

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Fight for women's rights expanded when millions joined the workforce  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 36 SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

## Boeing workers on strike after 16 years without a new contract

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

RENTON, Wash. — A major showdown has erupted between some 33,000 workers, organized by International Association of Machinists District Lodge 751, and Boeing, one of two major producers of commercial airplanes worldwide. The Machinists shut down production Sept. 13 after rejecting a proposed four-year tentative agreement by 94.6%, then voting 96% to strike. They're fighting for their first new contract there in 16 years.

Spirited picket lines were organized across the sprawling aerospace factories and related facilities at several locations in Washington state; Gresham, Oregon; Victorville, California; and at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California.

Roger Bland, who's worked nearly 14 years at Boeing, told the *Militant* how veteran unionists and newer workers joined together to prepare for the strike and drum up support. In the weeks leading up to the vote, hundreds of workers organized marches

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## Fight against Jew-hatred! Defend Israel as refuge for Jews!

BY SETH GALINSKY

As the one-year anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom against Jews in Israel approaches, Israeli forces keep making progress in dismantling the Nazi-like group, while dealing blows to Hezbollah in Lebanon. The goal of both Tehran-financed groups is to destroy Israel, kill Jews or drive them from the region.

Backed by the reactionary bourgeois-clerical regime in Tehran, Hamas thugs attacked Israel last Oct. 7, murdering 1,200 people, wounding thousands and kidnapping 251 hostages. The thugs raped, mutilated and murdered dozens of women. This was the largest anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust during World War II. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah hailed it as a "heroic operation."

The next day Hezbollah began daily drone and missile attacks on northern Israel in "solidarity" with Hamas. Israel has responded by targeting Hezbollah combatants, rocket launchers and arms depots.

Israel Defense Forces have dealt

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Endorse, build Socialist Workers Party campaign! Rachele Fruit for president • Dennis Richter vice president

## 'Working people need to take political power'



Militant/Laura Anderson

Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for president, at Miami campaign event Sept. 15. She also met International Longshoremen's Association members facing Oct. 1 strike deadline.

### Richter: 'We need our own party, a party of labor'

BY SUSAN LAMONT AND JACOB PERASSO

EAST POINT, Ga. — Several striking Communications Workers of America members on the picket line here welcomed Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, Sept. 13. They explained why more than 17,000 CWA members who work for AT&T

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### Fruit: 'Back striking Boeing workers! Build solidarity'

BY STEVE WARSHELL

MIAMI — On a steamy morning here Sept. 15 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Rachele Fruit met workers at the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1416 hall to learn more about their fight for a new contract and introduce her campaign. Union members regularly come there to pick up their work orders and head to the

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## Join fall drive to win SWP campaign endorsers, expand readership of the 'Militant,' books, party-building fund



Militant/Marklyn Wilson

Dennis Richter, left, SWP candidate for U.S. vice president, visited Communications Workers of America picket line at the AT&T plant in East Point, Georgia, Sept. 13, along with, from left, campaign endorser Val Edwards, SWP member Susan LaMont and CWA striker Kelvin Gordon.

The Socialist Workers Party has launched an ambitious campaign over the final two months of the 2024 elections to expand the reach of the *Militant*, the SWP campaign of Rachele Fruit for president and Dennis Richter for vice president, books by its leaders

and other revolutionaries and to raise \$140,000 for the work of the party.

The political heart of the effort is captured in the *Militant's* front-page headline last week, "Endorse the Socialist Workers Party 2024 campaign:

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## The crushing burden faced by families, workers who are growing older at home

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Under capitalism workers are expendable if they can't labor to create profits for the ruling rich. Under this dog-eat-dog system, responsibility for caring for children or older relatives

increasingly falls on their family. "The Crushing Financial Burden of Aging at Home," headlined a Sept. 4 *Wall Street Journal* article, pointing to the scope of this crisis. "More than 11,000 people in the U.S. are turning 65 every day," the *Journal* reported, "and the vast majority — 77% of Americans age 50 and older according to an AARP survey — want to live as long as possible in their current home."

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## Join fight against ban on the 'Militant' in Florida prison

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

It's now been nearly five months since *Militant* issue no. 17 was impounded by Jackson Correctional Institution prison authorities in Malone, Florida.

Every day that goes by without the overturn of the ban is a serious violation of prisoners' constitutional rights to read political literature of their choice, as well as the right of the *Militant* and other publications to reach their subscribers behind bars.

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- Nurses in Sydney strike over wages, hours, staff levels

# Fight for women's rights expanded when millions joined the workforce

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The falling birth rate and rising obstacles workers face to being able to afford to raise children have become key issues in the 2024 presidential campaign. Decades of employer attacks on wages and working conditions have made starting a family much more difficult for workers and produced conditions that reinforce the second-class status of women under capitalism.

Union struggles today point to workers' willingness to fight what is being done to us. Strikes and contract fights by flight attendants, rail, hotel, AT&T and longshore workers are demanding jobs, wages and protection against high prices to permit workers to pay for food, gas, housing, medical care, child care and other necessities. They're standing up to bosses' attempts to impose life-draining schedules, forced overtime and other obstacles to family, union and political life. And they advance the road forward for women's emancipation.

The U.S. birth rate in 2023 was 1.62 births per woman, down from 3.65 in 1960, and below the rate required to maintain the population.

Capitalist pundits who used to write articles warning of the dangers of "overpopulation," now sound alarms about the "increasing burden of too many old people." Their real concern is that with fewer young, healthy workers the capitalist class can't count on a sufficient supply of labor to exploit.

As this question has become more prominent, both capitalist candidates, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, have put forward various proposals for boosting tax credits for having

children, schemas that are supposed to soften the blows coming down on workers with families.

These proposals do nothing to address the real source of the problem, the bosses' attacks on workers, rising prices and a capitalist government that puts the burden of raising a family on working people and especially on women. Growing numbers of workers and their families are just a few paychecks away from homelessness.

The average cost of childbirth today is \$18,865. For those with insurance, the average off-the-top expense is \$2,854. Feeding a hungry newborn can set you back \$50 for a can of baby formula at Walmart. A box of Pampers is \$35. When you add these to the persistently high cost of rent, food, transportation and child care, is it any wonder young workers have doubts about raising a family or that women are putting off decisions about whether to have children?

Liberals, like Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris, who are sympathetic to middle-class women who see children as an obstacle to their career path, act as if the solution to all this is abortion.

## Fight for women's emancipation

Alongside their drive against the wages and conditions of all workers, bosses rely on the second-class status of women to boost profits. In recent decades millions of women have flooded into the workforce, transforming and advancing the strength of the working class and the potential for the struggle for women's emancipation.



Militant/Eric Simpson

Hotel workers, majority women, march outside Marriott hotel in San Francisco Sept. 2 during three-day strike. UNITE HERE members struck across the country for higher wages, staffing.

But today women working full time still take home on average only 83.6% of what men are paid. Women make up 55% of all part-time workers, often in jobs with less pay and fewer benefits. Many are forced to take part-time work because of the exorbitant costs of child care and the responsibilities under capitalism that fall on women's shoulders for the care of the young, elderly, sick and disabled.

Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, points to the need for workers to take political power into our own hands, to build a party of labor that would organize all working people into struggles for the class interests of both men and women along this course.

Such a party would fight for a massive, federally funded jobs program to put millions to work at union-scale pay, for wage and benefit adjustments so that every time prices rise our wages go up automatically, and for universal child care, as well as access to sex education, safe and reliable contraception, prenatal and maternal health care. It would unconditionally back the decriminalization of abortion when necessary and win others to fighting for this.

These steps would help address both the struggles of the working class and the fight for women's rights.

Liberals are pushing amendments to "enshrine" abortion in state constitutions in Arizona, Missouri, Montana,

Nebraska and elsewhere in November. Their goal is to cut off the discussion and debate in the working class that is needed on this question in order to deepen support for the rights of women. They portray access to abortion as the main solution to the crisis facing women.

Fruit, a union hotel worker in Miami and lifelong fighter for women's rights, and her running mate, Dennis Richter, fight for decriminalization of abortion and for conditions that make it possible for women to choose to have children and raise them.

At issue is the potential for human life, they explain. Terminating a pregnancy is a fallback, something needed when other things fail. This is why it should be decriminalized. Contrary to being something that is "enshrined," as supporters of these referenda propose, we need to fight to make abortion rarer. This is something that can only be advanced by the working class, as it organizes to end forever the wretched social conditions that have led to its widespread use.

That is only possible with the building of a working-class movement of millions to replace capitalist rule with workers power. In the course of revolutionary struggle, workers acquire confidence and a sense of worth. And we open the door to building a new society where women's emancipation can become a reality and where babies are welcomed and cherished.

## THE MILITANT

### Canadian gov't assaults workers, rights

Despite a federal judge's ruling that Ottawa's use of the Emergencies Act to break up the 2022 truckers' Freedom Convoy was illegal, the government continues trials of protest leaders, seeking to criminalize free speech. The 'Militant' says: End the frame-ups, drop all charges!



Reuters/Blair Gable

Police pepper spray protesting truckers in Freedom Convoy in Ottawa, Feb. 19, 2022.

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# Join Socialist Workers Party fall drives

Continued from front page

“Working class needs to take political power.”

We are presenting a road forward for working people, a class break from the capitalist rulers and their political parties, for an independent course for today’s working-class struggles. We call for the formation of a party of labor, based on the unions, to draw in tens of millions of toilers on the road to taking political power.

Workers are determined to defend our class interests. This is reflected in today’s strike at Boeing and other labor battles, part of broader resistance to the deepening economic and social crisis imposed by capitalism. All these struggles are political battles.

This fight doesn’t end at the U.S. borders. Workers are an international class. We share common interests in the fight against expanding wars today, with the danger of nuclear conflagration; against assaults on constitutional freedoms; and against Jew-hatred and deadly pogroms against Jews in Israel.

A key part of this effort is to win a growing number of endorsers for the SWP campaign of Fruit and Richter, those who are committed to join in campaigning and involving others they know — friends, co-workers and family.

Our goal is to come out of the campaign with a stronger party to participate in the deeper struggles to come.

The effort to win 1,300 subscribers and get 1,300 books into the hands of workers and others looking for a working-class road forward and making the SWP Party-Building Fund goals will run for eight weeks, from Sept. 21 through Nov. 19. This will coincide with the tours of Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter and campaigns of SWP candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress.

Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, and

*Militant* readers elsewhere, will join the effort. It also coincides with working-class battles, from the resistance of rail workers in Canada, striking hotel workers, nurses and health care workers in many parts of the world, and more.

We will count all subscriptions and books sold since Labor Day, where SWP members and campaign endorsers participated and reached out to fellow union members, including many strikers.

During the campaign, 11 books will be offered at a special discount to all those who get a subscription. A special ad showing the specials will be run weekly in the *Militant*. And all of Pathfinder’s titles will be available for 20% off.

The Party-Building Fund aims to assure the SWP comes out of this effort stronger. The party relies entirely on contributions from members, supporters and others who want to see its program and activities meet the opportu-

nities in politics today.

The SWP campaign has been conducting a short-term effort to raise \$15,000 for this fall’s push. All contributions should be sent in before the Party-Building Fund begins Sept. 21.

The first scoreboard for the campaign will be run in the *Militant* that prints Oct. 2. The paper will feature stories about who is endorsing and what they’re doing to spread the reach of the SWP ticket.

Join in!

In solidarity,

*John Studer*

John Studer  
*Militant* editor



*Militant*/Alyson Kennedy

SWP member Gerardo Sánchez, right, introduces *Militant* to trucker Osvaldo Sánchez at Fort Worth, Texas, truck stop in July.

## Join fight against Florida prison ban on the ‘Militant’

Continued from front page

Since the ban, 19 issues of the paper have been published, reaching working people around the country and growing numbers of prisoners nationwide, including over 100 workers behind bars in Florida.

All these issues, which were delivered to subscribers, as well as the one that was impounded, present a working-class point of view. This includes coverage of the importance for workers and their unions of taking a stand against Jew-hatred and defending Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

And this happens to be the political issue that prison authorities found objectionable and used to justify their impoundment of *Militant* no. 17.

It contained an article reprinting

the opening chapter of Pathfinder’s latest book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. Prison authorities objected to one of the photos, an Associated Press picture widely printed in papers in Florida and worldwide. It shows the body of a Jewish man murdered by Hamas during the Nazi-like group’s Oct. 7 pogrom being driven around Gaza City to cheers by Islamist thugs and their supporters.

Jackson authorities wrote, “Picture shows dead person being paraded around on a motorcycle. Magazine depict hatred toward a specific race.” In fact, this depiction of Hamas’ Oct. 7 massacre helps inform the paper’s readers about the character of the reactionary group and the need for it to be defeated to prevent more massacres against Jews.

Authorities claimed the photo and, for unspecified reasons, the whole newspaper, are “dangerously inflammatory,” encouraging “riot, insurrection, rebellion” and “organized prison protest.”

The Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee initially upheld the impoundment at a July 18 meeting, but did not give any reason for its decision. A further review of this decision was scheduled for Aug. 29. It has been three weeks since then and authorities haven’t responded to either emails or phone calls from *Militant* attorney David Goldstein about whether the committee met and, if it did, what it decided.

They continue to receive letters protesting the ban. More are needed.

“I’m writing to express my deep concern over the recent decision to ban issue no. 17 of the *Militant*,” wrote Travis Greer, a teaching assistant and member of the

Colorado Education Association in Colorado Springs, to prison officials Sept. 4. “I respectfully urge you to reconsider this action, which I believe undermines the fundamental rights of prisoners to access political literature and infringes on their freedom of speech, as protected by the Constitution.

“The *Militant* provides important perspectives and educational content to its readers, including many incarcerated individuals who benefit from staying informed on national and international issues.

“I respect the safety concerns of your institution but believe that banning literature like the *Militant* does more harm than good by limiting access to educational and political materials that help incarcerated individuals engage in constructive dialogue and understanding,” he wrote.

See box below for listing of some of the groups and individuals that have sent in letters urging the ban be lifted and the address and email where further letters can be sent.

## American flight attendants win boarding pay, an example for workers at all airlines

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In a path-setting victory, for the first time the 28,000 flight attendants at American Airlines will be paid for time spent boarding passengers as part of a new contract voted up Sept. 12. It was one of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants union’s key demands. They are the first organized flight attendants to win wages for the time spent helping customers board, stow their carry-on luggage, get seated and to leave the plane after landing, not just when the doors are closed.

Some 87% voted in favor of the five-year contract. It also includes wage increases of up to 20.5%, some retroactive pay, and increased compensation for flight attendants’ wait times between flights. The last contract expired in 2019.

Hamstrung by the notorious anti-labor Railway Labor Act, which deems them “essential” workers and hobbles them from striking, the union held numerous picket lines at airports across the country to build support during their five-year fight for a new contract.

Far from the glamorous vision the

airlines peddle, new hires at American were only making \$27,000 before taxes, with some forced to apply for food stamps and public housing assistance to get by.

And like many other workplaces, American never replaced all of the workers they cut during the COVID-19 epidemic, forcing those on the job to carry heavier workloads.

Similar conditions face flight attendants at other airlines, including members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA at United. They voted Aug. 28 to authorize a strike, a precondition for seeking release from the National Mediation Board to strike after a 30-day “cooling off” period. The last strike at a U.S. airline was in 2010.

On Aug. 14 flight attendants at Alaska Airlines rejected their bosses’ latest contract offer by 68%. Also organized by the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, workers said that while the proposed contract included a wage raise and offered boarding pay, it did not address the unpredictable work schedules or lower pay rates for new hires.

### 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  
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

**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.”

# 'We need our own party of labor'

Continued from front page

had walked out Aug. 16 across nine Southeastern states. "I've been raising the need for solidarity with your fight for a better contract as I campaigned in Dallas-Fort Worth and Pittsburgh," Richter told them. "Solidarity is everything when you're on strike."

"They've been taking, taking, taking from us," technician Kelvin Gordon said. "But now it's enough. We need to feed our families, we need a roof over our heads! I have a co-worker who told me he watched his kids grow up on his cellphone. We all need time off to be with our families."

"Many workers I've met across the U.S. and Canada are fighting for schedules that allow for family time, along with higher wages, benefits and safety on the job," said Richter.

Val Edwards, an operating engineer who works at a local hospital in Atlanta and an endorser of the SWP ticket, accompanied Richter to the picket line and joined the discussion.

"I was living in Detroit last year and working at MotorCity Casino when union members at three casinos went on strike Oct. 17," Edwards told the strikers. "We had five unions involved and 3,700 workers. We could see the power in our numbers, when thousands of us marched together downtown."

"We were fighting not just for ourselves, but for generations that will come after us," she said. "We could see that the company was affected by the power of the strike and the solidarity we won." The casino workers made important gains through the strike.

Gordon said they're getting important solidarity from UPS workers in Atlanta who refuse to cross their picket lines.

Richter's visit came two days before the union announced a tentative settlement Sept. 15 in the 30-day strike, the longest in the AT&T Southeast region's history.

The union says the tentative new five-year contract includes wage increases of 19.33%, with additional 3% increases for lower-paid wire technicians and utility operations. Health care premiums remain the same for the first year, are lowered in the second and third, then raised again in the last two years of the contract.

A tentative four-year agreement was also reached for the 8,500 workers at AT&T West in California and Nevada who had also been on strike. Union members in both regions have yet to vote on the proposed contracts.

On Sept. 16, Richter joined a dozen UNITE HERE Local 23 members organizing to win support from passengers and other workers at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. They're concession and restaurant workers in the airport employed by Delaware North. They recently voted in the union and are now fighting for pay raises and a contract.

"They try to tell us we're not smart enough," Richter told Nayah, an organizer for the union, "but workers are the majority. We shouldn't have to accept just the crumbs they offer us. They not only exploit us here, but also working people around the world, from Africa to Latin America to Asia."

Nayah, who is originally from Gambia, was familiar with Thomas Sankara, who led a popular revolution in nearby Burkina Faso that held power from 1983 to 1987. "Sankara was murdered but people still look up to him," she said.

"They should," Richter said. "Sankara was a real revolutionary. He had confidence in working people. He taught people to organize to farm and to feed themselves and to look to other revolutionaries in Cuba and elsewhere." Nayah and three others at the rally subscribed to the *Militant*.

Richter was a member of UNITE HERE Local 23 at Dallas-Fort Worth airport prior to setting out on the campaign trail.

Richter also spoke at an area-wide campaign meeting in Atlanta over the weekend that drew 25 people. They contributed \$2,227 for the campaign. One participant asked him to explain more about the place of a party of labor in the class struggle today.

"We get interest in this," Richter said. "We explain we are for a party of labor that can organize the entire working class on a course to take political power. It wouldn't be an electoralist party."

"We are not for the so-called 'labor' parties that exist today in the United Kingdom, Australia and some other countries. They aren't parties built on the unions charting a revolutionary road forward. They represent the capitalist rulers."

## Marathon striker endorses Fruit/Richter campaign



Militant/Illona Gersh

"I agree, a labor party is needed to draw together everyone, unionized or not, as well as others like farmers and mom-and-pop business owners," Jesse Dansby, right, a board operator and striker at the Marathon oil refinery in Detroit, told SWP campaigner Dan Fein, left, and this worker-correspondent on the Teamsters Local 283 picket line Sept. 16. Dansby endorsed the Socialist Workers Party candidates, Rachele Fruit for U.S. president and Dennis Richter for vice president, and wants to do more.

"Unions need to break from the political parties of the bosses — Democrats and Republicans alike," Fein said. "A party of labor would organize workers to counter the bosses' drive to unload the burdens created by capitalism onto our backs."

"People are waking up to the fact that the government is working against us," Dansby said. "The two-party system has failed us. They make promises but when the rubber hits the road, they leave us high and dry." Dansby got a *Militant* subscription and a copy of *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.

Dansby was interested in learning more about the strikes and organizing drives that built the Teamsters in the Midwest in the 1930s. Fein said that union leaders drew unemployed workers, farmers and women into those struggles. He pointed out that labor needs to champion the fight for Black equality today.

"They want to divide us," Dansby said. "But they're going to have a hard time convincing the young generation. They go to school with kids of different nationalities, play with them, and learn with them."

— ILLONA GERSH

## End Washington's economic war against Cuba!

BY RÓGER CALERO

"The economic war" waged by the U.S. government "is the main cause of the hardships facing the Cuban people, and the country's economy," Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez said in a special media presentation in Havana Sept. 12.

Rodríguez detailed the damages and material losses resulting from the impact of the economic, financial and trade embargo and from multiple sanctions imposed by the U.S. rulers against the Cuban people and their socialist revolution. From March 1, 2023, to Feb. 29, 2024, Washington's measures caused estimated losses of more than \$5 billion. "This represents more than \$421 million a month, more than \$13.8 million a day, more than \$575,638 for each hour of the blockade," he said.

"This is an economic war, not in rhetorical or propagandistic terms," he explained. "It is really an economic war!"

The facts described by Rodríguez will be presented at the next session of the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 29-30, where the Cuban delegation will move a resolution demanding an end Washington's embargo.

For more than 60 years, Cuba has been the target of a relentless effort by the U.S. government that has no parallel. For decades, Washington has sought to overthrow the workers and farmers government that came to power after a popular revolutionary struggle overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista Jan.

1, 1959. The U.S. rulers fear that tens of millions of workers around the world, facing brutal conditions imposed by capitalism, might emulate what the Cuban toilers and their leadership showed is possible.

The centerpiece of Washington's drive to destroy the socialist revolution — enforced by both Democratic and Republican administrations — includes sweeping measures that impose countless obstacles to Cuba's ability to purchase foodstuffs, medicine, medical supplies and equipment from the U.S. and other countries.

In 2021, the Donald Trump administration placed Cuba on Washington's "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list, which imposes additional sanctions that restrict access to financing from foreign banks and institutions, and even general services and transactions. The Joseph Biden administration has refused to back off these measures.

### Impact of U.S. embargo, sanctions

Between January 2021 and February 2024 foreign banks refused to process some 1,064 transactions with Cuban banks and institutions, Rodríguez said. "We have had ships about to enter our territorial waters or in port with essential foodstuffs that have refused to unload until the payments are completed." This is despite the fact that the Cuban government has deposited the money in foreign banks. The banks can't process the transactions because of Washington's inclusion of Cuba in

its so-called terrorist list, he said.

All this contributes to the lack of raw materials for production, fuel and parts for the country's electrical system, and to the scarcity of some medications, despite Cuba having a relatively well-developed biomedical and pharmaceutical industry.

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### New International

A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934-present

### Intercontinental Press

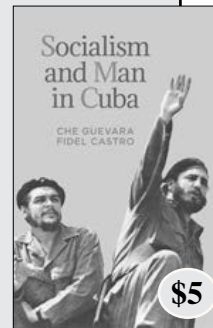
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### Socialism and Man in Cuba

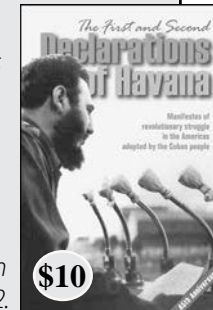
by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro

Guevara explains why the revolutionary transformation of social relations necessarily involves the transformation of the working people organizing and leading that process.



### The First and Second Declarations of Havana

Nowhere are questions of revolutionary strategy in the Americas addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in the First and Second Declarations of Havana, adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962.



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# Fruit: 'Build labor solidarity!'

Continued from front page  
docks a few blocks away.

Fruit is known to many of them from her years in the labor movement in Miami, as well as her presidential campaign. With their contract up Oct. 1, a prominent discussion among union members was the likelihood of a strike across the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

"This will be the first time I'm on strike with a union," Deon Barner, a six-year ILA member, told Fruit. "I'm not sure how we can all prepare for what will come."

"Nearly a half-million workers nationwide have been on strike in the past year," Fruit replied. "When workers strike, you can really feel the impact of the working class on the economy, the power we have to change society. We make everything, including the profits the bosses get from our labor."

"And the government backs up the employers," she said. "Private property is the reason we can't afford a place to live. We have the power to change the whole system, top to bottom."

"We're never fully prepared for a strike," Sacarius Ragin, a nine-year member of the union, told her. "The bills keep coming and it's hard. But we need to strike. You never know when you'll work. Some guys come here every day, but only get one day's work a week. It's like a gamble."

"We do get some strike benefits," Ragin said, "but they don't last that long."

Fruit pointed to a sign on her campaign table saying, "Solidarity with Boeing Machinists. Support ILA fight for a decent contract!" She said, "If you're united and show strength and win support from other unions, the strike may not have to last that long."

The issues facing longshoremen are wages and jobs, as companies seek to automate as much as they can. Fruit told them she gets the word out about their fight everywhere she goes.

The union members told the SWP campaigners where to find their picket lines come Oct. 1. About a half-dozen longshoremen put on SWP campaign stickers.

Later that day Fruit spoke at a public meeting at the SWP's campaign headquarters here.

## More unions are fighting today

"As conditions of life for the working class deteriorate, and wars escalate, millions of workers are being drawn into politics in a new and urgent way, looking for ways to fight for our survival," she said. "That's why more workers today are using unions to fight for higher pay and cost of living protection."

Fruit said she met workers last month in the United Kingdom who were interested to learn about the Canadian rail strike that was taking place at the time.

"For the first time in 100 years, union workers at both of the two big railways in Canada — engineers, conductors, dispatchers and yardmasters — stopped work, some on strike and others locked out, despite every effort by the government to prevent them from fighting over crew scheduling, safety and fatigue."

"When the trains stop the bosses start losing millions," she said. "You can feel the power of the working class."

Fruit described a meeting she spoke at in Manchester, England, hosted by the Communist League branch there. "A worker said that the aerospace factory where she works has a contract

with Boeing and some workers were afraid they would lose work if there was a strike in the U.S.

"We had just been to see the statue of Abraham Lincoln in central Manchester. A plaque cited a pledge from textile workers in Lancashire to support the Union against slavery. Another plaque carried Lincoln's letter of gratitude." The workers backed the Union Army's blockade of cotton exports from the southern slave states, despite many being thrown out of work. "This was a tremendous example of internationalism," she said. "Solidarity is everything."

"The Democratic and Republican Party politicians will not defend the livelihoods of working people, despite their rhetoric about 'hard-working families,'" said Fruit. "They defend the capitalist class, and they make sure that the U.S. military is strong enough to defend their imperialist interests in the world."

She said that the SWP stands up against the government's frame-up and conviction of leaders of the African People's Socialist Party and the UH-URU movement. They were accused of being covert agents of the Russian government based purely on their political views. Eleven of the 13 prosecution witnesses were FBI agents.

## Threat of conflict and war

Fruit described how the world capitalist economic crisis is bringing devastation and war to millions. The U.S. rulers seek to expand their economic, military and political control around the world, just like their competitors do — both their allies and enemies. No stable world capitalist order is possible that would make the world any more peaceful.

The fight over which class rules is the central question that matters for working people everywhere in the world, she said. And the U.S. working class is decisive in that fight.

# Rachele Fruit: All out to support Boeing strikers!

*The following statement was released Sept. 17 by Rachele Fruit, a member of UNITE HERE and Socialist Workers Party candidate for president.*

The war between labor and capital is the central issue of the 2024 presidential election campaign. In the past two years working people have been forced to spend more and more of their income on food. We can't afford to live in the cities where we work. Hours and working conditions make it hard to live any sort of life outside of the job and all too often threaten our health and our lives.

The exploiters are conscious of their class interests and united against the workers. Now growing numbers of workers are saying, "Enough is enough! It's time we stand up for ourselves." I have heard this on picket lines across the country, from hotel and bakery workers, flight attendants and many more.

The machinists at Boeing voted down their proposed contract by 94.6% and to strike by 96% Sept. 12. After 16 years of no wage increases, and forced concessions on retirement and health care, a 25% raise over four years was not going to cut it. The starting pay for some new hires is little more than minimum wage in Washington state. Senior workers who gave up their retirement pension 10 years ago want it back. One worker told KING5 news, "We're just out here taking care of each other."



Militant/Laura Anderson

Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. president, campaigns with supporters at International Longshoremen's Association Local 1416 hall in Miami Sept. 15. ILA member Deon Barner talked with Fruit about fight with port bosses, possible strike when union contract expires Oct. 1.

"We call for a party of labor, based on the unions, that can organize the whole working class to fight together. It could expose and fight against every outrageous crime the rulers commit against us."

"A labor party can organize our class to fight for the things we need, but it'll take a fight for workers power to win them. That's the most important thing we have to learn from the Cuban Revolution." Taking power is the way workers can begin to take our future into our own hands, she said, "to solve the national questions and oppression we face, and to open the road to women's emancipation by full participation in society."

During the discussion some participants raised the fight against Jew-hatred. "The SWP explains that Jew-hatred is a life-and-death question for the working class," Fruit said. "It is linked to the survival of the capitalist class in its death agony, and they use it to facilitate their attempt to crush the working class."

We unconditionally defend Israel, a capitalist country, as a refuge for Jews

from anywhere in the world, she said. It is the only country that will fight, arms in hand, against the slaughter of Jews. "But Israel cannot end the problem."

"The solution is tied to building a revolutionary working-class party of all nationalities in every country — including Israel — that works toward workers power. In the U.S. that's what the Socialist Workers Party is."

An SWP campaign endorser, St. Paul Louis, pointed to how the capitalists spend countless dollars for their own pet projects — like sending a billionaire into outer space — yet they refuse to build affordable housing or to satisfy other unmet essential human needs. "How can we stop them?" he asked.

"They must be removed from power," Fruit replied. "This is a revolutionary perspective. It will take a disciplined movement of millions of working-class people determined to create a new world based on human solidarity."

"We ask everyone who agrees with this perspective to endorse the campaign and join in the effort."

Nonunion Boeing workers in South Carolina should not be seen as competition. Bring them into the ranks of organized labor!

The men and women of the International Longshoremen's Association from Maine to Texas, 45,000 strong, are preparing to walk off the job in a few days to join Boeing workers on the picket line. They're determined to win a contract that protects their wages and jobs. "It will be hard, but we have to strike," one worker told me at the ILA hiring hall in Miami this week. "It's been a long time coming!"

The United States Maritime Alliance is automating workers out of a job and counting on the bosses' government to invoke anti-labor legislation and force the workers back to work. Democratic President Joseph Biden did exactly that two years ago when he vetoed the right to strike of 115,000 freight rail workers.

When the trains, ports and factories come to a halt and the bosses start losing millions every day, you see the power of the working class and our potential to galvanize other workers in solidarity.

Attacks on constitutional freedoms — including the right to strike — are under attack by the Democrats as well as the Republicans. They say that striking workers hurt "our economy," while the bosses push to boost their profits at our expense and weaken our unions. There is no such thing

as "our" economy — there are two sharply counterposed class interests between the bosses and workers.

The bosses' profit drive is deadly. Boeing agreed to plead guilty to a criminal fraud conspiracy charge related to the 737 Max crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people. In its June 25 final hearing on the February 2023 Norfolk Southern toxic derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, the National Transportation Safety Board had to admit the rail bosses bear full responsibility. They said the company's conduct was "unprecedented and reprehensible."

The entire working class must support the Boeing strikers. Their fight is our fight.

As conditions of life for the working class deteriorate, and the rulers' wars escalate, millions of workers are being drawn into politics in a new and urgent way, looking for ways to fight and win. That's why more workers today are organizing unions and using their unions to fight for higher pay and cost-of-living protection.

All strike battles today are political struggles. We need to break with the bosses' parties, the dead-end road of "lesser-evilism." It's time for us to organize our own political party, a party of labor, a party to unite our class to defend our own class interests today on the road to taking political power into our own hands.

# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## San Diego hotel workers strike for better pay, job conditions

SAN DIEGO — Picketing at four locations surrounding the large Hilton Bayfront Hotel here, striking UNITE HERE Local 30 members are fighting for pay increases and improved working conditions. More than 700 went on strike Sept. 1.

Local 30 President Bridget Browning Sept. 11 told the *Militant* that “wages are the biggest obstacle” in reaching an agreement. Workers need raises to be able to afford to live in San Diego, she said.

“We are overloaded with work. We’re short-staffed and they don’t schedule properly,” Martín Fuentes, a lead banquet cook, said. “It was better before the pandemic. Retirement income and pay increases are also issues. Everyone knows you can’t afford groceries now.”

“Respect and better pay are key issues for me,” Yenifer Alonso, a young housekeeper in the hotel’s public areas, said. “We are not appreciated for the work we do.”

Pickets carried placards saying, “On strike at Bayfront Hilton,” “Make them pay,” and “One job should be enough.” Handwritten messages captured the sentiment of the workers. “Less workload, I am not a robot,” one said. “I want a better future,” said another.

Negotiations with the hotel resumed the next day.

— Norton Sandler

## Nurses in Sydney strike over wages, hours, staff levels

SYDNEY — Chanting, singing and dancing, up to 2,000 nurses and midwives rallied outside the office of New South Wales state Premier Christopher Minns in Kogarah here Sept. 10. Hundreds also rallied in Parramatta, as well as in other cities around the state. Their 12-hour strike pressed demands for a new contract, an immediate 15% wage increase, reduced hours and more staffing.

They work in public hospitals run by the New South Wales government. They say the wage increase is needed to put pay levels on a par with neighboring

states. But the NSW government is offering only a 10.5% increase spread over three years. “One, two three, four, we need more in ’24,” they chanted.

Inflation is “killing me and everybody I know,” one nurse told Minns on the radio. “And then they ask us to do more shifts. We’re so exhausted.”

The Nurses and Midwives’ Association refused to call off the strike despite being ordered to do so the day before by the Industrial Relations Commission. Further strikes and protests are planned.

— Mike Tucker

## SCR Medical Transportation drivers win strike, higher wages

CHICAGO — After nearly three weeks on strike, drivers at SCR Medical Transportation ratified their first contract Sept. 5. It includes significant pay raises, job and safety protections, and other gains.

“Get up! Get down! Chicago is a union town!” chanted dozens of drivers when this worker-correspondent visited the picket line Sept. 2. Workers explained that every day they gathered at noon to march around the company’s South Side headquarters.

The fight involved nearly 800 drivers who provide transportation for people with disabilities, including students with special needs in the public schools. They joined Teamsters Local 727 in January.

“We have been fighting for a union for a long time,” Charles Taitt, who has driven for SCR for four years, told the *Militant*. “We are fighting for better working conditions and higher wages like the drivers at similar companies make. We also want seniority pay.”

“We work with the most vulnerable people in our communities, and this company doesn’t respect the employees,” said SCR worker Linda Hudson.

— Lisa Rottach

## Unionists locked out at two Quebec sites join forces

MONTREAL — Two busloads of locked-out members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) at the McKesson distribution center in Drummondville, about an hour and



Militant/Mike Tucker

Some 2,000 nurses and midwives rally in Sydney, Australia, Sept. 10, part of 12-hour strike there and other cities in New South Wales state, demanding 15% wage raise, reduced hours.

a half drive from Montreal, joined locked-out CSN workers on their picket line here in front of Prelco, a window manufacturer, Sept. 3.

On June 19 Prelco locked its 95 workers out shortly after they went on strike for a few hours. Their contract expired Jan. 31. Wages are a key issue.

“We have to fight for what we are worth. Prelco is not appreciating the fact that we make their company run,” Mark Harbour, a machine operator for seven years, told the *Militant*. “We’re asking for 21% over a four-year contract that won’t even catch us up to inflation.”

McKesson locked out its 105 workers

— Beverly Bernardo

## Strike at Detroit Marathon refinery is battle over wages, safety, respect

BY ILONA GERSH

DETROIT — Some 35 striking Marathon Petroleum workers, members of Teamsters Local 283, picketed outside the main refinery entrance here Sept. 16. The 273 union members had voted by 95% to strike. Their picket signs read, “Our patience for a fair contract is on empty” and “Teamsters fuel Marathon’s profits.”

The union organizes the board operators, field operators, chemists, lab

technicians, electricians and mechanics. They have been without a contract since Jan. 31. After seven months of failed negotiations, the union walked off the job on Sept. 4. The last strike here was 30 years ago.

“We are disappointed that the union has decided to engage in a strike,” the bosses said in a public statement. “Marathon Petroleum and the union have engaged in collective bargaining since December 4, 2023.”

But several strikers told the *Militant* that some of the negotiating sessions lasted only 15 minutes after the company laid down a written proposal on the table. “This isn’t serious,” said Jesse Dansby, who has 15 years in at the refinery. “The company wants to push the union out.”

“The safety of our employees, contractors, and the community remain our top priority,” Marathon said, “and we are committed to maintaining our vigilant focus on compliance, reliability, and care for the environment as we continue producing transportation fuels for the region.”

Strikers disagree. “There are people living in houses surrounding the refinery that are worried about their safety, and they support us,” said Dansby. “They brought in scabs before the strike began to train them. They claim to have refinery experience, but they’re not familiar with this particular refinery. The strike began right before a shutdown. Shutdowns and startups are the most dangerous times for refinery workers and the surrounding neighbors.”

The 140,000 barrel-per-day refinery here is one of 13 that Marathon

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## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 4, 1999

VERNON, British Columbia — “The most significant thing that has been accomplished has been everything regarding affection and solidarity between us,” stated Alcides López, representative of the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture. López was part of a delegation of 27 Cuban farmers, scientists, engineers and officials who were on a 21-day tour of British Columbia’s farmland.

The tour was part of a Canada-Cuba farmer exchange program. Earlier this year, 20 farmers from British Columbia visited Cuba and toured the island’s farmland.

The agrarian reforms that were at the heart of the Cuban revolution and eliminated the class exploitation of working farmers make a big impression on family farmers here who find out about that example. Over the course of their tour, the Cubans met with 600 farmers and visited a total of 120 farms throughout the province.



October 4, 1974

More than 80 years ago Frederick Engels wrote, “The splitting up of society into a small class, immoderately rich, and a large class of wage-laborers devoid of all property, brings it about that this society smothers in its own superfluity, while the great majority of its members are scarcely, or not at all, protected from extreme want.”

“This condition becomes every day more absurd and more unnecessary. It *must* be gotten rid of; it can be gotten rid of.”

His words were never more timely. The land and factories that the people of the world depend on for life must be run in the interests of the vast majority of humanity.

The system of private ownership and private profit, of the exploitation of the weak by the strong, and of cutthroat competition, must be done away with.

What is needed is nothing less than the socialist reorganization of society.



October 3, 1949

Chiang Kai-shek’s representatives in the United Nations are making a bid for support from the capitalist world. But all this effort is in vain because the breakdown of Chiang’s regime is an accomplished fact. All this represents a tremendous setback for world imperialism, which has lost its main foothold and sphere of influence in continental Eastern Asia.

Washington is concentrating on the transformation of Japan into an anti-communist bulwark and offensive base for Asia. But Japan is hardly a barrier against the general movement of the Asiatic peoples.

The advance of the Stalinist armies in China has greatly increased the difficulties of the French imperialists in Indo-China and of the Dutch imperialists in Indonesia, where the effect of the imperialist debacle in China is to encourage the rebellious masses to drive out their own oppressors.

# Boeing workers out on strike

Continued from front page inside the plants.

“More and more began to join. It grew over time to two or three times the size. People brought horns from home and noisemakers,” he said. “Last Wednesday before the vote almost all the workers joined and went outside, and many of those who didn’t march cheered them on.

“The amount of frustration is very high. A lot of people are tired of paying for the crises created by management,” Bland said.

He described the determination and “good energy” of younger and older workers to fight for what they need, from cost-of-living adjustments for those who still have pension benefits, to having more control over hours worked to combat excessive overtime, to more training for new hires.

Jorge Donis, 57, a mechanic who has worked at Boeing for 17 years, told the *Militant* the issues he sees as most important are bringing the pension back; a bigger wage increase; limiting mandatory overtime, which disregards workers’ lives; and medical benefits.

“The bosses don’t care about our lives,” he said, “we are just numbers to them. The company can work us 19 days in a row if they want to.”

## Proposal used crooked math

Aviation maintenance tech Jim “Buck” Wheat said the math put in the rejected contract was intended to hoodwink workers, who figured out it would leave them worse off by the end of it.

“In four years we’ll be 10% behind. They rerouted money. It’s a shell game,” he said, because Boeing would have taken away a bonus that workers rely on annually for about 4% of their wages, turning the 25% raise into about 9%.

“These kids need something to work with. I came here because I could work ’til I was 55, for decent pay. We used to pay nothing for health care,” he said.

“Over the years they’ve chipped away at quality,” Wheat said, pointing to the two Boeing 737 Max plane crashes that killed 346 people in 2018 and 2019. Wheat called it a showcase example of the company cutting corners on safety to get the planes out the door.

Adam Las, 18, is a mechanic who has worked at the Renton plant here for one year. The biggest issue for him is wages. Boeing’s proposed increase is diminished by inflation.

Las said the contract was very vague on overtime. “There are some new restrictions in the current offer,

but the company can still mandate us to work overtime on the weekends when they want to.”

## Tensions built up for years

This is the first strike at Boeing since 2008, when the union — after 57 days on the picket line — won modest raises, particularly for the lowest-paid workers, and beat back plans by the company to pass on costs for medical insurance.

After the strike Boeing opened a non-union assembly plant in North Charleston, South Carolina. Some 5,000 lower-paid workers now build Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner aircraft there. Efforts have been made to unionize the workers at the plant, according to Bland.

In 2011, under threats from Boeing that it would pull more production out of Washington, the union voted up a four-year extension by 74%. That contract included a modest wage increase but introduced payments for medical insurance for the first time.

In 2014 Boeing demanded an eight-year contract extension. While the local union leadership opposed taking a vote on it, the International Association of Machinists national leadership overruled them. Under that bitterly contested deal, voted up by 51% to 49%, the pension plan was scrapped.

In its most recent securities filing, Boeing reported that its order backlog was \$516 billion at the end of June, and it wants to get nearly a quarter of that as revenue next year.

Bland told the *Militant* now is a good time to fight, mentioning struggles to win the union and contracts by auto-workers in the South that have encouraged many here. “It’s all on what you’re willing to fight for. If you’re not going to fight, you’re not going to get it,” he said.

Negotiations were set to resume between the union and Boeing Sept. 18. IAM members will collect \$250 a week in strike pay after the third week on strike.

Many passing car drivers honk and wave as they go by, or throw a fist in the air to show support. The bosses are

# Teamsters strike Marathon refinery for wages, safety

Continued from page 6

operates. The Teamsters also represent workers at Marathon’s Saint Paul, Minnesota, refinery.

Strikers are fighting for higher pay, said Steve Hicks, president of the local. “We want to go back to the table, but they’re refusing to bargain. The wage increases Marathon offered, around 3% each year, isn’t enough to keep up with inflation.”

“We are demanding a 22% increase over four years, starting with

## Texas truckers protest in NY for better pay, conditions



Militant/Róger Calero

NEW YORK — Independent truckers active in a fight for better pay and working conditions in the oil-producing Permian Basin, in western Texas, traveled here to hold a protest outside the headquarters of investment management company BlackRock Sept. 18. They were joined by members of Teamsters Local 804, which organizes UPS and other workers in New York. They brought an inflatable “corporate pig.” Signs held by the truckers and their supporters drew the attention of people walking by and truckers driving by, with many stopping to learn more about the action. The Texas truckers are members of the U.S.-based Truckers Movement for Justice.

“In the whole chain — from BlackRock, which owns many of the oil and gas operations, to U.S. and Mexican brokers and transportation companies — we’re missing out in our money big time,” Oscar Lovo, a truck owner-operator, told the *Militant*. He was referring to the long hours spent waiting to get loaded and unloaded, for which they aren’t paid. They also don’t receive compensation for the high costs of fuel, maintenance and other overhead they have to cover.

“Every single day thousands of drivers working in the oil fields in west Texas are cheated out of money. We want justice for truck drivers,” said Bill Randell, a leader of the coalition.

“We are supporting these truckers because there is a common struggle between the Teamsters and these truckers who have no union today,” said Christopher Williamson, vice president of Local 804.

— RÓGER CALERO

getting support from the *Seattle Times*, which claims the workers are greedy and their strike will damage the region’s economy, trying to pit other workers against the strikers. But Chardonnai Martinez, a small-business owner who lives in the neighborhood of the Renton plant, told the *Militant*, “I like seeing people strike for what they believe in.”

Big stakes exist for all working peo-

ple in this struggle. The issues are mirrored in countless workplaces across the country. Your help is needed for the Machinists to win! Talk to others about the fight. Win support from your union or group. Stop by and walk the picket line. Send a message or contribution to keep them afloat. The IAM District 751 union hall is at 9125 15th Place S., Seattle, WA 98108.

a 6% increase the first year,” Dansby said. “And the company wants us to pay 20% of our health care costs, which have been covered 100% until now. I am 51 years old, and I’m forced to keep working despite having a couple of major surgeries. I’m on the verge of a medical retirement, but I can’t afford it.”

Another important issue is winning the closed shop. Recent state legislation eliminated the right-to-work law. But so far the company has refused.

Bosses also want to contract out maintenance work. “We need job security,” Dansby said. “The work should be done by the union maintenance workers.”

“There are a lot of issues, but my number one is work and home life balance,” said striker Dynita McCaskill. “I don’t want to work overtime. Most operating staff work 12-hour rotating shifts for four days before they’re supposed to get a four-day break to recover and rest. We miss out on valuable family time and wear ourselves down to keep this refinery going.”

Hicks added, “Though Marathon Petroleum made nearly \$10 billion in profit

in 2023 on the backs of Teamsters, the company claims to not have enough to pay their workers their fair share.”

“I am totally union,” said McCaskill, “eighth generation union. They aren’t treating us like human beings.” She said she was offended when Marathon refused to consider making Juneteenth a holiday.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta**  
So-Called American Dream is More Like a Nightmare for Workers Today. U.S. Workers Are in a Fighting Mood. Speaker: John Benson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Sept. 29, 4 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

### MINNESOTA

**Minneapolis**  
Hear Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. President. Tues., Oct. 1. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: \$10. 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Tel.: (612) 271-1930.

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# Democrats, Republicans: twin parties of the capitalist rulers

BY TERRY EVANS

With the Nov. 5 election just about six weeks away, the capitalist rulers are redoubling their efforts to convince working people we have no choice but to hold our nose and pick the “lesser evil” between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

But millions of workers sense both parties — Democrats and Republicans — are committed to ruling on behalf of the capitalist class, leaving us to pay for the deepening economic, social and moral crisis. Stagnating real wages over much of the last three decades have heightened uncertainty about the future and made it more difficult for workers to climb out of debt and raise a family. Life expectancy has fallen steadily since 2015. The last time such a sustained drop occurred was during the First World War.

Both Harris and Trump make clear they’ll assure the Pentagon has the money it needs to protect U.S. imperialist interests in an increasingly unstable world marked by the threat of more wars.

Sharp clashes between Harris and Trump at their Sept. 10 debate mask the fact that the class outlook they share in common is far more important than their differences. The fundamental di-

vision in U.S. politics is not between the Democratic and Republican candidates. It’s between the ruling capitalists — backed by both of their main parties — and the working class.

All union and class-struggle battles are political, but the working class has yet to take steps to build its own political party. Advancing our class interests starts from building solidarity with today’s union struggles, like the strike by 33,000 Boeing workers.

Growing numbers of workers recognize that the kind of changes we need run deep. Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, gets a hearing when she says what’s needed is for workers in their millions to take political power into their own hands.

## Need class break with bosses’ parties

Sky-high price hikes from 2021 to mid-2023 devastated working people, and those prices haven’t gone down, especially for essentials like food, housing and child care. At the ABC debate Harris touted her part in the administration’s efforts to cap drug prices for seniors — by placing a \$2,000 cap on prescription medication! Trump says depend on me, I’ll increase oil pro-



Rail union members protest in Washington, D.C., Dec. 13, 2022, after Biden, bipartisan Congress imposed rail contract and banned planned strike. “What’s needed is for workers to take political power into our own hands,” said Joanne Kunianski, left, SWP 2024 candidate for Senate.

duction to bring down prices.

Both candidates hid the truth that bouts of disastrous price hikes and job-destroying downturns are part of the normal operations of capitalist competition and crises. Protection from these capitalist business cycles won’t come from the schemas proposed by Harris or Trump, or interest rate tinkering by the Federal Reserve. It’ll come as a result of workers joining together and using our unions to fight for higher wages and cost-of-living protections in contracts and social programs.

While hailing Harris’ debate per-

formance, voices in the liberal press admitted she didn’t advance any concrete steps to alleviate the capitalist crisis. “When almost 70% of the country feels betrayed by the economy, the party that speaks to this frustration has a built-in advantage,” complained Jedediah Britton-Purdy, a professor at Duke Law School, in an op-ed column in the *New York Times*. But for the working class, combating the effect of rising prices is more than a “frustration.” It’s a matter of basic survival.

During the debate, both candidates claimed they would strengthen the Washington-led NATO military alliance to advance the imperialist rulers’ preparation for sharpening competition, wars and uprisings they fear working people will carry out. Trump bragged that by playing tough as president he forced up arms spending by capitalist governments in Europe, while Harris claims she’s the only candidate that understands the importance of NATO, calling it “the greatest military alliance the world has ever known.”

In sharp contrast, the SWP’s Rachele Fruit points out the U.S. government’s foreign policy, alliances and massive military serve the county’s ruling class.

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# Fight against Jew-hatred!

Continued from front page

blows against Hamas, decimating its rocket launchers, killing key commanders and destroying more and more of its tunnels in Gaza. The IDF has announced that its troops are now prepared to operate inside Lebanon, to create conditions for the return of 55,000 Israelis evacuated from northern Israel after Hezbollah’s airstrikes.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that top Joseph Biden administration diplomat Amos Hochstein met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in Tel Aviv Sept. 16 to insist that they not escalate the conflict.

The next day nearly 3,000 Hezbollah’s operatives in Lebanon and some in Syria were wounded when their pagers blew up. It’s widely believed that Israeli agents had found a way to plant explosives in the pagers before they were delivered. Al Jazeera journalist Faisal al-Qassem called the attack a “significant pre-emptive strike” that was “similar to Israel’s attack on the Egyptian Air Force before the Six-Day War.”

As always, the U.S. rulers’ concern is not Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews, the Israelis evacuees in the north, or the threat that Hezbollah could launch its own “Oct. 7” pogrom. Their concern is stability for the political interests of the U.S. capitalist rulers and the profits they reap from oil and maritime trade.

Reflecting the line of the White House that Israel should end the war against Hamas, the *New York Times* and other liberal bourgeois media have written scores of articles blaming Netanyahu more than Hamas for the lack of a cease-fire and hostage deal.

In a Sept. 12 interview, Vice President Kamala Harris called for an immediate long-term cease-fire, something that would leave Hamas intact. She laid out plans for a postwar Gaza without ever mentioning the name of Hamas.

Washington turns a blind eye to

the Jew-hatred that is at the heart of Hamas’ existence and which guarantees more pogroms as long as Hamas is able. The reactionary group began as an offshoot of the Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood, which like its mentor, Amin al-Husseini, the Mufti of Jerusalem, collaborated closely with the Nazis during the Holocaust.

This Nazi-linked history of Hamas is of little interest to the *Times*. It treats Hamas as if it is a popular — but brutal — “liberation” organization. That is the line of the Sept. 17 *Times* article by Adam Rasgon titled “Hamas Is Surviving War With Israel. Now It Hopes to Thrive in Gaza Again.”

## Prettying up Hamas

The article, based on an interview with Hamas leader Khaled Meshal in his home in Doha, Qatar, was published just a week after the release of a video of the underground chamber where six Jewish hostages were murdered in cold blood by Hamas and had been kept there at least for several weeks. There was not enough room in the narrow tunnel for the hostages to stand up. There was no toilet, no fan, no lighting. The body of Eden Yerushalmi, one of the six, weighed only 79 pounds.

The remaining 70 or so hostages still believed to be alive are likely in similar conditions.

But there is no indication that the *Times* asked Meshal what justification there could possibly be for taking hostages, for keeping them in those conditions, for murdering them, for raping and mutilating women.

The article doesn’t once mention that Hamas is opposed to Jews and Arabs living together in peace and that its central goal remains destroying Israel. The group built hundreds of miles of tunnels, but not one bomb shelter for the people of Gaza before it started this war, knowing Israel would respond.

The article quotes Meshal saying, “My responsibility is to fight and resist until liberation.” But what liberation is Meshal talking about? Hamas does not raise any demands to advance the rights of Palestinian workers or farmers in Gaza or anywhere else. Hamas is hated by many in Gaza, who feel freer to speak out since Hamas has been weakened.

For Hamas, Palestinian working people are nothing more than human shields and potential “martyrs” it can use to win public sympathy and funds along the road to imposing its brutal version of Sharia law.

The *Times* knows this. Just the week before the interview with Meshal it published an article titled “How Hamas Uses Brutality to Maintain Power.” For the first time the paper painted the broad picture of Hamas’ use of Palestinian civilians as human shields — what the *Times* calls “embedding in civilian areas,” of violent attacks on anyone who disagrees with them, and growing opposition to its dictatorial rule.

“Those launching rockets and firing bullets from civilian areas don’t care about civilians,” one Gaza resident told the *Times*. “If you want to fight Israel, you should go do that. But why are you coming to hide among civilians?”

Inside Israel, where 21% of the population is Arab — and Jews and



Home in Katsrin in Israel hit by Hezbollah missile Aug. 21. Hezbollah attacks have forced evacuation of 55,000 people from northern Israel. Blows Israeli forces have dealt to Hamas in Gaza have put them in a strengthened position to take on threat from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Arabs belong to the same unions and often work side by side — Hamas has little support. Arab citizens and residents of Israel face discrimination and unequal treatment from the capitalist government. In response, they fight for equal rights, not the elimination of their fellow Jewish workers.

## Biden puts pressure on Israel

Not to be outdone in justifying the Biden administration’s constant pressure on Israel, the *Washington Post* featured Rabbi Lonnie Kleinman, a leader of Jewish Voice for Peace, in a Sept. 13 article.

Kleinman focuses her ire, not at Hamas for slaughtering Jews, or using Gazans as human shields and placing its command posts in schools, mosques and apartment buildings, but at Israel. Jewish Voice for Peace, like the *Times* and the *Post*, is unwilling to tell the truth about Hamas’ and Tehran’s goal of destroying Israel and killing Jews.

Many on the liberal left justify

their stance by repeating that “anti-Zionism is not antisemitism.”

Tell that to Jewish students attending a welcome brunch sponsored by Hillel, a Jewish student group, at a Kosher restaurant near Baruch College in New York Sept. 3.

They were surrounded by members of Students for Justice in Palestine who chanted “All Zionists are racists,” and “Dogs off campus.” The thugs blocked the doorway, held photos of murdered babies in the students’ faces and hit a Hillel staffer. One thug formed his fingers in the shape of a triangle, the symbol Hamas uses to denote a military target.

Some in the mob shouted at a Jewish-looking couple walking down the street, “You ugly ass bitch! Go back to Brooklyn!”

The mobs’ action underscores the fact that fighting Jew-hatred is not just a question in the Middle East, but key to advancing the interests of working people everywhere.

# Moscow’s deadly war in Ukraine demoralizes Russian troops

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Ukrainian forces launched a second incursion into the Russian Federation Sept. 12, 20 miles west of their thrust into the Kursk region five weeks earlier. Ukrainian tanks and troops took the town of Vesoloe, again scattering poorly prepared and unmotivated Russian conscript defenders.

Their goal is not to oppress local residents, but to force Moscow to divert forces from their latest push in Ukraine’s Donetsk region. And they are having some success, as the Russian rulers have been forced to redeploy forces to try to dislodge Kyiv’s hold on 500 square miles of western Russia. The major Russian operation in Ukraine’s southeast has been disrupted. The morale of defenders of Ukrainian sovereignty has been boosted.

Hundreds of Russian Kursk area residents issued a public appeal asking to be safely evacuated from the war zone. They say Kremlin propaganda about Ukrainian forces there being “completely defeated” is utterly false. Dmitry Kuznetsov, a deputy in Russia’s State Duma, wrote to the Red Cross Sept. 13 calling for an evacuation through Ukraine, then Belarus and then back to Russia. Kyiv has invited the U.N. and the Red Cross “to join humanitarian efforts in the Kursk region.” This is in stark contrast to Moscow’s brutal occupation regimes in southeastern Ukraine and Crimea.

Since May, Russian President Vladimir Putin had pushed his forces, despite heavy and demoralizing losses, to try to take the mining city of Pokrovsk, a logistics hub for Ukraine’s military in the southern Donetsk region. With water and power cut, it has been partially evacuated. Thousands of miners are still there, alternating

between digging coal and digging trenches outside the city.

Thousands of Ukrainian reserves have halted the Russian advance on Pokrovsk, Oleksandr Syrskiy, Ukraine’s military commander in chief, told CNN Sept. 5. And, in a surprise counterattack, the Azov Brigade broke Moscow’s siege on the nearby town of Niu-York.

Russian artillery barrages and “meat wave” attacks have slowed as more men and arms are sent to Kursk. The incursion into Russia, Syrskiy noted, also “reduced the threat of an enemy offensive” in Ukraine’s adjacent Sumy and Kharkiv regions.

The Kremlin’s war is devastating the lives of working people in Russia as well as Ukraine. Putin has gambled he can win on Ukraine’s eastern front by throwing Russia’s numerically superior forces against tenacious but outnumbered, outgunned defenses. Their soldiers only advance over the bodies of hundreds of fallen comrades.

## Putin needs troops to replace losses

The monthly salary for contract soldiers has been raised, using Moscow’s oil and gas profits, to over 20 times the country’s minimum wage. Their signing bonus equals a year’s pay for many Russians. Still recruitment of fresh volunteers is slowing.

Since Moscow’s 2022 invasion, the war has cost the lives and limbs of well over half a million Russian troops. Each month now the casualty rate is some 31,700 Russian soldiers — double that in 2022-23. These come disproportionately from oppressed nationalities and migrant workers in the Russian Federation, as well as prisoners released for “volunteering.”

Many contract troops now are “alcoholics, homeless people, derelicts,

prisoners and others,” a councilman from Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, admitted. Moscow’s 2024 recruitment plan called for over 30,000 new soldiers a month, barely enough to replace losses. Putin decreed Sept. 16 that overall Russian troop numbers be increased by another 180,000.

Many prisoners, lured by the promise of freedom if they survive, signed up for what turned out to be one-way tickets to the front. With falling inmate numbers, prisons in southern Russia are closing, while Putin’s Gulag camps are filled with political prisoners.

Mercenary units in Russia’s Africa Corps are being recalled to Kursk, undermining regimes dependent on Moscow’s backing, from Syria to Burkina Faso. Despite their families’ protests, more teenage draftees find themselves sent to war zones.

Young soldiers who try to desert, surrender or refuse to fight face 15-year prison terms. Russian officers often keep those who disobey orders in cellars without food or water for days. It is these Russian workers and farmers in uniform, and their families and friends back home, who are the best potential allies of Ukrainian working people in the fight against Putin’s war.

The number of desertions is on the rise. An anti-war project in Russia, Get Lost, has assisted over 900 Russian soldiers to abandon their posts. And it has helped over 35,000 young men avoid military service by leaving Russia or finding refuge inside the country.

“My hands are stained with blood,” Denis, a Russian drone operator, told the Moscow Times. Horrified by the slaughter, he deserted and fled abroad for his “own life and freedom,” saying he didn’t care about Putin’s regime.

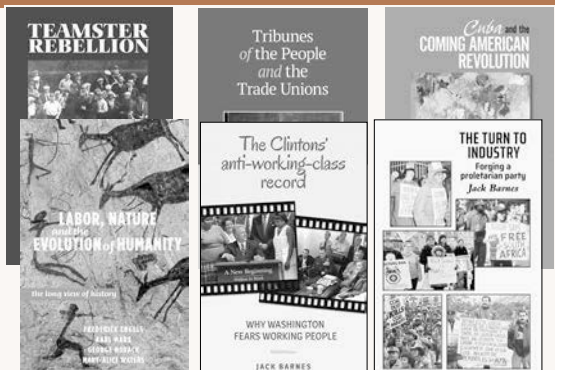
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## Strike in Iran’s Kurdish region marks 2-year anniversary of death of Zhina Amini

The reactionary capitalist regime in Iran prevented the family of Zhina “Mahsa” Amini from holding a commemoration at her graveside in Saqqez on the second anniversary of her death. But thousands of small businesses and workers went on strike across the Kurdish region.

The young Kurdish woman died Sept. 16, 2022, after she was detained by the hated “morality” police during a visit to Tehran. The cops claimed she had violated the dress code, which requires women to cover up their hair. Her family says the cops beat her. After her death, protests rapidly spread across Iran, continuing for five months. Police and thugs from the government-funded Basij paramilitary group killed over 500 protesters. More than 22,000 were arrested, most released after short prison stints.

This year 14 leaders of the Kurdistan Teachers Union in Sanandaj were detained ahead of the protest, and Amini’s family was warned to not leave their house. Authorities released water from the Cheraghweis dam to flood much of the access to the Saqqez cemetery and stationed Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps troops at its entrances to keep people out.

At the same time, thousands in the Kurdish region honored the Sept. 15 strike call. Videos from seven cities, including Piranshahr, Saqqez, Sanandaj and Kermanshah, showed deserted streets.

The “morality” police — which the regime pulled back during the protests in 2022 and ‘23 — are now back on the streets trying to enforce the dress code. Nonetheless, more women are going out in public without the required hijab.

The protests after Amini’s death helped widen space for working people, women and oppressed nationalities to fight for their interests. This year’s anniversary took place amid an upturn in labor battles.

Political prisoners at the Ghezel Hesar Penitentiary in Karaj commemorated the death of Amini and others killed in the protests by reading poems, singing songs and demanding an end to the death penalty.

— SETH GALINSKY



# Burden of aging under capitalism

Continued from front page

Most aging workers are all too familiar with the experiences relatives and friends have faced with neglect and inadequate care at profit-thirsty nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

The government takes virtually no responsibility for care of elder workers. In recent years the cost of paid in-home care has soared. Those needing such care round-the-clock face a median annual cost of \$290,000. About one-third of retirees don't have the resources for any real length of *minimal* care. Some 90% of adults 65 and older have no long-term-care insurance.

Coping with this reality is driving more families to ruin. Five years ago Traci Lamb, newly divorced and without children, left her job and moved in with her parents to help her mother through knee-replacement surgery. "Then I was going to get my own place," she told the *Journal*, but "things happened."

The surgery left her mother with more pain than before, and her physical and mental condition got worse. Her father, with congestive heart failure and pulmonary disease, died in 2022. Unable to pay rent on their home, Lamb and her mother moved into a trailer, where she slept on an air mattress so her mom could have a bed.

In July her mother was diagnosed with Parkinson's and dementia. Lamb left her job to have more time to care for her. To cover costs, she got two part-time jobs, including delivering food for DoorDash.

The *Journal* describes a number of similar stories.

## Pharma, insurers jump on cash cow

At the same time, giant pharmaceutical companies charge up to a million dollars or more for a one-year supply of new medications developed to treat forms of cancer and other serious illnesses.

Danyelza, which treats neuroblastoma in the bone or bone marrow of pediatric and adult patients, costs \$1,011,882 a year; Kimmtrak, used to treat uveal melanoma, a form of eye cancer, costs \$975,520; Folutyn, which treats peripheral T-cell lymphoma, a rare blood cancer, costs \$842,585; and Blincyto, used to treat a rare form of leukemia, costs \$754,720.

Most insurance firms balk at covering these drugs.

At the same time they have a new money-making scam — convincing millions of Medicare Advantage patients they need to have medical tests at home that enable insurance giants, including UnitedHealth, Humana and CVS/Aetna, to boost profits.

"Insurers received nearly \$50 billion in payments from 2019 to 2021," the *Journal* reported Aug. 4, for tests and treatment they promoted "for conditions that no doctor or hospital

treated. Many of the insurer-driven diagnoses were outright wrong or highly questionable."

Medicare paid UnitedHealth about \$2,735 for each of these home visits over the three-year span. Insurance call centers bombarded Medicare recipients with special offers like Walmart gift cards if they agreed to the visits.

One common test was to send a nurse to warm up the big toes of patients, supposedly to check for peripheral artery disease, a narrowing of the blood vessels.

Dr. Amy Chappell, a 73-year-old neurologist in Naples, Florida, was pressed by UnitedHealth to get the test. There was "no reason to think I had peripheral artery disease," Chappell told the *Journal*, saying she had no symptoms and is an avid runner and tennis player.

She did take the test, and the insurance company said it was positive. But she decided to consult her primary-care doctor, who told her the diagnosis was inaccurate. Then the company admitted there had been a "mistake."

Buying a house — a dream of millions of workers — is another example of the class divisions rife in capitalist society. If you're wealthy you can



CNN  
After finding assisted-care facilities would cost \$7,000 per month and up, Tammy La Barbera quit her job to care for her mother in Murrieta, California. Barely able to cover the rent, La Barbera says she doesn't know what she'll do when her mother's dementia gets worse.

shell out millions to buy property, and more and more of the well-heeled are doing so today. Papers like the *Journal* are full of ads for pads costing tens of millions.

In the Jacksonville, Florida, metro area, there was a roughly 12.6% year-over-year decline in the number of "nonluxury" homes sold in the second quarter, brokerage firm Red-

fin reported. Over the same period it reported a 20.9% increase in sales of "luxury" homes.

Changing these conditions will take working people in their millions organizing to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers to meet the social needs and respect the dignity of every individual regardless of one's age or condition — a socialist society.

## Lessons from 1979 Maoist-Klan shootout in Greensboro

BY GREG McCARTAN

I really got a lot out of the feature article in the Sept. 2 issue of the *Militant*, "Forging a proletarian party in the class struggle today: Socialist Workers Party uses Marxist program and party's experiences to set course."

I wanted to add to the very useful section of the article on thuggish violence by Stalinist currents today and their predecessors. The article cites the Maoist Communist Workers Party's ultraleft and provocative "Death to the Klan" rally in November 1979 in Greensboro, North Carolina, during which five of its members were killed and others wounded by armed Klan and Nazi thugs. That provocation "did real damage to both the fights for Black liberation and defense of constitutional protections," the article says.

At the time I was a member of the Piedmont branch of the SWP in nearby Winston-Salem and, like many workers in the region, felt those destructive effects on the class struggle.

The CWP's course deeply damaged a broad union-organizing effort among textile and other workers in the region that developed following the historic victory of the United Steelworkers union-organizing drive and strike by 17,500 shipyard workers in Newport News, Virginia.

Textile mills in North Carolina employed over 250,000 workers. The Communist Workers Party had implanted its members in several. Called the Workers Viewpoint Organization until two weeks before the Greensboro rally, they sought to win support by using their education as doctors and professors to offer medical care to workers while promoting their organization.

They vilified and sought to decertify the existing Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and to form independent unions under their own control.

They even more clearly showed their true colors, methods and aims with armed anti-Klan actions in the state. The Greensboro rally of 100 people

was organized in the largely African American Morningside housing project. Some CWP members were armed. When the Klan caravan arrived, the protesters kicked their cars and hit them with signs. It's not known who fired the first shot.

During the rightists' rampage, which police and FBI agents knew was coming, up to 40 racist and anti-working-class Klansmen and Nazis calmly shot up the crowd and fired into the project for almost two minutes. The police,

who had followed the Klan caravan into the city, had disappeared. Four of the five CWP members killed had worked in the textile mills.

The provocative anti-Klan rally and its inevitable bloody results had a chilling effect on workers in the state seeking to mobilize for union recognition, leading to the decline of the unionization drive. It also led to rightist and Klan death threats against SWP members in the nearby union-organized factory where I was working.

## Prosecutions of Canadian Freedom Convoy leaders blow to workers' rights

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — An unprecedented yearlong "free speech" frame-up trial of Tamara Lich and Chris Barber, two spokespersons for the 2022 truckers' Freedom Convoy protest in Ottawa, ended Sept. 13. Justice Heather Perkins-McVey has six months to deliver her verdict. If convicted they could face up to 10 years in prison.

Lich and Barber were arrested at the massive Ottawa protest against job-threatening COVID mandates on Feb. 17, 2022, two days after Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked, for the first time ever, the draconian Emergencies Act. It allowed him to send in 3,000 cops to break up the convoy protest. He said the protest had created a "national public order emergency."

In January a federal court ruled that Trudeau's use of the Emergencies Act was illegal because it violated democratic freedoms guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Many other convoy participants face charges. On Sept. 10 in a Lethbridge, Alberta, courtroom packed with their supporters, Anthony Olienick and Chris Carbert, participants in a February 2022 two-week convoy solidarity protest at the Coutts, Alberta, Canada-U.S. border crossing, received six-

and-a-half-year prison sentences from Justice David Labrenz.

Last month a 12-person jury found the two guilty of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and public mischief resulting in damages of over 5,000 Canadian dollars (\$3,700). The jury acquitted them of the more serious frame-up charge of conspiracy to murder police, which was based on false testimony by cop undercover agents who posed as Freedom Convoy participants.

Labrenz took almost two hours to justify his sentencing in a political address, saying the length of the sentences was meant to deter others from interfering with Canada's critical infrastructure. He called the Freedom Convoy protest "an attack on the rule of law."

Olienick and Carbert have been held in prison since their arrests. With credit for time served, they face another two years behind bars. Both intend to appeal their convictions and sentences.

A separate jury found three other Coutts protesters guilty of mischief. Their sentencing is due Sept. 27.

One of them, Alex van Herk, was in the courtroom when Olienick and Carbert were sentenced. "I believe there is a lot of political pressure still involved, even in the decisions today," he told the press.

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# Millions of women joined in advancing Cuba's revolution

Women and the Cuban Revolution is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. It includes speeches and documents by Fidel Castro, the central leader of Cuba's socialist revolution; Vilma Espín, the founding leader of the Federation of Cuban Women; and others. The book explains women's changing role as workers and farmers took power in Cuba in 1959 and millions participated in a giant social transformation. The excerpt is from the introduction by Elizabeth Stone, the editor of the book and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Granma  
Literacy brigadistas heading out to Cuba's rural areas in early 1961. Over 100,000 volunteers, over half of them women, taught peasants to read and write, and they learned more about countryside.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ELIZABETH STONE

The women who joined the struggle against the dictator [Fulgencio] Batista in the 1950s had already begun to show the way. They played an important role in that fight. Women organized demonstrations and worked in the underground, collecting supplies for the guerrillas, selling bonds to raise money, creating hospitals, sewing uniforms, and hiding revolutionaries in their houses. They served as messengers and spies. There are many stories about the role women played in transporting weapons under their skirts through the streets of Santiago and the

other centers of revolutionary activity.

Some women became guerrilla fighters. Individual women fought on different guerrilla fronts and there was also a group of women combatants called the Mariana Grajales Platoon, named after the Black woman active in Cuba's first war of independence. This legendary unit grew to the size of a company during the final stages of the revolutionary war and was maintained afterwards.

The women who joined the struggle to overthrow Batista not only had to have the courage to face the repression and torture of Batista's police, but they also had to buck the prevailing prejudice against women's involvement in politics. ...

The women who fought against Batista were pioneers in making changes that were to effect millions of Cuban women later on. In his first speeches immediately after the revolution came to power, Castro paid homage to these women fighters and used their example to explain how the revolution was going to move forward to involve masses of women.

One of the first activities to draw in large numbers of women was the creation of the militia. As the revolution deepened with the carrying out of the land reform and the nationalization of large imperialist holdings, the U.S. government and counterrevolutionaries within Cuba began to organize armed opposition. Bombings, sabotage

of factories, and the burning of sugarcane fields went hand-in-hand with the threat of military attack from the United States. To help counter this a popular militia was organized in the workplaces and schools, and women who worked or who were students joined it.

There was a big hue and cry from counterrevolutionary elements about women's incorporation into the militia. They questioned the "morals" of women who dressed like men, wore pants, and carried guns. ...

The intensification of the counterrevolutionary attacks led in September 1960 to the formation of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs). Even larger numbers of women joined the CDRs, which were organized on a block-by-block basis. They guarded public buildings, watched for suspicious activities in the neighborhoods, and carried out other important tasks of the revolution.

On August 23, 1960, another big step was taken with the formation of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC). The FMC immediately began to organize masses of women, house by house, in the cities and the countryside, helping to build the militias and the CDRs, organizing the drive against illiteracy, setting up schools for peasant women, and establishing a network of child-care centers.

Because the FMC was an organization led by and made up entirely of

women, those women who had never before participated in politics or other public activity often felt more at home in its ranks. The FMC also provided a place where women could discuss the problems they faced as women and press for changes to alleviate these problems. ...

In 1961, the campaign to wipe out illiteracy was organized. It was a gigantic effort. A hundred thousand youth between the ages of ten and eighteen left their schools and went into the countryside as literacy brigadistas to teach people how to read and write. Over half of these brigadistas were girls and young women.

Fifty-five percent of those who learned to read and write were women. This was accomplished despite considerable resistance to including women in the campaign. ...

For the young women and girls who went out to teach, the experience was a wrenching break from the past. Until then, some of them had not even been allowed out of the house alone. Now they were traveling to the most remote parts of the countryside and mountains, where they shared the life of poverty of the peasants, not only teaching but also working with them in the fields.

One of the slogans of the literacy brigadistas was "You will learn more than you teach," and this turned out to be the case. They learned about the peasants' life and work and returned to the cities with a better understanding of why the desperately poor areas of the countryside needed to be given preferential treatment by the revolution.

From the ranks of these teachers came new cadres for the revolution — youth who were more conscious of the challenges that lay ahead and ready to commit themselves to the necessary tasks. The campaign also deepened consciousness about the role of women in the revolution. ...

[Castro explained:] "This revolution has really been two revolutions for women; it has meant a double liberation: as part of the exploited sector of the country, and second, as women, who were discriminated against not only as workers but also as women."

Castro added that if women were doubly exploited under capitalism, then in a socialist revolution they would be "doubly revolutionary."

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# Defend Cuba's socialist revolution

The brutal effects of the U.S. rulers' six-decades-long economic, trade and financial war against the Cuban people deserve the condemnation of working people everywhere. Our unions should demand the immediate and unconditional end to the embargo, as well as Washington's inclusion of Cuba on its list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism." They're aimed at overturning Cuba's socialist revolution.

The stark consequences of Washington's assaults were outlined in a Sept. 12 special report by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez.

The U.S. rulers' hatred of Cuba's 1959 revolution stems from the fact that it was a mighty turning point in working-class history. It drew millions of workers, peasants, women and youth into participation in all aspects of social, economic and political life, transforming their lives, conditions and class consciousness. Like the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia four decades earlier, it showed in practice what working people can accomplish and opened a renewal of communist leadership in the Americas and worldwide, including for the Socialist Workers Party.

Nowhere in the world do the capitalist rulers recognize the capacities and worth of working people. They deeply fear the prospect that the toiling majority will rise up and take political power themselves.

"And what does the Cuban Revolution teach?" Fidel Castro asked an assembly of 1 million people in Havana in 1962. "That revolution is possible, that the people can make it."

It showed that with leadership, the exploited class-

es could take power, expropriate the capitalist class and run the factories, banks and production on the land in the interests of the great majority. With a government worth defending, workers and farmers in Cuba defeated a U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary invasion at Playa Girón in 1961. In the decades since, Cubans in their hundreds of thousands have volunteered to join those fighting imperialist oppression in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

"What is it that is hidden behind the Yankees' hatred of the Cuban Revolution?" Castro said in 1962. "It's fear. Not fear of the Cuban Revolution, but fear of the Latin American Revolution," he said. "Fear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free people of the Americas."

First and foremost, the Socialist Workers Party acts on the conviction that the struggle to make a socialist revolution here, to bring down the world's final empire, is essential. Building a party to lead working people to replace capitalist rule with a government of our own will change the world forever.

This week the SWP launches its fall drive to win and organize endorsers of the Rachele Fruit-Dennis Richter campaign to reach out more broadly; to expand the *Militant's* readership, circulation of books by revolutionary leaders in the U.S., Cuba and elsewhere; and raise \$140,000 for the party's work. Defense of Cuba's socialist revolution and fighting Washington's economic war against it are a key part of that effort.

Join us!

# End Washington's economic war against Cuba!

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"Cuba should have never been included in that shameful list," Rodríguez said. To the contrary, our country "is a victim of state terrorism from the U.S. government, and of violent terrorist actions organized from U.S. soil with impunity."

In the report, Rodríguez gave graphic examples of the damage caused by Washington's measures on daily life. The losses to the Cuban economy due to the embargo in 25 days (\$339 million) would be enough to cover the basic supply of medicines for one year. The losses caused in 21 hours (\$12 million) is equal to the cost of purchasing a one-year supply of insulin for the entire country. Fifteen minutes would fund the supply of hearing aids for children and adolescents with disabilities (\$144,000).

The lack of foreign currency for fuel has caused regular electricity outages, and has a cumulative effect on the country's infrastructure. According to press reports, more than 600,000 people are affected by water supply disruptions, often caused by a lack of pipes and pumps. Even water supply by

truck has been limited due to shortages of fuel and equipment, according to Cuban officials.

Of course, the difficulties Cuban society is confronting are not due exclusively to the embargo, said Rodríguez. "There are errors in the management of the economy, but they are unintended, and they hurt." But the heart of the problem is the U.S. rulers' deliberate plan to cause "pain and humanitarian damage to people."

"Our government and people work very hard to overcome the hardships caused by the blockade," he said. In this, the creativity and participation of the Cuban people, and the determination of the immense majority to defend the country's independence and socialism, play a decisive role, the Cuban leader said.

More facts about the impact of Washington's economic war are available at <https://cubaminrex.cu/sites/default/files/2024-09/InformeB2024en.pdf>

The report helps arm opponents of Washington's embargo in the U.S. and elsewhere to reach out to win wider support for the demand for its immediate and unconditional end.

# Mixed verdict in frame-up of UHURU defendants

BY TERRY EVANS

In a contradictory verdict, a jury in Tampa, Florida, decided Sept. 12 that Omali Yeshitela, the leader of the African People's Socialist Party, and Penny Hess and Jesse Nevel, both members of the support group UHURU, were not guilty of acting as agents of Moscow. But along with former UHURU member Augustus C. Romain, they were found guilty of conspiring to act as Moscow's agents.

The thought-control conspiracy charges carry up to five years in prison. The jury took just 10 hours to reach its verdict. "This case has always been about free speech," Hess' attorney, Leonard Goodman, told the press after the verdict.

All but two of the 13 witnesses the government used in the trial were FBI agents. The Justice Department had unleashed an armed FBI raid on the African People's Socialist Party's offices in St. Petersburg, Florida, and St. Louis on July 29, 2022. They threw flash-bang grenades and handcuffed those they arrested at gunpoint, seizing computers and files.

The four defendants were charged under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, one of a number of attacks on

constitutional freedoms adopted by the Franklin Roosevelt administration on the eve of World War II to target opponents of Washington's moves to enter the imperialist war over markets and spheres of influence. It was used to task the FBI with going after the Socialist Workers Party, and to spy on, harass and disrupt others in subsequent witch hunt operations.

The foreign agent statute is one of the government's arsenal of "national security" frame-up laws. It allows the Justice Department to target people whose political views are similar to those of governments Washington is in conflict with.

The verdict in the Tampa case comes as the Justice Department and Democratic political figures like Hillary Clinton are stepping up claims the Russian government is intervening in the 2024 presidential election on behalf of Donald Trump. Earlier this month Attorney General Merrick Garland indicted two Russia Today reporters on claims they failed to register as foreign agents while meddling in the 2024 election.

No date has been set for the sentencing of Hess, Nevel, Romain and Yeshitela. They say they intend to appeal the conviction.

# Parties of capitalist rule

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under both Democratic and Republican administrations. Everything Washington does in the Middle East and elsewhere is to advance the interests of the same class that is attacking us at home.

Workers need our own foreign policy, based on defending the common interests of toilers worldwide.

Trump used the debate to try to turn working people against one another, scapegoating immigrants as responsible for the effects of the capitalist crisis and threatening mass deportations. His demagoguery aims to pit native-born against foreign-born workers and divert us from uniting to take on the real source of the problems we face — capitalism.

For Harris, all problems are reduced to one — autocratic Trump and his "deplorable" working-class supporters. She says that the Biden Justice Department's legal offensive against the former president proves he is a criminal. The aim of the Democrats' use of the courts is to try to break Trump and drive him out of politics. In the debate, she said Trump's views should be ignored because he's "been prosecuted for national security crimes, economic crimes, election interference," and "has been found liable for sexual assault."

The Democrats present no program to advance workers' interests. Their campaign is entirely based on painting Trump as a semi-fascist so dangerous that all other issues pale in importance.

## Anti-Trump hysteria spawns violence

Each of Democrats' prosecutions against Trump have dealt blows to free speech and other crucial constitutional protections. Harris claimed Trump led "the worst attack on our democracy since the Civil War," referring to the Jan. 6, 2021, melee at the Capitol.

As the liberal hysteria against Trump heightens, it's no surprise that there have been two attempts by backers of the Democrats to assassinate him in the last two months.

On Sept. 15 Ryan Routh laid in wait for hours to shoot Trump at his West Palm Beach golf course in Florida. Armed with an AK-47, Routh came within 500 yards of Trump, before Secret Service agents noticed Routh and opened fire, leading to his arrest.

In 2016 Routh backed Trump for president, then switched to Democrat Bernie Sanders in 2020. He urged the Iranian government to kill Trump. This year Routh again backed the Democrats, repeating phrases used by Biden and Harris. "DEMOCRACY is on the ballot and we cannot lose," he wrote in April.

Moments after Routh's plan to kill Trump was reported, liberal MSNBC host Alex Witt said the blame lay on the former president for not "toning down the rhetoric."

Hillary Clinton escalated Democrats' attacks on free speech, claiming congressional Republicans "parrot Russian talking points" in a Sept. 16 MSNBC interview. "Americans engaged in this kind of propaganda," she said, "should be civilly or even in some cases criminally charged."

Defense of constitutional rights is a key issue for working people in 2024. Endorsing and building support for the Socialist Workers Party candidates is the best way to advance that fight today.



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