

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

New Caledonia protests hit push by Paris to reinforce French rule

— PAGE 2

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 23

JUNE 10, 2024

Despite pressure from US rulers, Israel fights on to defeat Hamas

BY SETH GALINSKY

Standing up to increasing pressure from capitalist officials around the world — from the White House to the European Union and the United Nations — for Israel to end its war without dismantling Hamas, Israeli forces continue to strike blows against the Tehran-backed Jew-hating group in Gaza.

New video of Hamas abuse of women hostages shows Jew-hatred, brutality
— see page 7

Israel has to keep fighting in face of Hamas' openly declared aim to destroy Israel and kill or expel all the Jews who live there. The group has vowed to repeat anti-Jewish pogroms "again and again" — like it carried out on Oct. 7, when it killed 1,200 people, wounded 5,000 more and raped and mutilated women. It still holds some 100 hostages, including women and children, in barbaric conditions.

Decisively degrading its capacity to launch more horrific pogroms will

Continued on page 7

'Militant' files appeal on ban in Florida prison

BY JANET POST

On May 23 David Goldstein, the *Militant's* attorney and member of the prominent civil liberties law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, filed an appeal with the Florida Department of Corrections challenging a ban on issue no. 17 by prison authorities there.

The issue was impounded at the Jackson Correctional Institution in Malone, Florida, for using a widely printed Associated Press photo to illustrate a feature article reprinting a chapter from a new book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

The caption under the picture explains, "Hamas parades Jewish man murdered by death squad Oct. 7 past cheering supporters in Gaza City. Massacre in southern Israel was deadliest single attack on Jews since Hitler's 'Final Solution.'" The same AP picture appeared widely in news media in the U.S. and worldwide, including the *Boston Herald*, *U.S. News and World Report* and *Proceso* in Mexico.

Prison authorities claim the photo depicting "hatred toward a specific race" is "dangerously inflammatory" and violates prison rules, including

Continued on page 4

SWP presidential candidate Rachele Fruit: 'Working people face the growing threat of new wars, social disasters'



Militant/Janet Post

At May 25 Philadelphia campaign meeting, Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, meets with Denis Stephano, retired president of United Steelworkers Local 10-234 at a refinery in Trainer, Pennsylvania. He is endorser of Socialist Workers Party campaign.

'Amnesty for immigrants in the US, unify working class'

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK — During a visit here May 24, Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, spoke with a dozen or more app-based bicycle food delivery workers — many from West African countries — about conditions faced by working people.

"Why are you speaking with us? We can't even vote," said one, who like

Continued on page 4

Fruit: 'Working class needs its own party, a labor party!'

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — "The reality we are living through today is beyond the control of the capitalist powers. We face the threat of new wars and social disasters. They will take us to the brink and beyond," Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president Rachele Fruit told a public meeting here May 18.

"But it is not outside the control of millions in the working class who, with

Continued on page 5

Flight attendant unions call June 13 rallies at airports in US and Britain



Militant

Flight attendants rally in Washington, D.C., May 9. With no pay raise in five years, their unions called protests at 30 airports June 13, demanding new contract, pay for all hours worked.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA and Association of Professional Flight Attendants, representing some 77,000 flight attendants between them, have called for picket lines at 30 airports June 13 to press their demands for new contracts.

After working more than two years under expired agreements, and without a raise since 2019 — all the while watching their paychecks shrink as prices soar — flight attendants at American, United and other airlines are asking members and supporters to turn out at airports

Continued on page 9

Profit-driven Mount Sinai bosses push to shut Beth Israel Hospital

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Claiming its Beth Israel Hospital in New York City is not profitable, Mount Sinai Health System bosses are moving to shut it down piece by piece, impacting hundreds of thou-

sands who live and work in the Lower Manhattan area. They have been implementing severe cutbacks in an effort to bleed the hospital to death, insisting they have to close it by July.

They are slashing services, staff and procedures, despite the fact their closure has not been approved by state authorities. In December, the New York State Department of Health determined the hospital was unlawfully closing beds and services and issued a cease-and-desist order. That hasn't

Continued on page 9

Oberlin College fired lacrosse coach for saying, 'Women's sports are for women'

BY JANET POST

In a blow to women's rights and free speech, administrators at Oberlin College in Ohio removed Kim Russell from her position as women's lacrosse coach last fall, after she spoke out against transgender athletes, men who identify as women, competing in women's sports.

In March 2022 Russell shared a friend's Instagram post saying, "Con-

Continued on page 9

Inside

- Editorial: FBI is the capitalist rulers' political police 9
- UK election reveals depth of crisis facing British rulers 3
- Titles on working-class history, politics popular at Iran book fair 3
- Ukrainian forces beat back new Moscow attack against Kharkiv 6

New Caledonia protests hit push by Paris to reinforce French rule

BY MIKE TUCKER

SYDNEY — Over the past six months, Kanaks and other supporters of independence in New Caledonia, a French colony and Pacific island nation east of Australia and north of New Zealand, have staged protests. They are opposing moves by Paris to impose new election laws that would help to seat a pro-Paris government later this year. French police and troop presence on the island has been increased in response.

When the legislation went to France's National Assembly May 13, protesters erected barricades on major roads in New Caledonia, paralyzing its capital, Noumea, and elsewhere on the island. Members of the Kanak and Exploited Workers Union (USTKE) struck for 24 hours at Noumea's airport and port. In the midst of these protests, riots and looting broke out, causing extensive damage. Cars, shops, businesses and public buildings were set on fire.

Paris declared a state of emergency. Another 1,000 French soldiers and police were sent to the colony to reinforce the 1,700 already there.

Pro-independence parties that had organized peaceful protests condemned the riots. The USTKE stated that it "understands the great frustration, legitimate as it may be ... but strongly deplores the recent vandalism and destruction." It added, "Behind these burnt and destroyed businesses, it is also employees, mothers and fathers of the country, many of our families who are losing their jobs and their wages."

French President Emmanuel Macron flew into Noumea May 23 to announce his government would delay

changing the voting law. He left 18 hours later, with barricades still up in the capital and elsewhere.

New Caledonia was annexed by France in 1853 as European colonial powers competed for colonies in the Pacific. Indigenous Kanaks make up 40% of the population of 270,000. French Europeans, comprising 25%, include families that have lived there since the 19th century, as well as recent arrivals and temporary residents. Polynesians from France's other Pacific colonies make up another 11%, as do those of mixed race.

Kanak fight for independence

In the 1980s Kanaks waged a deep-going fight for greater equality and independence from colonial rule. Despite violent repression, Paris was unable to crush the struggle and was forced to make significant concessions.

The Matignon Accords of 1988 set political reforms with greater political representation to Kanaks. Three provinces were created, two with Kanak majorities, gaining self-rule for first time.

The Noumea Accord 10 years later granted greater autonomy from France, promising independence referendums in 20 years' time. Voting in local elections and in the referendums was restricted to those resident in New Caledonia prior to 1998, and their descendants.

The vote for independence increased from 43% in the 2018 referendum to 47% in 2020. The third vote in 2021 took place amid the COVID pandemic as campaigning was restricted. When Paris refused a request to postpone the poll, the pro-independence parties boycotted it. The turnout was only 44%.



Asia Pacific Report

Thousands of Kanak protesters march behind banner, "No to colonialism," in Noumea, New Caledonia, March 27. After actions paralyzed capital May 13, Paris sent in extra troops, police.

Macron proclaimed this a decisive victory for France. Speaking to a rally in Noumea in 2023 that Kanaks boycotted, he declared the independence issue had been settled with "no turning back."

Since 2021 pro-independence parties have been a majority in the national government elected by New Caledonia's parliament. The presidents of the government and the Congress are both members of Kanak independence parties. The Congress itself is almost equally divided between pro- and anti-independence parties.

In March the French government postponed New Caledonia's provincial elections due in May. It pushed ahead with amendments to the French Constitution to extend voting rights to all French nationals who have been residents of New Caledonia for 10 years. This would add 25,000 to the electoral rolls and increase the anti-independence vote.

Since late last year, thousands in the streets have demanded, "No to unfreezing the electoral laws. No to recolonization!" Many leaders of this campaign are now under house arrest.

Only 3% of Kanaks get an education past high school, compared to 23% for the rest of the population. The jobless rate for Kanaks is 38%, four times that for others. They make up 90% of the prison population.

The mining and processing of nickel is a major industry in New Caledonia, the world's third-largest producer. Ma-

cron calls it "a major strategic resource for France and Europe." He wants to lift limits on the export of unprocessed ore, which pro-independence parties say will undercut local processing and jobs. Paris is also demanding that there be preference for nickel exports to Europe.

Half of the nickel industry jobs are held by Kanaks, but the price of the metal fell 40% on the world market last year and layoffs are threatened.

This crisis is a blow to what the French government calls its Indo-Pacific strategy, which it says counters "China's increasing power and territorial claims, as well as the global competition underway with the United States."

There are French colonies in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, South Pacific and elsewhere, claimed as French soil. As military tensions heat up in the region, with Washington and Canberra, Tokyo and London all seeking to counter Beijing's influence, Paris seeks to assert its place as an Indo-Pacific power using its colonies in French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Reunion, and its naval, air, and military bases there.

Last December, Paris hosted the South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting in Noumea. The main pro-independence party, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, condemned the summit, saying, "France is using the meeting to present our country as an 'aircraft carrier'" as it "seeks to expand its presence in the region."

THE MILITANT

Canada's rulers deepen attack on political rights

New proposed laws would mean workers at railroads, ports and highways can be charged as criminals for taking union action. Government censorship over the internet is growing. The 'Militant' champions fight to defend political space working people need.



Reuters/Blair Gable

Ottawa used Emergencies Act to unleash attack on truckers' protest in February 2022.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, A\$10 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 88/No. 23

Closing news date: May 29, 2024

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

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

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

UK election reveals depth of crisis facing the British rulers

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — “I like that the Communist League says workers need our own party,” Hussein Mohammed, a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union in Manchester, told Peter Clifford.

Clifford is the CL’s candidate in the Manchester Rusholme constituency in the U.K.’s general election called for July 4. The CL is also running Pamela Holmes in London’s Tottenham constituency. Mohammed is currently involved in a fight by 150 “gateline” ticket takers over union recognition, pay and conditions. Clifford, who is also a rail worker, has built solidarity with their struggle.

Mohammed accompanied Clifford as the CL candidate campaigned May 10 in the Moss Side neighborhood of Manchester where Mohammed lives. He introduced Clifford to people in a cafe and the shops he frequents.

“It was good getting the word out,” Mohammed said. “We found a lot of interest. Peter was speaking about how the bosses’ parties all claim they can fix capitalism, and all we get is more of the same.”

Living standards have been cut and workers are hit by a lack of health care, social care and housing, alongside a rise in gang violence and drug addiction. A statement by the CL candidates calls for building and strengthening unions to fight “for pay and conditions that prevent families in the working class from being torn apart.”

“We explained that in the face of the capitalist rulers’ devastation and march to war, the central question is which class rules,” Clifford said.

“Jew-hatred is on the rise today,” Clifford told customers at the Moss Side cafe during a wide-ranging and lively exchange. “It’s an anti-working-class poison that blinds us to the class realities, to what’s behind today’s social convulsions, turmoil and war and their brutal consequences for working people. It diverts workers from seeing the real enemy — capital.

“The example of the Cuban Revo-

lution is decisive,” Clifford said. “It shows that the choice workers face isn’t between different capitalist parties but forging our own political instrument to lead the revolutionary struggle for workers power.”

Mohammed and Clifford have talked up the campaign among fellow rail workers. One has invited the communist candidate to meet his family.

Bosses’ parties to expand military

The leaders of both main capitalist parties — Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour’s Keir Starmer — have placed boosting government military spending at the center of their election pledges.

“Our nation’s defense must always come first,” Starmer said April 12, adding that the U.K.’s nuclear weapons would be the bedrock. He voiced support for the AUKUS military pact signed by the governments of Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., and he committed Labour to increase military spending



Militant Peter Clifford, fourth from left, with fellow rail workers, joins picket line of striking nurses in Manchester, U.K., Jan. 23, 2023. Clifford is running as Communist League candidate in July 4 general election. CL says workers need a party of their own to lead fight to take political power.

from its current 2.1% of gross domestic product to 2.5%. Days later, Sunak said he backed an increase to 2.5%.

Sunak has now added that a new Conservative government would reintroduce “National Service,” a form of military conscription for 18 year olds that was ended in 1960. He says the plan would fill some 30,000 vacant positions

in the military and “strengthen the country’s security.”

There is debate among U.K.’s capitalist rulers about the rundown of their armed forces and the sort of military they need as they seek to defend their overseas investments and what remains of their clout abroad. Some still crave a

Continued on page 6

Titles on working-class history, politics popular at Iran book fair

BY SHOHREH IZADI

TEHRAN, Iran — Tens of thousands of people attended the 35th Tehran International Book Fair here to browse and buy books from 2,600 local as well as many foreign publishers. Held at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla Mosque May 8-18, the annual cultural event is among the biggest book fairs in the Middle East.

Organizers featured two official programs as part of the fair, one on Gaza and Palestine, and the other on “The Status and Value of Girls and Women” in Iran. Yemen was the 2024 country of honor.

Attendance was lower than in previous years, due in part to conditions in Iran, including inflation exacerbated by imperialist sanctions that fall hardest on working and middle-class people with lower incomes.

One stand in the foreign languages section featured books by Pathfinder

Press, which has participated in the book fair for more than 30 years. Its top sellers were *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning under Capitalism* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes; *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity* by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, George Novack, and Mary-Alice Waters; and *The Communist Manifesto*. V.I. Lenin’s *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* was another top seller.

One visitor to the booth said he stopped when he saw the cover of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes. He bought it along with *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, which discusses the big shifts in world politics today, including the end of a decades-long retreat by the working class and unions in the U.S. It presents a political

course for working people to break with the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties and forge their own party, a labor party, to contend for political power.

Some students from Burkina Faso were surprised to see Pathfinder’s French-language titles. They bought a book by Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 Bukinabe Revolution, as well as a French translation of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Books by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other leaders of the Cuban Revolution also sold well. In the main hall, publisher Talaye Porsoo displayed books in Farsi, Iran’s official language. One university student bought every book about the Cuban Revolution at the booth. He told another visitor that these books were the ones to get “if you really want to learn about the problems of the society.” Talaye Porsoo also featured its newest Farsi translation, *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by Jack Barnes.

Titles on women’s emancipation were popular. Iranian publisher Golazin Publications offered *Cosmetics, Fashions and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed and Mary-Alice Waters, as well as *Woman’s Evolution* by Reed. Talaye Porsoo was selling a Farsi translation of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Vilma Espin and other Cuban leaders. Many of these books were also on sale in English, Spanish and French at the Pathfinder stand.

A visitor to the Talaye Porsoo stand familiar with some of the publisher’s books said he had read *Opening Guns of World War III: Washington’s Assault on Iraq* by Barnes, noting that the author had “correctly pointed to the impending third world war” in the 1990s.

Many books by participating publishers were displayed on the book fair’s website and could be purchased online from anywhere in the country. Talaye Porsoo, for example, sold 94 books to people in Khuzestan, Hormozgan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province, the Central provinces, and elsewhere.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 14, 1999

President William Clinton and NATO commanders are continuing their brutal assault on the working class of Yugoslavia. We urge our readers to join in actions demanding an immediate halt to the bombing and the removal of all U.S. and NATO troops from the Balkans.

The imperialist rulers hope to erase the gains of the Yugoslav revolution, to wipe it from the memory of working people in the Balkans and reimpose capitalist rule. The Yugoslavia the imperialists want to cut apart was forged in the 1942-45 revolution, brought to victory by the Partisan movement.

Workers and peasants of all nationalities united in this struggle against the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia during World War II. Working people then turned the victory against the Nazis into a social revolution that abolished capitalist property relations and established a workers state.



June 14, 1974

NEW YORK — The skyrocketing cost of living is the main reason 110,000 members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers went on strike June 1 in the union’s first industry-wide walkout since 1921. The biggest concentrations of strikers are in New York City and Philadelphia; there are also significant numbers in Illinois, Virginia, Missouri, Kentucky and New Jersey.

“We didn’t necessarily want to go out now,” said a striker. “But we just can’t make a living any more. Our last three-year raise was eaten up the first year after the contract was settled.”

An escalator clause is important, one worker said, so that they don’t just keep losing every raise to inflation. New York City transit workers won an escalator clause earlier and the demand is being taken up by ever wider sections of the union movement. Pensions, too, are grossly inadequate.



June 13, 1949

Ohio’s unemployed workers will be denied unemployment insurance unless they sign a “loyalty” oath swearing they do not “advocate” the overthrow of the government nor belong to any organization that does. The law is particularly vicious because it uses the direct threat of starvation to impose thought-control.

There has been a flood of bills introduced or passed in state legislatures requiring “loyalty” oaths not only of state employees, but of public school teachers, college professors, lawyers and even workers in private industry engaged on “government contracts.” The hunt for “heretics” is sweeping the colleges and universities.

The rulers are proceeding with their drive to crush free thought as a necessary preliminary to the eventual third world war they are planning. The defense of civil rights must be pressed more vigorously than ever.

'Amnesty for immigrants in US'

Continued from front page

many others in the group recently arrived in the U.S. "The most important thing workers can do today is organize ourselves, regardless of immigration status," said Richter. "The labor movement needs to fight for amnesty for undocumented workers," he added, "to overcome the divisions the bosses use to drive down the wages and safety of all workers."

Richter described the contract fight being waged by flight attendants, who are demanding pay for the time they work boarding passengers, serving drinks in first class and everything else before the aircraft doors are closed. Thirerno, a delivery worker from Guinea, said that sounded familiar. "We show up here every morning, and sometimes you don't get a delivery until hours later, but we have to be here the whole day to make enough to live."

Three of the delivery workers came to Richter's citywide meeting the next day. There was further discussion there about how capitalist politicians scapegoat immigrant workers. Richter referred to anti-immigrant remarks made by former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally of several thousand in the Bronx. "I ask people: Are immigrant workers driving up inflation? Causing the rents to go up?"

Are they the reason why young people can't start a family?" Richter said.

"No, those problems, which affect all working people, are caused by the capitalist system that Trump, Biden, Kennedy and all other big-business politicians are hell-bent to uphold," Richter said. He pointed to the need for working people and the unions to break with the capitalist parties and advance demands that strengthen the unity of the working class. The fight for jobs and wages we can live on is crucial for that, he said.

Former Black Panther member Tarik Haskins endorsed the SWP national ticket at the meeting. "Rachele Fruit of the Socialist Workers Party should be the people's choice for president. She truly represents the forward advance for the working class and for all humanity," he wrote along with his endorser card.



Dennis Richter, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, campaigns in New York among delivery workers, many from West African countries, May 24. He said workers in the U.S. and Africa have common interests in the fight against capitalist rule.

'Militant' files appeal to overturn ban in Florida prison

Continued from front page

the encouragement of "riot, insurrection, rebellion" and "organized prison protest."

Goldstein writes the censorship is "fundamentally incomprehensible. It cannot possibly be that it is the position of FDOC that condemnation of Hamas' barbarity, including photo-

graphic depictions condemning that barbarity, is prohibited."

"For decades the *Militant* has published articles about national and international matters of public concern and interest, including political events in the Middle East, with numerous articles over the years covering the Israeli-Palestinian struggles," he says.

He asks whether the prison authorities have "singled out the *Militant* for some reason? Its support for Israel as a refuge for Jews and its unconditional condemnation of Hamas and the regime in Iran?"

Copies of protest letters urging reversal by the Florida Department of Corrections' Literature Review Committee have begun to arrive at the *Militant* from readers and civil liberties groups.

Michael Zimmerman, a retired and disabled combat veteran from Westfield, Indiana, wrote, "Censorship of the views and interests of the working majority in this country will not stand. I demand that the inmates in Florida be given full and unrestricted access to their newspaper, the *Militant*."

Shai Davidai, a professor at the Columbia Business School who is well known for his defense of Israel, spoke out against the *Militant's* censorship on "X" social media, including circulating screenshots of the paper's article with the photo and the prison's notice of the ban.

"A magazine [the *Militant*] published an article about Hamas and Jew-hatred," he said. "As always, they sent copies to prisons all across the U.S. for the benefit of incarcerated men and women."

Davidai said it appears Florida prison authorities "have a problem with articles opposing antisemitism."

John Cotman, an associate professor emeritus at Howard University, wrote, "This is an absurd assault on the first amendment. The article in question condemns this barbaric atrocity and Hamas' goal to physically exterminate all Jews in Israel."

"Please reverse this antidemocratic decision immediately."

Starting in 2013 Florida prison officials have tried to suppress issues of the *Militant* nearly 50 times. The *Militant* challenges every ban and has won the vast majority.

Please join in defending the right of workers behind bars to get the news of their choice, and the right of the *Militant* to reach its readers. Letters protesting the *Militant's* censorship can be emailed to Saritza Legault@fdc.myflorida.com or sent to Florida Department of Corrections, Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, with copies to themilitant@mac.com

Richter: 'Glencoe native running for vice president'

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Dennis Richter by Owen Elle, editor of the weekly McLeod County Chronicle published in Minnesota. The article ran on the front page May 24.

Glencoe native Dennis Richter is running as the vice presidential candidate for the Socialist Workers Party for the 2024 Presidential Election. His parents moved to Glencoe in 1948 where a year later he was born. Richter says his father started work at the Green Giant plant when it first opened in the city and his mother worked as a hairdresser downtown. He says he also had five uncles who were farmers in the region.

"I spent significant time working on my uncles' farms, working in town, I helped build that grade school over there, St. Pius, they built when I was in eighth grade, and I worked all summer," Richter said. ... "What I learned growing up in a small town relating to people in the countryside it's been very important in my life."

Richter says growing up in Glencoe has helped shape his worldview. "It is a working-class town, its connection

to agriculture is very important. When I was here in the late sixties, the civil rights movement was at its peak, there were no Black residents in Glencoe, but the impact of it I watched on television, what I heard was one of my first responses to politics," Richter said.

He says the movement made him question how people could not be treated equal and that he was drawn to the "massive, Black-led proletarian movement that tore down Jim Crow" segregation. Richter spent time in St. Paul during his high school years bringing Black students out to Glencoe to begin making "connections." ...

Richter has worked as an industrial worker for over 50 years and has been active in railroad, meatpacking, steel, and garment industry unions. He currently works as an airline food service worker and is a member of the union there.

He is running as a vice presidential candidate for Rachele Fruit, a member of the Socialist Workers Party since 1970. ... "Rachele was chosen by the Socialist Workers Party because of her history as a fighter in the working-class union movement," Richter said. "When the Oct. 7 pogrom, which really is

what it was, took place in Israel, when Hamas invaded Israel and carried out its slaughter of 1,200 Israelis, she responded immediately within days with a statement and with action in solidarity with the Israeli people, particularly with Jews who this was aimed at. It showed the caliber of leader that she is."

Richter says he supports Israel's existence and the Ukrainian people's "fight for national independence." Richter also says he and Fruit are making the message that working people need to build a labor party to break with Democrats, Republicans, and the Green Party. "We need to form a party that's based on the unions but involves everybody who's in the working class, the majority of this country," Richter said. "Workers are tired of what they've been facing over decades, the fact that their children won't do better than them and probably will do worse economically and in every other way, but Rachele has a saying: workers are in a mood to fight."

Richter expressed his support for constitutional freedoms that he says are under attack in the country and called for safer working conditions as a part of his platform. "If safety was really first and if workers controlled production and made decisions about what was produced, how it was safely produced, nobody would ever die on the job," Richter said. "Ultimately we think in this country there needs to be a third American revolution."

Rail worker endorses Rachele Fruit for president



As a *Militant* reader for some time, I've been following the campaign of Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for president. I endorse her campaign and make a contribution because I agree with her campaign that all working people need our own political party to speak and act for us that are workers. Reading of Fruit's tour in East Palestine, Ohio, and how working people have been contaminated following the de-

railment convinced me that workers and their unions need a party of labor to help prevent another disaster for people that live near railroads as well as safer working conditions.

— Lance Anton, SMART-TD freight rail conductor, Lincoln, Nebraska

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767 For more information: www.pathfinderpress.com

'Workers face threat of new wars'

Continued from front page

communist leadership, are capable of taking power away from them. And the U.S. working class is the most important of all."

"I'm glad to be here, right in the seat of power of the most powerful — and last — imperialist empire. I, and my running mate, Dennis Richter, a veteran of many industrial union struggles, are running on the program of socialist revolution."

"Ours is an international program. This afternoon we participated in a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the forced deportation of the entire Crimean Tatar population by the counterrevolutionary Soviet government of Joseph Stalin during World War II," Fruit said. Stalin deported 200,000 men, women and children from their homeland on May 18, 1944.

"The national struggle of the Tatars continues today, with Crimea occupied by Moscow.

"When the Vladimir Putin regime in Russia unleashed its murderous war against Ukraine, the Socialist Workers Party called for the defeat of Putin's invading forces and the right of Ukraine to its sovereignty," she said. "Just as the Bolsheviks ensured the right to self-determination to Ukraine and the other oppressed nations trapped within the former czarist empire.

"Both Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom against the people of Israel have huge stakes for the working class worldwide. The decisive and clear stand of the Socialist Workers Party in the fight against Jew-hatred, as well as the defense of Ukrainian independence, places the party on the front lines at a turning point in world politics."

The meeting was chaired by James Harris, SWP candidate for Washington, D.C., Delegate to Congress.

'Workers are in a mood to fight'

"Some 40,000 hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE, the union both James and I belong to, are standing up and fighting for increased staffing and pay hikes," she said. "Workers are in a mood to fight, trying to regain some of what we have lost.

"Through union battles we learn there are no individual solutions. It is our collective action that counts.

"The profit-drive of the capitalist system itself will inevitably produce big struggles and fights," Fruit said. "This, and the practice of solidarity on the picket line and beyond, changes us.

"What is needed is a political party to mobilize and unite working people, independent of the boss parties. At root, all the questions that face us are political questions.

"We call for a labor party based on the unions, which can organize the whole working class to fight together, a social movement in a struggle to replace capitalist political power with a workers' government," she said.

Fruit said that a labor party would demand a government-funded program of public works to create jobs and build things we need, from schools and hospitals to bridges and mass transit. "I explain everywhere there are 17,000 bridges like the Francis Scott Key Bridge, called 'fracture critical,' which means a break anywhere brings the whole thing down, that need to be rebuilt."

The Key Bridge in Baltimore collapsed when it was struck by a huge

container ship that had lost power March 26. Six construction workers filling potholes there were killed.

"A labor party will have to stand up to all acts of Jew-hatred and support unions forming workers' defense guards that will be needed to take on anti-labor, rightist and fascist forces." The working class needs its own foreign policy, Fruit said.

There is no wing of the labor movement seeking to build a labor party today, but workers can register their support for this perspective by backing the Socialist Workers Party campaign.

Stand up against Jew-hatred

"Our campaign will stand up and defend the Jewish people. It was absolutely imperative to stand up to Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom, without hesitation. This was a test for every political current and party," said Fruit.

She said the conflict in the Middle East was intensifying, with big stakes for working people worldwide. "Israel is no longer just dealing with Iran's proxies — Hamas, Hezbollah and others. We are in a new situation after the first direct Iranian attack against Israeli territory April 13. They launched 320 missiles and drones," she said.

"I issued a statement immediately after that attack, saying, 'Israel has the absolute right to take all steps necessary to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews. The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people in the U.S. to condemn the Biden administration in Washington for trying to pressure Israel 'to accept the win' and not respond."

"At the same time, we oppose deepening sanctions against Iran proposed by Washington and other imperialist powers. Such measures hit working people there the hardest, who already face an economic crisis and inflation rate of over 50%," she said.

"The most important obstacle to the expansionist course of the regime

Fruit joins campaigning, fight for ballot status in Tennessee

BY AMY HUSK

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rachele Fruit and Socialist Workers Party campaign supporters spent three days here May 20-22 campaigning and petitioning to put the party on the ballot in Tennessee. They collected 104 signatures toward the 375 required, won five endorsers to the campaign and met with fighting unionists from recent strikes in the area.

Fruit spoke with Jackie Buggs and Nikki Jackson, members of United Auto Workers Local 2406 at the General Motors ACDelco Parts Distribution Center here May 20. They went on strike last October as part of the national auto strikes. At the same time, she met with Andrew Peña and Kayla Chunn. Peña is a member of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 390G, which just ended a hard-fought 10-month strike at International Flavors and Fragrances here. Chunn is Peña's fiancée and a union supporter.

Buggs and Jackson were regulars on the BCTGM picket line at IFF. "Whenever I see a picket line I have to stop to show support," said Buggs. "We can only win if we come out for each other."

Fruit told them about her participation in a trip to the Dominican Republic to attend a conference of the Sugarcane Workers Union. Most of its members are Haitian. "Some of these workers have



Militant/Amy Husk

Support grows for Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. president, in Memphis, Tennessee, May 20. From left, Jackie Buggs, UAW Local 2406; Fruit; Nikki Jackson, UAW Local 2406; Kayla Chunn, union supporter; Andrew Peña, BCTGM Local 390G and former IFF striker.

in Tehran is Iran's working people — Persian, Kurdish, Azerbaijani, Arab, Baluchi. The class struggle in Iran is central to helping overcome the national divisions and uniting the toilers of the Middle East. We say only the working classes of Israel, Palestine, Iran and the whole region can find solutions in their common interests."

A lively discussion followed Fruit's presentation. A number of speakers commented on the economic and social crisis facing working people today.

"Conditions are worsening," said Fruit. "Life expectancy is at a 25-year low. The birthrate in the U.S. is at the lowest rate recorded since the government began tracking it in the 1930s. The root causes are the squeeze on workers' living standards and rising uncertainty about what the future holds amid today's capitalist crisis.

"Working-class solidarity and acting on the growing consciousness that we are a class with a goal to take power is a fight worth fighting," she said.

Others noted the growing drive toward war. "It has been over 30 years since the SWP described the U.S. rul-

ers' war in Iraq as the opening guns of World War III. That seems self-evident to millions of people today, as more wars to redivide the world and its resources loom. Washington is rearming, Germany and Japan too, and China is building island bases in the South China Sea — just a few examples.

"There is more danger than ever that some capitalist regime, under extreme pressure, will resort to the use of nuclear weapons," Fruit said.

Glenn Forcey, a union hotel worker here, endorsed Fruit's campaign, telling her, "What you are doing is great. Neither the Democrats or the Republicans are doing a thing for workers. We have to take matters into our own hands."

Harris read a message from another new endorser, James Campbell, a member of SMART-TD Local 1933 in Virginia. "The fight for just and fair treatment of workers all around the world is not carried on just a single front," he wrote. "I show my support for this campaign to help promote and spearhead a mighty javelin in the right direction."

Fruit urged everyone present to endorse her campaign and to get involved.

been cutting cane for 60 years. They are fighting for pensions so they can retire. And the company owns their housing so they wouldn't have anywhere to live if they stopped working," Fruit said.

The Dominican unionists had been inspired to hear about the strike at International Flavors and Fragrances and made a banner and sent a letter of support to them. Local 390G members responded by sending a return letter of solidarity to the Dominican workers signed by over 100 workers.

Buggs looked at a photo Fruit showed her of the sugarcane workers with their banner in solidarity with the IFF unionists. "That picture is great," she said, "It really shows what solidarity means."

Peña, Buggs and Jackson became endorsers of the Socialist Workers Party campaign and Buggs agreed to serve as a presidential elector.

Fruit also met with Cedric Wilson, president of Local 390G, and with Sweetrica Baker and Kevin Bradshaw from the Memphis Central Labor Council. Their discussions centered on the need for a labor party that can fight in the interests of the entire working class and why the fight against Jew-hatred must be taken up by the labor movement. Wilson endorsed Fruit's campaign.

Fruit's supporters met up with BCTGM Local 390G member Ef-

fie Graham at her home after she had worked a long shift at International Flavors and Fragrances. Graham, a 32-year employee and stalwart on the picket line during the strike, has been called back to work. She and others will continue the fight for a better contract and working conditions, while working side by side with workers hired during the strike.

"I wasn't so eager to work there again after all we went through. But new people that the company hired don't know yet how to work together," she said. "We have been trying to help them see what the company promises on one hand they take away with the other." Graham endorsed the SWP campaign.

Memphis is marked by a rich history of intertwined labor battles and the fight to overthrow Jim Crow segregation. Fruit and her supporters visited the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and today is the National Civil Rights Museum. They also toured the I Am a Man Plaza, which is a memorial to the hundreds of sanitation workers who struck for dignity in 1968.

They enjoyed lunch at Ms. Girlee's Soul Food Restaurant, run by the family of Baxter Leach, one of the striking sanitation workers. Fruit was welcomed by patrons, some of whom signed petitions for the socialist candidate.

Constitutional freedoms are fruit of hard-fought political struggle

BY TERRY EVANS

Driven by anti-Trump hysteria, the Joseph Biden White House and Democratic prosecutors are using the courts to try to frame up and drive their main opponent for the presidency out of politics. In doing so, they're dealing serious blows to constitutional freedoms.

These rights, won over decades of class struggles, provide working people with crucial protection from interference by the capitalist government into political activity, religious beliefs and union organizing, and other fundamental rights.

Regardless of the fact their target is the leading candidate of one of the bosses' parties, the drive by Democrats to criminalize political differences will inevitably come back on the working class. Workers need constitutional freedoms to discuss, debate and organize when we walk strike picket lines, build union solidarity and whenever we take steps to organize independently of the bosses' parties in the political arena.

The erosion of these rights — under either Democratic or Republican administrations — only serves the interests of the capitalist rulers against working people. Safeguarding the Constitution's limits on the reach of the state is in the interests of all workers.

Constitutional rights were won by the toiling population in the course of two revolutions, the first ending the rule of the British crown and the second overturning slavery. Freedoms conquered by artisans, farmers, the emerging labor movement and others in these battles were put to use in the class struggles that forged industrial unions in the 1930s; by the movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and '60s; in fights against Washington's wars from Korea to Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan; and in efforts since 1919 to build a communist party on U.S. soil.

Today, the U.S. rulers are struggling to shore up their dominant but diminishing place in the capitalist world pecking order, leading them into sharpening clashes with rivals that will

lead to new wars. The record of the first and second imperialist world wars shows that these slaughters are always accompanied by attempts by the rulers to restrict political freedoms.

Since the late 1930s, they've relied on the FBI as their central political police force. This shift was announced with the 1941 conviction and imprisonment of leaders of the Socialist Workers Party under the Smith "Gag" Act that outlaws advocating revolutionary ideas.

"Defending and extending the freedoms protected by the US Constitution is at the center of the class struggle today," the SWP said in its 2022 political resolution, published in *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*.

New moves to gag Trump

Liberal sections of the U.S. ruling class, fervent Biden supporters and their backers in the middle class are trying to throw Trump in jail and prevent tens of millions from voting for him. They've organized several lawsuits, in which the right to a fair trial and other key freedoms are being suppressed.

The latest attempt to silence Trump came May 24. Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith demanded Judge Aileen Cannon prevent him from saying anything about the FBI. Smith has charged Trump under the Espionage Act with mishandling classified documents.

Smith's pretext for this assault on free speech was Trump's May 21 statement that the Biden administration "authorized the FBI to use deadly force" during the raid by 30 heavily armed FBI and Secret Service agents on his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Attorney General Merrick Garland ordered the unconstitutional break-in in 2022. Smith claims Trump's statement about the raid was "misleading."

But the FBI was explicitly authorized to use deadly force at Mar-a-Lago if its agents thought it was warranted. And FBI sharpshooters *do* have a long record of carrying out murderous assaults. These include the 1992 shooting death of an unarmed mother — who was holding a baby — and her



Courtroom sketch/Christine Cornell

Michael Cohen testifies May 13 in New York courtroom, with prosecutor Alvin Bragg, left, and Donald Trump before Judge Juan Merchan, who imposed gag order on Trump. Biden administration uses courts to try to prevent former president from running, attacks political rights.

teenage son in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and the FBI siege and assault the following year on the Branch Davidian religious group that led to the massacre of more than 80 people in Waco, Texas.

Ever since Trump clinched the Republican nomination in 2016, Democrats have unleashed the FBI to go after him. FBI boss James Comey and former chief Robert Mueller were tasked with bringing Trump down both before the election and trying to impeach him afterward on utterly fabricated claims that he "colluded" with Moscow.

Learning the true history of the capitalist rulers' political police is essential for working people.

The Socialist Workers Party launched an unprecedented lawsuit against the FBI in 1973, as more became known about FBI spying, harassment and disruption against fighters opposing Jim Crow segregation and Washington's war in Vietnam. The victorious case helped uncover the massive scope of FBI abuses against the party and other opponents of government policy.

In 1986 federal Judge Thomas Grie-

sa ruled that the use of cop informers to infiltrate and spy on communists violated the Constitution's guarantee of privacy and freedom of association; that the FBI's burglaries, planting of microphones and opening of mail at party offices was illegal; and that the FBI's Cointelpro disruption of SWP activity and harassment of its members was against the law. The party's campaign and legal victory defended the political space for all working people.

Today prosecutor Smith is seeking to refurbish the FBI and deal a blow to political rights, insisting that Trump "does not have an unlimited right to speak."

Liberals' disregard for constitutional rights was also displayed in New York, where Dexter Taylor was sentenced to 10 years in jail April 22 for legally purchasing gun parts and assembling weapons as a hobby in his home. During the trial, Taylor's lawyer pointed to his right to bear arms under the Second Amendment. "Do not bring the Second Amendment into this courtroom. It doesn't exist here," decreed Judge Abena Darkeh, "This is New York."

Ukrainian forces beat back new Moscow attack against Kharkiv

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Facing a new cross-border surge by Moscow's army in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine, the country's tenacious defenders have pushed the invading forces back. Ukrainian forces have recaptured lost ground in border towns through intense street fighting against Russian infantry. The "human wave" warfare imposed by Moscow's military brass has led to extensive losses by its troops. But more Russian units are massing across the border.

The Kremlin has also stepped up air attacks on civilian targets in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. In the deadliest incident in several weeks, 18 people were killed and 48 injured May 25 by a Russian strike against a large hardware and garden store. Two massive glide bombs, timed for a sunny afternoon when nearly 200 people were inside, caused a huge fire there. Two days earlier, seven people were killed and dozens injured when a Russian missile hit a printing plant.

Russian aerial assaults on Kharkiv, only 25 miles from the border across from the Russian city of Belgorod, are aimed at demoralizing residents

and making the city unlivable. Deadly glide bombs — big, cheap Soviet-era explosives retrofitted with winglets and guidance systems — are being launched daily by warplanes 30 to 40 miles away inside Russian airspace.

Washington has ordered Kyiv not to deploy U.S.-supplied weaponry for attacks inside Russia.

While some residents have decided to leave Kharkiv, most are reacting with courage and resilience, adapting to keep up their everyday life. City authorities are moving more facilities underground, beginning with schools.

In heavy battles May 27 near the devastated town of Vovchansk, 45 miles northeast of Kharkiv, Russian forces suffered some 1,500 casualties that day alone. They also lost 21 tanks and a number of other armored vehicles and artillery pieces.

Sergei Mamayev from the 9th Motor Rifle Regiment was one of the scores of Russian soldiers taken as prisoners of war. In a video he explained that Russian commanders forced poorly trained troops into intense gunfire, where they suffered heavy losses. Captured survivors received good treatment from Ukrainian forces, he said.

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class

Decades of spying by FBI targeting working-class organizations and opponents of government policies. How expansion of "national security" state used to protect capitalist rule had bipartisan backing. \$10



FBI on Trial

The victory in the 15-year Socialist Workers Party suit against government spying. \$17

pathfinderpress.com

Election in UK

Continued from page 3

places at the top table of the imperialist powers.

Last year, former Armed Forces Chief Richard Dannatt complained that London could no longer wage simultaneous military campaigns of the scale it did in Iraq and Afghanistan. But neither Labour nor Conservatives are committed to reversing previous cuts to armed forces personnel. They're constrained by Britain's decline, rising government debt and ongoing economic weakness.

"Whenever Labour or Conservative politicians speak of 'British interests,' they really mean the interests of the country's ruling capitalist families, not workers," Holmes told the *Militant*. "We need our own policies on all questions. The CL says not a penny, not a person, for the imperialist government, its budget and its military."

Despite pressure from US rulers, Israel fights on to defeat Hamas

Continued from front page
open space for struggles by workers of all religions and nationalities for their common interests against capitalist ruling classes across the region.

On May 24, the U.N.'s International Court of Justice ordered Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive" in Rafah, falsely claiming that it was leading to genocide. Trying to portray itself as evenhanded, the court also "expressed its grave concern over the fate of the hostages," and urged their release. But it said not one word about Hamas' war to destroy Israel and kill Jews.

In response to the court's ruling, the White House only said that the Joseph Biden administration's position has been "clear and consistent." Biden has been pressing the Israeli government for months to stop its push in Gaza.

Amped up anti-Israel propaganda

French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, EU chief diplomat Joseph Borrell, liberal bourgeois news media and apologists for Hamas seized on civilian deaths that occurred May 26 at an encampment for displaced civilians in western Rafah to amp up their campaign blaming Israel for the death and destruction in Gaza. They repeated Hamas' claim the deaths were the result of an Israeli bomb.

Hamas officials claim Israel deliberately targeted the camp and that 45 people died from shrapnel and a resulting fire, but there is no independent verification. Israeli army officials say the airstrike was about 200 yards from the camp. They say there is evidence that shrapnel may have struck a Hamas weapons store, setting off explosions and the blaze.

But to the liberal media and bourgeois governments around the world the facts don't matter. The *Washington Post*, for example, barely mentions the Israel Defense Forces' explanation but highlights accusations by the Hamas-run health ministry that the deaths were deliberate murder.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel will investigate the incident but will not stop its operations in Rafah until it achieves its goals: dismantling Hamas, freeing the hostages, and forcing Hezbollah in Lebanon to cease its daily missile and drone attacks that have forced the evacuation of tens of thousands in northern Israel.

Israeli troops continued their offensive the next day, going after Hamas thugs hiding in tunnels, eliminating rocket launchers used to fire on ci-

vilian areas in Israel, and destroying Hamas weapons stores.

U.S. only interest: profits, influence

While the Biden administration keeps saying it is "standing by Israel," in reality its only concern is to advance U.S. imperialism's economic and political interests in the Middle East. To the White House, the war to defeat Hamas is a growing obstacle to those goals.

The *Financial Times* reported that Washington is close to a deal with the rulers of Saudi Arabia, after several years of tense relations. As part of improved ties — which Washington wants as a counter to Moscow and Beijing — Biden would lift the ban on the sale of U.S. offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, increase trade for oil and provide aid for the Saudi nuclear program. The deal would include the Saudi government moving to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

"US officials have made clear," the *Financial Times* reports, "that any deal also hinges on securing a pause in fighting in Gaza" and a "credible pathway" toward an independent Palestinian state. But today, that would mean Hamas or Hamas apologists being in charge, a permanent threat to Jews and all others in Israel, and for working people throughout the Middle East.

An Iranian nuclear bomb?

As part of its goal of destroying Israel, the bourgeois clerical regime in Iran has been enriching uranium to 60% purity, close to the 90% purity needed for making several nuclear weapons. Netanyahu has said that Tehran making a nuclear bomb is an existential threat to Israel.

Washington wants a new deal with the Iranian rulers. It opposes a proposal from London, Paris and Berlin for the International Atomic Energy Agency to pass a resolution demanding Tehran cooperate with an investigation into the regime's advances toward building nuclear weapons.

The Iranian rulers used the funeral of President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash May 19, to bolster their efforts to expand their reactionary influence in the region and threats to destroy Israel. Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas' political bureau, was a featured speaker at the funeral. "We affirm that Gaza will continue the resistance until the liberation of all the land," Haniyeh said, noting the support of the Iranian regime's leadership against "the Zionist entity."

But that support is not shared by working people in Iran. When Iranian officials have tried to drum up sup-



Free Union of Iranian Workers
Railroad workers rally outside company office in Kerman province, Iran, May 19, protest firing of co-workers, demand better wages and working conditions. Protests, strikes by workers continue despite regime's attempt to mobilize support for destruction of Israel as refuge for Jews.

port for Hamas and for the Tehran-led "axis of resistance" at soccer games, they have been jeered.

Raisi was hated by many for his key role on the counterrevolutionary regime's committee that sentenced thousands of political prisoners to death at the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, without any pretense of a trial.

The year after Raisi's election as president, the regime repressed mass protests over the death of Zhina Amini, a Kurdish woman who had been arrested by the hated "morality" police for not following the reactionary dress code. Some 500 protesters were killed and more than 22,000 arrested.

While the regime organized tens of thousands to attend Raisi's funeral, some of the press in Iran noted the at-

tendance was smaller and less enthusiastic than for funerals of other high-ranking officials.

Just a week before his death, truck drivers protesting rising costs of spare parts, scarcity of fuel and inflation in basic necessities brought their plight outside the Tehran International Book Fair May 11.

There has been no pause in working-class struggles. Retirees continue their weekly protests across the country. The Organizing Council of Oil Contract Workers reported that more than 2,000 workers had been on strike in southern Iran since May 18. The union said that "greedy contractors" wanted to freeze wages, despite the March decision by the Supreme Labor Council for a 35% increase to offset the effects of inflation.

New video of Hamas abuse of women hostages shows Jew-hatred, brutality

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hamas claims charges that it massacred civilians and raped and mutilated women in its anti-Jewish pogrom in Israel Oct. 7 and continues to mistreat those it took hostage are lies. There's just one problem with that claim — the facts, including videos that Hamas operatives themselves filmed and posted online that day.

The latest to come to light is a Hamas video of five young woman soldiers dressed in pajamas soon after their capture Oct. 7. Four of the women have bloodied faces. It includes footage of their hands being tied behind their backs and then being loaded onto vehicles and taken to Gaza. The video, obtained by the Israel Defense Forces, was released May 22 by their families for the world to see.

The five women — Liri Albag, Karina Arieiev, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa and Naama Levy — were unarmed spotters for the Israeli army at the Nahal Oz base near the Gaza border. All five — alive or dead — are still being held in Gaza.

One of the armed thugs yells at the women in Arabic, "You dogs — we will step on you." Another refers to them as "sabaya," which can mean "female captives" or "sex slaves." Right after that he adds in English, "You are so beautiful."

When Levy tells their armed captives

in English, "I have friends in Palestine," the captors yell at her to be quiet. She was active in groups that brought together Jews and Arabs and fought for Palestinian rights. But that makes no difference to Hamas, whose goal is the destruction of Israel and the death or expulsion of all Jews there.

Hamas issued a statement claiming that the video had been "edited and manipulated." But family members replied the only editing done was to remove even more horrific shots of the Hamas assault.

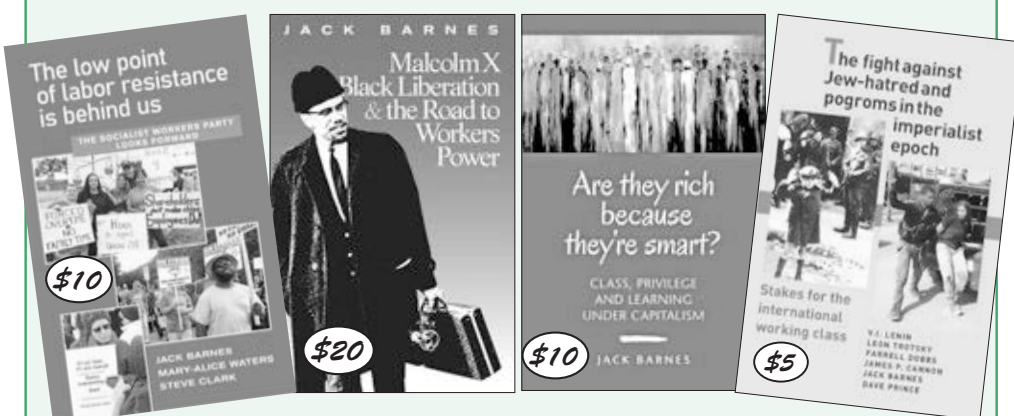
Another Hamas video, which is still posted on its internet sites, shows Levy a little while later, being roughly pulled out of the cargo space of a jeep in Gaza and violently shoved into the back seat as other thugs pile on top of her.

"The female soldiers were treated according to the ethical standards of our Resistance," Hamas claimed, "And there was no proven mistreatment."

But other statements by Hamas and its apologists get at the heart of Hamas' so-called ethical standards. They say all Jews in Israel, from infants to the elderly, are "settlers" who have no right to be there and that anything done to them is "justified." This includes the nearly half of Israel's Jews who trace their roots to Arab countries.

Watch the video and judge for yourself.

Books for working-class fighters



See page 8 for distributor near you

Imperialist war deepens political crises, revolutionary prospects

The Socialist Workers Party in World War II: Writings and Speeches, 1940-43 by James P. Cannon is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. In his Oct. 2, 1942, report, "The workers and the Second World War," excerpted below, the "anticipatory crisis" Cannon refers to was a 1939-40 political fight in the SWP against a petty-bourgeois opposition. Buckling under Washington's patriotic pressures as the U.S. rulers drove to enter the war, the opposition abandoned the SWP's course of building a proletarian party in both program and composition and defending the Soviet workers state, despite its counter-revolutionary degeneration under Joseph Stalin. From exile in Mexico, Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky led this successful political fight. Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Meeting of 800 in New York, June 8, 1944, calls for release of James P. Cannon and 17 other SWP and Minneapolis Teamsters leaders. Under Smith Act, an assault on free speech, they were imprisoned for leading labor opposition to U.S. rulers' entry into World War II.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Capitalism today signifies permanent war and universal militarism. And from this conception we draw our tactics and our strategy. We foresaw the war. We prepared for the war, and we understood that the war would pose all the social problems for solution by military means. That is why our program is a war program, a military program, which excludes any form of pacifist ab-

stentionism. That is why our ranks are animated by the conception that in the arena of militarism, which is today the main arena, we will learn how to participate and how to prevail.

We meet ten months after the formal entry of the United States government into the war. The Second World War is a continuation of the First World War, but not a simple repetition by any means. A continuation signifies, as Comrade Trotsky wrote, a sharpening and a deepening of all the features of the war. And just as this war is not a simple repetition of the first one, although a continuation, neither is the situation confronting the revolutionary vanguard, nor its tasks and its problems, a simple repetition of the situation and the tasks and the problems of the revolutionary vanguard at the outbreak of the First World War and during its course.

All the differences are in our favor, if we understand the situation to the bottom. The decay of capitalism, which was signaled by the First World War, has become the death agony of capitalism in the Second World War. The enemy, in spite of all superficial appearances, is weaker. On the other hand, the vanguard of the proletariat is better prepared and stronger today than it was in the analogous period of the First World War. ...

The First World War produced deep crises in all the workers' parties; the real discussion of the attitude to be

taken toward the war began only after the war was under way. The war even produced discussions and splits in the ranks of the workers' vanguard. There were defections among the Bolsheviks. This is history that is perhaps unknown to many comrades because Bolshevism has been represented as something that was born perfect and carried through to victory without any internal difficulties or errors or defections. Not true at all. Bolshevism, like every other current in the workers' movement, grew and developed in the tests of action and took its final shape only in the fire of great events. ...

War greatly intensifies and multiplies the pressure of bourgeois society on the workers' vanguard. All the force of material and moral pressure of bourgeois society is brought to bear in the most intensified manner at the time of the declaration of war and immediately following. ...

[W]e are healthy, we are free from a war crisis ... because we cured ourselves of the petty-bourgeois sickness in good time. We had the good fortune to have an *anticipatory* crisis before the United States entered the war, a crisis which we conquered with the help of Trotsky. We secured our internal peace by a timely *preventive* war. ...

The war was declared on the very same day that we were sentenced — December 8, 1941. That certainly was

a symbolic coincidence. Nothing could better symbolize our irreconcilable opposition to the imperialist war, and to the capitalist state preparing and waging the war; and nothing, also, could better symbolize our enemies' recognition of our attitude than this unexpungeable fact: that they declared war and sentenced the party leaders to prison on the same day and at the same hour — December 8, 1941.

There is not and there has never been the slightest possibility of misunderstanding our position on the war. We were given the opportunity on December 8 — the day of our sentencing — to recant. On December 8, the very day that the radios were blaring with jingo speeches in Congress preceding the declaration of war, the defendants were given an opportunity to disavow what they had said in the trial. Nobody did it. Thus our first response to the war was an action in court, a thousand times more important from a political point of view than any ritualistic statement.

A statement, after all, doesn't constitute a fight against the war. There are some people who don't know that yet. A statement is a promise to oppose the war. But our stand in the Minneapolis courtroom was the thing itself. ...

The Fourth International is the genuine historical movement, not made arbitrarily, but really expressing the historical course of development and this historic mission of the proletariat. ...

Anglo-American imperialism does not and cannot recognize Hitler's conquest of Europe. Hitler's domination of Europe means inevitably a further clash with America and England, as a minor partner, for the conquest of the world. Imperialistic interests forbid them to let Hitler have Europe in "peace" to exploit and incorporate in his so-called new order. That is why the war in Europe is still going on and will continue to go on until the workers end it by revolution. For this the workers need more than ever their own independent organization and their own independent program. ...

The fact that the workers in Russia took power, the fact that they had a party able to lead the victorious struggle for power — this gives us the assurance for all time that the workers are capable of producing such a party and such a leadership in other countries and on an international scale.

June
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder Readers Club Specials

30%
DISCOUNT

The Socialist Workers Party in World War II
Writings and Speeches, 1940-43
JAMES P. CANNON
How the communist movement prepared to withstand the patriotic wave as the U.S. rulers drove to join second world slaughter to advance their domination.
\$23. **Special price \$16**

Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity
RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA
\$5. **Special price \$3.50**

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs
Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas
JOSÉ RAMÓN FERNÁNDEZ, FIDEL CASTRO
\$17. **Special price \$12**

Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom
NELSON BLACKSTOCK
\$15. **Special price \$10.50**

Rosa Luxemburg Speaks
\$25 **Special price \$17.50**

El trabajo, la naturaleza y la evolución de la humanidad
(Labor, Nature and the Evolution of Humanity)
FREDERICK ENGELS, GEORGE NOVACK, KARL MARX, MARY-ALICE WATERS
\$12. **Special price \$8.50**

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL July 10

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: oaklandswp@gmail.com. **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 5711 NW 7th Ave. Unit B. Zip: 33127. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612) 271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

OHIO: Cincinnati: 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038. Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: Dallas-Fort Worth: 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 108 Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 650 S. Orcas St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 2, First floor, 275 George St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604. Email: clydsydney@outlook.com

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: cllcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

FBI is the capitalist rulers' political police

Below is an excerpt from the Socialist Workers Party 2022 Political Resolution, printed in The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward. It describes the consolidation of the FBI as the rulers' main political police force in the late 1930s. Today Washington is working overtime to try to refurbish the FBI's reputation, to better use it against militant workers, communists and anyone who it fears threatens its rule. Copyright © 2023 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

In September 1939 the Democratic Party administration of Franklin Roosevelt issued a "Presidential Directive" to ensure "the internal safety of our country." That executive order initiated a transformation of the FBI, which up to then had been a federal police force pursuing interstate law-breaking, financial fraud, and organized crime, a force most of whose field agents were lawyers or accountants. It was reborn as a *federal political police* acting at the behest of the president, whichever party occupied the White House. Its agents carried arms as a matter of course.

The FBI was now aimed above all at stabilizing and preserving the capitalist state, as preparations accelerated for the U.S. rulers to take the country into the expanding imperialist slaughter.

Long-established "red squads," "bomb squads," and "radical units" of state and local police departments, as well as company goons and other private security forces, were no longer sufficient to the global needs of U.S. finance capital. Even under conditions of bourgeois democracy, the imperialist ruling class, whose executive committee sits in Washington, must have a national political police able to operate secretly and largely with impunity. ...

Roosevelt's 1939 executive order instructed the FBI "to take charge of" investigations related to "espionage," "counterespionage," "neutrality laws," and, most importantly for the working class, what his administration called "subversive activities." The latter was an undefined and elastic term calculated to include militant trade unionism, independent working-class political action, and, above all, any determined opposition to the US rulers' entry into the second imperialist world war.

Coach fired for saying, 'Women's sports are for women'

Continued from front page

gratulations to Emma Weyant, the *real* woman who won the NCAA 500-yard freestyle event." Weyant had finished second to Lia Thomas, a man who identifies as a woman, at the 2022 swimming championship.

"What do you believe? I can't be quiet on this," Russell added to the post. "I've spent my life playing sports, starting & coaching sports programs for girls & women."

A student reported Russell's comments to college authorities. Oberlin's athletic director then demanded Russell write a letter of apology to the lacrosse team and the whole athletics department. When she refused, the director set up a meeting between Russell, the team and a "mediator."

"I was screamed at, all the while the AD, Natalie Winkelfoos, looked on silently," Russell told *phillylacrosse.com*. A week later Russell was forced to attend another inquisition with the lacrosse team present and was grilled by three administrators for almost two hours. She was told to listen to her team members, repeat back what they said about her and not respond.

Winkelfoos, the associate vice president for athletics, told Russell, "Unfortunately, you fall into a category of people that are kind of filled with hate in the world." She said some people on campus were calling her "transphobic" and "unsafe."

Winkelfoos also berated Russell for bringing in another coach, a medical specialist, to talk with the athletes about the menstrual cycle. Winkelfoos claimed students consider that "an attack on trans because you have people on your team who hate their period."

"It's acceptable to have your own opinions, but when they go against Oberlin College's beliefs, it's a problem for your employment," Creg Jantz, senior associate director of athletics, told Russell.

Russell had recorded the second meeting and used excerpts as part of a YouTube documentary she helped make, "Burned at the Stake: One NCAA Coach's Battle to Protect Women's Sports." Shortly after it was



Kim Russell speaks at "We Won't Back Down" rally in Phoenix, Arizona, Jan. 11, to protest male athletes who identify as women competing in women's sporting events.

posted in September 2023, the college removed Russell as head coach, assigning her to a desk job where she would have no contact with students. She quit Oct. 4. Russell had coached at the campus for six years.

"Oberlin — like many higher-level institutions these days — only seems to support the First Amendment if your values align with theirs," Russell wrote in the *New York Post* Sept. 8. "Disagree, and you will be verbally and emotionally attacked, bullied, shunned and vilified. Perhaps even ultimately forced out."

In "Burned at the Stake" she says, "It is scientific that, biologically, males and females are different. Period. I don't believe biological males should be in women's locker rooms."

In December Russell testified before Congress alongside former NCAA swimmer and women's rights activist Riley Gaines in support of Title IX, the 1972 civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs that receive federal assistance. Its passage came out of the movement for women's rights in the late 1960s and early '70s that opened the door to transforming women's athletics.

Flight attendant unions call for June 13 rallies

Continued from front page

across the U.S. and in London and Guam in protest.

Millions of workers understand what they are fighting for — livable work schedules, wages high enough to pay the bills, decent work conditions, job safety and the end of divisive wage tiers.

Far from the glamorous job the airlines try to paint it as, new hires at American Airlines make \$27,000 a year before taxes, with some having to apply for food stamps and public housing assistance to get by.

To top it all off, flight attendants are only paid for the time from when the plane doors shut to when they open. Hours of labor they do loading and unloading flights goes completely unpaid.

Using the excuse that airline workers' labor is "essential," the government imposes the anti-labor Railway Labor Act on them. This is what President Joseph Biden did to rail workers in 2022, getting a bipartisan Congress to shove a contract the workers had rejected down their throats.

The bosses' government — and their two parties, the Democrats and Republicans — use the act to bar most strikes and force endless delays in negotiations by tying up these unions in miles of red tape.

We urge all *Militant* readers to turn out and bring along friends, family and co-workers. To find the protest site nearest you, details are posted on the *Militant* website.

Push to shut Beth Israel

Continued from front page

stopped the bosses.

Health workers at Beth Israel, whose names were protected to prevent retaliation, reported to Politico that programs continue to be terminated and the staff has dwindled from 1,800 to about 1,300 in less than a year. Many more saw the handwriting on the wall and are looking for new jobs. The workers said management is "quietly trying to ensure Beth Israel closes."

Some floors are nearly empty. The hospital has stopped accepting a growing number of patients in its emergency department, canceled its on-call MRI service, let its ambulance contract lapse and halted outpatient surgeries.

These cuts have led to workers' deaths. George Faust, a 76-year-old retired printer, fell out of a chair in January, resulting in broken ribs and a collapsed lung. After being rushed to Beth Israel, he was told the facility was too understaffed to care for a "trauma patient," his wife, Kathleen Faust, told the *New York Times*. He eventually died after blood pooled in his lungs and abdomen after he was shuffled to two other hospitals.

Even though it is illegal to transfer patients in need of treatment, other cases cited by workers included gastrointestinal bleeding, gangrene, bowel obstruction, and one with an expanding muscle abscess who waited two hours to be moved elsewhere for surgery.

"We had a functioning hospital and then suddenly it was like we don't," one worker said.

Beth Israel began as a small clinic serving Jewish immigrants in the late 1800s and grew into one of the city's largest hospitals.

Beth Israel isn't making enough money because many of its patients are on Medicaid, Loren Riegelhaupt, a spokesman for Mount Sinai, told the media. In an effort to defend its "right" to shut the hospital, management insisted, "Refusing to allow a failing independent, nonprofit hospital to close is unconstitutional."

Under capitalism medical care is treated like any other business — a way to generate profit for the hospitals, insurance and pharmaceutical bosses, not to provide treatment for the millions who need it.

Crisis of medical care in New York

Over the past 20 years, more than a dozen hospitals have closed in New York City. Many others have shut their doors in rural areas, subjecting workers living there to ever-greater travel distances to get any care. In April 2010 St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village closed its doors. It had provided one of the busiest full-service emergency rooms in the city, giving care to many low-income and uninsured patients, especially when the explosion of the AIDS epidemic hit.

Three thousand workers, over half of them members of the Service Employees International Union Local 1199, lost their jobs. Just two months later North General Hospital in Harlem closed down, despite protests by workers and those who live in the community.

Currently on the chopping block is SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, the only state-run hospital in the city. State officials announced earlier this year they're ramping down operations there.

By April, hospitals across the country had boosted their prices by 7.7% from a year ago, the biggest increase in 13 years. The cost for vital procedures continues to rise way above what many working people can afford. The average cost to get a stent in an artery to improve blood flow is now \$15,650; intensive care for newborns can go for \$7,900 a day; and breast biopsies using a needle are over \$5,000. Meanwhile, health-insurance premiums have shot up at the fastest rate in a decade.

As prices soar, workers in the U.S. face lower life expectancy and the highest incidence of multiple chronic conditions among imperialist nations. This includes higher rates of maternal and infant deaths.

Medical care under capitalism is class-divided. In the U.S., the gap in life expectancy between the richest 1% and the poorest 1% is 15 years for men and 10 for women.

'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