

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Bosses' parties deal blows to rights
as they attack each other
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 89/NO. 28 AUGUST 11, 2025

Iran: protests spread, as gov't presses unity and the gallows

BY SETH GALINSKY

The bourgeois clerical regime in Iran is stepping up its promotion of Iranian nationalism in a desperate attempt to counter the erosion of support at home. At the same time, it is moving against its critics, arresting hundreds of alleged “Zionist” agents and stepping up its already extensive use of the death penalty. Tehran’s actions are a sign of its weakness in the wake of its losses in Israel’s recent 12-day defensive war to prevent another Holocaust. Israel’s goal is to prevent the Iranian regime from developing nuclear weapons and delivery systems to carry out its stated aim of destroying that country as a refuge from Jew-hatred the world over.

Neither Tehran’s patriotic appeals nor its terror have succeeded in stopping political protests and resistance by workers and oppressed nationalities, which have been on the rise, with ebbs and flows, since 2017.

Despite a lull during the recent fighting, protests have started back up. From July 26 to July 29 alone, there were more than 50 protests across the country by

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Advances made in fight to win freedom for Abrego García

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

The fight to win freedom and the right to remain in the U.S. for Kilmar Abrego García, a SMART union sheet metal worker from Beltsville, Maryland, is being watched closely by workers and others across the country. García and members of his family escaped El Salvador after they were targeted by gang members there.

His case is one example out of hundreds today of how Immigration and Customs Enforcement operates against many immigrant workers, seizing him despite a court order against his deportation, and sending him without the right to a hearing to the notorious CE-COT prison in El Salvador.

After weeks of what Federal Judge Paula Xinis called “defiance and foot-dragging,” and ignoring court orders, including from the Supreme Court, the Justice Department finally returned him to the U.S. This was in response to a strong fight by Abrego García’s union; his family; CASA, the immigrant rights group he belongs to; and others.

However, on his arrival, government

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Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign ‘No deportations! Amnesty is way to unify the working class!’



Militant/Scott Breen

Over 100 protesters joined July 26 rally sponsored by SEIU Local 775 and La Resistencia against ICE raids, deportations and conditions at ICE Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. SWP calls for amnesty for all immigrants without papers in the U.S.

BY BETSY FARLEY

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — “Hundreds of workers here have already lost their jobs,” Lindsay Aime, co-founder of the Haitian Community Help and Support Center, told John Hawkins and Ned Measel when they visited its office here July 22. Hawkins is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cincinnati and Measel is the SWP candidate for City Council.

The candidates met warehouse

worker Hermione Pierre when they knocked on doors in a large apartment complex here. Like many Haitians, Pierre has the right to live and work in the U.S. under the Temporary Protected Status program, which is set to last until next February.

“One moment you’re legal and then they take it away,” she said, referring to the government’s moves to cut this program off in September. Following a

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Meeting celebrates July 26, opening shot in Cuba’s socialist revolution



Cuba’s Council of State Office of Historical Affairs

Some of the combatants before July 26, 1953, assault on Moncada and Bayamo barracks, launching revolutionary struggle against U.S.-backed dictatorship. Fidel Castro is at center.

BY SANDRA LATHAM

NEW YORK — “We will continue to insist on the removal of Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list and demand with all our determination the immediate lifting of the U.S. blockade,” Daylenis Moreno Guerra, deputy permanent representative of Cuba to the United Nations, said at a celebration

here on the 72nd anniversary of the attacks on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks.

On July 26, 1953, revolutionaries, mostly workers, led by Fidel Castro, attacked the barracks, launching a growing revolutionary struggle that in 1959 overturned the U.S.-backed dictatorship

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Build solidarity with Teamsters in strike battle with Republic Services

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Over 400 members of Teamsters Local 25 in the Boston area are standing firm as their strike against Republic Services goes into its fifth week. “It’s

not complicated,” Local 25 President Tom Mari told the *Boston Herald* July 30. “We will stay on strike until this multibillion dollar company comes to the bargaining table with a fair and equitable proposal.”

The union is fighting to win the same wage schedule and health insurance benefits that Teamsters who work for two other trash hauling companies in the area get. On strike since July 1,

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Workers discuss road forward in wake of deadly flood in Texas

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

INGRAM, Texas — Almost a month after the devastating July 4 flood and torrential waters mowed down houses, recreational vehicles, campgrounds, cabins and giant trees along the Guadalupe River in central Texas, working people here are struggling to get their lives together in the face of government indifference to the serious challenges they face.

There was no alarm system in Kerr County where most of the 135 deaths occurred. At this point, there are only

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Teamsters strike Airgas for higher pay, affordable health care

Bosses’ parties deal blows to rights as they attack each other

BY TERRY EVANS

Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence in President Donald Trump’s administration, released a long-repressed House Intelligence Committee report July 23, documenting the efforts of FBI and CIA bosses — under the presidency of Barack Obama — to fabricate and use claims that Donald Trump was a Russian agent to try to destroy him.

Using the fraudulent Steele dossier paid for by Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign, spy bosses smeared Trump as a tool of Moscow. Their goal was to derail his presidential campaign. Christopher Steele, a former British spy, authored the dossier.

When that failed, the House report explains, Obama got FBI and CIA spy bosses to repackage the claim, continuing the “Russian collusion” witch hunt. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller was brought in to stage-manage a two-year-long effort to impeach Trump.

This use of the rulers’ top spy agencies for a partisan political attack dealt blows to vital constitutional protections workers need. In addition to pillorying Trump, the Democrats hoped the “investigation” would refurbish the image of the FBI. While they failed to bring Trump down, their campaign led to the imprisonment of several of his political associates.

The 2020 House report released by Gabbard had been kept buried by the Joseph Biden administration. Gabbard said it shows that Obama and officials in his administration were directly involved in the Democrats’ moves, based on an “assessment that they knew was

false.” She argues their conduct was “treasonous.” Gabbard referred the report to Attorney General Pamela Bondi for possible criminal prosecution. Hours later Bondi announced a Justice Department “strike force” was being formed to conduct an inquiry.

This new use of the Justice Department to target political opponents, alongside calls by some Republicans for appointment of a special counsel to probe Obama, echo the methods used by Democrats in their attempt to try to drive Trump out of politics.

Attempts like these to criminalize and frame up political opponents by either of the capitalist rulers’ two main parties is dangerous for the working class. Whoever is the target today, it is working people who will be in the crosshairs tomorrow.

FBI, CIA drive to frame Trump

The House report shows that in 2016 FBI and CIA leaders repeatedly reported that in fact Moscow had “neither the intent nor capability to impact the outcome of the US election,” a July 23 press release from Gabbard’s office says.

But the House report then says that when this assessment was presented to Obama on Dec. 8, 2016, he forbid its publication. The next day he convened a meeting with, among others, CIA Director John Brennan, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe. Obama urged them to rush out a new report highlighting “Russian Election Meddling” before Trump took office.

Brennan insisted the new report include the widely discredited Steele dos-



Working-class organizations are ultimate target as Democrats, Republicans attack constitutional freedoms in fights with each other today. Above, 1941 FBI raid on SWP offices and frame-up of SWP, Teamsters leaders, as U.S. imperialist rulers prepared to enter World War II.

sier. When top CIA officials complained the dossier was unsubstantiated and shouldn’t be used, he called them up short. “Yes, but doesn’t it ring true?” he said, insisting it be included.

The new Obama-initiated intelligence report, with the Steele dossier’s unproven lurid accusations attached, was published in January 2017.

Ex-FBI chief is made special counsel

Just a few months after Trump took office, Acting Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Mueller special counsel, tasked with investigating Moscow’s election interference.

All so-called special counsels preside over open-ended fishing expeditions free from constitutional constraints. They have the power to prosecute anyone they accuse of “interfering” with their probe and to compel witnesses to testify or face prison.

After nearly two years Mueller was forced to admit there was no evidence Trump colluded with Moscow.

Along the way, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, campaign deputy chairman Rick Gates and National Security Adviser Michael Flynn were prosecuted under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. This

witch-hunt law, adopted on the eve of the second imperialist world war, was first used to target the Socialist Workers Party for building opposition to U.S. entry into that war.

Mueller’s probe was followed by two failed attempts to impeach Trump.

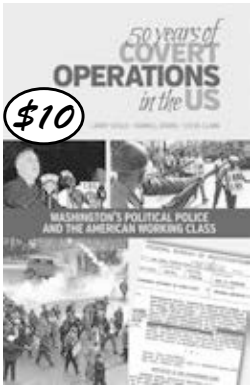
Trump claimed July 22 Obama was the “ringleader” of the witch hunt. Obama called that claim “ridiculous.”

But Trump also pointed out that because of him, Obama has immunity from prosecution. Last year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Trump, like all presidents, has wide-ranging immunity from prosecution for acts connected to their work in the White House.

Gabbard’s release of the House committee report provides a few more details about what has been public knowledge for years — Democrats used the Justice Department, FBI and CIA to try to overturn the 2016 election.

She’s part of the Republican administration’s moves to cobble together a similar politically motivated “investigation” against Obama today.

Working people must oppose the efforts of both the Democrats and Republicans, in their pursuit of partisan advantage, to toss aside constitutional protections of free speech, association and assembly and other liberties.



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THE MILITANT

Kentucky fight wins freedom from ICE jail of area youth

Ernesto Manuel-Andres, 18, was welcomed back home to Bowling Green, Kentucky, June 25, after successful fight to free him from immigration police detention. The ‘Militant’ calls for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S., the only course to unite working people here.



Rally of 200 in Bowling Green June 11, part of campaign to free Ernesto Manuel-Andres.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Nurses in Baltimore strike 1 day for more staff to assist patients

BALTIMORE — Nurses at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital here held a spirited 24-hour picket line July 24, making history as the first group of organized nurses at a hospital in the city to strike.

National Nurses United, which represents 600 nurses at the hospital, said the strike took place after 18 months of negotiations hasn't produced a contract. NNU is the largest nurses union in the country, with 225,000 members.

The key issues are safe staffing levels and an end to the hospital's practice of floating nurses to units they're not trained in as a way to compensate for insufficient staff.

"Sometimes nurses without training are sent to the ICU and the ICU nurses have to pick up the slack," intensive care unit nurse Alejandra Martinez told the *Militant*. "We're training on the go as we're working with patients. This results in worse working conditions and worse patient care."

Martinez said the staffing levels are a life-and-death issue for both workers and their patients. As an ICU nurse she works with patients on dialysis, where the ratio is supposed to be one nurse per patient. But she's had to monitor as many as three patients at a time. If anything goes wrong while someone is on dialysis, nurses have a matter of minutes to respond before someone might die.

"None of us went into nursing so we could deliver suboptimal care to our patients," Gary Wilson, an operating-room nurse, told the rally. "We cannot do our jobs without higher staffing levels."

"When workers come together to fight, it's not always about dollars and cents, it's about getting the resources you need to do your jobs," Courtney Jenkins, the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO president and former postal worker, told the crowd. "If people come to the ER, they're coming for an emergency. They can't afford to wait for hours."

Niki Horvat, a neonatal intensive care unit nurse and a member of the bargaining team, told the *Militant* that nurses at Saint Agnes successfully organized into National Nurses United in 2023.

She said she's hopeful. "It's been a really long journey but we're not wavering and we're not going anywhere. "We now have a voice and are not going to be silenced. We're determined to prioritize our patients instead of their profit."

— Kaitlin Estill

Teamsters strike Airgas for higher pay, affordable health care

VALLEY VIEW, Ohio — Fifteen drivers and warehouse workers, members of Teamsters Local 507, went on strike at this Airgas location southeast of Cleveland June 26 in response to the company's refusal to negotiate an acceptable contract. Airgas workers in Local 701 in North Brunswick, New Jersey, are also on strike. Workers here are fighting for their first contract.

The two striking locals set up solidarity picket lines at eight company locations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Teamsters members at these locations aren't crossing.

Airgas, a subsidiary of the French multinational corporation Air Liquide, is the largest distributor of industrial, medical and specialty gases in the U.S. Last year the company reported a record profit of \$3.8 billion.

"Local 507 represents workers at another Airgas location in Oakwood in Cleveland," Dan Chavez, secretary-treasurer of Local 507, told the *Militant*. "They won \$4 wage increases and better health benefits in their first contract. Workers here at this location reached out to us, saying they wanted to organize and win a similar contract. The company gave us a hard 'no.'"

Chavez explained they've been negotiating for a year, but the company keeps delaying talks, fearing a union victory here would spur organizing and contract fights at their other locations in the Cleveland area.

Strikers on the picket line explained they haven't had a serious wage increase in years and the rising cost of medical care takes a greater and greater toll. These are their key demands: a raise that meets the higher prices today, and adequate and affordable health care.

On July 22 the union extended picket-



Militant/Kaitlin Estill

Nurses at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore on 24-hour strike picket July 24, fighting for a first contract with safe staffing levels, a life-and-death issue for patients.

ing at Airgas outlets in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan and California. Hundreds of Teamster workers are now honoring picket lines at some 15 facilities nationwide. On July 29, Teamsters Local 996 in Honolulu went on strike.

— Victor Aurier

Nurses in Minnesota, Wisconsin end 13-day strike over safety

DULUTH, Minn. — The Minnesota Nurses Association announced July 22 that it had ended its 13-day strike at Essentia Health here and in Wisconsin.

Health care workers had gone out on strike July 8 at Essentia clinics and other facilities in the Duluth area; Superior, Wisconsin; and Virginia, Minnesota.

"The decision to end the strike comes after Essentia Health agreed to combine the four groups of clinic nurses into one negotiating block," the union said, "and agreed to additional negotiating dates for all first-contract workers."

The bosses' concession demands had included proposals to cap sick time at 48 hours a year, cancel some shifts, cut overtime pay and replace an affordable health care plan with a higher cost one.

Clinic nurses, some other health care workers and Advanced Practice Providers who began a separate strike July 10 were still on the picket line as of July 21. These include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives and

clinical nurse specialists.

This *Militant* reporter and Kevin Dwire, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, visited pickets at Essentia hospitals here and in Superior July 21.

We met Kelly Higgins, a physician assistant, who is part of the Advanced Practice Providers unit. She said these workers had voted to join the Minnesota Nurses Association in 2024 and are looking toward their first contract.

"Essentia has refused to bargain with us," she said. "We work in different facilities and in different buildings in the hospital, and they say we can't all be in the same bargaining unit. They want to split us up and make it difficult to win a contract." There are 400 workers in the bargaining unit, she added, and about half have gone back to work due to financial constraints.

— Edwin Fruit

Striking Illinois cannery workers fight two-tier pay

HOOPESTON, Ill. — Members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 1 have been on strike at Teasdale Latin Foods cannery here since June 1, fighting company moves to reimpose a two-tier pay scale and change work schedules from four to five days a week. They can and pack a variety of beans.

The Teamsters, which organizes the workers who deliver the products, continues to pick up employee contributions to strikers' health insurance. According to Juan "Chico" Lugo, a picket captain, about "80% of them are not showing up for work" while the strike is on, while their union covers their wages.

But the strikers still face growing challenges. Household bills are mounting and many have been forced to seek other employment during the strike.

A week and a half after the strike started, the company announced it would begin hiring "permanent replacement employees." Ads continue to run for electricians and machine operators.

Donna Strawser, a striker with nine years seniority at the plant, told this *Militant* correspondent of the spirited support they get from people in the area. A pizza place gives them free pizza once a week, and a food pantry is collecting donations for them. She told us about a boy who persuaded his father to bring him to the picket line so he could give all the strikers a popsicle.

Send messages and contributions to BCTGM Local 1, 7310 39th St., Lyons, IL 606534.

— Dean Hazlewood

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

August 14, 2000

"U.S. Bases Out!" read the yellow vests worn by many protesters in a demonstration by 27,000 people on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

"The U.S. military owns our land, our sea, and our sky," said one angry Okinawan. Thirty-nine U.S. military installations — three-quarters of the total in Japan — are located on Okinawa, occupying nearly one-fifth of it.

Fishermen, farmers, and other working people have long opposed the U.S. bases, which were built following World War II while the island remained under U.S. control. Among the demonstrators was a representative of the fishermen of Vieques, Puerto Rico, who also have been fighting to get the U.S. Navy out of their land since that war.

Washington returned Okinawa to Japan in 1972 but kept its bases. Until then, Washington, with the knowledge of Tokyo, stockpiled nuclear arms on the island.

THE MILITANT

August 8, 1975

BOSTON — The racist frenzy whipped up here by the enemies of school desegregation has once again reached the point of lynch-mob terror against Blacks. On July 27, six Black salesmen from out of town were attacked on a beach in South Boston. The six were unaware that "Southie" is the center of the racist hysteria against court-ordered school desegregation. Only two of the 100 who participated in the attack were arrested.

Norman Oliver, SWP candidate for mayor, told the *Militant*: "The responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of the police and the Democratic city administration. Racist violence and organized harassment has been taking place over the summer and has met with inaction on the part of the 'forces of law and order.'"

There have been previous attacks on the beach, to the point where local Black residents stay clear of it.

THE MILITANT

August 7, 1950

After two days and nights of "negotiations" and mounting mass upsurge which brought Belgium into a state of civil war, King Leopold was finally compelled to accept a compromise which removes him from the throne. Tied in with the "royal question" are the workers' demands for improved living and working conditions.

The Belgian army, called back from occupation duty in Germany, was rushed to Liege and other centers and later ordered to prevent the masses of workers from marching to Brussels. The workers simply marched through the various roadblocks without the troops firing a shot.

The workers are the decisive force in Belgium, as in every other country in Europe. They have not gained the full victory, thanks to the treachery of their leaders; but they have dealt a mighty blow to Belgian reaction, and by this token, to reaction in Europe.

‘Amnesty to unify working class’

Continued from front page

court ruling, that decision was reversed.

“We need to organize a union-led fight for amnesty for all immigrant workers in this country,” Hawkins said. “This is the road to unifying the working class to fight against the deepening attacks of the bosses and the government.” Pierre agreed, getting a copy of the *Militant*.

Many workers who are immigrants from Haiti lost legal status and work permits earlier this year when the U.S. government abruptly ended the “Humanitarian Parole” program for 500,000 workers from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela.

Springfield is home to some 15,000 to 20,000 Haitians who settled here in the past few years taking jobs at warehouses, auto parts plants, retail stores, schools and nursing homes.

“The government is trying to make more people deportable, calling us criminals,” Aime told the SWP candidates. “But people have bought houses here, have kids in school and have a culture here.”

“The capitalists need low-paid immigrant workers. These deportations are primarily aimed to divide the working class to more easily dominate us,” Hawkins said. “They try to scapegoat immigrants, blaming them for the problems workers face. But the real problem is capitalism itself. The SWP says the labor movement must take up the fight for our brothers and sisters who are immigrants.”

“Unions are important,” Aime agreed, saying Haitian workers are often mistreated and not told about the rights they have.

“Some fights by immigrant workers are being won,” Measel said. “When working people stand together we can force the government to back off, like in the case of Carol Mayorga in Kennett, Missouri, and Ernesto Manuel-Andres in Bowling Green, Kentucky.” Both won release from Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody after friends, families, neighbors and community organizations mobilized and fought.

Hawkins returned to Springfield July 26 to participate in the second anniversary celebration of the opening of the Rose Goute Creole restaurant. It had become a center of solidarity with immigrants last year when people came from all over Ohio to show support for Haitians after then-presidential candidate Donald Trump slandered them, claiming they were eating their neighbors’ pets.

Owner Rose Goute welcomed the SWP candidate, urging him to stay for lunch and discussion.

“How can we change the situation Haitians face?” asked Claire, who was helping out in the restaurant and requested her last name not be used.

“We can force a change,” Hawkins said. “We can win working people and our unions to mobilize to defend immigrant workers because they’re part of the working class. Organizing them is vital for strengthening the unions.

“It’s bad here, but Haiti is even worse right now,” Claire said.

“The working class in Haiti has organized before and can organize again,” Hawkins said. “The Cuban Revolution showed it is possible to lead a fight to replace capitalist rule with workers power. We need revolutionary parties to lead that fight — in Haiti and in the U.S. That’s what the Socialist Workers Party exists for.”

Amnesty for immigrant workers

In New Jersey, SWP members Nancy Boyasko and Roy Landersen visited Princeton July 27, where 15 immigrants had been picked up in an ICE raid a few days earlier in an area where day laborers gather for work.

They spoke to Kim Beury, a mental health therapist, on her doorstep. She told them she was “horried with the raids.” ICE agents said they were looking for an individual they claimed was a criminal, Beury pointed out, and then seized 15 workers there.

“What’s needed is an amnesty for all immigrants living and working in the U.S.,” Boyasko said. This would take the wind out of the sails of those who try to scapegoat immi-

SWP candidates get hearing at Minneapolis rally



Militant/Mary Martin

Kevin Dwire, center, SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, and Edwin Fruit, right, the party’s candidate for City Council Ward 1, campaigned at the so-called Good Trouble rally there July 17. While many participants expressed support for the Democratic Party, which organized the anti-Trump action, others were interested in hearing what the SWP candidates had to say.

Two men were holding a large poster of Alexei Navalny, a prominent opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin who died in a Russian prison last year. They were happy to see the *Militant’s* coverage of opposition among working people in Russia to Putin’s war against Ukraine. They bought *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* and a *Militant* subscription.

— MARY MARTIN

grants, and it is the only way workers can fight shoulder to shoulder for their interests, including building the unions.

Beury asked the SWP campaigners what Joanne Kuniansky, the party’s candidate for governor of New Jersey, would do if she’s elected. Kuniansky would continue doing what she’s doing today, Boyasko said, speaking out against all the assaults on working people and joining workers to fight in our own interests.

“Until workers build a movement of

millions that can take power into our own hands,” Landersen said, “we can make no lasting gains.”

To learn more, Beury got a *Militant* subscription and the books *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*, by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

To find out more about the SWP, check the address nearest you on page 8.

Hundreds in Tacoma, Wash., protest against deportations

BY BARRY FATLAND
AND REBECCA WILLIAMSON

TACOMA, Wash. — Hundreds have protested in front of Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Northwest Detention Center here over the past two weeks.

On July 14 demonstrators brought support for several immigrants facing immigration court hearings that day.

Family members of Kimlis “Steve” Tek, a U.S. veteran who is threatened with deportation to Cambodia, addressed the protest. Tek was born in a Thai refugee camp as his family was fleeing the Khmer Rouge’s reign of

terror in Cambodia. They immigrated to the U.S. when he was 2 years old, settling in Monterey Park, California.

Tek joined the U.S. Army and was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, where he was arrested and convicted of assault. He completed a 15-year sentence and was immediately transferred to ICE custody to await deportation.

He has no ties to Cambodia and his family is fighting for his release. His next hearing is set to take place in five weeks. His family aims to continue building public support.

Ngoc Phan addressed the rally. Her husband, Tuan Thanh Phan, originally from Vietnam, was deported to South Sudan in March. His permanent residency had been revoked in 2009 after he was convicted of murder. After serving 16 years, he was released from prison March 3, and immediately picked up by ICE agents.

“They are disappearing people who can be tortured or killed, then wash their hands of it,” Ngoc Phan told participants. “This is double punishment.”

Several groups participated in the rally, called by Community to Community, including a delegation from United Food and Commercial Workers Local 3000.

Alfredo “Lelo” Juarez Zeferino is a leader of Familias Unidas por la Justicia, a farmworkers union in the Skagit Valley in northwestern Washington

state. He has been held at the detention center for months. When the judge at his hearing that morning rejected his motion to be released, he sent a statement to his supporters.

He said he has decided to return to Mexico. “I want everyone to know, no matter where I end up, I will continue fighting for justice alongside all of you.”

Two weeks later 100 people rallied in front of the center July 26 at an action sponsored by La Resistencia and Service Employees International Union Local 775.

Dora Polky, a caregiver and SEIU 775 member in Tacoma, spoke at the rally. “This prison is a hellhole,” she said. “I stand in solidarity with those detained and let them know they are not forgotten. Our country is rooted in immigration.”

Henry Dennison, a member of SMART-TD Local 324, spoke. “What’s happening in this detention center affects the entire working class in this country,” he said. “This is where we see the real meaning of the slogan ‘An injury to one is an injury to all.’

“Working people everywhere can be won to this fight,” he said.

Dennison noted that SMART President Michael Coleman has given support to SMART member Kilmar Abrego García’s fight to remain in the U.S.

Jacob Perasso contributed to this article.

Communist League campaigns for ballot in Quebec

MONTREAL — The Communist League is campaigning to put Katy LeRougetel on the ballot for mayor of Montreal and Philippe Tessier for mayor of the borough of Saint Leonard for the November municipal elections. To qualify, LeRougetel needs 200 signatures of registered voters and Tessier needs 100 in his district. The CL is planning to go well over the requirements. As of July 27, campaign supporters have collected 147 for LeRougetel and 67 for Tessier. They have sold six subscriptions to the *Militant* while campaigning, as well as 25 copies of the paper and 18 books by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionaries.

Tessier and several CL campaign supporters participated in a celebration of the 72nd anniversary of the July 26, 1953, attack on the Moncada Barracks in Cuba. “I became a communist through the example of the Cuban Revolution when I was a student,” he told participants. “The example of the Rebel Army under the leadership of Fidel Castro showed me it is possible to organize a society based on high moral values and not the law of the jungle as it is under capitalism. We need to follow their example and organize to build a leadership capable of taking political power into our own hands in Canada.”

— BEVERLY BERNARDO

NY meeting celebrates July 26

Continued from front page
of Fulgencio Batista and opened the road to a victorious socialist revolution. More than 60 people attended the program organized by the New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition and other groups.

The meeting was held at the Maysles Documentary Center in Harlem. Participants enjoyed a good meal beforehand and many stayed afterward to see a film sponsored by the center on world famous Cuban boxer Teófilo Stevenson.

For the last 65 years, the U.S. government has waged a far-reaching economic war against the Cuban people and government, seeking to crush the example their revolution sets for working people and the oppressed worldwide.

Since 2021, under Democratic and Republican administrations alike, Washington has kept Cuba on its State Sponsors of Terrorism list, penalizing businesses and banks anywhere that engage in trade or financial transactions with Cuba. This has made it extremely difficult for Cuba to import fuel, food, medicine, raw materials and other necessities.

Internationalist medical missions

Some 70,000 Cuban volunteer medical personnel are in 60 countries, especially in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The U.S. government is waging a slanderous disinformation campaign claiming that Cuba's international medical brigades are really "human trafficking." In recent weeks, Washington has revoked the visas of government officials from some countries that have accepted Cuban doctors.

"Nothing can damage the prestige of our medical missions," Moreno said. "We will continue to defend them in every forum."

A short video produced by Belly of the Beast showed talks by the prime ministers of several Caribbean countries defending Cuban doctors. Mia Mottley, prime minister of Barbados, said, "What the Cubans have been able to do for us, far from approximating itself to human trafficking, has been to save lives and limbs and

sight for many a Caribbean person." Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, noted Cuban doctors working there run a dialysis center providing care free of charge to some 60 patients. No one should expect that "to keep a visa I would let 60 persons from the poor and working people die. It will never happen."

Two young women, Sohina and Camille, from a group called Carlota's Warriors, spoke about their recent trip to Cuba, where they met with students attending the Latin American School of Medicine. For over 25 years Cuba has trained, at no cost, more than 30,000 youth from around the world. The only condition is that after they graduate, the new doctors return and serve in communities where they are most needed.

"The medical missions provide life-saving care," Sohina said.

Peggy Gilpin, a member of Cuba Sí and of the board of Global Health Partners, reported on the ongoing campaign to raise money to send pacemakers to Cuba. Because of shortages caused by the U.S. rulers' sanctions, some 2,000 people on the island are on a waiting list for the life-saving devices, which cost about \$1,100 each. Some of the 550 devices donated by the campaign are already in use. Meeting participants kicked in \$300 on the spot.

To contribute to the Saving Lives Pacemaker Campaign, make checks payable to Global Health Partners with "pacemakers" on the memo line. Mail it to 39 Broadway, Suite 1540, New York, NY 10006. To pay by debit or credit card, or for more information, visit ghpartners.org.

Montreal action says 'Cuba sí, bloqueo no!'



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

MONTREAL — More than 50 people joined in a demonstration at the Cuban Consulate here July 26 celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the assault on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks led by Fidel Castro that was the opening guns of the Cuban Revolution.

The action was organized by the Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable. The participants chanted, "Cuba sí, bloqueo no!" (Cuba yes, blockade no!), and many motorists passing by honked in support. Participants cheered and waved back, expressing their appreciation.

During a short program, Cuban Consul Angel Aurelio Torres Jaime thanked those present for "being at the side of the Cuban people for the 72nd anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks — a symbol of the spirit of the Cuban Revolution that still lives."

He also condemned the punishing U.S. economic war, which means the "Cuban people are living through a difficult moment, but are keeping their heads held up high."

The celebration continued for two hours with food, drinks, music and conversation. Torres and Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable leader Christine Dandenault cut a cake commemorating the anniversary.

Mayuka Abdullai, originally from Ghana, came with his brother and roommate. "I'm happy to be at my first July 26 celebration and I hope next year's is bigger with more Africans," he told the *Militant*. "I remember that Fidel came to Ghana and gave a speech supporting the struggles of the African people. And many students from Ghana went to Cuba to learn to become doctors."

— BEVERLY BERNARDO

Banana workers, unions protest Panama gov't attack on pensions

BY RÓGER CALERO

In March, the government of José Raúl Mulino, president of Panama, announced plans to reform the country's social security system, sparking widespread protests by unions organizing teachers, nurses, construction workers and banana farmworkers. He approved the "reform" law March 18. It increases what workers will pay into their pension funds while getting lower benefits, and leaves open an increase of the retirement age.

"With the number of 'reforms' introduced, we're going to end up with pensions of hunger and misery, and future generations will be harmed," Diógenes Sánchez, a leader of the teachers' union, told the media.

Union officials agreed June 11 to remove roadblocks put up during a monthlong strike by banana workers in Bocas del Toro province, paralyz-

ing production on plantations belonging to U.S. giant Chiquita. In exchange, representatives of the country's legislature agreed to allow early retirement and some other protections for plantation workers.

The Mulino government deployed over 1,500 police officers to reopen blocked roads. Using acts of vandalism and looting carried out by unidentified individuals as a pretext, it declared a five-day state of emergency suspending the rights of assembly and free movement. Compliant judges sided with Chiquita, declaring the banana workers strike illegal. The company closed down operations, leaving thousands without jobs. The bosses have threatened to leave the country.

Dozens of protesters and several union leaders have been arrested. On July 17, Ministry of Labor Jackeline Muñoz filed a lawsuit seeking to dissolve the National Union of Construction Industry and Related Workers (Suntracs). Claiming the union is run by vicious mobsters, she says these moves don't represent an attack on the unions or on freedom of association!

Chiquita controls 90% of Panama's banana production, the country's main export. Formerly known as United Fruit Company, the U.S. multinational has used its economic and political power to profit off super-exploitation in Latin American and Caribbean countries since 1899.

A powerful description of these conditions is described in *Mamita Yunaí*, the famous novel by Costa Rican author Carlos Luis Fallas, published

in 1941 and also available in English. Fallas draws on his experience working on a United Fruit banana plantation and as a Communist Party member.

The story gives the reader a vivid portrayal of workers' resilience and solidarity as they fight United Fruit for dignity and justice.

While the protests against the changes to the social security law have been the most sustained, demonstrators have raised a multitude of grievances. This includes opposition to the agreements between the Mulino government and Washington establishing "cost-neutral" passage of U.S. warships through the Panama Canal and on environmental issues. Washington's imposition of special treatment in the Panama Canal is seen by many toilers as an affront to Panama's national sovereignty.

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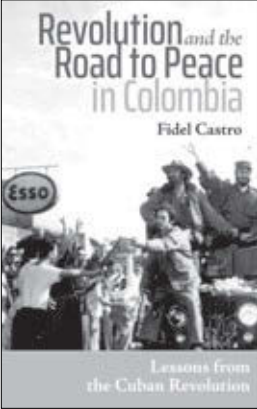
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Fight to free Abrego García!

Continued from front page

authorities filed trumped-up charges of “human smuggling” against him and threw him in jail in Tennessee, far from his family and friends. Throughout, he has been denied his constitutional right to due process — to defend himself.

Broad public support has made it possible for him to wage a vigorous legal defense, and three federal court victories July 23 are marked by the strength of his case and the support he has won.

Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. of Nashville ruled that Abrego García must be released from jail while awaiting trial on human smuggling charges there. She found the government had failed to substantiate its claim that he posed any danger to the community or was a flight risk. She described the government’s attempted frame-up as a “poor attempt to tie Abrego to MS-13,” the Salvadoran gang ICE claims he belongs to.

Judge Barbara Holmes, also in Nashville, agreed to a motion by Abrego García’s lawyers to delay his release by 30 days. They believe this is the only way to safeguard him from arbitrary deportation by ICE, given the government’s record of ignoring his constitutional right to due process.

In Maryland, Judge Xinis ordered that following Abrego García’s release from jail in Tennessee, he will be returned to Maryland and placed under the supervision of ICE’s Baltimore office. Xinis further ordered he couldn’t be rearrested by ICE and that ICE must give 72 hours’ advance notice of any plans to try and deport him.

Xinis still has under advisement an order holding the Justice Department in

contempt of court for its conduct.

Speaking for the Department of Homeland Security, Tricia McLaughlin attacked Xinis’ decision. She called the judge “unhinged” for presuming to tell the government what to do. It’s “LAWLESS AND INSANE,” she posted on social media “X.”

ICE arrests on the rise

ICE arrests of workers who have no charges against them or convictions are on the rise in the Washington, D.C., area. In Virginia and D.C. they account for 60% of the arrests, and 55% in Maryland.

“We are seeing it in our families, in our communities, in our places of worship,” said Eduardo Zelaya, organizing director for CASA in Virginia. “We are being kidnapped.”

ICE agents are using the courthouse in Chesterfield, Virginia, to seize immi-



Courtroom sketch by Diego Fishburn via AP

Kilmar Abrego García at detention hearing in Nashville, Tennessee, June 25. Fight to win his freedom is an important battle being watched closely by workers across the country.

grant workers and take them into detention. Over the last month they’ve picked up workers paying charges on traffic tickets or coming in for vehicle inspections, registration or tags.

“Due process doesn’t have a citizenship clause,” Nicole Martin, president of the Chesterfield County NAACP, told a protest at the courthouse. “It is a fundamental right — citizen or not.”

Build solidarity with Teamsters strike at Republic Services

Continued from front page

not one union member has crossed the picket lines.

Republic is using every bosses’ trick in the book trying to break the strike and turn public sentiment against these workers. But so far, they’ve failed. Instead, there is widespread solidarity.

The company is using nonunion workers and hired scabs in an attempt to work around the strike. But, bosses complained to the *Herald*, the union keeps blocking their trucks.

In a campaign in the big-business media, Republic has accused union

members of vandalizing vehicles, hitting scabs and other illegal actions. They even claimed an unknown striking union member stole a truck from a Republic parking lot, but the truck was found in an adjacent lot with none of its contents disturbed.

On July 14, Republic filed a lawsuit in federal court asking for a restraining order to stop the union’s “unlawful conduct.” In just one week, Judge Brian Murphy rejected the company’s motions, saying they lacked evidence.

“Frankly, I’m not surprised,” Mari said in a statement. “As usual, Repub-

lic misled the court about our conduct. Maybe now Republic will come to its senses and come back to the bargaining table to resolve the strike.”

While the city of Boston doesn’t have a contract with Republic, the company does pick up trash at commercial customers, like restaurants in the city. With dumpsters overflowing, the city began to issue fines against them July 7. But as the company continued to stall contract talks, Mayor Michelle Wu directed city officials July 23 to issue the fines directly against Republic, demanding the company fulfill its obligations to its customers and pay for the fines issued against them.

Ottawa pushes harsh sentences for Canada truckers’ leaders

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Federal prosecutors are pushing for “extraordinary” harsh prison sentences for Tamara Lich and Chris Barber. The two were prominent spokespeople in the 2022 Freedom Convoy organized by truckers demanding the repeal of government-imposed COVID mandates that threatened their livelihoods.

Barber and Lich were convicted April 3 on a frame-up charge of mischief, a serious crime under Canadian law.

At a sentencing hearing in Ottawa July 23-24, government prosecutors demanded seven years in prison for Lich and eight years for Barber, a trucker. He was also convicted of counseling others to disobey a court order.

Prosecutors are also demanding that a court confiscate Barber’s tractor trailer.

“The vindictive nature from the prosecution office has become too obvious to ignore,” Lich told the media before the start of the hearing. It “will set a precedent going forward that will affect all Canadians who choose to peacefully protest.”

“It’s not about a vehicle,” Barber said at a court session in April after learning of the prosecutors’ determination to confiscate his truck. “They want to erase the spirit of the convoy and make an example out of us, so no one ever dares to stand up again.”

Freedom Convoy ‘sedition’?

The Freedom Convoy was initiated by truckers in western Canada in January 2022 after their jobs were

threatened when the federal government adopted a mandate forbidding them from crossing the Canada-U.S. border unless they had gotten COVID vaccinations.

Hundreds of truckers from across the country hopped in their rigs, many with their spouses and children, and drove to Ottawa to demand that then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau repeal the order.

The Freedom Convoy attracted widespread support from working people across Canada as well as in the U.S. who were fed up with government lockdown regulations and other anti-worker policies.

On Feb. 7, 2022, Mark Carney, now Canada’s prime minister, demanded Ottawa act decisively against the protest, charging that it amounted to “sedition” and an “insurrection.”

“Those who are still helping to extend this occupation must be identified and punished to the full extent of the law,” he insisted.

Fraudulently claiming the truckers’ protest in the capital created a “threat to national security” and a “national public order emergency,” Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act on Feb. 14, 2022. It gives the police draconian powers. The bank accounts of convoy leaders and other participants in the protest were frozen without court orders.

Lich and Barber were arrested Feb. 17. The next day the government mobilized 3,000 heavily armed cops to break up the three-week-long protest, arresting and charging hundreds. Lich

and Barber were held in jail for months. It was one of the most repressive cop operations in Canadian history.

The executive board of the Ontario Public Service Union condemned the use of the Emergencies Act against the truckers, warning that it could also be used against workers exercising their right to strike for better wages and working conditions.

Last January a federal court ruled that the use of the Emergencies Act against the Freedom Convoy was illegal, since there was in fact no national public order emergency. Ottawa is appealing that ruling.

At the July 23-24 sentencing hearing lawyers for both Lich and Barber asked Justice Heather Perkins-McVey to order an “absolute discharge,” the lowest sentence possible, leaving them with no criminal record.

Prosecutor Siobhan Westcher admitted the convoy was not violent but argued it was organized “with a clear intent of pressuring the government through disruption.”

“Unions need to take the lead in defense of Lich and Barber by campaigning for their convictions to be overturned and for the repeal of the Emergencies Act,” Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for mayor of Saint Leonard, a borough of Montreal, told the *Militant* July 25.

A Sept. 12 court session will hear arguments on the prosecution’s demand to confiscate Barber’s truck. On Oct. 7 Judge Perkins-McVey will hand down sentences on Lich and Barber.

Iran: wave of protest spreads

Continued from front page
oil workers, bakers, farmers and retirees over wages, pensions, work conditions and other issues.

Retirees protested July 27 in Tehran, Rasht and Kermanshah. In Kermanshah a member of the Truckers and Drivers Association of Iran stopped by and later posted a video on the union website. “We don’t want war, we don’t want killing!” he reported the retirees chanted. “Solidarity, unity is the solution to oppression and injustice” and “Imprisoned teachers, imprisoned workers, must be freed.”

On July 28 permanent workers at 40 oil and gas platforms and at least six refineries and other sites protested against caps on their wages, announcing they will protest every week until they win their demands. Demands for job safety are a big part of the actions.

The Truckers and Drivers Association, which in late May and early June carried out the largest nationwide strike in decades, is continuing the struggle for its demands, including the release of all truckers imprisoned during that fight. The truckers also have expressed solidarity with the oil workers.

The association issued a statement in the wake of the death of several Kurdish environmental activists, who died fighting a fire near Sanandaj, where the government failed to respond. “With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we received the tragic news of the passing of three

selfless sons of Kurdistan,” the Truckers association said. “This heartbreaking event is not only an environmental disaster, but also a symbol of the oppression of a people.”

Protests against water crisis

Meanwhile, thousands of workers and farmers protested against the government for its inaction in the face of a severe water shortage, after five consecutive years of drought. Forty cities, including Tehran, are on rations. Water reserves in Tehran are only at 14% of their capacity and it’s even worse in other provinces.

Hundreds took to the streets of Khomam, a small town in Gilan province July 29. “Water and power are cut — this happens every day,” they chanted. They were attacked by the “security” forces.

“We can’t take it anymore,” one protester said. “The officials’ inaction has pushed the people to the breaking point.”

Anti-worker, Jew-hating regime

During the June airstrikes, Israeli forces destroyed some 80% of Tehran’s rocket launchers, roughly half its ballistic missiles, and severely damaged key nuclear installations.

The anti-working-class, Jew-hating regime had instigated and backed the Nazi-like Hamas death squads when they launched the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly



Protest in southern Iran, one of over 40 actions by oil workers for higher wages, pensions and better conditions July 28. Workers vowed to protest every week until their demands are met.

civilians, wounding thousands, and raping and mutilating dozens of women. Since then, Israel has done serious damage to Tehran’s “axis of resistance” in Lebanon, Gaza and Syria.

Tehran now hopes its calls for Iranian patriotic unity will get a hearing from some workers. In doing so, it seeks to play on decadeslong popular opposition to the U.S. imperialist government, which on June 22, acting alone, dropped bunker buster bombs on three nuclear sites.

Many working people and youth in Iran oppose the U.S. rulers’ profit-driven plunder of the region. This includes helping to impose the brutal regime of Shah Mohammed

Reza Pahlavi on the Iranian people through the CIA-organized 1953 coup. The shah was overthrown in the 1979 popular revolution.

The shift in the regime’s rhetoric, prominently mixing in patriotic Iranian nationalism with stock-in-trade religious appeals, marked the annual Shiite religious ceremony July 5 commemorating the seventh-century death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

In addition to the usual Shiite songs, this year Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei for the first time asked that a nationalist anthem be sung, with some religious stanzas added. The government’s Press TV reported that the song resonates “with listeners through its patriotic themes, evoking deep feeling of pride and love for the homeland.” Or so the regime hopes.

Two newly installed billboards in Tehran praise an ancient mythical Persian icon, Arash the Archer, whose image is surrounded by a volley of missiles.

Tehran steps up repression

Since the start of the war, Tehran has arrested at least 2,000 people, especially members of the oppressed Kurdish and Baluchi nationalities, and members of the Baha’i religious minority. It has also carried out massive deportations of Afghan immigrants.

At least 35 Jews have been arrested, including two U.S. citizens visiting Iran when the war broke out. Some of them had been stopped at checkpoints. When the regime’s agents found phone numbers of relatives in Israel, they were accused of spying for the Mossad. According to the *Times of Israel*, all but five have been released.

The regime has also stepped up use of the death penalty for political and criminal charges. According to Amnesty International, nearly 700 people have already been executed in 2025 compared to 900 in all of last year. Even before the step-up, Iran executed more prisoners than any other government in the world, except for Beijing.

Inmates at 48 prisons joined the 79th weekly Tuesday hunger strike against the death penalty July 29. According to the “No to Execution Tuesday” campaign, a few days earlier some 100 armed prison guards and other cops raided the political prisoners ward at Ghezel Hesar Prison in Karaj, near Tehran.

“All political prisoners in the unit were shackled hand and foot, blindfolded with bags over their heads and transferred to solitary confinement,” the campaign reported.

Hamas, not Israel, is responsible for food shortages in Gaza

BY SETH GALINSKY

A barrage of articles in the bourgeois press, along with statements by Democratic Party politicians, President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and reports from United Nations bodies, all claim that large numbers of children are starving to death in Gaza because of Israel’s war against Hamas.

This provides cover for Hamas apologists who charge that Israel is withholding food and medicine to carry out “genocide” against the Palestinian people, without a shred of evidence.

Most of their reports rely on statements by the Gaza Ministry of Health, which is run by Hamas, a Nazi-like group whose goal is to destroy Israel and expel or kill all Jews there.

One widely disseminated picture of an emaciated child helps expose the falsity of the latest worldwide anti-Jewish propaganda campaign. That’s one of 18-month-old Mohammed Zakaria al-Mutawaq, featured in a July 25 *New York Times* article and media worldwide as the epitome of starving Gazan children.

In fact, Mohammed suffers genetic conditions that require special diets and affect his appearance. An additional photo includes his mother and brother. Neither shows signs of starvation. Five days after its publication the *Times* printed a “correction,” admitting that the child had “pre-existing health problems.” But it still uses the photo as an example of “impending famine.”

A Dec. 23, 2023, article by TRT World stated, “The UN says Gaza is now on the verge of famine.” Sound familiar? So-called aid groups have proclaimed this over and over ever since.

There are serious food shortages in Gaza. But this is primarily because Hamas uses aid to keep its thugs fed, to try to ensure loyalty from its declining number of supporters and to sell to provide income to fund its brutal dictatorship.

“No Proof Hamas Routinely Stole U.N. Aid,” claims a headline in the July 26 *New York Times*. It’s evidence? Two anonymous Israeli army officials and an “internal” U.S. government report.

Has the *Times* considered asking the people in Gaza? In December 2023, an Al Jazeera reporter filming live from Khan Younis asserted that aid was getting to the people.

An elderly Palestinian woman challenged him. “A lot of aid comes in, but it doesn’t reach the people,” she told the reporter in a scene captured on video, explaining it goes to Hamas.

U.N. complicity

The United Nations has worked in complicity with Hamas in Gaza in setting up schools that indoctrinate children to become suicide bombers to “terrorize the enemy.” The U.N. looked the other way as Hamas built command posts and tunnels underneath their hospitals, schools, U.N. buildings and residential neighborhoods in preparation for its Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom.

Hamas still holds in abominable conditions 20 remaining hostages it kidnapped Oct. 7, along with the bodies of another 30 believed to be dead. Hamas repeatedly says it doesn’t care how many Palestinians die, its goal is to carry out more massacres like Oct. 7 “again and again.”

Amid the challenging conditions, thousands of Palestinians have taken to

the streets of Gaza to demand “Hamas, out! Out!” most recently in Khan Younis July 21. Many protesters also call for freeing the Israeli hostages. These actions offer a glimpse of the possibilities for working people — whatever their religion or nationality — to come to defend their common interests throughout the region. The bourgeois press barely mentions these actions.

Trying to prevent Hamas from continuing to divert aid or to sell it at a profit, the Israeli government set up a new distribution system managed by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, with some aid from Washington. Despite numerous problems and poor planning, it has distributed tens of millions of food packages.

But Hamas see this as a threat to its hold on power. It has threatened to kill any Gazan who helps GHF distribute food. And it made ending the GHF program a central demand in stalled ceasefire negotiations.

The Israeli government has allowed the U.N. and other aid groups to send hundreds of trucks of aid to Gaza, but the U.N. had been refusing to distribute their contents, claiming it’s too risky and that the trucks are frequently attacked by looters.

So why is the U.S. government promoting the “verge of famine” deception?

The U.S. rulers are not concerned about Palestinians or Jews. For them, joining Hamas supporters in charging Israel with causing a famine is one more way to pressure its government to end the war on the thug outfit, which Washington sees as an obstacle to its goal — stability for U.S. imperialism’s plunder of the labor and natural resources of the Middle East.

Cuba’s socialist revolution renewed communist continuity

One of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for August is the French edition of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by party leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark. It features the political resolution adopted by the December 2022 Socialist Workers Party national convention, part of which is excerpted below. It’s from the section titled, “The Cuban socialist revolution and our communist continuity.” Copyright © 2023 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The Cuban socialist revolution — under the leadership of Fidel Castro, seasoned Rebel Army combatants, and other Cuban fighters won to its proletarian internationalist course — did not simply transform the lives, conditions, and political consciousness of workers and farmers in Cuba. That revolution, like the Bolshevik Revolution before it, opened a renewal of communist leadership in the Americas, in the United States and beyond.

From the Castro-led assault on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo garrison on July 26, 1953 — and publication the next year of *History Will Absolve Me*, Fidel’s courtroom defense of the aims of the revolution —



Granma
May 1, 1961, toilers march in Havana with banner celebrating “the workers in power.” Led by Fidel Castro, working people of Cuba embarked on the first socialist revolution in the Americas, in continuity with the course of V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.

the revitalization of communism began, both in program and in action.

Cadres of the Socialist Workers Party, from our origins within the American section of the Communist International in 1919, have understood that proletarian internationalism and class solidarity are carried out, first and foremost, as we build a revolutionary working-class party to advance the socialist revolution in the countries where we live, work, and fight.

Building such a party, and leading along that course toward a victorious struggle for workers power in the US, is the permanent centerpiece of what working people in this country contribute to ending Washington’s economic, trade, financial, and political war against the toilers of Cuba — a policy carried out by every Democratic and Republican administration since 1959.

The imperialist rulers’ aim is to crush the spirit of Cuba’s working people, their socialist revolution, and the example of working-class leadership and revolutionary intransigence they set for toilers in the United States, across the Americas, and worldwide. The message the US propertied rulers are signaling to working people here and everywhere is unvarnished: “This is what will be done to you if you work and fight to emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution.”

Since 1959 Cuba’s workers and farm-

ers, their revolutionary government, and their political leadership have held US imperialism at bay. They continue to do so, despite the brutal intensification of the US rulers’ unrelenting efforts to destroy the revolution. The cumulative toll exacted over more than six decades by this all-encompassing imperialist assault weighs heavily on Cuban working people. The commodification of production and exchange, as well as the sway of the law of value — and its reflection in the attitudes of human beings — continues to expand.

The greatest burden borne by the Cuban toilers and their government is the absence of any new victorious socialist revolution for more than sixty years. In the 1970s and 1980s working people in Cuba gained new strength from the internationalist mission in Angola, which dealt a death blow to apartheid and white minority rule across Southern Africa.

The Cuban Revolution was politically revitalized by the revolutionary workers and farmers governments in Grenada, led by Maurice Bishop, and in Nicaragua, under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front — what Fidel Castro in the early 1980s pointed to as “three giants rising up to defend their right to independence, sovereignty, and justice, on the very threshold of imperialism.” The popular revolution in Burkina Faso in the mid-1980s, led by Thomas Sankara, brought reinforce-

ment from West Africa.

None of these struggles culminated in a lasting extension of the world socialist revolution, for reasons the SWP has explained. While their political conquests and lessons remain indispensable, today there is not a single revolutionary working-class government anywhere in the world aside from Cuba.

These international factors and their social consequences in Cuba inevitably widen class divisions and social inequalities, raising the stakes in promoting and maintaining proletarian political consciousness and solidarity. Though weakened, the foundations of a living and fighting socialist revolution still stand.

In 2022, however, there can be no simple replay many decades later of the course led by Fidel Castro during the Rectification process that opened in 1986. Interlinked with the victorious culmination of the internationalist mission in Angola, the “Rectification of Errors and Negative Tendencies” brought renewed confidence to the Cuban working class. That class strength was decisive in the ability of Cuban working people to surmount the deep economic crisis of the 1990s — what Cubans call “the Special Period” — following the abrupt collapse of trade and financial relations with Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern and Central Europe.

Washington’s determined drive to crush Cuba’s example has been exacerbated by economic pressures of the global capitalist crisis that weigh heavily on all oppressed nations — rising prices, higher interest rates, the growing tendency toward capitalist stagflation on a world scale. Despite Cuba’s exemplary response to COVID, the economic and social costs of the international pandemic have been heavy. ...

The greater hardships of everyday life have been registered in the migration of more than 200,000 Cubans to the United States in 2022, nearly double the last big wave of 125,000 in 1980, often identified as the Mariel boatlift.

A new revolutionary triumph or rise of substantial class battles in other parts of the world can impel a new direction in Cuba, as it would with revolutionary-minded working people in the United States and elsewhere in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific and Asia.

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Imperialism’s march to a third world war

The rivalries between imperialist powers for markets, resources and influence are sharpening today. They’re producing new border skirmishes, Jew-hating violence and an escalating arms race, all leading inexorably toward a third world war.

As capitalism’s economic and political crisis deepens, sections of the ruling class will turn to fascist thugs — as they did in the 1930s — to target Jews, communists and militant workers to try to prolong the domination of their crisis-ridden system.

The only progressive class with the power to prevent imperialism’s march toward fascism and another world war is the working class. With a proven leadership, workers are capable of taking power from the capitalist warmakers.

The second imperialist world slaughter only ended after Washington used nuclear weapons to annihilate 200,000 people in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Aug. 6-9, 1945 — 80 years ago. Those atrocities were consistent with the tactics of the U.S. imperialists and their allies in the U.K. throughout the war. This included the systematic carpet-bombing of working-class neighborhoods in German cities like Dresden and Hamburg, and Tokyo in Japan.

The slaughter inflicted on humanity during that war will be magnified many times over in conflicts

today, given the spread of nuclear weapons to capitalist rulers across the globe.

Since World War II, Washington has considered using nuclear weapons on several occasions, including against Korea, Cuba and Vietnam. As pressures grow, new, more far-reaching conflicts will break out. The goal of the U.S. imperialists is to defend the “world order” they established after emerging as the victor in World War II, to impose a Pax Americana to advance their own predatory interests.

“The fight against US imperialism and its wars necessitates building a revolutionary working-class party, uncompromisingly independent of and opposed to the propertied rulers’ government and their political parties,” explains a June 25 statement by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. That statement, “Defend Israel’s battle to prevent another Holocaust! US troops, bases and warships out of the Mideast!” is available on the *Militant*’s website.

Building parties capable of leading workers and the oppressed to take state power in the U.S. is the road to “joining hands with *international* working-class struggles that will create a new world built on cooperation, not dog-eat-dog capitalism. A socialist world,” the statement says.

Join the SWP to be part of changing the world.

Workers discuss way forward after Texas flood

Continued from front page
two people still missing.

Ingram, a town of 1,800, is packed with children’s campgrounds, cabins and RV camps during the summer. Hunt, just 10 miles away, is the site of Camp Mystic, a 100-year-old all-girls’ camp where 27 children died as floodwaters rose over 26 feet in 45 minutes.

“Floods are common here, but the camps need to be built up on the hill,” Maria Diaz told the *Militant* while she was picking up water near a memorial for the flood victims in Kerrville. Floods are common near the river in Kerr County, hitting the area hard in 2002, 1998, 1987, 1978 and before.

“I worked at a camp for many years as the head cook. We weren’t near the river,” Diaz said. “My daughter is a postal worker and she lost her job because of the flood and is just getting back to work.”

Lisa Wager was leaving a Goodwill distribution center to aid flood victims when she spoke to the *Militant*. “I worked at the Guadalupe Keys RV campground. The owner went and warned everyone and got everybody out.”

“This summer I worked at another camp and I’ve lost a source of income I need to supplement Social Security,” she said. “Here there are floods all the time, nowadays there should be a warning system.”

No evacuation plan in place

Officials in Ingram say that county authorities did not give them any warnings or evacuation orders on the night of the flood, despite the National Weather Service issuing a flash flood warning with “catastrophic” potential for loss of life at 1:14 a.m.

“Why didn’t someone call me at 1:30 a.m.?” Mayor Claud Jordan asked at a meeting of the Ingram City Council July 21.

Some 200 people took part in a town hall meeting in Ingram July 22, advertised for people to learn about how they can get help. Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly opened the meeting stating, “We are not here to take questions,” then introducing the panel. Armed law enforcement officers were at the doors.

“This was bigger than a 1,000-year flood. It was an inland tsunami,” Kerr County Engineer Charlie Hastings said.

But the way government “experts” label floods has little to do with how frequently they can be expected. By claiming that catastrophic hurricanes or floods are a once in a lifetime occurrence, government officials wash their hands of responsibility for not taking stronger measures to organize safe evacuation and prevent death and destruction.

Hastings said debris burning will not start until Labor Day and that it must be sorted a certain way

or it will not be picked up. He said people who have applied for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency “have already had their forms returned with ‘declined’ and ‘need more information’” on the form. But he offered no help on how working people can navigate bureaucratic red tape to get much-needed aid.

FEMA says it will take up to 90 days to decide whether to accept appeals of its decisions to reject or limit an application for aid.

Martha Murayama was one of a large number of people who left the meeting early. Outside she told the *Militant*, “I lost everything. And we’ve already paid for debris removal.” She said she will need help rebuilding and “the meeting didn’t give me any information on this.”

Workers’ housing built in flood zones

Across Texas some 800,000 properties, 6.5% of the total, are constructed in areas designated by FEMA as Flood Special Hazard Areas. Under capitalism, areas like this have lower land values and that’s where profit-driven real estate developers build cheaper housing for working people with no regard to the dangers involved.

In a visit to the site of the Blue Oak RV camp near Kerrville, all that is left is some concrete where 28 RVs had been parked, and giant fallen trees.

Camp owner Lorena Guillen told Fox News that the rain started to come down around 1 a.m. By 2:30 a.m., she “went to check the water levels of the river.” At that point, she said, it looked fine. She called the Sheriff’s Office, which had no information to offer, so she went to sleep — only to be awoken between 3:30 and 4 a.m. by the lights of rescuers.

“It was so crazy, and I was going from RV to RV, banging on doors, getting everybody out. My husband got down all the way to his waist in the water just trying to rescue people. He was asking a guy ‘please throw me your baby’ and few seconds later, they got swept away,” she said. Everyone else survived.

In Euless, near Fort Worth, LaKaisha Lloyd had plenty to say about the consequence of the flood when Socialist Workers Party members knocked on her door. “There should always be an alarm system,” she said. “When what you have in place is nothing, you’re telling the people to fend for themselves.”

Interested in what they had to say about a working-class road forward, Lloyd bought a subscription to the *Militant* along with a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

George Chalmers and Dennis Richter contributed to this article.

Protests hit Zelensky move on ‘corruption’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Large demonstrations broke out against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s move July 22 to push through a law putting the prosecutor general, whom he had appointed, in charge over two “anti-corruption” government agencies. Within days Zelensky retreated.

After security forces arrested some anti-corruption officials, the protests grew, reaching 10,000 in Kyiv. Thousands more turned out in Kharkiv, Lviv, Chernihiv, Dnipro, Odesa and other cities, large and small. A common demand was for Zelensky to “veto the law” that he had just promoted.

Other signs said things like, “My father, my brother, my husband isn’t on the front line for *this*,” reported Elizaveta Antonova in the July 25 Meduza, a pro-Ukraine online Russian-language news outlet.

Despite being ordered not to, many soldiers joined the protests, in and out of uniform. One veteran, a double amputee, held a sign at a rally near the president’s Kyiv office reading, “We are fighting for Ukraine, not your impunity.”

The protests, as well as similar pressure from his “democratic” imperialist backers in Washington and across Europe, forced Zelensky to announce plans to throw out the bill.

For years a wing of Ukraine’s capitalist rulers have promoted the need for the government to “fight corruption,” by which they mean to target their opponents. But this demand finds resonance among working people who are all too familiar with bureaucratic swindles and inter-capitalist battles for a front row place at the public trough, dating back to the era of Stalinist rule.

The political crisis erupted as Moscow’s bombardment of Ukrainian cities escalates and its military assaults in the east continue. Faced with this, Ukrainian toilers are keenly concerned about reports of embezzlement from Kyiv’s military budget.

Facing Moscow’s murderous war, Ukraine’s working people make the greatest sacrifices, both at the front and in the country’s beleaguered cities. At the same time, workers and their unions are fighting to defend their rights and working conditions from attacks by the bosses and their government that use the cover of the war. Strikes are illegal.

Dmytro Koziatynskyi, a war veteran and protest organizer, was quoted by *Newsweek* urging a mass response to prevent a “return to the dark days of [Viktor] Yanukovich,” the pro-Moscow former president of Ukraine.

Critics said Zelensky’s law was rushed through parliament with unusual speed to protect his own inner circle.

Stalinist tyranny to capitalist theft

Yanukovich tried to defend his regime and its perks with a brutal crackdown, but hundreds of thousands occupied the streets for months in the face of armed cops and other pro-regime thugs in the popular Maidan uprising of 2014. The recent actions erupted despite Ukraine’s wartime martial law and without the support of any opposition parties.

At the end of the 1980s the Stalinist regime atop the Soviet Union imploded. Capitalists emerged from the disintegrating bureaucratic caste, seizing ever greater hunks of the newly privatized factories and other enterprises. They were aided by “experts” from Harvard and elsewhere.

In the years since, every government in power in Ukraine has tried to win support by denouncing corruption. What this usually boils down to is charges against political rivals.

But no government bureau or law enforcement agency in a capitalist state can end corruption. It is endemic to the profit system, whether in Kyiv or Washington. To eliminate corruption, and all of capitalism’s other tools used to boost profits out of the labor of working people, it will take mighty revolutionary movements, with seasoned proletarian leaderships, to take political power and transform society from top to bottom.

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