

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

On the Picket Line:
Workers fight boss attacks

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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AUGUST 26, 2024

Defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge from Jew-hatred

BY SETH GALINSKY

While preparing to defend Jews and all Israelis from new attacks threatened by Tehran and its “axis of resistance,” Israeli troops continue to deal blows to Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The destruction of Tehran-backed Hamas’ command structures is essential to prevent it from regrouping and carrying out its perpetual threats of more anti-Jewish pogroms, like it carried out in Israel Oct. 7. It is essential for opening up space for Jewish, Arab and other workers to find a way forward, to defend their common interests against capitalist rulers throughout the region and to forge the leadership they need.

Israeli troops are destroying Hamas’ tunnels, eliminating its commanders and degrading its remaining brigades day by day. On Aug. 10, an Israeli airstrike killed 31 Hamas and Islamic Jihad thugs who had set up a command room in a mosque in a school complex in Gaza City.

The *New York Times*, the *Wash-*
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Fight Australia gov't move to take over the building union

BY ROBERT AIKEN

SYDNEY — A major union-busting attack on the national construction workers union is underway here, with Workplace Relations Minister Murray Watt announcing Aug. 9 he plans to rush through a threatened new law to impose government “administration” on the union.

The Australian Labor Party government had earlier instructed the Fair Work Commission to seek a court order placing the union’s national executive and almost all its state branches under its administrator’s control. It justified the move by pointing to a series of sensationalized news features starting in July that charged criminal links, intimidation and bribe-taking by some officers of the union. The government gave the union a week to agree to a court-ordered takeover or face legislation.

The commission is giving its administrator the power to remove some 270 officers of the union, seize all union property and take over the financial accounts of the union. The
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Back Socialist Workers Party 2024 candidates Endorse the SWP campaign! Workers need a party of labor



Militant/Glen Swanson

Port worker Louie McKinnon talks to Rachele Fruit, SWP presidential candidate, at Longshore union hall in Miami Aug. 11. He said, “Democrats and Republicans don’t care about workers.”

SWP takes class-struggle program far and wide

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

“We’re going out. Oct. 1 we’re going out, they’re not talking,” Anthony Bailey, a longshore worker, told Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, outside the International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1416 hall in Miami Aug. 11.

Some 45,000 dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas are preparing to hit the streets if a new contract isn’t in place
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Why you should endorse, join the SWP campaign

BY TERRY EVANS

Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, and her running mate, Dennis Richter, speak for the historic line of march of the working class, explaining workers need to rely on ourselves and our capacities to fundamentally change the conditions we face.

In stark contrast, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris say working people
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Canada rail bosses threaten lockout, union sets strike action for Aug. 22



Militant/John Steele

Teamsters Canada rail workers picket Canadian National Railway offices in Montreal Nov. 26, 2019, during 8-day strike over safety. Rail workers face new showdown with bosses Aug. 22.

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER

MONTREAL — The Canadian Industrial Relations Board Aug. 9 finally lifted its three-month-long suspension of the right to a work stoppage by either the Teamsters union or the rail bosses, saying it posed “no immediate and serious danger” to public health or safety. It also ordered a 13-day “cooling off” period before any work

stoppage could start, meaning a strike could begin Aug. 22.

Canada’s two cross-country railroads, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Kansas City, responded immediately, threatening to lock out the 9,300 train conductors, engineers and CPKC dispatchers Aug. 22 unless their union, the Teamsters Canada
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Washington hands off Venezuela! Stop US threats against Cuba!

BY RÓGER CALERO

The political crisis over the disputed results of the July 28 Venezuelan presidential elections has deepened as Washington, with imperial arrogance, continues to violate the country’s sov-

ereignty by intervening in the oil-rich country’s internal affairs.

President Nicolás Maduro was officially declared reelected despite protests by the bourgeois opposition that polling place tally sheets show its candidate, Edmundo González, won by a margin of millions.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken had the nerve to declare González the winner Aug. 1. Stepping up Washington’s intervention, the White House has offered to grant amnesty to Maduro and
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Help overturn ban on the ‘Militant’ in Florida prison!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

It’s been over three months since prison authorities at Jackson Correctional Institution in Malone, Florida, barred a subscriber to the *Militant* there from getting issue no. 17. Upon learning of the impoundment in mid-May, *Militant* attorney David Goldstein appealed. After two months, the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee told him it would hold a hearing July 18 to review the prison authorities’ ban. But neither the *Militant* nor Gold-
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Freed prisoners: ‘Putin, Russian people are not the same’ 7

What's behind the riots and political turmoil in the UK

BY TIMOTHY HARRIS

LONDON — The horrific stabbing to death of three young girls in Southport, near Liverpool, was met with widespread revulsion. Working people turned out to show their outrage.

Forces on both the right and left of capitalist politics intervened in ways that threaten political rights and are aimed at blocking a working-class response.

False reports that the killer was an immigrant were utilized by gangs of rightist forces to organize days of violent assaults on immigrants and small protests in over a dozen towns and cities across England and Northern Ireland.

Forces on the left of bourgeois politics organized their own protests targeting so-called fascists.

The three children, Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe and Alice Dasilva Aguiar, were killed at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class for 6 to 11 year olds July 29. Five other children were critically wounded. Following the killings a false social media report said a Muslim asylum-seeker carried out the slaughter. In fact, Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, a 17-year-old Cardiff-born son of Christian Rwandan immigrants, was charged.

Seven years earlier 22 people had been killed in nearby Manchester by an Islamist suicide bomber at an Ariana Grande concert.

Following the Southport killings, thugs attempted to set fire to hotels that house asylum-seekers, attacked mosques, torched and looted foreign-owned premises and physically attacked individual immigrants. They also engaged in pitched battles with riot cops.

The clashes come amid rising competition among workers for jobs, housing and health care, alongside boss attacks on wages and conditions. Politicians on the left and right of capitalist politics blame immigrants for the crisis.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's new Labour government has used the riots to deal blows to free speech. A child care worker faces 18 months behind bars for the thought-control crime of "stirring up racial hatred," and others have been arrested and jailed for things they wrote.

The government will target those "who took part in this violence, those who whipped them up on social media ... and those who have felt emboldened by this moment to stir up racial hatred," Home Secretary Yvette Cooper warned, threatening "swift justice."

Already nearly 1,000 people have been arrested in connection with rioting, with 450 charged, 47 jailed for up to three years and more to come.

In Belfast, loyalist gangs and rightists from the Irish Republic joined the anti-immigrant attacks.

While at first the anti-immigrant actions attracted some misplaced sympathy because of the killings, most of them involved no more than a few hundred people and have since petered out.

Working people responded by coming to the aid of immigrants.

Chanaka Balasuriya, a Sri Lankan in Southport, had his shop looted. He came in the next day to find people he didn't know cleaning it up. His windows were repaired for free and money was raised to help him. "It's not about the money people gave me. It was the messages, the cards, the flowers. That support from



"The support from strangers is unbelievable," said Chanaka Balasuriya, inset, a Sri Lankan at his shop in Southport. Workers came to help fix shop up after looting by anti-immigrant rioters.

strangers is unbelievable," Balasuriya told the BBC.

King Charles Windsor praised the cops Aug. 9, issuing a call to "strengthen and unite the nation." Echoing the classless appeal, a statement circulated by Stand Up to Racism and signed by members of Parliament and union leaders proclaimed, "Britain has a proud history of defeating fascists."

Stand Up to Racism organized several large protests in response to the riots. But the thrust of these actions was not to unite the working class, but to target opponents in bourgeois politics that the group falsely accuses of being "fascist" and to seek to crush them. This included targeting the headquarters of the Reform political party, which gained 14% of the vote in the recent general election. Reform leader Nigel Farage MP is branded as a "fascist" by the left.

"We need to cut all their throats and get rid of them," said Ricky Jones, a Labour councilor, to cheers at a Stand Up to Racism protest, in bloodthirsty remarks directed at so-called fascists. Jones was subsequently prosecuted for his comments.

A group called Finchley Against Fascism, issued an online leaflet calling on people to protest to "get fascists, racists, Nazis, Zionists and Islamophobes out of Finchley!" a Jewish area in north London. "Zionist" is used as a code word for Jew among opponents of Israel's right to exist as a refuge for the Jewish people.

"There's no rise in fascism today in the U.K. or other imperialist countries," Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman told the *Militant*.

No rise in fascism today

The League issued a statement Aug. 6 condemning the killing of the three children, the thug attacks on immigrants and the rise in Jew-hatred. It calls for an amnesty for undocumented immigrants in the U.K. "In the absence of a mass united working-class struggle, or any working-class political voice, some workers get diverted to scapegoating workers born abroad," it says.

"But working people have started to resist, turning to the unions." And "that opens the road to a working-class alternative."

Silberman pointed to the recent union-organizing fight at the Amazon warehouse in Coventry, which involved workers of many nationalities joining together to fight the bosses.

The CL statement highlights the pressing need for a party of labor, to "chart a course of independent working-class political action: a *class break*, from Labour, Conservative, Reform, Liberal Democrat, Green and the Scottish National parties."

The 'Militant' will be taking a one-week vacation break after issue no. 33, which will be mailed out next week.

THE MILITANT

Iran's workers biggest obstacle to Tehran's war drive

The Israeli people are preparing to defend themselves from threatened new assaults by the reactionary capitalist regime in Iran and its allies. Efforts by Tehran to win support from Iranian workers have been met with derision. Unions are mounting daily protests for better conditions.



Tasnim News Agency
Rail car factory workers in Arak, Iran, Aug. 3, strike for better wages, working conditions.

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SWP class-struggle program

Continued from front page

at the end of September. Stopping automation and defense of their jobs is a key issue for the union, along with winning a wage increase to cover high prices. Bailey got two copies of the *Militant* and a campaign flyer so he could share them with a friend.

“It’s about time I renewed my *Militant* subscription,” Sean Carter, another dockworker, told Fruit. He also picked up a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes after Fruit said, “This book is about the meritocratic upper-middle-class social layer that the Democratic Party more and more represents.”

In a discussion with Louis McKinnon, Fruit pointed to the way her campaign and the *Militant* build solidarity for union fights.

“I can see the Democrats and Republicans don’t care about workers,” McKinnon said. Along with a subscription to the *Militant*, he got *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. “I always like to read Malcolm X,” he said, adding in *Malcolm X Speaks*.

Fruit and her running mate, SWP vice presidential candidate Dennis Richter, are joined by party candidates in 11 states and Washington, D.C., as the working-class alternative to the Democrats and Republicans.

The SWP campaign fights for a government-funded public works program to create union-scale jobs building housing, child care, hospitals and other things working people need.

SWP candidates support union demands for cost-of-living escalator clauses to increase wages, pensions and social programs like Social Security, to offset the scourge of high prices. They call for a 30-hour workweek with 40 hours pay to prevent layoffs and increase available jobs.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates defend Ukraine’s independence and demand Moscow get out now. They call for the unions to take up the fight against Jew-hatred and to defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

“The only way these demands can be effectively fought for and won,” Fruit says, “is for workers to break from the bosses’ parties and build a party of labor. A party that can be used to organize and mobilize working people in our millions, union and nonunion alike, on the road to taking political power.”

Endorse the SWP campaign!

“I endorse the campaign for Rachele Fruit, the SWP presidential candidate who speaks for workers at home and abroad,” Jerome Crawford, a member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 111 at the Bimbo plant in Grand Prairie, Texas, told co-worker Hilda Cuzco. “I don’t think dictators should be invading neighboring countries in a land grab like in Ukraine.”

Why you should endorse, join the SWP campaign

Continued from front page

should pick one of them to rely on, along with the two parties that have served the ruling capitalist class for decades.

Tens of millions of workers sense there is something deeply wrong with a social system that has led to falling life expectancy, plunging birthrates, widening class inequality, the madness of “woke” values, more world instability and the threat of more and deadlier wars. They want to discuss the root cause of the crises we face today and what the road forward is.

The SWP candidates tell the truth about the two most important questions workers confront:

- Every working-class struggle is a political struggle — class against class. To meet and overcome today’s crises we need to break with the bosses’ parties and build our own party, a party of labor. It will work to



The Socialist Workers Party is on ballot in Louisiana! SWP members Alyson Kennedy and Steve Warshell received notice at the office of the secretary of state in Baton Rouge Aug. 13.

Crawford is one of 11 SWP campaign endorsers in the plant. “I think all jobs should have respectable wages and benefits, plus safer conditions,” he said. “To accomplish this, we working people need a party of our own.”

A truck driver from Arlington, Tex-

as, also endorsed the campaign. David Murlith, originally from Kenya, told campaign supporters at a truck stop that he thought both the Republicans and Democrats are for rich people, agreeing with the need for a labor party and amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S.

strengthen every union struggle, to unite all workers — organized or not — and draw all those exploited and oppressed by capital to fight for our common interests.

- The SWP candidates say that the working class in the U.S. can build the leadership we need and deserve out of our struggles and take on the most powerful ruling class in history. Workers can take political power into our own hands, and join fellow toilers worldwide in the fight to build a better world.

This perspective gets a hearing today because workers have seen hundreds of thousands of people just like them use unions in strikes and contract fights in recent years, winning solidarity, making gains against the bosses, gaining self-confidence and class consciousness.

The SWP campaign offers workers an opportunity to campaign for what you’re *for*, not who you’re against. Join us! Sign up to endorse Rachele Fruit for president! Introduce the campaign to your friends, family and co-workers.

Both of the bosses’ parties have taken steps to stabilize themselves, to try and present a more united and confident image. Donald Trump has united the Republicans, saying he and running mate J.D. Vance can lead a party that will stand for working people.

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz claim to be the “unified, happy party,” anointed by Barack Obama. They do not mention the Biden administration, instead presenting themselves as the candidates of “change,” much as Obama did.

Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin, a fervent admirer of the Democratic Party ticket, gushed over their potential to win support outside the liberal urban metropolises. “MAGA voters surely live there,” she said, “but so do multiracial, college-educated Americans of all ages, orientations and ideals.” This points to what is increasingly the social base of their party, dominated by the millions-strong upper-middle-class “enlightened meritocracy.” When Walz gave his first speech on the campaign trail in Philadelphia Aug. 6, he made no mention of the economic crisis workers face, but focused on gun control, student debt, the environment, entitlements, re-

productive freedom and attacks on Donald Trump that were followed by audience chants of “Lock him up!”

Harris and Walz both point to Harris’ career as a prosecutor and California attorney general as a great strength. But many workers have experiences with the capitalist “justice” system, and don’t consider the people who run it as heroes.

The “lock him up” euphoria reflects the yearslong drive of the Democrats to deal blows to constitutional rights in their lust to put Trump behind bars and ruin his family.

The Socialist Workers Party says defense of these rights, won over centuries of political battles, is one of the central issues in the class struggle today.

Trump offers no alternative

Trump says he speaks for the interests of the working class, but argues the way to create jobs is to strengthen the hands of U.S. bosses. And he says the biggest obstacle to jobs for “Americans” is immigrant workers. This is false, serving only to deepen divisions among workers, weaken our class and our unions.

Trump told an Aug. 8 press conference, “We are very close to a world war” and Biden and Harris “don’t know how to handle it.” His platform calls for “peace through strength” and ensuring the U.S. military is “the strongest and most powerful in the world.”

The threat of wider wars amid today’s conflicts around the world is very real. But the U.S. rulers aren’t a bulwark against war. They’re a central actor in the conflicts among imperialist powers, moving to strengthen and use their military might to defend the capitalist rulers’ markets, profits and spheres of interest against all rivals.

The Democrats and Republicans have differences over foreign policy, but they rest on common capitalist interests. Time and again they united behind foreign interventions — in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and more.

The working class needs our own foreign policy, based on our common interests here and around the world. The road to ending the U.S. rulers’ drive toward a third world war is by building parties capable of leading working people to re-

Continued on page 5

SWP presidential ticket on ballot in Tennessee

The Socialist Workers Party got a FedEx letter from Tennessee Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins at its national campaign headquarters in New York Aug. 12 confirming that the SWP presidential ticket of Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter will be on the ballot in Tennessee this November.

The campaign filed 774 signatures from working people throughout Tennessee July 8, well over the requirement of 275. They also gathered the required 11 presidential electors.

Ernest Wells, from Knoxville, was one of the first to volunteer as an elector in May. Now 63 and disabled, Wells worked all his life. He first contacted the SWP campaign last spring after reading about it in the online *Militant*, wanting to know how he could help.

“It’s way past time to do away with the two-party system,” he said, after he read about the SWP candidates’ call for working people to break with the bosses’ two parties and form a party of labor. When campaign supporters visited him, Wells subscribed to the *Militant* and got two books, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* and *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

Rayshawn Reece, from Murfreesboro, was also excited to learn about the SWP campaign and its program, readily agreeing to serve as an elector. Working as an elevator maintenance apprentice, Reece also works as a car mechanic to get by. “I like what Rachele says about what working people face and what we can do,” Reece said recently. “What she is presenting is for the common man, people like me who are just trying to look out for themselves and their families.” He got a copy of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *The Road to Workers Power* to learn more about the SWP and how workers can chart a course toward taking power from the capitalists responsible for the crisis working people face here and around the world.

— SUSAN LAMONT

1974: 'James P. Cannon built a Bolshevik-type party in the US'

BY JANET POST

With this issue of the *Militant*, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Aug. 21, 1974, death of James P. Cannon, a decadeslong communist leader and one of the founders of the Socialist Workers Party, the party's first national secretary and the first editor of the *Militant*.

"It is not far-fetched to record Jim Cannon as the greatest American Leninist of the mid-twentieth century, or even as the best builder of a Bolshevik-type party anywhere in the world after the death of [Bolshevik leader] Leon Trotsky," Jack Barnes, the current SWP national secretary, wrote in his introduction to the Pathfinder book *James P. Cannon As We Knew Him*. "Cannon not only did it, but he wrote about what he did so that his experience could be used by others, both in the United States and the rest of the world."

"Jim's ability to hold together a cadre where so many others had failed was not only owing to his talent for sizing up a political situation and knowing what to do about it," wrote Barnes, "but to his appreciation of the human material of the party."

Cannon was born in Rosedale, Kansas, in 1890 into an Irish working-class family. Won to socialist ideas by his father, he joined the Socialist Party in 1908 and the Industrial Workers of the World in 1911. Inspired by the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution led by V.I. Lenin, Cannon became a founder of the U.S. Communist Party and was elected to its Central Committee in 1920.

After Lenin's death, and the coming to power of a counterrevolutionary bureaucracy led by Joseph Stalin that overthrew Lenin's legacy, Cannon was won to the revolutionary perspective put forward by Trotsky. For this, Cannon was expelled from the CP in 1928. He helped found the Communist League of America.

In 1938 Cannon was a founder of the Socialist Workers Party and participated in the founding conference of the Fourth International held in France later that year. He was elected to its executive committee.

As the U.S. government prepared to enter World War II, Cannon was convicted along with 17 other leaders of the

SWP and the Minneapolis Teamsters union for opposing the rulers' imperialist war policy. He served 13 months in Sandstone penitentiary.

Cannon's testimony during the federal trial can be read in the book *Socialism on Trial*. The judge asks Cannon about the SWP's stance on the war. "We do not give any support to any imperialist war," testified Cannon. "We do not vote for it; we do not vote for any person that promotes it; we do not speak for it; we do not write for it. We are in opposition to it."

He added, "A declaration for war by the United States government would not change our position."

Confidence in coming revolution

In 1946 at the close of the war, Cannon presented a resolution, "Theses on the American Revolution," at the 12th national convention of the SWP. It stated, "The overwhelming preponderance of American imperialism does not exempt it from the decay of world capitalism, but on the contrary acts to involve it ever more deeply, inextricably, and hopelessly. ...

"The blind alley in which world capitalism has arrived, and the U.S. with it, excludes a new organic era of capitalist stabilization. The dominant world position of American imperialism now accentuates and aggravates the death agony of capitalism as a whole."

The SWP was the "sole legitimate heir and continuator of pioneer American communism," Cannon said. The task of the party is "to remain true to its program and banner; to render it more precise with each new development and apply it correctly in the class struggle; and to expand and grow with the growth of the revolutionary mass movement,



SWP leaders James P. Cannon, left, and Farrell Dobbs during Smith Act frame-up trial in 1941. Both were convicted, jailed for 13 months for opposing the U.S. rulers' imperialist war policy.

always aspiring to lead it to victory in the struggle for political power."

Until 1953 Cannon was the SWP national secretary, and then national chairman and national chairman emeritus until his death.

He died while 1,250 SWP members and supporters were at the 1974 Socialists Activists and Educational Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. The party organized an Aug. 23 "Political Tribute to Jim Cannon" chaired by Barnes, where over \$50,000 was raised to advance the party's work.

The main speaker was Joseph Hansen, a member of the SWP's Political Committee. Cannon "was angry at injustice, at exploitation," he said. "He was angry at poverty, lack of opportunity, oppression, racism and sexism. He seethed over the crimes of capitalism, its wars, its reactionary ideologies. He hated its police, its courts, its prisons, its fascism, its tendency to drop back to barbarism."

Cannon "burned with fury over Truman dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and at the chance

that the human race might be obliterated in an atomic holocaust," Hansen said.

Cannon's "perspective was the long-range one of winning the final battle; that is, the final battle in the struggle to topple capitalism and to replace it with socialism on a world scale.

"In his opinion this was a great perspective, the only one really worth a lifetime of effort," Hansen said. "He saw it, too, as a realistic perspective, one that would inevitably be realized even if it required the combined efforts of several successive generations of revolutionists."

Unable to attend the meeting, Farrell Dobbs, Cannon's successor as SWP national secretary, and his companion, Marvel Scholl, sent a message, saying, "Hail and farewell to Comrade Jim Cannon. When, in 1928, he brought Trotskyism to the United States, it was the beginning of a long uphill fight to continue the building of a genuine revolutionary movement capable of waging an uncompromising fight to bring humankind an enlightened socialist future."

Building Communist League focus of Agnes Sullivan's life

BY MIKE TUCKER

SYDNEY — Agnes Sullivan, a member of the Communist League in New Zealand for four decades, died in Christchurch there in June. She was 91.

"Agnes met the party when she was in her 50s," Janet Roth, a leader of the Communist League here, said. "Through its

program and activity, she found the expression of her working-class political convictions. From then on, building the party and its world movement was the focus of her life."

Sullivan was born into a coal-mining family on New Zealand's West Coast. Her father, Angus McLagan, was a leader of the miners' union and the early communist movement in the 1920s. He became a national trade union leader in the 1930s and a Labour Party government minister in the '40s. Her mother, Sophie, was also active in the labor movement.

Sullivan studied languages in college and, after raising three children, took up work as an archaeologist and anthropologist, doing research and teaching at museums and universities. This included a number of years researching early Maori settlement in Auckland, on which she was regarded as an authority.

In 1984 she came upon a copy of *Socialist Action*, the newspaper of the party of that name that would become the Communist League. She was drawn to the party's involvement in unions and other working-class struggles, including the fight for Maori rights. She contacted the party and joined.

For Sullivan this was life-changing. She became part of the League's union fractions working in industrial factories and other jobs in Wellington for years

before moving to Christchurch. She participated in and wrote for the *Militant* about struggles by working people.

Although she was quiet and self-effacing, those who worked with Sullivan were struck by her political knowledge and astute observations. "She was one of the most political people I have known," Patrick Brown, who worked with her in the Communist League, said. "She greedily consumed news about political developments and then worked within the movement to see them through a proletarian, communist lens."

Sullivan didn't just read the *Militant* each week, she studied it. She did the same with Pathfinder books. She wanted to deepen her understanding of political developments, the class struggle and building the party.

When she got the new Pathfinder title, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, she sent a message to the Communist League in Australia. "The first chapter by Dave Prince makes gripping reading," she said.

"After joining the party, Agnes remained loyal and committed for the rest of her life," said Roth, "and she had unswerving confidence in the working-class political course being advanced by the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues today."

Endorse Socialist Workers Party 2024 campaign!

Rachele Fruit for president & Dennis Richter vice-president

Campaign for what you are for, not who you're against!

I endorse Rachele Fruit for president.

Here is my contribution of \$_____ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)

Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, the paper of the SWP campaign. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Electrical workers fight for better pay, job safety in Australia

SYDNEY — More than 100 workers, members of the Electrical Trades Union, rallied here Aug. 8 at the head office of Ausgrid, a major electricity distribution outlet in New South Wales. ETU members at other power companies walked off the job across the state to fight for a wage increase that keeps up with the cost of living.

The actions “show solidarity across the power grid,” Electrical Trades Union organizer Tara Koot told the rally. Ausgrid workers also joined rallies outside Transgrid’s headquarters in Sydney, where ETU members have been holding a 24/7 protest, and outside Endeavour Energy’s offices in Parramatta, western Sydney.

The rallies also focused on the fight for safety and conditions. “We’ve lost workers but new apprentices have not been put on,” ETU delegate at Endeavour Trent Smith told the Parramatta rally.

— Linda Harris

Park workers in Minneapolis win new contract, strengthen union

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of Laborers’ union Local 363 here ended their three-week strike against the city’s Park Board Aug. 1, voting to ratify a new contract.

The park bosses had tried to impose a “final offer” with minimal wage increases and to weaken the union.

Strikers took the issues in their strike to other workers, rallying and talking to people in the city’s parks. They spoke out at Park Board meetings.

The union says the new contract won wage increases, cost-of-living increases and protection of grievance and steward rights. It also expands fair overtime distribution, includes rights around sick leave, retains union rights for all seasonal workers and doubles the number of full-time positions.

“Our members’ sacrifices and solidarity yielded more than improved wages and benefits,” Local 363 Business Agent A.J. Lange said in a statement. “To everyone who supported us, your solidarity made a crucial difference.”

— Edwin Fruit

Thousands of Quebec hotel workers strike for higher wages

MONTREAL — “Since the pandemic the price of a hotel room has gone up 67%. We’re asking for 36% over four years!” Michel Valiquette, representative of the Federation of Commerce, Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), told hundreds of hotel workers as they rallied in downtown Montreal in a one-day provincewide strike Aug. 8.

Some 3,500 CSN members at 30 hotels across Quebec have been negotiating together since April. Union members from 23 of the hotels participated in the one-day action. Rallies were held in Montreal, Sherbrooke and Quebec City.

Strikers told the *Militant* the raise of 8% they got over the past four years meant they were losing money. Roberto Sangabriel, a houseman, has worked at Montreal’s Radisson Hotel near the airport for 15 years. “Inflation is a nationwide problem,” he said. “It’s the whole world.”

Union-won working conditions are key to defending life and limb. Housekeepers have won a limit of 12 rooms per shift to clean, sometimes less.

A thousand union members at three

Montreal hotels went out on a further one-day strike Aug. 10. Send messages of solidarity to Michel Valiquette at infofo@csn.qc.ca.

— Katy LeRougetel

UK supermarket workers return to picket line over wages, safety

LOWESTOFT, England — Workers at the U.K. supermarket chain Asda walked out Aug. 9 in the third strike against conditions at the superstore here, 100 miles northeast of London.

The 170 members of the General Municipal and Boilermakers union say that no progress has been made in negotiations over their grievances, which range from low pay and reduced hours to speedup and safety.

The union is also pursuing a claim for equal pay with workers in Asda’s distribution warehouses for the overwhelming majority of workers who are female in their retail stores. Thirty GMB members staged a protest outside the Asda store in Kettering July 15. The company has said that jobs in warehousing and retail are not comparable, but the Supreme Court has ruled that a case can be made that they may be. The court will hold hearings starting Sept. 9.

— Jonathan Silberman

Fight Australia gov’t move to take over building union

Continued from front page
commission’s appointee would run the union for two years, or more.

Union under attack for years

The construction workers union, a division of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union, has been targeted by successive federal governments for over 20 years, including being hit with some 19 million Australian dollars (\$12 million) in fines since 2016. There are several ongoing police investigations against union officials.

The CFMEU construction division has a strong presence on major building and infrastructure projects around the country.

In a letter to union members July 24, Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union National Secretary Zach Smith said, “Some of these allegations have been misleading and false.” But “some are deeply worrying and warrant investigation.” The union’s national office took over the Victoria branch of the union July 15, standing down 15 delegates and launching its own inquiry.

“I take criminality seriously,” Smith said, adding he would “also never ever apologize for the important work this union does.”

In a July 15 statement he declared, “Our union operates in a tough industry where people are injured or killed every week and where shonky developers and contractors are often allowed to run rampant.”

In 2022, 27 workers were killed and 15,600 injured in construction workplace accidents. The union helped lead a successful campaign to ban the use of engineered stone after thousands of workers developed lung disease caused by silica dust.

Earlier this year the union’s branches in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales won new statewide contracts improving work conditions and pay raises of more than 20% over four years.

Media allegations include claims



Militant/John Steele

Hundreds of hotel workers rally in Montreal Aug. 8, part of one-day province-wide strike in fight for higher wages and to maintain more tolerable working conditions won by CSN union.

Airplane parts workers strike over wages, health care costs

COMMERCE, Calif. — Some 300 workers at Monogram Aerospace Fasteners, members of United Auto Workers Local 509, went on strike here Aug. 4, halting production of parts for Boeing and Airbus. They are fighting for a three-year contract with a healthy wage increase and against bosses’ efforts to jack up already high health care costs.

Striker Lupe Zamayoza said the boss-

es have recently changed or eliminated job descriptions, demoting workers to lower pay grades. They claimed the old union contract’s Article 21 let them do it. Many workers now carry signs saying, “No to Article 21!”

“Everything costs so much more — gas, food,” another striker said. “My wife is a hotel worker and she was on strike. They got a \$5 per hour wage raise.”

— Bernie Senter

— many based on covert surveillance — that “criminals” have “infiltrated” the union. They say union organizers in Melbourne threatened to beat up the owners of a small labor hire company, and branch officials in Victoria and New South Wales accepted kickbacks and bribes.

Responding to these allegations, Smith told union members, “When you hear politicians or the business lobby say that the CFMEU causes costs in construction to be too high, be very clear about what they’re saying: They think you should be earning less money.”

After the government announced plans to intervene against the union, leaders of the Australian Council of Trade Unions suspended the construction union from the national union federation. And the Australian Labor Party, along with its state branches in Victoria and New South Wales, suspended the CFMEU from the party.

The Fair Work Commission cynically claimed its proposed takeover is “to ensure the CFMEU can be representative of and accountable to its members, operate lawfully and effectively and

encourage member participation and democratic functioning.”

But this intervention into the union has nothing to do with concern about corruption in unions or the well-being of rank-and-file construction workers, neither do the police investigations and anti-union campaign in the capitalist news media. The government’s aim is to weaken the unions on behalf of the bosses, to tie up any pro-union activity in further regulations and red tape, and to dampen any fight to defend wages and conditions.

Any problems our unions have today can only be resolved by union members themselves, not the bosses’ government.

The way to strengthen the labor movement lies in a break with all the bosses’ parties. Through the class battles ahead we can build a party of labor to organize and mobilize working people, union and nonunion alike, to defend our common interests and fight to take political power into our own hands.

Robert Aiken is the Communist League in Australia candidate for mayor of Liverpool.

Endorse, join the SWP campaign

Continued from page 3

replace dog-eat-dog capitalist rule with a workers government.

Key to this perspective today is the fight against Jew-hatred.

“The Socialist Workers Party is part of the continuity in the fight against Jew-hatred that goes back to Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. Socialist should never support any crime against humanity in the name of revolution,” Rachele Fruit told the press three days after the murderous Hamas anti-Jewish pogrom left over 1,200 people dead in Israel.

“Working people cannot rely on the imperialist democracies to protect Jews,” she said. “Washington and

London closed the door on Jewish immigration before, during and after the Second World War. That fact, and the betrayal of revolutionary opportunities by the Stalinists in Moscow and elsewhere, led to Hitler’s ‘Final Solution.’ That’s why Israel had to be and has to be a refuge for the Jews.”

The Socialist Workers Party campaign is looking to win more endorsers for the Fruit-Richter campaign. They are looking beyond the November election, toward building a powerful working-class party that can end capitalist exploitation and oppression once and for all. This is a movement to get involved in! Contact the campaign headquarters nearest you, listed on page 8.

Israel: refuge from Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

ington Post and other liberal capitalist news media responded by echoing Hamas propaganda as they have since Oct. 7. “Nearly 100 killed in Israeli strike on school, Gaza officials say,” was the headline in the Post. But the Post never informs its readers that every “official” body in Gaza is run by Hamas, which lies about the real death toll and the actual number of “civilian victims.”

The White House also gave credence to the Hamas claim in a statement saying that it was “deeply concerned” about the airstrike. Israeli army officials provided the names and photos of 31 dead Hamas and Islamic Jihad thugs.

The war on Israel takes place amid growing world capitalist disorder. Hundreds of millions of working people are being drawn into world politics against a backdrop of Moscow’s war to conquer Ukraine; sharpening rivalry in the Pacific between Beijing and the rulers in Australia, Japan and the U.S.; and Tehran’s bloody drive to assert its sway across the Middle East, while targeting Israel and the Jews. On top of these challenges, the U.S. rulers are incapable of preventing ruinous economic breakdowns, nor have they been able to crush working-class resistance to employer assaults here or worldwide.

The rise of Jew-hatred in the Middle East, the U.S. and around the world is rooted in this global instability.

From the stabbing of a Jewish man in Brooklyn Aug. 10 by an attacker who yelled “Free Palestine” to the exclusion of the Israeli Ultimate Frisbee team from an international competition in Belgium Aug. 6, confronting and opposing Jew-hatred is intertwined with the fight to advance the interests of the working class and oppressed nationalities.

Hamas is cause of Gaza destruction

The loss of civilian lives and destruction of homes, businesses and infrastructure in Gaza is significant. But that is the fault of Hamas and its backers in Tehran. Hamas puts its command posts and weapons in schools, hospitals, mosques and residences, using civilians as human shields. It began the war by murdering 1,200 people, mostly civilians, wounding thousands and taking more than 250 hostages. If Hamas frees the remaining hostages, gives up its arms and turns over the masterminds of the Oct. 7 pogrom the war would be over.

Tehran and Hezbollah have been threatening to retaliate against Israel for the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran July 31 and of Fuad Shukur, a Hezbollah military leader responsible for numerous terror attacks, in Beirut the day before.

The Times and the Post called Haniyeh’s death an “assassination” and presented him as a civilian “diplomat.” But he was no “civilian.” And his death was not an “assassination.” Israel has a right to defend itself from Nazi-like groups intent on destroying Israel and killing all the Jews there.

On Oct. 7, Haniyeh immediately celebrated the bloody assault. “Get out of our land, get out of our faces,”

he told Jews in Israel via an interview on Al Jazeera. “This land is ours, Jerusalem is ours, everything is ours.”

Washington defends its own interests

Washington is sending a second aircraft carrier group to the region along with a guided-missile submarine ostensibly as a warning to Tehran to not launch a major attack on Israel. But Washington’s goal is not fighting Jew-hatred or defending Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews. It keeps pressing Israel to accept a longterm cease-fire — one which would leave Hamas intact — seeking to regain stability for U.S. imperialism’s economic and political interests in the region, including restarting shipping and access to oil resources.

The White House, along with the rulers in London and Berlin, demand Israel step down.

David Ignatius, a Washington Post columnist with ties to the State Department, claims that Tehran is driven by “determination to preserve its national dignity.” But that’s false. The capitalist regime in Iran is driven to extend its reactionary influence throughout the region with the destruction of Israel at the center. This course is greeted with derision by working people in Iran who suffer the consequences.

The Houthis in Yemen, whose attacks on ships have forced a 90% fall in shipping in the Red Sea, Hezbollah and now Tehran say they could halt attacks if Israel agrees to a permanent cease-fire. They want to save Hamas from total destruction, keep Israel from destroying Iran’s nuclear facilities before they build a nuclear bomb and buy time so that they can build up their forces for future, more deadly attacks on Israel and Jews.

Despite threatening massive retali-



Photos taken by Hamas thugs wearing body cams so they could record their atrocities Oct. 7. Left, Joshua Mollé, student agricultural worker from Tanzania, moments before Hamas thugs stab him, stomp on him, then shoot him to death. Right, unidentified Israeli woman being taken hostage. Israelis are fighting to crush Hamas, prevent future pogroms.

ation against Israel, Tehran and Hezbollah have hesitated so far.

Arab citizens of Israel

Tehran, Hamas and Hezbollah are violently opposed to Jews and Arabs living together in peace. But that is not the view of the vast majority of the peoples of Israel, where 21% of the population is Arab and 73% is Jewish.

“Hezbollah doesn’t distinguish between Jews and Muslims,” Ibrahim Zina, a Muslim citizen near the town of Mazra’a in Northern Israel, told the Times of Israel. “We live and work together. When the sirens went off, we were all in the bomb shelter together.”

Arab citizens of Israel speak out against the racism and discrimination they face.

A car with four Bedouin women and a child that accidentally drove into



Photos taken by Hamas thugs wearing body cams so they could record their atrocities Oct. 7. Left, Joshua Mollé, student agricultural worker from Tanzania, moments before Hamas thugs stab him, stomp on him, then shoot him to death. Right, unidentified Israeli woman being taken hostage. Israelis are fighting to crush Hamas, prevent future pogroms.

an unsanctioned Israeli outpost in the Palestinian West Bank Aug. 9 was attacked by settlers, who held guns to their heads and set their car on fire.

“I always say, ‘Good that I’m an Israeli citizen, I love it,’” Lamis al-Jaer, one of the victims, told Israel’s Channel 12 news. “A normal person can’t understand why they would do that to us. We didn’t do anything to them. Someone who asks for directions — they deserve this?”

The incident was debated at a meeting in the Knesset, Israel’s parliament. After a far-right legislator justified the attack MK Zvi Sukkot of the Religious Zionist party responded. “I don’t like to use the word ‘terrorism’ in these cases,” he said, but what the settlers did, “it’s a serious crime.”

Two settlers have been arrested so far as the investigation continues.

Canada rail bosses threaten lockout, strike set for Aug. 22

Continued from front page

Rail Conference, agreed to binding arbitration. They also announced plans to begin embargoing dangerous goods and progressively stopping other freight traffic. Canadian National is calling on Canada’s minister of labor to intervene.

“From the very beginning, rail workers have only ever sought a fair and equitable agreement,” Paul Boucher, president of Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, responded. “Unfortunately, both rail companies are demanding concessions that could tear families apart or jeopardize rail safety. Rail workers have fought for a safer and more humane industry for decades, and we will not accept moving backwards.”

“CPKC wants to gut the collective agreement of all safety-critical fatigue provisions. The end result will mean train crews would be forced to stay awake even longer, increasing the risk of derailments and other accidents,” the union said. “CPKC has also failed to address the understaffing of rail traffic controllers.

“CN aims to implement a forced relocation scheme, which would see workers ordered to move across the country for months at a time to fill labour shortages. CN also wants to extend workdays

in all provinces west of Ontario.”

Rail workers welcomed the labor board’s decision to recognize their right to strike. “It took too long. It’s been months since our collective agreement has expired,” CN train conductor Juan Sebastian Santamaria told the *Militant*. “I’m looking forward to the strike.”

“Their ‘offer’ is scandalous,” Alexandre Jacob, a Canadian National train conductor for five years, said. “We have to oppose any anti-strike legislation. We have to go on strike.”

The workers’ contract expired Dec. 31. Teamsters Canada Rail Conference members have voted to strike by over 98% twice since.

“Very good news! It was about time. I’d rather they reach a tentative agreement, but if it comes down to a strike, I will participate and bring solidarity,” said Canadian National conductor Giulio Archambault.

Some 110 business groups and chambers of commerce across Canada, organized by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, sent a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, his minister of labor and the minister of transport, urging them to prevent a work stoppage. While shedding crocodile tears over the well-being of citi-

zens, their real goal is defending their bloated profits.

The letter asks the government to hold an emergency meeting with business groups as soon as possible, to discuss government action “preventing any potential disruption.”

“Looks like we have some bargaining power,” Eugen Bernard, a Canadian National conductor for nine years, commented. “The company’s proposed forced arbitration is disgusting, but we have a lot of leverage.”

Philippe Tessier is a conductor at Canadian National and a member of the Teamsters union.

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Jews fight against Nazi Holocaust

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

This year marks the 81st anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising — one of the first and the largest act of armed resistance against the Nazi Holocaust to exterminate the Jews. A year later in August 1944, Polish workers rose up in this capital city of Poland against Adolf Hitler’s brutal occupation forces.

Prior to World War II, Warsaw was a major center of Jewish life and culture in Poland. Its Jewish population was about 375,000, the largest of any city in Europe.

After the signing of the secret Stalin-Hitler pact, where the two rulers agreed to conquer and divide Poland, German forces invaded on Sept. 1, 1939, marking the start of the second imperialist world war. Stalin ordered Moscow’s invasion from the east in mid-September. By the end of the month Hitler’s forces occupied Warsaw. The country was partitioned between Germany and the Soviet Union.

The Nazis established the Warsaw Ghetto one year later as part of implementing Hitler’s “Final Solution” to rid Europe of Jews. They were confined under harsh, unlivable conditions until they could be executed. This ghetto was only 1.3 square miles. Jewish families were given just two weeks to relocate there, forfeiting all their possessions.

The ghetto was sealed off within a 10-foot wall topped with barbed wire. Entering and leaving without a special work permit was prohibited, enforced by armed guards.

The population of the ghetto at its high point exceeded 450,000. Many had no housing or were forced to live nine people to a room. Overcrowding exacerbated the spread of disease. Food provided to Jewish residents was at starvation levels. Thousands died there each month.

Despite these conditions, Jews found ways to resist — through music, poetry and theater expressing their cultural heritage. This is described in *Warsaw Testament*, a book by Rokhl Auerbach recently published in English for the first time. She was part of a team of 60 Jews living in the ghetto who worked together to write about and archive their experiences. Only Auerbach and two others survived the war.

In July 1942 the Nazis began mass deportations from the ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp, built specifically for their murder. Over the next two months 265,000 Jews were systematically slaughtered there, while German SS and police units murdered another 35,000 of the Jews who remained in the ghetto.

That summer several Jewish underground groups banded together and



Polish National Archives
Jewish resistance fighters captured by Nazi stormtroopers during 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. This heroic rebellion was first and largest act of armed resistance against Holocaust.

formed the Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB). It included members of Zionist groups, socialists, communists and the Bund. They were joined by a second force called the Jewish Military Union (ZZW), established by the Betari Youth.

The uprising began on April 19, 1943, when 2,000 German army troops moved into the area with tanks, rapid-fire artillery and ammunition trailers. They were met by some 1,500 ZOB fighters and others who opened fire with pistols, a few rifles, a machine gun and homemade grenades, fighting German forces in hand-to-hand combat.

At the time, only 50,000 Jews remained alive in the ghetto. Jews hid in underground bunkers, refusing orders by German authorities to assemble at collection points for deportation. By the end of the day German troops were forced to retreat outside the ghetto wall, with 12 of their soldiers killed or wounded.

The German forces then used gas and flamethrowers to force the Jews from their bunkers. The Nazi brass made a decision to burn the entire ghetto, which their troops began to carry out block by block. The ghetto fighters and the civilian population who supported them held the Nazi army at bay for nearly a month, until May 16. On that day German Gen. Juergen Stroop ordered the destruction of Warsaw’s Great Synagogue.

The Jewish resistance in Warsaw inspired uprisings in other ghettos, such as in Bialystok, and in the killing centers of Treblinka, Sobibor and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

1944 Warsaw Uprising

A year later on Aug. 1, 1944, another uprising began throughout the city of Warsaw. Inside occupied Poland, anti-Nazi resistance was organized around the Home Army, an underground military organization that backed the Free Polish government-in-exile in London.

Freed prisoners: ‘Putin, Russian people are not the same’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

“Don’t confuse the Putin regime with Russia; they are not the same,” newly released Russian political prisoner Vladimir Kara-Murza said in Bonn, Germany, Aug. 2. Not differentiating between the government in Moscow and its invasion of Ukraine and the Russian working people means giving credence to “the line of Putin’s propaganda — that all Russians are for war and for Putin.” It’s as if he and his fellow political prisoners, as well as “millions who are against the war, don’t exist.”

Kara-Murza was speaking at a press conference alongside Ilya Yashin and Andrei Pivovarov, two other Russian oppositionists freed the day before.

In total 24 people were exchanged. Russian President Vladimir Putin received eight of his overseas operatives, including a prized international assassin. He released three Americans and eight political oppositionists from Russia.

Yashin said they had actually suffered an “illegal expulsion” as they had refused to ask for a pardon from Putin, the “tyrant.” He said one of Moscow’s aims was to undercut the ability of outspoken political opponents like himself

from confronting Putin inside Russia.

Kara-Murza, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, was freed from a Siberian prison where he had expected to die. He was framed up, serving a 25-year sentence for “treason” for challenging Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

Sanctions hit Russian working people

He told the press he opposed the sanctions imposed on Russia by Washington. Supposedly targeting “the upper echelons of the Putin regime,” he said, they end up being directed “against the entire country and all Russian citizens.”

This is “extremely unfair and counterproductive,” he added, as it allows Putin to depict the Russian people as being “surrounded by enemies.” This position is controversial with many Ukrainians.

The Socialist Workers Party agrees with Kara-Murza. “The far-reaching sanctions imposed by the U.S. rulers and their allies, whatever their supposed ‘target,’ in fact fall heaviest on working people in Russia,” Rachele Fruit, the SWP candidate for president, told the *Militant* Aug. 12.

These measures “make it more difficult for Ukrainian workers and farmers to forge links of solidarity with

By that time Hitler’s forces had suffered serious defeats on the Eastern Front and were forced to withdraw from its invasion of the Soviet Union. Soviet tanks had reached the eastern suburbs of Warsaw when the uprising by Polish forces to liberate the city began.

The Home Army had at its disposal about 40,000 fighters — including 4,000 women — but no more than 10% of them were armed, mostly with light weapons. The German forces were heavily armed, with tanks, artillery and planes. What followed was nine weeks of intense fighting, the longest and bloodiest urban insurgency of the Second World War.

Soviet forces stationed on the eastern bank of the Vistula River in Warsaw passively watched as German forces massacred the Polish residents. Joseph Stalin’s government refused to offer support, fearing it would strengthen the Polish government-in-exile and make more difficult his growing control over the region. The Soviet military, which controlled six airfields in Poland, provided no air or artillery support. The imperialist Allied forces of Washington and London did virtually nothing to help either. Franklin Roosevelt even turned down a suggestion from British Prime Minister Winston Churchill that they issue a joint request for Stalin to aid the Polish rebels.

The fighting stopped Oct. 2, 1944, with the formal surrender of the Home Army. Polish losses during the uprising included 150,000 civilian deaths, and 20,000 Home Army casualties. German forces lost about 10,000 troops. Over the next three months German forces demolished much of what was left of the city and deported 650,000 Polish civilians to a labor camp south of Warsaw.

In January 1945 Stalin sent Soviet troops in to “liberate” what was left of Warsaw.

working people in Russia. Their combined class forces can win the fight for an end to Putin’s invasion,” Fruit said.

Moscow caught off guard

Thousands of Ukraine’s troops with armored vehicles and artillery poured across the border into Russia’s Kursk region Aug. 6. The sudden offensive caught Russian defenses, the Kremlin and even Kyiv’s allies, off guard.

Hundreds of surprised Russian conscripts surrendered. Over 150,000 Russian civilians have been evacuated, including from the regional capital, Kursk.

Kyiv’s audacious action aims to draw Moscow’s forces away from battle lines in eastern Ukraine, where they are making some advances, at the cost of hundreds of soldiers killed daily in “human meat” attacks. Despite its risks, the move is boosting morale for Ukrainians and is humiliating Putin.

Yashin, one of the newly freed Russian political prisoners, told the press, “Ukraine does not intend to annex any Russian territories.” The Ukrainian people are “demanding the withdrawal of Russian troops,” which Yashin said is “absolutely justified.”

“The war is not just a tragedy for Ukraine, it’s also a catastrophe for Russia,” he said.

Special: books half price with Militant subscription

See page 8 for distributor near you

Women in Cuba joined in deepening the socialist revolution

To help mark the anniversary of July 26, 1953, the opening of the Cuban Revolution, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August is *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution — From Santiago de Cuba and the Rebel Army, to the Birth of the Federation of Cuban Women*. It is by *Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer, three leaders of the Federation of Cuban Women*. It traces the unprecedented integration of women into the ranks and leadership of the social revolution that deepened with the popular triumph in 1959 against the U.S.-backed dictatorship. The excerpt is from the chapter "It gave us a sense of worth," an interview with de los Santos led by Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Bohemia
Women in Santiago de Cuba protest U.S. Ambassador Earl Smith, right, in July 1957, demand an end to U.S. support for Batista dictatorship. Women joined revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro, and after Jan. 1, 1959, victory they helped lead advance of socialist revolution.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ASELA DE LOS SANTOS

When Fidel [Castro] left prison in May 1955, freed by the strength of the amnesty campaign, he tried to remain in Havana and organize a revolutionary civic movement to create by legal means the conditions to overthrow Batista. That wasn't possible. The military set out to hunt down Fidel and kill him.

Fidel tried to communicate through the media, the radio. He tried to inform people, to tell them the truth about the situation. The regime responded by shutting down radio sta-

tions, television stations, and newspapers. And by pursuing Fidel.

While still in Havana, Fidel organized the group that would become the national leadership of the movement. Revolutionaries from several groups came together. They decided to call the new organization the July 26 Revolutionary Movement.

Fidel and the other compañeros went to Mexico to prepare what became the *Granma* expedition. Those who stayed behind were responsible for revolutionary work in Cuba.

In 1956 we would either be free or be martyrs, as Fidel put it. That's what all of us thought. ...

[The July 26 Movement] was formed in June 1955, after the amnesty. *History Will Absolve Me*, Fidel's defense speech at the Moncada trial, had been published, and supporters made sure it made its way all over the island. Fidel transformed himself from accused to accuser. From that moment on, I was won to the cause for good.

I began to work in the July 26 Movement alongside Vilma, alongside Frank [País], and alongside Haydée Santamaría and Armando Hart. The two of them had come to Santiago at the request of the movement's national leadership to strengthen the work there. ...

On November 30, 1956, beginning at 7:00 a.m., we carried out an armed action in Santiago de Cuba in support of

the *Granma* landing, which we thought was going to be the same day. (They ended up landing two days later.) Combatants stopped cars in Santiago and told drivers that their cars were being taken over on behalf of the movement. We had no other means of transportation. Combatants took to the streets, in uniforms with armbands, chanting, "Down with Batista!" and "Long live Fidel!"

The fighting lasted until ten or eleven in the morning — Vilma describes it well in her account. Three combatants were killed, Pepito Tey, Otto Parellada, and Tony Alomá. But several of the mission's objectives had been achieved. When the insurrectional forces retreated, the army began to emerge from the barracks, where they had been holed up.

No one was arrested on the day of the action in Santiago itself, since the people protected us. People opened the doors to their houses. ...

The people knew what had been done to the Moncada combatants could happen again. It still fills me with emotion to talk about it. I'm not telling you something I heard from others. I lived through it.

To me it seemed something unheard of — people not yet involved in the movement protecting youth who had gone out in the streets ready to die, ready to sacrifice their lives. ...

I never went underground. Vilma did. Her house was the headquarters,

and Batista's forces raided it and began to hunt for her. So she went underground. But this being Santiago, the authorities never could get her. People protected her and she managed to escape. We always tried to choose houses with more than one way to get out, including by rooftop if need be. ...

Cuban women have a tradition of struggle, from the mambises in the nineteenth century wars of independence to today. That tradition is an important political element in our socialist revolution.

With a historical leap, we find ourselves in 1953, the beginning of the struggle for genuine independence — I'm referring here to the attack on Moncada — and the heroic examples of Melba Hernández and Haydée Santamaría, who participated in that action.

As the struggle continued, more and more women became part of it.

Fidel's course of building a mass revolutionary movement capable of sustaining and supporting the armed struggle enabled both men and women to be integrated.

Women joined the ranks of the Rebel Army. In the Sierra Maestra there was a platoon of women fighters known as the Marianas, named after Mariana Grajales, the mother of the eight Maceo brothers, all of whom fought for independence from Spain. She was one of the great heroes of the war for independence.

In the underground we did whatever was necessary. We sewed uniforms and armbands for the Rebel Army. We helped provide cover for moving weapons and young combatants. We found families who would house revolutionary fighters who had gone underground. We secured medicine. We served as messengers between different revolutionary fronts. We distributed subversive propaganda and collected supplies.

In short, women worked on every front in the underground struggle. ...

As the struggle deepened, women saw greater possibilities opening up. There were many important things to do. The revolution offered them this opportunity. And I'm talking about even before the victory.

When a deepgoing revolution takes place, women, who have been oppressed for centuries, for millennia, want to take part.

August
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Build solidarity with strike battles today

From longshoremen in the U.S. to rail workers in Canada, hotel workers in Los Angeles to park workers in Minneapolis, flight attendants who've gone years without a new contract to independent truckers hit by rising costs, more and more working people are saying, "Enough is enough!"

Some 45,000 dockworkers, members of the International Longshoremen's Association at ports from Maine to Texas; more than 30,000 International Association of Machinists members at Boeing in Seattle; and 200,000 federal workers, members of the American Postal Workers Union, face contract deadlines this fall.

Tens of thousands of unionists are using, or preparing to use, their unions strike power to defend and improve their wages and work conditions, and exert more control over production and safety. Solidarity with these struggles is crucial. It can tip the scales so workers can advance instead of being pushed back and down.

The crisis of capitalism today, including sharper competition and downward pressure on profit rates, is pushing the bosses to go on the attack. Under these conditions, rising prices and debt levels, unlivable work schedules and dangerous working conditions, uncertain job prospects, and the growing expenses of trying to raise a family make it harder and harder to make ends meet.

In Canada, rail workers have set a deadline of Aug. 22 to win a new contract or go on strike. They face a threatened boss lockout the same day. In Australia, workers face a major union-busting at-

tack on the national construction workers union as the Labor government seeks to impose its "administration" on the union.

The big employers are intent on deepening the exploitation of labor as their only solution, along with intensified rivalry and conflict with competitors and their governments abroad. They have their political parties and state power, the cops, courts and the news media all at their disposal.

"A decades-long retreat by the working class and unions has come to an end," explains the book *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

This, the book explains, comes amid the shattering of "the global order imposed by the victors of the inter-imperialist slaughter of World War II." This brings a world of increasing devastation and war to millions. It also means fresh opportunities for class-conscious workers to organize, fight and build solidarity with each other's battles.

"Workers are in a mood to fight," Rachele Fruit, the SWP candidate for U.S. president, explains wherever she goes. Many unionists sense that a fresh breeze is beginning to fill the sails of our fighting organizations.

Every labor struggle is at the same time a political struggle. As we fight, we also see more clearly the need to break from the bosses' parties and build a party of our own, a party of labor. This is the way to better defend the interests of the working class and its allies today and to gain the experience and class consciousness to take political power tomorrow.

US hands off Venezuela! Stop threats against Cuba!

Continued from front page

his top officials if they relinquish power. They face U.S. extradition charges for alleged drug trafficking.

Washington is seizing on the crisis to step up its slander campaign to try to isolate the Cuban government. Wild claims have been made in the U.S. press about Cuban special forces being flown to Venezuela after the election. The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs has categorically refuted these lies.

Leaders of the Democratic Unity Table opposition coalition demanded the official disclosure of printed voting tally sheets, as required by Venezuela's electoral law. Refusing to release the data, Maduro instead asked the country's Supreme Court to audit the election results. Opposition figures said this will bury the actual results behind closed doors.

Anti-government protests followed the election. Some were held in former bastions of working-class support for the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela, the political party formed by Maduro's predecessor and mentor, Hugo Chávez.

A confrontation with National Guard troops and pro-Maduro paramilitary motorcycle gangs called "colectivos" left 25 dead. Tens of thousands marched Aug. 3 in support of Maduro. He declared he faced a rightist coup and launched a sweeping crackdown on opposition supporters, arresting over 2,400 people.

Washington seeks stable transition

Most governments in the region, whether friendly or not to Maduro, have questioned the results.

The presidents of Colombia, Brazil and Mexico have called for the voting records to be made public. They're negotiating with representatives of the Venezuelan opposition and the Maduro government and with Washington.

The country's attorney general, Tarek William Saab, opened an investigation Aug. 5 into both González and opposition leader María Corina Machado for allegedly spreading false information, inciting disobedience and insurrection. A long-standing opponent of the government, Machado was disqualified from running for president herself.

Over the past two years President Joseph Biden's administration has been holding talks with Maduro's representatives. Last October Washington promised to lift U.S. sanctions on oil and gas exports in return for the release of political prisoners and steps toward

elections that Washington would deem "free and fair." The accord unraveled when the Maduro government banned Machado from running and launched a fresh round of arrests of opposition activists.

The U.S. capitalist rulers are keen to resume exploiting Venezuela's once-vast oil industry and for its crude to flow to global markets again amid energy disruptions caused by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. They also hope to blunt Caracas' deepening collaboration with Moscow, Beijing and Tehran.

The crisis hitting Venezuela's capitalist economy, deepened by U.S. sanctions, has ameliorated a little since 2014 when inflation skyrocketed and shortages of basic goods became widespread. Some 8 million Venezuelans have left the country.

Venezuela's history of struggle

In 1989 a working-class rebellion known as the "Caracazo" exploded over steep price hikes, unemployment and deteriorating living and working conditions. President Carlos Andrés Pérez, of the Democratic Action party, sent the military to crush the protests, killing more than 3,000 people in Caracas alone.

Chávez was imprisoned in 1992 after leading a failed coup against Andrés Pérez. He was elected president in 1998 amid rising worker and peasant struggles. But neither he nor Maduro after him had any intention of leading the working class to take political power.

"We don't have any plans to sweep away the oligarchy, the Venezuelan bourgeoisie," said Chávez in 2007. Instead, his government used control over the state oil company, PDVSA, to redirect oil revenues toward social spending. This won widespread support among working people and the impoverished middle classes. That support began to erode as funds dried up when oil prices plunged, and the worldwide crisis of capitalism deepened.

Chávez's course, continued by Maduro, fostered the growth of privileged social layers, including within the top brass of the armed forces. Today they are the mainstay of support for Maduro.

The inevitable consequences are growing demoralization and confusion among working people, even among those who for the last 20 years have fought against U.S. imperialism's multiple attempts to intervene and overthrow the government. Millions continue to look for ways to fight for better wages, land, affordable health care, education and other rights.

'Militant' prison ban

Continued from front page

stein has heard anything since.

Numerous organizations and individuals have sent letters to the committee urging it to overturn the ban.

One of those groups is PEN America. It is also appealing a Literature Review Committee decision that prohibits its publication, *The Sentences that Create Us: Crafting a Writer's Life in Prison*, from state prisons and jails in Florida.

The *Militant* issue impounded by prison authorities featured an article that reprinted 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*.

Among photos in the book is a widely circulated Associated Press picture showing the body of a Jewish man murdered by Hamas during its 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."

Ban has lasted over three months

The amount of time that this impoundment has lasted is a clear violation of prisoners' political rights and the right of the *Militant* to reach its subscribers behind bars. Since the ban the *Militant* has printed 15 additional issues, reaching hundreds of incarcerated workers, including the subscriber at Jackson. And the number of inmates getting the paper across the country is growing.

"Many letters from prominent individuals and organizations have already been sent to the Committee," Martha Dowling, a retired member of the United Steelworkers union, wrote to the Literature Review Committee Aug. 11, "yet the ban on *Militant* issue no. 17 continues. You are well aware that this is unconstitutional and a violation of prisoners' right to read literature of their choice.

"If, indeed, you have read the article cited as the reason for the ban," writes Dowling, "you are further well aware that this photo and article in no way 'depict hatred toward a specific race.' Your ban is an arbitrary and punitive act to prevent prisoners' access to information and to block the distribution of the *Militant*. I join the call to request that you reverse the ban."

"Stop impounding my *Militant*!" wrote a prisoner in Florida in a hand-written letter sent to the committee, a copy of which was sent to the paper. "Your government is a system of oppression and exploitation and everything, including 'justice,' is nothing but a commodity."

On the form sent to the paper renewing his subscription, another prisoner from Florida wrote, "Continue to fight the FDOC ban on the *Militant*."

Keep the letters coming!

Fight prison ban on the 'Militant'

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
- 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

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."