

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Newton teachers win support in fight for wages, schedules

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 6 FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Join Socialist Workers Party campaigners across the US!

BY JANET POST

Socialist Workers Party members in Pennsylvania held a statewide membership meeting in Philadelphia Jan. 26 to discuss how to use the SWP campaigns of Ved Dookhun for U.S. Senate and Candace Wagner for U.S. Congress in Pittsburgh's District 12.

Dookhun is a freight rail conductor and a member of SMART-TD Local 1373. Wagner is a hotel worker and member of UNITE HERE Local 57. Joining in the meeting was Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, and John Studer, the party's national campaign director and editor of the *Militant*.

In a political report to the meeting, Tony Lane, chairperson of the Pittsburgh SWP, said, "There is a lot of interest by workers in the 2024 elections. There will also be real interest in the working-class political course SWP candidates present. Working people and the union movement need to break with the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties and build our own party, a labor party, to fight

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



Ruthless Images

Some 6,000 people marched against antisemitism in Manchester, England, Jan. 21, the largest action against Jew-hatred in city in years. Jew-hating attacks have spiked around the world in the wake of Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom, which slaughtered or maimed thousands of Jews in Israel.

Thousands in Manchester march against Jew-hatred

BY HUGO WILS

MANCHESTER, England — "Jews were hated because we were poor, because we were rich, because we were communist, because we were capitalist, because we kept to

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Israeli blows against Hamas open political space in Gaza

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Israeli army's advances in Gaza are striking blows to Hamas and its brutal rule, beginning to open space for Palestinians there to speak out, including against the Tehran-backed group. This opens the door to uniting working people — Jews, Arabs and others — to fight for their common interests throughout the Middle East, and push back against Jew-hatred.

Israeli officials have released videos of several anti-Hamas actions in Gaza, including one that shows hundreds fleeing Khan Younis Jan. 26 chanting, "The people want the fall of Hamas!"

Another showed women and children marching with white flags, chanting,

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Democrats, left target 'fascist' Trump, assault political rights

BY TERRY EVANS

As the 2024 election comes closer and Donald Trump racks up primary victories, the Democrats call him — and the workers who support him — fascists. They pin their hopes on a deepening assault on constitutional freedoms and use a growing number of legal prosecutions to try and derail his candidacy.

These are a dangerous threat to rights the working class and the unions fought for in blood and need today.

They're also attempting to kick off the ballot all other candidates they fear will draw even a small number of votes away from Biden, like the "No Labels," a third capitalist party.

At this point, Trump faces six major trials, both criminal and civil, currently set during the 2024 campaign,

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The working people of Ukraine fight to defend their independence



OVD-Info/Ivan Zhizhnevsky

"No War" painted on snow Dec. 9 by Ivan Zhizhnevsky in Kirov, some 500 miles north-east of Moscow. Like thousands of other protesters, he was arrested. Feb. 24 marks opening of the third year of Moscow's murderous invasion against Ukraine and its people.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Moscow has stepped up its deadly aerial attacks on Ukrainian cities, bombarding apartment buildings, schools, energy infrastructure and other civilian targets in hopes of demoralizing working people fighting to defend their country's independence. But Ukrainian workers are determined to beat back this assault as the Russian government's punishing invasion nears its third year.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's

regime unleashed a barrage of cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, Kharkiv and other cities Jan. 23, killing at least 19 people and injuring over 120.

The Ukrainian military, saddled with shortages of the most effective anti-missile weaponry, intercepted only half of the missiles launched, and just five of the 24 ballistic missiles.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, the attacks happen almost

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'Throw out the Canadian rulers' anti-working-class Emergencies Act!

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — A federal judge ruled Jan. 23 that Ottawa broke the law when it invoked the Emergencies Act to crush the truckers' Freedom Convoy in 2022. This is a significant victory for all working people and defenders of democratic rights that can be used to fight to get the charges the government laid against participants in the truckers' protest dropped and to defend union and other working-class struggles more broadly.

The government invoked the Emergencies Act on Feb. 14, 2022, to break up an encampment outside the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa set up by

Continued on page 5

China's capitalist rulers' deepening crises visit disaster on working people

BY ROY LANDERSEN

For decades China's rulers have relied on expanding capitalist methods to grow their economy, and repression to keep working people in check. But their course today is producing falling exports, rising local government debt and a property market meltdown, exemplified by the collapse of Evergrande, once the world's most profitable property developer.

This deepening crisis has devastating consequences for the livelihoods of millions of workers.

A Hong Kong court ruled Jan. 29 that Evergrande, with its gigantic \$300 billion debt, be liquidated, setting up a tug-of-war over its assets between Beijing and imperialist lenders who are owed billions. Bosses at the company stopped paying creditors two years ago.

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Los Angeles, Orange County hotel workers fight for a contract

Farmers protest across Europe, fight to defend their livelihoods

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Long lines of French farmers driving their tractors blocked traffic around Paris and across France Jan. 29, demanding the government of President Emmanuel Macron and European Union officials put an end to policies that threaten their livelihoods.

Faced with skyrocketing energy and fertilizer prices, and choking on growing “climate change” regulations, farmers across Europe are up in arms.

Recent attempts by the French government to lower inflation by pressuring supermarket owners to reduce their prices has led them to cut prices they pay to farmers, forcing some farmers to sell below their cost of production.

The protests, now into their second week, have broad public support. France is the EU’s biggest agricultural producer, with thousands of farmers producing meat, dairy, wine and other commodities.

Macron’s government has dropped plans to reduce state subsidies on agricultural diesel, but farmers say this is not enough.

The government has “completely forgotten that behind this job, there are women and men who need to make their living, to be proud again,” said Luc Smessaert, who helped organize a protest near Beauvais, north of Paris, Jan. 23.

In Germany, Romania, Italy, Ireland, Spain and Poland tens of thousands of farmers facing similar gov-

ernment attacks have taken to the streets.

Under the pressure of the capitalist crisis, the EU has cut programs that in the past made payments to farmers. And in the name of saving the climate, the EU now makes subsidies contingent on farmers forgoing development of more arable land and reducing fertilizer use by at least 20%.

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, responded Jan. 25 to the protests, saying she was opening “strategic dialogues” on farmers’ issues.

“We don’t have much faith,” Ana Mahe of the Farmers’ Alliance Ireland, said at a protest outside the EU parliament in Brussels.

EU demands that Irish farmers cull cattle herds to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions have added to the fury of farmers there.

Newton teachers win support in strike for wages, schedules

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Teachers and aides on strike in Newton, Massachusetts, remain solid on the picket lines in the longest teachers strike in recent state history. The Newton Teachers Association members voted by 98% to strike Jan. 18, after more than a year of failed negotiations with the city and having worked without a contract since last August.

The 1,100 teachers and 800 aides are fighting for much needed wage increases, better work schedules and an end to the increase in health care costs.



Reuters/Stephanie Lecocq

Farmers in Beauvais, France, walk on highway toward Paris Jan. 29. Across Europe farmers are protesting skyrocketing costs, choking “climate change” rules, cuts in pay for their produce.

Clause Hochrein, a German farmer from Eisenheim, told the *Financial Times* the government’s fuel subsidy cut, coming on top of tougher EU rules on the use of fertilizer and

pesticides, was the last straw. “The government has talked to the NGOs, they’ve talked to each other, over our heads, and never with us — and that has to change.”

There are 11,700 students in 21 schools in Newton, a suburb of Boston.

“The biggest sticking point is that the Newton school committee refuses to bargain with us,” Michael Zilles, president of the Newton Teachers Association, told the press. “They are playing a game of wait it out, wait it out,” he said. The union faces escalating fines, as teachers strikes are illegal in Massachusetts. As of Jan. 30, fines amounting to \$525,000 have been imposed.

Union member Kelly Henderson told the *Militant* by phone Jan. 30 that broad support for the teachers is starting to put pressure on the city administration.

On Jan. 26, dozens of students gathered on the steps of Newton City Hall to express their support for the teachers. Henderson said the students organized the rally themselves, forming a “Students for Teachers” group. Fifty students signed up to speak.

Hundreds of people — parents, students, and teachers from some 40 different teachers’ associations across Massachusetts — rallied at City Hall Jan. 27.

Fourteen religious leaders from area

churches and synagogues posted an open letter of support on the union’s website, “calling for Mayor Fuller to release the funds necessary to adequately address the concerns raised by the Newton Teachers Association.” Many opened their doors as warming centers for strikers and have offered child care, along with local YMCAs and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

“There’s been a lot of understanding for the teachers,” said Karen Waigner, the parent of four elementary school students. “There are a lot of people who are angry about the strike and yet still love their teachers and want the best for them.”

“The longer this goes on,” Henderson told the *Militant*, “the more this is bigger than just Newton. If teachers in Newton can win, it will help other teachers across the country.”

Messages of support and donations can be sent to the union through their website www.newteach.org/support or Newton Teachers Association, 46 Austin St., Suite 302, Newtonville, MA 02460.

THE MILITANT

Defend, emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution

In the face of Washington’s blockade, “Cuba will continue to renew itself,” Cuba’s ambassador to the U.N. Yuri Gala López told a New York meeting Jan. 21. The ‘Militant’ explains the Cuban Revolution is an example for working people in the U.S. and around the world.



Militant/Mike Shur

Yuri Gala López, Cuba’s U.N. ambassador, speaks at Jan. 21 New York meeting.

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Join SWP campaigners!

Continued from front page
to take political power into our own hands.

“We explain why a socialist revolution is the only way to disarm the imperialists, to end their system of exploitation, to end Jew-hatred, the oppression of women, racist discrimination and more.”

In the discussion, Studer said, “Alongside the *Militant*, the party’s campaigns are the best weapon we have to point the road forward to build a leadership capable of leading tens of millions of workers in action.

“We are living through a watershed moment in politics, following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and the murderous Oct. 7 Tehran-backed pogrom against Jews in Israel. Capitalist rulers everywhere are being driven to gird for more wars to come, including the threat of nuclear annihilation. We say this is the epoch of socialist revolution, that the working class will have its chance to take power.

“In the battles that will unfold, the SWP explains defense of constitutional freedoms won by working people over centuries is crucial today,” Studer said.

“Union battles today show workers are looking for a road forward. If we use our campaign boldly,” he said, “we will recruit to the party.”

Kuniansky invited those at the meeting to join SWP campaign supporters in New Jersey to petition to put the SWP candidates — herself, Lea Sherman for U.S. Congress and the SWP’s presidential ticket — on the ballot. And campaign supporters there look forward to campaigning together in Pennsylvania and rural areas across South Jersey.

She said Democratic Party politicians and the liberal media are determined to prevent candidates other than their own from getting on the ballot, worried it will lead to the election of Donald Trump by cutting into their own votes. “We are a working-class campaign — the capitalist politicians oppose our right to be on the ballot.”

The candidates were introduced publicly later that evening at a Militant Labor Forum, chaired by Dookhun. Wagner and Kuniansky also spoke.

Studer was the featured speaker. “The vote in Iowa showed Donald Trump will win the Republican nomination,” he said, “unless something ‘outside the normal’ occurs. And

that is the intention of Democrats, to step up their witch hunt assaults on Trump, including the myriad of felony charges filed against him by Democratic prosecutors.”

As an example, Studer held up the cover of the Jan. 15 *New Yorker* magazine with its full-page caricature of Trump as a goose-stepping Hitler-like fascist.

“The Democrats can’t run President Biden on his record. Workers know from bitter experience that the economy under so-called Bidenomics is a disaster.”

Studer said that on Jan. 1, historic Cuban revolutionary leader Raúl Castro gave a speech in Santiago de Cuba celebrating the 65th anniversary of the revolution.

“History has taught us amply where resignation and defeatism lead to,” Castro said, pointing to the challenges they face, especially from the U.S. rulers’ relentless economic war on Cuba. “We are going to get out of these difficulties, as we have always done, by fighting!”

“That is what the SWP says here in the U.S.,” Studer said. “The working class needs to fight!”

“We point to the Cuban Revolution,” he said. “It shows what working people are capable of when we have a leadership that helps to unleash our creative capacities in the class struggle, transforming ourselves and the world.”

The discussion period after the presentations went on for over an hour as participants discussed today’s political developments and the potential of the party’s 2024 campaigns.

Port workers gear up for fight

Some 45,000 International Longshoremen’s Association members on the East, Gulf and the Great Lakes ports are preparing for a possible strike this year when their contract expires Sept. 30. A central issue is job loss from automation and other boss attacks.

In Miami, Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, and campaign supporters visited the ILA hall there Jan. 21 and 28. “The union members talked about what they face as well as the biggest issues



Militant/Mary Martin

Candace Wagner, left, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Pittsburgh’s District 12, talking with workers in East Palestine, Ohio, in May following Norfolk Southern derailment that caused toxic chemical fire. Rail bosses prioritize profits over health of rail workers, residents.

in the class struggle,” SWP member Steve Warshell told the *Militant*, including the deadly Oct. 7 pogrom against Israel by Hamas. One ILA member, a former *Militant* subscriber, said he has family in Israel.

“In addition, union questions were discussed, including safety on the job, deaths due to the horrific schedules, and speedup on the railroads, as well as the ILA’s upcoming contract negotiations,” Warshell said. He notes the party has for years brought the *Militant* and Pathfinder books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries to sell there. “Many workers had friendly handshakes and hugs for the

candidate.”

Dockworkers bought 14 copies of the *Militant*, a subscription and four books. One gave a \$5 donation. “A worker asked us to come back with the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come* by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela,” Warshell reported. “Another told us he is reading and likes *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

For anyone interested in learning more about the SWP and the Communist Leagues, their election campaigns and activities, contact the nearest party or CL branch listed on page 4.

Join Socialist Workers Party 2024 campaigns

Fight in the interests of the working class
Solidarity with union battles today

California

Laura Garza, U.S. Senate
Margaret Trowe, U.S. Congress

Florida

Rachele Fruit, U.S. Senate
Laura Anderson, U.S. Congress

Georgia

Lisa Potash, U.S. Congress

Illinois

Naomi Craine, U.S. Congress

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, U.S. Senate
Lea Sherman, U.S. Congress

Ohio

John Hawkins, U.S. Senate

Pennsylvania

Ved Dookhun, U.S. Senate
Candace Wagner, U.S. Congress

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, U.S. Senate

Sydney rally participants debate Israel’s right to exist

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — Members of the Communist League and supporters of the *Militant* joined the Yabun Festival here Jan. 26, an annual event that celebrates the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia.

They set up a table where a *Militant* headline defending the right of Israel to exist as a refuge for Jews became a topic of debate. A number of those at the festival supported the headline, while others heatedly disagreed with it, reflecting the wider debate among Aboriginal people.

Nicole Abramowitz, a young Jewish woman, at first assumed the *Militant* article was anti-Jewish, because of her experience with groups that call themselves socialist.

Communist League member Janet Roth explained the League’s position and its continuity in fighting Jew-hatred that goes back to the to the lead-

ership of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia under V.I. Lenin.

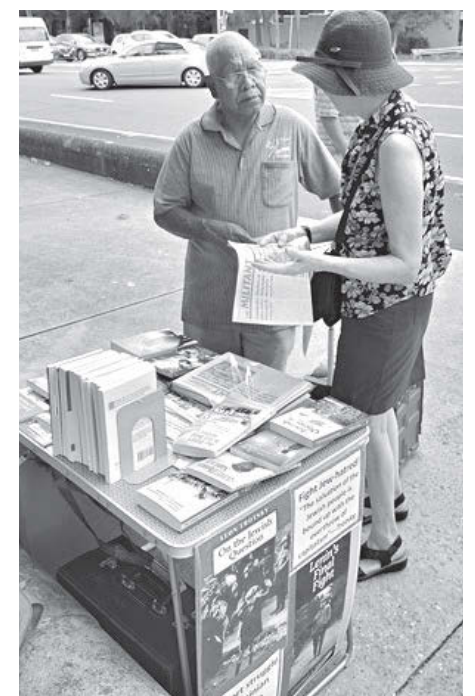
After the discussion, Abramowitz decided to subscribe to the *Militant*, saying, “This gives me hope as a Jewish socialist that there is another road that exists.” Being Jewish, she said, she identifies with the Aboriginal struggle.

“Workers cannot rely on ‘democratic’ imperialism to protect Jews,” Roth said. “Out of today’s struggles, working people in Israel and Palestine need to organize independently from the capitalist parties to get rid of the capitalist system. The same is true in Australia.”

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Militant/Linda Harris

Communist League member Janet Roth in Sydney introducing the *Militant* and Pathfinder books at Yabun Festival Jan. 26.

Meeting to celebrate the life and political contributions of Bruce Kimball

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The US Civil War was the Second American Revolution

America's Revolutionary Heritage: Marxist Essays by George Novack is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. This excerpt is from the chapter "The Civil War — Its Place in History." It explains the revolutionary character of both the 1776 War of Independence and the 1861-65 Civil War. This refutes liberals' or radicals' views that today deny the historically progressive character of the two mighty revolutions that determined the course of U.S. history. Novack joined the communist movement in the U.S. in 1933. He was a member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party until his death in 1992. He wrote a series of valuable books on questions of Marxist politics, history and philosophy, available from Pathfinder. Copyright © 1976 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY GEORGE NOVACK

The Civil War had deep historical roots. It was the inevitable product of two interlacing processes. One was the degeneration of the First American Revolution, which unfolded by slow stages until it culminated in open counterrevolution. The other was the rise of capitalist industrialism with its

contradictory effects upon American social development. The interaction of these two fundamental factors, the first rooted in national soil and the second stemming from world conditions, constituted the principal driving force in American history between the close of the first revolutionary struggle and the outbreak of the second.

It is impossible to understand the necessity for a Second American Revolution without grasping the dynamics of these two interpenetrating processes out of which it emerged. The First American Revolution took place in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The second unfolded in the middle of the nineteenth century. Separated by an interval of almost seventy-five years, these two revolutions are customarily regarded as totally different and completely disconnected events. This view is superficial and false. In reality the First American Revolution and the Civil War form two parts of an indivisible whole. They comprised distinct yet interlinked stages in the development of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in the United States.

The bourgeois-national revolutionary movement in North America had five main tasks to fulfill. These were: (1) to free the American people from foreign domination; (2) to consolidate the separate colonies or states into one nation; (3) to set up a democratic republic; (4) to place state power in the hands of the bourgeoisie; and (5) most important of all, to rid American society of its pre-capitalist encumbrances (Indian tribalism, feudalism, slavery) in order to permit the full and free expansion of capitalist forces of production and exchange. These five tasks were all bound together, the solution of one preparing the conditions for the solution of the rest. ...

The social structure of the United States at the end of the eighteenth century was a composite of slave and free labor, of precapitalist and capitalist forms of production. To complete the reconstruction of society along bourgeois lines, it would have been necessary to break up the soil in which slavery was rooted. This proved impossible under the prevailing conditions. The slave interests were sufficiently powerful at the time of the Revolution to



From a woodcut in Harper's Weekly, Feb. 21, 1863

Slaves liberated by Union army in Newbern, North Carolina, after Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, Jan. 1, 1863, Communist leaders Karl Marx, Frederick Engels said U.S. Civil War was a struggle between slavery and free labor. They backed Lincoln and free labor.

prevent any tampering with the institution in its southern strongholds and even to obtain constitutional warrant for its perpetuation. The opponents of slavery could do no more than restrict its scope by providing for the abolition of the foreign slave trade at the end of twenty years, for emancipation in certain northern states where slavery was of slight economic importance, and for its prohibition within the unsettled northwestern territories. ...

The victory of the Republican Party in the presidential elections of 1860 and the ensuing departure of the slave states brought to a head the struggle between the southern planters and northern bourgeoisie, the proslavery and antislavery camps, the counter-revolution and the revolution. The secessionist coup d'état revived all the problems of the bourgeois-democratic revolution, including those which had presumably been forever settled. ...

The bourgeois Republicans, who had taken power on a program of restricting the slave power, found that they could hold it against the assaults of the Confederacy only by resorting to increasingly revolutionary measures leading to the overthrow and abolition of the slave power. *In order to conserve the conquests of the First American Revolution, it was found necessary to extend them through another.* A supplementary upheaval of social-economic relations was required to support the political overturn in 1860.

In the course of this Second Revo-

lution, the most radical representatives of industrial capital and their plebeian allies completed the tasks initiated by their predecessors in the first. Placing themselves at the head of the antislavery forces, the Radicals took complete control of the federal government and concentrated its apparatus in their hands. They defeated the armies of the Confederacy on the battlefields of the Civil War; shattered the political and economic power of the slave oligarchy; consolidated the bourgeois dictatorship set up during the war; and remodeled the Republic into conformity with their own class aims and interests.

This Second American Revolution not only installed a new governing class in office but, by abolishing chattel slavery, scrapped the principal form of property and labor in the South. The great political and social problem which had agitated the United States ever since the birth of the republic — how to dispose of the slave power and its "peculiar institution" — was definitively settled.

The Second Revolution also concluded the progressive political role of the American bourgeoisie. After it helped annihilate the slave power and slavery, its political usefulness was utterly exhausted. Like the plantation aristocracy before it, the new ruling capitalist oligarchy rapidly transformed itself into a thoroughly reactionary force, until it came to constitute the main obstacle to social progress not only within the United States but throughout the world.

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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'Throw out Emergencies Act!'

Continued from front page

truckers to protest job-threatening federal COVID mandates. Many had their trucks seized and bank accounts frozen in one of the most sweeping acts of government repression in decades.

The Justin Trudeau government has tried to justify its use of the Emergencies Act by fraudulently claiming the truckers' protest was a threat to Canada's "national security."

Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley said that as a result of the truckers' convoy, "the harm being caused to Canada's economy, trade and commerce was very real and concerning but it did not constitute threats or the use of serious violence to persons or property."

The government's use of the act to bust up the truckers' protest "would open the door for any sufficiently disruptive event — say a legal strike at a port — to be deemed a threat to national security," wrote the editors of the *Globe and Mail* Jan. 24.

Mosley said that the government's freezing of bank accounts of convoy participants, and its imposition of "no-go zones" in Ottawa during the protest,

were violations of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

But Mosley also ruled that the government's use of the Emergencies Act did not violate freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly.

The government says it will appeal the judge's decision.

In justifying its use of the Emergencies Act, the government convened months of hearings last year. It insisted that it had been advised — in documents never made public — that it had the power to reinterpret the text of the act as it saw fit to put down the protest.

The Communist League made a written submission to the commission, rejecting not only the use of the Emergencies Act against the truckers, but also calling for the law's repeal.

"The court decision has ripped the mask off Trudeau's dishonest and cynical maneuvers and his regime's use of the bogus charge of a 'national security threat,'" said Steve Penner, organizer of the Communist League at a Jan. 27 Militant Labor Forum in Montreal. "That's just a euphemism for threats to the profits and powers of Canada's billionaire capitalist rulers."

The Emergencies Act was adopted in 1988 to replace the discredited War Measures Act. That law had been invoked in 1970 to arrest without charge hundreds of trade unionists in Quebec, fighters for Quebec independence, artists, civil libertarians, socialists and communists, with the goal of crushing rising union battles and the movement for Quebecois national rights.

"Ottawa imposed the Emergencies Act to set a precedent for its future use against working people and the oppressed," Penner said. "And our ability to defend ourselves through unions, working-class political parties and other organizations."

Encouraged by Ottawa's success in using the Emergencies Act against the truckers, the Ontario government adopted Law 28 banning a strike by 55,000 education workers. But Canadian Union of Public Employees members defied the law, backed by the threat of a general strike by the Ontario



Reuters/Blair Gable

Canadian police use pepper spray, wade into truckers and other Freedom Convoy protesters in Ottawa, Feb. 19, 2022, after Justin Trudeau government invoked notorious Emergencies Act.

Federation of Labor and growing support from working people across the country. The government was forced to retreat and repeal the law.

In face of a strike at 30 west coast ports by 7,400 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union last July, boss associations called on the federal government to impose back-to-work legislation. Trudeau threatened to do so, but backed off. The port workers ended up making significant gains through their fight.

"In light of the federal court decision, the unions and all defenders of democratic rights should use this opening to press for the immediate withdrawal of

the 393 criminal charges laid against 122 Freedom Convoy participants, and an end to the frame-up trial of Freedom Convoy leaders Tamara Lich and Chris Barber," said Penner.

Lich is a former leader of the Maverick Party and Barber ran a trucking company in Saskatchewan. Both were released from jail under draconian bail conditions.

Lich spent a total of 49 days behind bars despite not being convicted of any crime. At her second bail hearing she was brought to court in shackles. An outraged Superior Court judge ordered the shackles removed and that she be released.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Los Angeles, Orange County hotel workers fight for a contract

LOS ANGELES — UNITE HERE Local 11 launched a new series of strikes at Hotel Figueroa Jan. 21 and DoubleTree by Hilton Jan. 22, both downtown here, and at Sheraton Park in Anaheim where hundreds of workers protested Jan. 25. DoubleTree by Hilton and Sheraton Park are operated by Aimbridge Hospitality, which the union announced this week will be the target of a boycott.

"I've worked at the DoubleTree San Pedro for 11 years, and I still struggle to

pay my bills," Maria Gurola, a cook at the hotel, said in a Jan. 22 press release. "We need Aimbridge to show us the respect we deserve and agree to a contract that lets us live in the city we work in."

The union says pickets outside Hotel Figueroa were shot at, apparently with an air rifle, Jan. 21 and 22. The police did not arrive for three hours after strikers notified them.

UNITE HERE has reached tentative agreements with 29 hotels out of some 60 in Los Angeles and Orange counties during a series of strikes that started last July. The contracts have yet to be voted on. Union spokesperson Maria Hernandez told the media that the contracts would raise wages, strengthen pensions and increase company payments to health insurance plans.

— Deborah Liatos



Join flight attendants' rallies!

Flight attendants are urging fellow workers to join their picket lines at 30 airports worldwide Feb. 13, part of the fight for new contracts where they're paid for all the hours they work and win better wages, schedules and pensions.

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



February 15, 1999

DERRY, Northern Ireland — "Your demand is not about getting an apology from the British. It is not about revenge. It is about truth, about justice, about equality," Martin Ferris, a Sinn Fein leader from Kerry, in the south of Ireland, told thousands of working people rallying in the Bogside neighborhood here at the end of the demonstration, which commemorated the 27th anniversary of Bloody Sunday — the 1972 massacre of 14 unarmed civil rights marchers by the British army.

The march was more than 15,000 strong. Uncovering the truth about these murders and winning justice for the families was a central theme of the march.

Last year the British government conceded a new inquiry into the 1972 killings, but public hearings will not begin until at least September. The British state "is not prepared to admit its part," said relative Tony Doherty.



February 15, 1974

The you-never-had-it-so-good rhetoric of Nixon's State of the Union message was far out of touch with reality for most working people in this country.

Nixon declared that peace and prosperity reign throughout the land, and that "Americans are living more abundantly than ever before."

Twenty-four hours later, tens of thousands of independent truckers began a nationwide strike to defend their standard of living, which is threatened by fuel price increases and reduced speed limits.

The trade unions need to break from the straitjacket of support to the capitalist parties — the Democrats and Republicans — and begin to mobilize the masses of workers to fight for their own interests. The independent truckers, by refusing to foot the bill for the capitalist-caused fuel shortage, have set a powerful example.



February 14, 1949

[President] Truman's claim that he has "inherent power" to outlaw and smash strikes when he decides they affect public "health, safety and welfare" is the boldest move he has yet made to arrogate to himself dictatorial powers.

By this declaration, Truman has openly attempted to assume authority that no previous president had ever dared to assert in war or peace without specific legal sanction. There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution granting the sweeping powers that Truman claims as chief executive.

Under this doctrine there is no limit to the powers the president may assert. As applied to the sphere of labor relations, Truman's assumption of "inherent power" would make him a supreme arbiter with no legal limits to his authority to intervene against the workers at any time he decides their actions constitute a "national emergency."

Workers make gains in strike against Macy's in Washington

LYNNWOOD, Wash. — Over 400 workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 3000, ratified a new, improved contract at three Macy's stores in Washington Jan. 29 after strike actions at Alderwood, Southcenter and Bellingham malls.

Strikers distributed leaflets explaining the issues and urged people not to shop at Macy's during the strike. Liisa Luick, Catherine McFadden and other strikers on the picket line said they have lived through the bosses' drive to reduce "labor costs" and expressed their disdain for working conditions to maximize profits. "They're trying to make me do the work of six people," Luick said.

Workers made improvements in wages for new and current employees, in health and safety conditions, and a bonus, the union said. The entry wage had been the minimum wage plus 20 cents.

— Rebecca Williamson

Stalin resurrected Jew-hatred in USSR, part of counterrevolution against Lenin

BY TERRY EVANS

“The Council of People’s Commissars declares that the anti-Semitic movement and pogroms against Jews are fatal to the interests of the workers’ and peasants’ revolution,” said V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Bolshevik Party and the 1917 Russian Revolution, in a government declaration after workers conquered power.

It instructed “all Soviet deputies to take uncompromising measures to tear the anti-Semitic movement out by the roots.”

The Bolsheviks meant what they said. They put an end to the pogroms and persecution against Jews that had been widespread under the dictatorial rule of the czars. Russia was home to the world’s largest Jewish population. Gramophone recordings of Lenin’s speeches against Jew-hatred were sent all across the country to spread the message.

The revolutionary government integrated Jews into all aspects of social and political life, and Jewish culture flourished in the 1920s. They took part in the mighty battles to defend the revolution against the reactionary armies of the former landowners and capitalists along with the invading armies of 14 imperialist powers. In the midst of this struggle the Red Army put an end to pogroms these forces carried out.

These blows to Jew-hatred and advances in the lives of the Jews were reversed a few years later, part of a thoroughgoing counterrevolution against Lenin’s program and policies carried out by privileged layers in the state bureaucracy headed by Joseph Stalin.

The Stalinist regime sought to drive working people out of political life, murdered the leaders of the 1917 revolution and reimposed the czarist prison house of nations across Russia. An inevitable consequence was the resurrection of Jew-hatred. The Stalinist reign of terror was wielded with special vengeance against Leon Trotsky and other defenders of Lenin’s revolutionary course. Stalin used appeals to Jew-hatred to target any who questioned his power.

When Bolshevik leaders Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev united with Trotsky to oppose the Stalinist regime in 1927, the regime’s use of antisemitism accelerated. All three were Jewish. “Jews, even when unreservedly devoted to the general line [of Stalin] were removed from responsible party and Soviet posts,” Trotsky wrote. In Moscow’s factories, “agitators spoke brazenly: ‘The Jews are rioting.’”

“The country of the great proletarian revolution is now passing through a period of profound reaction,” Trotsky pointed out in a 1937 interview. Stalin seeks “to direct especially against the Jews the existing discontent against the bureaucracy.”

Show trials against Stalin’s opponents in the 1930s were “staged with the hardly concealed design of presenting internationalists as faithless and lawless Jews who are capable of selling themselves to the Gestapo,” Trotsky said.

This included Trotsky’s son, Sergei Sedov, accused of plotting the mass poisoning of workers, echoing czarist slanders that Jews poisoned

wells and spread plagues.

During World War II, when the Nazi army was driven out of western parts of the Soviet Union, Stalin refused to reopen Jewish schools and cultural institutions that the Nazis had shut down. He refused to allow a monument to the over 33,000 Jews the Nazis slaughtered in 1941 at Babyn Yar in Ukraine.

Jews attacked after Golda Meir visit

Even though the Soviet Union officially backed the creation of the state of Israel, Stalin launched a new wave of antisemitic attacks in 1948. Some 50,000 Soviet Jews took to the streets of Moscow to greet Golda Meir, Israel’s first ambassador to the Soviet Union. Stalin’s response was to shut down the Yiddish language paper *Einikeit* and Jewish publishing house Emess.

The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, established by Stalin during the war to win support among Jews worldwide for the defense of the Soviet Union, was dismantled. Its leaders were accused of being “rootless cosmopolitans” and executed.

The following year, leaders of the ruling Communist parties in Hungary and Czechoslovakia were targeted in purge trials, as Stalin moved to consolidate Moscow’s control in Eastern Europe.

In Czechoslovakia in 1951 workers held strikes to protest government calls for higher productivity to fulfill Moscow’s incessant demands for more goods. In response, Stalin orchestrated the arrest of Rudolf Slansky and 14 other central leaders of the Communist Party. Eleven were Jews. Where their names were not obviously Jewish the indictment

added their original Jewish names. All were accused of being “Trotskyite-Titoist-Zionist” traitors and agents of the Israeli government.

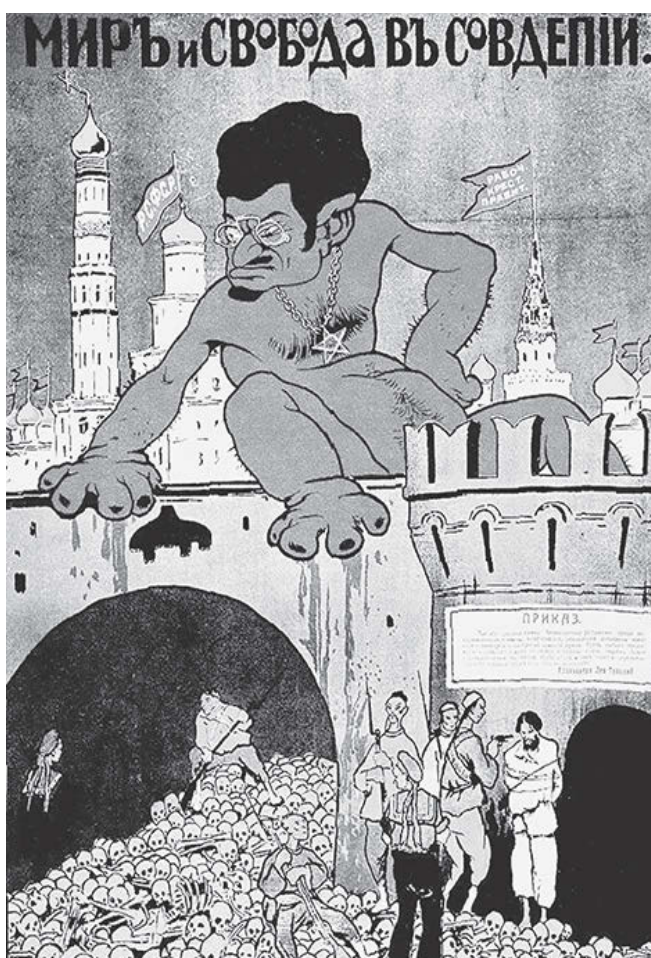
Stalin’s use of Jew-hatred to protect his rule reached a crescendo with the 1953 Doctors Plot. Nine doctors, six of them Jews, were accused of conspiring to “wipe out the leading cadres of the Soviet Union.”

Tens of thousands of Jews were thrown out of their jobs. The secret police prepared for the mass expulsion of Jews from cities. In Kazakhstan barracks were erected to detain them. Then Stalin died and his successors backed off.

The 1952 edition of the *Soviet Encyclopedia* announced, “The Jewish question” does not exist in the U.S.S.R.” Defenders of Stalinism like Paul Robeson, who watched silently as the regime killed friends of his who had led the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, said the same.

The Soviet government’s use of Jew-hatred didn’t end with Stalin’s death in 1953. Demands raised in 1968 for the Stalinist regimes in Poland and Czechoslovakia to grant political rights were denounced as “Zionist.”

Following the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Russia emerged as a capitalist state and Vladimir Putin fought his way to the presidency. In a 2021 speech he said Ukraine is nothing more than a part of Russia, citing a 1648 Cossack



Antisemitic poster issued by opponents of the Russian Revolution in 1919 depicted Leon Trotsky, Bolshevik leader and commander of the Red Army, as Jewish “devil.” The “question of my Jewish origin,” said Trotsky, was revived by the Stalinists.

revolt that drove the Polish monarchy out of Ukraine. He failed to mention that those Cossacks also led the slaughter of 100,000 Jews.

Putin also uses antisemitic attacks to target Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. “The Western masters,” he said in September, “put a person at the head of Ukraine who is an ethnic Jew, with Jewish roots, with Jewish origins,” to cover up what Putin claims is Ukraine’s “glorification of Nazism.”

The fight today to end Jew-hatred once and for all in Russia and worldwide begins with building parties to emulate the course led by Lenin and the Bolsheviks.

Thousands in Manchester march against Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

by the capitalist rulers in times of deep crisis to win supporters to reactionary and fascist movements, which are unleashed on the working class and its organizations,” Clifford said.

“That’s true,” Levy replied, “but today many unions are supporting the cease-fire call which benefits Hamas.” Clifford pointed to the opening to debate this question in the unions. “An appeal from the International Transport Workers’ Federation for humanitarian aid and a cease-fire was read out at my branch meeting,” Clifford told Levy. “I said there was a problem — the letter didn’t mention the Oct. 7 pogrom. Without that you can’t understand why Israel is fighting to defeat Hamas. A discussion opened up among the 25 union members present.

“As workers begin to use unions to fight for our interests, more will see the need to defend Israel’s right to exist as a question the working class needs to support,” Clifford said. Levy got a *Militant*.

Over two dozen copies and two subscriptions to the paper along with three copies of *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon and a copy of *On the Jewish Question* by Leon Trotsky were sold by Communist League campaigners attending the action.

Labour Member of Parliament Lisa

Nandy and Conservative Minister of State for Security Thomas Tugendhat spoke. Tugendhat lauded the government’s Jan. 18 decision, with Labour backing, to make it illegal to join or support the Islamist organization Hizb ut-Tahrir. The group praises Hamas’ Oct. 7 slaughter and has held rallies in the U.K.

The ban is dangerous for the working class, Clifford told the *Militant*. “Shutting down the free speech and association of reactionary Islamist groups today will be used against working people and our unions tomorrow.”

at least 26 Bedouin Arab citizens

“There is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism, just as there is no solution to other problems before humanity . . .”
— Abram Leon

From antiquity to feudalism, to capitalism’s rise and death throes of imperialism — 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 under capitalism” without revolutionary struggles that transform working people as we fight to transform the world?

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

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see distributors on page 4

Israeli blows against Hamas open political space in Gaza

Continued from front page

“No Netanyahu and [Hamas leader Yahya] Sinwar — enough with destruction and war!” Open criticism of Sinwar is rare because unlike many other Hamas leaders he lives in Gaza.

On Oct. 7 Hamas — trained, financed and armed by Tehran — carried out the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, wounding more than 5,000, taking 240 hostages, raping women and mutilating many of its victims.

The reactionary Islamist death squads also killed dozens of Arab, Thai, Nepali, Filipino and African workers for the “crime” of working with Jews in Israel. Hamas still holds more than 100 hostages, who face torture and sexual abuse.

The pogrom put some wind in the sail of Jew-haters around the world, especially middle-class leftists and Stalinists who lead demonstrations demanding a permanent cease-fire that would leave Hamas intact. But it’s also made it easier for working people around the world to see Hamas for what it is, a tool of the reactionary regime in Tehran and an organization whose program is to kill Jews and try to destroy Israel.

Arab, Jewish workers oppose Hamas

Most workers in Israel — Jewish and Arab alike — were horrified by the Oct. 7 massacre by Hamas, Yaniv Bar Ilan, a spokesperson for the Koach LaOvdim (Power to the Workers) trade union federation, told the *Militant* by phone Jan. 28.

Some Arab bus drivers in the union call Oct. 7 “that black day,” Bar Ilan noted. It upsets them when some Jewish passengers accuse them of being Hamas supporters.

To combat divisions among workers, the union put out a video in Hebrew featuring the deep friendship and discussions between a female Orthodox Jewish bus driver and her Bedouin Arab co-worker, who had relatives taken hostage by Hamas.

“As a trade union that organizes both Jews and Arabs, we are of course concerned about the welfare of working people in Gaza as well,” he said. “We can understand why some people call for a cease-fire, but not those who refuse to acknowledge what Hamas carried out Oct. 7 or who claim that Israel is committing genocide.”

Resistance to Hamas in Gaza “helps people see that the citizens in Gaza don’t support what happened Oct. 7,” Bar Ilan said.

At least 26 Bedouin Arab citizens



Arabs, Jews attend funeral for Ahmad Abu Latif, Bedouin soldier in Israeli army, who died fighting Hamas in Gaza. “Jews, Arabs must work together,” his brother said. “We’re threatened by a common enemy.”

of Israel were murdered Oct. 7; 19 by Hamas death squads at kibbutzim where they worked and seven by Hamas rockets. Many Bedouin risked their lives to help rescue people under attack that day.

Some 100,000 Bedouin live in “unrecognized” villages in the Negev that lack electricity, running water, paved roads and schools. Even in the recognized villages, where 400,000 live, there are few shelters to protect against Hamas rockets.

On Jan. 21, a six-person delegation from the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, made what the *Jerusalem Post* called an “unprecedented visit” to unrecognized villages to see what workers there face firsthand. It included members of Likud, the party of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Shas, an ultra-orthodox Jewish religious party.

With the exception of Arabic-speaking Druze, other Arab citizens of Israel are exempt from the draft. But many Bedouin volunteer to serve in the Israel Defense Forces. Some 20% of Israel’s people are Arabs.

Sgt. 1st Class Ahmad Abu Latif, a Bedouin from Rahat, died fighting in Gaza Jan. 22. “The younger generation is showing us that we have to work together, Jews and Arabs, because we are threatened by a common enemy,” his brother, Kaid Abu Latif, said at the funeral. “Ahmad was proud to be Muslim, Bedouin and Israeli in equal measure.”

International Court’s initial ruling

On Jan. 26, the International Court of Justice in The Hague issued a provisional ruling in response to charges brought by the Stalinist-trained South African government that Israel is committing “genocide” in Gaza.

The Israeli government asked the court to throw out the charges, noting that “if there have been acts that may be characterized as genocidal,” it’s what Hamas and its death squads carried out Oct. 7. The court has no power to enforce its decisions.

Even though the court is stacked against Israel, the ruling fell way short of what the South African government, Hamas and its allies had hoped for. The court ruled the case would continue and instructed Israel to refrain from carrying out any acts of genocide in Gaza in the future. To try to cover up its anti-Israel bias, it included one sentence calling for the “conditional release” of the hostages held by Hamas.

but rather is against Hamas.”

The scale of the deaths in Gaza is in part a result of Hamas “embedding” its forces among the civilian population, she notes.

In a slap in the face to the South African government, she points out that it enjoys a “cordial relationship with the leadership of Hamas.” They should “use whatever influence they might wield, to try and persuade Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release the remaining hostages.”

On Jan. 28 the U.N. fired at least nine employees of its Relief and Works Agency in Gaza — a body set up to administer aid to Palestinian refugees — after it was revealed that they directly participated in the Oct. 7 pogrom.

One kidnapped and held a hostage. Another handed out ammunition. A third joined the massacre of civilians at a kibbutz.

The UNRWA is the only U.N. agency dedicated to a specific group of refugees. Instead of pushing for Palestinian refugees to be integrated into the countries where they live with the right to a job, the agency has helped keep them dependent on handouts. And now it’s clearer than ever, it’s been complicit with the course pursued by Hamas.

Iran: Opposition grows to death penalty



The streets were deserted as shopkeepers and working people held a one-day strike in over a dozen cities in the Kurdish region of Iran Jan. 30. They were protesting the execution of four Kurdish men the day before, accused by the Iranian regime of being “terrorists” and spies for Israel.

The four “confessed” after being tortured and denied contact with their families. They were sentenced to death last September in a secret trial. They had been supporters of Komala, a party banned by the government that calls for autonomy for Iran’s Kurdish minority. Above, protest vigil in Kurdish region after the executions.

Sixty-one female political prisoners in Evin prison in Tehran initiated a hunger strike when two other opponents of the regime were executed the week before.

More than 830 people were executed in Iran in 2023, disproportionately Kurds, Baluch, Arabs and other oppressed nationalities. Most were convicted of drug violations or murder. Nine people associated with the mass Women, Life, Freedom protests, which broke out in 2022, have been executed.

At Qezel Hesar Prison in Karaj, where many of the executions are carried out, political and “common” prisoners began weekly hunger strikes every Tuesday. “Some of us are innocent, while others have erred due to misfortune and hardships,” they said in a statement. “We have all been denied a fair trial and legal representation.”

Sentiment for abolishing the death penalty is growing. Seventeen student organizations, the Writers Association of Iran, trade unions and retiree associations have all called for banning executions and freeing political prisoners.

The reactionary bourgeois clerical regime and its military adventures abroad are more unpopular than ever. Every week there are protests or strikes by oil workers, steelworkers, nurses, farmers, or municipal workers. Opposition to the regime’s backing of Hamas in Gaza is widespread among workers.

“The direct goal” of the death penalty, noted a statement by nearly a dozen union, retiree and women’s organizations, “is to intimidate us the people.”

Repeating one of the slogans of a successful strike by steelworkers in Ahvaz this year, the statement concluded, “Neither threats, nor prison, are effective.” They added, “We will not back down.”

— SETH GALINSKY

Beijing faces deepening crisis

Continued from front page

Evergrande's rise from the late 1990s was powered by the biggest property bubble the world has ever known, as investors sought to profit from the demand for housing for tens of millions flooding into the cities from rural areas during China's rapid industrialization. Huge profits were raked in by Evergrande's owners, who have close ties to the ruling Chinese Communist Party, and by local governments that sold Evergrande land, and by banks in the U.S. and other imperialist countries that lent it money.

The company took billions in down payments for houses that were never built, and its collapse left countless numbers of construction workers with unpaid wages.

A two-year slump in China's real estate sector, a quarter of the country's economy, is threatening to provoke a crisis in the country's banking system. Over 50 property developers have toppled under the weight of massive debts, while sales of new houses and house prices have plunged.

Today there are over 50 uninhabited "ghost" cities with abandoned towers containing 20 million units across the country.

Protests follow property crash

Thousands of protests over losses from the property crash have taken place. Some are by suppliers or contractors who have gone unpaid for months, others by construction workers who face layoffs. Millions of people have also vented their anger after losing life savings on deposits for homes never completed.

In industry, bosses' profits fell 2.3% last year, after a 4% fall the year before. The world's second-largest economy remains heavily dependent on exports. These fell in 2023, a result of slowing global demand.

High unemployment among Chinese university graduates — one in five without a job — has been "solved" by Beijing. When unemploy-

ment for 16 to 24 year olds hit 21.3% last summer the government simply stopped publishing the figures! Likewise, it has suppressed news that almost one billion people live on less than \$300 a month. But the conditions that are driving more workers to find ways to stand up for themselves remain.

Young workers face growing difficulties starting families. Despite government inducements to have children, including tax breaks, cheap housing and cash payments, the birth rate fell in 2023 for the seventh straight year.

Foreign capitalists are shifting manufacturing from China to countries like Vietnam where bosses pay workers less. Amid sharpening competition for markets, war in Ukraine and Israel's efforts to prevent further pogroms by Hamas, China's rulers are deepening ties with the regimes in Russia, Iran and North Korea that increasingly confront Washington.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature project, the Belt and Road Initiative, is losing steam. This worldwide program of loans and construction projects aims to advance Chinese capitalists' influence worldwide. But governments that have borrowed from Beijing are defaulting on loans. The rulers in Italy, one of the few imperialist powers to sign up to the Belt and Road plan, pulled out of the scheme Dec. 6.

Democrats, left attack 'fascist' Trump, political rights

Continued from front page

as well as a growing number of legal moves claiming he is an "insurrectionist" and should be barred from running. In the face of this, far from

shrinking, his ratings have continued to rise.

Underlying Biden's declining popularity is the crushing impact of today's capitalist economic and social crisis on workers and their families. Record high inflation has forced more workers to confront unacceptable choices. Do I pay the rent, buy diapers or take out a loan to cover basic necessities?

The bosses at the four biggest banks in the U.S. report workers' credit card debt rose in 2023 — when Biden claims he "fixed" the economy — and we're taking longer to pay off the bills. The squeeze on workers' incomes makes it harder to start families, afford health insurance or pay for care for the elderly.

A Jan. 25 poll shows Trump 6 percentage points ahead of Biden. Weeks earlier the same poll had them tied.

More workers can see that the Democrats' legal assaults against their main rival for the White House is just one more step in an eight-year-long witch hunt.

Today's prosecutions follow the baseless Trump/Russia collusion claims contrived by Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign and dragged out by former FBI Director Robert Mueller's "investigation"; two failed impeachment trials by House Democrats; the unconstitutional FBI raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate ordered by Democratic Attorney General Merrick Garland; the jailing of hundreds of his supporters on conspiracy, misdemeanor and other ginned-up charges after the Jan. 6, 2021, melee; and highly stage-managed congressional hearings that tried to finger

number in 2022. They are protesting unpaid wages and benefits, as well as mass layoffs or forced relocations.

Over 1,000 workers went on strike at the Baoyi shoe company in Jiangsu province Nov. 29-Dec. 7, demanding full compensation for the factory's closure after the company's owners shifted production to Indonesia.

According to the Hong-Kong based China Labor Bulletin, the bosses ran down the size of the workforce to circumvent China's labor laws and avoid paying into social security and housing funds.

While Beijing's conflicts with Washington are sharpening, its biggest fear is the fighting capacities of billions of workers seeking ways to defend themselves from worsening conditions produced by the capitalist methods the Chinese rulers embrace.

Trump for orchestrating the ruckus.

Trump uses each accusation to bolster his standing as a persecuted outsider who says he'll stand up for the little guy. In fact he's a well-heeled real estate mogul and former president standing for one of the imperialist rulers' two main political parties.

A bigger 'basket of deplorables'

The editors of the *New York Post* noted Jan. 25 that Trump's "2016 victory rested on what his opponent called 'the deplorables'" — Hillary Clinton's description of tens of millions of working people the U.S. rulers' deeply despise and increasingly fear. Today Biden's policies have "left yet more people behind who make up a bigger 'basket of deplorables,'" the *Post* editors say.

The blatant character of the Democrats' attacks on free speech were evident in Trump's trial on defamation charges in New York. A federal jury hit him with a colossal \$83 million fine Jan. 26 for disputing writer E. Jean Carroll's claims he raped her in the 1990s.

While Trump is known for his demeaning attitude toward women, a jury in May 2023 found Trump not guilty of rape. It did convict him of sexual abuse.

In the January trial, Trump's lawyer, Alina Habba, asked him on the stand, "Did you ever instruct anyone to hurt Ms. Carroll?" Trump replied, "No. I just wanted to defend myself, my family and frankly the presidency." U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan then struck all his remarks from the record except

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A protest outside People's Bank of China building in Zhengzhou, China, July 10, 2022. Sign in front demands, "Henan Bank, return our legal deposits! The people's life-saving deposits!" Protests are spreading as huge property bubble deflates, hitting millions of workers' jobs, savings and hopes of a home.

Ukraine unions call for worldwide solidarity actions

The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) has issued an appeal for solidarity actions with Ukraine's fight against Moscow's invasion on its second anniversary. The appeal, signed by Mykhailo Volynets, chairperson of the KVPU and of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine, expresses gratitude for support Ukrainian workers have received from unionists internationally. Moscow's aggression, he says, is undermining "stability both in Europe and around the world" as Russian President Vladimir Putin tries to redraw "the map of modern Europe."

The union appeal calls for support rallies around the world and for media, fundraising and educational campaigns.

Volynets "invites union brothers and sisters" worldwide to come to Ukraine Feb. 22-24 to meet with "KVPU members and witness firsthand how the war has affected our cities and communities." This is a significant opening for international working-class solidarity to be brought to bear in the fight to defend Ukraine's independence. Those who go can bring back reports to their unions and others.

The KVPU is an independent union federation that arose alongside the miners union as it led mass strikes and protest marches in 1989 and 1991 when the Soviet Union disintegrated. Its members include unions in mining, rail, airline, schools, health care and other industries who "continue to resist and fight for freedom and peace in our country."

For two years the Russian aerial bombardment has been "deliberately targeting" civilians in residential and industrial areas of cities, resulting in tens of thousands of casualties. Volynets says over 400 workers have been killed in their workplaces. In addition, many more have given their lives as thousands of unionists have volunteered to defend the sovereignty of their country arms in hand.

The union federation appeal says international solidarity offers a "beacon of hope and resilience for every Ukrainian enduring the horrors of this war."

— ROY LANDERSEN

It takes a revolution to stamp out Jew-hatred

While fights in the U.S. and around the world can expose and deal crucial blows against Jew-hatred, it will continue as long as the underlying causes remain unresolved. This requires mobilizing the working class in our millions to overthrow capitalist rule and replace it with workers power. This will open the door to ending the exploitation and oppression of the vast majority by the propertied owners.

It's here — in the heart of the world's last empire — that the decisive question of which class shall rule will be fought out, and the Jewish question can be settled for all time.

Fighting Jew-hatred has a permanent and decisive place in the class struggle. The Newton Teachers Association set a powerful example when it spoke out to condemn accusations Israel is guilty of carrying out "genocide." It explained that false charge will just "provoke further antisemitism."

All political questions are class questions, and the unions need to address them. The Newton teachers set an example for the entire labor movement.

Israel's war to defeat Hamas is aimed at preventing the Tehran-backed thug outfit from carrying out more massacres of Jews. Its victory is in the interests of workers everywhere, including in Gaza, and is central to the fight to push back Jew-hatred today.

Long before Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre, antisemitic demagoguery was spreading among bourgeois liberals and the middle-class left in the U.S. and other imperialist countries. As the crisis of capitalism continues to ruin ever deeper layers of the middle class, some will turn to scapegoating the Jews for their misery, including many who call themselves socialist. Adolf Hitler recruited from these socialists in building the Nazi Party in Germany.

"Capitalism today is the same global order that is accountable for the economic and social ruin, bloody wars, and genocidal movements of the first half of the twentieth century," writes Socialist Workers Party leader Dave Prince in his introduction to *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon.

Sections of the ruling class in the U.S. will turn to fascist forces when they feel their rule is threatened as working-class struggles grow stronger and more class-conscious. They will finance fascist thugs to try to smash the unions and target working-class leaders for elimination. They will use the banner of Jew-hatred to try and divide and conquer.

But the immense power of the working class can be mobilized to take on and defeat the forces of reaction. We will have our chance to take power. Securing decisive victories requires uniting and organizing workers today to fight for our own class interests and those of all who are exploited and oppressed by capital. Above all, it requires building a party that is working class in program, composition and conduct to lead workers to conquer political power. Cuba's living socialist revolution shows this is not only necessary, but possible.

Forging a working-class leadership in the U.S. requires workers to break from the Democratic and Republican parties of the imperialist rulers and build a party of our own, a party with the audacity to lead millions to topple the rule of the exploiting class, to reorganize society from top to bottom and join the worldwide fight for socialism.

This will open the door to stamp out Jew-hatred and all the other abominations spawned by dog-eat-dog capitalism.

Democrats, left attack 'fascist' Trump, political rights

Continued from page 8

the word "No." Kaplan did the same again when Trump simply said he believed Carroll was making a "false accusation."

During her summary arguments, the judge refused Habba's request to show jurors some exculpatory evidence and then threatened to jail the lawyer.

Assaults on ballot status

In addition to ongoing prosecutions in New York, Florida, Georgia and Washington, D.C., Democrats are launching scurrilous attacks on third parties seeking to get on the ballot. That includes trying to prevent No Labels extending the ballot status they've secured in 14 states. The capitalist party was formed in 2009 and, as of yet, has not declared a 2024 presidential ticket.

"No Labels is a direct threat to our democracy and opens a clear path for Donald Trump's reelection," complained Thom DeSirant, Utah Democratic Party executive director, in a letter to party officials. "We need to do everything we can to stop this."

Real estate tycoons Douglas and Jonathan Durst sued No Labels for "unjust enrichment" in New York Jan. 23. The lawsuit says the Dursts had donated \$145,000 to the party years ago and claims they were "betrayed" when it took steps to run a presidential campaign.

In December, Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows ruled Trump off the ballot there, without



Left, Biden administration special counsel Jack Smith gags Donald Trump at trial aimed at jailing Democrats' main rival for the White House.

any hearing or semblance of due process. She said he was an "insurrectionist," therefore disqualified from running.

Last year Bellows sent letters to 6,000 voters informing them that when they signed petitions to show support for No Labels ballot status, they had really changed their party registration. Some 800 people then withdrew their support for the No Labels' right to be on the ballot.

End Citizens United, a group in Arizona that backs Biden, filed complaints with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission demanding officials force No Labels to make the names of its donors public, which would make them open to harassment. A similar legal action is underway in Colorado.

No Labels filed a complaint with the Department of Justice Jan. 11, saying it faced "unlawful harassment and extortion" in its efforts to get ballot status.

The bosses' two main parties, the Democrats and Republicans, are automatically awarded ballot status. But working-class parties like the Socialist Workers Party face increasingly arduous petitioning requirements and other obstacles, all aimed at restricting the hearing the party gets. You can bet the Democrats will take a hard look at the SWP's fight to get on the ballot in 2024.

Ukraine independence

Continued from front page

daily. The city is less than 25 miles from the border with Russia.

Moscow hit Kharkiv three times Jan. 23 — at 4 a.m., then just after 7, and again close to 10 p.m. Twice the city's air-raid sirens warning civilians to take shelter didn't go off until after the explosions began. Missiles launched from Russia land in Kharkiv in less than a minute. Many school classrooms have been relocated to subway stations underground.

For months Moscow has been expending immense resources and efforts to try to take control of Avdiivka, a largely destroyed city in the Donetsk province in eastern Ukraine. The city was an industrial center before the war, inhabited by 32,000 people. Today, just fewer than 1,100 civilians remain, largely the elderly.

New videos from the battlefields around Avdiivka released by the Ukrainian military show hundreds of burned out and destroyed Russian military vehicles. Open source data reports sightings of 182 tanks, 317 armored fighting vehicles and 15 trucks destroyed. Thousands of Russian troops have been killed, many sent into combat in human waves untrained and without sufficient weapons, thrown into battle as cannon fodder by the Putin regime, with little to show for it.

As this slaughter continues, opposition by working people in Russia to Moscow's invasion is increasing, despite harassment and arrests by the Putin regime aimed at anyone who speaks out publicly against the war.

Soldiers' wives speak out

Anger has exploded among mothers and wives of soldiers who were conscripted and sent to the front lines since Sept. 21, 2022.

On Jan. 20, Maria Andreeva delivered a message to the Moscow election headquarters of President Putin, part of a delegation from The Way Home, an organization of over 30,000 soldiers' wives and mothers.

"So what's next? The Ministry of Defense has spent its money, now we need to squeeze everything out of our guys to get the last life out of them?" she said. "What will I get back? A man without legs, without arms, a sick man? Don't you know what's happening there? I think now is exactly the moment when we need to act. If not now, then when?"

A Putin campaign staff representative told her the soldiers are there because they "want to fight."

The Jan. 22 *Kyiv Post* ran the article "'Thrown into Hell' — Relatives of Russian Soldiers Describe Loved Ones Being Sent to 'Svatoro Slaughter.'" It gives the lie to Putin's claim the conscript soldiers "want" to join his invasion of Ukraine. Svatoro is a city in Luhansk province in eastern Ukraine. The article describes the anger expressed by mothers whose sons were forcibly conscripted into Russia's army and sent there.

"Igor Khovalkin, 23, was taken from a Moscow workers' dormitory after working a night shift," the *Kyiv Post* reported, quoting Lyudmila, his mother. "You could say that his hands were twisted, and he was dragged into this hell."

"Under pressure, he was sent [to the front] by force," she said. "He didn't want to go."

Moscow's parliament is now discussing a bill that would seize any assets of individuals convicted of spreading what the government claims is "fake" information about the military. Following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, the Putin regime made it a criminal offense to express any criticism of the military. As of Dec. 17, at least 19,847 people have been detained in Russia for opposing the war, the human-rights OVD-Info source reported.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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



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