

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

What Hiroshima shows about horrors of nuclear weapons

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 31 AUGUST 19, 2024

Oppose US intervention in Venezuela

BY RÓGER CALERO

In a highly polarized election in Venezuela July 28, incumbent President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner by the head of the government's National Electoral Council. The opposition and its candidate, Edmundo González Urrutia, refused to accept the ruling, claiming they had won. Washington seized on the op-

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portunity to advance its long-standing drive to impose a government of the U.S. rulers' liking in Venezuela.

With typical imperialist arrogance, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Aug. 1 "it is clear to the United States" that González had won. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who together with the presidents of Brazil and Colombia has been closely involved in negotiations between Washington and the opposition and the Venezuelan government, called Blinken's statement "reckless." He said it is

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Working people face continuing crisis of high prices, debts

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"This is the most money we've ever made and this is the brokest we've ever felt," said Nicole Lewis, a mother of three who lives near Flint, Michigan, the *Wall Street Journal* reported July 30. Working as a medical assistant, she and her husband's combined pay rose after the pandemic.

But they still couldn't cover the persistent price hikes for everything from groceries to auto insurance. So like millions, they became dependent on using their credit cards, a giant profit-making bonanza for the big banks, which charge over 20% annual interest rates.

Trips to the beach and bowling alley are out, she told the *Journal*. Shopping at thrift stores is in. She's changing jobs to become a teaching aide, with a \$1-an-hour higher wage and hours that will allow her to cut back on child care fees.

Tens of millions of workers face similar crisis conditions.

But the situation is starkly different for the ruling rich. "An alternate real-

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Endorse the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

'We say the working class needs its own party, a party of labor'



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Dennis Richter, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, talks with truck driver Steven Lutchen outside farmers market in St. Paul, Minnesota, Aug. 4. Lutchen liked what he heard, signed petition to put Rachele Fruit and Richter on the ballot.

Harris and Obama put their stamp on Democratic Party

BY TERRY EVANS

Since the Democrats unceremoniously pushed aside incumbent President Joseph Biden as their 2024 candidate and anointed Kamala Harris to replace him, they've made significant progress stabilizing their party and presenting a new political image.

Donald Trump has united the Republicans, saying he'll defend working

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Minnesota: Thousands hear the SWP campaign program

BY GABRIELLE PROSSER

MINNEAPOLIS — "No offense, but how are you guys going to change things?" Steven Lutchen, a truck driver, asked Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, at a Hmong Farmers Market in St. Paul Aug. 4. "They won't give you any publicity."

"We're counting on what's beginning to change among working people,"

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Rulers in Tehran threaten to widen Middle East war against Israel, Jews



Jamal Awad/Flash90

Family, friends at July 28 funeral for 12 Druze children killed day before by Hezbollah missile from Lebanon that hit soccer field in Majdal Shams in Israeli-ruled Golan Heights.

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Israeli people are preparing to defend themselves from threatened new assaults from the reactionary capitalist regime in Iran and its allies, including Hezbollah and other groups in the "axis of resistance." As the *Militant* goes to press these attacks have yet to begin.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said they would inflict "harsh punishment" on the "Zionist regime" in response to the July 31 assassination of

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and of Fuad Shukur, a top Hezbollah military leader, near Beirut the day before. But despite all the harsh rhetoric, it's clear that the regime is looking to act in a way that avoids provoking a devastating counterattack by the Israeli government. Tehran's foreign ministry said it "did not seek to raise regional tensions."

Khamenei said Iran's proxies, from Yemen to Iraq, will step up attacks on

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More unions vote: 'Washington take Cuba off your "terrorist" list'

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — Over the past few months a number of unions have voted to urge the U.S. government to remove Cuba from its State Sponsors of Terrorism list. At its July 16-17 convention,

the 2.3 million-member California State AFL-CIO passed a resolution urging the national AFL-CIO to "inform President Biden of the AFL-CIO's opposition to the inclusion of Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism."

Washington's listing "continues to inflict daily hardships and deprivations on the Cuban people creating shortages of basic necessities like food and medicine, and severely restricting international financial and trade opportunities," the

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Join fight against ban on 'Militant' in Florida prison

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

More letters are needed to urge the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee to reverse the ban of *Militant* issue no. 17 imposed by prison authorities at Jackson Correctional Institution in Malone. It's been over three months since this issue was impounded at the end of April, with no response from the committee.

Every day that this ban is maintained, especially for such a long pe-

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Fight for a world where children can prosper, not one without kids 4

— On the picket line, p. 8 —

Endeavor Air flight attendants rally for parity in wages, benefits

UK: 1,400 workers vote for union at Amazon in Coventry

New Labour Party gov't in UK turns its back on Jews in Israel

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Fast on the heels of its election victory, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government has taken steps to hone its defense of the interests of the U.K.'s capitalist rulers at home and abroad.

Within days, Foreign Secretary David Lammy was in Israel meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and in the West Bank with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa.

The U.K. rulers seek stability in the region to advance their own predatory economic and military interests. Lammy called for an "immediate cease-fire" and condemned the Israeli government for allegedly blocking the delivery of aid to Gaza. He claimed London was working for the release of hostages held by Hamas, while expressing London's support for the Palestinian Authority government and its "program of reform."

For over a decade, U.K. military personnel have been stationed in Ramallah in the West Bank to work with Palestinian Authority security services. The previous Conservative government and Washington had backed plans for the Palestinian Authority to take over Gaza once the war ends, a move opposed by Israel.

On his return to London, Lammy announced the U.K.'s renewal of funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and full U.K. cooperation with the International Criminal Court's looming arrest warrant for Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, Israeli's defense minister, on grounds of "war crimes." Both moves are aimed at increasing pressure

on Israel to halt the war before Hamas has been decisively defeated.

The previous Conservative government had launched a legal challenge to the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Israeli officials, a challenge Lammy has now ended. Its prime minister, Rishi Sunak, also suspended London's funding of UNRWA in January after it emerged that its staff had facilitated Hamas' pogrom on Oct. 7 last year in which 1,200 Jews and others were killed, hundreds more brutalized and hostages seized.

While in opposition, Labour supported Sunak's deployment of Royal Air Force planes to help defend Israel from an April 14 missile attack by the rulers in Iran. At the same time, Lammy indicated that he intended to impose an arms embargo against Israel. He has so far held off on this.

The U.K. government does not directly send arms to Israel but does issue arms licenses for companies that do. These have already been sharply cut since Oct. 7.

But the Israeli government is concerned about the prospect of a Labour-initiated arms embargo, because British companies ship critical components for its F-15, F-16 and F-35 fighter jets, and because of the political impact of London taking such a step.

Since the election, former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has upped calls for an arms embargo, while pro-Hamas thugs in the U.K. have attacked arms factories, smashing equipment and harassing workers.

The government's decision to delay the arms embargo is aimed at giving



Consistent with the British rulers' policies over decades, the U.K.'s new Labour government has no intention of defending Jews or Israel's right to exist. In 1947, above, British rulers ordered brutal military attack on Exodus ship carrying Jewish immigrants seeking refuge in Israel.

London greater leverage in its relations with Israel as it defends its wider goals in the region.

Anglo-Qatari cooperation

Lammy traveled to Qatar at the end of July, along with Defense Secretary John Healy, to meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. Qatar has "a key role in mediating the conflict in Gaza," Lammy said. During the visit, Lammy and Healy met with U.K. Armed Forces personnel stationed there. The British rulers have a Royal Air Force base at Al Udeid — also used by Washington — and operate a joint RAF-Qatar air force squadron. The Royal Navy maintains a permanent presence in the Arab-Persian Gulf, with ships docking in Qatar.

Qatar has grown in importance to the British imperialist rulers who once

colonized much of the Middle East, but whose power has declined sharply over decades. Qatar is a former British protectorate that gained independence in 1971, but London has maintained a foothold there through a number of U.K.-Qatari "strategic" economic and military agreements. The U.K. military exports center on fighter-bombers, air defense and missiles. The U.K. is one of Qatar's major trading partners.

Like its predecessors, the Starmer government cares nothing about defending Jews or Israel as a refuge, nor the interests of working people or any oppressed nationality in the region. Its foreign policy starts from the class interests of the U.K.'s propertied rulers amid the social convulsions, rising Jew-hatred and wars that mark capitalism's world disorder — and British imperialism's decline.

Two Freedom Convoy truckers win acquittal as frame-up case unravels

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Chris Carbert and Anthony Olienick, participants in the trucker-organized 2022 Freedom Convoy against Ottawa's job-threatening COVID vaccine mandates, were acquitted by a jury Aug. 2 of frame-up charges of "conspiring" to kill police. The courthouse in Lethbridge, Alberta, was packed with their supporters.

The acquittal could have an impact on the ongoing joint trial of Tamara Lich and Chris Barber, leaders of the convoy who face multiple charges, including "conspiracy." They are not being charged with doing anything, but for statements they made during the protest.

Carbert and Olienick and hundreds of other truckers had closed down the U.S.

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THE MILITANT

Rulers discuss draft again as they prepare for new wars

Amid armed conflicts from Europe to Mideast, the rulers in U.S. are discussing bringing back conscription for cannon fodder for new wars they are preparing. To uproot the cause of wars, the working class must take power from the capitalist warmongers, build a new social order.



U.S. GIs in Vietnam in 1967. Mass protests, including by GIs, helped end war.

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1952: Cuban farmworkers in a fight get help from Fidel Castro

BY RÓGER CALERO

Earlier this year the *Militant* received a letter from Javier Perdomo, one of the millions of working people caught up by the “enormous machine for grinding people up” that is the U.S. criminal “justice” system. That quote comes from Ramón Labañino, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by the FBI in 1998 for monitoring counterrevolutionary groups that operate in Florida and carry out attacks against Cuba.

Perdomo wrote about receiving the socialist newsweekly in the Florida prison where he is incarcerated. “I am grateful an issue of the paper fell into my hands. It spoke about Che, Fidel, and the working class,” he said, echoing comments the *Militant* receives regularly from workers behind bars.

He also told the story of his grandparents, who had worked on the land before the 1959 Cuban Revolution that overthrew the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and brought to power a workers and farmers government.

Perdomo’s grandfather, Paulino Perdomo Ramos, was one of 30 farm

laborers at the Ácana farm in Matanzas province who Fidel Castro, a young lawyer at the time, represented in a fight for back wages.

“One day my grandfather and his co-workers woke up to darkness because the abusive big landowners — used to living off the sweat of others, by deceit and blackmail — closed their coffers and refused to pay the more than six months wages owed to them,” he wrote.

After many complaints to the authorities, and discussions with the bosses, on Dec. 27, 1952, the workers were visited by “a lawyer from Havana” offering help. “We were afraid it was a maneuver by the owner and the tenant,” Paulino Perdomo told his grandson when Javier was growing up.

“I need you to find a place where we can meet with the workers,” Castro told Javier’s grandpa. “I went to the union, and they refused to let me use the hall, and then I went to the town hall and they also refused.”

An account of the exchange is included in the book *Fidel Castro: De Birán a Cinco Palmas*, published in 1997 by Verde Olivo, the publishing house of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces.

“He was driving an old car, one that was even missing a door,” a piece by Paulino Perdomo quoted in the book says. Four days later, “with Fidel present, we were receiving our checks.” The workers tried to give him a few pesos for gas, to thank him, but he wouldn’t even accept that — “he had told us he was not going to charge us one cent.”

‘No revolution wins without struggle’

Castro’s intervention on behalf of the Ácana farmworkers took place at the same time he was assembling the 160 combatants who six months later — on July 26, 1953 — launched an insurrectionary attack on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba and the Céspedes garrison in Bayamo. The action marked the beginning of the revolutionary struggle against Batista.

Well before the Moncada assault,

Cuban Five: Example of dignity, respect inside US prisons



Courtesy of Ramón Labañino

Ramón Labañino, center, in July 2012 at Federal Correction Institution in Jesup, Georgia, poses with fellow Cuban prisoners he met there. He and the other four revolutionaries who made up the “Cuban Five” spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons, where they experienced firsthand the reality of millions who live behind bars in the U.S.

In a book published by Pathfinder Press titled, *It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System: The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*, the five revolutionaries describe the brutality of capitalist “justice.” This includes the use of the death penalty against working people, the torture of solitary confinement and the pervasive plea-bargain system that denies 97% of those charged with federal crimes their constitutional right to a trial.

Most importantly, the Cuban Five describe how they reached out with respect and solidarity to fellow human beings with whom they shared their daily lives and struggles inside prison. The values that guided them are “the consequence of a revolution that overturned the cutthroat social order of capitalism, and of a leadership that for decades has maintained that course against all odds,” they explain.

— R.C.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes



This is a book about the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary — it can be made.

It’s about the class struggle in the U.S., where the potential of workers and farmers are today

as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly. \$10

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— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



August 30, 1999

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan — An estimated 1,200 farmers organized convoys of farm vehicles, tractors, combines, and grain trucks along Saskatchewan highways Aug. 2, causing traffic delays of several hours. Farmers wanted to draw attention to the severe crisis hitting agriculture in this province and demand action from the federal and provincial governments.

Federal government statistics show that this will be the worst year for farm income since statistics were first recorded in 1926. Federal government cutbacks have meant that farm subsidies have been slashed on typical Saskatchewan crops.

Scott Steeves from the Gainsborough area said, “I have no money. My off-farm job doesn’t seem to support the farm anymore. I won’t go down without making a lot of noise.” Farmers demonstrated again in the streets of Regina, the provincial capital, Aug. 6.



August 16, 1974

MINNEAPOLIS — A broad spectrum of prominent Twin Cities movement activists has demanded that Mayor Albert Hofstede and the Minneapolis City Council open up the city’s police files for an independent investigation into charges of police surveillance and harassment of political groups.

The group charges that the Minneapolis police failed to give clear and complete answers to questions about political surveillance at a hearing of the Minnesota State Ethics Commission. The letter stated that there was a “mass of evidence” that local police departments cooperate with the FBI in its program of surveillance and disruption of political groups.

“There is a massive cover-up in progress,” Jane Van Deusen, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota, told reporters. The cops evaded questions regarding surveillance of the SWP.



August 22, 1949

A blow was dealt the witch-hunters when Circuit Court Judge Joseph Sherbow of Baltimore declared that Maryland’s Ober “Anti-Subversives” Law, hailed as a “model” by reactionaries, is unconstitutional.

The judge issued a permanent injunction restraining state officials from enforcing the law, which had provided for \$5,000 fines and five years imprisonment for mere membership in “subversive organizations” and up to \$20,000 fines and 20 years imprisonment for “subversive activities.”

The law, said Sherbow, “violates the basic freedoms guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments” to the U.S. Constitution, as well as the right of due process of law. Laws “may not intrude into the realm of ideas, religious or political beliefs, and opinions. The law deals with overt acts, not thoughts. It may punish for acting, but not for thinking.”

told his grandson.

“More than 20 minutes had passed after my grandfather cast his fishing line, and I was waiting to see if he’d catch something before throwing mine,” wrote Javier Perdomo.

“Why haven’t you thrown your hooks into the water?” Paulino Perdomo asked.

“Because your bobbers aren’t even moving and I’m getting bored,” the young Perdomo said.

“If Fidel had gotten bored before Moncada and had waited for others to make the revolution,” his grandfather replied, “we’d still be under capitalism. No revolution will triumph without a struggle, just like no hook will catch a fish if it’s not in the water.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Black Sailors Exonerated 80 Years After Port Chicago Disaster: How the Jim Crow Verdict of ‘Mutiny’ Was Overturned. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Sun, Aug. 18. Refreshments, 5:30 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Class Struggle in Iran: Working People Stand Up to Capitalist-Clerical Regime. Speaker: Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Aug. 18, 3 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Meet and Hear Rachele Fruit, Working-Class Candidate for US President. Sun., Aug. 18, 2:30 p.m. Donation: £5. Second Floor, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. M2 7PE. Tel.: 0161-312-8119.

Harris, Obama put stamp on party

Continued from front page

people from the effects of the social and economic crisis in the U.S. and worldwide today. He's aided in this by his running mate, J.D. Vance.

In contrast, Harris identifies herself with the politics and social outlook of former President Barack Obama, not because both are Black, but because they speak for an upper-middle-class layer they're both part of. This layer has growing clout inside the Democratic Party.

The Republican and Democratic parties exist to defend the class interests of the ruling capitalist families against their rivals abroad and working people at home. But the way each party now presents itself and the classes they respond to are different.

During the rise of the modern civil rights movement, the Democrats broke with the Dixiecrats, the segregationists who ran their party in the South. They then relied on a three-legged coalition to turn out the vote — top union officials, middle-class leaders of Black organizations and patronage-based party machines in the big cities. Democrats like Biden presented themselves as modern-day replicas of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, falsely portrayed as an era where big government gave things to the people.

In recent years a bourgeois-minded upper-middle-class layer has grown into the tens of millions. A new generation of Democratic politicians has emerged out of this social milieu. Its growth and class character are described by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes in *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*.

They "pursue careers — in the universities, the media, 'think tanks,' and elsewhere — that generate ideological rationalizations for class exploitation," Barnes writes. "To the degree they commit themselves to a course of action — often camouflaged as caring, feeling, thoughtful, and above all very intelligent — such policies derive from the needs and demands of their bourgeois patrons." Their goal is "to postpone and buffer the explosive social and political responses by working people to our worsening living and job conditions."

"Above all, they fear someday being ruled by those they worry could

become the 'great mob': the toiling and producing majority," Barnes says. Obama typified the political outlook of this layer. He sought to protect them from those he considered "ignorant, bad-tempered, flag-waving, gun-hugging, family-centered, religious — in fact stupid — 'populists.'"

It was Obama who anointed Harris as the Democrats' new candidate, telling her July 24, the "people feel very strongly that you need to be our nominee." Since then Harris has begun reinventing herself, barely defending the record of the Biden administration. She's thrown his advisers off her campaign team, packing it with former Obama staffers. Eric Holder, Obama's former attorney general, was assigned to vet the vice presidential options, helping Harris settle on Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Harris' nomination was met with feverish acclaim in the liberal press. Harris could win, says *Washington Post* columnist Perry Bacon. But in a July 30 op-ed, he wrote, "She isn't going to win lots of small towns in Wisconsin or the state of Ohio" and shouldn't bother to "compete that hard" there. Obama infamously slandered working people in small towns in Pennsylvania. They "get bitter" he said, and "cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them."

Bacon says Harris should focus on winning "college-educated voters, people living in cities and suburbs, and the growing ranks of nonreligious Americans," underscoring his contempt for large swathes of the working class and anyone who isn't sufficiently "woke."

The member of the social layer Obama emerged from and Harris lives in are fond of telling workers they "feel our pain," while lecturing us on how we should behave. Obama reprimanded African American fathers on how they raise their children. Harris went further, threatening to lock up parents whose children played hooky when she was California attorney general.

As a prosecutor, she boasted, "I have a huge stick." Some 600 cases her department prosecuted were thrown out, with judges condemning her for violating defendants' constitutional freedoms.

Desmond Meade is the executive director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which led the 2018 fight to win back voting rights for former felons.



Kenny Holston/New York Times

Barack Obama anointed Kamala Harris as Democrats' presidential candidate. The two, above, advance meritocratic values over the party, a shift from Biden's outdated New Deal program.

When he heard Harris had called the 2024 election a race between a prosecutor and a felon, he protested. He said it was "name-calling" aimed at "robbing this country of the serious dialogue it deserves." He said trying to villainize someone as a felon just "provides an excuse to throw people away."

Harris didn't hesitate to use the courts against political opponents. In 2016, she tried to force the conservative Americans For Prosperity Foundation to turn over the names of its donors. The federal court ruled that was an unconstitutional attack on free speech.

Harris events segregated by race, sex

Since Harris' campaign launch, Democrats started hosting segregated fundraising events along racial and sex lines.

Hundreds of thousands took part in "White Women: Answer the Call 2024," then a "White Dudes for Harris" zoom, joined by now vice presidential candidate Walz. "Latino Men for Kamala" and "South Asian Men for Harris" came next.

This is the polar opposite of what is

needed — to unite the working class to fight for our own class interests — not to pit workers of different races and nationalities against one another.

But presenting the Democrats' campaign this way is consistent with the cosmopolitan outlook among the upper middle class. It's rooted in the notion that people are defined by their skin color — and what liberals call gender — not by their class.

On the Republican side, Trump says he's the workers' candidate, but focuses on fostering divisions among us, especially by trying to turn native- and foreign-born workers against one another.

Workers cannot let the bosses or their politicians pit us against each other. Our starting point needs to be our common interests with workers worldwide and the need for solidarity with each other's struggles.

It's along that road that working people can take steps toward breaking with the bosses parties and building a party of labor. That course is championed by the Socialist Workers Party 2024 presidential campaign.

Fight for a world where children can prosper, not one without kids

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In an Aug. 4 *Financial Times* column, Pilita Clark, an associate editor at the paper and Harvard graduate, joined the liberal chorus attacking Donald Trump's vice presidential candidate, J.D. Vance, for comments he made in 2021 about "childless cat ladies."

Few actually quote what he said. In an interview with Tucker Carlson, Vance said, "We are effectively run in this country via the Democrats, via our corporate oligarchs, by a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they've made and so they want to make the rest of the country miserable too. How does it make sense that we've turned our country over to people who don't have a direct stake in it?"

"It's well known that birth rates have plummeted in the U.S. and other rich economies," Clark wrote. Women are having fewer children, she claimed, because "they simply don't want to."

Clark thinks this is a good thing. "If you are the only childless employee in a team," she says, describing her experience in the upper-middle-class world she lives in, "it takes a certain level of temerity to insist on taking leave in school holidays. ... I imag-

ine resistance will be easier once the ranks of the childless grow."

Childless Americans get asked to take on extra work or change schedules, she argues. "Again, you can imagine this sort of thing changing as the workplace fills with more nonparents."

Clark lives in a petty-bourgeois, self-absorbed world that has nothing in common with lives of the working class in this country, which faces serious challenges trying to start and raise a family.

Hundreds of thousands of workers have taken to the streets over the last few years, fighting for wages that keep up with inflation, for affordable health care, affordable child care and work schedules that will allow family life.

The working class doesn't live in a "rich economy," that's reserved for the ruling class and its minions and mouthpieces, like Clark and the other editors of the *Financial Times*.

But working people have something better, the will — and the numbers — to fight for and win a better world.

For the working-class movement, these questions aren't new. In 1913, during a debate on abortion at a doctors' conference in czarist Russia, applause rang out after a Mr. Astrakhan snidely

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Rachele Fruit for president & Dennis Richter vice-president

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Thousands hear SWP program

Continued from front page

Richter replied, pointing to recent labor struggles, from flight attendants fighting for a new contract to the autoworkers strike last fall.

“We need to build a party of labor, to organize to fight in the interests of all working people,” Richter said. “For years the unions have been supporting so-called friends of labor in the Democrats, and they’ve been getting weaker. Working people need to break with the bosses’ parties.

“Look at the example of the Teamsters in Minneapolis in the 1930s,” Richter said, pointing to the strike battles by truck drivers here that transformed the union and opened the door to independent working-class political action. “I’ve heard about that,” Lutchen said. “But look what they did to the leaders.”

“Yes, the Roosevelt administration used the FBI to go after unions leading up to World War II,” Richter said. They framed up and imprisoned leaders of the Teamsters and the Socialist Workers Party under the thought-control Smith Act. “That’s why it’s so important to defend constitutional freedoms today.”

Lutchen signed the petition to put the SWP presidential ticket on the ballot.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign has completed a 16-day effort to collect the required signatures of qualified voters to put the SWP ticket of Rachele Fruit for president and Richter on the ballot in Minnesota. Campaigners collected over 2,400 signatures — more than 20% above Minnesota’s requirement. Thousands of workers learned about the Socialist Workers Party’s fighting working-class program.

Cat Line was happy to have Joanne Murphy knock on her door Aug. 4. “I’m working two jobs now. There’s no way I can have kids,” she said.

“The crisis of capitalism means many young workers are unable to start a family,” Murphy said. “The unions need to lead the fight for women’s emancipation, starting with the ability to have and care for a family. That means leading a fight for higher wages, better work schedules and benefits. For government-funded child care, health care, sex education, as well as access to contraception and decriminalization of abortion.”

Campaigners traveled all across the state. A team went to Rochester, in the southeast, where they ran into nurses organizing a union. Another went to Crookston, in Minnesota’s Red River Valley, in the northwest. At a trailer park there, they met five workers from the New Flyer bus manufacturing plant, members of Communications Workers of America Local 7304. Two got *Militant* subscriptions. Teams campaigned in St. Cloud, Red Wing, Alexandria, and other cities and towns.

Hear Rachele Fruit
SWP candidate for U.S.
president
Manchester, UK
Sun. Aug. 18,
London Sat. Aug. 24.

Hear Dennis Richter
Vice president candidate
Sydney, Australia
Sat., Aug. 17.

For more info see p. 8 directory

Richter spoke at a public meeting here Aug. 3. He described shifts taking place in the presidential race. “The U.S. rulers have taken steps to establish a little stability in their two parties to bring workers back into their two-party system and force them to choose a ‘lesser evil,’” he said.

“We saw how the Democrats shoved Joe Biden out of the race, replacing him with Kamala Harris. This advances a shift that Barack Obama began, to base the party on the ‘enlightened cosmopolitan meritocracy.’ At the same time, the Republicans led by Donald Trump are trying to reposition themselves as the ‘party of the workers.’”

But both parties represent the interests of the ruling-class families. “Every question we face needs a class answer — from high prices to unemployment, to work schedules and conditions that make it impossible to start and support a family,” he said.

“They need unemployment, to keep us competing for jobs and hold down pay. We say everyone has a right to work. A labor party would fight for a government-funded public works program providing jobs at union-scale wages to build the things we need.”

Jenny Benton, a cashier at a hardware store who has joined in the ballot effort, asked, “How would a party of labor address sharpening social relations? There’s growing numbers of adolescents who are alienated, who turn to heavy use of marijuana and other drugs. And adults too?”

“A labor party will only become possible through more active struggles by the working class,” Richter said. He described how crime, drug use and domestic violence decrease during upsurges in working-class struggles, such as the mass union movement in the 1930s and the battles for Black rights in the 1960s.

“We change ourselves in struggle. The dog-eat-dog system of capitalism promotes alienation and aggressiveness toward others. Human solidarity grows as working people fight together and have a reason to be disciplined.”

Endorse the SWP campaign!

People at the meeting were encouraged to endorse the SWP campaign.

The following day at a farmers market, Richter spoke with college student Abdul Sesay. He told Richter he’s concerned about how countries in Africa are being strangled by debt, including

World where children can prosper

Continued from page 4

remarked, “We have to convince mothers to bear children so that they can be maimed in educational establishments, so that lots can be drawn for them, so that they can be driven to suicide!”

V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Party, who organized workers and peasants in their millions to overthrow capitalist rule in 1917, explained his revulsion to these attitudes. “The audience was made up of bourgeois, middle and petty bourgeois, who have the psychology of the philistine,” Lenin said. Working people, to the contrary, want to bring children into the world and fight for social conditions for them to prosper, he explained.

“Yes, we workers and the mass of small proprietors lead a life that is filled with unbearable oppression and suffering,” he said, but we have begun to fight.



Militant

SWP vice presidential candidate Dennis Richter speaks at Minneapolis campaign meeting Aug. 3. At left is Gabrielle Prosser, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Minnesota.

Niger and his home country, Sierra Leone. “China is making all kinds of loans they say are for development, but they end up taking all the resources and there’s no development.”

“The aim of the capitalist rulers everywhere is to extract profits, not develop what people need,” Richter said. “Today the competition between the ruling classes in the U.S., China and elsewhere are getting sharper. And that’s the foundation for more wars.”

Richter raised the course led by Thomas Sankara, who headed a popular revolutionary government in the

West African country of Burkina Faso in the 1980s. “He pointed to the mobilization of working people to begin to transform society. Building parties with the perspective of putting workers in power is what’s needed, in Africa, Asia and here in the U.S.”

Sesay got a *Militant* subscription and *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions*, a book of speeches by Sankara.

This successful effort puts the SWP campaign on good footing to respond to developments in the world, promote solidarity with working-class struggles, and grow.

Freedom Convoy truckers acquitted

Continued from page 2

Freedom Convoy has included a media campaign smearing the truckers as Nazi-oriented, racist, violent right wingers; a plethora of frame-up charges against participants; extraordinarily severe bail restrictions designed to silence them; and pretrial “detention” for months, in some cases years, without being convicted of any crime.

The Ottawa protest ended after the government invoked the draconian Emergencies Act and sent 3,000 cops against the truckers, arresting 200 and laying 393 criminal charges against 121 participants. Ottawa has pushed ahead with trials of those arrested despite a Federal Court ruling in January this year that its use of the Emergencies Act was unconstitutional and illegal.

The jury’s acquittal of Carbert and Olienick on the main charge against them is a blow to Ottawa’s campaign to teach the truckers a lesson for daring to demand change to government policy.

Ottawa’s anti-worker campaign against leaders and participants in the

Freedom Convoy has included a media campaign smearing the truckers as Nazi-oriented, racist, violent right wingers; a plethora of frame-up charges against participants; extraordinarily severe bail restrictions designed to silence them; and pretrial “detention” for months, in some cases years, without being convicted of any crime.

Coutts frame-up unravels

The frame-up began when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police claimed they found a cache of weapons, ammunition and body armor near the blockade. In addition to Carbert and Olienick, the government arrested two other Freedom Convoy participants, Christopher Lysak and Jerry Morin. Charges against Lysak and Morin were dropped after they pled guilty to lesser charges. Both had been in pretrial detention for three and a half years! They were sentenced to time served.

Much of the “evidence” put forward by the prosecution was based on text messages and testimony from at least three undercover RCMP officers who posed as supporters of the convoy.

“The undercover officers freely admitted that they are trained to lie,” Carbert’s lawyer told the court, “and I submit that it was painfully obvious during the course of the trial.”

In testimony, the cops said they suspected that Carbert and Olienick were going to receive a secret late-night shipment of guns. But a courier told the court the package he delivered was socks, underwear and a guitar.

The jurors saw through the government’s “conspiracy” frame-up. However, they did convict the two on lesser charges of mischief and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose. Olienick was also convicted of possessing a pipe bomb found in his home. The court will address these convictions Aug. 12.

Opponents of Putin's Ukraine war swapped for FSB assassin

BY ROY LANDERSEN

In the largest U.S.-Russia prisoner exchange since the Cold War, 24 prisoners flown in from seven countries were swapped at a Turkish airport Aug. 1.

While Washington and its allies released one of Vladimir Putin KGB-styled regime's most notorious assassins, those released by Moscow included Russians imprisoned for speaking out against Putin's murderous war in Ukraine and a well-known U.S. reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. The governments of Germany, Poland, Norway, Slovenia and the U.S. released eight people, including several alleged Russian spies. Moscow and the regime in Belarus released 16.

Three freed Russian opposition figures, Ilya Yashin, Vladimir Kara-Murza and Andrei Pivovarov, addressed an Aug. 2 press conference in Bonn, Germany.

They all called for fellow political prisoners to be freed. While grateful to be released, both Yashin and Pivovarov said they were deported against their will and wanted to return to Russia to fight for their political views when that becomes possible.

The legal aid group OVD-Info counts 1,289 dissidents in Moscow's jails with another 3,000 protesters facing politically motivated criminal charges. At least 10 have already died in prison.

A former Moscow city councilman,

Yashin had been jailed after he denounced atrocities carried out by Moscow's forces in the Ukrainian town of Bucha. "I understood my imprisonment not only as an anti-war fight but also as a fight to live in my country and engage in independent politics," he said.

Pivovarov, a leader of the political rights group Open Russia, was jailed in 2022. The group was outlawed in 2017 for challenging the outcome of elections. "Many of my friends have just been saved from death" as a result of the deal, Pivovarov pointed out. And it will give others hope.

Prominent political prisoners set free

Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison for "treason" after opposing Moscow's war. After two attempts by the FSB secret police to poison him, he was in poor health and expected to "die in Putin's prison," he said.

Another prominent dissident released was Oleg Orlov, co-founder of Memorial, a prominent rights group that's now banned. He has been an outspoken opponent of Moscow's wars — from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 to Putin's current invasion of Ukraine.

The 16 released by Moscow and the regime in Belarus included *Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich, imprisoned on trumped-up espionage charges; former U.S. Marine Paul Whelan; and Alsu Kurmasheva, who reported for Radio



Freed Russian political prisoners, from left, Ilya Yashin, Andrei Pivovarov and Vladimir Kara-Murza at Aug. 2 press conference in Bonn, Germany. Like hundreds of others, they were thrown in prison for opposing Vladimir Putin regime, Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a Washington-backed propaganda outlet.

President Joseph Biden trumpeted the releases, keen to burnish his own legacy. The freeing of Russian oppositionists was Putin's way of getting rid of thorns in his side and achieving what he wanted. Washington has its own record of framing up and jailing its opponents, especially working-class fighters and communists at times of war and sharpening crises.

Putin gets his assassin back

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan facilitated the exchange, maneuvering between Moscow and Washington.

Vital to Moscow agreeing to the

deal was the release by the German government of Vadim Krasikov. A former colonel in the FSB, Krasikov was serving a life sentence in Germany for publicly executing in Berlin a Chechen rebel who had fought against Moscow's invasion of his country.

In 2014, Krasikov was in an FSB unit protecting former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, whose pro-Moscow government was toppled by a mass uprising known as the Maidan. Krasikov was part of a Russian sniper team responsible for slaughtering more than 100 protesters.

Krasikov returned to a hero's welcome by the regime in Moscow. The message is that the Kremlin will use hostages to bargain to free the assassins it uses abroad to advance its expansionist foreign policy. Putin increasingly relies at home on repression by the FSB, which was created out of the Stalinist murder machine, the KGB.

Several collaborators of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny were among those freed in the deal. Navalny died suddenly in a remote prison in Arctic Russia in February. St. Petersburg artist Sasha Skochilenko, jailed for seven years for putting anti-war stickers in supermarkets, was also released.

Kara-Murza told the press that every day in prison he got "stacks of letters" from people across the country against the war. "The Kremlin's propaganda wants to make you believe that everyone in Russia supports the Putin regime and the war. It's a lie."

"Changes happen in our country when nobody is expecting them," Yashin added. "And it's important for people to understand this not just in Russia but in the West as well."

The character of the released prisoners shows the utter lack of morality on the part of the Putin regime as against the determination and courage of the Russian oppositionists.

Rulers in Tehran threaten wider war against Israel, Jews

Continued from front page

Israel and encouraged Hezbollah to attack deeper into Israel and deliberately target civilians. Since Oct. 8, Hezbollah has launched more than 6,000 drones and missiles at northern Israel to press Israel to end its war on Hamas in Gaza. They carried out a drone attack that wounded two Israeli soldiers Aug. 5.

The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran were stunned by the assassination of Haniyeh at one of the regime's safe houses, which took place just hours after he had met with Khamenei. While Israeli leaders made no comment on the assassination, they took responsibility for the death of Shukur. They said it was retaliation for the killing of 12 Arab Druze children hit by a Hezbollah missile in the Golan Heights as they were playing soccer July 27.

President Joseph Biden was furious with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the assassination, according to the *New York Times* and Israel's Channel 12 news, alleging that Haniyeh's death set back talks for a cease-fire in Gaza. Biden reportedly told Netanyahu in a heated phone call to "stop bullshitting me."

But despite the White House's ire, Washington sent F-22 jet fighters, an aircraft carrier strike group and other forces to the region to help shoot down missiles and drones if Iran retaliates.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told the press this was done "to help Israel defend itself and, frankly, defend our own people." That's a diplomatic way of saying that the U.S. military is there to defend U.S. imperialism's interests in the region — not to defend the Jewish people or Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews. A Tehran-allied militia had fired two missiles at the main U.S. military base in Iraq Aug. 5, injuring seven people.

Hamas' history of Jew-hatred

The liberal bourgeois media, from the *Times* to the *Washington Post*, wrote about the death of Haniyeh as if he was just another diplomat, and about Hamas and Hezbollah as if they are political groups who simply have a conflict with Israel. They urge Washington to act as a neutral arbiter seeking to achieve peace by getting all sides to compromise.

The *Post* wrote that Haniyeh was "considered one of Hamas's more politically pragmatic leaders." The *Times* favorably quoted a Palestinian "think tank" saying Haniyeh was "politically savvy" and "quite a tactful leader."

But Haniyeh was the leader of a group which openly calls for repeated pogroms in Israel until all Jews are either dead or gone. Hamas comes out of the Egypt-based Muslim Brother-



Striking rail car factory workers in Arak, Iran, Aug. 3, demand wage hikes, end to firings and harassment. Biggest obstacle regime in Tehran faces is resistance by working people to capitalist crisis and war drive.

hood, which joined Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, in collaborating with the Nazis during World War II. They hoped to help bring about a Nazi victory that would allow them to complete Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution" in the Middle East — the elimination of all the Jews.

Hamas showed its true colors by naming Yahya Sinwar, the mastermind of the Oct. 7 pogrom, to take Haniyeh's place as head of its political bureau.

The 1988 founding covenant of Hamas explicitly calls for killing all the Jews and replacing Israel with a despotical caliphate. That is its purpose, whatever tactical decisions Hamas makes on who carries a weapon and who wears a suit and tie. Haniyeh was an enthusiastic booster of Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel, the biggest massacre of Jews

since the Holocaust in World War II. Jew-hatred and the destruction of Israel was at the heart of the foundation of Hezbollah as well. And that's why the Israeli capitalist government has no choice but to force Hezbollah away from the Lebanese border, no matter what the White House wants.

Tehran calls for a meeting

Instead of an immediate attack, Tehran called for an "extraordinary" meeting in Saudi Arabia Aug. 7 of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation — which includes representatives of 57 governments — to discuss its fight against Israel. There will be opposition to Tehran there. The governments of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, while calling for a cease-fire in Gaza, have warned Tehran not to violate their air-

space in any attack on Israel.

Moscow has begun sending advanced air defense systems and radars to Iran, which could make future Israeli attacks on Iranian military and nuclear sites riskier. The Vladimir Putin regime owes Iran's rulers for their provision of drones for Moscow to use against the people of Ukraine.

But Moscow, like Washington, wants stability for its interests in the region. The Iranian press reported that Putin asked Khamenei to limit any retaliation against Israel to military targets and avoid harming civilians.

The biggest obstacle Tehran faces comes from the working people in Iran. Efforts by the regime to exhort support for their moves against Israel at soccer matches have been met with derision. Workers are mounting daily strikes and protests demanding higher wages and better working conditions.

In a reflection of growing sentiment against Tehran's military adventures abroad, the Union of Truck Drivers of Iran posted the following message online July 10, underneath a picture of a pothole-ridden road. "We consider ourselves the leading power in the region and the Middle East, but we are unable to pave the route at the Bazargan [Turkey] border, an international transit passage, because the money and resources are spent on Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, and other proxy groups."

Oppose Washington's interference in Venezuela

Continued from front page

predecessor and mentor, Hugo Chávez. At the same time, tens of thousands marched Aug. 3 in support of the official results, protesting what the Maduro government says is a criminal far-right conspiracy to carry out a coup.

Leaders of at least 15 Latin American governments, and European Union representatives, have either questioned or not recognized the results of the election and joined in the call for the Maduro government to release the tally sheets as a way to move forward out of the crisis.

Disputed results

Speaking at a meeting in Miami Aug. 4, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Rachele Fruit demanded "Washington hands off Venezuela!" "The U.S. rulers have a long history of intervention in the affairs of the Venezuelan people. They have no business doing so."

Maduro's government and the National Electoral Council (CNE) reported that the president won with 5.1 million votes, to 4.4 million for González. Leaders of the opposition claimed its candidate received 6.2 million votes compared with 2.7 million for Maduro, winning by a margin of 3.5 million votes.

Thousands took to the streets in the capital, Caracas, and across the country the week after the vote in largely peaceful demonstrations calling on the CNE to release the voting tally sheets from every precinct. Protesters said its ruling is an attempt to steal the election. Some of the demonstrations took place in former bastions of working-class support for the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), the political party formed by Maduro's

At the same time, tens of thousands marched Aug. 3 in support of the official results, protesting what the Maduro government says is a criminal far-right conspiracy to carry out a coup.

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U.S. efforts to rein in Venezuela

After failures by previous U.S. administrations to forcefully remove the PSUV-led government, first under Chávez and then Maduro, the Joseph Biden administration engaged the Venezuelan government in talks last year. It sought to set parameters for the presidential elections, in which Washington offered an eventual lifting of punishing U.S. sanctions on the country's oil, banking and gold industries. The cost was the Venezuelan government had to organize the election along lines acceptable to the U.S. capitalist rulers.

In addition to Washington's sanctions on the government and economy, it also maintains sanctions on at least 115 high-ranking Venezuelan officials it claims carried out "criminal, anti-democratic or corrupt actions."

Last year's talks, held in Qatar and Barbados, resulted in the partial lifting of some sanctions that have been in place since 2019 crippling Venezuela's crucial oil and gas industry. Washington reinstated them in April, accusing the

Maduro government of failing to hold "free and fair elections" when the opposition's leader, María Corina Machado, was blocked from running for president.

A court had upheld an earlier ruling by the Venezuelan general comptroller to disqualify her from holding office for 15 years after she called for foreign intervention in Venezuela at a meeting of the Organization of American States in 2014. She also has supported Washington's sanctions against Venezuela and faces corruption charges involving Venezuelan assets abroad. For years she has been among the loudest voices calling for protests to topple the PSUV government. She was the central spokesperson for González's campaign.

In its latest effort to remove Maduro, the opposition has tapped into discontent among the middle and working classes. Driven by growing economic hardship, more than 7.7 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014, more than a quarter of the population. Machado's campaign speeches promised to revive the economy and allow "our sons and daughters who have migrated to come back home." She has repeatedly warned that a Maduro victory will trigger a further mass exodus.

The opposition's campaign gained ground in rural areas where working people have been battered by the collapse of public services and the system of social programs implemented by Chávez and Maduro, part of what they call "Socialism of the 21st century." The economic crisis facing Venezuela has been exacerbated by the brutal economic sanctions imposed by Washington.

What Hiroshima shows about horrors of nuclear weapons

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Hamas' Oct. 7 Jew-hating pogrom in Israel killing some 1,200 people in a single day and Moscow's murderous invasion and war on the Ukrainian people mark a watershed in world politics. Capitalist rulers worldwide are preparing for future wars, jacking up their military budgets and looking for new allies to defend their markets, profits and spheres of influence. Against this background, the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki stands as a horrific reminder of the costs of imperialist war for working people.

President Harry Truman ordered the dropping of "Little Boy," a uranium-based atomic bomb with the explosive capacity of 15,000 tons of TNT on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945. It killed 140,000 people and razed 70% of all buildings.

Three days later "Fat Man," a slightly larger plutonium atomic bomb, was dropped on Nagasaki, killing 74,000 civilians. Tens of thousands more later died from radiation poisoning and cancers. The temperature at ground zero reached 7,200 degrees Fahrenheit, followed by a radioactive rain.

"I didn't have a single scratch. I had been saved by Mount Kōpira," Reiko Hada, who was 9 years old when the bomb hit Nagasaki, told British photojournalist Lee Karen Stow in 2015. "But it was different for the people on the other side of the mountain. They suffered atrocious conditions."

"My mother grabbed towels and sheets at home and, with other women in the community, led the fleeing people to the auditorium of a nearby commercial college," she said. "Af-

ter drinking a sip of water, they died. People died one after another."

U.S. government claims that the bombings saved lives by ending World War II are a grotesque fiction. "The Japanese had, in fact, already sued for peace. The atomic bomb played no decisive part from a purely military point of view," Adm. Chester Nimitz, who served as commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, later admitted.

Instead, Washington's nuclear attacks were a warning to the Soviet Union, rival capitalist powers and working people worldwide that U.S. imperialism not only had the bomb, but also the ruthlessness to use it. That hasn't changed.

Washington lost the Cold War

Today the political and military alignments that have shaped the global imperialist order since Washington emerged as the top dog coming out of World War II are being battered by capitalist instability, sharpening rivalry and conflicts.

After the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1991, the U.S. rulers operated on the false idea that they had won the Cold War and had an open field to do as they wished in the world. This led to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, which ended in disaster, followed by its defeat in a 20-year war in Afghanistan, where its remaining troops fled in ignominy in 2021.

"The Gulf war held a mirror to the declining capitalist world order and accelerated its contradictions," says *New Internationalist* magazine no. 7 of its article "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III."

"It sounded the opening guns of sharpening conflicts and class battles

that will decide whether the horrors of World War III are inflicted on humanity... or a road is opened by working people to a socialist future of international human solidarity."

This crisis is even deeper today. As long as the dictatorship of capital remains there is no solution to imperialism's march toward fascism and war.

The possibility of the use of weapons of mass destruction in today's world can be seen not only in the reactionary Islamist rulers in Tehran and their drive to develop nuclear arms and delivery systems. It's also shown by Russian President Vladimir Putin's nuclear saber-rattling in the face of the heroic resistance to his regime's efforts to crush Ukraine's national independence. Nine countries have nuclear weapons today, with Russia and the U.S. holding the vast majority, more than 5,500 warheads each.

As class, national and state conflicts intensify the world over, the danger increases that one of these capitalist regimes will resort to the use of nuclear weapons in the face of extreme pressure.

"In two calculated blows," Socialist Workers Party National Secretary James P. Cannon said two weeks after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, U.S. imperialism "brought on itself the fear and hatred of the whole world."

Washington didn't go to war "for moral position, but for profit," to defeat its imperialist rivals and claim the spoils of the "boundless riches of the Orient."

"The alternative facing mankind is socialism or annihilation! It is a problem of whether capitalism is allowed to remain or whether the human race is to continue to survive on this planet."

Special: books half price with Militant subscription

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Endeavor Air flight attendants rally for parity in wages, benefits

MINNEAPOLIS — Chanting, “I don’t know what you’ve been told, Delta’s greed is getting old” and “Close the gap and it’s a wrap,” 40 flight attendants and their supporters rallied at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport July 31.

These members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA fly for Endeavor Air, a commuter airline run by Delta. The union represents some 1,600 flight attendants at Endeavor. They are demanding parity in wages, benefits and scheduling with Delta flight attendants, who are not currently organized in a union.

“While those who work at mainline Delta received a small raise amidst the tides of the airline’s success, Delta management seems committed to anchoring Flight Attendants at their wholly owned regional Endeavor Airlines in the depths of poverty,” the union said in a letter to Delta.

“The average passenger cannot distinguish between the service of Endeavor Flight Attendants and Delta Flight Attendants onboard their flights. They buy their tickets at the same website or app, checking in for their flight is exactly the same, the gates are Delta gates,” the union wrote.

Trina Johnson, local executive committee president for the union at the Minneapolis and Cincinnati airports, told the *Militant* that after Pinnacle Airlines merged with Delta it was renamed Endeavor, and flight attendants voted to join the union. Johnson, who has worked 19 years as a flight attendant, said that senior flight attendants at Endeavor make 45% lower wages

than those at Delta.

“They must be on the aircraft 45 minutes before departure and start boarding 35 minutes before departure,” she told a Minnpost reporter there. “But we are not paid until that door closes, so if you boarded everyone but you sit there for three hours,” she said, and “if you get to a point where you have to take everyone off, you just start all over again.”

A similar rally was held Aug. 5 at the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

— Edwin Fruit

UK: 1,400 workers vote for union at Amazon in Coventry

COVENTRY, England — Workers at the giant Amazon warehouse in this Midlands city narrowly failed to win union recognition by just 28 votes, getting 49.5%. “We see the outcome as a stepping stone toward Amazon recognizing the union,” Darren Westwood, one of the leaders of the effort to win recognition of the General, Municipal and Boilermakers union, told the *Militant*.

Union supporters have organized work stoppages, mass pickets and protests involving hundreds of workers. Their fight has won solidarity from GMB members and other unions around the country.

“Of course we are disappointed,” Westwood said. “But all can see the narrowness of the loss. Over two years we have increased the union membership from 60 members to 1,400.”

Organizing efforts began in 2022 when workers in Amazon warehouses all over the U.K. took action, some orga-



Militant/Ned Measel

Flight attendants at Endeavor Air, a subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, rally at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport July 31 demanding parity in wages, benefits, scheduling with Delta flight attendants.

nizing sit-downs, others walked off the job. Westwood and others here started a campaign for 15 pounds (\$19.15) an hour and recognition of the GMB. The union made T-shirts in the union’s color with “YES” printed on the back that workers wore on the pick-and-pack lines.

Ceferina Floresca described how she and other union leaders in the plant were able to address the workers at meetings set up by the Central Arbitration Committee, which organized the vote. “Our meetings were short and strictly timed, while the bosses pressed workers to attend hours of anti-union seminars. They brought in managers from other sites who talked to workers from different countries in their native language.”

During the seminars, the workers were told that they would get no pay

raise this year and lose benefits if they voted for union recognition. QR codes were pasted around the warehouse for workers to use to cancel their union membership.

Garfield Hylton, another union leader in the plant, hosted a visit by a team of *Militant* correspondents July 30. He described how the union has an elected leadership in the warehouse and union reps are able to represent workers in disciplinary hearings. The union printed material and addressed meetings in different languages too. “We’ve also established international contacts,” Hylton said. He had just returned from a trip to meet union members in the U.S.

Westwood concluded, “We showed Amazon workers all over the world there is hope. It can be done.”

— Dag Tirsén

Unions: ‘Washington take Cuba off ‘terrorist’ list’

Continued from front page

resolution says. “It prevents Cuba from obtaining vital medical equipment and supplies, and even impedes humanitarian aid responses to catastrophic events like Hurricane Ian which devastated both Florida and Cuba.”

Bill Camp, the leader of the Sacramento-based Building Relations With Cuban Labor, was instrumental in helping get the resolution passed. For many years Camp was an officer of the Sacramento-area AFL-CIO. “It was pretty easy to get the resolution passed,” Camp told the *Militant* in a July 29 phone in-

terview. “They were favorable. Our next question is getting as many union locals as possible to pass similar resolutions.”

The California Conference of the International Association of Machinists union passed a similar resolution July 15. Such resolutions have also been adopted by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, United Electrical Workers, Northern Nevada AFL-CIO, Inlandboatmen’s Union, California Nurses Association, National Union of Health Care Workers, the Washington State Labor Council and a number of county labor

councils and union locals.

The U.S. government’s “State Sponsors of Terrorism” designation adds further damaging sanctions to those that have been imposed by Washington’s brutal six-decade-long economic war against Cuba, aimed at crushing the country’s socialist revolution. It also restricts the ability of Cubans living abroad to send money to family members on the island.

Cuba was originally placed on the list in 1982 during the Ronald Reagan administration and backed by following Democratic and Republican administrations; then removed briefly by Barack Obama, who pursued other avenues to attempt to destroy the revolution. Donald Trump put Cuba back on the list near the end of his presidency and it has been kept in place since by the Joseph Biden administration.

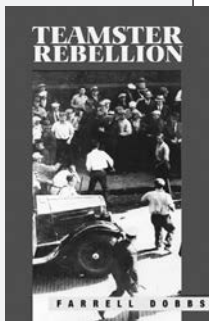
The LA US Hands Off Cuba Committee, working with Machinists Local 1484 in Wilmington, has been active in advancing resolutions urging Washington to remove Cuba from the list, Mark Friedman, a member of the committee, told the *Militant*. “Over the past year Local 1484 of the Machinists has increasingly been vocal and demonstrative in their support for ending the blockade of Cuba and removing Cuba from Washington’s list of alleged terrorist nations,” he said. That local presented the resolution it passed against Cuba being on the list to the July Machinists’ state conference.

This growing labor opposition to Washington’s attacks on Cuba and its people is an important development that can be emulated.

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle. — \$16



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US hands off Venezuela! Hands off Cuba!

In a flagrant violation of Venezuela's sovereignty, Secretary of State Antony Blinken claims Washington has the right to decide the outcome of that country's presidential election, calling opposition leader Edmundo González the winner.

For over two decades, the U.S. rulers — under Democratic and Republican administrations alike — have sought to overthrow the Venezuelan government and impose one more subservient to Washington.

Workers and our unions should demand Washington keep its hands off! Defending Venezuela's sovereignty has nothing to do with offering political support to the Maduro government, nor the way it conducted the election. What's needed is unconditional opposition to all efforts by the U.S. rulers to impose their will on a sovereign nation. Only the people of Venezuela have the right to determine their own future.

Washington's foreign policy is carried out to serve the class interests of the U.S. capitalist rulers, its exploitation of resources, markets and workers' labor worldwide. Its foreign policy is an extension of what they do in this country, seeking to impose low wages, life-sucking schedules and dangerous working conditions to maximize their profits. Under the fig leaf of "defending democracy," the U.S.

imperialists intervene across the Americas and worldwide to maintain the weakening domination of the world's last empire.

One of the key reasons the U.S. rulers attack Venezuela is to deal new blows to revolutionary Cuba. Washington is especially keen to seize on any pretext to slander the Cuban government and try to isolate it. Without citing a single fact, the New York Sun claimed units of Cuban special forces were flown to Venezuela after the election. The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs has categorically refuted these lies.

For more than six decades, working people in Cuba have courageously and steadfastly resisted Washington's unremitting economic, trade, financial and political war to destroy their socialist revolution. Above all, the U.S. rulers fear the example set by Fidel Castro in leading working people in Cuba to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and take power into their own hands.

Today, growing numbers of trade unions are speaking out against Washington's punishing sanctions against the Cuban people, including the inclusion of Cuba on its State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

No to Washington's interference! U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!

Workers face continuing crisis of high prices, debts

Continued from front page

ity is playing out among America's high earners," the *Journal* article, "The Haves and Have-Nots at the Center of America's Inflation Fight," said.

"The top whatever-percent has all this money," Lewis said. "Those people don't live like most Americans."

"On top of stocks' artificial intelligence bonanza, Americans are earning investment income at a seasonally adjusted rate of about \$3.7 trillion annually," the *Journal* noted, based on the Commerce Department's June data. As the *Militant* has been describing for months, there's a growing class differentiation between working people, who are being battered by high prices for groceries, housing and more, and the capitalist ruling families and their upper-middle-class hangers-on, whose income is soaring.

The *Journal* describes the life of Joseph Einhorn, who runs a shopping app called Long Story Short. To join costs \$1,000 a month. "Einhorn spends his days tracking down products like Rolexes, helicopters and a \$36,000 crocodile-skin Gucci trunk" for his clients.

The Biden administration and the Federal Reserve have ballyhooed that their "preferred" inflation gauge, the so-called personal consumption-expenditures index, has eased. They like this gauge because it doesn't count "volatile" goods, like groceries and rent — number one and two for high prices. As the *Journal* admits, the drop in the index "doesn't mean price levels have dropped."

In the past two years, working people have spent more of their income on food than they have in three decades. These high prices also affect working farmers. Delinquency rates for credit cards are the highest in 14 years.

Jace Lehner, 28, a mother of three, and her husband work on a 2,400-acre family farm 50 miles north of Columbus, Ohio. They grow crops like corn and soybeans while raising cattle and hogs. To reduce grocery purchases, they trade homegrown food such as ground beef or steaks with nearby farmers in exchange for eggs, milk and more. "We're getting by, but it's close," she told the *Journal*.

Lower prices for corn, soybeans and other agricultural commodities have made it harder for farmers to meet their cost of production. The Department of Agriculture predicts farm income will decline by 25% this year.

Increasing numbers of working people can't afford high grocery costs and monthly rents. In Brooklyn, New York, 2,500 people line up each week for food distributed free by the Council of Peoples Organization. This is way up from the dozens who did so prior to the 2020 pandemic.

Blocks away "developers built a new apartment

in which the smallest unit," the *Journal* wrote, a 456-square-foot one bedroom, "was advertised at \$460,000." Overall housing prices are up about 30% since 2021.

Big money private equity investment firms like KKR and Blackstone are buying up apartment complexes to profit off increasing rents. Meanwhile, home prices hit a record high in June, putting moving into a home out of the reach of millions of younger working-class families.

Cheaper "starter homes" today are going for \$1 million or more in 237 U.S. cities. Five years ago prices were this high in 84 cities.

Joseph and Melissa Pinto, both special-education teachers, make around \$50,000 a year combined and were saving to buy a house. But "it's hard now to save money to build a down payment when I need to use that money to survive," Joseph Pinto told the *Journal*.

High housing costs are making people angry. "It's gotten out of control, and I blame the people in charge," said Kayla Lange, a 24-year-old who lives with a roommate in downtown Milwaukee.

Growing numbers of workers are open to looking for something different in politics. Nahona Moore, 28, who also lives in Milwaukee, has voted for Democrats, she told the *Journal*. But she now blames both Biden and Kamala Harris for "not making anything better." She said she doesn't see either the Democrats or Republicans making a difference.

Slowing factory production

With all the Fed's pompous, self-congratulatory talk about engineering a "soft landing," there is increasing evidence pointing to a downturn. With slumping sales, John Deere, the world's largest manufacturer of farm equipment, has cut 2,100 production jobs since November, 15% of its workforce. Rival equipment maker Agco said in June it would eliminate some 800 jobs by the end of the year.

Whirlpool reports a drop in demand for its refrigerators, dishwashers and other household appliances, as does MSC Industrial Direct, a distributor of tools and industrial supplies to manufacturers.

The Labor Department reported unemployment rose in July to 4.3% — its fourth consecutive monthly increase — the highest level since October 2021. Those hardest hit are young workers. The unemployment rate for those in their early 20s rose to 7.4%. For teenagers, it's up to 12.4%.

New jobs created in July dropped to 114,000, well below the average monthly gain of 215,000 over the previous 12 months. Workers filing for unemployment rose to an 11-month high in the last week in July. Those working part-time hours who want a full-time job rose over the past month by over 340,000, to 4.6 million.

'Militant' prison ban

Continued from front page

riod of time, is a serious violation of the constitutional rights of prisoners to read and discuss political literature of their choice, as well as the right of the *Militant* to reach its readers behind bars, the numbers of whom continue to grow.

Upon learning about the ban, the *Militant* promptly filed an appeal. The Literature Review Committee informed *Militant* attorney David Goldstein that it would hold a hearing July 18 to review the prison authorities' impoundment. But it's been three weeks since then and no information on its ruling has been communicated to the *Militant* or its attorney.

Prison authorities objected to the *Militant* printing a widely circulated Associated Press photo showing the body of a Jewish man murdered by Hamas during its murderous Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel being driven around Gaza City to cheers by the Islamist thugs' supporters.

Jackson Correctional Institution officials wrote: "Picture shows dead person being paraded around on a motorcycle. Magazine depict hatred toward a specific race."

Prison authorities claim the photo is "dangerously inflammatory," encouraging "riot, insurrection, rebellion" and "organized prison protest."

This photo appeared above another photo showing a Jewish family that survived a 1906 pogromist assault in Belostok, in what is now Poland. These and other photos accompanied a four-page feature reprinting the opening chapter of a new Pathfinder book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

"While the article discusses the historical reality of discrimination, and the photograph itself depicts the aftermath of violence, they do not show, much less celebrate violent acts or advocate 'hatred toward a specific race,'" wrote The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in the letter it sent to the Literature Review Committee in June. "On the contrary, far from encouraging violence, the headline, subheadlines, and text of the article, decry violence and convey a clear message *against* 'hatred toward' any specific group."

A number of other prominent organizations defending civil liberties and prisoners' rights have sent letters to the Literature Review Committee, from the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project and the ACLU's Florida chapter to the Florida Press Association, which represents 146 publications across the state, from the *Miami Herald* to the *Pensacola News Journal*. (see list below). More letters are needed!

Lift ban on the 'Militant' in Florida prison

The following are among the dozens of people and organizations that have sent statements calling on Florida prison officials to lift the ban on *Militant* issue no. 17

Amnesty International USA
 American Civil Liberties Union - Florida
 ACLU National Prison Project
 Florida Press Association
 PEN America
 Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
 Southern Center for Human Rights
 David Menefee, Secretary Treasurer BCTGM Local 111
 Mark Lee and Earl Farris, BCTGM Local 57
 Karl Butts, Florida farmer

Get letters of support from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, or email to Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com, with copies to themilitant@mac.com

Send a check to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked "Prisoners Rights Fight."