into this capitalist system.



May 3, 1948

The labor movement faces the greatest threat to its existence since the establishment of the CIO. The unions' very right to existence is challenged when Kansas City cops, under orders to "crack skulls," can get away with an armed invasion of the Packinghouse Workers' headquarters. The Kansas outrage is part of the pattern of a merciless class war organized by capital to beat down and crush labor.

This war is being spearheaded by the federal government, bombarding the unions with the Taft-Hartley Law. It is aided by the courts, handing out strike-breaking injunctions right and left. It is being enforced by the police, out in full force "cracking skulls," and inviting scabs and strikebreakers to walk through the picket lines.

The outrage against the Kansas unionists must become the signal for the rearming and remobilization of the labor movement.

Back Ukraine independence fight!

Continued from front page rested. This was all caught on video, available on the internet. It's "better to go to prison than to go to war," he told the press. "I decided to do this because I'm tired of living in fear."

Russia's largest labor union called off its popular May 1 celebrations around the country, citing hyped-up concerns about "terrorist" threats. The government then canceled the May 9 Victory Day military parades held in hundreds of towns and cities commemorating the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, again citing "security threats."

Both decisions show the fear among Russian authorities that such actions could provide avenues for the expression of opposition to the war.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, commander of the Wagner private mercenary force that the Kremlin is using to spearhead its offensive aimed at taking the city of Bakhmut, claimed Moscow was capable of holding the territory it had seized in eastern Ukraine, but admitted that further breakthroughs are



Nikita Gorbunov, 20, held a placard April 16 with the Ukrainian and Russian flags, saying, "Hug me if you're against the war," in Izhevsk, 600 miles east of Moscow. People in the park constantly embraced him for over an hour before police arrested him still holding his sign.



"not very likely." He added that many Russians who supported the invasion at the outset are now "in doubt or categorically against what is happening."

Anti-war poetry in Russian

A poetry compilation put together by Julia Nemirowskaya reveals the depth of the sentiment against the war. The Moscow-born poet now living in the U.S. has collected more than 1,000 poems against the war by over 300 Russian authors from around the world in a Kopilka, Russian for "piggy bank."

The collection includes poems by Russian-speaking Ukrainian poets. One said, "I refuse to abandon the [Russian] language to the Putinites!" Nemirowskaya edited the pieces into a bilingual anthology called *Disbelief: 100 Russian Anti-War Poems*, published in January by Smokestack Books.

A poem by Maria Remizova read:

This is the house
That Jack wrecked.
And these are the tenants who
went to hide
In the dark basement and
so survived
In the house
That Jack wrecked.

A young poet, Artyom Kamardin, was arrested and tortured for reading his poems against Putin's military

call-up at a street poetry event in Moscow in September, part of wider protests. Along with two other poets, he has been in jail ever since.

The Kremlin is increasingly using treason and espionage laws to smother criticism of the war against Ukraine.

Famous Russian actress Liya Akhezhakova was charged with treason, discrediting the army and fomenting hatred April 11. She has been an outspoken supporter of political freedoms from the final years of the Gulag in the Soviet Union up to today. Prosecutors demand she be declared a "foreign agent" and stripped of her many acting awards. The 84-year-old told the press, "I've been accused of the most heinous and serious crime that anyone can be accused of these days — supporting the Ukrainian army."

A high-profile trial of Vladimir Kara-Murza, a bourgeois political opponent of Putin, ended April 17 with the harshest penalty since the war began. A Moscow court sentenced him to 25 years in prison for treason and spreading "fake news."

"But I also know that the day will come when the darkness over our country will evaporate," Kara-Murza said in his final statement at the end of the trial. "When a war will be called a war, and a usurper a usurper. And when those who fostered and unleashed this war will be recognized as criminals, rather than



New anthology, *Disbelief: 100 Russian Anti-war Poems*, shows opposition to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine by Russian poets at home and abroad. It also includes Russian-language Ukrainian poets who "refuse to abandon the language to the Putinites!"

those who tried to stop it.

"Russia will be free, tell everyone," he said to his supporters in the courtroom.

The Kremlin is relying on a new call-up of 147,000 conscripts to replenish its depleted forces, which have suffered heavy losses against the Ukrainian forces. Putin hopes to avoid provoking another round of protests like the tens of thousands who took to the streets after the special mobilization of 300,000 in September. His offensive aimed at taking Bakhmut, in eastern Ukraine, has inched forward at a snail's pace with the cost of thousands of lives.

Electronic summonses have replaced hand-delivered paper notification of conscription. Harsh new measures have been adopted to punish anyone seeking to avoid service.

As even Prigozhin admits, Ukraine's threatened spring offensive is likely to make gains.

Solidarity with the struggle by people in East Palestine, Ohio

Continued from front page

50 cases arriving this week, and a shipment is coming next week from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Aponick said the fire department in nearby Negley was holding a fundraiser that evening to help cover expenses stemming from the derailment.

At the beginning of March, Jonathon Long, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, one of the larger rail unions, wrote to Ohio Gov. Michael DeWine and to the Joseph Biden administration's transportation secretary, Peter Buttigieg, calling on them to "use your influence and power to stop NS's reckless business practices that endanger the public and their workers."

He added, "What this business model really involves is running longer, behemoth trains that the track structures are not necessarily designed to handle." It "involves eliminating fail-safes or preventative safety precautions that promote safer rail operations and help prevent disasters such as derailments."

In late March, President Felix Martinez, Secretary-Treasurer Marty Frates and other officials of Teamsters Local 70 in Alameda County, California, sent a letter to DeWine seconding Long's remarks. Local 70 organizes auto truck drivers, car haulers and helpers.

"We know this wreck is not simply a one-off: historically the relentless pursuit of profits by corporations across business sectors is to blame any time workers or community members fall victim to industrial disasters," they say.

The response of Norfolk Southern bosses has been to push efforts to automate all forms of railway inspections. "We also believe completely wiping out humans from the inspection process will only lead to more railway catastrophes," the Teamsters say, "ultimately negatively impacting the health and safety of the masses of people country wide."

The nationwide media coverage of the East Palestine derailment, and resulting burn-off of thousands of gallons of toxic



Paulsboro Fire/Rescue

Residents of Paulsboro, New Jersey, thought vinyl chloride cloud, above, was fog after train derailment ruptured tank car with the toxic chemical Nov. 30, 2012. Same chemical was released in East Palestine, Ohio, derailment Feb. 3, after rail bosses' burn-off of tank cars.

vinyl chloride days afterward, has shone a spotlight on previous derailments involving hazardous materials.

2012 New Jersey derailment

In 2012 a Conrail train derailed in Paulsboro, New Jersey, when a rail bridge over a creek gave way. The town was covered with a low-lying cloud of vinyl chloride mist after a tanker car ruptured. Conrail is owned jointly by Norfolk Southern and CSX.

The train was carrying the toxic chemical to an Occidental Oil-owned OxyVinyls plant in nearby Pedricktown that makes plastic for PVC flooring. The tanker cars in the train that derailed in East Palestine were destined for the same plant.

"I don't think they [Norfolk Southern] really care," Cassandra Clark, who lives in Paulsboro, told the *New York Post* Feb. 22. "We had a class action lawsuit, but you don't really get anything from it. I can't even remember the amount, but it was book money for my daughter for the first semester. It was nothing."

Defend UMW!

Continued from page 5

In addition to picketing at the struck sites and railroad crossings, the union held regular solidarity rallies, often weekly, drawing support and substantial financial contributions to the strike fund from many other unions in the area and around the country.

The company hired scabs to restart production. These replacement workers included experienced miners from other states as well as Alabama, new workers who recently got their mining papers and some union members who crossed the picket line.

Warrior Met got production going at both the No. 4 and No. 7 mines, anxious to fill orders for high-priced metallurgical coal used in steelmaking around the world and generate big profits for the company, despite the strike.

Union members continue to get union strike benefits until they are rehired and get their first Warrior Met paycheck.

The union is fighting to get the jobs back for 41 workers the company says are barred from returning to work, charged with alleged picket line violence. They include some of the union's most active members and local officials.

for working people to come together to organize to fight, building committees of workers, our unions, family farmers and small-business people — to pry open the business secrets of the rail monopolies, how they rake in their profits off exploiting rail workers' labor power, their behind-the-scene deals and links with the government, and how their "model" of exploitation endangers both rail workers and all those who live near the tracks. Such a fight will win widespread support, as the experience of working people in East Palestine shows.

Rail bosses push 1-person 'crews'

One result of that fight is the decision of bosses at Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific to back off efforts to impose the one-person "crew" on freight rail workers. But they have no intention of giving up forever.

The *Wall Street Journal*, which often speaks for the bosses, ran a statement by its editorial board April 16 entitled, "Mandatory two-man crews are a union wish with no rationale." Their hatred for our unions comes through in every paragraph.

It says this fight by rail workers "stands out for its potential burden [to the bosses] and irrelevance to safety." It says this is proved by the derailment in East Palestine where the train had three workers on board, an engineer, a conductor and a new trainee.

The editorial says, "an extra man in the cab has little to add to the hardware systems that detect train and track issues," and the union demand is "using railway safety as an excuse for a union payoff."

Rail unionists are all for technology and the tool it provides to workers operating safely. But the idea that technology can replace the eyes and ears of trained rail personnel is a recipe for more disasters.

Many people have pointed out how the overheating and failing axle on the train that derailed in East Palestine wasn't reported by trackside monitors until too late for the crew to stop the train before it derailed. And many have said that if there was a rail worker on a caboose at the rear of the train they would likely have seen and smelled the problem long before the train reached the town.

The best proposal is for a crew of four, two on the locomotive and two on the rear end, with trains no longer than 50 cars long.

AS WE GO TO PRESS...

Public workers strike in Canada

Over 155,000 members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada union — more than one-third of all federal employees — went on strike April 19, fighting for higher pay. "Now more than ever, workers need fair wages," the union said. Government officials had offered a measly 3% increase a year for three years. Food prices are rising 8.9% a year and mortgages 26.4%. The bosses say workers demands are "unaffordable."

Soaring prices are a key question in large strikes in Germany, the United Kingdom and France, and in U.S. labor negotiations.

The *Militant* will have on-the-scene reports next week.

Lenin's Final Fight
Speeches and Writings, 1922-23
"I declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism."
VI. Lenin, 1922
\$17
pathfinderpress.com

More restrictions on political parties in Ukraine

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a new attack on political rights, draft laws have been submitted in the Ukrainian parliament that would disqualify members of any of the Ukrainian parties that President Volodymyr Zelensky government officials designate as "pro-Russian" from being elected to legislative bodies at all levels.

According to the draft law introduced March 6, "A citizen who, at the time of the introduction of martial law [Feb. 24, 2022] in Ukraine, was a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, a member of a local council or a village, town or city mayor elected from a party whose activities are prohibited" cannot be nominated as a candidate and elected as a deputy.

Another proposal specifies that this

prohibition include candidates for president of Ukraine, government ministers and other senior civil servants.

On March 20 another bill was submitted that would extend the purge to people serving in the current government and that they be "barred from running in future elections," Yevgeniy Zakharov, a central leader of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, reported.

These proposals would further restrict the functioning of 11 political parties that Zelensky banned last May on allegations of having "links with Russia." This included the Opposition Platform for Life, which holds 44 seats in the 450-seat parliament, as well as a number of smaller left parties, like the Social Movement, which supports

Ukraine's fight to defeat Moscow's invasion. In fact, most of these opposition parties have joined in backing Ukraine's fight to defend its independence and many advocate protection of workers and their unions while the war is being fought.

Barring these political parties and ousting their elected representatives from office is part of a broader drive by Ukraine's capitalist rulers to take advantage of Moscow's assault to attack the rights of working people. This includes anti-labor laws pushed by the Zelensky government, which allow bosses to rip up contracts workers won setting wages and conditions, impose longer hours, bar strikes and protests and give bosses the power to fire workers without notice.

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'A milestone in the struggle for the liberation of southern Africa'

How Far We Slaves Have Come by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. From 1975 to 1991, hundreds of thousands of volunteer Cuban fighters helped drive out the U.S.-backed South African apartheid regime's invasions of Angola. After being freed in 1990 from over 27 years in prison, Mandela led the revolutionary, democratic movement to victory in 1994, becoming the country's president. Mandela addressed tens of thousands in Matanzas, Cuba, on July 26, 1991, alongside Castro, the central leader of Cuba's socialist revolution. Copyright © 1991 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NELSON MANDELA

The Cuban people hold a special place in the hearts of the people of Africa. The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom, and justice, unparalleled for its principled and selfless character.

From its earliest days the Cuban revolution has itself been a source of inspiration to all freedom-loving people.

We admire the sacrifices of the Cuban people in maintaining their independence and sovereignty in the face of a vicious imperialist-orchestrated



Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro in Cuba, July 1991. Mandela paid tribute to Cuban volunteer fighters who helped to decisively defeat South African invasion of Angola. This spurred overthrow of apartheid regime in South Africa and strengthened Cuba's socialist revolution.

campaign to destroy the impressive gains made in the Cuban revolution.

We too want to control our own destiny. We are determined that the people of South Africa will make their future and that they will continue to exercise their full democratic rights after liberation from apartheid. We do not want popular participation to cease at the moment when apartheid goes. We want to have the moment of liberation open the way to ever-deepening democracy.

We admire the achievements of the Cuban revolution in the sphere of social welfare. We note the transformation from a country of imposed backwardness to universal literacy. We acknowledge your advances in the fields of health, education, and science.

There are many things we learn from your experience. In particular we are moved by your affirmation of the historical connection to the continent and people of Africa.

Your consistent commitment to the systematic eradication of racism is unparalleled.

But the most important lesson that you have for us is that no matter what the odds, no matter under what difficulties you have had to struggle, there can be no surrender! It is a case of freedom or death!

I know that your country is experiencing many difficulties now, but

we have confidence that the resilient people of Cuba will overcome these as they have helped other countries overcome theirs. ...

We too are also inspired by the life and example of José Martí, who is not only a Cuban and Latin American hero but justly honored by all who struggle to be free.

We also honor the great Che Guevara, whose revolutionary exploits, including on our own continent, were too powerful for any prison censors to hide from us. The life of Che is an inspiration to all human beings who cherish freedom. We will always honor his memory.

We come here with great humility. We come here with great emotion. We come here with a sense of a great debt that is owed to the people of Cuba. What other country can point to a record of greater selflessness than Cuba has displayed in its relations with Africa?

How many countries of the world benefit from Cuban health workers or educationists? How many of these are in Africa?

Where is the country that has sought Cuban help and has had it refused?

How many countries under threat from imperialism or struggling for national liberation have been able to count on Cuban support?

It was in prison when I first heard of

the massive assistance that the Cuban internationalist forces provided to the people of Angola, on such a scale that one hesitated to believe, when the Angolans came under combined attack of South African, CIA-financed FNLA, mercenary, UNITA, and Zairean troops in 1975.

We in Africa are used to being victims of countries wanting to carve up our territory or subvert our sovereignty. It is unparalleled in African history to have another people rise to the defense of one of us.

We know also that this was a popular action in Cuba. We are aware that those who fought and died in Angola were only a small proportion of those who volunteered. For the Cuban people internationalism is not merely a word but something that we have seen practiced to the benefit of large sections of humankind.

We know that the Cuban forces were willing to withdraw shortly after repelling the 1975 invasion, but the continued aggression from Pretoria made this impossible.

Your presence and the reinforcement of your forces in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale was of truly historic significance.

The crushing defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for the whole of Africa!

The overwhelming defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale provided the possibility for Angola to enjoy peace and consolidate its own sovereignty!

The defeat of the racist army allowed the struggling people of Namibia to finally win their independence!

The decisive defeat of the apartheid aggressors broke the myth of the invincibility of the white oppressors!

The defeat of the apartheid army was an inspiration to the struggling people inside South Africa!

Without the defeat of Cuito Cuanavale our organizations would not have been unbanned!

The defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale has made it possible for me to be here today!

Cuito Cuanavale was a milestone in the history of the struggle for southern African liberation!

Cuito Cuanavale has been a turning point in the struggle to free the continent and our country from the scourge of apartheid!

April
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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South Africa and Cuba in Today's World
NELSON MANDELA
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Mandela and
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Join in Teamsters contract fight at UPS!

Two-tier wages, part-time jobs, dangerous conditions, schedules that wreak havoc with workers' lives and constant company harassment are what bosses impose on millions of workers. These are the conditions the Teamsters at UPS are fighting to change as they rally for a better contract for 340,000 delivery drivers and warehouse workers at the largest union-organized private employer, leading up to a July 31 contract deadline.

Join their rallies in cities and towns across the country. Bring your friends, family members, co-workers and fellow unionists. Help get out the word about their fight and why it is in the interest of all working people.

Building support for every labor struggle is crucial to winning victories that can set an example. Advancing the confidence and fighting capacities of all workers is necessary as bosses everywhere press down real wages and speed up production, and a looming recession threatens to throw more of us onto the streets. Every union victory today creates better conditions for a union-led fight for jobs with the wages, conditions and schedules workers need.

Workers' struggles point a way forward for all those exploited and oppressed by the ruling capitalist families, including working farmers, who face monopoly prices, crushing debts and losing their land.

When workers join together to stand up for ourselves, bosses turn to their cops, courts and government agencies to try to defeat us. They turn to their media to spread confusion and lies about our just demands. United Mine Workers of America members at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama, who were forced on strike for nearly two years, faced boss moves to ban picketing and massive government fines. Now they face a move to decertify the union.

Workers' strength lies in acting on our common interests and mobilizing union solidarity so that no workers are left to fight alone. Despite Congress banning their strike last fall, rail workers continue to fight job cuts and dangerous conditions that threaten their safety and that of people living near the tracks. They are part of the fight by working people in East Palestine for control over their lives.

Workers learn through these battles what we are capable of. All the efforts of the bosses, their media and schools to tell us we aren't worth anything are a lie. As Malcolm X said, through struggle we learn our self-worth. We can change the world!

Every one of today's labor battles is class against class. Join the fight of the Teamsters at UPS! Build the fighting labor movement workers need.

White House unleashes FBI to go after Catholics

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This stance by the Biden administration reflects its political bias against Catholics and anyone who supports the Supreme Court ruling.

"In many ways, what we're seeing is unprecedented," Brian Burch, president of CatholicVote, told the media, "and poses serious threats to the ability of Catholics to freely practice their faith — free from threats of vandalism, violence or even coercion from governmental actors." Some 70 million people in the U.S. are Catholic.

What has been the FBI's response? In February, its Richmond office recommended the agency infiltrate Catholic churches to find "racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists," citing the notoriously prejudiced Southern Poverty Law Center as a source for identifying nine Catholic "hate groups" to go after.

Surveilling and infiltrating these groups, the FBI decided, would be important in the run-up to the 2024

election. When the memo was leaked it created an uproar and the national FBI office disavowed it.

In July 2022 Biden directed his Justice Department to launch a "reproductive rights" task force, led by Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, a former American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, to strike back against the Supreme Court's ruling. "The Court abandoned 50 years of precedent and took away the constitutional right to abortion," Gupta told the media.

In fact, the court's ruling recognized there was no basis for a right to abortion in the Constitution. It didn't make a single woman's decision to have an abortion illegal. "The court's conclusion that the Constitution does not confer such a right does not undermine them in any way," it ruled, referring "that authority to the people and their elected representatives."

The Justice Department and FBI launched a flurry of probes against so-called pro-life supporters. On Sept. 23, Mark Houck, co-president of a Catholic men's ministry and regular participant in protests outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Philadelphia, became an FBI target and was arrested in a raid by at least 20 FBI agents in front of his children.

Two FBI agents showed up that same month to question a pro-life activist praying outside a Planned Parenthood office in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A week later the FBI arrested 11 pro-lifers, ranging from 24 to 87 years old, for their attempt to block the Carafem Health Center Clinic in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, 18 months earlier. Originally charged with misdemeanors, prosecutors convinced a federal grand jury to turn that indictment into felonies as violations under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

Under this act, signed into law in 1994 by former President Bill Clinton, first-time convictions of protesters in sit-in or blockage protests at reproductive health centers can be fined up to \$10,000 and sent to prison for up to six months. This is a blow to the right to protest, regardless of your view on women's rights, and a threat to the working class.

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, the largest Catholic civil rights group, told Fox News Digital that attacks on the church were coming "from the Corporate 500, from the United States government, as well as from some state and local governments."

He pointed to the Equality Act being promoted by liberals, under which public funding for Catholic hospitals would be pulled if they refused to perform abortions or sex reassignment surgeries. "When the government comes after you with their powers, it's serious," he said. "The church is not encroaching on the government, it's the government encroaching on the churches, and it's coming most viciously from the Biden administration."

Union rallies at UPS

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address safety and health concerns, especially around heat in trucks with no air conditioning; and provide stronger protections against company harassment.

"We need to get rid of 22-4s," Sean O'Brien, Teamsters general president, told the rally. These so-called junior driver positions were created in the 2018 contract. They get lower pay and are the first to be laid off. "I joined a union 33 years ago to work next to men and women who do the same job, to get paid the same and have the same protections. That's a strike issue."

"We also need to eliminate PVDs. PVDs need to go," he said. PVD stands for Personal Vehicle Drivers, seasonal workers who use their own vehicle, a category that was put into the earlier contract. "That's a strike issue."

"In late November to January, UPS hires PVDs," driver Felix Ortega told the *Militant*. "They get more hours than us and get paid less. For me the major issue is part-time pay."

"Part-timers are the backbone of this company. They represent the majority of the employees," O'Brien said. "We need to make sure that we drive that starting rate of pay up."

"And we also need to create more job opportunities, full-time job opportunities for part-timers."

"If they attempt to get inward facing cameras in this contract," O'Brien said, "that will be a strike issue."

Eric Sanchez started as a loader/unloader at UPS making \$10 an hour eight years ago and has been a package driver for three. "During COVID they got away with a lot. The workload was nearly impossible to finish. This contract is really important because of COVID and inflation," he told the *Militant*. "There is a two-tier for package drivers with a four-year progression to the full wage. If you have a family it's hard and the majority have families."

"It is physically demanding," said Bryan Reyes, who has worked at UPS as a loader for two years. This was his first union rally. "This is my future. For me it is a big deal. I'm planning to stay here long term."

We have to stick together

Eric Brown has worked at UPS 38 years and is a feeder driver. His ex-wife is a teacher, and he joined her on the school workers' picket lines during their recent three-day strike. He said he also joined supermarket workers on their picket lines in 2003.

"I never crossed the picket line to deliver but on my lunch break I'd walk the picket lines with my picket signs I had in my truck," Brown said. "I think it's important that a fight for one is a fight for all. As workers we have to stick together. My daughter, who works for a supermarket, is in a union. My other daughter works at Starbucks and is involved in organizing a union there. She wears buttons. They tell her to take them off and a few days later she puts them back on again."

Santiago Rosales is a shop steward on the job. "I do it for the passion of it, not because I get something out of it. And this rubs off on others. A lot of social issues are pushing us to be more unionized," he said.

Teamsters Local 63 organized a rally on April 14 at the huge UPS facility near the airport in Ontario. It drew 150 workers and their supporters.

Demetrius Freeman, a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 30 and chief steward at the Borox mine in Boron, joined the rally. "My dad was a truck driver and retired from Local 63," he told the *Militant*. "In 2010 we were locked out for three months. We have to pay it forward in the labor movement. An injury to one is an injury to all."

Freeman also spoke at the rally. "I was raised in a Teamsters household. In 2010 the company locked us out for 3 ½ months and the Teamsters came out to support. So we're here to support you," he said.

More rallies are projected nationwide as Teamsters at UPS step up their fight for a new contract. To give solidarity to this important union battle, contact a Teamsters union local near you.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com