

US, Beijing tariff struggle raises threat of future wars

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Washington’s stiff tariffs levied against Chinese trade are a key part of the U.S. capitalist rulers’ efforts to contain Beijing’s challenge to their weakening domination of a disintegrating world imperialist “order.” Working people in the U.S. have no reason to back the bosses and their government in this confrontation, but have a vital stake in international solidarity with our fellow workers around the world.

Capitalist rulers worldwide, who have faced declining rates of profit for decades, are being driven to cutthroat global competition to grab the biggest amount of wealth produced by the world’s toilers. While the rulers in China boast about their growth, the fact is their economy is in a downward spiral.

Beijing’s vast manufacturing base is dependent on exports to markets in the U.S., European Union and elsewhere. But the Chinese rulers have yet to develop an extensive internal market that can sustain their economy in hard times. This makes them more vulnerable in trade disputes.

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May Day rallies defend the rights of immigrants, strengthen unions



Jennifer Vasquez Sura speaks at May 1 march in Washington, D.C., organized by immigrant rights group CASA. She is wife of unionist Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was denied due process, deported to El Salvador. His union, SMART, AFL-CIO, others are calling for his release, return.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Defense of the rights of immigrant workers, including calls for amnesty for all workers without papers in the U.S. and against deportations, was an important feature of May Day actions mounted by unions and others around the country. Many demanded the U.S. government return Kilmar Abrego Garcia to his family in Maryland.

Abrego Garcia is a sheet metal ap-

Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign

‘In a world of crises, conflicts, the SWP is the anti-war party’



Paul Mailhot, left, SWP candidate for New York mayor, campaigns against U.S. rulers’ drive toward depression and war at May Day rally in N.Y. Kylie Rimes, right, got *Militant* subscription.

SWP looks to wrap up NJ ballot fight, expand support

BY TERRY EVANS

UNION CITY, N.J. — “We’re closing in on our goal of signing up over 3,200 people across New Jersey to show their support for the Socialist Workers Party being on the ballot,” Joanne Kuniansky,

Continued on page 4

SWP is the party working people are looking to join

BY MAGGIE TROWE

As Socialist Workers Party candidates are getting a real hearing, members of the party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom are heading toward the successful completion of the eight-week spring campaign to win 1,300 new *Militant* subscribers, sell 1,300 books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders and raise \$165,000 for the *Militant*

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Fidel Castro: ‘For revolutionaries, moral values outweigh weapons’

The following are excerpts from an Aug. 19, 1958, broadcast by Fidel Castro from the Sierra Maestra mountains on Radio Rebelde, the station of the Rebel Army during the

revolutionary war against the Fulgencio Batista tyranny. It is reprinted from the new Pathfinder Press book, *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia: The Example of the Cuban Revolution, which presents the political lessons drawn by Castro as the revolutionary leadership of Cuba helped efforts to bring to an end a decadeslong armed conflict in Colombia. The excerpt outlines the overall approach of the Cuban revolutionar-*

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Washington’s use of Alien Enemies Act is threat to the working class

BY TERRY EVANS

Federal judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. May 1 ordered a stop to President Donald Trump’s moves to use the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to detain and deport people accused of being members of Tren de Aragua, a criminal gang from Venezuela.

Citizens of a foreign country, regardless of their status in the U.S., can be “apprehended, restrained, secured, and removed as alien enemies” by presiden-

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Gaza protests show world that Hamas is enemy of Palestinians

BY SETH GALINSKY

The growing, courageous opposition to Hamas in Gaza is puncturing the myth pushed by its apologists around the world that Hamas and its allies are fighting for Palestinian rights.

For 18 years, Hamas beat, tortured and killed its opponents in Gaza to maintain its hold on power. It combined this brutality with an attempt to sustain a Nazi-like thug movement through indoctrinating young people to hate Jews and aspire to be “martyrs” in its reactionary war to destroy Israel.

But increasing numbers of working people in Gaza are speaking out against this course and blaming Hamas and its allies for precipitating the war that has decimated Gaza. Israel launched the war against Hamas after its death squads murdered 1,200 people in Israel Oct. 7, 2023, wounded thousands, took 251 hostages and raped dozens of women in the largest anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust. Hamas vows to do the same “over and over again.”

“Hamas, out, out!” has been a popular chant at more than a dozen protests in Gaza since March 25, calling on Hamas to disarm and free the remaining Israeli and other hostages it holds. Hundreds marched again May 1 in several areas of Gaza, chanting “we want to eat.”

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Caravan of truckers blame Tehran for port disaster, demand truth 7

Communist League in Canada: Break with the bosses' parties

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — “When the April 28 federal election was called in March by Mark Carney, who became Canada’s new Liberal prime minister when Justin Trudeau resigned, two counterposed roads faced the unions,” Philippe Tessier, the Communist League candidate for Parliament in the Montreal electoral district of Bourassa, told the *Militant* the day after the election.

Tessier works as a freight train conductor for Canadian National Railway and is a member of the Teamsters union. His running mate was Katy LeRougetel, a union industrial bakery worker and CL candidate in the Montreal electoral district of Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle.

“One was to refuse to support any of the capitalist parties and their anti-U.S. ‘Team Canada’ and ‘Canada First’ campaigns and to fight to defend the right to strike and for permanent residence for all immigrants, key to unite working people against the bosses and their governments.

“But many union officials took the opposite course, the dead-end road of supporting Carney and the Liberals, lining the major unions up with the same ruling-class forces that have been leading the attacks on political freedoms and the right to strike in a national unity campaign pitting Canadian against American workers,” Tessier said.

A majority of Canada’s capitalist rulers backed Carney, the former head of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England. They took advantage of the Donald Trump administration-initiated

tariff battles to frame the stakes in the election as whether Carney or Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative Party leader, would best be able to “defend the existence of Canada and its sovereignty.”

“Congratulations to Prime Minister Mark Carney on last night’s election victory,” said Bea Bruske, president of the Canadian Labour Congress. “Canada’s unions, representing over 3 million workers, stand ready to work with this government to deliver real progress.”

Other major unions issued similar pledges of support.

“But workers have no common class interests with the bosses, their parties and their government. Last summer I was part of the strike by thousands of freight rail workers across Canada demanding safe working conditions,” said Tessier. “Port and postal workers waged strikes for similar reasons last fall. Each time the Liberal government in Ottawa used anti-labor legislation to make these strikes illegal and forced compulsory arbitration on 70,000 workers.

“Acting on behalf of the ruling rich, the newly elected Liberal government will continue the anti-union drive of the previous administration,” he said. “It will attack the right to free expression, assembly and to strike, tools we need to organize to defend our unions and class interests.”

Three days after the election, Tessier and LeRougetel joined hundreds of unionists for an International Workers Day rally in Montreal. LeRougetel met museum worker and CSD union member Guillaume Picard there.

“There wasn’t really a satisfying al-



Militant/John Steele

Philippe Tessier, center right, rail worker and Communist League candidate, speaks with locked-out cement workers in Montreal May 1. “We need to defend our class interests,” he said.

ternative in the elections. Defending the economy and defending workers are two totally different things,” he said. “We’re in negotiations for a new union contract, and management refused our wage demands because of Trump’s tariffs. But we’re planning more actions to back up our demands.”

“That’s a good example for all unions,” said LeRougetel. “Workers need to fight for what we need against the bosses and their government.”

Class break needed

These questions and more were discussed at a Communist League campaign rally hosted by the Militant Labor Forum April 26.

LeRougetel pointed to the Communist League’s campaign leaflet, which said: “The fight for workers power is key for humanity to move forward.”

“The only force that can stop imperialism’s march toward fascism and a nuclear third world war is the working class,” LeRougetel said. “The Communist League campaigns 365 days a year to build the kind of party that can help lead millions of working people to take power out of the hands of the warmongers and join the international fight for socialism.”

“Our campaign begins with the world,” Tessier added, “and the need to break from the bosses’ parties.” He described how he began his campaign by taking part in the February Havana In-

ternational Book Fair in Cuba and then brought solidarity to the largely Haitian Sugarcane Workers Union at their conference in the Dominican Republic.

Campaign supporters marched with striking education workers in Alberta and with the 8,000 child care workers who protested at the National Assembly in Quebec City April 3 for higher pay and better conditions. They rallied in defense of the Ukrainian people’s fight for sovereignty and joined actions in defense of Israel as a refuge against Jew-hatred and pogroms.

“The two great socialist revolutions of the 20th century — the October 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by Vladimir Lenin and the 1959 Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro — that led millions to uproot capitalism and take political power into their own hands,” Tessier said, “prove that the fight for workers power is not only necessary, but possible.”

Join our campaign to introduce the SWP candidates, sell 1,300 subscriptions and 1,300 books and raise \$165,000 to fund the ‘Militant’! Contact the nearest party branch listed on page 8.

Moscow imprisons teenager for backing Ukraine

For the “crime” of speaking out in defense of Ukraine’s sovereignty, Darya Kozyreva, 19, was sentenced to two years and eight months in a Russian prison April 18. “Our people bled for their freedom over centuries,” she told the court. “They will not surrender it now.”



Mediazona

Russian teen Darya Kozyreva, imprisoned for speaking out for Ukrainian sovereignty.

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‘Morals outweigh weapons’

Continued from front page

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A full transcript of the Spanish broadcast is included in *Castro’s La contraofensiva estratégica (The Strategic Counteroffensive)*, published in 2010 by the Office of Publications of Cuba’s Council of State.

BY FIDEL CASTRO

The wounded and all other prisoners have been released without conditions. It might seem illogical to free enemy prisoners in the midst of a war. That depends on what kind of war it is, and the concept one has of the war.

War requires a policy toward the adversary as well as a policy toward the civilian population. War is not simply a question of rifles, bullets, artillery, and planes. Maybe that belief of ours is one of the reasons for the failure of the tyranny’s forces.

Our apostle José Martí said that what matters is not the number of weapons in hand but the number of stars on one’s forehead. Those words might have seemed merely poetic — but they have proved to be a profound truth for us.

From the moment of the *Granma* landing, we carried out an unwavering line of conduct regarding treatment of the adversary. Very seldom in history, perhaps, has anyone adhered to that line of conduct as rigorously as we have.

Since the first battle at La Plata on January 17, 1957, to the last battle at Las Mercedes in early August [1958], more than six hundred members of the armed forces have been captured just by the Rebel Army front in the Sierra Maestra.

With the legitimate pride of those who follow ethical norms, we can say that, without exception, Rebel Army combatants have followed its laws regarding prisoners. No prisoner’s life has ever been taken. No wounded soldier has ever been left without medical attention.

But we can say more: No prisoner has ever been beaten. And furthermore: No prisoner has ever been insulted or humiliated.

Every officer whom we’ve taken

prisoner can testify to the fact that none was subjected to interrogations, because of our respect for them as human beings and as soldiers.

The victories won by our weapons — without murdering, torturing, or even interrogating an adversary — demonstrate that no affront to human dignity can ever be justified. This attitude has been maintained over twenty months of combat and more than a hundred clashes and battles. It speaks for itself about the conduct of the Rebel Army. Today, in the midst of human passions, this record is valued less than it will be when the history of the revolution is written.

In the human sense, the fact that we follow this line right now, when we are stronger, is not as commendable as it was earlier, when we were a handful of men hunted down like animals in the rugged mountains. It was then, around the time of the battles at La Plata and Uvero [in January and May 1957], that respecting the lives of prisoners had a deep moral significance.

If the forces of the tyranny had respected the lives of adversaries who fell into their hands, even this record would have been nothing more than an elementary duty of reciprocity. But to the contrary, torture and death were the certain fate that awaited any rebel, any sympathizer of our cause, or anyone simply suspected of supporting our cause who fell into enemy hands.

In many cases, unfortunate peasants were murdered in order to pile up corpses that could justify the fake reports of the tyranny’s high command. For our part, we can state truthfully that the six hundred members of the armed forces who at some point were in our hands remain alive and are with their families today. In contrast, the dictatorship would have to say that more than six hundred defenseless compatriots, in many cases individuals not involved in any revolutionary activity, were murdered by its forces during those twenty months of war. Killing does not make anyone stronger.

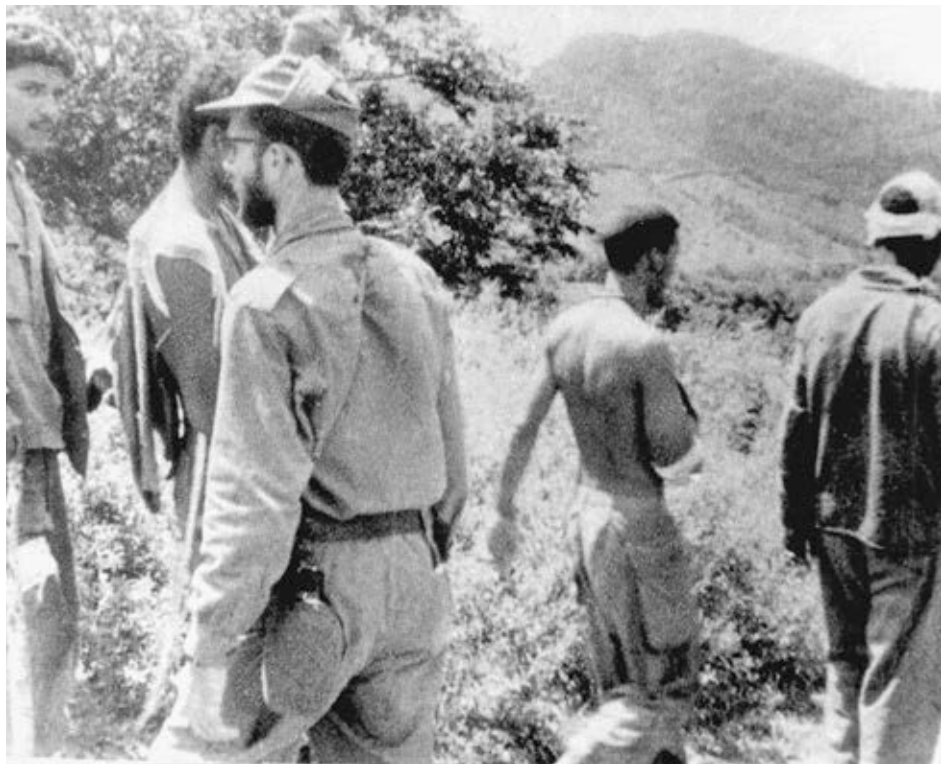
Join campaign to raise funds to send pacemakers to people in need in Cuba

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

“What would you do if your relative, co-worker, or friend had a heart condition and couldn’t get the needed pacemaker?” Global Health Partners asks in a new appeal to raise \$150,000 over the next several months to send 150 pacemakers to Cuba. In 2024, contributions made it possible to send 380 of them. More are needed.

The decadeslong U.S. economic war against Cuba, carried out by every administration since Cuba’s 1959 revolution, from John F. Kennedy to Donald Trump’s White House, has blocked Cuba’s access to many medicines and essential supplies, including lifesaving pacemakers. Washington’s inclusion of Cuba on its list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism” has sharply intensified hardships for the Cuban people, squeezing vital imports of raw materials, fuel, medicine and food.

In Washington’s latest move, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Feb. 25 the U.S. government would



Granma

Rebel Army turns captured soldiers of dictator Fulgencio Batista over to Red Cross in mid-1958 in Sierra Maestra. “No prisoner’s life has ever been taken, no wounded soldier left without medical care,” Fidel Castro said. “No prisoner has ever been beaten, insulted, or humiliated.”

Killing has made them weaker. Not killing has made us stronger.

Why don’t we murder the soldiers we capture?

First, because only cowards and thugs murder an enemy who has surrendered.

Second, because the Rebel Army cannot fall into the same practices as the tyranny it is fighting against.

Third, because the dictatorship’s policy and propaganda have essentially consisted of portraying revolutionaries as sworn ruthless enemies of every man wearing the uniform of the armed forces.

Through lies and deceit, the dictatorship has made every effort to get soldiers to identify with the regime, to make them believe that by fighting against the revolution they are fighting for their careers and their own lives. It would suit the dictatorship better if we didn’t treat the wounded, if we didn’t respect the lives of prisoners, if instead we murdered them all without exception. Then the tyranny might convince every member of the armed forces that they must fight to the last drop of blood.

Fourth, because acts of cruelty are stupid in any war, and even more so

in a civil war, where those engaged in fighting will some day have to live side by side with each other — where perpetrators will have to face the children, wives, and mothers of their victims.

Fifth, because for the generations to come, we must counterpose the inspiring and edifying example our combatants are setting to the shameful and depressing actions taken by the dictatorship’s torturers and assassins.

Sixth, because we need to plant today the seeds of fraternity that must prevail in the future homeland we are building for all and for the good of all. If those who fight squarely prove capable of respecting the life of an adversary who surrenders, then tomorrow, during peacetime, no one will feel entitled to commit acts of vengeance or political crimes.

If there is justice in the republic, there should be no vengeance.

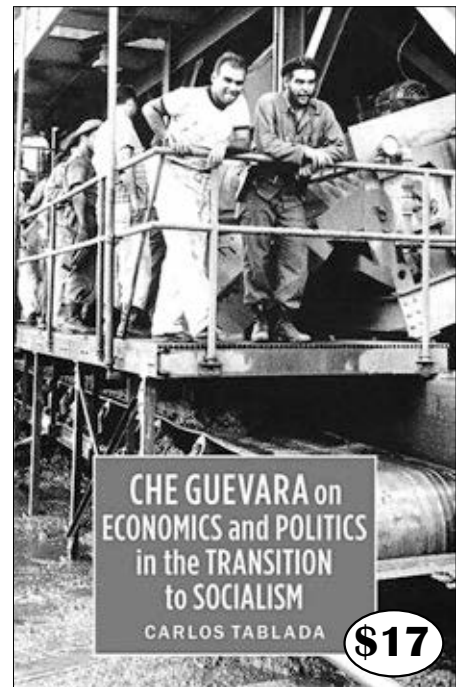
Why do we release the prisoners? ...

Victory in war depends on a minimum of weapons and a maximum of moral values. ...

A prisoner who was released is the strongest refutation of the tyranny’s false propaganda. ...

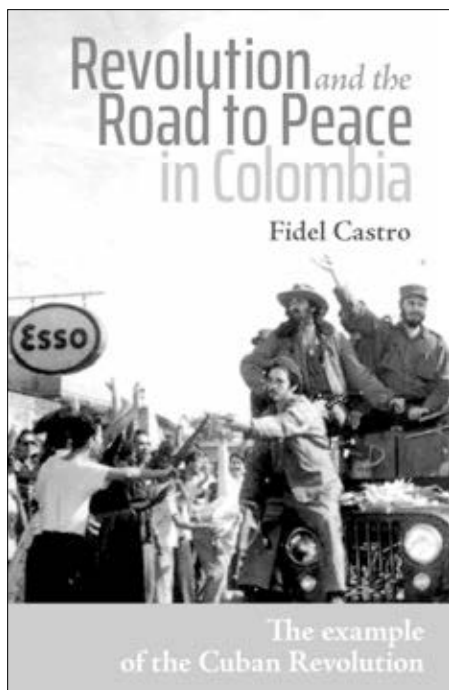
I am completely convinced that if just for one day, instead of fighting, we could bring together all the revolutionaries and all the soldiers to meet and talk with each other, the tyranny would disappear in an instant and a long and sincere peace would begin, for many years.

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SWP to wrap up ballot fight

Continued from front page
the SWP candidate for governor, told the *Militant* May 6.

“The sharpening pace of world events, with big stakes for the working class, is drawing millions into politics,” Kuniansky said. “And when we introduce the Socialist Workers Party and its efforts to organize working people in their millions to take political power into our own hands, they’re interested.

“That’s true of the party’s response to the protracted and unresolved crisis in the Middle East, our unequivocal defense of Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews,” Kuniansky said.

She pointed to the statement by Iran’s foreign minister May 3 that Tehran intends to continue enriching uranium. “That can only have one aim, to build a nuclear weapon to use against Israel, to unleash another Holocaust.

“More and more people see the SWP as the party working people need,” Kuniansky said.

“The party also gets a positive response when we raise the need for an amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S. in order to unify and strengthen the fighting capacity of the working class,” she said.

“The sweeps in working-class neighborhoods and factories by immigration police, and calls on workers without papers to ‘self-deport,’ pose the importance of the labor movement rejecting all attempts to criminalize and scapegoat immigrant workers,” Kuniansky said.

To date, SWP campaigners in New Jersey have collected 2,740 signatures and sold 121 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 102 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries and 370 copies of the paper. The party is required to submit 2,000 signatures to get on the ballot.

SWP campaigners got a good reception among participants at a May 1 march in Newark organized by the im-

migrant rights organization Cosecha. Folere Larame was part of a group of Service Employees International Union Local 1199 members who joined the action. “The world is becoming increasingly dangerous, with more trade conflicts that can become military conflicts,” Kuniansky said. “The working class is the only force that can stop this.” “Imperialism cannot hide any more,” Larame agreed. “The world is seeing it for what it is.” This system will not fall of its own accord, Kuniansky said. She pointed to the examples for working people today of revolutionary leaders like Fidel Castro, Malcolm X and Thomas Sankara. Larame knew about Sankara and the popular revolution he led in Burkina Faso between 1983 and 1987. It was overthrown by a military coup.

Need for revolutionary leadership
“They can kill revolutionaries, but their ideas survive,” Larame said. She got a subscription to the *Militant* and bought *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions* by Sankara and *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*.

SWP campaigners also discussed the fight against imperialism and war with participants at a May Day event in Bloomfield. Adam, who didn’t want to give his last name, told this *Militant* correspondent he’d been in the U.S. Army in Kuwait. “I’m opposed to the global war on terror,” he said. “It was done for the interests of



Militant/Gale Shangold
At May Day march in Newark organized by Cosecha, Joanne Kuniansky, left, SWP candidate for governor of New Jersey, talks with Folere Larame, one of a group of SEIU Local 1199 members who joined the action. “Imperialism cannot hide anymore,” Larame told Kuniansky.

the business class.” The U.S. military intervention in the Middle East today is carried out to prop up the U.S. rulers’ waning domination of the world imperialist order, I said, “not for the interests of the peoples of the region, nor working people here.” “What is the U.S. doing bombing Yemen? That war has never been voted on,” he said. He got copies of *Washington’s Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III* and *Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun*, articles featured in *New International* nos. 7 and 12. They explain the origins of the deepening crises facing workers worldwide. The potential of what working people can do together to change the worsening conditions we face and to

break from the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties underlies much of the interest in the SWP today. “Workers need to have their voices heard,” Monique Smith, a Teamsters member, told SWP campaigners at a Walmart parking lot in Saddle Brook April 2. “The rich keep getting richer, while we’re just struggling to survive,” Smith said as she signed up to put Kuniansky on the ballot and got a subscription to the *Militant*. Kuniansky will speak at an open house in New York May 9 and a rally in Union City May 10, along with Craig Honts, the SWP’s candidate for lieutenant governor, and Paul Mailhot, the party’s candidate for mayor of New York. Both events start at 7 p.m. See locations in the directory on page 8.

UK court: ‘women’ are a biological fact, not a gender

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ
LONDON — In an issue with big stakes for the working class, the Supreme Court of the U.K. here ruled April 16 that the words “sex,” “woman” and “man” refer to biological facts. The group For Women Scotland challenged the decision of the Scottish government that interpreted equal rights legislation to mean that men who identify as women are women.

The ruling registers progress in the fightback against assaults on women’s rights. Protections fought for and won by women and the workers’ movement over decades, such as women-only sports, have come under attack as anti-scientific notions about a multiplicity of “genders” have been recognized by capitalist institutions and peddled by bourgeois politicians. Women’s studies courses were replaced with gender studies. Attacks on free speech and thuggery directed at defenders of women’s rights accompanied these developments.

The Supreme Court’s verdict says that only the biological understanding of the words “sex” and “woman” allows for an accurate reading of the 2010 Equality Act. It says this definition facilitates the provision of women-only hospital wards and changing rooms, medical services such as cervical cancer screening, domestic violence refuges, rape crisis centers, and for the organizing of women’s sports. The court underlines that the Equality Act protects transgender people from discrimination and the new ruling does not eliminate this. Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer was asked whether he still held to the views he previously stated that men who identify as women were women. Starmer’s official spokesman replied, “No, the Supreme Court judgment has made clear that when looking at the Equality Act, a woman is a biological woman.” Last year Labour Member of Parliament Rosie Duffield quit the party after being subjected to death threats and an investigation by the party’s National Executive Committee for expressing the view that only people with a cervix should be described as women. She’d been shouted down in Parliament by Labour MPs when she raised concerns about women’s rights. The National Health Service in Fife, Scotland, says it has noted the high court ruling. Last year, nurse Sandie Peggie was suspended from her job at a hospital there for objecting to having to change in the women’s locker room in the presence of a transgender male doctor who identified as a woman. Peggie is fighting to get her job back. Separately, five women nurses launched a legal case last year against County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust after being forced out of a changing room when they com-

plained about having to share it with a man who identifies as a woman. The positive impact of the ruling can be seen elsewhere. In a change of policy, the Football Association said that men who identify as women would no longer be allowed to participate in the women’s game in England. England and Wales Cricket Board and England Netball authorities have said the same. “It took three extraordinary, tenacious Scottish women with an army behind them to get this case heard by the Supreme Court and, in winning, they’ve protected the rights of women and girls across the U.K.,” author J.K. Rowling said after the ruling. Rowling has faced threats and calls for her books to be banned for speaking out against the unscientific claim that women and men are subjective categories that can be changed at will. Members of For Women Scotland received death threats following the ruling, although they say the well-wishes they’ve received far outnumber these. “It would never occur to us to send messages like this or to call our opponents ugly,” one of the group’s founders, Susan Smith, told the press. “But we get this every day.” Opponents of the ruling say they will take the government and Supreme Court to the European Court of Human Rights. Accepting the reality of the biological difference between men and women is essential if workers are to advance the fight for women’s emancipation and defend our class interests. Under capitalism, bosses use women’s second-class status to divide the working class, superexploit women and drive down the wages of all working people.

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Atlanta	55	44	55	36	\$10,000	\$7,172
Chicago	65	52	65	48	\$13,500	\$11,158
Cincinnati	50	42	50	48	\$5,000	\$2,619
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	49	60	36	\$5,000	\$3,772
Los Angeles	100	111	100	132	\$15,500	\$9,296
Miami	30	26	30	57	\$5,000	\$2,927
Minneapolis	65	58	65	47	\$5,500	\$3,190
N. New Jersey	70	52	70	53	\$7,500	\$5,930
New York	90	60	90	65	\$20,500	\$15,519
Oakland*	100	87	110	106	\$15,000	\$13,202
Philadelphia	50	44	50	42	\$5,500	\$4,265
Pittsburgh	50	40	50	37	\$6,000	\$3,051
Seattle*	65	50	70	74	\$15,000	\$10,416
Washington	45	33	50	42	\$4,500	\$2,868
Other		28		267		\$3,390
Total U.S.	895	776	915	1,090	\$133,500	\$98,774
Prisoners		81				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	43	45	38	\$3,000	\$2,450
Manchester*	40	37	60	53	\$1,200	\$650
Total U.K.	85	80	105	91	\$4,200	\$3,100
Canada	90	64	100	90	\$11,350	\$9,075
Australia	30	19	30	19	\$4,500	\$3,600
Total	1,100	1,020	1,150	1,290	\$153,550	\$114,549
SHOULD BE	1,300	975	1,300	975	\$165,000	\$123,750
* Raised goal						

‘The SWP is the anti-war party’

Continued from front page

Fighting Fund. They are meeting workers who want to know more about the Socialist Workers Party, read its books and get its paper out to others.

Jacquie Henderson reports that socialists in Cincinnati have been calling people they have met recently about the party and its activities. Henderson called Alexis Ashmore, a member of the American Postal Workers Union, who she and Cincinnati SWP City Council candidate Ned Measel met in March at a protest in Frankfort, Kentucky, against government attacks on postal workers.

Ashmore was enthusiastic about the *Militant* and wanted to renew her subscription. “I want to share this paper with my co-workers and friends,” she told Henderson. “I have looked over the books featured in the paper and I think they will be helpful too.” She ordered three books — *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women; Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*; and *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* — and donated \$50 to the Militant Fighting Fund. “We’re mailing the books to Alexis, and we plan to arrange a get-together soon to talk more,” Henderson said.

May 1 workers’ demonstrations

At the “A Day Without Immigrants” rally in St. Paul, Minnesota, attended by several thousand people May 1, SWP Minneapolis mayoral candidate Kevin Dwire and supporters set up a table and found interest in the *Militant*’s coverage of protests against Hamas in Gaza. They sold a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* and *The Jewish Question*, as well as eight other

books and 12 *Militant* subscriptions.

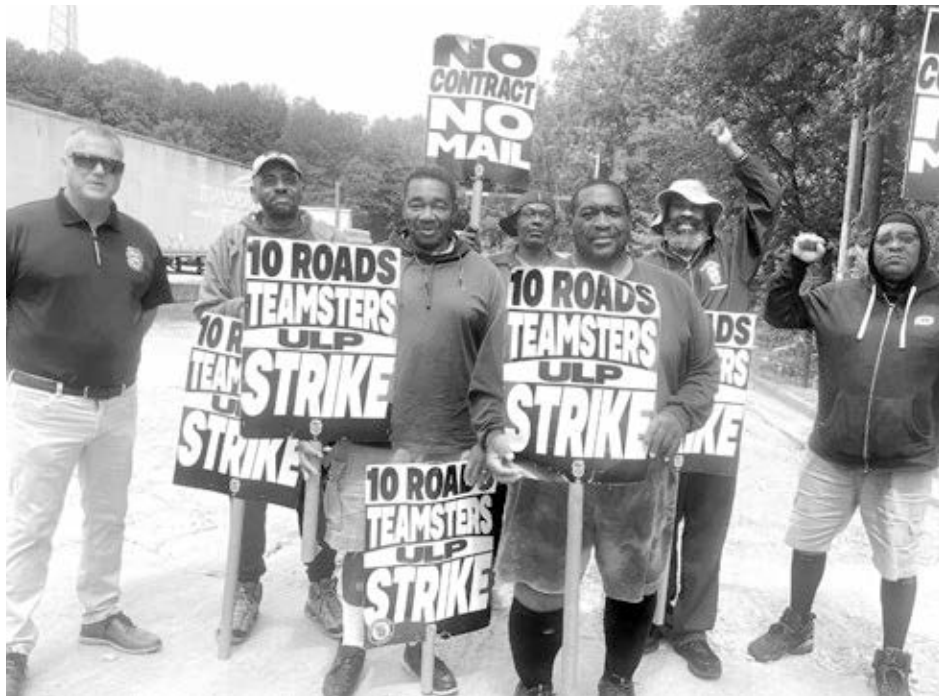
“While campaigning for Laura Anderson, SWP candidate for Miami mayor, at the May 1 action in front of the Social Security Administration building we ran into several people who expressed appreciation of the SWP and its clear stand against Jew-hatred,” Rachele Fruit reports. “And concern about the threat of war was on the mind of many.”

“I’m just getting involved in politics for the first time,” Jean Carlos Oliver told Anderson. “I think it’s important for us to educate ourselves by reading about what other revolutionaries did in the past.” He subscribed to the *Militant* and got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

“Many workers are taking a stand against the government’s deportation of unionist Kilmar Abrego Garcia,” Tony Lane, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh mayor, told the *Militant*. Abrego Garcia is a sheet metal worker wrongly deported to El Salvador by Washington.

Last week Lane and others went to a celebration of the birthday of August Wilson, the noted African American playwright who lived in and wrote about the Hill District, Pittsburgh’s historic Black community. Lawanda McCord told Lane she was pleased to see the *Militant*’s coverage of the fight for Abrego Garcia’s return. Six people at the celebration subscribed to the *Militant* and five books were sold.

In Palmetto, Georgia, three members of Teamsters Local 728 on strike against 10 Roads Express have subscribed to the *Militant* and one bought *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, an account of the 1934 organizing drive and strike that made Minneapolis a union town. The drivers there have been on strike for



Militant/Susan LaMont

Teamsters Local 728 members are on strike against 10 Roads Express in Palmetto, Georgia, above, and in 10 other states. Three of the strikers there have subscribed to the *Militant*.

three months, reports Susan LaMont, SWP candidate for Atlanta mayor.

Many workers who see the *Militant* for the first time decide to kick in a contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund. The paper is entirely financed by contributions from working people.

Many May Day rallies attracted numbers of unionists and immigrant workers, fighting for amnesty for immigrants in the U.S. and in support of workers on strike in their area, while some were smaller with a larger component of leftist groups.

The April 27 May Day rally in Dallas, unlike the large rally there on Cesar Chavez Day March 31, was dominated by these forces. Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for mayor of Fort Worth, Texas, attended along with supporters.

“When a rally marshal told us we were not welcome because of our position defending Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews and our opposition to the ef-

forts of Hamas and its backers in Tehran to carry out another Holocaust, we stood our ground,” reported Kennedy. “We explained we had built support for May Day and the fight to defend immigrant rights and union fights today, including the return of Abrego Garcia.

“One speaker from the platform and other marshals repeated the demand we leave. In response, a number of workers came up to the table to discuss what had happened and say they disagreed with the attempt to shut the party down.

“One of the marshals tried to stop people from talking to us at our table, but after a few minutes saw they weren’t having any success and left. We kept discussing politics and ended up selling a *Militant* subscription and some books,” Kennedy said.

Socialist Workers Party campaigners report real interest in the paper, its reports on world politics and the road forward for the working class offered by the SWP and its candidates. The campaign runs through May 20. The Seattle branch just raised its quotas and the Oakland branch raised its quotas a second time. Several branches report they expect to go over their Militant Fighting Fund quotas, which will help achieve the \$165,000 international goal.

You can find out about how to join the SWP by contacting the branch nearest you listed in the *Militant* distributors directory on page 8.

Ukraine unions on May Day: Defend national sovereignty

BY JANET POST

As part of Moscow’s ongoing missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities and workplaces, Russian military forces attacked the mining towns of Dobropillia April 30 and Pavlohrad April 25, where three were killed and 15 injured. The Pavlohrad coal complex is the largest mine in Ukraine.

The mine rescue headquarters in Dobropillia was hit around 5 a.m. “There were about 30 people on duty. One person was injured, others suffered trauma, though considering the scale of the attack, it’s a miracle that no one was killed,” said Mykhailo Volynets, president of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine. What the Russian forces do is launch “kamikaze drones at the mines and then strike the rescuers who are on standby, ready to respond to calls for help.”

Dobropillia is only 12 miles from the front. On March 7, a massive missile, artillery and drone attack there killed 11 people and injured 49.

Many Ukrainian miners volunteered for the army at the onset of war, with more joining or being conscripted since. Steel plants and coal mines face growing shortages of workers. “Ukraine’s mining towns are an essential link of the dwindling supply chain keeping the national steelworks industry afloat,” NPR said in December. The industry is running at “around a third of the output level before Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022.”

“In just the first four months of

2025, Russia has attacked with missiles and kamikaze drones enterprises and infrastructure employing thousands of our trade union colleagues in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Pavlohrad, Kamianske, Pokrovsk, Kryvyi Rih, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia and other cities,” the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine said in a state-

ment issued on May 1, International Workers Day.

“But we are not ready to surrender our land, our cities, or our people to the enemy, because we know that Russia has systematically implemented a regime of terror and violated civil liberties and human rights, including labor rights, in the territories it occupies.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

May 15, 2000

When Elián González was found adrift off Florida last November, “the proper procedure would have been to immediately return the child to his country of origin,” Cuban president Fidel Castro told a rally in Havana on May Day. That is how Washington would have proceeded had the child been from anywhere in the world but Cuba.

The U.S. government refused even to respond “to the diplomatic note demanding the return of the child as requested by the father,” the Cuban president said.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service demanded to travel to Cuba to meet with Juan Miguel González in his hometown to determine his fitness as a father. What imperial arrogance! Cuban sovereignty and the Cuban revolution have been the issues underlying Washington’s use and abuse of a six-year-old.

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 16, 1975

Evelyn Reed, feminist, Marxist anthropologist, and author of *Woman’s Evolution*, will appear with Prof. Walter Goldschmidt at the University of California at Los Angeles for a debate on her feminist challenge to academic anthropology. Goldschmidt is head of the UCLA departments of anthropology and sociology. The debate signals a major recognition among anthropologists that Reed’s work warrants attention.

Woman’s Evolution challenges the anti-evolutionary assumptions currently popular in the field and champions the position that women — through the matriarchal stage of human development — led the transition from animal behavior to human civilization.

The debate is the next leg of a five-month tour. Throughout the school year Reed will be touring major cities in the United States and Canada.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 15, 1950

Truman’s Supreme Court last week struck a mortal blow at the Bill of Rights by upholding the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley Act’s “non-communist affidavit” provision. The Loyalty Board and Loyalty Oath have invaded our school system to stifle all semblance of academic freedom.

The Taft-Hartley oath will have the most evil effect on the ranks of the organized labor movement. Under its provisions union members are deprived of the right to elect officials who they feel can best represent their interests regardless of political belief.

With the Supreme Court placing its approval on the Taft-Hartley oath, organized labor will become the target of intensified reaction. Only the firm belief in militant independent working-class methods and the will to engage in struggle to the end can avoid catastrophe.

Defend rights of immigrants



April 30 march in Olympia, Washington, demands immigration police release Alfredo “Lelo” Juarez Zeferino, a leader of farmworkers union Familias Unidas por la Justicia, from detention.

Continued from front page
U.S. Supreme Court has ordered the White House to facilitate his return.
“On behalf of our unions and the more than 15 million workers we represent, we write to ask for an urgent meeting to discuss the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and request his immediate release from detention and return to the United States,” the AFL-CIO and other unions said in a May 1 letter to the Salvadoran ambassador to the U.S.

It is signed by Elizabeth Shuler, president of the AFL-CIO; Michael Coleman, general president of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, Abrego Garcia’s union; Gwen Mill, president of UNITE HERE; and James Williams Jr., general president of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.
“The vilification, dehumanization and erosion of rights and due process for immigrants in the United States is a direct threat to the rights of all working people,” the unions said. “We demand release and full due process for all other workers who have been unjustly arrested or deported, and jailed in El Salvador.”

Below are reports on some of the actions across the country.

‘My husband was illegally detained because of gov’t error’
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Several thousand people filled the streets here May 1 with union contingents and members from SMART, UNITE HERE, Communications Workers of America, Laborers’ International Union of North America, National Education Association, Service Employees International Union 32BJ and others. CASA, an immigration rights group in Maryland, sponsored the event and led off the march.

Demonstrators carried signs “Due process for all” — referring to the government’s deportations while offering no chance for those picked up to show there is no basis for their removal — and “Immigrant rights are workers’ rights.” Chants of “Sí se puede” and “Who do we want? Kilmar. When do we want him? Now!” rang out.
At the Lafayette Park rally, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, Abrego Garcia’s wife, was the keynote speaker. “My husband was illegally detained, abducted and disappeared, thrown into one of the most dangerous prisons in El Salvador

to die with no due process — because of the government’s error,” she said. “The highest court in the nation has ruled that Kilmar should be returned home, so why are we still waiting?”
“My strength comes from my faith, and you guys, CASA and the unions. Keep fighting not just for Kilmar but for every family fighting to be reunited with their loved one,” she said.
Vasquez Sura faces not only the fight to bring her husband back, but an unrelenting U.S. government campaign to violate her right to privacy, in an effort to excuse its illegal conduct by criminalizing her and her family.
“She is under tremendous pressure — not only from the U.S. government, but from the state in El Salvador. They paint a picture of the prison that Kilmar is in as being like summer camp. But don’t be fooled. It is run by the guards and the gangs,” Carmen Rodriguez, a protester originally from El Salvador, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent at the rally. “A discussion is opening up in El Salvador about what we face and what to do about it.”
Other speakers at the rally included Becky Pringle, president of the NEA, and Jaime Contreras, executive vice president of SEIU 32BJ.

Later on May Day, 200 UNITE HERE Local 25 members and supporters held an informational picket line at the newly reopened Occidental restaurant to support restaurant workers’ right to organize unions in D.C. Local 25 is organizing at several restaurants here owned by the STARR restaurant group, including St. Anselm, where the union won an election.

Thousands rally in Seattle and around the state
SEATTLE — Over 2,000 people rallied at the Cal Anderson Park here and marched through downtown demanding due process for immigrants facing deportation. The rally was built by the Washington State Labor Council and included members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 3000 and the SEIU.
Joining the action were more than 100 faculty members, staff and students who had walked out at Seattle Central College.

Havana May Day march celebrates socialist revolution



More than 600,000 working people marched in Havana May 1, International Workers Day, and tens of thousands more paraded through other cities and towns across Cuba in a massive celebration and expression of pride in their socialist revolution and determination to resist the U.S. rulers’ bipartisan economic war against them. The Havana action was led by a contingent of health care workers under the slogan, “For Cuba, Together We Create.”
Among those presiding over the rally were Army Gen. Raúl Castro, a longtime leader of the revolution; Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel; and Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC).
Days before the parade, Díaz-Canel sent out a message urging a big turnout for this special day. “More than 30 years ago, after the fall of socialism in Europe, the massive celebrations of this day were limited to a few countries, Cuba among them,” he wrote. “With legitimate pride, today we can say that in the midst of the most severe shortages we never ceased to raise the banners of socialism.”
— BRIAN WILLIAMS

Demonstrators said teachers face threats of layoffs and furloughs. “The state has not been investing in higher education for decades,” Helena Romero, a teacher at the school, told the media.
In Tacoma, some 800 people rallied May 1 and marched to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Northwest Detention Center, where Alfredo “Lelo” Juarez Zeferino, a leader of the farmworkers union, Familias Unidas por la Justicia, is being held. He was arrested March 25 and threatened with deportation. A hearing in his case has been set for November.
Protesters also demanded freedom for other workers and union members who have been threatened with deportation.

This includes Lewelyn Dixon, a member of SEIU Local 925, who is also detained at this facility, and 37 workers arrested April 2 at the Mt. Baker Roofing Company warehouse in Bellingham.
On April 30, 75 people marched in Olympia, the state capital, demanding Gov. Robert Ferguson take action to free Juarez.
More than 500 people marched and rallied in Yakima, another farmworker center. “It’s time to ask for amnesty for all immigrants. It’s time to organize to make sure our brothers and sisters are not disappeared,” Dulce Gutierrez, a former Yakima City Council member, told the crowd.
— Jacob Perasso

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Gaza protests show world

Continued from front page

Hamas blames Israel — which stopped allowing food, fuel and medicine shipments into Gaza March 2 — for shortages and skyrocketing prices. Israeli officials and people in Gaza say Hamas has stockpiled a large part of the aid for its own use, along with selling much of it at inflated prices that most people can't afford.

Hamas threatens protesters in Gaza

Hamas is stepping up threats against those who dare to oppose it. A leaked Hamas internal security report on the protests in northern Gaza admits "there is widespread public discontent."

The report lists some 30 people Hamas is targeting for helping to organize the protests, especially in Beit Lahiya, a center of the largest actions. This includes members of Fatah, Hamas' main rival; leaders of capitalist clans; small businessmen; and many workers, including some who worked inside Israel before Hamas carried out the Oct. 7 pogrom.

On May 1 Hamas released a statement saying it was planning "a large-scale campaign against traitors and spies." A masked group of Hamas thugs in Gaza City used loudspeakers to threaten "anyone who says Hamas is finished." It imposed a 9 p.m. curfew, saying any violator would be "considered a collaborator with the [Israeli] occupation."

In a failed attempt to quell opposition, Hamas murdered at least 11 people in the first week of May alone, shot dozens in the legs and tortured others.

Divisions inside Hamas

But Hamas' brutality is fueling opposition to its rule and causing division among its own supporters.

On April 30 masked men opened fire on a crowd near a United Nations Relief and Works Agency center in Gaza City. They were gathered in desperation looking for food. One of those they killed was Mohammed Hamdi Yassin, a member of a Hamas-affiliated clan.

The Yassin family issued an unusual public statement May 1, saying it would not "at this time cast accusations against any specific party." But they demanded that the identity of the killer be revealed and "held accountable regardless of who backs him or how powerful they may be."

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces has stepped up its military operations against Hamas. The IDF now

controls at least 40% of Gaza. On May 4 it called up tens of thousands of reservists for its next offensive.

Israel's security cabinet also approved a plan May 5 to resume humanitarian aid to Gaza, through as many as 10 distribution sites run by private U.S. security contractors, instead of U.N. and other aid agencies that have a record of collaborating with Hamas.

According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the Israeli army plans to evacuate all civilians from northern Gaza and send them to the southern part of the Strip. This would allow the Israeli forces to strike Hamas with fewer civilian casualties. But that would also create new challenges for working people in the north who are organizing to get rid of Hamas.

Ending Hamas' rule is decisive for working people being able to organize to advance their own interests. It would help open the door to working people in Israel and throughout the region seeing that Jewish, Muslim, Christian and other workers have common class interests.

Seven-front war

Israel still faces serious threats in a seven-front war led by the reactionary bourgeois regime in Iran. Though greatly weakened — for now — Tehran is looking to rebuild its proxy forces, which includes Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, Tehran-organized militias in Iraq and Syria, and terror squads in the West Bank. Decisive conflicts remain unresolved.

Getting through Israeli and U.S. anti-missile fire, a Houthi ballistic missile struck very close to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport May 4. Some 18 airlines temporarily cancelled their flights.

Tehran has financed, armed and trained the Houthi forces, who have declared that their goal is the "eradication" of the Jews and the "elimination of their entity [Israel]."

Despite previous, mostly unsuccessful Houthi attempts to strike Israel, the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had refrained from attacking sites in Yemen at the request of President Donald Trump.

On May 5, 20 Israeli air force jets struck Yemen's Hudaydah port, a conduit for weapons from Iran; factories used for building weapons and military infrastructure; and the airport in Sanaa.

Hours later, without notifying Israel,



Three of those recently murdered by Hamas in wake of spreading protests. Top, clockwise: Munther Yaseen and Tamer Kafarneh, reported to have been executed for trying to stop thugs from looting aid warehouse; Ziad Shalouf, a well-known figure in Khan Younis.



the White House announced a ceasefire deal with the Houthis, halting the U.S. rulers' bombardment of areas of Yemen in exchange for an end to Houthi attacks on commercial shipping. Israel is not covered by the deal.

Washington's military intervention in the Middle East is aimed at advancing stability for its own imperialist interests, and at winning Tehran away from ties with Beijing, the U.S. rulers' main rival. For the capitalist rulers in Washington, Israel's need to defend itself is subordinate to these goals.

U.S. negotiators are pressing for Tehran to agree to a deal that would put some limits on its stockpile of nuclear material, similar to the deal made by Barack Obama in 2015.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi insisted Iran "has every right" to enrich uranium, a process whose only goal is getting nuclear weapons.

Caravans of truckers blame regime in Tehran for port disaster, demand truth

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of truck drivers joined dozens of caravans all across Iran to protest the government's disregard for the life and safety of workers in the wake of the April 26 explosion that leveled much of Sahid Rajaei port in Bandar Abbas province. At least 57 workers were killed and some 1,200 wounded.

Some caravans were more than 3 miles long. At times bus and van drivers joined in. Many of those killed or wounded were truckers who transport cargo to and from the port, the largest in the country.

Nearly half of all the Jews in the world live in Israel alongside some 2 million Arab citizens of the country. Even one crude nuclear weapon could cause a new Holocaust. Netanyahu seeks Washington's support, but acts on the fact that Israel must be ready to fight alone.

Working people everywhere should support Israel if it undertakes targeted strikes to destroy Tehran's nuclear weapons capacity.

The Truckers and Drivers Union of Iran is demanding "accountability, transparency and full compensation — material and moral — for the bereaved families affected by this bitter tragedy."

Dozens of relatives of those killed or still missing blocked access to the port May 3, demanding government action to identify all the remains.

Another "harsh reality is coming to light: Many of the victims were Baluch laborers who had no birth certificates, no recorded names," wrote Iranian journalist Setareh Hojjati. "These are workers who came from impoverished villages in Baluchistan, looking for a bite to eat — working for low wages, with no insurance, and no safety."

Baluchs are an oppressed nationality in Iran and neighboring Pakistan. Tehran denies government IDs to thousands of Baluch, claiming they are foreigners, even though they spend their whole lives in Iran. Contractors who hired them without legal papers are afraid to report them missing, said Hojjati.

The government admits the cargo that exploded was dangerous, but had not been declared as such, violating port rules. But few workers believe its denial that the cargo contained explosive chemicals purchased to make fuel for ballistic missiles the regime uses to target Israel.

The May 4 solidarity convoy in Shahreza, Isfahan, declared, "The blood of the nameless, voiceless worker will not be silenced. As long as the truth remains untold, the roads will not be quiet."

Hamas' origins in Jew-hating pogroms, ties to Nazis

Hamas isn't now and never was a movement for Palestinian national rights. Its roots are in the reactionary Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood and the Jew-hating course led by Amin al-Husseini, appointed grand mufti of Jerusalem by the British colonial rulers of Palestine in 1921.

Al-Husseini, a member of a prosperous landowning family, used Jew-hatred to keep workers and exploited farmers from challenging the rule of the semifeudal landlords and rising capitalist class in Palestine and to block them from forging ties of common struggle with Jewish workers. He helped organize brutal pogroms against Jews in 1929 and 1936-38.

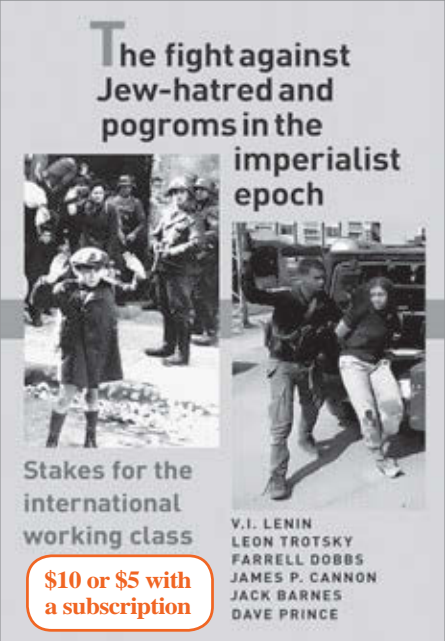
Hamas' long history of murdering its opponents and its killing of leaders of the protests in Gaza today is also in continuity with al-Husseini. He frequently ordered his agents to murder anyone, including members of other landlord families, who challenged his authority or were open to cooperation with Jews.

Al-Husseini met with Adolf Hitler and collaborated with the Nazis during World War II, spewing Nazi rhetoric on Arabic radio stations and organizing a Muslim-Bosnian detachment of Nazi storm troopers. His goal was to further the "Final Solution," the extermination of the Jews. After the war, the Muslim Brotherhood welcomed him to Egypt and praised him as the continuator of Hitler's work.

Hamas' 1988 founding covenant puts the call for Muslims to kill all the Jews at the heart of its anti-working-class program.

— S.G.

Recommended reading



pathfinderpress.com

US-led 1991 Iraq slaughter: 'Opening guns of World War III'

This week the Militant is featuring "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. It's the lead article in New International no. 7. Along with issues no. 10, 11 and 12 of New International, it is being promoted by members and supporters of the SWP and Communist Leagues in discussions with working people today. Studying this literature helps understand the crises and spreading wars confronting workers and farmers worldwide, as the U.S. rulers and their capitalist rivals push rearmament and realignments to try to defend their places in the disintegrating world imperialist "order." Below is an excerpt from the introduction, "In this issue." Copyright © 1991 by New International. Reprinted by permission.

SPECIAL FEATURE

BY JACK BARNES

The six-week bombardment and one-hundred-hour invasion of Iraq by Washington and its allies devastated the country and its peoples. In a land that had been semi-industrialized, the assault left millions homeless, hungry, and vulnerable to disease. It was one of the most massive, cold-blooded slaughters in modern history. ...

Far from the stunning war victory proclaimed by President George Bush on February 27, however, the massive U.S. armored invasion force did not fight a war at all. Instead, allied imperialist forces on the land and from the air and sea conducted a militarized slaughter of tens of thousands of individual Iraqis — workers and peasants in tattered uniforms — attempting to flee Kuwait and return to Iraq. The Saddam Hussein regime had abandoned them in foxholes and trenches without air cover, stripped of all but a skeletal command structure, with minimal communications and few provisions. Despite its grab to control oil, land, and waterways in Kuwait, Baghdad never intended to fight a war against U.S. imperialism.

Nor has Washington achieved its political aims in the region. The capitalist regimes and imperialist order in the Gulf and Mideast are more unstable today than before August 1990. ...

Having won a military "victory," U.S. imperialism is breaking its teeth in the attempt to achieve its political goals. This outcome has opened wide tactical divisions within U.S. ruling circles over the Bush administration's policy decisions in the Gulf. The "Vietnam syndrome" has been reinforced, not pushed back as Bush initially boasted at the end of February. It will be slightly harder, not easier, for the U.S. rulers to mobilize public support for their next military adventure. It will be slightly more difficult for union bureaucrats and other misleaders, echoing the wishes of the government and corporations, to get away with demanding that working people and the oppressed accept sacrifices, defer strikes, or postpone protest actions for patriotic reasons. More political space can be taken — right now — by working-class opponents of imperialism and war.

The war and its immediate consequences did not resolve, but rather



Alamy Stock Photo/Danita Delimont

Washington's 1991 war on Iraq, Jack Barnes said, announced "loud and clear, the conflicts that lie ahead as the imperialist rulers follow the historic logic of their declining world system."

exacerbated the economic and political contradictions in the United States and worldwide that increasingly drove Washington to use its military might in the first place. The war accelerated the rivalry between Washington and other imperialist powers and increased the likelihood of sharpening conflicts among them. Neither the German nor Japanese imperialist ruling classes were politically able to send units to participate in the allied assault. For the first time since the buildup to World War II, however, the war in the Gulf put Bonn and Tokyo on an accelerated course toward using their military forces abroad to advance their respective state interests.

Working people around the world today face an unstable prewar situation, not a stabilized postwar period. Washington's assault on Iraq was the first of the wars that will mark the segment of the historic curve of capitalist development announced by the October 1987 crash of stock markets from New York to Tokyo, from Bonn to Hong Kong. Capitalism today is marching not only toward more wars but at the same time stumbling toward a depression and world social crisis. We will see deepening capitalist economic dislocation within which a partial shock or breakdown — a collapse of the banking system, a steep recession in a major industrial country, an inflationary explosion, a massive crop

failure — could trigger a collapse of world industrial production. ...

As a result, the employers will try to take more out of the hides of the hundreds of millions of debt slaves in the semicolonial world. They will drive harder at home to lower living standards and step up the pace and intensity of production inside mines, mills, and factories. They will extend their efforts to chip away at rights and democratic liberties and seek to weaken and restrict the space open

to the working class and its organizations for independent political action.

Washington's war against Iraq was thus an announcement, a loud and clear one, of the conflicts that lie ahead as the imperialist rulers follow the historic logic of their declining world system of exploitation and oppression — a line of march that, willy-nilly, moves toward World War III.

For working people the world over, for vanguard working-class fighters, and for that section of the working-class vanguard who are communists, these political assessments are decisive in charting a course to advance the historic line of march of our class. The future of humanity depends on the independent political organization of the world's toilers to resist the devastation the rulers seek to impose on us. It depends on our capacity to fight, to win revolutionary battles, and to take war-making powers out of the hands of the exploiters and oppressors by establishing governments of the workers and farmers.

Whether or not the unthinkable horrors of a third imperialist world slaughter are unleashed will be decided by mighty class battles and their outcome in the coming years. It is in our hands, the hands of the workers of the world, to prevent the calamities that imperialism is marching, and stumbling, toward. We will have our chance.

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Trade conflicts point to coming crises, wars

The capitalist rulers tell U.S. workers that their tariffs against rivals abroad are the only way to protect “our economy,” that “we’re all in this together.” But this is a lie aimed at conning us into forgoing our own class interests and tying our future to the very class responsible for the worsening conditions we face.

We’re told tariffs imposed by Washington on its rivals will lead to more and higher-paying jobs for us. But when do the employers and their government ever care about improving our pay and working conditions? The profits they reap are entirely based on what they can squeeze from our labor. They drive to speed up production, chisel away at benefits and hold down wages. To do so, they try to set workers here against one another based on sex, race and immigration status.

Today’s tariff conflicts and trade wars are a reflection of the deepening crisis of capitalism, including a long-term fall in the rate of profit. They have nothing to do with easing “unfair competition,” but pit the will of the stronger imperialist powers over the weaker, and over millions in the semicolonial world. Behind the winners are not just the most robust capitalist economies, but those with the deadliest military might.

The sharpest conflicts are between Washington — the victor in the second imperialist world war, whose position as top dog in the imperialist world order is fraying — and Beijing.

Trade wars do lead to shooting wars, that is the lesson of the imperialist epoch. But, barring a bad mistake in judgment, not directly. As these conflicts escalate, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes explained in “Imperialism’s march toward

fascism and war” in *New International* no. 10, “First there are growing tensions and conflicts between rival powers; the intensification of economic and social crises and antagonisms within these countries; and the strengthening of rightist, ultranationalist groups that agitate to defeat the ‘foreign powers’ that are pressuring ‘our country,’ ‘stealing our jobs,’ and ‘trampling on our national honor.’”

The only force capable of preventing the threat of a nuclear holocaust is the working class. We have the power to overturn the dog-eat-dog capitalist system, with its exploitation, oppression and wars.

All political questions are class questions. Out of our union and social battles, we must chart our own road forward, breaking with the bosses and their political parties. We need a class-struggle program and our own working-class foreign policy.

Not one penny, not one person, not one ounce of support for the U.S. imperialist government, its budget, its tariffs or war machine!

To bring a different world into being, the working class needs to build its own party to take political power, end capitalist exploitation and join the struggle to extend the world socialist revolution.

This is what the Socialist Workers Party aims to do. With continuity from the Bolshevik Revolution led by V.I. Lenin through Leon Trotsky’s battle to keep Lenin’s program alive against the counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin to the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro, the SWP is building a party and leadership capable of organizing workers in their millions to take power. There’s no better reason to join the SWP!

Alien Enemies Act is threat to the working class

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tial order, the law says, when they come from a country the U.S. is at war with or from which an invasion is “attempted or threatened.”

The Alien Enemies Act has only been put into effect three times since it was enacted. The first time was during the War of 1812, when President James Madison’s administration took on the British, hoping to seize Canada. The other times the act was used were by Democratic Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt in the first and second imperialist world wars.

Trump invoked the act March 15, claiming members of the Venezuelan gang had invaded the U.S. to conduct “irregular warfare” in collaboration with the Venezuelan government and military. The act sets aside the constitutional due process rights of anyone targeted under it. Within days, over 250 people had been seized and deported to El Salvador.

The Trump administration had reached an agreement with the government there to imprison the deported Venezuelans indefinitely in the notorious male-only CECOT prison. In its haste, the Department of Homeland Security included eight women among those deported, who had to be returned. Among those imprisoned were two dozen Salvadorans, including Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

Three Venezuelan nationals who had been incarcerated at the El Valle Detention Center in Texas challenged the deportation order, saying it violated their right to due process under the Fifth Amendment.

Judge Rodriguez agreed, ruling the administration’s use of the law “exceeds the scope of the statute.”

However, he did not attack the statute itself, pointing to a 1950 U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the Alien Enemies Act. “Executive power over enemy aliens, undelayed and unhampered by litigation, has been deemed, throughout our history, essential to war-time security,” the high court had asserted.

The law was part of the Alien and Sedition Acts, aimed at curtailing constitutional freedoms after the American Revolution. Like the Espionage Act, it gives Washington the power to tear up protections in the name of safeguarding “national security,” in reality the national interests of the U.S. capitalist class.

President Woodrow Wilson invoked the Alien Enemies Act in April 1917 during World War I. He ordered all people of German descent to register with the

government, banned them from owning arms and radios, and imposed restrictions on where they could live, work or travel to. These steps weren’t based on evidence of criminal acts, but purely on the individuals’ nationality. Some 6,300 people of German descent were interned in military-controlled camps.

Japanese put in concentration camps

Far and away the most extensive use of the Alien Enemies Act began after Washington entered World War II. Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt invoked it to round up and intern some 112,000 people of Japanese descent in concentration camps without a trial. Their property was seized. Another 10,000 Germans and some 3,000 Italians were also interned.

Most liberal commentators hailed the government’s decision to toss constitutional protections aside. The American Civil Liberties Union approved Roosevelt’s action, while arguing some of his directives were excessive. To its shame, the U.S. Communist Party backed Washington’s roundup of Japanese Americans, suspended its Japanese members, urged them to turn themselves in and denounced so-called Japanese fifth-columnists. This was an integral part of the CP’s course of pressing workers to subordinate their class interests to the U.S. rulers’ imperialist war efforts.

In stark contrast, the Socialist Workers Party campaigned against Roosevelt’s assault on constitutional protections and his concentration camps. Washington’s actions were “a repressive measure, based purely on racial discrimination,” the May 30, 1942, issue of the *Militant* said, forcing Japanese Americans to live as “virtual war prisoners of their own government.”

This refusal of the liberals and Stalinists to stand up to the capitalist rulers’ use of the Alien Enemies Act during World War I and II helped pave the way for its imposition today. The act, and its use by Trump, is a stark reminder of how the U.S. rulers will wield their state power against working people, especially as they prepare for war.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

US, Beijing tariff clash

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In 2021, after the Chinese rulers spent years stimulating widespread property development that many workers could not afford, the bubble burst. This has caused financial stress for indebted local governments, a deflationary fall in housing prices and a growing crisis for working people. The birth rate has declined, the population has begun to contract, family formation has fallen and growing numbers of young workers see no road forward for a productive life.

Youth unemployment climbed to about 20% in June 2024. Then the government changed its method of calculating the figures, reporting the November rate at 16%. China’s rulers also face an aging workforce with a looming pension crisis.

Beijing tries to hide its deteriorating economy behind claims it is meeting its 5% growth target. The regime silenced Gao Shanwen, a prominent economist, after he publicly suggested the reality is more like 2%. Foreign investment has fallen to the lowest point in three decades.

There have been production shutdowns and job cuts. Local strikes and protests are on the rise, as increasing numbers of workers face unpaid wages or job losses.

Millions of workers across China are seeking ways to defend their interests in the face of a repressive, anti-working-class regime.

After President Donald Trump’s April 2 opening salvo of tariffs, he steeply escalated duties against Beijing, with U.S. tariffs on Chinese products reaching 145% and Beijing’s retaliatory levies on U.S. goods hitting 125%. Leading U.S. retail bosses warned that the interruption of supplies would lead to empty store shelves.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach — which handle a big percentage of Beijing’s trade with the U.S. — reported May 4 a 44% drop in docked vessels. As the effects of the slowdown ripple outward, dockworkers, truckers and many related workers will face shorter hours and layoffs.

The Trump administration hopes its offensive will bring Beijing to the table.

The U.S. president said May 2 at some point he will lower tariffs on Chinese imports. China’s rulers “want to do business very much,” he said. “Their economy is collapsing.” In fact, they have already decided to exempt a series of U.S. goods from tariffs, including select pharmaceuticals, microchips and aircraft engines.

Washington-Beijing military tensions

The trade conflict is adding to military tensions between Washington, along with its allies, against Beijing in a contest over dominance in the South China Sea and beyond. The U.S. rulers are determined to defend their decadeslong domination over this lucrative area, which they regard as their prize coming out of their bloody victory in World War II.

Beijing has stepped up the pace of building missile systems and warships. But the U.S. rulers command by far the largest military force in the world. And the Trump administration, with bipartisan support in Washington, is determined not to let the U.S. rulers’ global domination be undermined.

Military spending by all the rival capitalist powers is now rising at the fastest rate since the end of the Cold War, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports. Washington spends the lion’s share at almost \$1 trillion. Beijing is next at just under a third of that. The two account for almost half the world’s war spending.

Beijing’s military forces now regularly practice blockading the self-governing island of Taiwan, which Chinese leader Xi Jinping has pledged to take over, if necessary by force. Clashes are flaring between Beijing and Manila over atolls in the South China Sea that both claim. Vietnam and other Southeast Asian governments contest parts of Beijing’s claims there.

The Chinese rulers’ navy is reaching farther into the Indo-Pacific. Three of Beijing’s warships held live-fire exercises Feb. 21-22 off southeast Australia and midway to New Zealand, disrupting 49 international airline flights. Then they demonstratively sailed around almost the whole island continent. Two months later, Canberra responded by sending a warship through the disputed South China Sea.

In the imperialist epoch, trade conflicts can become shooting wars.