

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

In factional frenzy, Democrats deal blows to constitutional rights
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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APRIL 8, 2024

Biden says the economy's great, workers face a different reality

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

President Joseph Biden and his liberal media “spin doctors,” desperate for ways to boost his lagging reelection campaign, are working overtime to pitch the U.S. economy in the most positive light. They insist inflation is falling, and job openings increasing and all across the board everyone is doing better. But millions of working people know this isn't true for our class and our families.

An uptick in the U.S. capitalist economy is good in that it gives workers confidence that jobs are available and they can feel free to use their unions, or organize one, to fight the bosses to boost wages, provide livable schedules and improve working conditions.

Building on gains United Auto Workers members made in their strike at the Big Three auto plants last year, the union is making gains in organizing plants in the South. Hotel workers in Southern California are using the UNITE HERE union to win wage and other gains.

However, the effects of inflation are class-divided. Grocery prices — a big part of workers' budgets — have surged

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Socialist Workers Party campaign — Rachele Fruit for US president — The working-class alternative to Biden-Trump



Militant/Carole Lesnick

SWP campaign joined opponents of Jew-hatred in rally at University of California in Berkeley March 11 in defense of free speech, against shutdown of Jewish student meeting there Feb. 26.

SWP takes Fruit campaign to workers across the US

BY VIVIAN SAHNER AND JANET POST

Supporters of Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, are taking the party's campaign to workers on their doorsteps, at union

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SWP candidates join debates, protests against Jew-hatred

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

PASADENA, Calif. — As supporters of Hamas and many liberals press to impose a cease-fire, putting a stop to Israel's determined efforts to destroy the fighting capacity of the Jew-hating Islamist group, confrontations and debates have multiplied. So have acts of Jew-hatred across the U.S. Socialist Workers Party candidates and supporters are in the middle of these confrontations.

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Moscow steps up attacks on Ukraine after IS terror attack

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Four terrorist attackers, acting for an Islamic State group offshoot, sprayed gunfire on concertgoers and lit a massive blaze that brought down the roof in a Moscow entertainment complex hosting a rock concert March 22. In the assault, the deadliest in Russia in over two decades, at least 139 people were killed and 60 others critically wounded.

There is a history of Islamist attacks in Russia, tied to Moscow's oppression of Muslim-speaking minorities and its wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya.

Shortly after, an outfit calling itself Islamic State Khorasan claimed responsibility for the attack. The reactionary group released graphic body-camera footage of its combatants and the slaughter they unleashed. It had carried out an attack on the Russian Embassy in Kabul in 2022.

Two days later, four captives appeared in a Russian courtroom showing signs of severe torture. All are from Tajikistan, aged 19 to 32. One had had his ear severed and shoved in his mouth. Another was unconscious on a stretcher. They were charged with acts of terrorism.

A total of 11 suspects are being
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Beijing clamps down in Hong Kong amid shifts in capitalist 'world order'



Reuters/Tyrone Siu

Some 1.7 million people march in Hong Kong Aug. 18, 2019, demanding greater political rights, defying threats by Beijing. Relentless crackdown since has pushed opposition underground.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

China's rulers have extended their repressive grip over Hong Kong after the territories' Legislative Council adopted a stringent new national security bill, Article 23, March 19. A previous attempt to pass the bill was scrapped after half a million people protested in 2003.

The new law allows for Beijing-dominated authorities to hold closed-door tri-

als and widens police powers to detain suspects for 16 days without charge or legal representation. It expands a sedition law imposed by the former British colonial rulers to include new crimes of treason, insurrection and a catchall offense of inciting hatred against the Chinese rulers. Anyone convicted can be imprisoned for life.

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Amazon warehouse workers in UK strike, rally for union recognition

BY DAG TIRSEN

COVENTRY, England — Hundreds of Amazon workers picketed outside the large Amazon BHX4 warehouse here March 19, the first of two days of strike action organized by the General Mu-

nicipal and Boilermakers union in their fight for union recognition.

They also set up a table for more information on the union as well as gazebos where workers could join the union.

“The work conditions are terrible. It could be up to 50 degrees Celsius [122 F] when we load and unload the trailers,” Max Smith who works at the plant told the *Militant*. “But our main demand is 15 pounds an hour [\$19].” A number of strikers' cars parked nearby sported Uber logos, a sign that many have to

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Hamas plans more murderous pogroms against Jews, Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hamas still holds some 100 hostages captive in Gaza, while it uses hospitals to base its fighters and weapons, disrupts the distribution of humanitarian aid and proclaims it will continue to carry out anti-Jewish pogroms like Oct. 7 “again and again.” Its actions show why Israel is determined to fight to the end to dismantle the reactionary group.

The Joseph Biden White House is ratcheting up pressure on Israel to
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34 contracts won at LA-area hotels, 28 left to go

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Quebec lead workers united against company lockout

SAINTE-CATHERINE, Quebec — “It’s clear the company is out to try to bust our union,” Steve Nault, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) local at Terrapure here, told the *Militant* on their picket line March 20. “They locked us out a short time after we voted at our union meeting against their latest contract proposal.”

“They won’t succeed because 100% voted against their demands to take back what we have won over the years. We are united and have solidarity from other unions. When we go back to work it will be with our heads held high,” he said.

The 150 workers, who recycle lead and plastic from used car batteries for use in new ones, were locked out March 11. Negotiations for a new contract began last Sept. 21. The plant is southwest of Montreal.

The workers have set up pickets at plant entrances, along with a heated trailer and other shelters. When we were there, bringing solidarity along with donuts and muffins, one worker was cutting up wood for the fire to keep warm.

“One of the key issues in the strike is the arbitrary use of manpower, when we are often told to do work we don’t normally do,” said Nault. “Another is the imposition of 12-hour shifts, which make it difficult to have a family life.” Working overtime is another important question.

Workers told us that the company’s anti-union stance and refusal to abide by the union contract has led to a backlog of over 400 grievances that management refuses to deal with.

The bosses are trying to keep some level of production going, using supervisors and directors. Workers told us that the company staff doesn’t have the skills to do the work adequately and safely.

“The members of this union have shown exemplary patience,” Louis Begin, president of the CSN manufacturing and industrial division, told the media. “But Terrapure, operating like a thuggish employer, seems only concerned with profits. It’s unacceptable.”

The workers welcome solidarity on the picket line. Send support messages to the CSN, 1601, avenue De Lorimier, Montreal, Quebec, H2K 4M5.

— John Steele and
Philippe Tessier

34 contracts won at LA-area hotels, 28 left to go

SAN PEDRO, Calif. — “This is our third three-day strike at this hotel since July,” Maria Gurrola told the *Militant* on the picket line at the DoubleTree here March 16. “We’re fighting for higher pay and better conditions.

“Even if we get the \$5-an-hour raise, we’ll be below the pay at hotels in downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica,” she said. Gurrola is a cook with 11 years of experience here and a volunteer union organizer.

“The staff was cut during COVID and never built up again,” she added. “Housekeepers are expected to clean rooms in 20 minutes and complete between 12 and 14 rooms a day.”

Since UNITE HERE Local 11’s fight for contracts at hotels began last July, 34 Los Angeles-area hotels have signed contracts with the union. It is looking to win contracts at another 28.

— Norton Sandler



Militant/Bill Arth

Workers picket DoubleTree Hotel in San Pedro, California, March 16 during three-day strike.

Amazon workers strike in UK

Continued from front page

work two jobs to make ends meet.

Smith described how the fight for the union started in August 2022: “We had 2 pounds extra pay when we worked during the lockdown. And then they took it away. Now they give us a paltry 50 pence. It’s an insult!” Following the pay cut, workers held sit-down strikes and other protests at the warehouse and several other Amazon sites in the U.K.

The union has submitted an application for union recognition to the Central Arbitration Committee. In response, “the company is flooding the site with newly hired workers,” said Ceferina Floresca. “But we continue to recruit and we’re sure we are going to win the vote.”

Darren Westwood said that during the 2022 job actions he helped organize a meeting of workers attended by a GMB representative. They began recruiting to the union. They held their first official strike in January 2023, followed by more. Every strike action has resulted in hundreds of new union members.

Westwood says that the fight is about more than the Coventry plant. “Our fight has a worldwide importance for organizing at Amazon.” Last year workers here traveled to other warehouses in Nuneaton, Mansfield and Cardiff to leaflet about the fight for a union.

Workers at Amazon in Birmingham will have a two-day stoppage March 27-28, right before the busy Easter holiday weekend.



Militant/Dag Tirsén

Workers rally at Amazon warehouse in Coventry, England, March 19, part of two-day strike to win union recognition. “Our fight has worldwide importance,” said Darren Westwood.

THE MILITANT

Cuban Revolution: example for all workers

Juan Almeida’s record of integrity, courage, discipline and selflessness exemplified the working-class political qualities of the men and women who carried out Cuba’s revolution under Fidel Castro’s leadership. The *Militant* explains, defends Cuba’s socialist revolution.



CSU Archives/Everett Collection
From left, Raúl Castro, Juan Almeida, Fidel Castro in Sierra Maestra during 1956-58 war.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

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The fight against Jew-hatred is a key question for the unions

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — A concerted effort is underway by supporters of Hamas to take advantage of widespread liberal media coverage of destruction in Gaza to get union officials to sign on to calls for Israel to agree to a cease-fire. This would short circuit efforts by Israel to dismantle Hamas' ability to launch new pogroms against Jews like it did on Oct. 7.

A group of seven international unions has formed the National Labor Network for Ceasefire, which they say has the support of 200 local unions and labor organizations. They include the American Postal Workers Union, Association of Flight Attendants, National Nurses United, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Education Association, United Auto Workers, and United Electrical Workers.

One resolution was passed at a meeting of UAW Local 551 at the Ford Chicago assembly plant. It says, "We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for national liberation.

"We demand an immediate end to the bombing and siege of Gaza, all Israeli hostilities and military actions, and all forms of settler colonialism and violence being perpetrated on the Palestinian people. We call for a permanent ceasefire to end the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza."

The resolution makes no mention of Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom. Backed by the reactionary rulers in Iran, Hamas slaughtered 1,200 Jews and others, wounded 5,000, raped women and took over 250 hostages. It still holds about 100 of them today.

The demands proposed by the National Labor Network for Ceasefire are not in the interests of working people in the Middle East or anywhere. Calls for Israel to cease fire go hand in hand with President Joseph Biden's demand that Israel not take its war against Hamas into the city of Rafah in southern Gaza.

Most workers in the U.S. responded with horror to Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre of Jews in Israel. Explaining what happened that day — a pogrom

— and mobilizing union members to combat all expressions of Jew-hatred wherever they occur is crucial for the labor movement.

I spoke with workers outside Ford's Chicago plant March 20. None had heard of the union's resolution.

"I think it's important for unions to take a position against Hamas because what they're doing to the Jews could happen to us next," Carl Hall, an assembly worker and a member of UAW Local 551, told me. "The rich want to keep hold of their control over everything, including us."

He agreed when I said I thought fighting Jew-hatred is a decisive question for unions. When the rulers fear that working-class struggles threaten their rule, they turn to fascist forces to crush the unions and destroy working-class political parties. Jew-hatred was the banner of the Nazis in Germany and of fascists in the U.S. and other countries in the 1930s as they sought to crush the labor movement.

AS I SEE IT

Angela Neal, another assembly-line worker, had a different approach. "I think that these wars are union questions," she said. "Working people are always the victims. We should support the Jews who are under attack. But what about the innocent Palestinians? Israel should cease fire and stop killing the Palestinians."

I told her that Hamas has ruled Gaza for nearly two decades, busting unions, arresting and torturing political opponents, and denying women equal rights. It has run the state, in its own words, as "cover" to prepare its assaults on Jews in Israel.

I pointed out that Hamas organizes its massive web of tunnels throughout Gaza, under hospitals, schools and housing projects, deliberately putting civilians in harm's way to create "martyrs" in order to win sympathy and funding from imperialist governments



Mike Zilles, president of the Newton Teachers Association in Massachusetts, speaks at strike rally Jan. 18. The union has spoken out against unions calling for imposing a cease-fire on Israel's war against Hamas or accusing Israel of "genocide." These false positions "will provoke further antisemitism," Zilles said, and ignore "the atrocities against Israelis on Oct. 7."

abroad. Hamas does not represent the aspirations of Palestinians, but is the main obstacle to their being able to join in the class struggle alongside Jews and others in Israel, the only road to liberation. Workers in the U.S., Israel, Gaza and everywhere have a vital stake in its defeat. Demanding that Israel cease fire against Hamas leaves it intact to perpetrate more massacres against Jews.

Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas leader said Oct. 24, 2023, that the group's Oct. 7 pogrom "is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth." Asked about the cost to civilians in Gaza, he said, "We are proud to sacrifice martyrs."

Neal and I talked for a few minutes in the parking lot. She said she would think about what I raised and bought a copy of the *Militant*.

Wars in the imperialist epoch are an inevitable product of the natural workings of a system founded on exploitation and oppression. The death, destruction and suffering are hated by the working class, which always bears the consequences.

Union officials justify calls for a cease-fire by playing on antipathy to the effects of the growing numbers of conflicts around the world. "We cannot bomb our way to peace," United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain said. "The only way forward to build peace and social justice is a cease-fire. ... What

we're calling for today is what the global community is standing together for."

But there is no "global community," nor is there any "we." On one side are the rival capitalist powers, including the Biden administration, which serves the ruling U.S. capitalist class. On the other side is the working class, which has common interests worldwide against the bosses and the governments and parties that serve them.

Nothing that Washington and other so-called democratic imperialist powers are doing in the Middle East is aimed at advancing the interests of working people there, let alone protecting Jews. All Washington is interested in is security and stability for the U.S. rulers' own profit-driven interests, as they vie with rivals for markets and political influence.

Unions should oppose every war the U.S. imperialists carry out to try to extend their domination. Workers are used as cannon-fodder for the benefit of our class enemy — the capitalists — in these conflicts.

But the world also contains oppressed peoples and nations. Wars to end oppression *are* in workers' interests. Ukraine's war to defeat Moscow's invasion — like Israel's war against Hamas — should be supported by all working people. Moscow's complete and immediate withdrawal from Ukraine, including Crimea, would create better conditions for the working class and for our struggles.

Israel's war to defeat Hamas, free the hostages and prevent the reactionary Islamist organization from carrying out more pogroms deserves labor's support. That doesn't entail political support to the Israeli government. What is at stake is Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews. Today, Jew-hating violence is on the rise worldwide.

The labor movement needs its own policy on *all* political questions, starting from workers' common international interests.

The Newton Teachers Association, which was on strike for 16 days earlier this year, set an example. It disassociated itself from a Massachusetts Teachers Association statement that attacked Israel for carrying out a "genocidal war on the Palestinian people."

"The statement fails completely to hold in mind the atrocities against Israelis on October 7 and the trauma, pain, and fallout the Israeli, American, and international Jewish communities are experiencing. The motion will provoke further antisemitism," said Newton Teachers Association President Mike Zilles.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 12, 1999

ATLANTA — Cuban youth leaders Luis Ernesto Morejón and Itamys García Villar spoke to some 325 students, farmers, and workers during their visit to Georgia. This was the youths' first stop on a seven-city tour. Both are members of the Union of Young Communists.

Nearly a dozen farmers in Pavo had the opportunity to exchange experiences with García and Morejón. Willie Head, a leader of the South Georgia Vegetable Producers Cooperative, hosted the visit March 27. The Cuban youth toured three cooperative members' farms.

Both were fascinated by the visit to the farm of Ulysses Marable, Sr. Marable began as a sharecropper and now grows cotton, corn, peanuts, watermelons and vegetables. "We produce more than we can sell," he said. "Cuba has the opposite problem. We can't produce enough for our people," said Morejón.



April 12, 1974

The tightening price squeeze poses a crisis for working people in this country. This has prompted demands for wage increases big enough to offset inflation.

A number of Wall Street economists have raised the idea of a "social contract" between government and labor. Modeled on the "social contract" the Labour Party government is trying to sell to British workers, this scheme is designed to cover up the fact that the profit-gouging corporations and the masses of working people have fundamentally opposing interests.

An effective struggle to catch up with rising prices will require class-struggle methods, aimed at winning cost-of-living escalators in all wages, pensions, Social Security and other benefits. A key step forward would be launching an independent labor party to fight in the political arena for the workers' interests.



April 11, 1949

The biggest threat to the liberties of the American people today comes from Washington and the state capitals, where capitalist politicians, masking themselves behind slogans about a new war for "democracy," are engaged in the most ominous assault on democratic and political rights in the nation's history.

History shows that it is possible for the masses to be deprived of fundamental liberties while the formal trappings of democracy remain on the statute books. A situation is developing at an alarming pace, with the forces of repression being spearheaded by "democratic" politicians and brass hats rather than fascist legions.

Most of the bills are patterned on Attorney General Clark's "subversive" blacklist. This has an intimidating effect on the exercise by John Doe of his right to freely select and join the political party of his choice.

SWP debates, protests Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

"I oppose any resolution calling for a cease-fire in Israel's war against Hamas. Hamas committed a pogrom, the murder of Jews on Oct. 7 as part of their goal to eliminate all the Jews in the region and destroy the state of Israel," Laura Garza, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California and spokesperson for the SWP's presidential candidate Rachele Fruit, told a special City Council meeting here of 600 people March 18 held at the downtown convention center.

"They are a reactionary, anti-woman, thuggish Islamist group who used mass rape and the mutilation of women's bodies on Oct. 7 to show Jews being humiliated, and killed, which they proudly live-streamed," Garza said.

"Hamas has nothing to do with a liberation movement. It promotes Jew-hatred around the world together with their sponsor, the Iranian regime, and they are all the enemies of working people from Iran, Palestine and around the world," Garza added. Council members cut speakers off after one minute, and when Garza was cut off, some backers of the resolution shouted, "Liar!"

The majority in the audience had come to demand the City Council pass a cease-fire resolution, which it eventually did, after some 200 speakers took the floor over five hours. The council also passed an amendment demanding Hamas return the hostages it continues to hold. Many of those who pushed for the resolution claimed Israel is an "apartheid state," and is committing intentional "genocide" in Gaza.

A smaller number of people, mostly Jewish, spoke against the resolution, many saying the Council should stay out of international affairs. They also warned the resolution would increase hostility, threats and challenges to Jews in the area, statements met with boos from those supporting a cease-fire.

"Adopting a resolution tonight,

you will not change what is happening 7,500 miles away. You won't stop the innocent children dying or bring an end to the suffering," Jason Moss testified. "But, I can tell with 100% certainty that your decision could have dire consequences on the Jewish community, particularly Jewish children, right here in Pasadena."

Moss, the executive director of the Jewish Federation of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, said he has been grappling with growing verbal and physical threats since the Oct. 7 pogrom. "Jews are seen as Israel's proxies, so people are taking their anger and frustration toward Israel out on us," he testified.

After Garza spoke, several of those who had also spoken against the cease-fire resolution came over to thank her. One young woman, a student at a nearby college, looked over Garza's campaign literature, and said, "You were on the ballot weren't you, I voted for you."

"I don't believe that it's accurate what many are claiming here that they represent the majority. Most working people condemn the actions of Hamas and believe Israel has the right to defend itself," Garza said. "Any long-term cease-fire would allow Hamas, with the help of Tehran, to rebuild, rearm and do what they did on Oct. 7 again and again, which they have stated is their goal."



Hundreds rally against Jew-hatred at UC Berkeley

BY BETSEY STONE

BERKELEY, Calif. — Several hundred students, faculty, area residents, supporters of Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Rachele Fruit and other opponents of Jew-hatred gathered at the University of California here March 11 for a rally and march to protest Jew-hatred. They were united in supporting freedom of speech and condemning the violent shutdown of a Feb.



Militant/Fredy Huinil

Laura Garza, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, speaks at Pasadena City Council meeting March 18 in opposition to resolution demanding Israel agree to cease-fire in Gaza.

26 meeting sponsored by Jewish student groups. A mob, including masked thugs, broke up the meeting where Ran Bar-Yoshafat, an Israeli attorney and reserve officer in the Israel Defense Forces, was scheduled to speak.

"I'm here to support the Jewish people," Likbin Khoo told the *Militant*. Khoo, who is originally from Malaysia, said Chinese people there have been attacked just for being Chinese. "No people should be targeted," she said. "I support free speech. When they broke down the glass at the front door, when they shut down the meeting, they crossed the line."

Emmy Apreyan, a student in her junior year, said she was there in support of Jewish friends. "I'm not for shouting down or shutting down speakers you don't agree with," she said. "If people have a difference, they need to debate it out."

Apreyan said she believes a lot of students at the school are in denial about the facts. "People are already denying the seriousness of what was done here," she said, "saying it didn't happen. Just like they deny the seriousness of what happened when Hamas killed

1,200 people in Israel Oct. 7."

Participants marched in rows to Sather Gate, the main entrance to the campus, in protest against Students for Palestine and others who have blocked the gate for weeks, falsely charging Israel with genocide.

The protest ended with a rally where organizers vowed to keep up the fight and condemned the university administration for its failure to defend freedom of speech and ensure the safety of Jewish students.

On March 18, a victory for free speech was registered when close to 200 people attended a meeting on campus to hear Ran Bar-Yoshafat, the speaker whose meeting was shut down Feb. 26.

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Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, fund March 9-May 7 (week two)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	15	55	18	\$9,500	\$850
Chicago	100	17	100	21	\$14,000	\$1,825
Cincinnati	50	8	50	1	\$5,000	\$0
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	15	60	12	\$5,000	\$480
Lincoln	15	2	15	3	\$500	\$150
Los Angeles*	120	40	120	30	\$16,000	\$150
Miami	35	1	35	12	\$5,000	\$1,300
Minneapolis	70	14	70	15	\$5,500	\$400
N. New Jersey	75	15	75	12	\$7,500	\$1,830
New York	100	23	100	29	\$20,500	\$3,324
Oakland	80	28	80	29	\$15,500	\$1,500
Philadelphia	55	9	55	11	\$6,000	\$2,000
Pittsburgh	45	12	45	5	\$6,000	\$525
Seattle	70	21	70	17	\$14,500	\$0
Washington	60	16	60	11	\$5,000	\$405
Other	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$100
Total U.S.	990	236	990	226	\$135,500	\$14,839
Prisoners		33				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	12	45	9	\$2,560	\$0
Manchester	35	12	35	14	\$1,200	\$0
Total U.K.	80	24	80	23	\$3,760	\$0
Canada	90	18	110	26	\$12,150	\$4,245
Australia	30	13	30	8	\$5,000	\$540
Total	1,190	324	1,210	283	\$156,410	\$19,624
SHOULD BE	1,350	338	1,350	338	\$165,000	\$41,250
* Raised goal						

SWP kicks off ballot drive in New Jersey

BY LEA SHERMAN

UNION CITY, N.J. — The Socialist Workers Party campaign will kick off a statewide effort April 1 to put the party's presidential candidate Rachele Fruit on the New Jersey ballot, along with her running mate, vice presidential candidate Margaret Trowe. The SWP campaign is the working-class alternative to Biden and Trump in the 2024 elections. The goal is to get over 1,700 signatures, more than double the 800 required to be on the ballot.

They will also be signing up a similar number of working people to get the SWP's candidate for U.S. Senate, Joanne Kuniansky, on the ballot.

Campaigners will travel to cities, small towns and rural areas, including to Hammonton, Bridgeton and Vineland, where large numbers of agricultural workers live.

They will present the

SWP's working-class program on workers' doorsteps, at plant gates and truck stops, and elsewhere. They will join in actions and debates against Jew-hatred, protests against Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and union strike picket lines and rallies to express their support and introduce the SWP's program.

"Like workers all across the country, workers in New Jersey face a profit-driven offensive against us by the bosses, their political parties and their government," Kuniansky said March 25. "We're increasingly using the unions to fight back, to defend ourselves. We need to do the same thing in the political arena — to break with the Democrats and Republicans and set up our own party, a labor party, based on the unions."

"Such a party can chart a course toward taking political power into our own hands," she said, "and join hands with workers worldwide to do away with the capitalist rulers' wars, exploitation and oppression."

While petitioning to get Fruit and Kuniansky on the ballot, campaign supporters will also expand the circulation of the *Militant*, the socialist newsweekly that is the voice of the SWP campaign, and discuss and sell books by party leaders and other revolutionaries.

The goal is to get the required sig-

natures in a concerted three-week period from April 1-21, including a full-time team April 1-7. If you are interested in joining the campaign, email njswpcampaign@gmail.com.

Lea Sherman is the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from New Jersey.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Challenges and Opportunities Before the Labor Movement and Working People in 2024. Speaker: Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 12th District. Sun., April 7. Refreshments, 4:30 p.m.; program, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hagenberger Road, Ste. 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Malcolm X and the Working-Class Answer to the Capitalist Crisis Today. Speaker: Andrés Mendoza, Communist League. Sat., April 6, 6 p.m. Donation: £3. 329 Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Tel.: (0161) 312-8119.

Rachele Fruit for US president

Continued from front page
rallies and actions called to fight Jew-hatred. The campaign gets a hearing as working people face economic and social attacks.

SWP campaigner Vincent Auger discussed Fruit's campaign with painter Jessie Olvera at a United Farm Workers solidarity rally in Sunnyside, Washington, March 24, where SWP campaigners set up a literature table.

"Which presidential candidate is more labor friendly, Biden or Trump?" Olvera asked.

"Neither," Auger replied. "Biden showed that when he and Congress forced a contract on rail workers that they had voted down. The SWP's campaign says that unions need to break from the two-party shell game to make advances in our wages and conditions, and to fight against all their policies, domestic and international, that aim to divide workers and weaken us."

Fruit wrote in the *Militant*, "The labor movement is made up of unions representing millions of workers today," and unions need "to build a labor party capable of fighting for our class interests in the political as well as economic arena."

Olvera told Auger he also thought that neither the Democrats nor Republicans were for workers' rights.

Griselda Mendoza Azevedo, Olvera's companion, joined the discussion. She is an apple warehouse worker and said she was interested in knowing more about workers' rights and how an amnesty for immigrants in the U.S. can be won.

She got a subscription to the *Militant* and the books *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 Defense of the US Working Class* by Waters; and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*.

Each title is on offer as part of this spring's eight-week international campaign to win 1,350 new *Militant* readers, sell 1,350 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries and raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The campaign of the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. runs through May 7.

Sara Lobman, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, and Willie Cotton, the party's candidate for

U.S. Congress, went to Effy's Café in Manhattan to express solidarity with the owners and staff, after the restaurant was hit with antisemitic graffiti March 16. Vandals spray-painted "Free Gaza" and "Form line here to support genocide."

Solidarity with café after attack

As news about the attack got out there wasn't an empty seat in the restaurant as customers came to show support, while neighbors joined in scrubbing off the Jew-hating graffiti.

"The vandalism of Effy's Café, an Israeli-owned eatery in Manhattan, must be condemned," Lobman wrote in a press statement the SWP candidates brought to the restaurant. "Hamas's slaughter of Jews, the rape of Jewish women, and kidnapping of infants and the elderly have nothing to do with defending Palestinians.

"Vandalism, thuggery, 'shut 'em down' actions targeting Jews and Israel's right to exist are not about social justice. They remind us more of Hitler's jackbooted fascists, who began by smashing Jewish shop windows, and then proceeded to physically crush the German trade unions and working-class political parties," she said. "The labor movement must stand against Jew-hatred."

In Montreal, Katy LeRougetel, the Communist League candidate for parliament in the city's LaSalle-Emard-Verdun riding, sat down in a coffee shop March 23 with Mohammed Mutlak, a co-worker and fellow member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Work-



Stephani Benschmol

Volunteers remove "Form line here to support genocide" graffiti from sidewalk in front of Effy's Café after Jew-hating attack on Israeli-owned restaurant in New York City March 16.

ers and Grain Millers union, to discuss Israel's war to defeat Hamas.

"The Arab governments don't care about the Palestinians," Mutlak said.

"They have totally different class interests from those of working people in the region," LeRougetel said. "And governments in Ottawa and Washington maneuver for their own interests — not to protect Jews or Palestinians."

"Jew-hatred is a big problem in the Middle East but also here," LeRougetel said. Mutlak agreed, pointing to a poisonous antisemitic stereotype he came across. "I saw a guy on Facebook who said to watch the Jews, they have the money."

LeRougetel and Mutlak discussed how workers could chart a way forward. "I am relaxed about the future, big

things are coming," Mutlak said.

"We have to prepare for the future by building a revolutionary party, being part of union battles, standing up for democratic rights," LeRougetel said. "And if we don't fight Jew-hatred, we will never build working-class unity."

To continue the discussion, Mutlak sent LeRougetel a video on British intervention in the Israel-Palestine conflict and bought the Arabic-language versions of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power and Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun*, which is available in English in *New Internationalist* no. 12. Both titles are by Barnes.

To join campaigning for Fruit and other SWP candidates, contact the campaign office nearest you listed on page 8.

Union protests worker's death in Australian gold mine

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY — A roof collapse at the Ballarat Gold Mine, owned by Victory Minerals, in central Victoria March 13 killed miner Kurt Hourigan and critically injured 21-year-old Connor Smith. Hourigan lived in Bruthen, a small town more than five hours away. The two contract workers had been brought in specifically to carry out 'air-leg' mining there, the company said. This is a dangerous form of manual mining using hand-held drills with compressed air and water.

There were 28 other miners in the mine who were able to take refuge in a

safety pod.

"This death could have been avoided," Ronnie Hayden, the Victorian branch secretary of the Australian Workers Union, which represents workers at the mine, told news media the next day. "They should not have been doing that task in that mine." The company had only taken control of the mine last December. The two miners were working 1,640 feet underground.

Hayden said 'air-legging' is typically used to put anchors into the rock to hold it back. But in this case, he said, it was being used to create a tunnel. He said this method hadn't been used at the Ballarat mine for years, and most mine companies had stopped doing it because it is unsafe.

"Our members are angry. They've raised concerns about this style of mining. It seems to have fallen on deaf ears," he said. "It's devastating because

we've lost another worker and no worker should be injured or die at work."

This was just "a quick, cheap and easy way to chase gold," he said.

Investigations by the police and the government agency Worksafe Victoria will take months, but the agency gave the company the go-ahead to reopen the mine the day after Hourigan's body was recovered.

The Australian Workers Union said, "There will be no air-legging going forward." The company said it has suspended its use indefinitely.

Safework Australia reports that in the last 10 years more than 1,850 workers have been killed on the job across Australia. Over a million have made workers compensation claims for injuries causing one week or more off work.

Bob Aiken is the Communist League candidate for mayor of Liverpool in southwest Sydney.

Socialist Workers Party in 2024 Working-class alternative to Biden-Trump Rachele Fruit for president Margaret Trowe for vice president

California

Laura Garza, U.S. Senate
Eric Simpson, U.S. Congress

Florida

Laura Anderson, U.S. Senate

Georgia

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Illinois

Naomi Craine, U.S. Congress

Minnesota

Kevin Dwire, U.S. Senate
Gabrielle Prosser, U.S. Congress

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, U.S. Senate

Lea Sherman, U.S. Congress

New York

Sara Lobman, U.S. Senate
Willie Cotton, U.S. Congress

Ohio

John Hawkins, U.S. Senate
Ned Measel, U.S. Congress

Pennsylvania

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

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C.

James Harris, delegate to Congress

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2024! Campaign for what you are for, not who you're against!

- I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Rachele Fruit for president.
- I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
- Here is my contribution of \$_____ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)
- Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Send in along with your name, address, phone # and e-mail address to:
Socialist Workers Party 2024 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 ✉ Email: socialistworkers2024@gmail.com

Hamas plans more pogroms

Continued from front page

end its military operations in Gaza and sign on to a long-term cease-fire with Hamas. But this would leave the Jew-hating Islamist group — part of Tehran's "axis of resistance" against Israel along with Hezbollah in Lebanon, militias in Syria and Iraq and the Houthis thugs in Yemen — intact and able to carry out future massacres.

Hamas death squads murdered 1,200 people in Israel Oct. 7, wounded more than 5,000 and took over 250 hostages, the largest slaughter of Jews since the Nazi Holocaust.

Biden dispatched Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Tel Aviv to tell Israeli leaders that a new offensive in Rafah would cross a "red line." Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu replied that there is no way to defeat Hamas without going after the terror group's remaining battalions, who are hiding in tunnels in Rafah. Netanyahu said he told Blinken March 22, "I hope we will do it with the support of the U.S., but if we have to — we will do it alone."

This offensive will require removing a million civilians from the area. Israel is prepared to organize this, and tens of thousands of Gazans there already began traveling out of the area.

The imperialist rulers in Washington do not design their actions to advance the interests of Jews in Israel or anyone else. They are only concerned about their own economic and political interests, in the Middle East and everywhere else.

When asked what the Biden administration will do if Israel ignores the U.S. warning, Vice President Kamala Harris told ABC News March 24, "I am ruling out nothing," hinting that Washington could stop sending arms to Israel.

The next day, Washington refused to veto a new U.N. Security Council resolution calling for imposition of a "lasting cease-fire" in Gaza. To mask its anti-Israel thrust, the resolution urges the release of the hostages, without once mentioning Hamas or linking their release as a precondition to any cease-fire.

Hamas was ecstatic. It then announced it rejected a U.S.-brokered deal — accepted by Israeli officials — for a six-week cease-fire and freeing hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned in Israel on charges of terrorism in exchange for the release of 40 women, children, sick or elderly hostages.

Killing the deal is a "sad testament to the damage caused" by Washington's

green light for the Security Council resolution, Netanyahu said.

The destruction of Hamas will not put an end to Jew-hatred. But it would open up space for working people in Gaza to fight to forge an alternative to Hamas and increase opportunities for working people in Israel and around the region, whatever their religious beliefs or nationality, to join together to fight for their common class interests. It would set back the reactionary forces that carry out Jew-hating attacks worldwide.

Hamas, UN spread lies, distortions

Hamas has put together a massive international propaganda machine — with the help of the middle-class left and Stalinist groups of all stripes — to spread lies about what is happening in Gaza and blame the suffering there on Israel.

Hamas hopes to get bourgeois regimes around the world to increase pressure on Israel to end the war, leaving its forces still intact. In Hamas' eyes, the more Palestinian "martyrs" the better for its propaganda.

The line of liberal bourgeois newspapers like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, ignoring these realities, just gives cover to Hamas. They routinely cite figures from the Gaza Health Ministry as if they are true, without mentioning that Hamas runs that group and is the source of the statistics it releases. Hamas officials boast they took over the government in Gaza nearly two decades ago to provide cover for their preparations to destroy Israel and expel the Jews.

United Nations agencies have also promoted Hamas propaganda in U.N.-run schools and social services. A number of U.N. staff also took part in the Oct. 7 pogrom. They allowed Hamas to dedicate funds it controlled to build tunnels and buy weapons and ammunition.

In the latest repackaging of Hamas lies, the United Nations Human Rights Council March 25 released a report, "Anatomy of a Genocide," by special rapporteur Francesca Albanese.

Albanese charges that "after five months of military operations Israel has destroyed Gaza." Turning reality on its head, she spreads the lie that Israel uses "'humanitarian camouflage' to legitimize its genocidal violence in Gaza."

The U.N. still refuses to admit that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other Iran-



Left, IDF; Above, screen shot from video posted by Hamas. Above, bloodied Naama Levy being taken hostage by Hamas Oct. 7. Left, weapons captured by Israeli soldiers inside Shifa Hospital during recent combat with Hamas, Islamic Jihad fighters, who used patients and hospital workers there as human shields.

financed death squads raped and mutilated dozens of women on Oct. 7. The U.N. has never admitted that Oct. 7 was an anti-Jewish pogrom, covering up Hamas' real avowed goal — which is genocidal — the elimination of Jews.

Starting March 18, Israeli soldiers began a new operation raiding Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. In the early stages of the war they had destroyed extensive tunnels and weapons found there. But after Israeli forces departed, Hamas and Islamic Jihad returned in force, again using the hundreds of patients and medical personnel there as a shield for its deadly military operations.

The Hamas thugs have barricaded themselves inside the emergency

room and maternity ward and tossed explosives from the burn unit, Israeli officials report, and have fired mortars at the hospital.

The new Israeli operation has so far captured 500 more Hamas combatants at the hospital complex, killed 170 and seized arms and ammunition. Lebanon's *Al-Akhar* newspaper, tied to Hamas ally Hezbollah, admitted that senior Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders were killed or detained in the fighting.

What more proof is needed of how Hamas uses hospitals, patients, doctors and others as human shields? But the spin doctors at the *Washington Post* headlined their article — "Israeli raid on al-Shifa Hospital deepens suffering in Gaza's north," looking to mask that reality.

Biden says 'the economy's great,' but workers face a different reality

Continued from front page

25% over the last four years. Workers are forsaking chain grocery stores and turning to discounters like Dollar General and Aldi. Dollar General says it now has a store within 5 miles of 75% of the U.S. population.

To keep profits up and prices down, discount-store bosses advise the food producers who serve them to "shrink" the size of their packages.

While the ruling capitalist families and those in the upper middle class dependent on their rule don't face the same crisis, they are worried about the state of the economy. Gold prices have risen to record levels, hitting \$2,182 an ounce March 12.

Investors are nervous about the stability of today's capitalist "world order," and are looking for "safe havens" to turn to. Whenever the bankers and bosses get nervous, one key sign is a flight into gold.

Central banks around the world "accelerated their purchases" of gold "after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022," reported the *Wall Street Journal*. "Then in October, gold jumped 5% after Hamas attacked Israel. It is now 19% higher than when the conflict began."

"Hold the Inflation Champagne," wrote the *Journal's* editorial board the same day, reporting February's 3.2% annual inflation rate means the ravages of price rises still threaten their economy. "The inflation pace for the last three

months at an annual rate is faster than for the last 12 months," they admitted.

Prices have risen for many household items, and they're not coming down. Prices to go out for a meal are 30% higher than in 2019. Some restaurant bosses are protecting their profits by introducing "surge pricing" on their menu during normal meal times. Some have begun imposing a \$20 booth fee at rush hour.

Gasoline prices, which dropped from a high of over \$5 a gallon a year ago, are rising again. This worries the election-obsessed Biden administration. For this reason, the White House is urging Ukraine's government to halt drone strikes on Russia's oil facilities, fearing they push world fuel prices up.

Half of us who rent an apartment spend at least 30% of our income on rent. Average 30-year home mortgage rates are now 6.74%, almost double what they were two years ago. This makes it increasingly difficult for young people to set out on their own and afford a place to raise a family.

"The U.S. economy is sinking into a 1970s-style dilemma where inflation sticks around but the economy cools," wrote the scribes at MarketWatch March 16.

The Socialist Workers Party 2022 political resolution, printed in *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, says, "An extended period of stagflation, combining infla-

In factional frenzy, Democrats deal blows to constitutional rights

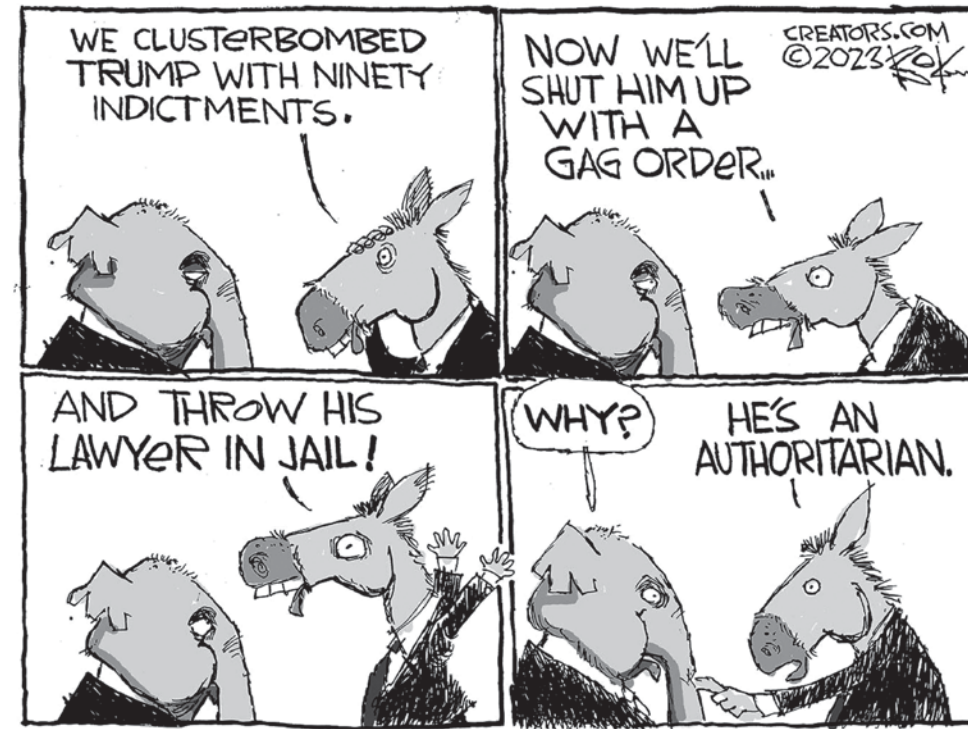
BY TERRY EVANS

With each new discouraging pre-election poll, Democrats everywhere and the liberal media become more frantic. This leads them to rely more and more heavily on the series of court cases they've cooked up to bring down President Joseph Biden's rival, Donald Trump. Their goal is to strip Trump of his businesses, his money, throw him in jail and get him off the ballot.

In their partisan frenzy, the Democrats are dealing dangerous blows to constitutionally protected freedoms that are crucial for workers, our unions and working-class political parties like the Socialist Workers Party.

The Democrats smelled blood when New York Judge Arthur Engoron barred Trump from appealing the \$355 million judgment he had issued against him Feb. 16, unless he posted a bond totaling \$454 million that his lawyers said is a "practical impossibility."

Engoron had found Trump guilty of business fraud without even allowing him a trial on the merits of the case. The only trial he ever got was over the scope of the penalty to be imposed. New York Attorney General Letitia James — who



campaigned for election on a pledge to bring down Trump — brought the case in hopes of draining his bank accounts, dismantling his real estate business and leaving him unable to campaign.

Engoron's ruling made a mockery of the Constitution's Eighth Amendment, which says "excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed." The Democrats were stunned when a New York State appeals court slashed the bond to \$175 million and threw out most of the other restrictions Engoron had imposed on the former president. David Saxe, a former member of the court, told the *New York Times* the ruling indicates the court is likely to "take a hard look" at Engoron's entire decision.

Engoron ruled Trump was guilty of fraud for puffing up the value of his prop-

erties to get better loan deals, a standard practice among real estate traders. Engoron admits no bank, or anyone else, was harmed by Trump's transactions, but still imposed the extraordinary fine.

Like the other cases Democrats have cooked up against the Republican candidate, the unfolding of James' politically motivated legal attack has exposed the fraud of capitalist judicial "neutrality." Workers know from our own experiences with the rulers' cops and courts that the criminal "justice" system is rigged.

The drive to crush Trump is driven from the White House. Merrick Garland, President Joseph Biden's attorney general, appointed Jack Smith as special counsel to go after Trump just three days after the former president's announcement on Nov. 15, 2022, that he would run against Biden again. Smith is now stage-managing two of the cases targeting the Republican candidate.

Partisan judge runs hush money case

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, another Democrat, has brought 34 counts of falsifying business records against Trump, claiming he did so to cover up alleged hush money payments to Stephanie Clifford, who makes a living as Stormy Daniels. Clifford says Trump paid her

off as a way to avoid a scandal that could threaten his 2016 election campaign. Trump says it was to protect the privacy of his family. The case is set to go to trial April 15.

The *New York Times* and other liberals lionize Clifford as an example for women. The *Times* calls her a "flawed feminist icon."

Although the charges against Trump are only misdemeanors, Bragg filed them as felonies, with potential jail time, by claiming they were carried out to further another so-called crime — hiding "unlawful activity from American voters before and after the 2016 election."

Trump's lawyers say that if anyone is guilty of this charge, it's Hillary Clinton. In her 2016 campaign, they explain, she "improperly booked campaign expenses as legal payments in connection with the hiring of a research firm to prepare the so-called 'Steele Dossier.'" This was a salacious assortment of slanders made up by former British spy Christopher Steele to paint Trump's campaign as secretly in "collusion with Moscow."

The Democrats promoted this frame-up — bringing in the FBI and a variety of special prosecutors — for months, until it came apart.

In Clifford's case, Judge Juan Merchan, yet another Democrat, issued pretrial rulings that undermine Trump's right to be able to mount a serious defense. He will allow Bragg to introduce prejudicial evidence from Trump's life and relations with women going back two decades, even though they have no bearing on this case.

Trump's defense intended to present testimony from legal expert Bradley Smith to refute the prosecution's charge that Trump violated federal election law. But Merchan blocked his testimony. Nor will the defense be allowed to introduce the decision of the Federal Election Commission that declined to bring charges against Trump over the same allegations Bragg is using.

And Merchan ruled the defense cannot challenge the credibility of the main prosecution witness, Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer.

Cohen took a plea deal in 2018 and agreed to finger Trump in order to avoid up to 65 years in jail on several charges, including campaign finance violations. He was given a three-year sentence and has since admitted lying to the judge to secure the deal. Trump's lawyers had planned to move to have Cohen's testimony disqualified on the grounds he is an inveterate liar.

If the Democrats can use the courts as a partisan tool to deal blows to Trump, a real estate mogul and candidate for one of the rulers' two main parties, it's not hard to see what they'll try to do — and far worse — to workers as we fight boss attacks and increasingly look to organize independently of the bosses' parties in the political arena. Safeguarding basic freedoms is central to the class struggle today.

Contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund!

The *Militant* depends on its readers and supporters to cover the costs of publishing a weekly that defends the interests of working people. Send a check or money order to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, or visit themilitant.com to make a contribution online.

tion with stagnating capitalist production and hiring, is increasingly likely both in the US and worldwide."

Declining number of full-time jobs

The number of workers with full-time jobs has declined over the past three months, the Labor Department reports. Throughout 2023 nearly three-quarters of jobs added in the U.S. were in lower-paid positions in hotels, restaurants, health care and lower-level government jobs. In many cases these involve part-time hours, leaving workers to search for a second job to cover family expenses. For the 275,000 new jobs announced for February this trend continues. Job growth is declining in manufacturing and other key productive sectors of the economy.

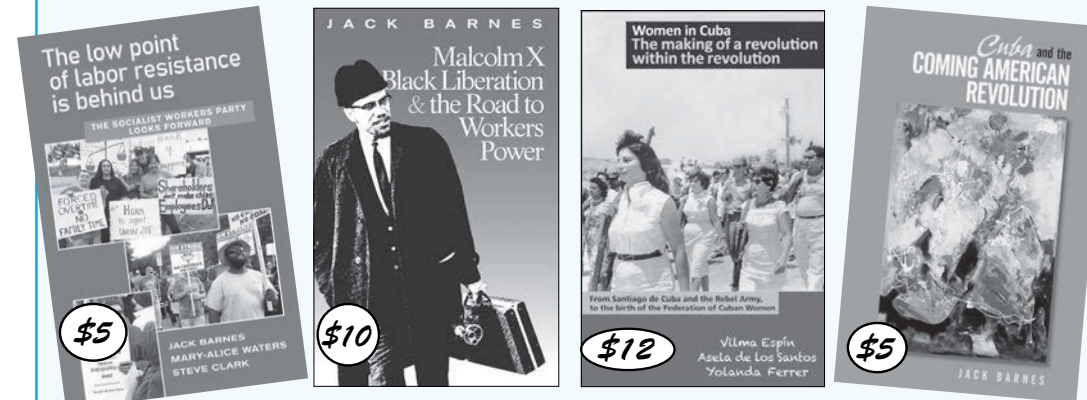
For those working, nearly a third say they'll never be able to afford to retire. As many as 28% of U.S. workers say they've been unable to put aside anything for retirement. Nearly 40% of workers say they don't have enough ready cash to cover a \$400 car breakdown, family health problem or any other emergency expense.

Increasing numbers of workers depend on using credit cards to cover their rising expenses, a boon for the big bankers who make superprofits by charging usurious monthly interest rates on unpaid balances. The average interest rate

today is 21.5%, up nearly 7% from two years ago. And workers' overall unpaid balances are growing. Total credit card debt topped \$1 trillion last year.

Car prices — both for new and used vehicles — have jumped, as has the cost of a loan to buy one. Some 20% of us owe more on our loans than our car is worth.

Book specials for Militant subscribers



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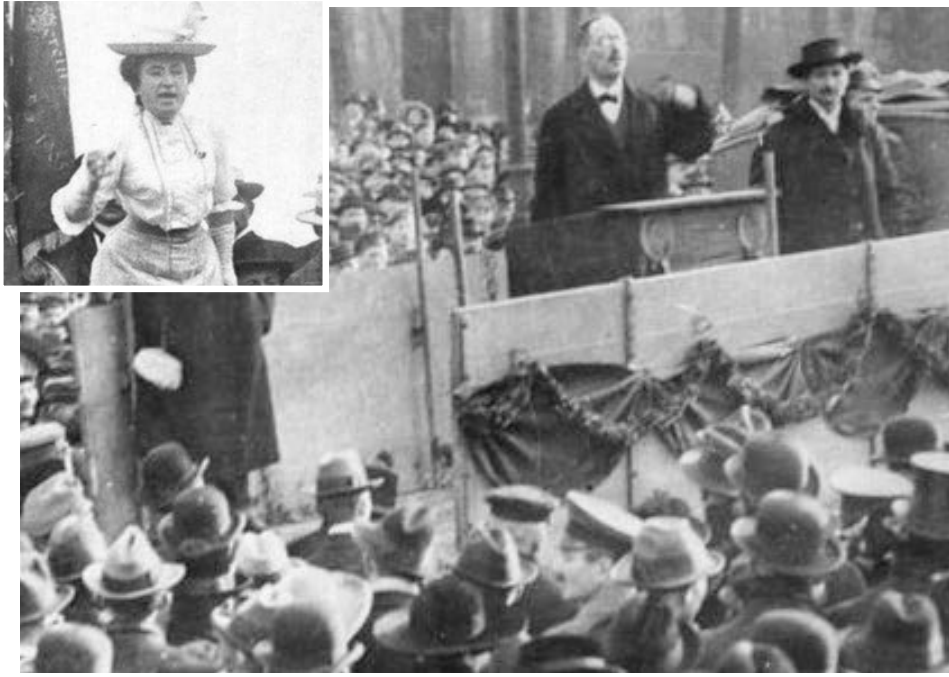
See page 8 for distributor near you



Some of the more than 250 trucks carrying food and medicine, inspected, authorized and facilitated by Israel for delivery to Gazans March 25, but U.N. agencies haven't delivered it all.

Luxemburg, Liebknecht: martyrs of the revolutionary movement

Portraits, Political and Personal by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. Trotsky was a central leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution led by V.I. Lenin and fought the overturn of its proletarian internationalist course by a bureaucratic counterrevolution headed by Joseph Stalin. The book includes 22 biographical sketches of political figures of that era. This excerpt is from "Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg," describing two key leaders of the left wing of the German Social Democratic Party who fought the party's leaders and their betrayal of the working class by supporting the German rulers. They were inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and fought to build a new party in Germany before they were murdered by the SPD government in 1919. Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Above, Bundesarchiv/Creative Commons; inset, Prussian Cultural Heritage Image Archive/Herbert Hoffmann
Revolutionary internationalist leaders Rosa Luxemburg, inset, speaking in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1907 and Karl Liebknecht, speaking in Berlin in 1918. The two revolutionaries, jailed by the German government for opposing imperialist war, hailed victory of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The name of Karl Liebknecht, famous even earlier, acquired immediate worldwide significance from the first months of the terrible European slaughter. It sounded like a name of revolutionary honor, like a promise of future victory. ...

[H]and in hand with him from the first day of the war was the courageous, unhesitating, heroic Rosa Luxemburg. Arbitrary German bourgeois parliamentarism denied her the opportunity of sounding her protest from the parliamentary platform, as Liebknecht had done — thus less was heard from her. But her share in arousing the best elements of the German working class was no less than the share of her co-fighter in the struggle and in death, Karl Liebknecht. These two fighters, so different in nature and yet so alike, complemented each other, strove unyieldingly for the common goal, met death at the same time, and will go down together in history. ...

Liebknecht was not a theoretician. He was a man of direct action. Impulsive and passionate by nature, he possessed exceptional political intuition, a sense of the masses and of circumstance, and finally, an incomparably courageous revolutionary initiative.

An analysis of the internal and international situation in which Germany found herself after November 9, 1918, and also a revolutionary prognosis,

one could have, indeed should have, expected first of all from Rosa Luxemburg. A summons to direct action, and — at a certain moment — to armed uprising, would probably have come first from Liebknecht. These two fighters complemented each other in a way that could not be bettered.

Luxemburg and Liebknecht were scarcely out of prison when they took each other's hand, that indefatigable revolutionary man and that unyielding revolutionary woman, and went together, at the head of the best elements of the German working class — to meet the new battles and trials of the proletarian revolution. And on the first steps of this path a treacherous blow has cut them down on one and the same day.

Indeed, reaction could have chosen no worthier victims. What a well-aimed blow! And no wonder: reaction and revolution knew each other well, for reaction this time was embodied in the persons of the former leaders of the former party of the working class, Scheidemann and Ebert, whose names will forever be inscribed in the black book of history as the shameful names of the organizers responsible for this treacherous murder. ...

[Y]ou and I know only too well how these "spontaneous" onslaughts against revolutionary leaders are arranged by reaction; we well remember the July days, experienced by us here, within

the walls of Petrograd; we remember only too well how the Black Hundreds, summoned by Kerensky and Tsereteli to fight against the Bolsheviks, systematically annihilated the workers and slaughtered their leaders, making short work of individual workers in the streets. The name of the worker Voinov, murdered by way of a "misunderstanding," is remembered by most of us.

We managed to save Lenin then, but only because he did not fall into the hands of the enraged Black Hundreds. There were at that time among the Mensheviks and the SRs some pious people indignant because Lenin and Zinoviev, who had been accused of being German spies, were not going to appear in court to refute the slander. They were especially reproached for this. But what court was this? A court, on the road to which they would have arranged for Lenin to "flee," as Liebknecht did? And if Lenin had been shot or stabbed, the official communication of Kerensky and Tsereteli would have said that the Bolshevik leader had been killed by the guard while trying to escape. No, now, after the terrible Berlin experience, we have tenfold grounds for being pleased that Lenin did not then appear in that kangaroo court, and, still more, that he did not risk punishment without trial.

But Rosa and Karl did not go into hiding. The enemy hand held them firm. And this hand strangled them! What a blow! What a misfortune! And what treachery! The best leaders of the German Communist Party are no more — our great comrades are no more among the living. And their murderers stand under the banner of the Social Democratic Party, and have the effrontery to trace their descent from none other than Karl Marx! What a perversion! What mockery! Just think of it, comrades: this "Marxist" Social Democracy, leader of the Second International, is the same party that betrayed the interests of the working class from the first days of the war, that supported unbridled German militarism during the rout of Belgium and the seizure of the northern provinces of France; the same party that betrayed the October revolution to German militarism after the Brest truce; the party whose leaders, Scheidemann and Ebert, are now organizing gangs of thugs to murder the heroes of the International, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg!

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

We have sustained, at one blow, two heavy casualties, and together they fuse into one great and terrible loss. Two of our leaders have been struck down from our ranks. Their names are entered forever in the great book of the proletarian revolution: Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. They have perished. They have been killed. They are no longer with us.

April
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For workers' solidarity, amnesty for immigrants!

The news is full of clashes over immigration policy between capitalist presidential candidates Joseph Biden, Donald Trump and now Robert Kennedy Jr. These conflicts obscure the fact that the fundamental division on this question is between the two contending classes, the bosses and the working class.

Intensifying competition between workers is key to the capitalists' drive to profit off our backs. The political struggle to overcome anti-immigrant prejudice and other divisions the rulers foster is crucial to uniting the working class and building a powerful union movement. It's inseparable from fighting the decline in real wages and deteriorating conditions of life and work workers face.

The class approach of the bosses and their Democratic, Republican and "independent" candidates is simple — to regulate the flow of immigrants to fit the employers' needs and to condemn workers without proper papers to a superexploited pariah status. They seek a permanent layer of the working class that fears being thrown out of the country and they hope will accept worse conditions. This then is used to drag down the conditions of all workers.

This means encouraging large numbers of workers abroad to cross the border in hopes of filling the jobs the uptick in the economy offers today. This is why net immigration rose last year to 3.3 million, compared to under a million yearly in the 2010s.

The scapegoating of immigrants is one of the biggest weapons the ruling class and all their parties use to try to divide and weaken us. The ranting against immigrants by some politicians facilitates this. Competition among workers to sell our labor power is inevitable

under capitalism. Bosses then appeal to resentment to try to pit workers against one another. Building unions that can defend all workers requires exposing and defeating the rulers' attempts to blame immigrants for lower wages and competition for jobs and housing.

For unions, fighting to defend immigrant workers is a *life and death question*. Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, presents a clear working-class road forward.

She says that "workers solidarity can overcome the ways the capitalists divide us for profit by fighting to end two-tier contracts, life-sucking 'suicide' schedules and women's second-class status. Amnesty for immigrant workers in the U.S. would allow them the right to work without fear of deportation and open the door to unifying the working class. Organize *all* workers!"

Every worker in the U.S. deserves a job, she says. The SWP calls for a government-funded program of public works to create millions of union-scale jobs to build housing, child care centers, hospitals and other things working people need.

She calls for building a labor party, based on the unions, to lead the fight for our class interests and speak for all the exploited and oppressed by capital.

Fruit points to the capacities demonstrated by workers in historic struggles, from the battles that forged unions in the 1930s to the mighty class battles that overturned Jim Crow segregation. "Our class has never been in a stronger position to join hands and to fight all attempts by the bosses and their parties to divide us, and to take on the war, exploitation and oppression that mark our epoch — the capitalist system itself. We can rise to the task imposed on us by history."

Beijing clamps down harder in Hong Kong

Continued from front page

It allows punitive measures to be imposed on Beijing's opponents who have fled overseas, including the cancellation of their passports. Reflecting the Chinese rulers' growing conflicts with Washington and its allies, the law makes collaboration with any "external force" illegal.

"For people of my generation who know what happened back when the U.K. and China were negotiating about the future of Hong Kong, Article 23 is ominous," Daniel Chan wrote the *Militant* from Hong Kong March 23.

Hong Kong was promised a degree of autonomy from Beijing for 50 years after the British rulers felt compelled to return the territories to Chinese rule in 1997. The arrangement was supposed to ensure that freedoms denied on the Chinese mainland would continue to exist in Hong Kong during the transition.

But the Chinese government accelerated its crack-down in 2019 "after large-scale demonstrations against Beijing were held in Hong Kong before and after commemorations of the June 4 massacre," Chan said. He was referring to Beijing's bloody crushing of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests by workers and students for political rights in China. Any reference to the massacre is banned on the mainland, but commemorations were held for many years in Hong Kong.

Movement for political freedom

The 2019 actions were part of a broader movement for political freedoms and opposition to Beijing's interference. For months demonstrations engulfed the city, twice reaching over a million. They forced the Beijing-backed Hong Kong legislature to scrap a hated extradition bill that would have given Chinese authorities the power to try political opponents in courts on the mainland, where they have far fewer rights to defend themselves.

"Today's Xinjiang is tomorrow's Hong Kong!" protesters chanted in 2019, referring to Beijing's repression in China's western province of Xinjiang. Chinese President Xi Jinping's regime forced a million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities there into "reeducation camps" in an attempt to crush their demands for national rights.

The Hong Kong administration is using Article 23 as "a sword over people's heads," Chan wrote. "Many

people dare not comment on politics, except maybe when they are home with nobody eavesdropping."

"Bookstores are closing, shows have been canceled and opposition to the government — once a rallying force — is now mostly whispered," Elaine Yu and Selina Cheng wrote in the March 21 *Wall Street Journal*.

The Chinese rulers fear the example that a continuing fight for political rights in Hong Kong would have on workers across China. Toilers there face deteriorating conditions and are looking for ways to defend themselves.

"Xi keeps tightening his control and cracking down on opposition," Chan wrote. A sweeping national security law in 2020 was used by Hong Kong authorities to try to stifle political opponents.

More than 60 organizations have been forced to disband, including trade unions, media outlets and opposition parties. Dozens, from students and journalists to political figures, have been arrested and tried. Over 1,000 are imprisoned.

Hong Kong's close links to mainland China — the city's main attraction for capitalist investors — are now becoming more of a liability, as the growth of China's state-capitalist economy slows. Hong Kong's stock market has lost nearly half its value in three years. Dozens of mainland real estate developers have defaulted on bonds issued in Hong Kong, creating huge losses. Tens of thousands of Hong Kong residents have emigrated. Many more say they plan to.

Interest rates have soared in Hong Kong, roughly in line with those in the U.S. The city's currency is still tightly pegged to the dollar, a policy underpinning its role as a global financial center. But higher U.S. interest rates have impacted Hong Kong's huge real estate sector, already hit by the collapse of China's speculative property development bubble.

The Hong Kong government said March 8 that Article 23 is needed because "geopolitics have become increasingly complex, and national security risks remain imminent."

As Beijing's economic and military weight has expanded over decades, its rivalry has intensified with Washington, the world's dominant, if declining, imperialist power. That conflict is sharpening today as the effects of Moscow's war in Ukraine, Israel's war to defeat Hamas and a festering global economic crisis ripple worldwide.

Terror attack in Russia

Continued from front page

held, with others from Kyrgyzstan, which like Tajikistan is in mainly Muslim Central Asia.

From the outset, Russian President Vladimir Putin seized the opportunity to direct public anger toward Ukraine, seeking to bolster support for what he now admits is a full-fledged war against the Ukrainian people.

The assault in Moscow came two weeks after the U.S. Embassy there warned the Kremlin of intelligence concerning a possible terrorist attack. It also publicly alerted U.S. citizens in Russia to stay away from any large gatherings.

Amid heightened international tensions and growing opposition at home against his Ukraine war, Putin dismissed Washington's alert as "blackmail" trying to "intimidate and destabilize our society." And he claimed Kyiv had switched to "terrorist tactics."

The Islamic State group has long threatened terror attacks inside Russia in retaliation for Moscow's intervention against it in Syria. Moscow has used its air power against civilian targets there to shore up the Bashar al-Assad regime since 2015. In recent months, the Russian air force has aided the Syrian military in intensifying attacks against Islamic State strongholds.

Admitting "the crime was carried out by radical Islamists," Putin said the Kremlin was also targeting those "who ordered" the attack, asking people to consider, "Who benefits from this?"

The Russian president claimed the assailants were caught trying to flee to Ukraine, where "a window for crossing the border was prepared for them." Kyiv officials have vehemently denied any involvement in the attack.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said March 26 that the attackers tried fleeing to his country first, but "there was no way they could enter Belarus." So, he said, they turned away toward the Ukrainian-Russian border. This contradicts Putin's claims the assailants planned to seek refuge in Ukraine.

Russian state television dismissed the Islamic State group's claims of responsibility, suggesting it was a "false flag" operation by Ukraine. The head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), the Russian spy agency, claimed the terror act by "radical Islamists" was "facilitated by Western special services and Ukraine's special services."

Putin's cozy relations with Hamas

Putin hopes he can buy protection from Islamic State's hostility by showing Moscow's increasingly cozy relationship with Hamas, and opposition to Israel's war in Gaza in response to Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel.

"Are radical and even terrorist Islamic organizations really interested in striking Russia, which today stands for a fair solution to the escalating Middle East conflict?" he asked March 25.

Russia has suffered at least 15 terrorist attacks since Putin's rise to power, beginning in 1998 when he became head of the political-police FSB agency. While few have been as deadly as this most recent assault, they were successfully seized on by Putin to strengthen his grip on power.

While hurling "terrorism" accusations against Ukraine, Moscow unleashed its latest deadly round of aerial bombardment against Ukrainian cities and infrastructure March 25.

In a March 23 statement, the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine denounced this "missile terrorism," which is "causing civilian casualties, including workers at their workplaces, and is actively destroying Ukraine's economy and energy industry on a daily basis."

Instead of demoralizing the Ukrainian people, Putin's continuing assaults have strengthened their resolve to repel the invaders.

Correction

A sentence in the article "Roots of advances for Cuban women are in our revolution," in *Militant* issue no. 13 got garbled. It should have read, "The panelists addressed other social questions that affect women."