

# THE MILITANT

**BOOK LAUNCH IN HAVANA**  
**'Che Guevara's revolutionary course is needed in the world today'**  
 — PAGES 8-10

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 17 MAY 5, 2025

## Unions join to fight gov't call for workers to 'self-deport'

BY AMY HUSK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Hundreds of immigrant workers in the biggest factories and other job sites in the Louisville area have received government letters saying their humanitarian parole visas are being terminated and they will face removal if they don't "self-deport" by April 24.

### ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY! UNIFY THE WORKING CLASS!

These threats are a result of the Donald Trump administration's plan to severely curb humanitarian parole for immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, governments Washington opposes or considers dangerous. Some 532,000 workers from the four countries have been allowed to live and work in the U.S. under this program.

This area is home to one of the largest number of Cuban immigrants in the country, estimated to be as high as

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## Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign

### No deportations! Amnesty for all immigrant workers in US!



Militant/Mary Martin

In Miami, Rachele Fruit, right, and Chuck Guerra, supporters of SWP mayoral candidate Laura Anderson, discussed demand of amnesty for immigrants at "National Day of Action" April 19.

### 'More workers see SWP as party they're seeking'

BY JACOB PERASSO

"We are presenting the working-class road to take political power," Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, told a campaign rally in Los Angeles April

Continued on page 4

### 17 days: 2,213 sign to put SWP on NJ ballot

BY TONY LANE

UNION CITY, N.J. — Almost 1,000 people signed up in one week, April 14-21, to put the Socialist Workers Party candidates in New Jersey, Joanne Kuniandy for governor and Craig Honts for lieutenant governor, on the ballot. This brings the total to 2,213, well on the way to the target of 3,200 set by campaigners, after Dem-

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## Israeli victory over Hamas is in the interest of all workers

Every blow dealt by Israel in its war to decisively defeat Hamas is aimed at preventing the Nazi-like outfit from carrying out its oft-repeated threats to continue launching pogroms against Jews until it achieves another Holocaust. These advances are reverberating across the region, helping lead to the fall of the tyrannical Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria, to weakening

### EDITORIAL

the reactionary regime in Tehran and to rekindled struggles by the people of Gaza to get Hamas off their backs.

Israel's leaders have made it unmistakably clear they will take the steps needed to prevent Hamas' key backer — Tehran — from ever getting its hands on nuclear weapons.

But Israel's fight is not over and the stakes involved are enormous for working people in the Middle East and worldwide. Another Holocaust is possible as long as capitalism exists.

Dismantling Hamas will increase the political space working people of the Middle East — of all religions and nationalities, Arabs, Jews, Persians, Kurds and more — can use to fight for

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## Israel's blows, Gaza protests against Hamas 'changing face of Middle East'



Screenshot from video

Protesters in Beit Lahiya April 16 chant "Hamas, out!" Hamas is biggest obstacle working people in Gaza face to defend their own interests, open road to unite with workers across Mideast.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Opposition by Palestinians in Gaza to Hamas is growing, as political space opens from Israeli advances against the Nazi-like Jew-hating group.

At an April 16 march in Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza more than 1,000 Palestinians chanted, "Hamas out, out!" "No to terrorism, yes to peace!" "Hamas is garbage!" "Let the world listen — Beit Lahiya is not Hamas!"

In another sign of the deepening opposition to the Tehran-backed thugs, some clan leaders demonstratively joined the march, including some who had previously collaborated with Hamas. Many of the clans are based around capitalist families that were largely pushed aside when Hamas took dictatorial control of Gaza 18 years ago.

Some protesters carried Egyptian

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## Defend constitutional freedoms from attack by Democrats and Republicans

BY TERRY EVANS

The unqualified defense of constitutional protections to prevent government interference in our lives, our unions and in political activity is vital for workers. In the U.S. — where the

ruling capitalist families ruthlessly exploit working people — free speech, freedom of assembly, the right to due process and other fundamental freedoms are crucial whenever workers organize to defend our class interests.

These protections are essential for workers as we take steps to build our own political party, a party of working people necessary to lead millions to take political power into our own hands.

The freedoms enumerated in the U.S. Constitution were won as part of giant

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## Fight to bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia home grows stronger

BY JAMES HARRIS

LANGLEY PARK, Md. — For the first time since his arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and deportation to the notorious CECOT megaprison in El Salvador March 15, Kilmar Abrego Garcia has been able to communicate with someone outside of the Salvadoran prison system. Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen was permitted to visit with him April 17.

Abrego Garcia had been deported

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### Inside

Moscow claims Easter 'truce,' then bombs Ukraine cities 6

Over 200 at Montreal protest say 'Stop police abuse' 7

— On the picket line, p. 6 —

Teamster drivers standing firm in fight with Flying Food Group

UFCW grocers in Minneapolis picket in fight for new contract

# London conference discusses ‘Contemporary Antisemitism’

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — A three-day conference on “Contemporary Antisemitism” drew 400 academics and others from 20 countries here March 29-April 1. It was the largest such event since the murderous pogrom by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023. The event featured plenary talks, panel presentations and an exhibit of related paintings.

After the conference the sponsors, the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and the Comper Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism at the University of Haifa in Israel, said the event was successful, noting its importance for “the safety and well-being of Jews.” Follow-up conferences will take place in Haifa in 2026 and Philadelphia in 2027.

“I woke up on Oct. 8 and didn’t know what to think — the atmosphere on campus was horrible,” said panelist Dikla Yogev from the University of Toronto.

“As my family in Israel was fearing for their lives,” Anat Beck, a professor in Cleveland, said, posters were going up around campus calling for a boycott of her classes. Her office was daubed with red paint because of her defense of Israel. Dibyesh Anand, deputy vice chancellor at University of Westminster here, described how he was “boycotted for not taking part in a boycott.”

“Today there’s an escalation of what has been simmering for some time,” conference co-organizer David Hirsh told the *Militant*.

## “De-Judification” of Holocaust

In a keynote talk, historian and documentary filmmaker Simon Schama ad-

ressed the “de-Judification” of today’s education about the Holocaust. There is a “relentless fascination with the perpetrators as opposed to remembering” the Jews. This undermines the response to Jew-hatred today, which “has become toxic after Oct. 7.” He has produced a new documentary, “Simon Sharma: The Road to Auschwitz,” and says that education should start from the more than 1,000 years of antisemitism.

Panelist Naomi Klos from New Orleans echoed the same theme. Anne Frank has become a “universal symbol of suffering,” she said, not Jewish. Frank, a German-born girl recorded her hiding from Nazi terror in Amsterdam in what became a famous diary. Klos drew attention to how Frank’s family, like thousands of other Jews, was denied visas to come to the U.S. Frank’s sentiment before her capture and death at Bergen-Belsen — “Jews will rise again” — is invariably overlooked, Klos said.

## The roots of Jew-hatred

Other panels took up what’s behind the rise of Jew-hatred today. Batsheva Neuer from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem traced this back to the 1975 UN decision, spurred by Moscow and Arab regimes, to characterize “Zionism as racism.”

Philip Spenser, from Kingston University here, described how the 2001 UN conference in Durban, South Africa, against racism placed “Zionism is racism” center stage, laying the ground for the boycott, divest and sanctions efforts today. BDS calls for boycotting anything produced in Israel and anyone associated with the country.



Militant/Dag Tirsén

“Many workers recognize that Jew-hatred is a world question, a class question,” Jonathan Silberman, right, leader of Communist League in London, told antisemitism conference April 1.

Jeffrey Herf from the University of Maryland and writer Matthias Kuntzel discussed how Hamas’ assaults on Jews have their roots in what they call “Islamic antisemitism.” Both have written valuable books that take up Hamas’ continuity with its forerunners who collaborated with Adolf Hitler’s Nazis.

In his presentation, Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books in London and a leader of the Communist League, said that Jew-hatred was integral to the imperialist epoch. “Because of their specific history, Jews are always a target at times of great capitalist crises,” he said.

He urged participants to read *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

He described how Communist League members find a “growing interest in the book as they campaign in working-class neighborhoods, at workplaces, union actions and through their election campaigns.” Many workers are open to recognizing that Jew-hatred is not a Middle East question, but a world question and a class question, he said.

“As the world order put together by the victors of World War II is torn apart in wars, trade and currency turmoil and capitalist rivalry, this becomes clearer,” he said.

Both forces on the left and right of capitalist politics claim that the British government’s 1917 Balfour Declaration, which promised Britain would

back a national homeland for Jews in Palestine, reflects the U.K. rulers’ pro-Jewish policy, Silberman said.

But the British rulers were only interested in advancing their own imperialist designs on the Middle East. Silberman described how London imposed aggressive restrictions on immigration of Jews to either the U.K. or to Palestine, before, during and after the Holocaust. It actively opposed the establishment of Israel in 1948 — politically and militarily.

“Defense of British capitalist interests, in which Jews are expendable, remains the course of the current Labour government,” Silberman said.

He contrasted this with the course of the Bolshevik Party in Russia, led by V.I. Lenin, which fought to win workers to see Jew-hatred — and the long record of pogroms against Jews by the czarist regime — as a deadly threat. The Bolsheviks’ approach was an essential part of leading workers and farmers to conquer power in 1917. Following their victory, “they put an end to the pogroms.”

“We can’t look to the U.K. government to fight Jew-hatred,” Silberman said. “But we can emulate the example set by the Bolsheviks and build a working-class party here to do the same thing.”

During the course of the conference 24 copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* were sold from a Pathfinder Books table that attracted broad interest.

## THE MILITANT

### Nightclub collapse shows bosses’ disdain for safety

Jesús Núñez, national coordinator of the *Sugarco Workers Union*, put responsibility for the deaths of over 200 people in the Dominican Republic where it belongs. “Owners who only care about their self-interest” are to blame, he told the *Militant*.



AP Photo/Eddy Vittini

Workers search for survivors after nightclub roof collapse, Dominican Republic April 8.

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# Bring Abrego Garcia home

Continued from front page

without a court hearing to contest it, and despite the fact his presence and right to work in the U.S. were protected by a court order.

Abrego Garcia, a SMART union sheet metal apprentice, was stopped while driving his 5-year-old son home from his grandmother's house in Beltsville. Three days later he was thrown on a plane and taken out of the country.

Meanwhile, the political and legal fight to reverse his deportation continues to heat up. Federal Judge Paula Xinis handed down a ruling April 22 saying the Department of Justice is guilty of "willful and bad faith" in refusing to follow her orders to turn over information about his deportation. She ordered them to respond fully and truthfully to questions from Abrego Garcia's attorneys.

On April 16, SMART General President Michael Coleman appeared on CNN's "The Situation Room" to explain that the union is doing everything it can

to get Abrego Garcia back home. "He's a good man. He's an outstanding employee," Coleman said, adding his employer "would like to have him back."

In March 2019 Abrego Garcia had been picked up by police for the "crime" of looking for a construction job in a Home Depot parking lot, which the cops claimed was a "gang hangout." After seven months in immigration lockup, he was freed.

Van Hollen's visit came after Abrego Garcia's wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, launched a campaign to have him returned and freed. In addition to his union, the fight has been backed by CASA de Maryland, an immigrant rights group, and many others.

"There has been no proof provided that he is part of MS-13. This administration has had multiple chances to provide proof in court and has failed to do so," Coleman told CNN. "You have to give this man due process, and they haven't done it."



Reuters/Leah Millis

Jennifer Vasquez Sura, wife of deported SMART union member Kilmar Abrego Garcia, demands his return to the U.S. outside district court hearing in Greenbelt, Maryland, April 15.

Abrego Garcia was supposed to have been given written notice that he had a right to challenge the deportation in court, and given enough time to orga-

nize to do so. This is what "due process," protected in the U.S. Constitution for everyone in the U.S., means.

"The labor movement in general sees one of their fellow brothers in a notoriously heinous situation in that prison and it has people upset, scared," Coleman said, "and that's why I think it's gaining so much steam."

## Unions join to fight gov't call for workers to 'self-deport'

Continued from front page

30,000. Many of them work at major area employers like General Electric Appliances/Haier, Amazon and UPS.

"The government policies are cruel and confusing," Rick Hernandez told the *Militant*. Hernandez is the president of the Kentucky chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and an organizer for Bricklayers Local 4. "Workers come here to make a better life. They are here legally but the Trump administration has changed the rules."

Hernandez and LCLAA are working with unions in the area to defend workers facing deportation. Ashley Snider, the political organizer of the International Union of Electrical Workers-Communications Workers of America, which organizes the Haier plant, told the *Militant* her union is working with the United Auto Workers and United Food and Commercial Workers to organize to help protect immigrants in their ranks. The union has learned that 197 of the workers facing deportation are members of IUE-CWA Local 83761 at General Electric/Haier in Appliance Park. Others are members of the UAW at Magna Seating in nearby Shepherdsville and of the UFCW-organized plants in the area.

"The union doesn't ask about anyone's immigration status," Snider said. "We want people to know the union hall should be the first place

people go to for help and support."

Volunteers in the three unions are calling workers in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole to offer help and invite them to information sessions at the UAW union hall. At least 40 of the workers at the General Electric/Haier plant are Haitian.

Erwin Ramirez, 24, originally from Guatemala, has worked at GE/Haier for four years. He is one of the volunteers calling co-workers for the union. "The company is saying if they don't have documentation they will lose their jobs on April 24," Ramirez told the *Militant*. "I think it's terrible that they are trying to deport workers who came here legally and just want to work."

"We were outraged" by the deportation order, IUE-CWA Local 83761 President Dino Driskell said in an April 4 press release. "We call on the administration to restore their status immediately."

"What is happening to our members at Appliance Park is unfolding at workplaces and in communities all across the country," national IUE-CWA President Carl Kennebrew said in the same statement. "We all must speak out against these cruel attacks on our communities."

The Greater Louisville Central Labor Council and the Kentucky State AFL-CIO are speaking out and helping

spread the word on the information and training sessions at the UAW hall.

"The AFL-CIO stands in solidarity" with the workers, Kentucky State AFL-CIO President Dustin Reinstedler told the press. "These individuals are our co-workers, neighbors and community members who have contributed to our workplaces and local economies."

"The abrupt nature of these notices has left families in distress, facing impossible choices with little time to prepare. These are human beings, not just case numbers, and they deserve dignity and transparency. We urge our community to come together in support of those affected."

The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement said immigrant workers' contribution to the area "is a strength, not a weakness, enriching both the work environment and the community as a whole. Immigrant workers play a vital role in our economy, and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, just like all workers."

Hernandez told the *Militant* that LCLAA is supporting not only union members, but any immigrant workers in the community. He said, "We will continue to stand with the immigrant community, advocating for their rights, well-being and future."

Betsy Farley contributed to this article.

## 'They're our co-workers,' Wis. rally for Haitian immigrants says

BY GABRIELLE PROSSER

NEW LONDON, Wis. — Hundreds of Haitian immigrants in this small town in eastern Wisconsin are threatened with deportation following a Department of Homeland Security order March 25. It cancelled the government's humanitarian parole program for immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Some 40 residents protested the decision April 9 outside the Tyson plant where more than 100 of the immigrants affected by the order work. The program authorizing their entry to the U.S. allowed them to get a job, but they now have 30 days to voluntarily leave the country or face deportation. Teachers who work with children with Haitian parents participated in the protest.

"Their children go to school with our children. They worship in the same churches. They eat at the same restaurants," immigration lawyer Marc Christopher told the *Wisconsin Examiner* at the action. "They're our friends, more importantly, and they're our co-workers. So, they're part of our community."

"It's just not right" Julie Merryfield told the *Militant* outside the town's Walmart April 17. Some people this reporter talked to welcomed the deportation of workers without papers, while others had heard about the demonstration and said they supported it.

At a nearby trailer park, Eloy Hernandez, a worker at Tyson since 2000, described conditions at the plant.

"There were 2,600 workers at the

plant when I started," he said. "Most of them were North Americans." But in the years since, the pace of production has increased and the workforce has shrunk to 1,000. His department of five is now down to two workers. They earn \$23 an hour, which isn't enough to live on.

Hernandez said he gets along well with his Haitian co-workers, but "the company has threatened to fire more of them on April 28."

Hernandez was also interested in finding out more about the Socialist Workers Party, including its opposition to deportations and its call for an amnesty for workers without papers. He signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* and got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*.

A book cover for "Is socialist revolution in the US possible?" by Mary-Alice Waters. The cover features a dark background with a white, textured, wave-like pattern at the top. The title is in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, it says "A NECESSARY DEBATE AMONG WORKING PEOPLE" in a smaller font. A price tag of "\$7" is visible in a white circle. The publisher's name, "pathfinderpress.com", is at the bottom in a bold, white font.

# 'SWP is party workers seek'

Continued from front page

13. The SWP is running candidates all across the country.

"As we confront the drive by capitalist rulers worldwide toward World War III, working people will find the Socialist Workers Party to be the kind of party they are seeking," Sandler said. "It is imperative to build a revolutionary party to lead the fight for working-class power."

Supporters of the campaign of Laura Anderson, SWP candidate for mayor of Miami, campaigned at a downtown "National Day of Action" April 19 called by supporters of the Democratic Party. The event's theme was anti-Donald Trump administration and anti-Elon Musk, which organizers hope will lead workers to back the Democrats.

SWP supporters went because they knew many workers and young people would turn up looking for a place to raise their concerns. In fact, many saw it as an opportunity to protest against recent deportations of immigrant workers. They were attracted to the SWP campaign table, which was busy from the moment it was set up.

SWP campaigners explained the importance of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers' defense of wrongly deported union member Kilmar Abrego Garcia in Maryland, as well as the SWP's call for amnesty for all undocumented immigrant workers in the U.S. to unify the working class. They pointed to the government's refusal to grant Abrego Garcia and others being deported their right to a hearing to contest the orders, as required by the U.S. Constitution.

They also talked about the party's support for Ukrainians' fight to defend their sovereignty against Moscow's murderous war. And their support of Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews and the need for Israel to defeat Hamas and to take out Iran's nuclear weapons capacity. This led to sales of two copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms*

in the *Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

One woman who bought the book told SWP member Rachele Fruit she was Jewish, adding, "This perspective is a breath of fresh air." The second woman who got the book told Fruit she was originally from Iran. "As an Iranian Jew, I understand exactly what you are saying," she said.

Among the 300 or so participants at the action, seven bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, nine got one of the Pathfinder books by leaders of the SWP and other revolutionaries and 12 picked up a copy of the *Militant*. One woman said she looks forward to meeting the SWP mayoral candidate.

In Pittsburgh, Tony Lane, the SWP's candidate for mayor, met John Billips, a warehouse manager, on his doorstep April 12. Billips said the most important issue today is the growing attacks on the working class. The government "taxes our income, they tax all our purchases. It's almost predatory," he said.

"It is predatory!" Lane said. "This is what the ruling class does to workers and will continue to do to us as they look after their class interests. What we need to do is fight against all the ways the bosses and their government exploit us and try to put the effects of their crisis onto our backs. Ultimately that will require a struggle for political power." To follow the campaign, Billips got a subscription to the *Militant*.

## Eight-week spring campaign

Campaigning for the SWP candidates and the party's program is strengthened by the eight-week spring campaign being carried out by the party, along with Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K., to win 1,300 readers to the *Militant*, get out the same number of Pathfinder books and to raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The *Militant* is financed entirely by donations from working people.

In several cities campaigners report more people are signing up for long-term subscriptions to the *Militant*. At the Teamsters Local 89 casino workers strike picket line in Elizabeth, Indiana, Amy Husk met Sandra Ramirez, a slot service worker and union steward. Husk explained the *Militant* is a socialist newsweekly written by working people around the world. "That's great!" Ramirez said. "How much is a yearly subscription?" When Husk told her it was \$35, she replied, "Let's just make it \$50 and I'll make the rest a donation."

In Standstead, Quebec, on the U.S.-Canada border, Communist League campaigners spoke with Carol Hudson, a single mother of six. They discussed the Quebec government's Law 96, which discriminates against those who speak any language other than French. Hudson, whose first language is English, said, "The majority of the people I know didn't learn French at school but by speaking with people in



Militant/Betsy Farley

Strike picket line of Teamsters Local 89 at Caesars hotel and casino in Elizabeth, Indiana, April 16. Sandra Ramirez, union shop steward in vest, appreciated *Militant*, subscribed for a year.

French, because they were interested to learn it. The same is true for French-speaking people who learned English.

"I don't mind speaking French, but since the new law I ask to be spoken to in English," she said.

"The Communist League opposes Law 96," CL member Joe Young said. "The Quebec government tries to divide us, because when we are united, we are stronger." Hudson decided to buy a subscription to the *Militant* and to get on the email list for Militant Labor Forums held in Montreal.

## Winning long-term renewals

Supporters of Philippe Tessier and Katy LeRougetel, the Communist League candidates in Quebec for Parliament, spoke with Gillian Axten, a teacher in the psychology department at

Saint Lawrence College in Cornwall. She is a union steward in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and a *Militant* subscriber. "We're campaigning against the moves by the Ontario government for funding cuts to Ontario's colleges," Axten said.

She renewed her subscription and bought a copy of *Teamster Rebellion*, the first in a four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs. The books describe the development and actions of the class-struggle leadership of the strikes and organizing drives, of which Dobbs was a central leader, that transformed the Teamsters union in the Midwest into a fighting social movement and pointed the road toward independent labor political action.

"That's something I'd like to read, given my situation," Axten said. "I'm also a member of the Jewish caucus in OPSEU. We're fighting against the idea that anyone who is a Zionist supports genocide. I appreciate Seth Galinsky's articles on developments in the Middle East, even though I don't always agree with everything in them," she said.

"The Communist League uses the *Militant* to fight Jew-hatred and explain why the formation of Israel as a refuge for the Jewish people was a necessity after the Holocaust and why the rulers in the U.S., Canada and other 'democratic' imperialist countries then shut their doors to Jews," campaigner Beverly Bernardo said.

To join in the effort, or to get a subscription or make a contribution, contact the Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 5.



Militant/Joanne Pritchard

Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for Parliament, discusses campaign program with rail worker Kevan Ashby in Oshawa, Ontario, April 19.

# Bring home Kilmar Abrego Garcia

Continued from page 3

error," which it is powerless to rectify, the U.S. government is now doubling down on smears against him.

The White House widely circulated the Salvadoran government video of the "martini" glasses. They also released and posted on the Department of Homeland Security website a copy of a protective order sought by his wife after they had a domestic squabble in 2021, an outrageous invasion of Vasquez Sura's right to privacy.

The report wasn't redacted to protect her privacy either. It showed her home address. She has now moved with her children to another location.

"Look, Kilmar is not perfect, nobody

is," she told the *Washington Post*. She said she made sure the protective order was never issued. "He was trying his best for me, for our kids, for our future."

Administration spokespeople also posted reports of a 2022 Tennessee traffic stop and ticket for driving with an expired license by Abrego Garcia. He was driving a carload of co-workers back to Maryland from a construction job in Houston. But government figures claim this incident shows Abrego Garcia is a "human trafficker."

In spite of the slander, the fight to free Abrego Garcia continues to gain support, and more is needed. Working people should make it a prominent part of the upcoming May Day demonstrations.

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

March 22-May 20 (week four)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	32	55	27	\$10,000	\$3,750
Chicago	65	32	65	26	\$13,500	\$6,034
Cincinnati	50	31	50	33	\$5,000	\$1,288
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	39	60	31	\$5,000	\$3,115
Los Angeles	100	44	100	56	\$15,500	\$6,955
Miami	30	14	30	26	\$5,000	\$1,554
Minneapolis	65	38	65	25	\$5,500	\$2,565
N. New Jersey	70	40	70	39	\$7,500	\$3,309
New York	90	47	90	55	\$20,500	\$10,337
Oakland*	90	66	90	94	\$15,000	\$11,475
Philadelphia	50	34	50	29	\$5,500	\$2,540
Pittsburgh	50	30	50	29	\$6,000	\$510
Seattle	60	29	60	33	\$15,000	\$5,425
Washington	45	23	50	22	\$4,500	\$1,518
Other		0		0		\$1,790
Total U.S.	880	499	885	525	\$133,500	\$62,165
Prisoners		64				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	30	45	39	\$3,000	\$1,800
Manchester*	40	25	60	47	\$1,200	\$25
Total U.K.	85	55	105	86	\$4,200	\$1,825
Canada	90	50	100	54	\$11,350	\$7,060
Australia	30	11	30	12	\$4,500	\$2,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>\$153,550</b>	<b>\$73,450</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>
* Raised goal						

# Put SWP on the NJ ballot

Continued from front page

ocratic Party Gov. Philip Murphy more than doubled the requirement from 800 to 2,000 earlier this year.

The strong response to the party's fight for ballot status is also reflected in the many workers who've gotten subscriptions to the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. To date, 95 subscriptions have been sold across New Jersey, along with 78 books, plus 300 single copies of the *Militant*.

"Many workers respond favorably when they find out that there is a working-class party fighting for ballot status and want to hear more about our program," Kuniansky told the *Militant*. "SWP campaigners explain that with a deepening economic crisis and the threat of more wars, the world is becoming more dangerous and that neither of the bosses' two main parties have any solution to the problems workers face."

"Something's got to give with the Democrats and Republicans, because this ain't working," retired Department of Transportation unionist Dwayne McMillan told SWP campaigners at a Walmart parking lot in Linden. "I just spent \$113 for three small bags of groceries!"

The SWP urges a union-led fight for cost-of-living adjustments in all contracts so that when prices rise, workers' wages and benefits go up to match. To combat the government's lies about inflation figures and to calculate the real cost of living, working people need to organize price committees of trade unionists, farmers, housewives and other working people.

Over the April 19-20 weekend, SWP teams campaigned in Hammonton and Vineland, towns in rural South Jersey, as well as Newark and other largely African American areas.

"It's going to take us standing together and standing strong, with everything we're facing," Kim Kahoun, a retired member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825, told Honts as he campaigned at a Walmart parking lot in Hammonton. "There's no way to sidestep it. Their system is broken," she said.

"It can't be repaired," Honts replied. "What workers have to face is that the only road forward for our class is based on taking political power from the capitalists and into our own hands."

"I had to fight my way into industry," Kahoun said. "Growing up on

a farm, I was comfortable working around heavy equipment. That gave me self-confidence."

Kahoun stuck around to talk, picked up a subscription to the *Militant* and got *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Cuban revolutionaries Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer.

The book tells the story of the transformation of millions of working people in Cuba as they made the first socialist revolution in the Americas. It describes how they advanced the fight to end deep-rooted discrimination against women and involve them in every aspect of social and political life.

"The U.S. wants to invade every country," Eleuterio Garcia, a food manufacturing worker, told this worker-correspondent when Garcia stopped to talk with SWP campaigners and sign the petition.

"Yes, they are leading us to new wars," I answered, "and it is up to us — the working class — to prevent that by taking power."

Garcia said he thought the government was right to deport "criminals," but "if they come here to work, what is the problem?" The SWP fights for an amnesty for all workers in the U.S. without papers. Garcia got a subscription to the *Militant*, and the Spanish edition of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

The fight against deportations and for the defense of immigrant rights is on the mind of many of the workers that SWP campaigners spoke with.

Desiree, who didn't want her last name used, told Kuniansky she was pleased to hear that the SMART union is helping organizing support for Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an apprentice sheet-metal worker and union member, who had been picked up and deported to El Salvador. Kuniansky was campaigning at a parking lot in Clifton April 19.

"My friend's stepfather is being held in a deportation center here in New



"It's going to take us standing together," Kim Kahoun, retired member of operating engineers union, told Craig Honts, SWP candidate for New Jersey lieutenant governor, outside Walmart in Hammonton April 19.

Jersey," Desiree said. "He witnessed a hit and run and was waiting to give evidence to the police. When they came, the cops arrested him. He's not a criminal. He's a hardworking man."

SWP members are building actions across the country on May Day, where the fight against the deportation of workers without papers will be an important demand.

"I'm a stay-at-home mom. But not by choice," Desiree told Kuniansky. "I'd rather be working. We just can't afford child care. They just built new 'affordable' housing near where I live. It's \$2,000 a month. That's not affordable for anyone I know."

Kuniansky also met Tara Schutt in the parking lot, and asked her what she thought the most important questions were.

"The cost of child care," she replied immediately. Schutt is a social worker who works primarily from home. Her two young children "stay home with

me because I just can't afford child care. It's not good for them or for me. You lose your sense of self if you're not going in to work."

Kuniansky explained that one of the first things workers and farmers did in Cuba after they took power in 1959 was to build child care centers so women could participate in the revolution. What they did stands as an example for working people worldwide to emulate.

"You know, it's true," Schutt said. "We're the workers. If we were in charge we could decide to produce what people really need."

Both Schutt and Desiree got subscriptions to the *Militant*.

SWP campaigners also joined an immigrant rights protest in downtown Elizabeth April 17, gathering signatures, getting out information on the party campaign and spreading the word on the union effort to bring Abrego Garcia home.

## Join celebrations of May Day

May 1 protests in cities across the U.S.

No deportations! Amnesty for undocumented workers!

Build solidarity with unionists on strike!

Unite working people in struggle for our class interests!

For more information, contact the nearest branch of the Socialist Workers Party — see below.

Send reports on actions in your area to the *Militant*.

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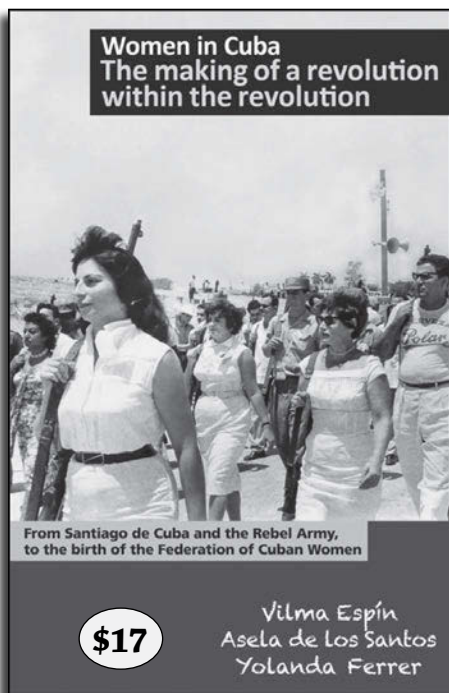
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pathfinderpress.com

# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Teamster drivers standing firm in fight with Flying Food Group

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Now in their fourth week on strike against the airport catering company Flying Food Group, 43 Teamsters Local 2785 drivers and helpers here are in a tough fight. “We’re not giving up, we are still united!” striker Norber Naguit told this *Militant* worker-correspondent at the picket line April 18. Morale remains high.

Workers said the biggest issue for them is getting “retro,” that is back pay they would have gotten if the company had settled when the contract ran out nearly three years ago. “It’s our money,” Naguit said. They’re maintaining daily picket lines around the clock, delaying the trucks now being driven by managers and other scabs.

Other Teamster truck drivers are respecting the picket line. The strikers have received support from members of other area Teamster locals, as well as a contingent of members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union who walked the picket line April 13. On April 18 a bus driver, who took part in the recent strike by the Amalgamated Transit Union in San Jose, visited the line to show support.

Local 2785 Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Cilia brought two horses, “Thunder” and “Lightning,” symbolizing the Teamsters, to reinforce the line April 12. Those who would like to solidarize with this fight can join the picket outside Flying Food Group’s kitchen at 240 Littlefield Avenue in South San Francisco.

— Betsy Stone

## UFCW grocers in Minneapolis picket in fight for new contract

MINNEAPOLIS — On April 15 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 at the Cub Northside grocery store here organized an informational picket line to bring awareness to the contract issues they face.

Local 663 members who work at Cub Foods and two other grocery

chains — Kowalski’s and Lunds & Byerlys — in the Twin Cities region are in contract negotiations.

“We are out here today to come together with the union members in the store and other UFCW members across the city,” Jennifer Greenfield, a union shop steward at Cub, told the *Militant*. “We are joined by other workers, including the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 22 members who work in the adjacent bakery, and members of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers.

“One of the biggest contract issues we are bringing attention to is on the health insurance changes,” she said. “The company wants to restructure it so that we will have to pay a much greater share and there will be automatic premium raises every year. This is not the only issue, but it is a main one.”

— Mary Martin

## Indiana casino workers strike for dignity and secure retirement

ELIZABETH, Ind. — More than 140 workers, members of Teamsters Local 89, went on strike April 14 against Caesars Southern Indiana hotel and casino here. Their contract expired in March.

“We work holidays and weekends, and this job takes away from our families,” Sandra Ramirez, a slot service representative for over seven years and a union shop steward, told the *Militant*. “A lot of workers develop back problems from this job. When workers have health problems they just throw them away and get somebody else.”

Caesars is owned by VICI Properties and leased to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The casino took in more than \$240 million in revenue last year.

Union members picket the casino entrance 24/7. Drivers passing by honk their horns in solidarity. One driving by April 16 rolled down his window to shout, “Tell them to share the loot!” Workers on the picket line cheered.

Bryan Trafford, an organizer for Teamsters Local 89, explained the union has been growing. “Retirement is a big issue,” he said. “We don’t have a pension and we’re trying to increase

## Moscow claims Easter ‘truce,’ then bombs Ukraine cities



Telegram/Oleh Syniehubov

After more than three years of murderous war on the Ukrainian people, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a 30-hour unilateral ceasefire over the Easter weekend. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that although the air-raid sirens were silent, Moscow’s forces continued shelling Ukrainian positions. Kharkiv, above, was hit April 19. Just hours after the so-called ceasefire ended April 21, 96 Russian drone attacks targeted several regions, from Kyiv in the north to Kherson and Mykolaiv in the south.

Putin’s announcement came after President Donald Trump said he was considering pulling back from trying to broker peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv.

The Ukrainian government has said it will comply with any genuine ceasefire, having agreed to an earlier U.S. proposal for a 30-day halt to fighting, which was followed by stepped-up assaults by Moscow. Zelensky renewed his call for a ceasefire after Putin’s Easter “truce.”

The U.S. administration wants an end to the war so it can normalize relations with Moscow, advance stability for Washington’s own interests in Europe and draw Moscow away from the closer ties it has established with Beijing, the U.S. rulers’ main rival. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told the media April 18 that the administration would decide “in a matter of days whether or not [ending the war] is doable.”

Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine Feb. 24, 2022, and Moscow currently controls nearly 20% of Ukraine’s territory, including the southern Crimean Peninsula and parts of the southeast it seized in 2014.

The BBC and independent outlet Mediazona have traced the names of over 100,000 of Moscow’s troops who have been killed since the 2022 invasion. Putin’s sacrifice of Russian workers in uniform to advance his regime’s expansionist goals underscores why working people in Russia are the greatest potential allies of working people in Ukraine in the fight to defend the country’s sovereignty.

— ROY LANDERSEN

company payments into our 401(k) plans. With so many workers depending on tips for a large part of their income, higher contributions are critical to guarantee a secure retirement.”

Pickets explained they voted down two contract offers from the company before deciding to go on strike. Maria Clark, a cage cashier since 2016, told the *Militant*, “At first I was a little scared about going on strike. But now I’m happy to be out here and see all the support we’re getting.”

The Greater Louisville Central Labor Council is encouraging support and contributions to the strikers. Many area unionists have brought snacks and drinks to the picket line. Strikers report one casino customer came out and donated her winnings to the strikers, saying she wouldn’t be back until the strike was over.

To support the strike, join the picket line or drop off contributions at Caesars Casino, 11999 Casino Center Dr. SE, in Elizabeth, Indiana.

— Betsy Farley and Amy Husk

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

May 1, 2000

“The misery that you described in Latin America — the attacks on public education, the growing or at least persistent levels of poverty, the sell-off of the national patrimony of our countries to financial capital, the military interventions by the U.S. government — is the result of colonialism, of capitalism, and of imperialism,” said Cuban President Fidel Castro.

He was addressing more than 6,000 youth at the conclusion of the 12th Congress of Latin American and Caribbean Students in Havana April 5. “Neoliberalism can be replaced only by socialism,” the Cuban leader said, bringing the bulk of the students at the Karl Marx theater to their feet for a several-minute standing ovation.

For the first time in the history of these conferences, large contingents from North America took part, including more than 250 from Canada and over 80 from the U.S.

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 2, 1975

As unemployment figures continue their upward climb, there are growing attempts to blame scapegoats for the economic crisis. Chief among the victims are the noncitizen workers without the proper papers. The employers work hand in glove with the Immigration Service, turning on and off the flow of “illegals” as the job market fluctuates. Dragnet hunts by *la migrá*, particularly in Latino communities, have been used to further whip up anti-“illegal” sentiment.

In Congress, the campaign is taking shape in the form of several bills, particularly one submitted by Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.). The intent of the bill is to intensify the attacks on undocumented workers, and on the working class as a whole.

Whenever the bosses get away with stigmatizing a section of the working class as pariahs, this does weaken the labor movement as a whole.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 1, 1950

Open Letter to President Harry Truman from James Kutcher  
Mr. President:

Listening to your speech last night, I realized that you are extremely upset about the “subversive” charges made against your administration by Senator McCarthy. You have now gotten a small taste of how I and the Socialist Workers Party felt when you put the SWP on your “subversive” blacklist and then fired me out of my job in the Newark Veterans Administration because of my membership in this working-class party.

You also said: “We’re going to keep the Bill of Rights on the books.” It would be very helpful if in addition to keeping it on the books, your administration would begin to observe it in practice. As a first step toward making the Bill of Rights a reality for all, the unconstitutional “loyalty” purge order should be revoked, the “subversive” blacklist be rescinded.

## In Defense of the US Working Class

by Mary-Alice Waters

“The years that are coming will bring organized resistance — worldwide — by growing vanguards of working people.”

pathfinderpress.com



# 'Changing face of Middle East'

Continued from front page

flags to show their support for an Egyptian government proposal that Hamas disarm in exchange for Israel ending the war.

Hamas sent a dozen or so of its agents to infiltrate the protest, hoping to use their presence to claim that the action supported them. The mostly masked Hamas operatives carried printed banners that said, "The weapons of the resistance are a red line" and "Beit Lahiya with the resistance."

When protesters realized who they were, they grabbed the signs, tore them up and chased the Hamas thugs out.

Working people in Gaza are losing their fear of Hamas and pushing back against its use of Palestinian civilians as human shields in its war to destroy Israel. A day or two before the march, a resident of a refuge in a school in northern Gaza told armed Hamas operatives to leave because their presence endangered people's lives.

The thugs shot and killed him. On April 17 the Families and Clans of the Southern Governorates issued a statement saying that Hamas "bears full responsibility for this cowardly crime." The clans warned that "we will not stand idly by."

Since resuming the war against Hamas in mid-March, Israel Defense Forces officials say they have taken control of one-third of Gaza — dividing it in three parts — killed more than 300 Hamas and Islamic Jihad combatants, and made progress in destroying more tunnels and capturing weapons.

## Hezbollah's weakening in Lebanon

Israel's massive blows to Hezbollah in Lebanon over the last year continue to reverberate. Since its founding in 1982 Hezbollah — created, funded and trained by the reactionary regime in Iran — had become the dominant political and military force in Lebanon, more powerful than the Lebanese army. At the urging of Tehran, Hezbollah launched attacks on Israel "in solidarity" with Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom.

But Israeli counterblows — after Hezbollah refused to stop its assaults — decimated Hezbollah's leadership,

missile stores and thousands of its cadre. This forced Hezbollah to agree to a ceasefire, which also required it to evacuate its forces from southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has since tried to violate the accord.

On April 16 the Lebanese army arrested two people it said had launched rockets toward Israel. The Lebanese government has also been tearing down Hezbollah propaganda billboards in Beirut. This reflects an important shift in the government's course as it recognizes that if it doesn't reel in Hezbollah, the Israeli government will.

## Danger of a future Holocaust

Yet despite these advances, bourgeois political opponents of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continue to press for Israel to agree to Hamas' demands to an end to the war in exchange for the release of the remaining hostages — with Hamas still armed and preparing to rebuild and carry out a future Holocaust.

Netanyahu answered those arguments in a video statement April 19. "Since the start of the war, we have heard calls for its conclusion," he said. "These calls have increased of late."

They were the same calls made by the Joseph Biden administration, which kept saying that Israel's response to the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom by Hamas was "over the top," at the same time that it claimed to be Israel's "best friend." Washington's calls were echoed by a layer of middle-class officials in the army and the Shin Bet spy agency.

As a capitalist politician, Netanyahu looks to U.S. imperialism to help defend Israel. But he knows that he can't count on its support and that Israel must be prepared to act alone to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews.

"Were I to have given in to these calls, we would not have entered Rafah. We would not have seized the Philadelphi corridor," he said. "We would not have created the conditions for the fall of the Assad regime [in Syria] and a harsh blow to the Iranian axis. We would not have changed the face of the Middle East."

"Leaving the Hamas regime in place



Prime Minister's Office of Israel

Farmworkers and hostages Aisha and Bilal Ziyadne, Bedouin-Arabs, Dec. 1, 2023, at hospital in Beersheba, after release by Hamas. Their brother and father were also taken hostage, found dead in January. Hamas is biggest obstacle to interests of Palestinians, fight to unify all workers.

in Gaza would be a huge defeat for Israel and a huge victory for Iran," he said. "If we do not complete the destruction of Hamas' military and governing capabilities, the next Oct. 7 and the next abductions are only a question of time."

Hamas and Tehran make no secret of their goal to destroy Israel and rid the Middle East of Jews. Their goal is another Holocaust.

Netanyahu said that Israel will not end the war until "we destroy Hamas in

Gaza, return all of our hostages and ensure that the Gaza Strip will never again constitute a threat to Israel."

That will be a blow to forces carrying out Jew-hating attacks worldwide and aid the Palestinian people who are fighting to get Hamas' boot off their necks. And it opens the door to working people in Gaza, Israel and throughout the Middle East beginning to see that they have common class interests and can act together on that.

# Israel: Tehran moves to get nuclear weapons threaten a new Holocaust

BY SETH GALINSKY

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said repeatedly that Tehran acquiring nuclear weapons is an impermissible "red line" for Israel that it will not permit. As U.S. and Iranian government representatives began holding meetings on restricting Tehran's nuclear program April 12, Netanyahu isn't putting much stock in President Donald Trump's promise that "the only thing" Tehran can't have "is a nuclear weapon."

Trump has made it clear what guides

him in the negotiations is the economic and political interests of the capitalist rulers in the U.S. "Nobody leads us. We do what we want to do," he said April 9 on the eve of the first negotiations.

"Israeli officials alarmed over soft U.S. stance in nuclear talks with Iran" was the headline on Ynetnews April 14.

Tehran is already enriching uranium to 60% purity, which has no purpose except as a step toward producing weapons-grade material. It is estimated that the regime could refine that uranium to produce six nuclear bombs within weeks, if it decides to do so.

Roughly half of all Jews in the world live in Israel, a country of 10 million people. Twenty percent of its population are Arabs. If even one Iranian nuclear weapon made it through Israel's missile defenses, it would be a new Holocaust.

The heart of the current negotiations seems to be what percent uranium purity would be acceptable to the two sides — Tehran and Washington. This was the approach that led to the defunct agreement negotiated by the Barack Obama administration.

The *New York Times* reported Trump told Netanyahu not to carry out any actions against Iran's nuclear facilities while the negotiations are under way.

The Israeli prime minister says that the only deal he could support would be one that ends in the verifiable physical destruction of Tehran's centrifuges and other nuclear facilities.

"I am committed to preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons. I will not give in on this. Neither will I slacken or retreat on this, not even a millimeter," Netanyahu emphasized in a nationally televised speech in Israel April 19.

# Over 200 at Montreal protest say 'Stop police abuse'

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — More than 200 demonstrators gathered at Ovila-Legare Park in the east end here April 6 to protest the police killing of 29-year-old Abisay Cruz, the father of a 9-year-old son. Carrying signs like "Justice, stop abuse by the police," they marched along Pie-IX Boulevard to Police Station 30, where the cops were out in force.

According to the CBC, someone placed a 911 call March 30 reporting a person was in distress at the residence near the corner of Pie-IX and 47th Street where Cruz lived. Bystanders caught some of what happened next on videos, which have been widely viewed on social media.

One video, filmed from a neighboring balcony, shows officers hitting Cruz while he was sitting down. Two officers were holding Cruz against the ground on his balcony, one of them kneeling against his back telling him to calm down. Cruz is lying on his front with his hands behind his

back and sounds distressed. He lost consciousness and was declared dead when he arrived at the hospital.

Chanting "What do we want? Justice. For whom? Abisay!" dozens of people attended a vigil April 1 in front of Cruz's residence. "They let him die on his balcony. We need to know what really happened. I heard him screaming at the top of his lungs," Daniela Pimental, who lives in a neighboring building, told the *Journal de Montreal*. "They let him die like a dog," said Dan Aguilar, another neighbor.

Over the March 29-30 weekend Quebec police killed two other people — one in Montreal and another in Quebec City. Another vigil was held for all three April 6. The Office of Independent Investigations (BEI) has opened probes into the three killings.

The Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms issued a statement April 5 "denouncing once again the fact that the investigations of the police by the police continue in Quebec under the auspices of the BEI. The BEI is not a

transparent, impartial and independent investigative body of the police."

Alexandre Popovic from the Coalition Against Police Repression and Abuse told CBC that since 2016, out of "446 investigations, including 41 ongoing, only two have resulted in legal proceedings" against the police.

When this *Militant* reporter joined Philippe Tessier, one of the two Communist League candidates in the April 28 federal elections, on 47th Street April 15, we found appreciation for the solidarity we brought to their fight against police brutality. Leaflets for the April 6 vigil for Cruz were still up on several apartment doors. A banner reading "Justice for Abisay," along with flowers, balloons and ribbons, were placed in front of the building where he was killed.

"The police who killed Abisay Cruz should be identified, arrested, and charged," Tessier told people he met. "The Communist League demands the police be held responsible for their actions."

# Book launch in Havana, Cuba: ‘Che Guevara’s revolutionary course is needed in the world today’

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — “This book is necessary reading, not only in Cuba but around the world, especially in the face of today’s conditions,” said Elier Ramírez Cañedo, deputy director of the Fidel Castro Center here. He was speaking as part of a panel presenting the new Pathfinder edition of *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada.

The book, Ramírez said, makes available the words of revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara on the fight by working people to overturn capitalist exploitation and “not only create a new society — the opposite of capitalism — but create different human beings.”

Joining Ramírez on the panel were Arleen Rodríguez Derivet, a well-known Cuban journalist; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and president of Pathfinder Press; and Tablada, who also chaired the event.

The Feb. 21 presentation, part of this year’s Havana International Book Fair, was a joint effort by Pathfinder Press and Ruth Casa Editorial. It launched the Pathfinder editions of the book in both Spanish and English, as well as Ruth’s e-book editions in both languages. María Elena Silva, the translator for Pathfinder’s French-language edition, to be released later this year, was introduced in the audience.

Among those present was Antonio Guerrero, widely known as one of the Five Cuban Heroes. He and the other four revolutionaries spent up to a decade and a half in U.S. prisons on trumped-up charges for their work to thwart plans by Florida-based counterrevolutionaries to launch violent attacks on Cuba.

The audience of more than 30 was larger than at many of the presentations during this year’s book fair. The acute shortage of fuel and sharply reduced bus service made transportation in Havana extremely difficult — a consequence of the in-



Feb. 21 panel in Havana presenting new Pathfinder edition of *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada. On panel were, from left: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and president of Pathfinder Press; Carlos Tablada; Elier Ramírez, deputy director of the Fidel Castro Center; and well-known Cuban journalist Arleen Rodríguez.

tensified U.S. economic war against the Cuban people.

## ‘Che was a Marxist’

“Che was a genuine Marxist,” said Ramírez, author of the foreword to the Ruth edition of the book. Guevara, he noted, disagreed with those who argued that socialism could be built simply by “gradually increasing the distribution of consumer goods” while ignoring “the development of consciousness” through the active participation of working people in the transformation of society.

“Che placed human beings at the center of his conception of socialism — as conscious actors in history,” Ramírez said. “It’s impossible to explain the Cuban Revolution without that.”

Ramírez told the story of his grandfather, Luis Cañedo, who, as a

young man living in the U.S., joined Fidel Castro’s July 26 Movement, which was leading the revolutionary struggle against the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship. That struggle became known worldwide on July 26, 1953, with attacks on the U.S.-backed regime’s Moncada army barracks in Santiago de Cuba and on the garrison in Bayamo. In 1955 Castro traveled to several U.S. cities to recruit Cuban emigres to the revolutionary movement, and Cañedo hosted a meeting for him in his Miami home.

“My grandmother called her husband into the kitchen and asked him, ‘How can you join up with that crazy guy who launched an attack on the second-largest army garrison in Cuba with just a few rifles? You think those people will overthrow Batista?’ My grandfather replied, ‘Yes, I’m con-

vinced they will.’ And he was right.

“A little more than three years later, on Jan. 1, 1959, a powerful popular revolutionary movement led by the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement took power in Cuba,” Ramírez said. The revolution showed the capacity of masses of ordinary men and women to transform society and themselves.

## Fidel led ‘Rectification Process’

Arleen Rodríguez noted that when Tablada’s book was first published in Cuba in 1987, under the title *The Economic Thought of Ernesto Che Guevara*, Castro was leading what he called the Process of Rectifying Errors and Negative Tendencies.

Rectification, as it became known, was a political battle, launched by Fidel in 1986 to organize working people to address pressing social needs. It was



Volunteer minibrigade builds apartment complex in Havana in February 1990. Over 30,000 workers joined construction minibrigades after Fidel Castro launched Rectification Process in 1986. Castro said this effort drew on revolutionary working-class action and example of Che Guevara.

a decisive turn away from the growing reliance in Cuba, over more than a decade and a half, on bureaucratic Soviet policies in planning and management — methods that Castro sharply criticized for resorting to what he explained were “the mechanisms and categories of capitalism.” In the course of that battle, Castro often pointed to Guevara’s ideas and example.

“Tablada’s book was controversial at the time,” Rodríguez said. She referred to a 2019 interview she conducted with Tablada for the online journal *CubaDebate* that explained how the book initially met with strong opposition from a layer of government and Communist Party officials in Cuba. Those officials supported the Soviet Union’s anti-working-class economic management policies that Che had argued against, and it took Castro’s direct political intervention to get the book published and distributed widely.

Rodríguez said a valuable part of *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* is the inclusion of Castro’s Oct. 8, 1987,

speech, which marked the 20th anniversary of Guevara’s death in combat. In that speech the Cuban leader urged that Tablada’s work be read and studied because it clearly presented Che’s economic and political perspectives — in his own words.

The importance Castro gave to Guevara’s perspectives, Rodríguez said, is described more fully “in the preface by Mary-Alice Waters, which is a real contribution to this new edition of the book.”

## Important changes in new edition

“I’m proud to say that Pathfinder’s record in promoting this communist work internationally goes back more than 35 years,” said Waters. *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* was first published in English in 1989 — just two years after Castro brought international attention to the first Cuban edition. Editions in Spanish and French followed several years later.

Waters added to comments made by Ramírez and Rodríguez on the place of Guevara, Castro, and the Rectifica-



Cuban and Angolan combatants in Angola, May 1988. Cuba’s 16-year volunteer mission culminated there in defeat of U.S.-backed South African invasions. The internationalist effort in Angola, intertwined with the Rectification Process, strengthened Cuba’s socialist revolution.

tion Process in the Cuban Revolution. “Fidel worked tirelessly to reverse the political marginalization and demobilization of the working class,” she said. “To organize and lead working people to bring their weight to bear, by showing how they could meet the burning needs of everyday life.”

For example, she said, thousands of workers in Cuba joined volunteer work brigades. In just one year these brigades built more than 50 child care centers in Havana alone, meeting a vital need for women and their families.

“This enormous social movement was intertwined with the victorious culmination of Cuba’s internationalist mission in Angola,” which also greatly strengthened the Cuban Revolution, Waters said. Over 16 years, some 425,000 Cuban volunteers served in Angola, helping defeat multiple invasions by South Africa’s white-supremacist regime and hastening the end of the apartheid regime itself.

Waters noted that the title of the Pathfinder edition, *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, is different from the title of Cuban editions, *The Economic Thought of Ernesto Che Guevara*. Especially for readers outside Cuba, she said, it helps “emphasize that what Che and Fidel fought for was not only ideas — no matter how important they are — but above all, for a course of revolutionary conduct led by the working class. A course needed by working people the world over.” (Waters’ full talk can be found on page 8.)

Tablada elaborated on what Waters had said about how his collaboration with Pathfinder began. He recalled the 1990 speaking tour that the Socialist Workers Party in the United States organized for him to promote the first Pathfinder edition of his book in English. He spoke on dozens of university campuses in 33 U.S. cities and met with farmworkers, Eastern Airlines strikers, and garment and rail workers interested in learning about Cuba’s socialist revolution.

He described how he began working on his book in 1969. Luis Álvarez Rom and Orlando Borrego — former ministers of finance and of the sugar ministry, respectively,

both of whom had worked closely with Guevara — gave him copies of Che’s unpublished writings and urged him to pursue his research.

In the mid-1970s, Tablada said, he gave an early draft of his manuscript to Haydée Santamaría, one of the two women who took part in the 1953 Moncada attack and founding president of the Cuban cultural institution Casa de las Américas. At a time when Soviet political and economic policies were becoming increasingly prevalent in Cuba, “Haydée told me, ‘You’re going to run into many obstacles. Some people will attack you for the ideas in this book. But you must promise me that you will finish it.’” With the solid support of Fidel Castro, he did so. In 1987 his manuscript won the Casa de las Américas special prize and was first published by that institution.

The meeting ended with words of thanks to the panelists by Tomasa González, director of the Dulce María Loynaz Cultural Center, where the event was held, followed by informal discussion and the sale of the book.

## ‘Fidel and Che led working people to rely on themselves’

Below are remarks given by Mary-Alice Waters Feb. 21 during the 2025 Havana International Book Fair at a presentation of Pathfinder’s new edition of *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada. The other panelists at the event were Arleen Rodríguez Derivet, Elier Ramírez Cañedo, and Tablada, who also was the chair (see accompanying news article).

Waters is a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and president of Pathfinder Press. She is the book’s editor and author of its preface and editor’s note. Copyright © 2025 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Gracias, Carlos. And gracias to our gracious hosts here at the Centro Cultural Dulce María Loynaz.

Carlos and I have known each other since 1990, at least, when we sat on the *Escalinata* [steps to the University of Havana] until the early hours of the morning planning a speaking tour in the United States to promote the first English edition of the book we’re presenting the fourth edition of today.

I first heard Arleen’s name in 1994 when the Union of Young Communists selected her to lead a “Cuban Youth Tour” of the United States that had been organized by the Social-

ist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Unfortunately, the U.S. State Department denied Arleen a visa on the grounds she was a journalist writing for *Juventud Rebelde*, and the tour had to go ahead without her. So it was only some years later that we actually met.

And I’ve had the pleasure of working with Elier for more than a decade now. He has already joined Pathfinder twice to present multiple books about the class struggle in the United States, including *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by Jack Barnes.

It’s an honor to participate with all of you in today’s joint presentation by Pathfinder Press and Ruth Casa Editorial of this new edition in Spanish and English of *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada.

It’s a book that includes two very important additions to earlier editions. For the first time, the author has been able to put quotation marks around all the words of Che rather than being restricted to citing them indirectly.

And for the first time, the text also includes the passages from the Soviet economics manual that Che is polemicalizing against. With these citations appearing as footnotes on the same pages, it is easier to understand the points Che is making and the broader stakes of the debate.

I’m proud to say that Pathfinder’s record in promoting this communist work internationally goes back more than 35 years.

The leadership of the Socialist Workers Party, like the rest of the world, learned of Tablada’s book when Fidel talked about it during his historic speech in October 1987, on the 20th anniversary of Che’s fall in combat in Bolivia. Fidel urged that the book be read, studied, and translated into other languages. Only later did we come to learn much more about how controversial it was in Cuba. I appreciated the comments Arleen made about this in her remarks here in Havana last October, when she spoke at the presentation of the e-book version.

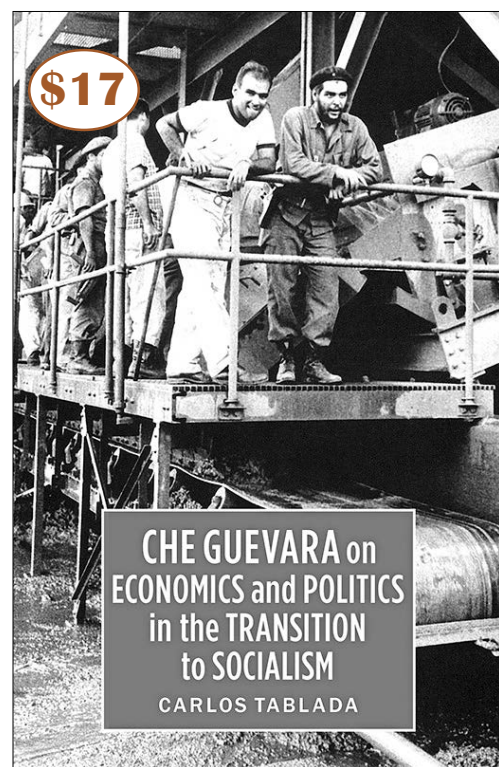
As soon as we knew Tablada’s work existed, Pathfinder was determined to translate and publish it as rapidly as possible. Our first edition in English came off the press in 1989, barely two years after the first Cuban edition. Our first Spanish and French editions came several years later. And I’m glad to announce that our new French edition — thanks to the translation work of María Elena Silva, who is with us here this morning — will be ready this year.

## Che, Fidel, and Rectification

I’d like to say a few words about Che, Fidel, and the Rectification Process, which Fidel talks about so forcefully in

Continued on page 10

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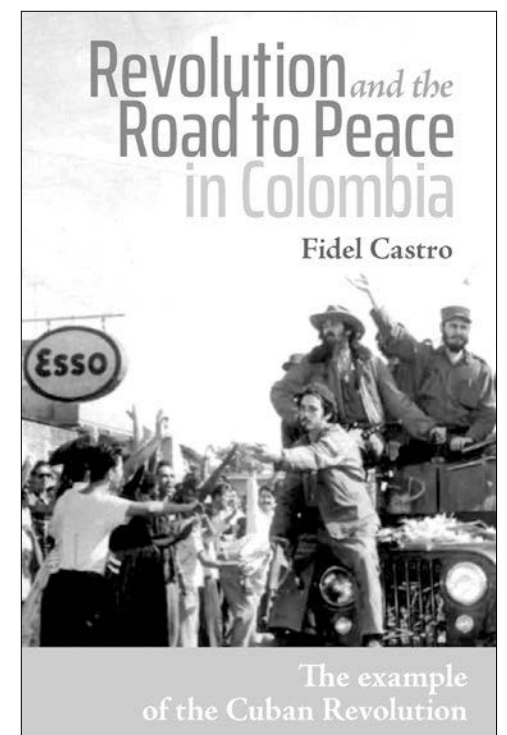


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# 'Che's revolutionary example'

Continued from page 8

the October 1987 speech that is included in both the e-book and printed editions we're discussing today.

The last half of the 1980s, when this book first began circulating, was a time of great hope in Cuba. Fidel was leading what he called the Process of Rectifying Errors and Negative Tendencies. He was referring to the negative consequences of the Cuban leadership's adoption a decade and a half earlier of a version of the economic and political management policies that had long prevailed in the Soviet Union.

During the five or six years of the Rectification Process, Fidel worked tirelessly to reverse the political marginalization and demobilization of the working class. To organize and lead working people to bring their weight to bear, by showing how they could meet the burning needs of everyday life through their own efforts. In leading this process, he referred often to Che's example and his ideas.

In less than a year, thousands of workers were recruited for volunteer work brigades. In Havana alone, they built not one, but more than 50 child care centers in a single year, plus family doctors' homes and clinics, hospitals, schools, recreational centers, and much more.

This enormous social movement was intertwined with the victorious culmination of Cuba's internationalist mission in Angola. That feat, as we know, came to a conclusion with the victory at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, followed by the liberation of Namibia, and the accelerated drive by the people of South Africa to overthrow the apartheid regime. Moments of history that are a central theme of the Havana book fair program this year.

In presenting this book last October, both Arleen and Elier referred to the giant advances of the Rectification Process, which were abruptly ended with the harsh economic crisis that followed what Fidel called "the fall of the meringue" — the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the entire so-called socialist bloc in Europe.

Around the world enemies of the Cuban Revolution were predicting that

very soon this revolution would be next.

As at Playa Girón, however, those self-anointed "wise men" were blind to the strengths of Cuba's working people.

Leading a way out of the brutal crisis of the Special Period, Fidel followed on the same course as the Rectification Process. He challenged and led Cuba's working people to confront the problems they faced through their own collective efforts. And they succeeded above all *because of* their reinforced confidence in themselves, developed during the years of the Rectification Process.

As Raúl [Castro] expressed it so well in May 1991 as he welcomed home the last contingent of Cuban volunteers from Angola, "If our people know themselves better, if all of us know much better what we are capable of achieving — veterans as well as our young people — it is thanks to Angola."

And Fidel also expressed the same truth more than once when he noted, "One day we may have to erect a monument to the Special Period" for teaching us to take better advantage of "that invaluable treasure that is our people's intelligence, knowledge, and preparation."

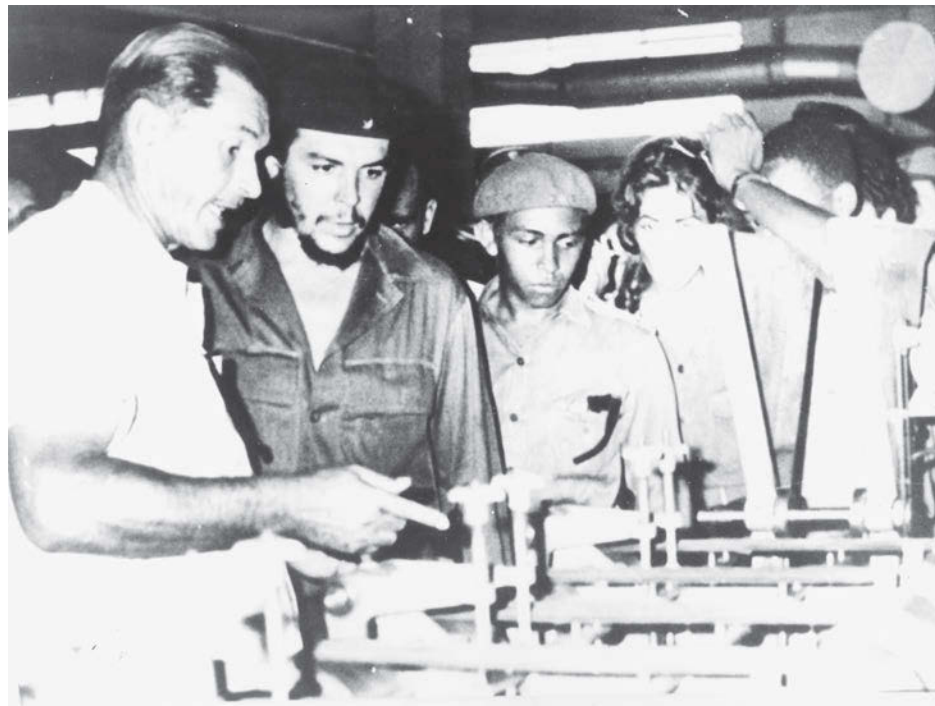
## Revolutionary course

The Rectification Process provided a powerful example of what the course Che and Fidel outline in this book could mean. Fidel pointed to it in his book-length interview with Ignacio Ramonet, published in Spanish as *Cien horas* [One Hundred Hours] and in English as *My Life*. Ramonet asked what Fidel thought about the debate in the early years of the revolution between Che and Carlos Rafael Rodríguez as well as others (in Cuba, and elsewhere). In those written exchanges, Carlos Rafael defended the economic methods used in the Soviet Union, as opposed to the course Che charts in this book.

Fidel replied, "I confess that on that subject I liked Che's ideas about the way to build the economy best. They were very much like our guerrilla way of life in the mountains. Frankly, I liked Che's moral appeal best. Che gave great weight to Communist consciousness, Communist awareness, the value of example."

For these reasons and more, I'm happy this new edition includes Pathfinder's 1997 preface, which discusses the example of the Rectification Process.

I'm sure some of you have noticed that the title of the Pathfinder editions, *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, is different from the title of other editions, including those published here in Cuba: *The Economic*



Institute of Cuban History

**Che Guevara, second from left, visits factory as Cuba's minister of industry in the early 1960s. He talked with workers about setting an example and reinforcing communist consciousness of work as a social responsibility. Along with Fidel Castro, Che was part of leadership cadres forged in struggle who led Cuban working people to take state power and begin to transform themselves as they transformed society.**



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

**Part of audience at the launch of *Che Guevara on Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* at Havana International Book Fair. María Elena Silva, second from left, is translator of book to French. Tomasa González, far left, is director of Dulce María Loynaz Cultural Center, where meeting was held.**

## Thought of Ernesto Che Guevara.

For readers outside Cuba, where our books circulate, we thought it important to emphasize that what Che and Fidel fought for was not only *ideas* — no matter how important they are — but above all, for a course of revolutionary *conduct* led by the working class. A course needed by working people the world over.

As the central leaders of the Cuban Revolution have so often explained, *leading* the transition from capitalism to socialism is a longer and far more difficult battle than taking state power out of the hands of the property-owning classes. Especially in a *world* still dominated by capitalism, where there have been no new victorious socialist revolutions in more than 65 years.

## Giant popular transformations

To finish, in the summer of 1960, the working people of Cuba were advancing day after day with giant strides.

With leadership from Fidel and the entire revolutionary government, they were taking control of the command centers of the economy. They symbolically threw coffins representing those capitalist enterprises into sea. During those days of jubilation, almost 1,000 youth from across the Americas and world had converged on Havana for the First Latin American Youth Congress.

During days of intense activity, they learned firsthand about the course that Fidel and the cadres of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement were leading. Many were members of Communist Parties and youth organizations around the world that, in those

days, were presenting the Cuban Revolution as a bourgeois-democratic revolution, even if a very deep-going one. A socialist revolution, they were saying, required a more "communist" leadership (i.e., themselves) and would only be possible at a later stage, far down the road.

Other delegates at this congress were revolutionary-minded youth already won to the example of "the men and women of Moncada." Day and night the delegates debated among themselves whether the Cuban Revolution was communist or not.

That was when Che Guevara addressed the opening session of the conference from the stage of Havana's Blanquita Theater — today the Teatro Karl Marx.

In unambiguous words — and speaking for more than an hour without a single note in front of him — he explained to all those present (and I'm quoting), "If this revolution is Marxist — and listen well that I say 'Marxist' — it is because it discovered, by its own methods, the road pointed out by Marx."

That is the heart of what this book presents.



Granma

**Ernesto Che Guevara speaking at Latin American Youth Congress in Havana, July 28, 1960. "Cuba discovered, by its own methods, the road pointed out by Marx," he said.**

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# Israeli victory over Hamas is in the interest of all workers

**Continued from front page**

their common class interests. That's a necessary foundation for workers uniting, acquiring more class-struggle experience, developing class consciousness and drawing together fighters to build revolutionary working-class parties.

As this battle is unfolding, the capitalist world "order" is in deepening crisis, with sharp trade conflicts, financial crises, deepening class polarization and a steady march toward more shooting wars between rival ruling classes, many armed with nuclear weapons.

The only force capable of stopping this future is the working class. There is an uptick in labor battles today and growing numbers of workers see the need for our class to take political power into our own hands.

The "Jewish question" is not just posed in Israel. In times of deepening crisis, the capitalist rulers turn to Jew-hatred and fascist thugs to divide the working class, unleash new pogroms and smash the unions. This is the lesson of history in the imperialist epoch.

This reality underscores the iron necessity of working people breaking from the capitalist par-

ties, and building parties of our own — working-class parties that are strong enough and firm enough to lead millions to overturn capitalist rule. Establishing workers power and ending capitalist exploitation opens the road to eradicating national oppression, including Jew-hatred, for all time.

The U.S. government is on a course counter to Israel's today. Washington seeks to get the regime in Tehran to cut a deal to limit its nuclear weapons program to help stabilize the region and to draw it into trade and collaboration, and toward a break with the U.S. rulers' main rival, Beijing.

Washington seeks to constrain Israel, pressing its government to hold off any targeted military strike to take out the Iranian rulers' nuclear facilities.

The fight to prevent another Holocaust is central to world politics. It's inseparable from the struggle against national oppression, a

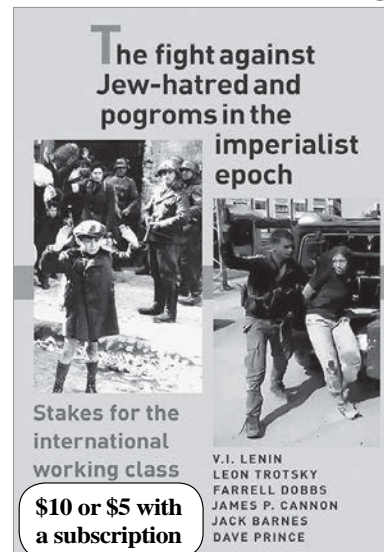
struggle the working class must champion as we build parties of our own, with a tested leadership to chart a course forward.

There are examples we can look to — the Bolshevik Party led by V.I. Lenin that guided Russia's workers and peasants to power in 1917, and the 1959 overthrow of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in Cuba led by Fidel Castro that led to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

In the U.S. the Socialist Workers Party has been built in continuity with those revolutions. It is an internationalist party, in solidarity with workers' struggles worldwide. The SWP calls for Washington to get its vast military forces — aimed ultimately against rebellions by working people — out of the Middle East.

The SWP points, above all, to the capacities of workers to take political power here in the U.S. and join the fight to extend the socialist revolution worldwide.

## Recommended reading



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# Defend constitutional freedoms from attack by Democrats, Republicans

**Continued from front page**

revolutionary struggles, from the war for independence from the British crown to the Civil War that overthrew slavery. These gains have since been reinforced over decades of class struggles.

For the last nine years the primary threat to constitutional freedoms has come from the Democratic Party and the middle-class, meritocratic layers who increasingly shape its political course. In their panic-stricken reaction to Donald Trump, they sought to disenfranchise tens of millions of working people, who they view as "deplorables," by conducting an unprecedented witch hunt using frame-up cases aimed at driving Trump out of politics.

Millions of workers saw nothing for them with the lesser-evil choices presented by the two main capitalist parties in 2024. Many stayed at home, some voted for Trump, fewer for the Democrats, and Trump won. But this hasn't ended the threat to constitutional freedoms.

## Rulers erode freedoms

These protections have been continually eroded by successive Democratic and Republican administrations, as they seek to defend the U.S. rulers' interests by expanding the powers of the imperialist state.

Flight attendants, postal workers and rail workers fighting for better contracts have all come up against laws that say they have no right to strike. Under the bipartisan "war on terror," both the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations sought to refurbish the image of the FBI and expand its use of informers and wiretaps to spy on political groups and

individuals because of their country of origin, religion or opposition to Washington's policies.

The same woke social layers that led the assault on Trump are at the forefront of efforts to restrict what working people can read, say or do, often openly disparaging the First Amendment's protection of free speech.

Since taking office for a second term, President Trump's administration has ruled by issuing a record number of executive orders. By sidelining debate in Congress, Trump is furthering steps taken by the Obama and Biden administrations, which also moved to centralize power in the hands of the presidency, eroding "checks and balances" written into the Constitution.

Constitutional protections are also being shredded by the Trump administration's offensive against workers who are immigrants, including a frontal assault on the right to due process.

The government has launched workplace raids and deportations that are aimed primarily at striking fear into millions of workers without papers in the U.S. and reinforcing their second-class status. The rulers hope this will make them more vulnerable to superexploitation, deepen divisions among working people and drive down wages and conditions for all.

Workers start from an opposite class standpoint. In the course of the class struggle, working people seek to find ways to overcome the division the rulers impose on us, so we can fight more effectively. Protecting political rights, organizing opposition to the government's deportations and fighting for an amnesty for workers without papers are central

to advancing that aim.

Days into the administration, a bipartisan Congress adopted the Laken Riley Act. It makes mandatory the detention of any worker without papers who is arrested or charged with a crime, even if they haven't had the right to a trial. The law violates protections guaranteed in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which says the government can't "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

The fight by the family of sheet metal worker Kilmar Abrago Garcia and his union against his illegal deportation to El Salvador has become a flashpoint in this battle.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials seized and deported Abrago Garcia, a member of SMART Local 100, March 15, despite the fact he has never been convicted of anything and that an immigration judge in 2019 specifically barred deporting him to his home country because his life would be in danger there.

Immigration authorities arrested and deported him anyway, "without the semblance of due process," Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals wrote April 17 in ruling against this.

## 'Alien Enemies Act' targets workers

Two days later the U.S. Supreme Court issued a temporary order April 19 blocking the administration from invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to summarily deport immigrant workers, including alleged members of a Venezuelan criminal gang, Tren de Aragua. The high court had previously ruled that the government has to give these immigrants advance notice and that they had the right to challenge their removal in court.

The Alien Enemies Act was invoked during World War I to try to compel German Americans to register with the government. Some 6,000 were detained.

It was used again during the second imperialist slaughter when Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt carried out the mass arrest and internment of more than 100,000 people of Japanese descent. Their homes and property were seized as they were hauled off to concentration camps. To their shame, the internment of Japanese Americans was backed by the Communist Party, part of its support for the U.S. rulers' war.

Trump's invocation of the Alien Enemies Act sets a dangerous precedent, opening the door for its further use against working people as the crisis of capitalism deepens. It's a reminder of what the U.S. rulers will do whenever they prepare for war. And it underscores the importance of working people and our unions fighting to safeguard constitutional protections against state intrusion.

## LETTERS

### Appreciation of Omari Musa

Just a note of appreciation for Omari Musa, memorialized in the April 21 issue of the *Militant*. My husband and I got to know Omari over several years as our guest, and at political activities. Never a dull moment! Omari loved politics, reading, travel, culture, languages, art, music, food and sharing with others. I learned a great deal from him. He spoke his mind and was a humble, thoughtful, kind person with a great sense of humor. Musa also listened patiently and respectfully. He explained things in plain language and put people at ease.

He said he made a point to learn

different cultures and languages, to be better at relating to people politically. He believed it built trust and broke down barriers the capitalists try to put between us.

In our social activities people took a liking to him. Over the years

they would ask how he was doing. I always had an idea because he would call every now and then, and vice versa. He'd say "Hey Sis!" or "What's up, Teach?" and "Hola Hermano," talk politics and catch up. It's easy to see how such a person could become the kind of leader he was.

Juliet  
Bronx, New York

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