

THE MILITANT

FROM KARL MARX:
Free trade or protection,
workers go to the wall either way
 — PAGE 12

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 15 APRIL 21, 2025

Protests against Hamas open a door to a shift in Middle East

BY SETH GALINSKY

Israel's new offensive in Gaza is aimed at decisively defeating Hamas to prevent it from organizing more murderous pogroms against Jews.

Combined with the ongoing protests against Hamas by Palestinians in Gaza, this marks a turning point in the fight to defend Israel as a refuge for the Jews, one that can open new opportunities for common struggles by working people throughout the Middle East, struggles that can increase prospects for forging a working-class leadership to unite Jewish, Arab and other working people.

Undeterred by assassinations, beatings and threats by Hamas thugs, Gazans have continued to protest since actions broke out March 25 and spread to at least six cities. Hundreds of Palestinians marched in Jabaliya in northern Gaza April 6 demanding an end to Hamas' rule and to the war. They chanted, "Hamas is a terrorist organization!" and "Hamas is trash!"

The courage and determination of
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8,000 day care workers strike, march on gov't in Quebec City

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

QUEBEC CITY — Eight thousand striking day care workers from all corners of Quebec marched on the provincial legislature here April 3. Some 13,000 education workers and support staff overall, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), from over 400 day care centers were on a three-day strike demanding increased pay, more staff and improved working conditions.

They flew in from the Madeleine Islands and Quebec's North Shore and traveled from cities and towns in school buses, coaches and cars. Many wore rain ponchos, dancing and singing in the rain.

One striker carried a handmade sign, "4,000 education workers quit in a year; junior college classes are not filled; a system with no recognition, support or next generation is broken. Do something before it collapses."

"In the hospitals, cooks make a standard menu and earn CA\$28 an
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Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign 'SWP's aim is working-class road to taking political power'



Militant Paul Mailhot, left, SWP candidate for mayor of New York, discusses politics with postal worker Hector Narvaez at National Association of Letter Carriers rally in Harlem Feb. 16.

'More workers taking SWP seriously than I remember'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OAKLAND, Calif. — "The objective of the Socialist Workers Party is to present the working-class road to taking political power, to change which class rules," Norton Sandler, the SWP candidate for governor of California, told 35 people at a campaign rally here April 6. "This is decisive for humanity."

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SWP fights for NJ ballot: 650 signatures in 4 days!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

UNION CITY, N.J. — In the opening four days of the fight to get the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot in New Jersey, 650 signatures were gathered, as well as 23 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 24 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries were sold.

"We've had a good start to the campaign to put the SWP on the ballot,"

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Unions take up the fight to defend the rights of immigrant workers



Jennifer Vasquez Sura, wife of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, wrongly deported by Trump administration to El Salvador, speaks at news conference in Maryland, April 4. SMART, Abrego's union, is setting example for labor movement by pledging to organize, rally, fight until he is home.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LANGLEY PARK, Md. — The fight by his family, his union and others to force the U.S. government to return Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old Maryland union apprentice sheet metal worker deported to El Salvador's notorious CECOT megaprison, is gaining support. The courageous response of his wife, Jennifer Stefania

Vasquez Sura, and solidarity from his union, SMART, the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, are setting an example for working people and unions everywhere.

On March 12, after working his shift, Abrego Garcia picked up his 5-year-old son from his grandmother's house and began driving home to Beltsville. He

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Deepening capitalist trade conflicts shake up imperialist world 'order'

BY TERRY EVANS

President Donald Trump's tariffs, levied against capitalist competitors abroad, will "level the playing field for American industries and workers,"

proclaimed White House spokesperson Kush Desai April 1. In the face of dog-eat-dog competition for natural resources and markets, the administration says it's in the interests of workers to back their own capitalist class, which is deepening its assaults on workers' jobs, wages and working conditions to boost profits.

Trump announced April 2 a 10% tariff on all goods imported into the U.S. and "reciprocal" tariffs, including duties of 20% on goods from countries in the European Union, 34%

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Myanmar quake unleashes disaster as junta sends in the army, not aid

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A huge earthquake in Myanmar March 28, which killed over 3,000 people and injured thousands more, is fueling growing anger among working people against the military junta there. The government sent troops to the hardest-hit areas, but they were tasked with protecting government buildings, not helping save lives of those trapped under collapsed buildings. Thousands of volunteers sprang into action to try to do so.

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Quebec gov't mounts new attack on religious freedom

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — A new Quebec government draft “secularization” law imposing an even more far-reaching and divisive dress code on teachers and other school workers “amounts to an attack on the fundamental rights of workers” and “reinforces discriminatory dress codes for school staff,” said Caroline Senneville, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions. The CSN is one of Quebec’s three main union federations.

The law, Bill 94, was brought before the Quebec National Assembly by the Coalition for the Future of Quebec (CAQ) government of Premier Francois Legault March 20.

The law would expand Law 21, adopted over serious objection in 2019, that bans teachers and principals from wearing “religious symbols” at work, such as the head-covering hijab and face-covering niqab worn by some Muslim women, the kippa skullcap worn by Jewish men, Christian crucifixes, turbans and other symbols of religious belief.

Law 21 was forced through using the so-called notwithstanding clause, an anti-democratic section of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that allows the government to adopt legislation even if it violates protections guaranteed by both the federal and Quebec human rights charters. The Ontario government used this notwithstanding clause to pass legislation barring school workers’ right to strike in 2022.

Teachers unions, as well as Muslim, civil liberties and other organizations, have asked Canada’s Supreme Court to strike down the law as unconstitutional.

Under Bill 94 the ban on wearing religious symbols would apply to all school support staff and volunteers in public schools and school service centers. This includes lunch and after-school care monitors, secretaries, volunteer librarians, cafeteria workers, janitors, sports trainers, psychologists and more.

Attacks right to worship, expression

Thousands of workers wear public expressions of their religious belief and would be excluded from jobs in the education system and other government jobs — a discriminatory violation of their right to worship.

Targeting Muslim girls, the law would force students to “have their face uncovered” when they are at “a school, a vocational training center or adult education center, or a private educational institution.” It would also apply to parents picking children up from school.

It’s a woman’s right “to wear what she wants to wear,” Shaheen Ashraf, a board member of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, who herself wears a headscarf, told CBC News. “The message that is sent to us is ‘don’t participate in my society, stay home, don’t pay my taxes, don’t be a good citizen, just isolate yourself.’”

The legislation also includes a provision requiring teachers in French-language schools to speak only French with students and staff. There are a substantial number of English-speaking workers in Quebec, and Arabic is the third-most common language.

“The English Montreal School Board strongly opposes the CAQ Quebec government’s proposed law to vastly expand



Militant/Jim Upton

Protest against Law 21 in Montreal, 2019. Placard reads, “Muslims, Jews, atheists and Christians are all citizens.” New Bill 94 expands earlier restrictions on wearing religious symbols at work for all school workers, violating freedoms under federal and Quebec human rights charters.

the ban on religious symbols at work,” it said in a March 24 press release. “Bill 94 will impact every educator and student in Quebec negatively.”

The law was drafted in response to a trumped-up charge by Legault that a group of teachers at the Bedford public school in Montreal “tried to introduce Islamic religious concepts into a Quebec public school” last October.

Eleven teachers had their teaching licenses suspended. The government also claimed it found problems with maintaining a “secular environment” at 17 schools.

Goal is to divide working people

The claim by the Quebec government that the goal of its secularization laws is the separation of religion from the state is undermined by the fact it dispenses 160 million Canadian dollars a year of state funds (\$112 million) to subsidize 50 private religious schools in Quebec. These are 27 Catholic schools, 14 Jewish, four Muslim, two Protestant evangelical, two Armenian and one Greek Orthodox.

The government’s intention to continue expanding its so-called secularization campaign was made even clearer by Jean-Francois Roberge, the minister responsible for secularism, March 13. He announced the establishment of a committee to investigate whether the ban on religious symbols is being respected in

hospitals, universities and other institutions, and to consider banning praying in public and during demonstrations.

“The Quebec government, acting in the interests of the bosses who are trying to save their crisis-ridden profit system on our backs, aims to weaken our ability to fight back by dividing working people along religious, national and language lines,” Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for the Montreal riding of Bourassa in the April 28 federal election, told the *Militant* April 4. “They hope to push back the kind of working-class solidarity expressed during last year’s strike for higher pay and better working conditions by 600,000 Quebec public sector workers.”

Tessier, a member of the Teamsters union, works as a conductor for the Canadian National Railway.

“The Communist League urges working people to reject these assaults on free expression aimed at dividing the working class, and to build solidarity with all those fighting to defend democratic freedoms, including the right to strike, to fight for permanent residency for all immigrants and an end to deportations,” he said.

“This is part of building a mass working-class party to replace this dog-eat-dog capitalist system with a workers’ government that will fight to build a socialist society in Canada and throughout the world.”

THE MILITANT

Large protests in Turkey hit gov't, repression

Hundreds of thousands in Istanbul protested the Turkish government’s arrest of the city’s mayor March 29. They called for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to release him as well as jailed Kurdish leaders. The *Militant* covers the long-running fight for workers’ rights in Turkey.



Reuters/Louisa Gouliamaki
Protest March 29 after government’s arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu.

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Cane cutters fight for more pay, pensions in Dominican Republic

BY SETH GALINSKY

VILLA HERMOSA, Dominican Republic — The owners of Central Romana, the largest single employer and landowner in the Dominican Republic, claim their workers are well-treated and well-paid. Although by their own admission — likely inflated — many workers make under \$11 a day!

An international delegation in the Dominican Republic that took part in a sugarcane cutter union conference heard a different point of view from dozens of retired cane cutters during a March 23 visit to bateyes — company towns — and neighborhoods near Central Romana's cane fields. The company is partially owned by the U.S.-based Fanjul family.

The delegation included Israel Rousseau, general secretary of the National Union of Sugar Workers of Cuba; Dania Leyva, a leader of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers; Philippe Tessier, a freight rail worker and member of the Communist League in Canada; and members of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., including Rachele Fruit, a hotel worker in Miami; Gerardo Sánchez, an organizer with Local 111 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union in Fort Worth, Texas; and this reporter.

The vast majority of the cane cutters are Haitian immigrants or of Haitian descent. Many of those we met have been working here for decades — with deductions taken out of their pay for social security — but have been unable to collect since retiring. The government makes it extremely difficult to get official paperwork that they are “permanent residents,” which the government now requires before releasing any benefits. One of the central activities of the union is the fight for workers' pensions.

“I am 72 years old,” Sobe Pie told us during a meeting in Villa Hermosa, a neighborhood of dirt streets, no running water or sewage system, and little electricity. “When I was younger I could cut a ton of sugarcane a day. You work and work and look how they've left us.”

When cane cutters are too old to work, the bosses often evict them from company housing. They have also evicted union supporters.

“They treat us as if we are thieves,”

John Estimal said. “We started working there when we were young. Now that we are old we're of no use to them.”

“The company is the thief,” he said. “If the government doesn't want to pay our pensions, then the company should. Jesus Christ! It's our pension, not theirs.”

Central Romana has banned Jesús Núñez, national coordinator of the Sugarcane Workers Union, and other visitors from company-owned property. But that hasn't stopped union-organizing efforts.

Every week the workers hold meetings at homes that are not on Romana property.

At Batey Santa Rita, we met 70-year-old Evi Cay. When he lived on Romana's property, “one night Jesús came to visit and parked his vehicle at the side of my house,” he said. “My boss knew. The next day he asked me ‘who slept in your house?’”

Haitian workers protest gang violence, gov't disdain

BY JANET POST

Thousands of working people in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, took to the streets April 2 protesting against the Haitian government's refusal to protect them from the violence of brutal armed gangs, which have taken control over 85% of the capital city. They chanted, “Let's go, let's go, let's go and get them out!”

It was a largely peaceful demonstration, but later in the day gunfire forced protesters to flee as police fired tear gas and live rounds into the crowd as it neared government offices.

Two days earlier gangs had stormed the towns of Saut d'Eau and Mirebalais in central Haiti, releasing 500 of their brethren from prison. When the thugs arrived, local cops fled.

Some people took refuge in a Mirebalais home where the attackers killed them all, including two nuns. Archbishop Max Leroy Mesidor said 28 parishes in the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince have been forced to close because of the violence.

There are an estimated 20 armed gangs operating in the capital and up to half a million illegal firearms in the country. Mirebalais is on a crossroads to the border town of Belladere, a gateway



Militant/Philippe Tessier

Sugarcane cutters, many retired, discuss working conditions, fight for pensions, health care in Villa Hermosa, Dominican Republic, March 23. Bosses “treat us as if we are thieves,” said one.

After Cay moved out of the batey, that's no longer a worry. Union coordinator Núñez says that while the challenges for workers of Haitian descent to obtain pensions and health care are bigger, it's also a problem

for Dominican citizens. The union has held hundreds of demonstrations since it was founded in 2009.

“We have to keep one foot in the batey and one in the capital,” Núñez tells the workers.

for the flow of arms, ammunition and contraband coming to Haiti from South Florida via the Dominican Republic.

In 2024 more than 5,600 people were killed, 2,212 injured and 1,494 kidnapped by the gangs. And by March this year as many as 185,000 people have been forced from their homes.

Thousands of displaced people are either on the street or sheltering in makeshift sites, including schools and public buildings. Protester Julien David said at the demonstration, “We, the residents of the Solino neighborhood, we want to return home, and we will go home.”

The *Miami Herald* reported the gangs have “burned homes, schools and businesses. They've kidnapped people and used them as human shields against a government task force that uses drones to drop bombs on gang strongholds.”

After the demonstration, Fritz Alphonse Jean, the current head of Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council, gave a sanctimonious address saying, “Haitian people, you've spoken, and we've heard you. We understand your misery. We know your pain and your suffering.”

He tried to minimize the problem the people face, saying the fight against the gangs “is nothing compared to the battle we fought to get out of slavery.” Haitian slaves rose up and defeated the French army, winning independence in 1804. The rulers in Washington and elsewhere wanted to wipe out this example and ever since Haitians have faced colonial occupation.

Mario Jean-Pierre, a street vendor who sells used clothes he carries on his back, told NBC News he wasn't impressed by Jean's address. “This speech is not any different from other speeches,” he said. “They keep making promises and don't accomplish any of the promises they've made.”

The gang violence has forced Jean-Pierre to move with his two children into a makeshift shelter in the yard of Haiti's Ministry of Public Works. “Flying bullets are coming at you in different directions,” he said. “I've seen a few people in this camp who were hit by bullets as they slept.”

There is no question that a large number of Haitian government officials, police and military personnel profit from

collusion with the rival armed gangs and their financial backers.

Decades of imperialist plunder

The devastation in Haiti is the result of decades of imperialist plunder, made worse by today's unfolding worldwide economic crisis. Since the U.S. rulers became the dominant imperialist power, they've collaborated with successive dictatorial regimes in Haiti that relied on paramilitary gangs to terrorize working people.

Democratic and Republican administrations alike backed the bloody dictatorships of Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude, known as “Baby Doc,” and their Tonton Macoutes paramilitary force, from 1957 until 1986.

It was only the broad struggle of tens of thousands of Haitian working people and their supporters mobilized in both Haiti and the U.S. that brought down one of the most brutal dictatorships of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Since then a series of military interventions have been carried out both under the banner of the U.N. and directly by U.S. troops. They have installed puppet governments, none of which had the support or wherewithal to bring peace and prosperity.

Already one of the poorest countries in the world, the social crisis in Haiti was exacerbated by deadly hurricanes in 2008, 2012 and 2016, a devastating earthquake in 2010, as well as a cholera epidemic spread by U.N. forces.

Haiti has not had a president since former President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in 2021 and has not had an election since 2016. Capitalist parties representing competing sections of the country's ruling class and foreign imperialist powers have proven incapable of creating any semblance of stable bourgeois-democratic rule.

The Joseph Biden administration concocted the Transitional Presidential Council, which is supposed to organize an election next February. Washington also pressured the U.N. to send a Kenyan-led military force to Haiti, supposedly to quell the gang violence. But these forces have neither the strength nor will to do so.

The protest April 2 shows working people are trying to forge a way forward.

Pathfinder books get hearing at Paris African Book Fair

PARIS — During the fourth annual African Book Fair here March 14-16, one Burkinabe participant posted a short TikTok video about the French language edition of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a book that contains all of Sankara's speeches while he was president of Burkina Faso from 1983 to 1987, which she had just bought at the Pathfinder stand. “He was a pioneer in everything having to do with feminism and ecology,” she wrote.

Pathfinder supporters sold 29 copies of that book, along with 57 other titles by Sankara and a number of other books. These included 12 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes; 30 copies of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro; seven of the new French edition of *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*; three copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, and many others.

A student at the North Paris Sorbonne University, who came with two friends, got *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Sankara as well as Barnes' book. “I'm interested in Malcolm's evolution from Black nationalism to a broader perspective,” she said.

Many buyers said they wanted to learn about Marxism. Altogether 195 Pathfinder books were sold at the stand, including 20 in English and one in Arabic. It was the first time Livres Pathfinder, which distributes Pathfinder in France, participated in the event.

— DEREK JEFFERS

'Workers take SWP seriously'

Continued from front page

"As the capitalist rulers drive toward World War III, we explain why it's imperative to build a revolutionary party to lead the march to working-class power. At labor and social actions, in working-class neighborhoods and on the job we meet those attracted to this perspective and they come closer to the Socialist Workers Party as we work together."

Sandler launched his campaign by participating in the "With These Hands" march of thousands of farmworkers and other unionists in Delano, California, March 31, who are fighting to defend the rights of immigrants.

"Resistance by workers to the bosses' attacks is growing," Sandler said. "The employers are pushing hard. Not every strike wins. But amid high prices and worsening conditions workers are refusing to be pushed around. More workers are taking the program of the Socialist Workers Party seriously than any time I can remember. This was confirmed by our experiences campaigning in Delano."

Eric Simpson, SWP candidate for Oakland mayor, also spoke. "I built solidarity and walked the picket line with members of the Amalgamated Transit Union on strike against the Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose recently. I appreciated the unity of workers of many different nationalities there fighting for wages and dignity," he said. "Then the Democratic Party mayor and judge forced them back to work, saying they don't have the right to strike."

"The capitalist state isn't neutral," Sandler said. "It intervenes against union struggles."

"Last Wednesday President Donald Trump imposed massive tariffs against capitalist competitors worldwide and called it 'Liberation Day,'" Sandler said. "I don't think any workers felt liberated. The lesson of his-

tory is that imperialist trade conflicts lead to war.

"To understand the moves by Trump and previous Democratic and Republican administrations, we have to place them in the imperialist epoch we're living in. V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, explained what imperialism is. It's marked by the merging of industrial and banking capital into finance capital.

"In this epoch, finance capital is characterized by a vicious drive to compete for new markets, new areas to invest capital, new sources of raw materials and cheap labor. This sharp competition leads capitalism to repeatedly fall into crises of overproduction — too many goods produced for the workers of the world to buy with what they are paid," said Sandler.

"Washington and other imperialist powers demand concession after concession from impoverished semicolonial countries. Competition between capitalist powers heats up, threatening another world slaughter like the two world wars of the last century.

"Trump often says, 'We aren't being treated fairly,' and talks about bringing industry back to the U.S. This gets an echo," Sandler said. "He and the Democrats talk about 'we Americans.' But there is no 'we' in this country. There are two classes, whose interests are counterposed. Workers here have the same interests as workers in other countries and need to unite against the bosses' attacks."

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain takes the wrong approach, Sandler said, cheerleading for the auto tariffs instead of working to unite autoworkers in the U.S. with fellow workers in Mexico and other countries.

"The key to humanity moving forward is for working people to break from reliance on capitalist parties' promises, to advance along the road to taking political power and joining the worldwide struggle for socialism," said Sandler. "To do this we must build a party strong enough and firm enough to take on the most vicious ruling class in history. That party is the Socialist Workers Party."

Among those attending the meeting were two machine operators who work at the same factory as Simpson.

"I thought this was Eric's best talk yet," Rebecca Francisco, one of them, said after the meeting.

Help get out 'Militant'

Campaigning for the SWP candidates and program is strengthened by the party's eight-week spring campaign, along with the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K., to win 1,300 new readers of the *Militant*, get out the same number of books by revolutionary leaders and to raise \$165,000 for the



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Norton Sandler, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, and Eric Simpson, SWP candidate for mayor of Oakland, greet workers at campaign rally there April 6.

Militant Fighting Fund. The *Militant* is written, distributed and funded by working people.

SWP campaigners attended "Hands Off!" rallies in several cities April 5. Although the anti-Trump actions were aimed at boosting the Democrats, a number of participants were interested in the SWP's program and activity.

In New York City, Seth Galinsky and Willie Cotton campaigned for SWP mayoral candidate Paul Mailhot at a march through midtown. They carried signs pointing to the need for workers to break with the Democrats and Republicans, and for the working class to fight Jew-hatred.

"Some people who are opposed to Israel didn't want to talk, but many others told us they liked what we said about Hamas being the biggest obstacle facing Palestinians and for the need to fight Jew-hatred," Galinsky said. "We sold 25 *Militants*, two subscriptions, and a high school student picked up a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*."

Joel Britton reports campaign supporters sold three subscriptions and six books at the "Hands Off" event in Oakland. "Our sign 'Fighting Jew-hatred is a union question' attracted several people who were relieved to

see the problem of rising antisemitism being addressed," Britton said.

At "Hands Off!" events in Cincinnati, SWP campaigners sold 10 subscriptions and eight books, and in Dallas, nine subscriptions and seven books.

SWP candidates are campaigning in working-class neighborhoods and meeting workers interested in learning more about the party.

"Good luck with what you're doing," Amina Ali, a former Teamsters member and truck driver, told Kevin Dwire, the SWP's candidate for Minneapolis mayor, after talking with him when he knocked on her door April 6. Ali subscribed to the *Militant*. "Let me know about your campaign events," she said.

In Oakland, California, the SWP branch raised its subscription and book quotas from 80 to 90 last week. "As we get the SWP program out widely, the response we're getting is stronger than ever," Betsey Stone, the branch organizer there, told the *Militant*. "We're also winning new contributors to the Militant Fighting Fund and some increased pledges from long-term subscribers."

To contribute to the fund, send a check to the *Militant* at 307 W. 36th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at www.themilitant.com.

London students protest Jew-hatred

BY PAMELA HOLMES AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — "We will win!" some 200 supporters of an Israeli victory in its war against Hamas chanted at a spirited rally here April 2. The chant was led by the speaker, Yoseph Haddad, an Israeli Arab, who joined the rally with a group of 35 Israelis — including Christians, Druze and Muslims — who came to stand shoulder to shoulder with Jewish students against rising antisemitism on college campuses in the U.K.

The rally was called by "Stop the Hate" and sponsored by a range of organizations, including the Campaign Against Antisemitism and a number of Jewish Societies at London University colleges.

It was held outside London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, known as SOAS, where pro-Hamas students brag they have organized the longest anti-Israel encampment at any U.K. university. The encampment has been described by one anonymous former participant as

a "cesspit for antisemitism and ignorance" in *SOAS Spirit*, the student paper. Rally participants carried placards that dubbed SOAS the "School Of Antisemitism Studies."

Speakers included Sabine Taasa, part of the Israeli delegation, whose husband and son were murdered in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom; and Max Royston from Stop the Hate. He welcomed the anti-Hamas protests now being organized by thousands in Gaza as pointing to a new future in the region.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

GEORGIA

Atlanta
Thousands March in Gaza Demanding 'Hamas Out!' Speaker: Lisa Potash, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 20, 4 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave., SW Suite 103. Tel.: (404) 844-9856.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, fund

March 22-May 20 (week two)

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Chicago	65	18	65	13	\$13,500	\$2,650
Cincinnati	50	22	50	20	\$5,000	\$0
Fort Worth	60	26	60	26	\$5,000	\$1,365
Los Angeles	100	39	100	48	\$15,500	\$225
Miami	30	4	30	5	\$5,000	\$754
Minneapolis	65	12	65	18	\$5,500	\$2,255
N. New Jersey	70	27	70	22	\$7,500	\$1,910
New York	90	33	90	38	\$20,500	\$5,170
Oakland*	90	43	90	48	\$15,000	\$8,997
Philadelphia	50	20	50	14	\$5,500	\$0
Pittsburgh	50	16	50	18	\$6,000	\$0
Seattle	60	11	60	13	\$15,000	\$900
Washington	45	14	50	12	\$4,500	\$150
Other		0		0		
Total U.S.	880	306	885	304	\$133,500	\$25,601
Prisoners		43				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	16	45	36	\$3,000	
Manchester*	40	17	60	37	\$1,200	\$25
Total U.K.	85	33	105	73	\$4,200	\$25
Canada	90	23	100	28	\$11,350	\$4,320
Australia	30	7	30	7	\$4,500	\$1,200
Total	1,085	412	1,120	412	\$153,550	\$31,146
SHOULD BE	1,300	325	1,300	325	\$165,000	\$41,250
* Raised goal						

NJ: 650 signatures in 4 days!

Continued from front page

Joanne Kuniansky, the party's candidate for New Jersey governor, told 30 people at the April 5 launch of the campaign. The effort to win ballot status is an opening to get the word out about the party's working-class program across the state.

Also on the platform were Paul Mailhot, SWP candidate for mayor of New York, and Craig Honts, the party's candidate for lieutenant governor in New Jersey. They were joined by Karen Rutledge, a member of the Communist League in Canada.

Philip Murphy, the Democratic Party governor, recently "signed a bill that more than doubled the signature requirement," Kuniansky said, "in an effort to tighten the Democrats' and Republicans' political monopoly." She pointed out that the SWP has been on the ballot in New Jersey since 1948. "We won't be pushed back now!"

SWP campaigners are collecting 3,200 signatures, well over the 2,000 required, as they introduce the party's program and ask people to join the effort.

"Today's economic crises, trade conflicts and shooting wars — including the threat of nuclear war — are an inevitable product of the workings of capitalism," Kuniansky said. "The U.S. rulers will use their military might to preserve their weakening but dominant place at the top of the fragmenting imperialist world order."

She pointed to Washington's decision to send "a second aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East to safeguard the U.S. rulers' imperialist interests.

"Israel is on the offensive to deal a decisive military defeat to Hamas, which carried out the Oct. 7, 2023, Nazi-inspired pogrom against Jews. Israel is also looking to carry out a targeted attack to take out Iran's nuclear capacity, which Tehran hopes to use to destroy Israel.

"Both steps by Israel should be backed by working people," Kuniansky said. "They're necessary to stop another Holocaust, which would be a huge blow to toilers in the region and worldwide."

Kuniansky described the response to her campaign among postal workers she met when she joined a National Association of Letter Carriers rally for a better contract in Springfield, New Jersey, March 23.

She talked to two postal workers who are African American. They told her they knew Malcolm X had rejected supporting either the Democrats or Republicans. "As they signed my petition, more letter carriers came over, asking, 'Is that a petition?'"

She told them it was "to put the SWP on the ballot. We're a working-class party that is for a class break with the Democrats and Republicans. We're for workers power."

"A line formed to sign," she said.

"The SWP has a long record of running in elections," Mailhot told meeting participants. "In New York, the party ran James P. Cannon for mayor in 1937."

A wider hearing for fight for power

"Why does the SWP run in elections, since the party holds the view that fundamental change is not possible under capitalism through elections?" Mailhot said. "It gives us a broader hearing and is part of the fight for legal protection for the party."

"If we didn't run, we would cede the field to the capitalist class and its parties," the SWP leader said. "No other party uses elections to reach out to mass struggles with a program pointing to the need for the working class to take power."

Mailhot pointed to a *New York Times* article, "A Fresh-Faced Socialist's Strategy to Be Mayor." This was not about me, he said, but Zohran Mamdani, "a pro-Hamas Democratic Party politician," who wants to strengthen the two-party system with a program to reform capitalism.

"He wants to bring his Jew-hating program to the mayor's office. In contrast, the SWP fights against Jew-hatred and for workers power, which is the only effective weapon workers can use to battle all forms of oppression we face under capitalism."

Rutledge described her participation in a march two days earlier in Montreal of 8,000 day care workers and their supporters, during a province-wide strike for better wages and more hiring.

In this fight "the union movement is taking on a huge social question," she said. Day care workers' wages are as low as 22 Canadian dollars an hour (\$15.50), alongside the lack of affordable child care for millions of working people. "This shows how the capitalist crisis bears down on workers and our families and why the fight for women's emancipation must be led by the working class."

Honts described the wide-ranging political discussions among co-workers in the locker room at the factory where he works. "We call them town halls, where everyone shouts out their concerns. They reflect what's taking place in workplaces and working-class communities across the country."

One co-worker told him he thought that wages would rise as a result of gov-



Militant/Mike Shur

"Workers appreciate *Militant's* defense of immigrants," Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for governor of New Jersey, told forum April 5. Campaigners got 23 subscriptions over four days.

ernment moves to deport immigrants.

"I said that wasn't the case. That the deportations are aimed at forcing those who remain here into even worse wages and conditions. Having a section of our class paid much less puts downward pressure on all our wages. What's needed is a fight for an amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S."

'Working class is international class'

The day after the rally, Kuniansky campaigned at a parking lot in Kearny and introduced the SWP campaign to Antonio Cardona, a member of Teamsters union Local 863.

Cardona wanted to discuss the tariffs imposed by Washington on its competitors. "We need jobs, but all those jobs that went overseas, are they going to come back?" he said. "They went overseas where they pay lower wages. If they come back, are they going to pay higher wages?"

"We can't look at workers in other countries as our enemies," Kuniansky said. "We're part of an international class. Our class has to join together to fight for the jobs, wages and other things we need. The rulers' trade wars can become shooting wars."

"I think we could be heading to World War III," Cardona said.

"That's why we think the working class needs to take power and get rid of capitalism, the only way to prevent another world war," Kuniansky replied.

Cardona told Kuniansky he was in Puerto Rico during and after Hurricane Maria in 2017. He and his family helped out their neighbors by bringing food and water. "The government didn't do anything to help. There were warehouses full of food, water, tents that they didn't distribute."

The solidarity Cardona's family showed their neighbors "shows the capacities of working people when we organize in our own interests," Kuniansky said, and why we need to fight for a government of our own. Cardona signed to put Kuniansky on the ballot and got a subscription to the *Militant*.

Throughout the campaign for ballot status, the SWP will be looking out for workers who want to help out and introduce the campaign to their friends, families and co-workers. Along the way, they'll learn more about the party's program and activity. Over \$1,300 was raised at the rally to help fund the campaign.

Protests continue as ICE factory raid arrests 37 workers in Washington state

BY BARRY FATLAND

SEATTLE — Early in the morning April 2, some 50 masked Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other federal agents entered the Mt. Baker Roofing Company warehouse in Bellingham, Washington, a city 25 miles south of the U.S.-Canadian border. They arrested 37 workers, charged with fraudulently representing their immigration status in seeking jobs, and loaded them onto waiting buses. The agents forced friends and family members who had heard about the raid to wait outside.

Workers here were known for protesting working conditions at the company. They had carried out a job action in 2023 over lack of access to drinking water, bathrooms and breaks.

This is the first workplace raid in Washington state under the new Donald Trump administration. Similar workplace raids in the Bellingham area were carried out under the Barack Obama and George W. Bush presidencies.

The raid against workers here comes a little over a week since the ICE arrest of farmworker-union leader Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez. He has been a leader of

the Familias Unidas por la Justicia union since he was 14 years old. He is currently being held at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, the largest private detention center on the West Coast, awaiting trial on a 2018 deportation order he never received.

Unions in the area have spoken out against the raid and the detention of Juarez. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 3000, the largest local in the union with 50,000 members in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, issued a statement March 25.

"We're furious over these credible reports of immigration enforcement violently detaining Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez Zeferino, a longtime labor leader who fought for farmworkers and immigrant rights and who helped expose the existence of the vary same unmarked ICE facility in Ferndale where he was reportedly held this afternoon.

"In response, our union members grabbed bullhorns and traveled directly to the facility to protest this injustice," Local 3000 said. "We will continue to show up to worker-led actions as long as it takes."

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Join in building the working-class alternative

California

Norton Sandler, governor
Laura Garza, mayor of Los Angeles
Eric Simpson, mayor of Oakland

Florida

Laura Anderson, mayor of Miami

Georgia

Susan LaMont, mayor of Atlanta

Minnesota

Kevin Dwire, mayor of Minneapolis
Edwin Fruit, Minneapolis City Council

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, governor
Craig Honts, lieutenant governor

New York

Paul Mailhot, mayor of New York City

Ohio

John Hawkins, mayor of Cincinnati
Ned Measel, Cincinnati City Council

Pennsylvania

Tony Lane, mayor of Pittsburgh

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, mayor of Fort Worth
Hilda Cuzco, Fort Worth City Council

Deepening capitalist conflicts

Continued from front page

additional tariffs to those already imposed on China and 46% on goods from Vietnam.

Days later, Beijing announced a 34% tariff on all goods imported from the U.S. Washington responded by boosting tariffs against the Chinese rulers again to 104% April 9.

Following a plunge in stock prices over several days, Trump announced April 9 he was pausing some of the tariffs for 90 days, saying that 75 governments had asked Washington for talks. But the highest duties, targeting China, remain in place, making clear the key aim of Trump's measures is to rally opposition to Beijing. After he announced the "pause," the stock market soared.

European Union officials are seeking a deal with Washington, at the same time that they're preparing a list of goods made in the U.S. that they'll hit with retaliatory tariffs. EU officials promptly removed bourbon from that list after Trump threatened a 200% tariff on all European alcohol. EU Trade Minister Maros Sefcovic offered to drop the bloc's tariffs on U.S.-made cars, currently 10%, as a way to try to open talks.

The Vietnamese government offered to eliminate all tariffs on U.S. goods.

Throughout its rise to the top of the imperialist world order and often since, the U.S. capitalist class has periodically used tariffs to grow its own industries at the expense of competitors, and to cajole or beat back those that stand in its way. For different reasons, Washington imposes economic sanctions against Iran, Russia and Venezuela and continues to inflict a decadeslong devastating trade and economic war on Cuba to try to overturn the socialist revolution made by workers and farmers.

Rulers fight to redivide the world

Alongside this, both Democratic and Republican administrations alike sustain a vast military to protect and advance Washington's interests. National ruling classes worldwide are driven to compete or die, seeking to redivide the world to grab markets and resources, ensuring that trade conflicts occur again and again, with increasing ferocity.

The logic of these clashes becomes

increasingly dangerous as trade wars tend to grow into shooting wars. Preparations by capitalist powers worldwide for more wars has accelerated since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, murderous pogrom targeting Jews in Israel.

The U.S. administration's efforts to paint their protectionist measures as good for workers are echoed by top union officials. "The strategic use of tariffs can be an effective tool to support our industries and protect jobs at home," AFL-CIO President Elizabeth Shuler said April 2.

What Shuler calls "our industries" are the profit-driven businesses of the capitalist class. She's appealing to workers to aid our own national ruling class against fellow workers abroad, an approach that deepens divisions among workers and strengthens our common class enemy. Working people have no stake in making the industries where we work more "competitive" for the bosses, whether that's through job cuts, lower wages or protectionist tariffs.

Workers in the U.S. need to join with workers in other countries to defend our common class interests. Working-class solidarity needs to be the watchword of the unions, not the national chauvinism advanced by the bosses' government. With or without protectionist measures, the U.S. rulers will continue to drive to offload the capitalist crisis onto workers' backs.

End of 'globalization'

The initial announcement of Washington's tariffs had concerned the big capitalist bondholders at the same time as it was met with an uproar across the big-business media, driven by anti-Trump hysteria.

Trump is "upending a global economic order that America benefited from and helped to create," the editors of the *Financial Times* complained April 3.

Much of this commentary covers up the irreconcilable and violent national antagonisms that underpin the U.S.-led imperialist world order.

"The global economic system," Patricia Cohen claims in the *New York Times*, is "based on cooperation and consent rather than coercion." Trump

Striking Teamsters rally at San Francisco airport



Militant/Carole Lesnick

SAN FRANCISCO — In their second week on strike, drivers for Flying Food Group, a catering company at the San Francisco International Airport, rallied at the airport April 7. "We're united, we're solid," Norber Naguit, a driver with nine years with the company, told the *Militant*.

"We have three demands: for a raise, a better health care agreement and retroactive pay."

The workers, members of Teamsters Local 2785, were joined at the rally by supporters from other locals, as well as members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA and UNITE HERE Local 2. Production workers at the Flying Food Group's kitchen are Local 2 members.

"All 40 drivers and three assistants walked out on strike together and no one has crossed," Joseph Cilia, secretary-treasurer of Local 2785, told the rally. Calling the company's offer "a joke," he said that workers at a nearby catering company were making much more per hour than those at Flying Food.

Those who would like to solidarize with this fight are urged to join the picket line that is being organized by the strikers 24/7 outside the Flying Food Group's kitchen at 240 Littlefield Avenue, South San Francisco.

— BETSEY STONE

doesn't appeal to "a larger purpose, mutual agreements or shared values." But this masks the fact that all capitalist powers are driven by their own conflicting national interests. In the drive to maximize profits, neither the U.S. nor any other capitalist class relies on "cooperation" or "consent" — but coercion and military might.

Washington's victory at the end of World War II didn't lead to a softening of conflicts between rival national ruling classes, let alone bring world peace. Since the end of that slaughter, the U.S. rulers have carried out a series of shattering wars, from Korea and Vietnam, to the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The opening guns of a third world war sounded after the first Iraq War in 1991, and are growing louder today as inter-imperialist clashes intensify.

Far from heralding prosperity, the capitalist world order ensures more workers today face declining real wages, longer hours, attacks on job safety and the lack of steady employment. They're turning to their unions to defend themselves.

The more open use of trade barriers by the U.S. rulers and their rivals increases the prospect of more wars. It underscores the centrality of building solidarity among working people in all industries, and of all countries and nationalities, as we chart a road to wrest political power from the capitalist rulers and establish governments of our own.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

April 17, 2000

NEW YORK — The first of a series of public forums organized by the AFL-CIO on immigrant rights took place here April 1. A feature of the event was reports by immigrant workers involved in battles for decent wages, working conditions, and dignity on the job.

The event was aimed at explaining the new AFL-CIO policy in favor of amnesty for the estimated 6 million undocumented workers in this country who would benefit from permanent resident status.

The shift in policy has given more openings for workers and activists to organize protests in support of immigrant rights. Big stacks of posters in Spanish and English were available to help build the 1 p.m. demonstration on May 1 in Union Square in Manhattan.

Similar meetings to discuss the change in AFL-CIO policy are set for Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles.

THE MILITANT

April 18, 1975

WASHINGTON — Now that you know the government keeps files on everyone, from Boy Scout troop leaders to Groucho Marx, you may have been thinking you'd like to see your own files. Well, the FBI has a surprise for you.

The bureau has announced that if it doesn't have a file on you already, one will be opened if you write in asking to see your dossier. It seems that the snoopers want to discourage the spiraling rate of requests for files. On Feb. 19, new amendments to the Freedom of Information Act went into effect, making it more difficult for federal agencies to refuse to release secret documents.

Since then, more than 800 people have flooded the FBI, CIA, and other agencies, asking for their dossiers. At the CIA, the number of requests quadrupled in one month. The agency says thirty-five people are now working full-time to process them.

THE MILITANT

April 17, 1950

Labor unity has become the No. 1 topic on the agenda of the union movement. The whole initiative and impulsion toward unity has come from the workers. CIO President Philip Murray wants to channelize the powerful sentiment into support for the Truman machine and the cold war.

The union ranks are disgusted with the division in labor's ranks that saw the steelworkers, the coal miners and the Chrysler workers forced into isolated battles against the corporate interests. They want unity in order to give battle.

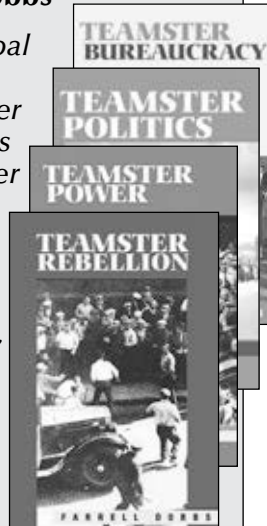
The union locals of every affiliation should demand the calling of a United Congress of Labor, with elected representatives from every local union. This congress could forge a unity so solid and militant that labor would be able to sweep before it all who stand in the way of security, plenty and peace for the American people.

Teamster Series

Lessons from U.S. labor battles of the 1930s

by Farrell Dobbs

"The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership, they can overcome."



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Omari Musa: 57 years building the Socialist Workers Party

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN
AND SUSAN LAMONT

WASHINGTON — A meeting organized by the branch of the Socialist Workers Party here was held March 22 to celebrate the life of Omari Musa, a veteran cadre of some 57 years building the communist movement in the U.S. and internationally.

Musa, elected to the SWP National Committee for 25 years by party conventions, died at age 80 on Feb. 22.

Musa joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1968 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was a graduate student in East Asian Studies, and the Socialist Workers Party a year later in the Bay Area. Refusing to accept the brutal injustices of capitalist exploitation and oppression, he was transformed by the historic battle led by working people who were Black that smashed Jim Crow segregation. While in Michigan, he traveled often to Detroit to work with the YSA and the party there. He saw firsthand the growing confidence and combativity of workers who were Black and the impact this had on the powerful industrial trade unions throughout the region.

He threw himself into building the mass movement against the U.S. rulers' unsuccessful war to crush the Vietnamese Revolution, identified with Malcolm X, and learned from the Cuban toilers led by Fidel Castro as they took state power in 1959 and stood down the imperialist government in Washington determined to destroy them.

The meeting presented the history of the party and Musa's decades of political contributions as a recommendation for today's fighters — to follow his example. To build a revolutionary proletarian party strong enough and firm enough politically to lead working people to make a socialist revolution in the U.S., part of an expanding world socialist revolution. He understood that was the only way to stop the social convulsions and wars of imperialism today leading us toward fascism and an unthinkable World War III.

The meeting was chaired by Arlene Rubinstein, organizer of the Washington, D.C., SWP branch, who read a number of the messages sent to the meeting and welcomed the 80-plus participants — members and supporters of his party, those he worked and fought together with from the D.C. area and around the country, and young people interested in learning more about Musa and the SWP.

Musa's sister, Sharon Worthy, came from New Orleans, where she and Omari grew up during the days of Jim Crow segregation. Among those in attendance were members of the DC Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, which Musa helped found. Yasser Ibarra, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy attended and brought a message of appreciation for Omari's work in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

A four-panel display prepared by the D.C. branch presented in photos and text the party's work in the class struggle over the decades of Musa's life and his contributions in leading that work.

The speakers included James Harris and Samir Hazboun, leaders of the

SWP branch here, of which Musa was a member for the last 15 years of his life; Dave Prince, a longtime member of the party's National Committee, who co-chaired the meeting; and Mary-Alice Waters, who spoke for the central leadership of the Socialist Workers Party.

They described how Musa became a communist, a Marxist and a proletarian internationalist.

Speakers and messages from around the country and the world described Musa's warm personality, his love of jazz and his ready sense of humor, often put to good use in political work.

It was a meeting that looked back in order to look forward, as Musa recommended: "Join the Socialist Workers Party, there is no better place to be."

Joined the SWP in 1969

"Omari joined the party in 1969 in the Bay Area and was the SWP candidate for governor of California in 1970," Rubinstein said in opening the meeting. "He was an SWP candidate 19 times in numerous states, and here in D.C."

"For Omari, popularizing the party's program was a natural outgrowth of his activity. From his well-worn library he studied, read and reread Marxist classics and books by party leaders. At the top of his pile of books was *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, on the place of the struggle for Black liberation in the U.S. class struggle, and Malcolm X as an international leader of the working class. This was *his* book."

"When Omari joined the party, he became a citizen of time, but always in the *present*, what is to be done, *now*," said Prince. "We live in one of the great transition periods of human history. We face the reality of a bleak, capitalist world. But for the toilers, it's a future of hope, the prospect of taking state power out of their hands and beginning to rebuild society on new foundations."

"Omari educated himself in communist continuity, going back to Marx and Engels, through the Russian Revolution led by Lenin, and through the fight led by Leon Trotsky against Stalinism, popular frontism and class collaboration, a fight that culminated

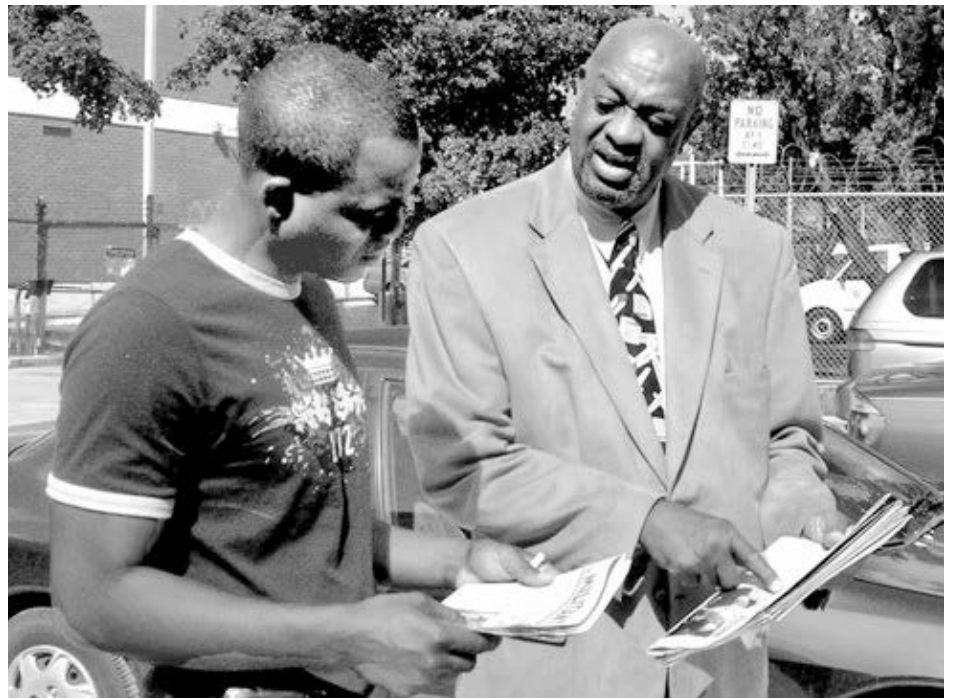
Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

The following concluding section of the introduction to Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, was written Oct. 4, 2009. It was read by Mary-Alice Waters as part of her remarks at the March 22 meeting celebrating Omari Musa's life building the SWP. Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power could never have come into being without the leadership collaboration over nearly half a century of proletarian cadres of the Socialist Workers Party who are Black.

The book is a product of the disciplined efforts of these and other SWP cadres, including the generations who



Militant/Bernie Senter

Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Florida, explains SWP program in 2008. He joined the party in 1969 and stood as an SWP candidate 19 times.

on the eve of World War II in a struggle against a nonproletarian minority in the SWP?" That is the political current the SWP represents today, building a party that is proletarian in both program and composition.

"Those currents — communists, Stalinists and social democrats," Prince noted, remain the main political currents contesting today.

"Omari understood that the goal of party education is to train capable *revolutionary politicians*, not simply theoreticians," Prince added.

Many of the messages described Musa as a popularizer of revolutionary politics, who often stepped into the breach as an effective, determined fighter in debates on a course of action.

Norton Sandler, a leader of the SWP in Los Angeles, wrote: "He set an example worth emulating of carrying out principled politics, while at the same time being able to work with trade union officials, with opponents from Stalinist and nationalist currents that defended the Cuban Revolution, in the National Black Independent Political Party and in other mass work."

Turn to industrial unions

Musa also helped lead the party's turn to the industrial unions beginning in 1978. Party members got jobs in union-organized coal mines, garment shops, auto plants and other industries, made possible by the changing consciousness and growing combativity in the working class being shaped by world events.

"The 1979 battle by 18,000 shipyard

workers in Newport News, Virginia, for recognition of their Steelworkers Local 8888 and a union contract, was an example of these changes," Harris said. "Black and Caucasian workers, led by a vanguard of Black workers, joined together to defeat a boss who expected to be able to use racial divisions to defeat the union. Omari was a member of the recently organized SWP branch there."

"Anyone who knew Omari for even a short time will have heard him tell the story of a Caucasian worker at the shipyard who ripped a Confederate flag patch off his jacket after union members beat back a full-blown cop riot against the strike headquarters and reestablished their picket line. 'I won't be wearing this anymore.'

"It is easy to forget or misunderstand the significance of this," said Harris. "Now when you look at a picket line of Black and Caucasian workers standing together against the bosses, you don't even think about it. But it took long and hard struggle, led by Black workers, to make that possible."

"Omari helped recruit me to the party and to the working class," said Samir Hazboun, who joined the SWP in 2018. "There's no way to say thanks for that."

Hazboun told the meeting how his description of the fight at Newport News impacted his co-workers at the cafeteria where he works. "Co-workers at the lunch table put down their phones and paid close attention as I described that unfolding battle," he said.

Continued on page 10

Myanmar quake fuels anger



AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo

Volunteers search for survivors in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, March 28. Thousands tried to save people using only their hands after gov't officials refused to provide tools or equipment.

Continued from front page

“When we heard the screams of people calling for help at the collapsed buildings,” Ko Tun Win in the city of Mandalay told *Frontier Myanmar* news magazine, “we removed debris with our own hands and with small hammers.”

Military officials refused to provide any tools or equipment to dig with. They “didn’t allow us to start our rescue operations at first,” he said.

The 7.7 magnitude earthquake caused widespread destruction in Mandalay, the country’s second-largest city; Sagaing; Nay Pyi Taw, the country’s capital; elsewhere in the country; and in neighboring Thailand. Some 28 million people, more than half of the country’s population, were affected. This included areas where rebels fighting against the military regime have been making gains.

The U.S. Geological Survey predicts the death toll could eventually exceed 10,000. Thousands of houses were damaged or destroyed, as well as other structures, including hospitals and places of worship.

The fight by working people against the military dictatorship has been going on for years. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing seized power in a coup Feb. 1, 2021,

just days before the new parliament was to convene after Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy won the November 2020 election in a landslide. Suu Kyi had been the head of the government since 2016.

In response, unionists and other workers organized mass protests against the coup, with thousands taking to the streets daily, demanding an end to military rule. When these mobilizations were put down in blood, armed resistance groups and forces from some of the numerous ethnic minorities in the country organized to challenge the junta. They’ve taken control of 42% of the country. BBC reports the military now controls less than 25%.

This war has displaced some 3.5 million people, with millions of others left with little food and water. Nearly a third of those who fled their homes moved to Sagaing, an agricultural region near Mandalay producing rice, pulses and watermelon, and a center of opposition to the regime. Over 90% of this region sustained damage from the earthquake.

Junta airstrikes target opposition

In an effort to crush resistance to its rule, the junta over the past few years

Miners join ongoing protests against gov’t in Tbilisi



Tens of thousands rallied in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, March 31, the anniversary of the 1991 referendum for independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that passed by 99%. That vote capped growing protests and a brutal attack by Soviet troops on peaceful demonstrators that left 21 people dead in Tbilisi two years earlier. On April 9, 1991, Georgia declared its independence, part of the total collapse of the Soviet Union later that year.

Over the past four months thousands of Georgians have demonstrated in Tbilisi, demanding a new presidential election and the release of people jailed by the pro-Moscow Georgian Dream government. Daily protests began at the end of November when Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze announced postponement of further discussions on joining the European Union until at least 2028.

While the government has pulled back from the large-scale police assaults carried out in the first weeks, arrests continue, with some 49 people in jail now facing up to 10 years in prison. Hundreds have been released with hefty fines. One protester told *France24* he was “ready to face police violence” when he joined the rallies. Instead, he received a summons for 45,000 lari (\$16,365), more than 22 months’ of his salary.

Hundreds of miners in Chiatura demonstrated March 5, above, and brought their protest to Tbilisi March 24. Mining operations were shut down by Georgian Manganese March 7, with claims the company is not profitable. The 3,500 workers are facing layoffs on top of three months of unpaid wages.

The miners, members of the Georgian Trade Union of Metallurgy, Mining and Chemical Industry Workers, demand the company be nationalized. “A new investor will not change our situation — one slave owner will simply replace another,” protest leader Taniel Mikatsadze told the crowd in Tbilisi. “We demand that the state take responsibility for manganese extraction and manage the enterprise alongside the working class.”

— VIVIAN SAHNER

has unleashed massive air attacks, destroying schools, monasteries, churches and hospitals. Both Moscow and Beijing have supported and funded the government’s assaults, selling sophisticated attack jets to the junta and providing military training.

Even as volunteers attempted to pull people from the rubble, the military regime continued to bomb rebel-held areas. They also turned away aid convoys or demanded the supplies be handed over to the government instead.

Under the pressure of the worldwide attention focused on the disaster, Min Aung Hlaing, chief of Myanmar’s junta, announced a temporary ceasefire, to run April 2-22. But he made clear military operations would continue as “necessary protective measures.” And they have.

“The military has carried out at least 53 attacks, including strikes by aircraft and drones, artillery and paramotors, in areas affected by the earthquake,” U.N. spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told *Irrawaddy*, a Yangon-based news site, April 4. They

have also set fire to villages in the Mandalay region.

The U.S. government has done little to provide aid in the midst of the human catastrophe, donating \$2 million and promising \$7 million more.

Building collapses in Bangkok

Since the dictatorship took power, millions of working people have been forced to leave Myanmar in search of work. This includes 2.3 million people now living in Thailand. Some were construction workers who hired on at a 30-story building being constructed in Bangkok. The unfinished structure collapsed under the impact of the quake in Myanmar, 600 miles away.

But the quake wasn’t the main cause of the collapse. To boost its profits, Beijing’s China Railway 10th Engineering Group, which was contracted to put up the building, used substandard rebar and columns constructed narrower than usual.

The building “collapsed from the bottom, not the top,” Pennung War-nitchai, director of the Earthquake Research Center of Thailand, told the *New York Times*. In an effort to cover up their responsibility for the disaster, company contractors were caught trying to remove incriminating records from the site.

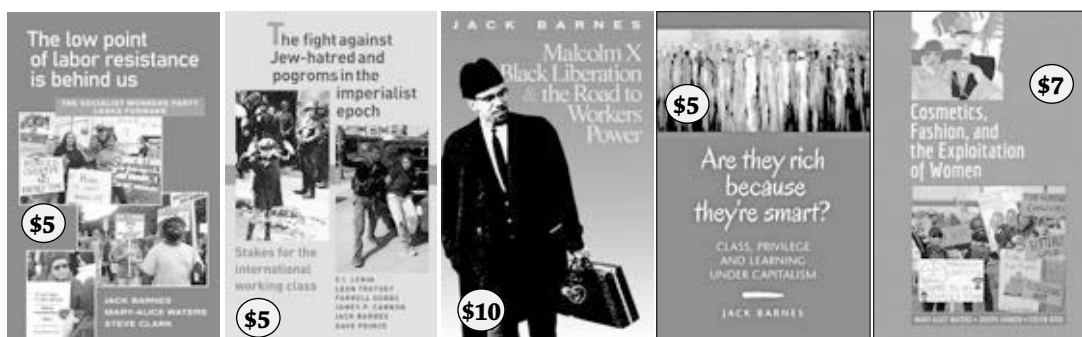
More than a week after the building collapsed, at least 15 of the 100 workers on the site were dead and more than 70 still missing.

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Protests against Hamas open door

Continued from front page
working people there to get Hamas' boot off their necks — after nearly 20 years of the Tehran-backed group's bloody dictatorial rule — is shaking things up and will reverberate throughout the Middle East.

"I was as surprised as everyone at these brave actions," Yaniv Bar Ilan, a spokesperson for Koach LaOvdim (Power to the Workers), a union federation that organizes Jewish, Arab and immigrant workers in Israel, told the *Militant* by phone April 4. "They showed that the people of Gaza don't associate themselves with Hamas. Time will tell if they have the needed strength."

Hamas' thuggish control of humanitarian aid is deepening opposition to its rule. After its goons shot and killed Abdul Rahman, who was waiting in line for a sack of flour, the young man's clan retaliated, executing the Hamas member they believed responsible.

Hamas' support is also declining on the West Bank. Despite a call for a mass protest to show support for Hamas in Ramallah — which is under the rule of the Palestinian Authority — less than 70 people showed up, according to Ihab Hassan, a Palestinian Christian from Ramallah who now lives in the U.S.

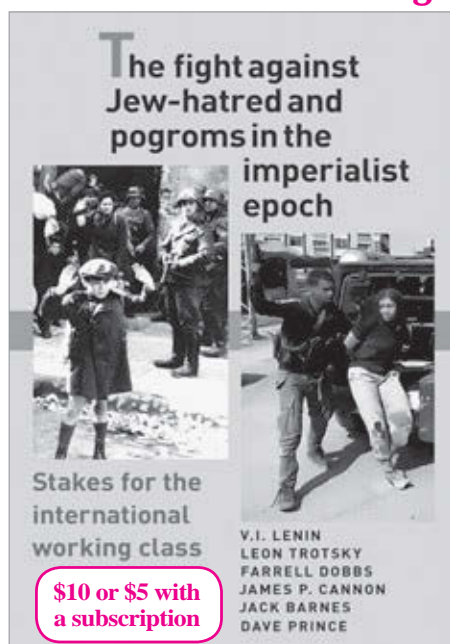
Hamas backers silent about protests

Apologists for Hamas around the world have been silent about the protests in Gaza. That's because the protests expose the falsity of their claims that Hamas is the voice of the Palestinian people.

There are more than 250,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, many in refugee camps, denied equal rights there by a government dominated by Hamas' ally Hezbollah; 400,000 in Syria, who faced brutality by the now-overthrown Tehran-allied Bashar al-Assad dictatorship; and more than 2 million Palestinians who are citizens of Jordan. As they follow what is unfolding in Gaza, its impact on them will grow.

In their drive to dupe people around the world into believing Israel is committing "genocide," the Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health manipulates and exaggerates casualty figures. The bourgeois liberal news media routinely repeats Hamas' unsubstantiated "statistics" that more than 50,000 people have died since Oct. 8, 2023, and then claims the majority are women and children.

Recommended reading



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But a study by Honest Reporting found that the ministry's March fatality report quietly dropped 3,400 previously reported as "identified deaths."

The ministry's "corrected" report shows that 72% of those between the ages of 13 and 55 on its list of the dead — the general combat age for Hamas death squads — are men. Israeli officials say that about 20,000 of the deaths are combatants.

Many children and women have been killed in Gaza. The responsibility for this rests with Hamas, which continues to use them as human shields, placing its armed combatants in residential shelters, mosques, schools, hospitals and U.N. facilities. In a direct rejection of Hamas' death-cult glorification of "martyrs," protesters at the various demonstrations carried signs reading, "the children of Palestine want to live."

Israeli army switches gears

"We switched gears" with the renewed offensive, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said April 2. Not only have troops from the Israel Defense Forces retaken the Netzarim corridor, which divides Gaza in half, they also evacuated civilians from Rafah in the south, encircled it and cut it off from nearby Khan Younis.

The goal is to keep getting civilians out of the way and to safety, to step up the pressure on Hamas, degrade its military capabilities and "governing" authority and free the Israeli hostages. This also opens up space for working people to stand up to the Nazi-like group.

The Joseph Biden administration had constantly pressured Israel to end the war on Hamas and find a way to make peace with it. Its approach was shared by Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, until recently the Israel Defense Forces chief of staff, and other anti-Netanyahu army and intelligence officials.

Jews led resistance against Nazi murderers in Auschwitz

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In the second imperialist world war the German Nazi government of Adolf Hitler attempted to carry through the "Final Solution," the slaughter of the world's Jews. With the help of the democratic imperialist leaders in Washington, London and others, who shut their borders to Jews before, during and after the war, Hitler's Nazis were able to slaughter 6 million Jews — two-thirds of those living in Europe.

A key part of this murderous horror was the series of death camps they constructed, the largest of which was at Auschwitz in occupied Poland. Over 1.1 million people, 1 million of them Jews, died there.

More and more stories of courageous resistance to the Nazi murderers in these camps have come to light. Some inmates escaped, got the word out about the camps, and joined underground resistance fighters attacking the Nazi troops.

Other escapees were hidden and sheltered by Polish working people. The camp commander complained the local population was "ready to do anything against the hated camp SS garrison. Every prisoner who manages to escape can count on all possible help as he reaches



Screenshots from video

"Hamas is a terrorist organization!" chanted hundreds of protesters in Jabaliya in northern Gaza April 6. Courage of protesters shows openings for advances by toilers in the Middle East.

They claimed Hamas cannot be militarily defeated and that a political settlement, leaving Hamas with considerable influence, was inevitable. But these were in fact rationalizations for advancing Washington's chief concern — ensuring stability in the region for U.S. imperialism's own economic and political interests, regardless of what it means for Jews.

The shift to intensify the war until Hamas is decisively defeated and all the hostages are freed has been facilitated by the Donald Trump administration's lifting of restrictions on military aid to Israel and by changes in the command structure of the Israel Defense Forces. On March 5 Netanyahu replaced Halevi with Eyal Zamir, an officer formerly in the army's armored tank division.

Dangers of U.S. intervention

The Israeli government is also seeking to eliminate Tehran's capacity to produce and launch nuclear weapons that could threaten a new Holocaust.

Ending the threat of the nuclear an-

nihilation of Israel is in the interest of working people everywhere.

Washington is on a different course. U.S. imperialism's intervention is aimed at defending its domination of shipping lanes and its rulers' profits, investments and influence, not the interests of Jews, Israel, or workers at home or anywhere in the region. Working people should unconditionally demand U.S. hands off the Middle East.

Since taking office the Trump administration has increased financial sanctions on Iran — which hit working people there the hardest — and has threatened military action if Tehran does not heed Washington's demands.

The Pentagon sent the USS Carl Vinson and its strike group to the Red Sea where it will join the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. Each nuclear-powered aircraft carrier can launch 150 daily air sorties and 900 precision-guided missiles.

Tehran and Trump announced April 7 that they had agreed to begin negotiations April 12.

the first Polish homestead."

One recent article describing some of the most daring efforts at rebellion is "Testimonies from Auschwitz reveal a network of women who saved lives and prepared for rebellion," published by the Israeli paper *Haaretz* March 15.

It describes how four young women, Roza Robotka, Ala Gertner, Regina Safirsztejn and Ester Wajsblum, part of a larger group of 30 Jewish women prisoners, organized to steal gunpowder and pass it along to others planning to sabotage the gas chambers and furnaces in 1944.

Forced to labor in a nearby armaments factory, the women risked their lives for seven months, smuggling out small amounts of gunpowder and explosives wrapped in scraps of paper or cloth. Afterward the material was hidden in the straw mattresses in Block 6 where the group's leader, Robotka, and several others of the women slept.

Some only fully understood later what they had done together. "One day Ester Wajsblum handed me a small, light parcel, asking me to keep it safe until she came for it or sent someone else. ... A few days later Robotka, who worked in the clothing section, came to me and asked for the parcel," a survivor

testified. "Later I found out the parcel contained gunpowder. ... Ester never spoke about it. Only once did she say to me, 'We could free ourselves from this hell.'"

In the dark of night, and at the risk of being shot on sight, one of the women would take the gunpowder to the fence between the women's camp and Crematorium II, leaving it in a hole that had been dug at an agreed-upon place. Passing through the hands of a network of resisters, the gunpowder and explosives made their way to a Russian prisoner, Borodin, who constructed primitive grenades encased in empty sardine cans.

The Sonderkommando were a group of Jewish prisoners forced by the Nazis to operate the gas chambers, and as eyewitnesses to this horror, they knew their time would come. In 1944 they began to organize a rebellion, one they hoped would spread across the entire camp. Along with sabotaging the gas chambers and furnaces, the plan was to breach the electrified fence that encircled the camp, allowing a mass escape of prisoners.

But their hand was forced before everything they planned was in place. In September, as Hitler's losses in the war mounted, German soldiers murdered

Continued on page 12

57 years building the SWP

Continued from page 7

Two of his co-workers became interested in learning more and came to the meeting.

'Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power'

"No better tribute to Omari and the party he helped build for more than half a century can be found than in the introduction to *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party," said Mary-Alice Waters. At the close of her remarks she read the final paragraphs of that introduction. (See accompanying excerpt.)

"Omari was continually broadening, deepening, sharpening his unshakable confidence in the working class and its capacity to lead a socialist revolution, transforming ourselves in the process," Waters said. "He had a profound understanding, based on his own life experience of the fight for Black liberation as an inseparable part of the road to workers power. He knew how much stronger the U.S. working class is today as a result of the battles that smashed Jim Crow.

"As I was thinking about Omari's leadership contributions, I was reminded of a poem by German playwright Bertolt Brecht, 'In Praise of the Fighters,' later made famous in a song by Cuban troubadour Silvio Rodríguez," she said. "Fights advance through the con-

tributions of many, says the poem, but there are those who fight for a lifetime, and 'these are the indispensable ones.'

"Omari can truly be counted as among the indispensable ones," Waters said.

Break with Stalinism

"Omari's break with Stalinism was an important and necessary part of his political development in the party," Waters said. "Like many others at the time, he was initially attracted to the Chinese Revolution and its aura of representing rising 'Third World' peoples oppressed by imperialism.

"Omari got a real education in the reactionary character of Maoism when he moved to the Bay Area later in 1969, where several campuses were the site of pitched battles between Maoist groups determined to physically take over the Third World Studies departments then being established, and other students and professors determined to prevent that from happening," she said.

"The Maoist groups were dominated by violent thugs, inspired by the so-called 'Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution' unfolding in China. The SWP was the only party that could explain the Stalinist character of the Maoist leadership and its acolytes around the world, whose violent, ultraleft, anti-working-class politics influenced the Black Panther Party, the Weathermen, a section of the anti-Vietnam War



Militant/ Róger Calero

Omari Musa speaks at Nicolás Guillén international colloquium, a festival of poetry and music, titled "I Came in a Slave Ship," April 2-6, 2012, in Havana. Over 100 people discussed legacy of struggles by blacks in Cuba's centurylong battle for independence and its socialist revolution.

movement and others headed away from the working class.

"Without understanding Omari's break with Maoism, you can't fully appreciate his proletarian internationalism," said Waters, "and how he learned that there can be no revolutionary course that doesn't start with the world — and the working class. This was in Omari's bones."

Omari was comfortable working with co-workers of all races, colors and national origins, she said. She cited one of the messages sent to the meeting about how Omari "would sit down at any table in a break room at work in a meatpacking plant with a large number of immigrant workers from all over the world, smile and say 'hello' in whatever language was being spoken — Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Portuguese, English or whatever. Well over 6 feet tall, he made everyone, including his co-workers who were women, feel at ease.

"In the last 25 years, Omari was deeply involved in leading the SWP's work in defense of the Cuban Revolution, first in Miami and then Washington,

D.C.," Waters said. He readily accepted party assignments that often took him to Cuba, Venezuela, Lebanon and other countries around the world to participate in conferences, brigades, union gatherings and other Cuba solidarity events.

In 2008, at the invitation of Víctor Dreke, Cuba's ambassador to Equatorial Guinea at the time, Musa participated in a trip there. In a message to the meeting Dreke and Dr. Ana Morales recalled that visit, writing of Musa's "ability to absorb everything that was happening there."

The meeting closed with a fund appeal for the Socialist Workers Party by Rubinstein, which won \$5,018 in contributions and pledges. She thanked the supporters of the Socialist Workers Party in D.C. for the delicious spread of food, and thanked the Silver Spring Civic Center for welcoming the party to this venue.

Participants stayed for over an hour after the meeting to talk with each other, continue reading the displays and book of messages and listen to some great jazz.



Militant/Janet Post

Omari Musa was part of campaigning in mining towns in West Virginia's coalfields in 2013. Donna Moore, center, whose son was a miner at Patriot Coal mine, and her mother, Mrs. Roy, enjoyed long discussion with Musa, got *Militant* subscription at Mrs. Roy's home in Racine.

Malcolm X and Road to Workers Power

Continued from page 7

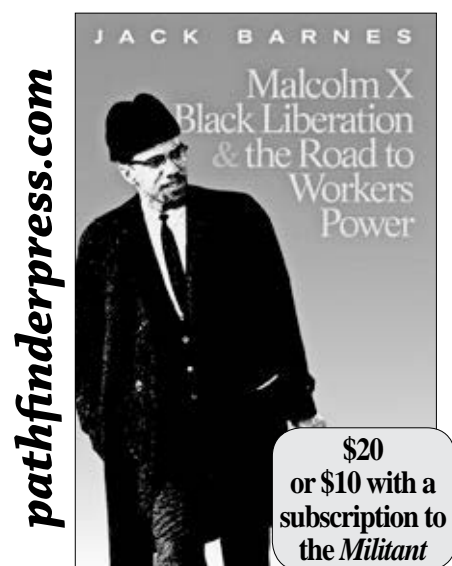
ers Party candidates for posts from local office to president of the United States, and have done so in opposition to nominees — whatever their skin color — of the Democratic, Republican, and other bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties.

By cadres who have never tired of getting in the face of race-baiters, red-baiters, and outright bigots and demagogues of every stripe who have sought to deny that workers, farmers, and young people who are Black — and proud to be Black — can and will become communists along the same road and on the same political basis as anyone else.

Working together with these comrades — through many crises and conjunctures, including the global capitalist panic still in its early stages today — has taught me much of what readers will discover in these pages. Putting these lessons down on paper is one of my obligations, and my name appears as author. But I could not have come to these conclusions in any other way than as part

of a tested and disciplined proletarian cadre, including these men and women of African origin, who, in their lives and activity, remain true to their revolutionary convictions to this day.

It is to them that *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* is dedicated.



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Musa speaking at 1968 Young Socialist Alliance convention held at the University of Illinois Circle campus in Chicago. He was a delegate from the YSA chapter in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

8,000 Quebec day care workers march

Continued from front page

hour," Zelia Rock-Picard, a cook, told the *Militant*. "We get CA\$23.54 and we take allergies and all sorts of requirements into account." Starting wages for education assistants is currently under 22 Canadian dollars an hour (\$15.50).

CSN President Caroline Senneville spoke to the crowd in front of the legislature. "Whether employers and governments like it or not, strikes are the ultimate way for thousands of workers to improve their lives," she said. "This is why the government must withdraw Bill 89."

This proposed anti-labor legislation would give the Quebec government the authority to force strikers back to work and impose arbitration.

Reflecting union members' determination to stand their ground, the strike was extended by two more days into the following week. "The parents support us," said Veronique Bernier. "One mom wanted to bring us soup because it was cold on the picket line."

Katy LeRougetel is the Communist League candidate for Parliament in the Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle riding in Montreal.

Dog-eat-dog capitalism, not 'human nature,' causes today's wars

Below is an excerpt from *Sexism and Science* by Evelyn Reed, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for April. Reed was a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and author of several books on women's liberation and anthropology, including *Woman's Evolution*. Today, as working people face imperialism's inexorable drive toward wider wars, this 1970 piece by Reed, "An answer to 'The Naked Ape' and other books on aggression," deals with some basic questions. Does the imperialist war drive actually stem from some innate animal nature inherited by humans? Are human beings instinctively aggressive? She answers "no," the source of today's wars is capitalism's drive to expand at all costs. Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Joseph Hansen
Protest against Washington's war on the people of Vietnam, April 27, 1968, in New York. Mass movement sparked "interest in root causes of military conflict," Evelyn Reed wrote.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

Since the early 1960s the United States, the most powerfully armed nation on earth, has been conducting an onslaught against Vietnam, a tiny nation far from its shores.

This long drawn-out, genocidal war has produced wave upon wave of revulsion among the American people.

Massive, unprecedented antiwar demonstrations have been accompanied by an intense interest in the root causes of military conflict. Many Americans who once believed that wars

were waged only to "safeguard democracy" rightly suspect that they have been hoodwinked. They are coming to see that the only gainers from such conflicts are the monopolists, who seek to safeguard their empire and expand their power, profits, and privileges through them. Thus a political awakening is taking place with regard to the real causes of imperialist aggression, which are embedded in the drives and decline of the capitalist system.

In the same time period a set of writers has come to the fore whose books present a wholly different view of the causes of organized warfare. They claim that man's biological heritage and his "killer" instincts are responsible for wars, absolving the predatory capitalist system of all responsibility. ...

The principal figures among these capitalist apologists have produced six such books in the decade. The pacesetter is Robert Ardrey, who brought out *African Genesis* in 1961 and its sequel, *The Territorial Imperative*, five years later. A third, *The Social Contract*, has just been published. Konrad Lorenz published *On Aggression* in 1963, which was translated into English in 1966. In 1967 *The Naked Ape*, by Desmond Morris, appeared, followed two years later by its companion, *The Human Zoo*. ...

However much these writers differ in background, training, and temperament, they agree that modern wars are not brought about for economic and so-

cial reasons but stem from the biological aggressiveness of human nature.

Their method consists in obliterating the essential distinctions that separate humans from animals and identifying the behavior of both through gross exaggerations and misrepresentations of the part played by instincts in human life. They argue that since mankind came out of the animal world, people are at bottom no better than animals; they are inescapably creatures of their biological impulses. Thus modern warfare is explained by man's "innate" aggression.

This extension of animal aggressiveness to account for imperialism and its military interventions is absurd on the face of it. No animal has ever manufactured an atom bomb, and there are no apes standing ready to hurl them and blow up the planet. The small group of aggressive men who control the nuclear warheads are not in the zoos or the forests but in the White House and Pentagon.

To equate animal behavior with imperialist warmaking is to slander not only animals but the vast majority of humans who wish only to live in peace. The Vietnamese have not threatened or invaded the territory of the United States; the opposite is the case. And the average GI has so little warlike animosity for these distant "enemies" that it requires heavy pressure and unremitting patriotic indoctrination to convince him that he must become ag-

gressive against them.

To the new school of writers, however, wars are not made by big business and its agents in Washington; the real culprit is the ape nature of man. With this biological fig leaf, they attempt to cover up the criminal course of the imperialists, and dump responsibility for their aggressions upon "man" in general.

These writers refuse to recognize that, while humankind has grown out of the animal world, we are a unique species which has outgrown animality. A whole series of distinctive attributes divides us from all lower species. Humans alone have the capacity to produce the necessities and comforts of life; humans alone possess speech and culture; humans, therefore, make their own history. The laws of social evolution, applicable to humanity alone, are fundamentally distinct from the laws of organic evolution applicable in nature. ...

Every epoch-making discovery can be perverted by the masters of class society and their spokesmen-servants. The capitalists, for instance, misuse machinery which is designed to lighten man's work by making humans into sweating appendages of the machine. [Charles] Darwin's findings on the origin of species and the theory of evolution, which revolutionized the study of biology and threw light on the genesis of humankind, have been similarly perverted. Conservative ideologues misapplied them to the nineteenth-century social scene as a rationale for capitalist competitiveness, greed, and inequality. ...

It is true that a wasteful method of species survival and development prevails in nature where, under conditions of limited food and space, competition prevails and the less fit are eliminated to the benefit of the fittest.

But such wasteful methods are unnecessary in human society today, where people can plan their lives and control their own destinies — once they get rid of the exploitation and anarchy of capitalism. As [Frederick] Engels commented, "Darwin did not know what a bitter satire he wrote on mankind, and especially on his countrymen, when he showed that free competition, the struggle for existence, which the economists celebrate as the highest historical achievement, is the normal state of the *animal kingdom*."

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Free trade or protection, workers go to the wall

As capitalism was displacing feudal rule, Karl Marx, the founder of the communist movement, delivered a “Speech on the Question of Free Trade” in Brussels in 1848.

It’s invaluable for understanding why working people need to break from the capitalist class on the question of trade — as on all other questions — and chart a course to defend the independent class interests of working people and of all humanity. Along that road, it’s possible for workers to take political power into our own hands.

The rise of monopoly and imperialism at the turn of the 20th century marked the end of any remaining progressive character of capitalism. Conflicts inherent to capitalist competition became more virulent, intense and deadly, leading to the unthinkable horrors of two imperialist world wars, underscoring the decisive importance of what Marx laid out.

Below are excerpts from his speech. It can be found in its entirety in Volume 6 of the *Collected Works of Marx and Engels*.



The most favorable condition for the workingman is the growth of capital. This must be admitted: when capital remains stationary, commerce and manufacture are not merely stationary but decline, and in this

case the workman is the first victim. He goes to the wall before the capitalist.

And in the case of the growth of capital, under the circumstances, which, as we have said, are the best for the workingman, what will be his lot? He will go to the wall just the same. . . .

Do not imagine, gentlemen, that in criticising freedom of commerce we have the least intention of defending Protection.

One may be opposed to constitutionalism without being in favor of absolutism.

Moreover, the Protective system is nothing but a means of establishing manufacture upon a large scale in any given country, that is to say, of making it dependent upon the market of the world; and from the moment that dependence upon the market of the world is established, there is more or less dependence upon Free Trade too. Besides this, the Protective system helps to develop free competition within a nation. . . .

But, generally speaking, the Protective system in these days is conservative, while the Free Trade system works destructively. It breaks up old nationalities and carries antagonism of proletariat and bourgeoisie to the uttermost point. In a word, the Free Trade system hastens the Social Revolution. In this revolutionary sense alone, gentlemen, I am in favor of Free Trade.

1,000 in Sackets Harbor protest against ICE raid

BY JOHN STUDER

Nearly 1,000 people from Sackets Harbor, a small town of 1,300 in northwest New York state, and the surrounding area marched and protested April 5 against the arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents of a family, a mother and three schoolchildren, March 27. They were taken to the privately run Karnes County immigration detention facility in Texas.

The overwhelming outcry from working people in the area helped win a victory — the family was released. This was confirmed April 7 by local officials, school administrators and Kathy Hochul, governor of New York.

One of the organizers of the protest was Jonna St. Croix, a social studies teacher at Sackets Harbor Central School and president of the Teachers Association. In a town as small as theirs, she told the media, everyone knows the three children who were disappeared.

“When there is an empty desk in the classroom, it is very evident, and we miss them,” she said. The youngest is in the third grade and the other two are in high school. St. Croix teaches the two teenagers.

“Some students made a welcome home sign for his desk,” she said, “and it’s still sitting there, and we hope he gets to see it soon.”

Jaime Cook, the school district’s principal, also built the protest. “We are in shock,” she said in

a letter to the community. “And it is that shared shock that has unified our community in the call for our students’ release.”

The family “had declared themselves to immigration judges, attend court on their assigned dates, and were following the legal process,” she said.

“Their family has worked at the nearby ‘Old McDonald’s’ petting zoo and dairy farm for 15 years.”

Cook pointed to how families in the area, with and without papers, had gotten to know and care for each other. “I’ve driven them to their house after tutoring sessions. I’ve picked them up for tutoring sessions,” she told NBC News. “In this kind of town, this is a car pool town, I know them.”

The ICE agents had mounted a raid on housing at the North Harbor Dairy farm in the town, looking for a South African immigrant charged with possession of child pornography. The family lived nearby and were picked up when agents knocked on doors on the block.

Tom Homan, the Donald Trump administration’s “border czar,” also has a home in the area, a fact that drew some press. Participants in the April 5 rally marched a mile to rally outside his house. He told a local radio station he was looking into the raid and the possibility the family could be released.

Their release is another example of the strength of the working class when it is united and takes action.

Unions defend rights

Continued from front page

was stopped for what he thought was going to be a routine traffic violation and called his wife.

In March 2019 Abrego Garcia was picked up by the police for the “crime” of looking for construction work in a Home Depot parking lot, a place the police claimed was a gang hangout. After seven months in jail, a judge freed him, barring him from being deported to El Salvador.

Yet these same gang allegations were given as a reason to arrest Abrego Garcia this time. A few minutes later Vasquez Sura, a U.S. citizen, got a call from the Department of Homeland Security telling her she had 10 minutes to pick up her son before they brought Child Protective Custody to take him. She arrived to find her husband sitting on a curb in handcuffs. Denied due process and the right to a hearing, he was sent to a detention center and deported.

Vasquez Sura told a packed press conference at the community office of Casa de Maryland April 4 that she learned that Abrego Garcia had been flown to El Salvador and incarcerated in CECOT from a photo she happened to see a few days later.

“The men were bent over on the ground with their heads down and their arms on their heads,” she said. “None of their faces were visible. There was one man who had two scars on his head and tattoos that looked similar to Kilmar’s. I zoomed in to get a closer look. My heart sank. It was Kilmar.

“My husband was abducted by the U.S. government,” she said. “To all those workers and families who find themselves in the same situation, I am also fighting for them.

“We all need to imagine if this was to happen to you when you drove home from work — taken into custody, illegally, deported and not being able to reach out to your loved ones, without any sign of due process, a pillar with which this country was founded,” said Michael Coleman, the general president of SMART. “We will stay with you, we will organize, we will rally, we will fight until justice is served, until Kilmar comes home.”

Some 20 national leaders and members of SMART Local 100, the local Abrego Garcia was a member of, joined dozens of supporters at the press conference holding signs saying, “I stand with Kilmar Abrego Garcia.”

Initially Immigration and Customs Enforcement claimed he was a gang member, but in face of protest, immigration authorities admitted his deportation was “an administrative error.” But, they said, there was nothing they could do about it now that he was gone.

Court orders Abrego Garcia returned

The family’s challenge to the arrest and deportation was brought before U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis April 4. She ruled the deportation was a flagrant violation of a court order that he be allowed to stay in the U.S. “As defendants acknowledge, they had no legal authority to arrest him, no justification to detain him, and no grounds to send him to El Salvador,” she wrote.

She ordered the government to have Abrego Garcia back in the U.S. by the end of April 7.

The administration is ratcheting up anti-immigrant rhetoric and moves to expand facilities to incarcerate workers in the future, whether in the U.S., the Guantánamo base on Cuban soil or at CECOT. Their aim is to intimidate the millions of workers in the U.S. who have no papers, reinforce their second-class status and intensify their exploitation. This is a bipartisan policy aimed at dividing the working class and meeting the needs of profit-driven employers.

But millions of workers have gotten to know immigrant fellow workers over the years. Their kids go to the same schools. They go to the same churches, and they work together to strengthen their unions. More unions today are standing up for their members whether they have papers or not.

At a rally outside the hearing, members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades carried signs that read “One union, one family, one fight.” and “Our union stands with our brother Kilmar Abrego Garcia in SMART union, because an injury to one is an injury to all.”

The Justice Department has challenged Xinis’ ruling. They say the U.S. and its courts have “no authority” to make a sovereign country — El Salvador — release Abrego Garcia.

Auschwitz resistance

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200 of the Sonderkommando. On Oct. 7, as the guards ordered a roll call, prisoners began to throw hammers, crowbars, axes and stones. Some escaped to Crematorium IV, which they set on fire, igniting gunpowder and grenades they had stored there, leveling the building. At the sound of the shots and sight of the flames, prisoners working in Crematorium II realized an uprising was breaking out and attacked the guards there.

Some 250 prisoners were killed by the guards during the battle, while another 200 were murdered after the rebellion was crushed.

During an investigation after the revolt, the Gestapo followed a trail back to Robota, Gertner, Safirsztejn and Wajsblum. They were brutally beaten, sexually assaulted and tortured with electrical shocks. But none of them revealed the names of others in the group, many of whom survived the war.

On Jan. 6, 1945, three weeks before the camp was liberated, the four women were hung. Gertner was 32 years old, Safirsztejn not yet 30. Robota was 24 and Wajsblum just a few days shy of her 20th birthday.



ZoonarGmbH/Alamy Stock Photo

Statue in Israel commemorates the four women who helped lead resistance to Nazi Holocaust in Auschwitz death camp.

Witnesses said Robota sang “Hatikvah,” a song about hopes for a Jewish homeland, in her final moments. Today it is Israel’s national anthem.