

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Sugarcane cutters in Dominican Republic fight for raise, pensions
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 46 DECEMBER 11, 2023

Over half a million public workers strike across Quebec

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — “We don’t have enough resources to teach the students. This demonstration shows how urgent this is. We also need a real wage increase because of inflation,” striking teacher Joseph Dejustima told this *Militant* worker-correspondent at the start of a march of tens of thousands of teachers and education workers on Nov. 23, the first day of an unlimited strike by their union, the Autonomous Education Federation (FAE).

The FAE strikers were joined on picket lines and in demonstrations that day by another half million Quebec public-sector workers — the big majority women. This included the 420,000-strong Common Front of four union federations and 80,000 nurses from the Interprofessional Health Federation of Quebec (FIQ).

On Nov. 28 the Common Front called for a weeklong strike Dec. 8-14. Together with the FAE strike, this will shut down public offices and services across Quebec.

The workers are demanding new
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Defend Israel’s right to exist as refuge for Jews!

Oppose US rulers’ moves to force Israel to give up battle to defeat Hamas



Al Jazeera/Faiz Abu Rmeleh

Home destroyed by Tehran-backed Hamas Oct. 7 at Kfar Aza Kibbutz near Gaza border. Hamas death squads had orders to kill as many Jews — and anyone who works with Jews — as possible. Israeli war in Gaza aims to destroy Hamas’ military capability, prevent more pogroms.

The roots of Hamas lie in Hitler’s ‘final solution’

BY TERRY EVANS

Workers looking to understand why Hamas thugs and their backers in Tehran organized the systematic slaughter of over 1,200 Jews, as well as a few Bedouin Arabs and immigrants, Oct.

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‘Democratic’ imperialism won’t protect Jews, Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington and other democratic imperialist governments are stepping up the pressure on the Israeli government to agree to a long-term cease-fire with Tehran-backed Hamas in Gaza.

That would mean Israel abandoning its efforts to destroy Hamas, allowing
Continued on page 9

Bosses at ‘assisted living’ use add on fees to boost profits

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Increasing numbers of older workers who have turned to assisted-living facilities for housing and care are unable to cover the huge costs and increasing “add on” fees the profit-hungry bosses impose on them.

This reflects the social and moral crisis of the capitalist system, where “health care” is based on how to make the most profit for the hospital, nursing home, insurance and pharmaceutical bosses. To the propertied rulers the lives of retired workers, especially those with disabilities, are no longer productive. The only remaining profits to be made from them is to drain their bank accounts before they die.

In the U.S. there are 31,000 assisted-living facilities — twice the number of skilled nursing homes — with some 850,000 residents today. Prices for a spot there are going through the roof. Residents pay about \$5,000 a month or more just for rent. For much of everything else there are “add on” costs.

A Nov. 19 *New York Times* article described how this works. You’re charged \$12 for a blood-pressure check, \$50 per
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Fight against Jew-hatred!

Statement released Nov. 29 by John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director.

From Oct. 7 when Hamas launched its pogrom against Jews in Israel, the democratic imperialist government in Washington has moved to defend the U.S. rulers’ class interests against all others, with the backing of their Democratic and Republican parties. Disman-

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

ting Hamas’ murder machine to stop more massacres of Jews has no bearing on the course Washington pursues, nor does winning freedom for Israeli hostages, or relieving the conditions that Hamas’ pogrom is responsible for bringing down on Palestinians in Gaza.

The U.S. rulers use their military might to protect *their own* economic and political interests. They act to shore up
Continued on page 11

Working people in Ukraine fight genocidal war waged by Putin

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow has been waging a genocidal war against Ukraine and its people for over 21 months. Russian President Vladimir Putin denies Ukraine has a right to exist, claiming it’s part of Russia. The Kremlin has kidnapped tens of thousands of children and deported them to Russia, placing many with Russian families in an effort to destroy any connection with their homeland.

Side by side with its Russification drive, Moscow continues its heavy bombardment of urban centers in Ukraine. An aerial assault with Iranian-made drones overnight Nov. 25, the largest since the war began, targeted Kyiv and other cities. The airstrikes have failed to crush Ukrainians’ determination to

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SWP plans to keep taking ‘Militant,’ books out widely to working people



Militant/Glova Scott

SWP member Arlene Rubinstein shows *Militant* to trucker Justin Rios, 28, at truck stop in Jessup, Maryland, Nov. 20. Rios told Rubinstein he supports right of Israel to defend itself. He subscribed to the *Militant* and got *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*.

BY ILONA GERSH

Following the successful completion of the eight-week fall campaign to sell 1,350 subscriptions to the *Militant* and the same number of books by Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary leaders, the party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are

stepping up worldwide efforts to expand their reach.

They aim to discuss why it is in the interests of workers everywhere to defend Israel as a refuge for Jews, oppose Jew-hatred and the genocidal actions against Israel by Hamas and its backer in Tehran — and to sup-

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UK meeting draws lessons from Grenada Revolution 6

Putin moves to abolish women’s right to abortion in Russia 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Health care workers win gains in fight at Kaiser

Kurdish teachers strike, march on Baghdad for unpaid wages

Women in Ukraine win right to work in the country's coal mines

BY JANET POST

More than 100 women are today working underground at the Pavlohradaska coal mine in southeastern Ukraine. This is the first time that women have been hired to work underground since the counterrevolutionary regime of Joseph Stalin barred women from doing so. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukrainian government policy has remained that women cannot work underground, claiming it's too physically demanding.

Of the 4,000 male workers in this mine and another one nearby, 1,000 are now fighting on the Ukrainian frontlines against Russia's invading forces. Forty-two have been killed and hundreds wounded.

"Our boys were taken to the front, and now we need to support them," 22-year-old miner Krystyna told Reuters Nov. 22. For five months she has worked 1,500 feet below ground, maintaining the batteries of mine trains that transport workers 2 miles from the lift shaft to the coal seams.

Despite "the fumes from the batteries when they are charging" and the hard-to-lift battery lights, Krystyna says, "I like working here." She added, "We cannot go on for other jobs leaving our boys down."

Krystyna's older brother worked at the same mine, but joined the army two weeks after Moscow's invasion last year. Her mother takes care of Krystyna's 4-year-old son in Pavlohrad, the nearest town, which is often targeted by Russian missiles.

The Pavlohradaska mine is operated

by DTEK, owned by Ukraine's wealthiest capitalist, Rinat Akhmetov. It has some 20,000 miners nationwide. Of those, nearly 3,000 have volunteered to fight in the war. About 400 women now work underground at DTEK mines.

Natalia, 43 years old, is a mine technician and electrician who works with Krystyna at Pavlohradaska. She used to work in a store selling washing machines. "I think in the future even more women will want to work here. We already have women that work as mine lift operators. We work as electricians," she said. "There are even some women working on the mine face." Natalia wants to stay working in the mine even after the war.

At the Ternivka mine next to Pavlohradaska, Oksana, a 49-year-old dance teacher, works shoveling coal and maintaining the conveyor belt. Her father



Reuters/Alina Smutko

Natalia and Krystyna take elevator Nov. 17 to work underground in the Pavlohradaska coal mine in eastern Ukraine. This is first time in decades women won right to work down in the mines.

and oldest son were killed by Russian forces. "I've immersed myself in my work," she told the *Economist*, and has no intention of leaving. "It's no longer as scary as war," she said.

Another miner there, Olena, is training to operate the trains that connect sections of the mine. Her husband, a former miner, commands a platoon near Luhansk.

Russians in NY protest Moscow's genocidal war on Ukraine

BY ROY LANDERSEN

NEW YORK — Holding signs like "Genocide by famine: The Ukrainian Holodomor, 1932-1933" and "We stand with Ukraine," a group of largely Russian emigres gathered in Times Square here Nov. 26 to protest the famine Joseph Stalin's counterrevolutionary regime imposed there 90 years ago.

Maxim Bashilov, who arrived in the U.S. from Russia in January, told the *Militant* this protest and others like it worldwide were an important commemoration, marking "a bloody page in Soviet history."

In the Holodomor, which means

"death by hunger" in Ukrainian, at least 4 million people were deliberately starved to death. Stalin had ordered the requisition of all grain in Ukraine to export for sale abroad, leaving nothing to feed the overwhelmingly peasant population. This took place during Stalin's forced collectivization of agriculture across the USSR, but with a special vengeance against Ukrainians, whose yearnings for independence he feared.

Olga Kosolapova, one of the organiz-

ers of the event, told the *Militant* she was from St. Petersburg and had joined "protests there at the beginning of the war" as the Vladimir Putin regime invaded Ukraine. "It was scary when the police attacked the protests.

"It's important to be here in solidarity with Ukraine," she said. "There are both Ukrainians and Russians here. We know that Putin is backing Hamas." She agreed that Putin's regime and the Islamist terror group are both reactionary.




Militant/Roy Landersen

Russian emigres protest in New York Nov. 26 commemorating the Holodomor, "death by starvation," imposed by Joseph Stalin regime that killed 4 million people in Ukraine in 1932-33.

THE MILITANT

Ohio abortion vote was blow to women, working class

Enshrining the right to abortion in Ohio Constitution was part of Democrats campaigning to reelect Joseph Biden. His administration hasn't done anything to address the deepening crisis facing workers and their families trying to raise children today.



Militant

UFCW workers struck Heaven Hill distillery in 2021 over work schedules, family time.

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The Militant

Vol. 87/No. 46
Closing news date: November 29, 2023

Editor: John Studer
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Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Vivian Sahner, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
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E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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SWP plans to go out widely

Continued from front page

port the battle of toilers in Ukraine to defend their independence against Moscow's invasion.

The SWP and Communist League candidates and supporters talk to working people on their doorsteps in cities and rural areas, build solidarity with union strikes and join their picket lines, and take the party's program to political protests.

The final scoreboard for the Sept. 23-Nov. 21 campaign, including the successful effort to raise over \$140,000 to deepen the political work of the party, is printed below. We went over all of the international goals for selling *Militant* subscriptions and books, as well as the Party-Building Fund, and every area met or surpassed its goals!

Alex Huinil and Josefina Otero from Fort Worth, Texas, reported on a Nov. 26 SWP campaign team they went on to talk with truckers at a truck stop in Weatherford. "We learned from all the drivers we talked to about the deteriorating working conditions and the lowering of trip rates they face today," Otero said. "One of the drivers had just been told on the phone that the truck he drives had been repossessed and he was fired. They just left him standing at the truck stop with his mother, waiting for a ride home!"

"A Cuban-born owner-operator from Miami told us he hadn't been home for five months," said Otero. "He bought a copy of the *Militant* and would have bought some books, including *The Jewish Question*, which explains why this is a working-class question, but he got a call on his radio from his boss and was told he had a delivery to make right away. We hope to get back to him in the future.

"Another driver was working on his truck. Huinil asked him if he was an independent trucker, and he said he'd been making a living that way

for 30 years," reported Otero. "The trucker said he has to do his own repairs because he can't afford professional repair costs. He went looking for change and came up with a dollar for a *Militant*."

"We met a Mexican-born truck driver who lives in El Paso. He also complained about how the trucking bosses have lowered rates for deliveries. He said he was facing increasing difficulty making ends meet. Most truckers we talked to agreed with the SWP that working people need to stand in defense of Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews, and in defense of Ukraine's sovereignty," Otero said.

This week party members in Fort Worth are planning a trip to Madisonville, the mushroom capital of Texas, about a 150-mile trip each way. Their goal is to talk to workers at Monterey Mushroom there, which employs some 700 workers, with many from all over Latin America.

They also plan to visit campuses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, to find Jewish student organizations and offer our help in responding to harassment by supporters of Hamas.

"We also aim to call new *Militant* subscribers to ask them how they like the paper and to invite them to this Saturday's Militant Labor Forum," said Otero.

You can be part of these efforts! Get a subscription. Use your copy to discuss these crucial issues with co-workers, fellow union members, friends and others. To get involved, contact the nearest branch listed on page 10 or themilitant@mac.com.

'Jewish Question' draws interest at Montreal book fair



Militant/Rosemary Ray

Pathfinder Press was among 650 publishing houses setting up booths at the Salon du Livre in Montreal, which was attended by some 88,000 visitors Nov. 22-26. "With all the action this week, it was a very rich experience," said Josette Hurtubise, volunteering for the first time at Pathfinder's booth in this book fair. "I loved being part of it. I asked to do an extra shift."

The "action" she pointed to was tens of thousands of teachers, hospital workers and other Quebecois workers around the province taking part in rallies, picket lines and marches for a week in a fight for wages higher than inflation and for better working conditions.

"I met a Grade 10 history teacher. She bought two books, her friend bought two, and her friend bought one, and she also got a subscription to the *Militant*," Hurtubise said. "I enjoyed exchanging opinions with people we met, even when we didn't agree. I was struck how many young people were drawn to our books."

The bestseller at the booth was Pathfinder's *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon, with 25 sold in French and English. Many were looking for an explanation of what stood behind Hamas' slaughter of Jews in Israel and ensuing rise of antisemitism worldwide.

Nine people picked up a copy of *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. In total, visitors to the booth bought 144 books and 14 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

— KATY LEROUGETEL

Thousands march in London against Jew-hatred

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Tens of thousands joined a march and rally here Nov. 26, the first nationwide protest in the

United Kingdom against Jew-hatred since the Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel carried out by Tehran-backed Hamas. The action was called by the Campaign Against Antisemitism.

"We have seen people turn up in their tens of thousands in Berlin, in Paris, in Washington, and today it's our turn," TV personality Rachel Riley told the rally. Other speakers included capitalist political figures and prominent performers. "Jews will not be intimidated," said Ephraim Mirvis, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth.

Marchers came from all across the country. Many said this was the first protest they'd ever been in. They chanted "Bring them home!" demanding Hamas release the over 200 hostages seized Oct. 7. They carried signs displaying pictures of hostages. Others declared, "Never again is now," "Shoulder to shoulder with British Jews" and held other hand-written signs. Secure in their

number, many sang and danced, giving the protest a festive atmosphere.

There has been a sharp rise in reported attacks on Jews here since Oct. 7. "It's connected with what's happening in the world," said marcher Taras Saveiko. "Putin is trying to destroy Ukraine, just like Hamas wants to destroy Israel." Saveiko, a Ukrainian, grew up in Kazakhstan.

Communist League members from London and Manchester built and joined the protest, setting up literature tables. They sported signs reading "Defend Israel's right to exist," "Condemn 7 October pogrom" and "Fighting Jew-hatred is a union issue." Dozens of marchers took photos, pleased to see communists on the march — in contrast to the middle-class left, which has organized weekly protests in support of the destruction of Israel and a Jew-free Middle East.

Marchers bought five subscriptions to the *Militant* and three copies of *The*

Jewish Question by Abram Leon. Five hundred copies of a Communist League statement, "Fight Jew-hatred! Defend Israel's right to exist! Support Ukrainian people's fight for independence!" were distributed.

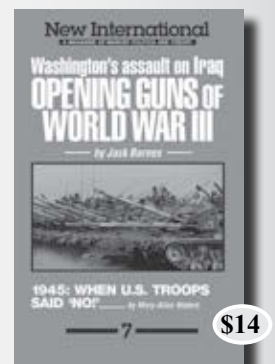
"Only a socialist revolution can uproot Jew-hatred, end national oppression, and put an end to the march to fascism and world war," the statement concludes. "For that we need our own party. Join the Communist League."

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund

Sept. 23 - November 21 (final chart)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	50	57	50	64	\$9,500	\$10,000
Chicago	100	101	100	107	\$14,000	\$14,380
Cincinnati	70	72	70	70	\$6,000	\$6,055
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	62	60	64	\$5,250	\$5,284
Lincoln	15	16	15	15	\$500	\$502
Los Angeles	110	118	110	119	\$15,000	\$16,738
Miami	45	46	45	56	\$5,500	\$5,605
Minneapolis	70	71	70	70	\$5,500	\$5,931
N. New Jersey	75	78	75	77	\$7,500	\$7,961
New York	100	104	125	129	\$20,500	\$21,286
Oakland	90	97	90	97	\$15,500	\$16,179
Philadelphia	55	59	55	58	\$6,000	\$6,340
Pittsburgh	50	52	50	52	\$6,250	\$6,608
Seattle	75	76	75	77	\$14,500	\$14,947
Washington	50	54	50	50	\$4,500	\$4,716
Other		40		455		\$3,960
Total U.S.	1015	1103	1040	1,560	\$136,000	\$146,492
Prisoners		112				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	45	45	110		
Manchester	30	35	30	41		
Total U.K.	75	80	75	151		
Canada	95	97	120	130		
Australia	30	31	30	30		
Total	1,215	1,423	1,265	1,871	\$136,000	\$146,492
SHOULD BE	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	\$140,000	\$140,000

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Sugarcane cutters in Dominican Republic fight for raise, pensions

BY RÓGER CALERO

LA ROMANA, Dominican Republic — “The gains we have made have been because of our mobilizations in the streets,” Jesús Núñez, national coordinator of the Sugarcane Workers Union (UTC), told the *Militant*. He described their yearslong fight to win pensions, health care and better working and living conditions for thousands of Dominican and Haitian cane cutters in the sugar plantations here.

Militant reporters visited three sugarcane communities Nov. 11 — Marchena, Plumita, and Santa Lucía — that belong to the Central Romana Corporation, a giant sugar and real estate conglomerate that produces roughly 70% of the sugar in the country.

The workers were eager to tell their stories. In Santa Lucía they invited us to meet at the local evangelical church. We were able to witness the working and living conditions they face, and to learn about the bosses’ assaults on their union. It’s a classic story of a company town.

Workers and their families live in communities known as bateyes on company-owned land. They are secluded among towering fields of sugarcane and crisscrossing dirt roads. The ones we visited were small concrete homes, with cement floors. There are power lines running by, but none of the homes here are connected to the electrical grid. Only supervisors’ housing has electricity. The workers also lack running water.

Workers and their families can live there as long as they work cutting cane or tending the fields. If you are too old, injured or too sick to work, your family can be evicted. In fact, the pastor of the Santa Lucía church was evicted after being injured at work.

Some of the workers are in their 70s, still cutting cane to avoid becoming homeless or face deportation. The majority of the workers are undocumented Haitians or descendants of earlier Haitian migrants who the Dominican government has denied citizenship to, despite their having been born here. We were told Dominican immigration authorities generally don’t enter the bateyes to look for undocumented workers.

If you miss work for a few days, company-armed security guards and “human” resources employees pay a visit to make sure you aren’t working somewhere else. At Plumita, the company has been knocking down housing units that can fit a family and replacing them with smaller units for single men. No families or couples are allowed.

“You can’t even come home and have a glass of cold water,” said Julio, a worker at Plumita, because there is no electricity. “There is no clinic near here or even

a first aid kit. If you have an accident you can die.” Many workers showed us scars on their hands from machete cuts. Most cannot read or write, and those who can, have no light to read by after work.

Wages aren’t enough to live on. The workers get tied even more tightly to the plantation by debts they incur to company stores. To buy on credit requires getting a supervisor to vouch for you.

This picture of capitalist exploitation wouldn’t be complete without having a “Shaggy Sports Bet” gambling house within blocks of the bateye.

Workers fight for gains

“Every politician and government official in the region looks after the interests of the company,” said Núñez. “Labor laws exist, but to enforce them we have to fight like hell.”

The fight by sugarcane workers and their union has made partial gains, winning long-overdue retirement pensions, shorter workdays and slightly better pay. Many now make 3,000 pesos (\$53) a week, which is a negligible increase, given the cost of living.

The cane cutters used to get paid piecework. Some now work roughly eight-hour shifts, as opposed to working in the fields from the crack of dawn until into the evening, swinging a machete for 12-14 hours.

After the anti-labor practices of the owners of Central Romana became more widely known, U.S. government officials placed a ban on importing the company’s raw sugar in November 2022. “Manufacturers like Central Romana, who fail to abide by our laws, will face consequences,” AnnMarie R. Highsmith, executive assistant commissioner at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Trade, told the media.

Steps like these are used by Washington’s capitalist rulers to better compete

Over half a million public workers strike across Quebec

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union contracts that meet their needs, as well as those of students, parents, health care patients and others. Their contracts expired March 31.

Many strikers and union officials describe the mobilization as historic in its size and impact throughout Quebec.

Negotiations between the Common Front and the Quebec government are currently being conducted through a government-appointed conciliator. Union officials have not yet announced further actions. But if the government does not come up with an offer worth considering, the Common Front could join the FAE in an unlimited strike.

The Common Front is demanding wage increases above inflation in a three-year contract, with the 2023 increase equivalent to the Consumer Price Index plus 2%, or an increase of 100 Canadian dollars (\$74) a week, whichever is higher. They are also demanding cost-of-living protection.

Entry-level wages for nurses in Quebec are the lowest in Canada, 40% below those in Ontario. The nurses are demanding an increase of 24% over three years and further increases yearly, indexed to inflation.

“The trades workers earn 30% less



Militant/Róger Calero

Militant reporters from the U.S. and Canada, right, visited the Batey Marchena sugarcane community in La Romana province, Dominican Republic, Nov. 11. Left, Jesús Núñez, national coordinator of Sugarcane Workers Union, describes their fight for pensions, health care, raises.

with their rivals as they strive to continue to loot the semicolonial world. This “pro-worker” demagoguery of the Joseph Biden administration is used to win favored treatment for U.S. bosses.

Working people in the U.S. have no interest in backing Washington’s protectionist moves, but need to use their unions to offer solidarity to fellow workers around the world. We need to use our collective power and the unions to fight independently of the bosses and their political parties, and to back one another’s struggles.

Lessons of Cuban Revolution

Central Romana says it’s the Dominican Republic’s largest private landowner and employer. It is 35% owned by Fanjul Corporation, one of the largest sugar growers and refiners in the United States, with holdings in Florida and Dominican Republic totaling over 400,000 acres.

The Fanjul family set up operations in Florida after the properties they owned in Cuba were nationalized by workers and peasants as they began carrying out a socialist revolution. As part of the transformations carried out by the new

revolutionary government led by Fidel Castro, land was distributed to peasants and the brutal and dangerous conditions the sugar bosses — like the Fanjuls — had imposed were eliminated. A massive campaign to teach workers and peasants to read and write, as well as to bring water, electricity, sanitation, transportation and medical services to rural areas helped forge a powerful alliance of workers and peasants.

Some of the UTC members here were interested in learning more about the Cuban Revolution and the communist leadership built by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army. “I am learning about what happened in Cuba in 1959 and after,” said 69-year-old Antonio Luis, who had worked at the Batey Palave in Haina for 21 years. He has begun reading Pathfinder’s *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

“It has many important stories I didn’t know about. I’m going to learn now,” he said. “I must have my eyes open so I can see where the holes are, so I won’t fall into them. I can learn about what the goal is.”

than they could in the private sector,” hospital carpenter Daniel Boucher told the *Militant* Nov. 21 on a picket line at Santa Cabrini hospital in east-end Montreal. “We aren’t dumb. Government officials gave themselves a wage increase of 30%. We’re ready to strike for a long time.”

Last spring the government voted to give elected members of the Quebec National Assembly a CA\$30,000 one-year salary increase, and a CA\$60,000 salary increase for Quebec Premier Francois Legault.

Broad working-class solidarity

There is broad working-class support for the struggle of the public-sector workers. Most people know someone who is or was on strike and marched Nov. 23.

“I went by six picket lines on my way to work” at the Bridor industrial bakery, Jean Francois Leonard, a member of Local 55 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union, told co-worker and *Militant* correspondent Katy LeRougetel.

“You only had to walk a few hundred meters to feel the support of the population behind the workers,” the *Journal de Montreal* reported Nov. 23. “While the drivers honked their

horns to make themselves heard, the neighbors and the shopkeepers on St. Laurent Boulevard came out by the dozens to support the strikers.”

This kind of broad working-class solidarity was pivotal in the victory of 55,000 unionized Ontario education support workers in November 2022, when they forced the Ontario government to withdraw its draconian Law 28 that eliminated their right to strike.

Unions across Ontario and elsewhere supported the workers. The Ontario Federation of Labour threatened a general strike. Last spring working-class solidarity also helped 155,000 federal public-sector workers, members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, who carried out a militant national strike, to make gains.

Today’s fight takes place as the capitalist system in Canada goes into a deeper crisis, spurring an uptick in working-class resistance through the unions.

Building solidarity with the struggle of the FAE, FIQ and the Common Front is needed now. The Ontario section of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Ontario education workers’ union, set an example with a Nov. 6 declaration of solidarity with the Quebec Common Front struggle.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Health care workers win gains in fight at Kaiser

OAKLAND, Calif. — Over 85,000 health care workers at Kaiser Permanente have voted to ratify a contract that will raise wages for all workers by 21% over four years. The contract covers nursing assistants, pharmacy and X-ray technicians, respiratory therapists, housekeepers, phlebotomists and other workers in seven states and Washington, D.C. The “yes” vote was a resounding 98.5%.

Negotiated by the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, the contract includes raises of 6% in 2023 and 5% for each of the following three years, as well as a \$1,500 ratification bonus. Shift differentials for the evening and night shift were increased and the contract includes job protections against outsourcing and subcontracting.

Over months of negotiations, Kaiser refused to budge on the unions’ demands. This changed after workers carried out a three-day strike in October and threatened to walk out again in November.

Over 60,000 of the workers covered by the contract live in California and are members of SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West. The need for more staffing was a key issue raised here at rallies and on the picket lines. “There is turnover because you can’t make it on the wages, especially single mothers,” Kaiser health and wellness counselor Nam Nguyen told the *Militant*. The union addressed this by winning a minimum wage of \$25 an hour for all job categories in California by 2026. A \$23 minimum wage will be established in the other states where Kaiser operates.

The health care workers’ fight got a boost from other strikes and union fights, including national rallies by Teamsters at UPS, pickets by hotel workers and others. In the Bay Area, Kaiser workers’ picket lines during the three-day strike in October were bolstered by members of the Office and Professional Employees Local 29 and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 20 at Kaiser, who struck in solidarity

with the health care workers union.

Included in the contract is an agreement by Kaiser to drop a lawsuit against the SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West for carrying out a one-day strike in support of Kaiser engineers during their 90-day strike in 2021. The engineers, who are responsible for maintaining heating and cooling systems and hospital equipment, are still without a contract.

— *Betsy Stone*

1,300 nurses in Everett strike over safety, patients’ care

EVERETT, Wash. — Some 1,300 nurses here, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 3000, forced Providence Regional Medical Center, one of Snohomish County’s largest hospitals, back to the bargaining table after an around-the-clock strike Nov. 14-19. The company had refused to negotiate after the workers’ contract expired Oct. 30.

Strikers won wide support, including from firemen; Service Employees International Union; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers; Washington State Nurses Association; Teamsters; and Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation union from nearby Seattle. The nurses are fighting for safe staffing levels and higher pay, among other issues.

Many nurses told the *Militant* that 12-hour shifts with no break are common. If someone does take a lunch break, it means the remaining nurses have to care for up to two times as many patients. The *Seattle Times* described how a 41-year-old woman, Cheyenna Costello, the mother of three, had died waiting to be seen in the emergency room, even though her case was marked urgent.

Striking nurses held a rally of a few hundred Nov. 16 in a nearby park. A UFCW representative started the rally by reporting support from patients was tremendous. “I’ve been working here 15 years,” Juan Stout, a member of the local executive board and part of the bargaining team, said. “Nurses used to clamor to work here. They knew they were go-



Militant/Bill Arth

Kaiser health care workers rally at Los Angeles Medical Center Oct. 6 in fight for new contract. After monthslong fight, 85,000 unionists ratified new pact with 21% pay raise over four years.

ing to work hard but they would save patients. Providence changed the game.”

Stout said the company had brought in a few hundred traveling nurses at \$110 per hour, while continuing to refuse to raise staffing levels and increase pay for nurses already working there.

Local 3000 President Faye Guenther was the final speaker. “This is a righteous fight for community and safety. The patients don’t get to negotiate — only we do,” she said. “The bosses would not bargain with us when we gave them 10-day notice of the strike. This is a ‘nonprofit’ hospital. Enough is enough!”

— *Rebecca Williamson*

Joliet nurses strike for higher pay, increased staffing

JOLIET, Ill. — Over 500 Illinois Nurses Association union members began a two-day strike here Nov. 21, demanding increased staffing and higher wages. A walkout in August failed to win a new contract.

“We want to provide safe, quality care because that’s what our patients deserve,” Raquel Mata, who has 50 years seniority and works in the pediatrics department, told the *Militant*.

“The hospital is offering wage increases to those with less than 20 years seniority, but no raises for those of us who’ve been on the job

longer,” she added.

“We are picketing to prevent deliveries to the hospital. Teamster drivers for UPS have refused to cross our picket line,” said striker Jennifer Reyes.

When the nurses went on strike, hospital bosses locked the union members out for four days, bringing in scabs from a staffing agency.

“I would not work here without the union,” Mary Sue Bulger, who works in the medical telemetry department, said. “Staffing is a big problem. We’ve lost 350 nurses over the past five years.”

Despite the cold rainy weather, strikers’ spirits were high, cheering when passing vehicles honked to show support.

— *Dan Fein*

Kurdish teachers strike, march on Baghdad for unpaid wages

Over 58,000 Kurdish teachers in Sulaimaniyah province have been on strike for back wages for more than two months in the longest teachers strike in the history of Kurdistan, putting nearly a million students out of school. More than 1,000 protested in Tahrir Square in Baghdad Nov. 26, bringing their demands for regular monthly wage payment and permanent employment for noncontract teachers to the Iraqi capital. Hundreds were prevented by Iraqi security forces from traveling there.

The Iraqi Teachers’ Union came out in support of the Kurdish teachers.

The workers demand the Iraqi government take over paying them, saying the Kurdish Regional Government hasn’t been able to do so since their oil exports were blocked in March.

The Kurdish people have long faced national oppression in Iraq, as well as in Iran, Turkey and Syria.

Teachers and other public employees in Sulaimaniyah got no wages for some 90 days this summer before the federal government agreed to loan the KRG money to pay them. Teachers haven’t been paid for the months of September and October.

— *Ilona Gersh*

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 14, 1998

CHICAGO — “My name is Randall Dale Adams. The state of Texas tried to kill me for a murder I did not commit,” Adams told a crowd of hundreds of opponents of the death penalty at Northwestern University Law School Nov. 14. “I was sentenced to death in 1977 and released in 1989.”

Twenty-seven others, all of whom had won their freedom after serving time on death row, joined Adams in reciting the facts about their situation.

The last was Sonia Jacobs, one of two women who spoke. She explained how she was convicted in 1976 by the state of Florida and won release in 1992 after her supporters discovered evidence that she was not guilty. However, when she finished her story, she did not sit down.

“Unfortunately, the proof that I and my companion, Jesse Tafero, were innocent came forward too late for him. The state of Florida executed him in 1990.”



December 14, 1973

BROOKSIDE, Ky. — “They ain’t going to scab this mine. They can close it down, but they ain’t going to scab it.” In this spirit the Brookside Women’s Club gathers every morning on the picket line outside the Eastover Mining Company here.

Last summer, the men voted to be represented by the United Mine Workers of America. But Eastover, owned by Duke Power Company, has refused to accept the contract terms. The Women’s Club, formed in the course of the strike, has played a crucial role in preventing Duke Power from breaking the strike. In October, the company brought in scabs.

The women decided they had to do something. They waited for the scabs to come out and then “we talked with them, and we fought with some of them,” explained Mary Widener. The experience was painful for some of the scabs, and no scab has dared cross the picket lines since.



December 13, 1948

One of the strongest resolutions in defense of civil rights ever enacted by a union body was unanimously adopted by the recent CIO national convention. This resolution calls for legislation abolishing racial discrimination and segregation in industry and the armed forces, and special laws to safeguard civil rights of minorities.

And it takes an unambiguous stand against the current government witch-hunt and purge of political minorities.

In its first session, the newly elected CIO National Executive Board stated that the “loyalty” purge and charges are based on “rumor, gossip, malice and ignorance,” that they uphold “theories of guilt by association wholly alien to our American principles,” and that accused persons are denied “the elementary requirements of due process and the most rudimentary protections afforded by our Constitution.”

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement

pathfinderpress.com

UK meeting draws lessons from Grenada Revolution

BY OLIVER JONES

LONDON — “The revolution was moving the country forward for the working class. That’s why I got involved,” Matthew Lord told 40 people at a “Maurice Bishop and the Grenadian Revolution” meeting here Nov. 18. Also on the platform at the event sponsored by Pathfinder Books were Michel Rodríguez, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy in London, and Jonathan Silberman, a leader of the Communist League. The three spoke earlier at a meeting in Manchester Oct. 28.

Lord, today an electrician in London, was a 14-year-old student in Grenada when the Bishop-led revolution triumphed in March 1979. He was a representative on his high school student council, took part in the revolution’s literacy campaign and joined the People’s Militia.

Lord described the revolution’s progress in organizing workers into unions, drawing in women and forging a network of workplace and neighborhood councils and assemblies. Agricultural production was increased, the economy grew, rural areas got electricity, education and health care were made free, unemployment was reduced, he said, all with the assistance of “our Cuban brothers and sisters.”

Rodríguez spoke of how Cuba recognized the revolutionary government and extended solidarity by “sharing the little we have.” Volunteer construction workers helped build a new airport and after the revolution was overthrown by the Stalinist forces of Bernard Coard, 25 died and 59 were wounded fighting a U.S. invasion arms in hand. Cuba continues its solidarity today, he said, including with volunteer medical teams.

‘Lessons of revolution are decisive’

“The lessons of the revolution are decisive,” Silberman said. “The more so in the turning point of world politics today, marked by Moscow’s war to destroy Ukraine and Tehran’s goal of destroying the state of Israel, of which the Oct. 7 massacre of Jews by Hamas was an horrific part.

“The greatest battle working people face is to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us and recognize that we can take power and organize society,” Silberman said. “Under Bishop’s leadership the Grenada Revolution showed that this is both necessary and possible.”

There’s a second “equally important lesson,” the Communist League leader said. “The need not only to storm the fortress *but to hold it*. In Grenada, that didn’t happen. The workers and farmers government was overthrown.”

Lord said the U.S. imperialist rulers did their best to destabilize the revolution, including a fall 1981 practice U.S. invasion carried out in Puerto Rico called “Operation Amber and the Amberines.” That “made me join the militia,” he said.

“But the revolution wasn’t defeated in a war with U.S. imperialism,” Silberman said. “It was overthrown by a Stalinist faction headed by Deputy Prime Minister Coard.” Coard’s group arrested Bishop and other leaders of the revolution. That defeat paved the way for a U.S. invasion. After Bishop was killed, “there was no appetite for a fight,” Lord added.

Lord described how he joined thousands of others in the streets, perhaps a quarter of the entire population, who freed Bishop. They then faced Coard’s forces, who “turned their guns on the people with live ammunition, murdered Bishop and other leaders, and then presided over a dayslong 24-hour shoot-to-kill curfew.”

Two political lines

“The revolution’s overthrow was the outcome of a four-year political battle within the governing New Jewel Movement,” Silberman said. For Bishop the strength of the revolution lay in the leadership’s “unbreakable link” with the masses. “The first pillar of our revolution is our people who are always at the center and heart and focus of all our activities,” Bishop said. For Coard, however, working people were not subjects of history but objects to be manipulated.

Bishop sought to “draw working



Militant/ Dag Tirsén

London meeting of 40 Nov. 18 discusses importance of Maurice Bishop and Grenada Revolution for working-class politics today. At podium, Matthew Lord, who joined the revolution there at age 14. From left, Jonathan Silberman, Communist League in U.K.; Michel Rodríguez, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy in London; and chair Olof Andra Proppé.

people into politics, deepening their political consciousness,” Silberman said. Coard rejected this course.

Coard used his position to keep the party small — just 70 full members at the time of his overthrow of Bishop. He organized to prohibit farmers from joining and maneuvered to place his people into key positions. For party “education,” Coard used pamphlets by Joseph Stalin.

Coard also opposed the strong bonds of solidarity forged between Bishop and Fidel Castro. His mentor was Trevor Munroe, leader of the Workers Party of Jamaica, a veteran of “the Stalin school.”

At his trial for Bishop’s murder, Coard compared the thousands who’d mobilized to save the revolution to a “herd” of animals. Fidel Castro aptly called Coard and his supporters the “Pol Pot group” in Grenada, Silberman said. But Bishop was not able to prevent Coard’s counter-revolution because he did not forge a mass workers vanguard party “as Lenin and Castro had done in the two great revolutions of the 20th century, and as we need to do, here and elsewhere today.”

Participants engaged in lively discussion at both meetings. Responding to a question about forging a leadership in the Middle East, Rodríguez commented that the position of the Cuban government is to support the inalienable national right of the Palestinian people, and two states — Israel and a Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

A participant at the Manchester

meeting asked Rodríguez about how Castro had defeated a faction led by Aníbal Escalante, a Coard-type grouping in Cuba. Rodríguez said that Castro united the July 26 Movement, the Popular Socialist Party and Revolutionary Directorate and forged the Communist Party, a vanguard hundreds of thousands strong. He said that Castro decided on this course following the victory in the revolutionary war, as he traveled to Havana from eastern Cuba in the Freedom Caravan. Engaging the local population in meetings and rallies, Castro saw they had created “something greater than themselves” and “joined the people.”

“You can read about this in Steve Clark’s article, “The second assassination of Maurice Bishop,” Silberman said. Some 44 copies of *New International* no. 6 that contains the article by Clark and 50 copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* were sold in the course of organizing the two meetings.

Expressing her appreciation of the meeting, Judy Joseph, whose parents were from Grenada, told the *Militant*, “It seems like a lot of things are coming together. Conflicts like the war in the Middle East and 40 years since the coup in Grenada. I had to come.”

New International
A magazine of Marxist politics
and theory, 1934-present
Intercontinental Press
International news magazine
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Online at themilitant.com
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For further reading

Maurice Bishop Speaks The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow 1979-83

by Maurice Bishop

Lessons from the triumph of the 1979 revolution in Grenada and the workers and farmers government it bought to power in the words of its central leader, Maurice Bishop. Includes Fidel Castro’s 1983 speech honoring Cuban volunteers who fought against the U.S. invasion. \$20

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MAURICE
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THE GRENADA
REVOLUTION AND ITS
OVERTHROW 1979-83

New International

The second
assassination of
Maurice Bishop
by Steve Clark



CUBA'S
RECTIFICATION
PROCESS
Text speeches by
Fidel Castro
Land, labor, and
the Canadian
revolution
in Haiti
The 50-year
domestic contra
operation
Victory begins



Militant/ Dag Tirsén

Audience of 40 people at Nov. 18 London Grenada meeting participated in lively discussion.

CSX Kentucky derailment shows threat of new rail catastrophes

BY AMY HUSK

LIVINGSTON, Ky. — Residents in this central Kentucky town of 200 were told to evacuate Nov. 22 after 16 cars on a CSX freight train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed just north of here. Two of the cars were transporting molten sulfur, which caught fire as at least one of them was breached. The fire released sulfur dioxide into the air, which can be deadly at high concentrations.

“Someone came and was banging on our door the night before Thanksgiving telling us to get out,” Linda Todd, who lives in an apartment complex in town, told the *Militant*.

“We said, ‘We can’t leave, we have turkeys in the oven!’ But when I went outside my tongue and mouth started burning from the fumes,” she said. “Some people I talked to had trouble breathing.”

One member of the train’s two-person crew was treated for injuries, the company said. Another two of the derailed cars were carrying magnesium hydroxide, a mildly hazardous chemical, but those cars weren’t breached. CSX bosses reported four days later that “officials have determined that a failed wheel bearing caused the derailment.”

The rail bosses reported they were going to remove all the spilled material, as well as any contaminated ballast or soil before rebuilding the tracks. This was an important issue in the Feb. 3 Norfolk Southern derailment, spill and toxic fire in East Palestine, Ohio. Norfolk Southern bosses rebuilt the tracks and ran trains right on top of badly contaminated ground. Only a public outcry forced them to reverse themselves and start a cleanup.

By Nov. 26 CSX said the cleanup and removal of all the rail cars and 2,500 tons of impacted soil was complete, the tracks were being repaired, and trains would be running again shortly. They also claimed the air quality was acceptable and residents had been cleared to return home.

CSX set up an “Outreach Center” at the Old Livingston Gymnasium downtown to distribute checks to some of those evacuated. “They call it ‘evacuation inconvenience money,’” Todd said. “It’s on top of having our motel rooms and food paid for. But I wonder why we got these checks so fast?”

Todd fell and was injured on her face and chin in the commotion of the evacuation. She received a check for more than \$2,000. “They gave me an extra \$255 compensation because I got hurt,” she said. “We had to sign some papers but we never got copies of them. Who knows what’s coming down the road? They just say everything is OK but it seems like they might be worried about lawsuits.”

Todd’s sister, Cindy Bradley, confirmed that those who were compensated all got \$2,000 or more. “But people are having trouble cashing the checks because a lot of people don’t have bank accounts,” she said. “One of the local banks says they ran out of money and they’re telling people to just deposit them instead.”

Not everyone who evacuated received compensation. Evelyn Scalf was at work at the Marathon gas station the afternoon of the derailment when she

noticed a lot of people from CSX coming in. “I asked what was going on and they said they couldn’t tell us,” she said. “When I finally found out I decided to go home and get my family out. My son and his wife and babies all live close to the derailment but they had not been evacuated. I got all my kids and grandkids and told some neighbors too and we all left.”

Scalf and her family were outside the CSX Outreach Center after being told they didn’t qualify for assistance because their home was not within the designated area within which CSX had decided to give assistance. Scalf’s daughter, Elizabeth Clines, said her nephew, a baby on her lap, has been coughing ever since the derailment. “We didn’t get any help,” she said.

Clines and Scalf said that jobs were hard to come by in the area and many people depend on hunting and fishing for a significant part of their food. “I asked the CSX representative in the center what about the wildlife? He just said, ‘What’s your address?’ He didn’t want to answer me,” Scalf said.



Inset, Militant/Amy Husk
Workers were forced to evacuate Livingston, Kentucky, when CSX freight train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed Nov. 22. Inset, Evelyn Scalf, showing map of derailment area. Scalf told the *Militant* she and her family had to organize their own evacuation and were denied financial assistance by rail bosses.

“I don’t trust them,” she added. “They just want to quiet people down and get their trains running again.”

Bradley said she was contacted by a woman from East Palestine after she was interviewed by a local TV station.

“She asked how things are going for us,” Bradley said, “and she wanted us to know they’ve had to fight for everything they got from Norfolk Southern after the derailment and toxic chemical contamination there.”

Putin moves to abolish women’s right to abortion in Russia

BY ILONA GERSH

Russian President Vladimir Putin is leading a drive to severely restrict women’s right to get an abortion in Russia, which in recent history has a relatively high abortion rate, an annual average of 46 per 1,000 women. At the same time, his government is seeking to limit aid to Russian families, as the pressures from Moscow’s genocidal war against the people of Ukraine is hitting increasingly hard on working people.

Putin and his cronies are dismayed by the plummeting birthrate in Russia. The rate of population decline has almost tripled since 2020. His war against Ukraine has so far resulted in a death toll of some 120,000 Russian soldiers, with 180,000 more wounded. Close to 1 million youth have left the country since the beginning of the war, seeking to avoid the draft and Putin’s deepening assault on political rights.

The Russian Revolution, led by V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, led to the decriminalization of abortion in 1920. This was just one part of the Bolsheviks’ drive to transform the situation facing women and working people, for society to take the burden of stultifying family chores off their backs. Their goal was to organize government services

and aid that would free women to join in the revolutionary fight to transform Russian society. They also believed this course would make having a family far easier and make many abortions unnecessary. It was part of a broader campaign to advance women’s full legal equality with men.

This working-class-led struggle for women’s emancipation ground to a halt in Russia in the late 1920s. Following Lenin’s death in 1924, an increasingly counterrevolutionary layer in the Soviet government and Communist Party, led by Joseph Stalin, jettisoned the Bolsheviks’ policies. While defenders of Lenin’s course, led by Leon Trotsky, fought this, the isolation of the Russian Revolution aided Stalin’s triumph. The Stalinist bureaucracy rolled back gains won for women, oppressed nationalities and working people as a whole. As part of this Stalin outlawed virtually all abortions in 1936, seeking to increase the population.

After Stalin’s death abortion was once again legalized in 1955. They were legal, but under terrible conditions. The Stalinist rulers took no steps to provide safe, sanitary clinics, often leading to infection or infertility. Anesthesia was in short supply. Painkillers were scarce.

The Stalinist bureaucrats, with their eyes still fixated on the birthrate, also refused to develop safe, effective contraception. Women had little alternative but to use abortion as a method of birth control. The number of abortions jumped.

Today, Putin is driving to recriminalize abortion, to stamp it out as an option. In some regions, including occupied Crimea, Kaliningrad, Tatarstan and Chelyabinsk, private clinics have “voluntarily” stopped offering abortions. In May a proposal was introduced in the State Duma, Russia’s parliament, to remove abortion from the list of procedures covered by government-funded health insurance.

Russia’s republic of Mordovia was the country’s first region to criminalize the “coercion” of women “through persuasion, offers, bribery, deceit, or by imposing other demands” to have an abortion. In the Tver region, offenders can be held accountable even if a woman doesn’t actually get an abortion.

Mifepristone and misoprostol, used in “day after” abortion pills, are now considered controlled substances. Their availability is limited and their cost increasing. Sales of these emergency contraceptives soared 71% from 2022 to 2023, as women increasingly choose not to have babies during the Ukraine war.

The Russian Orthodox Church has joined in the regime’s vile propaganda campaign blaming women for Russia’s drop in population.

Billboards in some regions show two pictures side by side, one of a fetus, the other of a young boy in military uniform. “Protect me today,” the fetus says. “So that I can defend you tomorrow,” the child soldier says.

Putin has revived the “Mother Heroine” award, first introduced by Stalin in 1944 to try and boost births during the massive population losses of the Second World War. Qualifying mothers are awarded a payment of 1 million rubles (\$11,000) after they give birth to 10 children and the 10th turns 1 year old.



Billboards show fetus image alongside young boy in military gear. “Protect me today,” the fetus says. “So I can defend you tomorrow,” the child soldier says. Putin regime is trying to offset plummeting birthrate, high casualties in Ukraine war by curbing women’s access to abortion.

Julia Davis News

Hamas and the ‘final solution’

Continued from front page

7 will greatly benefit from a look at the group’s origins and history. It revolves around their determination to solve the “Jewish Question” by exterminating the Jews.

Their origins lie in ultra-reactionary Arab forces that formed a yearslong alliance with Hitler’s Nazi Party in the 1930s based on a common desire to carry out the “final solution” — the slaughter of Jews worldwide. These forces include Amin al-Husseini, who became the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem in 1921, and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the forerunner of Hamas. They emerged out of the deepening worldwide capitalist crisis and the revolutions and counterrevolutions that would lead to World War II.

Massacres of Jews in the Middle East by Islamist forces began decades before Israel came into existence. The record of these atrocities by Hamas’ forerunners are hidden today by the Stalinists and middle-class leftists who present Hamas as a national resistance movement.

Beginning in the early 1920s, al-Husseini — from a wealthy landowning family — orchestrated a series of massacres of Jews in Palestine. The capitalist rulers in the U.K. had taken control over Palestine as part of the notorious Sykes-Picot backroom deal that redrew the borders of countries in the region and divided the riches of the Middle East between London and Paris.

Al-Husseini’s assaults on Jews living in Palestine took place as revolutionary struggles against colonial oppression and capitalist exploitation spread worldwide in the decades following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.

In Egypt a rebellion for independence and a general strike paralyzed British colonial rule in 1919, before London brutally suppressed it.

The same year the Bolsheviks led the formation of the Communist International. Communist parties were formed in Egypt in 1922 and Palestine in 1923. In Palestine the party was initially composed largely of Jewish revolutionaries. They strove to emulate the example of the Bolshevik Revolution led by V.I. Lenin, unify the toilers of all nationalities and religions to take power and carry out a socialist revolution.

But that promising beginning was destroyed when a counterrevolution in the Soviet Union led by Joseph Stalin over-

turned Lenin’s course in the late 1920s. It led to the destruction of the Communist International as a revolutionary instrument for the working class.

Al-Husseini forges ties to Nazi regime

Al-Husseini first led a pogrom in Jerusalem in 1920 during a Muslim religious procession, inciting attacks on the Jewish quarter. The British withdrew their troops from Jerusalem, giving their blessing to the pogrom. Six Jews were murdered and two women raped. The British authorities then pardoned al-Husseini, and appointed him the city’s Grand Mufti.

In 1929 he urged his followers to attack Jews in Jerusalem, killing 130. Sixty-seven more Jews were massacred in Hebron a few days later. Women were raped and men castrated. British authorities responded not by fighting the reactionary pogroms, but by placing limits on Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Al-Husseini urged the same during bloody riots against Jewish settlements in 1936.

Britain’s rapacious imperialist exploitation in the region was based on playing the Arabs against the Jews in order to control both.

By 1937 al-Husseini no longer limited his horizon to attacks on Jews in Palestine. “Whoever believes that, if the Palestine problem is solved or if the Jews are defeated in this conflict everything will be fine, are wrong,” he wrote in *Islam and Judaism*. He set out to forge close ties to Hitler and his Nazi regime, to extend the Holocaust to the Middle East.

He said Arabs were “the natural friends of Germany because both are engaged in the struggle against three common enemies: the English, the Jews and Bolshevism.”

The Nazis took on distributing al-Husseini’s writings. Up to 1939, the German Embassy in Cairo produced Muslim Brotherhood propaganda. By the start of World War II the Nazis established radio broadcasts in Arabic, Farsi and Turkish, helping spread al-Husseini’s Jew-hating tirades to a much wider audience. None of the anti-Hitler Arabic language broadcasts by British and other Allied powers made any effort to politically answer the Nazis’ “kill the Jews” vitriol.

Al-Husseini met with Hitler in Berlin in 1941, concretizing plans for collabo-



Adolf Hitler met Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, Nov. 28, 1941, in Berlin. Al-Husseini collaborated with Nazis in planning ‘final solution’ in the Middle East. He was ally of Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, reactionary Islamist group that gave birth to Hamas in 1987.

ration against Jews in the Middle East.

A pro-Nazi regime was established in Baghdad, Iraq. Al-Husseini was based there. When that regime was brought down in 1941, he accused the city’s Jews of being responsible. Days later, a series of deadly pogroms led to the murder of 180 Jews. Later, mass graves of 600 more victims were found. The British army had troops based just 8 miles away, but chose to do nothing to stop the slaughter.

These assaults were the beginning of the end for Baghdad’s Jews, who had made up around a third of its population and lived there for centuries.

In cooperation with the Nazis, al-Husseini launched a Muslim division of Hitler’s hated paramilitary SS in Yugoslavia, recruiting Muslims from Bosnia.

From 1941-43, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel led German and Italian forces in an effort to drive British forces out of Egypt, take control of the Suez Canal and open the door to seizing the region’s oil supplies. Al-Husseini’s SS was to follow, tasked with eliminating all Jews there.

Rommel’s forces made significant gains. When it looked like he was on the verge of a decisive breakthrough, al-Husseini put out a call to his followers. “Everywhere people are asking what part they can play in wiping out the British and the Jews,” The Voice of the Free Arabs radio station said. “Every Jew’s name must be written down, together with his address and his business.”

“Arabs of Syria, Iraq and Palestine, what are you waiting for?” the station said 12 days later. “Kill the Jews, burn their property, destroy their stores.”

But Rommel was defeated at al-Alamein, Egypt, and Hitler never threatened the Middle East again.

Joins with Muslim Brotherhood

In 1945, Allied forces captured al-Husseini and held him under house arrest in France. He escaped the next year and went to Egypt where he was feted by the Muslim Brotherhood leadership.

Hassan al-Banna, a Muslim Brotherhood central leader, welcomed him. It had just instigated a pogrom that left six Jews dead in Cairo. “Germany and Hitler are gone, but al-Husseini will continue the struggle,” al-Banna said.

That’s what he did. He assumed the leadership of the Arab Higher Executive Committee of Palestine, dedicated

to the fight to prevent the establishment of the state of Israel. He led the fight to get the reactionary Arab rulers in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria to wage war against Israel in 1948.

Hamas was founded in 1987 as the armed wing of the Brotherhood in Palestine with a political lineage going back to al-Husseini and his collaboration with the Muslim Brotherhood and with the Nazi regime.

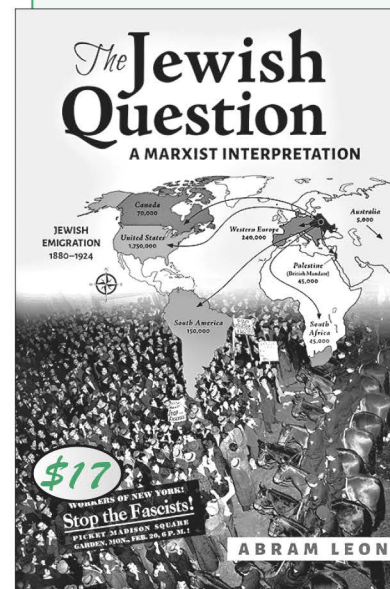
Hamas shares the same hatred for the Jews as a people and the same desire to see them driven off the face of the earth.

This picture of the historical roots of Hamas shatters any idea that this bloodthirsty group has any claim to be an anti-imperialist or progressive leadership of Palestinian workers and peasants. They are the opposite, a reactionary threat to the Jews and the entire working class that must be fought and defeated.

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The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation by Abram Leon



The October 7, 2023, massacre in Israel by Hamas, the worst pogrom against Jews since the Holocaust, has set off a wave of Jew-hatred around the world. This watershed in the 21st century will mean more incidents of antisemitic venom and violent assaults on Jews, fueled by today’s capitalist crises.

From antiquity to feudalism, to capitalism’s rise and death throes of the past century — Jews have been targets of persecution.

Why is Jew-hatred again raising its ugly head? What are its class roots? Why is there no solution to the Jewish question without the working class coming to power to carry out a socialist revolution that can uproot Jew-hatred, end national oppression, and end the march to fascism and world war?

Abram Leon, aged 26, was killed in October 1944 in the Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz.

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‘Democratic’ imperialism won’t protect Jews or Israel

Continued from front page

the terrorists to regroup and slaughter Jews again, aided by the rulers in Tehran and their ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Hamas death squads raped and tortured women, murdered 1,200 people and injured more than 5,400 Oct. 7. The vast majority of victims were Jews, along with several dozen migrant farmworkers and Arab workers. It was the largest single-day murder of Jews since the Holocaust.

Hamas political bureau member Ghazi Hamad left no doubt about the group’s intentions when he told Lebanese television Oct. 24, “We will do this again and again.”

Seizing hostages and threatening to kill them is a key part of its pogrom. Israel Defense Forces spokesman Avichy Adraec accused Hamas of treating captured Israeli children and women “like the spoils of war ... handing them over to other terror groups in the Gaza Strip.” Some families have been separated, with children held away from their parents.

Israel agreed to a four-day truce that began Nov. 24 to facilitate the release of women and children, who make up more than one-third of the 240 hostages. Israel said it would consider up to a 10-day pause if Hamas keeps releasing hostages.

High-ranking U.S. officials told the press that they have warned Israel to avoid “significant further displacement” of civilians in southern Gaza. But that’s precisely where much of the Hamas leadership is now hiding.

But Israeli cabinet minister Benny Gantz said that “fire will resume” when the pause ends. “There will be no place of refuge for terrorists and Hamas leaders.”

Despite their claims to back Israel, the U.S. rulers and other imperialist powers don’t care about the lives of either Jews or Palestinians. They want to see the current war end so that their drive for profits is not disrupted and they can pursue their strategic political interests in the region without disruption.

Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin lauded President Joseph Biden for his “two-track approach” of publicly supporting Israel’s war aims while pressing Israeli rulers to halt the fighting.



Washington sent two carrier groups to eastern Mediterranean Sea, including USS Gerald R. Ford, above, Oct. 11. U.S. rulers are intervening to defend their own imperialist interests against all rivals, in the Middle East and worldwide, not to defend Jews in Israel.

As of Nov. 28 Hamas had freed 81 hostages and the Israeli government 150 Palestinian women and teenagers held in its prisons. Hamas refuses to allow Red Cross visits to the hostages. One hostage, 84-year-old Elma Avraham, was deprived of life-saving medicines in Hamas’ dungeons. When she was released she had to be hospitalized and put on a ventilator.

Unlike the hostages in Gaza — kidnapped and mistreated in captivity simply for being Jewish or working with Jews — the Palestinians released by Israel have been found guilty or charged with crimes such as attempted murder, arson and possession of firearms or explosives.

The liberal media claims that the release of prisoners from Israeli jails was popular among Palestinians in the West Bank. But people living under the Palestinian Authority there — like those in Gaza who have been under the boot of the Hamas dictatorship since 2006 — can’t express their views freely.

Underscoring the barbarity of those claiming to defend Palestinian interests, two Palestinians accused of “spying” for Israel in the West Bank were executed Nov. 25 by thugs affiliated to Fatah. Their dead bodies were dragged through the streets and mutilated, just like Hamas does to its opponents in Gaza.

The message is clear: Don’t condemn the pogrom or challenge Tehran, Hamas and its allies.

Arab Israelis condemn Hamas

The Oct. 7 pogrom has sparked a backlash against Hamas among Israel’s Arab citizens, 21% of the population. Almost everyone has seen the videos taken by Hamas assassins as they brutalized Arabs they came across Oct. 7. This included Arab drivers from East Jerusalem picking people up at the Supernova music festival and Bedouins who worked on kibbutzim.

For Hamas, every Jew and anyone who is friendly to Jews is an enemy.

“There is general disgust and shock among Arab workers in Israel at what Hamas did Oct. 7,” Yaniv Bar Ilan, a spokesperson for Koach LaOvdim (Power to the Workers), told the *Militant* by phone Nov. 24. Koach LaOvdim, the second-largest union federation in Israel, organizes Jewish and Arab workers, including in child care centers, on

are working well together.”

This shift is reflected in the number of Palestinians who openly condemn Hamas.

Loui Haj, a Palestinian who manages a tech company in Acre, wrote a column in *Haaretz* Nov. 26. Those chanting “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” at protests include “students from the best universities in the world,” he noted.

“I have to wonder — how are your souls, which are supposed to be oh-so-sensitive to human injustices, able to blithely contemplate the ethnic cleansing of Jews from this land?” he wrote.

Haj does not discount that the formation of Israel in 1948 brought “in its wake killing and destruction and the expulsion of my relatives. Nor do I ignore the pogroms and atrocities that members of my people committed against the Jews before and in the wake” of Israel’s founding.

“You cannot correct one great injustice with an injustice of total destruction,” he said. “Israel has an unshakable right to exist that does not require your approval.”

“For us Arab Israeli citizens, life is complicated and hard, but it is still incomparably preferable to life in any one of the surrounding countries,” he said. “If you show up here in your liberation campaign, you will find me arm-in-arm with my Jewish brethren, fighting you and anyone else who dares to threaten the country’s survival.”

Defenders of Hamas plan to ‘shut down’ Jewish National Fund conference in Denver



In a serious threat to basic constitutional rights of free speech and assembly, and as a direct expression of Jew-hatred, the Colorado Palestine Coalition is calling on its supporters to disrupt the Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 Jewish National Fund USA conference in Denver.

More than 2,000 people — including high school and college students along with Israelis impacted by Hamas’ Oct. 7 slaughter of Jews — are expected to attend the four-day conference at the Colorado Convention Center.

The Jewish National Fund’s main focus is the construction of housing, parks, water development and other projects to encourage immigration of Jews fleeing antisemitism to Israel. It also works with Bedouin Arab organizations in the Negev.

More than 100 apologists for Hamas disrupted the Nov. 27 meeting of the Denver City Council, demanding that it denounce the conference. After the protesters refused to step down from the microphone when the public comment time was over, the council president adjourned the meeting.

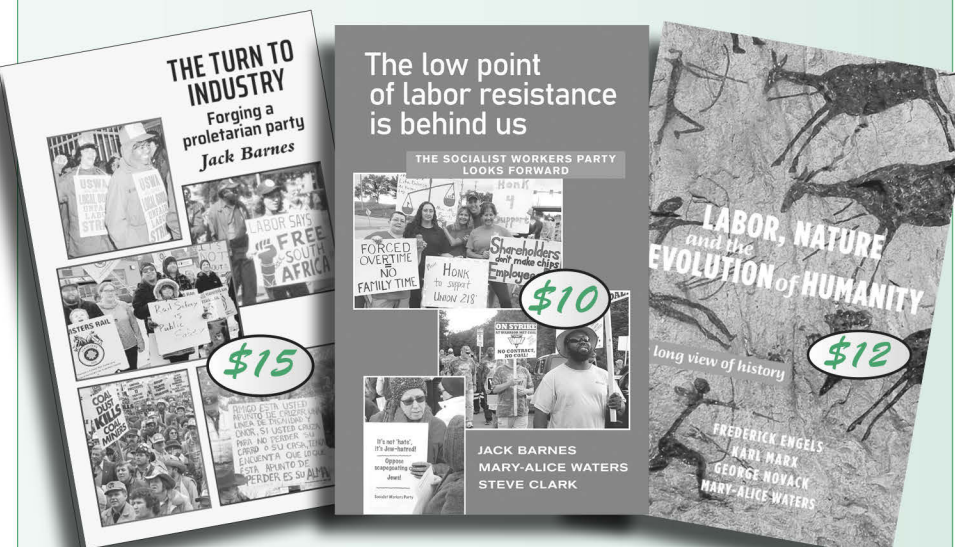
The coalition and its supporters have turned a blind eye to the immorality of the Hamas Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel that sought to kill as many Jews as possible. Instead, they falsely charge that Israel is responsible for genocide and is an apartheid state. Above, a Nov. 5 march by the group.

The group is openly calling to shut down the conference, planning multiple actions every day. The threat this poses to those attending the conference is clear. It is also a threat to the labor movement.

Sam Goldberg, president of the Jewish National Fund in the Mountain States, told the Denver Post he expected that there will be “reasonable and thoughtful critiques of Israel” at the conference, but anyone who calls for Israel’s destruction would be “unwelcome.”

— SETH GALINSKY

Recommended reading



from pathfinderpress.com

Trotsky: 'Jewish question is tied to the emancipation of humanity'

Since Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom against Jews in Israel ignited a surge in Jew-hating attacks across the world, Pathfinder is featuring the pamphlet *On the Jewish Question* by Leon Trotsky as one of its Books of the Month for December. Trotsky, a leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution under V.I. Lenin, fought to defend Lenin's proletarian internationalist course against a bureaucratic counterrevolution headed by Stalin. Trotsky was writing before the Holocaust, the postwar betrayals of revolution in Europe by Stalin, and the decision by Washington and London to keep their borders closed to Jews, which led to the founding of Israel. The excerpts are from Trotsky's 1934 interview, "On the Jewish Problem"; "Imperialism and anti-Semitism" in 1940; and a 1937 "Interview with Jewish correspondents in Mexico." Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Jewish survivors surrounded by Nazi stormtroopers after crushing of heroic monthlong Warsaw ghetto uprising by Polish Jews in 1943. Over 6 million Jews were killed by Hitler regime in the Holocaust. Taking on Jew-hatred is crucial task for the working class today.

easier to see in what proportion and in what degree there were present those elements such as national liberationists (anti-imperialists) and reactionary Mohammedans and anti-Semitic pogromists. On the surface, it seems to me that all these elements were there.

QUESTION: What is your attitude about Palestine as a possible Jewish "home-land" and about a land for the Jews generally? Don't you believe that the anti-Semitism of German fascism compels a different approach to the Jewish question on the part of Communists?

ANSWER: Both the fascist state in Germany, as well as the Arabian-Jewish struggle, bring forth new and very clear verifications of the principle that the Jewish question cannot be solved within the framework of capitalism. I do not know whether Jewry will be built up again as a nation. However, there can be no doubt that the material conditions for the existence of Jewry as an independent nation could be brought about only by the proletarian revolution. There is no such thing on our planet as the idea that one has more claim to land than another.

The establishment of a territorial base for Jewry in Palestine or any other country is conceivable only with the migrations of large human masses. Only a triumphant socialism can take upon itself such tasks. It can be foreseen that it may take place either on the basis of a mutual understanding, or with the aid of a kind of international

proletarian tribunal which should take up this question and solve it.

The blind alley in which German Jewry finds itself as well as the blind alley in which Zionism finds itself is inseparably bound up with the blind alley of world capitalism, as a whole. Only when the Jewish workers clearly see this interrelationship will they be forewarned against pessimism and despair.

The world of decaying capitalism is overcrowded. The question of admitting a hundred extra refugees becomes a major problem for such a world power as the United States. In an era of aviation, telegraph, telephone, radio, and television, travel from country to country is paralyzed by passports and visas. The period of the wasting away of foreign trade and the decline of domestic trade is at the same time the period of the monstrous intensification of chauvinism and especially of anti-Semitism. In the epoch of its rise, capitalism took the Jewish people out of the ghetto and utilized them as an instrument in its commercial expansion. Today decaying capitalist society is striving to squeeze the Jewish people from all its pores; seventeen million individuals out of the two billion populating the globe, that is, less than one percent, can no longer find a place on our planet! Amid the vast expanses of land and the marvels of technology... the bourgeoisie has managed to convert

our planet into a foul prison. ...

The struggle for "living room" is nothing but camouflage for imperialist expansion, that is, the policy of annexation and plunder. The racial justification for this expansion is a lie; National Socialism changes its racial sympathies and antipathies in accordance with strategic considerations. A somewhat more stable element in fascist propaganda is, perhaps, anti-Semitism. ... Not for nothing did Frederick Engels label anti-Semitism the "socialism of idiots"! The sole feature of fascism which is not counterfeited is its will to power, subjugation, and plunder. Fascism is a chemically pure distillation of the culture of imperialism.



During my youth I rather leaned toward the prognosis that the Jews of different countries would be assimilated and that the Jewish question would thus disappear in a quasi-automatic fashion. The historical development of the last quarter of a century has not confirmed this perspective. Decaying capitalism has everywhere swung over to an exacerbated nationalism, one part of which is anti-Semitism. The Jewish question has loomed largest in the most highly developed capitalist country of Europe, in Germany.

On the other hand the Jews of different countries have created their press and developed the Yiddish language as an instrument adapted to modern culture. One must therefore reckon with the fact that the Jewish nation will maintain itself for an entire epoch to come. Now the nation cannot normally exist without a common territory. Zionism springs from this very idea. But the facts of every passing day demonstrate to us that Zionism is incapable of resolving the Jewish question. The conflict between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine acquires a more and more tragic and more and more menacing character. I do not at all believe that the Jewish question can be resolved within the framework of rotting capitalism and under the control of British imperialism. ...

The Jewish question, I repeat, is indissolubly bound up with the complete emancipation of humanity. Everything else that is done in this domain can only be a palliative and often even a two-edged blade, as the example of Palestine shows.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

QUESTION: The official Communist Party characterized, without question, the Jewish-Arab events in 1929 in Palestine as the revolutionary uprising of the oppressed Arabian masses. What is your opinion of this policy?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, I am not thoroughly familiar with the facts to venture a definite opinion. I am now studying the question. Then it will be

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Defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews

Continued from front page

their markets, profits and reach against all rivals and to impose the “stability” their class needs to try to maintain their dominant position worldwide.

They may shed crocodile tears for the victims of Hamas' brutality. But they care no more about the lives and welfare of Jews today than they did before, during and in the aftermath of World War II, when they slammed shut U.S. borders to those targeted by the Nazis for annihilation, Hitler's Final Solution. The U.S. imperialist rulers do not share the inescapable situation of Israeli capitalist rulers, much less Israeli working people, who must crush Hamas if their country is to continue to exist as a refuge for Jews.

London, Paris and the other democratic imperialist powers act for their capitalist rulers' interests too, as do Beijing and Moscow. But they are much weaker than Washington. In the eyes of all these predators, the peoples of the region are bargaining chips. Workers cannot rely on these capitalist powers to protect Jews from the assaults of Tehran and Hamas, any more than to safeguard the interests of the working class.

Cease-fire = support for Hamas

Washington is part of a growing chorus pressing Israel to back off its efforts to eliminate Hamas as a military and terrorist threat to the Jewish people and accept a cease-fire, sure to be violated with new brutality. There was a cease-fire in place on Oct. 6 and many times earlier, each one shattered by bloody new anti-Jewish attacks. And as Hamas leaders have proudly proclaimed time and again in recent weeks, they'll carry out new Oct. 7s over and over, until they kill or drive out all the Jews.

With intensified vigor, Washington is pushing to impose a “two-state solution” on Israel. But there is no possibility of any such thing. Hamas flatly rejects any “solution” that leaves Israel and the Jews intact. And no other Palestinian leadership stands up to them.

There is a daily barrage in the liberal media about deplorable conditions in Gaza, with no explanation that this is exactly what Hamas long planned and intended in carrying out the Oct. 7 bloodbath. This coverage is aimed at ramping up pressure on Israel to end its efforts to destroy Hamas and yield to the imperialist-dominated United Nations. U.N. bodies are among Hamas' most prominent cheerleaders.

The obedient capitalist press corps regurgitates casualty figures issued by Hamas as if it's impartial and truthful. They repeat Hamas' lies it doesn't conceal rockets near hospitals, or keep arms and run military operations centers there. They increasingly bury the facts about the full horror of what Hamas did Oct. 7 to complement their propaganda barrage.

What's needed by working people in Israel and the region of all nationalities and beliefs is the truth about what has unfolded.

Only the defeat of Hamas can set back Jew-hating violence and create the conditions for common struggles by all working people against the exploiting classes and governments that rule over them. This can open the door to construct a leadership, a revolutionary working-class party, that can take political power and make a socialist revolution. This is the road to end Jew-hatred and capitalist oppression and exploitation.

Workers everywhere have a stake in getting out the truth. Under the banner of calling for “peace,” the U.S. imperialists advance a course that ensures more wars against Jews.

In the imperialist epoch, the Jewish question is both a permanent and decisive one. As the deepening crisis of capitalism leads to the ruin of large sections of the middle class, many — including many who call themselves socialist — blame the Jews. When the crisis and the level of working-class struggle reach the point where layers of the rulers fear losing power to the workers, growing sections of the capitalists finance and foster fascist thugs to smash the unions, inaugurate a new Holocaust and open the door to another imperialist world war. This is precisely what happened in Germany in the 1930s.

But this is not the era of fascism. What was opened by the October 1917 Russian Revolution under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, and then the Cuban socialist revolution in the 1960s under the leadership of Fidel Castro, is the era of building communist parties with working-class leaderships capable of organizing our class and its allies in their millions to defeat the capitalist rulers and rightist goons and take state power into our own hands.

Fighting Jew-hatred has special weight in forging such a party. It poses a key challenge for the unions. The defeat of Hamas and the defense of Israel's right to exist is in the interests of all workers everywhere in the world.

Bosses at ‘assisted living’ add on fees to boost profits

Continued from front page

injection, \$315 a month for daily help with an inhaler, and charges for getting “reminders” when it's time to eat or take your medications, as well as for helping residents get to the shower, bathroom or dining room.

And if residents develop dementia or other serious illnesses, their monthly costs could be jacked up by several thousand dollars.

The median annual prices of assisted living has increased 31% faster than inflation, nearly doubling from 2004 to 2021 to \$54,000, according to recent surveys of the industry. In some cases it goes over \$100,000.

Many assisted-living facilities are owned by international real estate investment trusts, whose focus — surprise — is on maximizing profits. Health care is just a sideline. Ventas, for example, a real estate firm with investments in 576 senior housing centers, generated 24% in profits in the third quarter of this year.

Many workers who live in these centers, which are advertised as a cheerful environment for one's “end of life” years, are actually being worn down by inadequate staffing and the frustration of a lack of timely assistance.

“We still receive many complaints about staffing shortages and services not being provided as promised,” Aisha Elmquist, a former state official dealing with long-term care in Minnesota, told the *Times*. “Some residents have reported to us they call 911 for things like getting in and out of bed.”

Jon Guckenber, an 83-year-old retired pizza-parlor owner, ran through his life savings in just a year after moving into a single room assisted-living cottage in

rural Minnesota. Like millions of others, he applied for Medicaid to cover his stay at this facility.

While the residential center there accepted Medicaid, it came at a price. Guckenber was able to keep only about \$200 of his \$2,831 monthly retirement income, with the rest going to pay rent and paybacks to the government. Medicaid recipients are often required to turn over their homes and all their assets as part of the price for a roof over their head.

Most assisted-living facilities require residents whose savings have been drained and can no longer pay the exorbitant rents and other charges to move out. Federal law protects Medicaid beneficiaries in nursing homes from eviction, but not those in assisted living.

In fact, getting Medicaid for assisted-living facilities is difficult, putting it out of the reach of millions. Only 18% of residential care centers agree to take Medicaid payments, according to a federal survey. And those that accept Medicaid often limit coverage to a minority of their beds. In 37 states, retirees looking for a spot are stuck on waiting lists for months, even years, to qualify.

Growing numbers of “baby boomers,” those born after World War II to the 1950s, are now retiring and living longer, needing more long-term care than families can provide. Little is being done by the capitalist rulers to deal with this crisis. Throughout this decade, an average of 10,000 will turn 65 every day.

All this is another good reason for workers to organize to overturn the dog-eat-dog capitalist system and take political power into our own hands.

Putin's genocidal war

Continued from front page

fight to defend the country's independence.

Air defense teams shot down or disabled 74 of the 75 drones, preventing mass casualties. But in Kyiv dozens of residences and a kindergarten were damaged or destroyed by falling debris. At least five people were injured, including an 11-year-old child.

Since the start of the war there have been more than 19,000 documented cases of Russian authorities deporting Ukrainian children from occupied territories to the Russian Federation. Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, boasts the figure is actually over 700,000!

With the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, working people took power and granted nations under the Russian czars' domination the right to self-determination. For a few years the use of the Ukrainian language grew and knowledge of Ukrainian history, art and culture flourished. These gains were set back in a counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin. All the oppressed nationalities were placed under Moscow's direct command.

Today the Kremlin claims the children it seizes are being “evacuated” for their own safety.

A close political ally of Putin “adopted” a 2-year-old girl, taken from a Kherson children's home. Sergey Mironov, head of the “A Just Russia” political party, and his wife, Inna Varlamova, had Margarita Propenko abducted by Russian troops. They imposed a Russian name on her, Marina Mironova. She was one of 48 orphans from the home that have gone missing.

Ukrainian youth resist Russification

Elsewhere, Vitaliy Vertash, a 16 year old from Moscow-occupied Beryslav, was part of a group sent to a youth summer camp in Crimea, under the guise of getting a vacation and safe education.

After three weeks his mother, Inna, asked the camp director when he was coming back, but she wasn't given an answer. “He was actually kidnapped,” she told ABC News. “I got him back,” but it took six months.

During classes, Vitaliy said the youth were told Ukraine is full of “terrorists who kill people.”

“They beat us with rods for saying, ‘Glory to Ukraine!’” The kids were cursed as “khokhols,” a derogatory term for Ukrainians. “It was like a prison.

“When they played the Russian national anthem, we played the Ukrainian national anthem through our headphones,” he said.

Young children are most vulnerable to Moscow's indoctrination, especially when they're told they've been abandoned by their parents.

“They teach them to hate their parents, and then [to hate] our country, and then to love Russia,” said Miroslava Kharchenko, a lawyer for Save Ukraine, which facilitates the return of the children to Ukraine.

“First, they came to our land, killed [the children's] parents, bombed homes, forced people to starve and to lose everything,” Oksana Filipishina, of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, told Russian news outlet Meduza. “And now they're ‘liberators.’”

“In the cases of stolen Ukrainian kids or kids kidnapped by Hamas, we're talking about the literal future of these countries,” Evgenia Kara-Murza told Meduza Nov. 23. She was referring to Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom against Jews in Israel, which included kidnapping 240 people, many of them children or teenagers.

Her husband, Vladimir Kara-Murza, is one of thousands of political prisoners. Serving a sentence of 25 years for his opposition to Putin's war, he has recently been sent to a maximum-security jail in the Siberian city of Omsk and held in isolation.

“Everything should be done to weaken the regime, both from inside and outside of the country,” Evgenia Kara-Murza said, “by supporting Ukraine's war effort and encouraging its victory.”

Just as “the war in Afghanistan weakened the Soviet regime in the 1980s,” conditions are being created that will “weaken the regime and when cracks appear, I'm sure we'll see people in the streets.”

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

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