

## Defend Israel’s battle to prevent a new Holocaust! Defeat of Hamas is a decisive question!

It’s in the interests of all workers and the oppressed in the U.S. and worldwide to see the fight to dismantle Hamas carried through to the end. Another Holocaust was the stated aim of Hamas when it carried out its Oct. 7 pogrom, backed

### EDITORIAL

by the counterrevolutionary regime in Iran. Hamas and the Iranian regime hold to that goal today.

This fight is a central class question for working people worldwide.

On one side stand the interests of the international working class and its allies among the oppressed of the region. That includes millions of Palestinians, Iranians, Kurds, Azerbaijanis, Baluchis, Afghanis, Druze, Turks and Iraqis, and the special national question of the Jews in the imperialist epoch.

Jew-hatred arises from the deepening crisis of capitalist power. When the capi-

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## Ukraine resists Moscow’s war, Putin seeks help from Trump

BY ROY LANDERSEN

In an effort to impose a settlement leading to the end of Moscow’s war in Ukraine, President Donald Trump announced that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin would meet in Alaska Aug. 15. While they talk, working people in Ukraine are continuing to fight courageously against Moscow’s murderous invasion and daily bombardment aimed at civilians.

The talks will be the first face-to-face meeting between the presidents of the two countries since the war began in February 2022.

Trump’s goal is to find an end to the conflict — regardless of the cost to Ukraine — that will provide stability for the U.S. rulers to enforce their declining place as top dog in the imperialist world order. Trump especially seeks to draw Moscow closer to Washington and away from Beijing, the U.S. rulers’ main competitor.

Trump said a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia would likely include “some swapping of territories.” Moscow’s invasion has resulted

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## Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign ‘Fight for a workers gov’t to prevent another world war’



Militant/Steve Penner

Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for mayor of Saint Leonard, speaks in Montreal Aug. 9, with, from left, Kevin Dwire, SWP Minneapolis mayoral candidate; Katy LeRougetel, CL candidate for mayor of Montreal; Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for New Jersey governor.

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Campaigning together here Aug. 8-9 were Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal; Philippe Tessier, CL candidate for mayor of Saint Leonard; Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey; and Kevin Dwire, SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis.

The communist candidates got a serious hearing on picket lines of striking

Rio Tinto aluminum workers in Sorel, east of Montreal; locked-out aerospace workers in nearby Laval; on workers’ doorsteps and street tables in working-class neighborhoods; as well as at a barbecue organized by Guinean immigrants in Montreal.

“We get a big reception when we explain to workers this system can’t be reformed and that we have to build our own party to fight for a workers

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## Amnesty, not prison, for immigrant workers in US! Unite the working class



AP photo/Jose Luis Magana

Demonstrators at White House May 1 demand Kilmar Abrego García and other detained immigrant workers be freed. Placard on left says, “We honor and remember the Key Bridge families” of six immigrant workers killed when Baltimore bridge collapsed last year.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

When Donald Trump returned to the White House in January, he inherited from his predecessor, Democrat Joseph Biden, the largest immigration prison network in U.S. history. Trump immediately began taking steps to further expand it, claiming there were tens of thousands of illegal criminal

immigrants that needed to be jailed and deported.

But, as he began the expansion, it rapidly became clear that his targets were in fact simply workers and small-business people, who began being picked up at their homes, place of work, Home Depot parking lots and more. They included

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## As capitalist crisis deepens, getting a decent job becomes more difficult

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Despite the hype by government officials that the U.S. economy is “booming,” pointing to the billions Washington is reaping from tariffs it’s imposing worldwide, facts show that’s not what working people see and face amid today’s mounting capitalist crisis. It’s becoming increasingly difficult for work-

ers to get decent jobs, and persistently high prices for basic necessities continue to squeeze workers and our families.

In early August the Department of Labor admitted that its earlier report crowing that the number of available jobs rose by over 250,000 from May to June was false. Actually, bosses added only 19,000 jobs in May and just 14,000 in June.

And many of these jobs are at lower

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## Build support for Boeing strikers!

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

ST. LOUIS — After twice rejecting contract proposals from Boeing, 3,200 members of the International Association of Machinists walked off the job here, and in St. Charles, Missouri; and Mascoutah, Illinois, Aug. 4. They are fighting to win a wage increase for all workers and to close the gap in wages between veteran workers and those most recently hired.

Every four hours shuttle buses bring fresh groups of strikers from the IAM District 837 union hall to the picket line. They’re posted at nearly

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SkyChef airport food workers protest for new contract

‘Unity is key’ in Quebec aerospace workers’ fight



# Build support for Boeing strikers!

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two dozen gates and entrances around Boeing’s plant here. Pickets, young and old, shout and wave every time a passing truck or car honks in support. There are a number of generations of workers at Boeing. The company has done a lot of hiring in the past few years. The tentative agreement, which was supported by union officials, would have given a wage increase to newer workers but very little to ones with top seniority. And it left in place a significant gap between new and old. It takes many years of “progression” under the expired contract to reach the top pay scale, and “zooming” the progression is a key issue in the strike.

In his late 20s, Clyde Miller is on strike for the first time. After nine years on the job, Miller says he still makes \$11 an hour less than top pay. “If it takes more than 10 years to top out, then that contract is not for me,” he told the *Militant*. “That’s why I rejected the offer.”

Zac Boeger agreed. “We know what we are worth,” he said. “We want a quicker time to top out.”

Other issues include increased vacation and sick time, as well as stronger cost-of-living adjustments to automatically raise wages when prices go up.

Boeger and Miller were not surprised that the proposed contracts got voted down. The first contract proposal July 27 included a new work schedule of four consecutive 10-hour weekdays or three consecutive 12-hour shifts over Friday to Monday.

Even after bosses removed that unpopular demand, workers voted down the second proposal as well. Then the

union went into a contractually mandated one-week cooling-off period before they could walk off the job. “Things were getting pretty rowdy at breaks during that week,” Boeger reported. He said that workers would make all kinds of noise with rivet guns, fog horns, banging and shouting. Other Boeing unionists are supporting the striking Machinists. SPEEA, the union that organizes thousands of aerospace engineers, issued a letter of solidarity, saying, “We stand with the 3,200 IAM 837 members demanding a contract that reflects their worth.” Concrete drivers have refused to cross the picket line, pickets told us, and workers building a new \$2 billion production building there have slowed down their work in solidarity.

Strike supporters have stopped by both the union hall and picket lines to drop off sweet corn, fruit, beverages, donuts and other donations.

The three area Boeing facilities make planes, missiles and drones for



Militant/Lisa Rottach  
**IAM Local 837 members on strike against Boeing join picket line in St. Louis Aug. 7. In center is Zac Boeger, Clyde Miller at right. They’re fighting for a pay raise for all, end to big wage gap.**

the military. Workers there had closely followed the seven-week IAM strike at Boeing in Seattle last year, where Boeing’s commercial fleet is built.

To visit the picket line or drop off

donations, go to the IAM District 837 union hall, 212 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

*Lisa Rottach contributed to this article.*

## UK refuse workers fight pay cuts, attack on right to strike

**BY PETE CLIFFORD**  
BIRMINGHAM, England — “I’m determined to stay to the end of this fight,” striker Derek Roberts said as he and some 30 other strikers maintained a protest picket line at the Lifford Lane refuse depot here Aug. 7. Several hundred Unite union refuse workers are now in the fifth month on strike against pay and job cuts the Labour Party-run City Council here aims to impose.

Bolstered by growing solidarity, the strikers reestablished picketing in early July that slowed down strike-

breaking refuse truck drivers. The unionists had paused these pickets at the end of May after the council, accusing the strikers of violence, got a court injunction limiting pickets.

On July 25 the Birmingham Council had to shut down its three depots that day after several hundred strikers, fellow trade unionists and supporters rallied there. The council threatened a contempt of court action, claiming the union was defying the injunction. Since then strikers continue to protest at the depots every day, but have backed off “slow-walking” pickets.

“They are trying to prevent our right to picket,” union steward Matt Reid told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. At the same time, he said, the council has hired Tom White Waste company, owned by the nearby Labour-run Coventry Council, to bring 20 refuse trucks a day driven by agency workers to Birmingham. Coventry Council used the same scab outfit to break a 2022 refuse strike there.

The law prohibits companies from hiring agency workers to replace strik-

ers, but by hiring a separate company to do so the council avoids the law. It’s “legalized strikebreaking,” Reid said. “It’s one law for them and another for us,” Roberts added.

“The council is pressing ahead with their job and pay cuts,” Reid said, after breaking off talks with the union July 9. This attack on the workers involves council moves to remove team leader responsibilities from refuse drivers, cutting their pay by 8,000 pounds (\$10,750). Refuse loaders who had extra safety responsibilities will lose pay as well.

The council sent every refuse worker a letter threatening to get rid of them if they don’t accept these changes. Facing these pressures, a layer of mainly older workers have taken voluntary redundancy payouts and left the strike.

Despite these threats solidarity keeps strikers’ morale up. A London-wide meeting of Unite union bus driver stewards July 27 sent a strong message to the refuse strikers, saying, “Your fight is our fight.” Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers member Lee Williams brought

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# THE MILITANT

## 80 years after Hiroshima, new wars threaten

*In World War II, Washington dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing over 200,000 people. Rival capitalist powers are fueling global conflict again today. Only the working class has the power to stop imperialism’s drive to new wars.*

AP Photo/Stanley Troutman, Pool file  
Hiroshima, Japan, after Washington’s atom bomb killed 140,000 people Aug. 6, 1945.

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## The Militant

**Vol. 89/No. 30**  
**Closing news date:** August 13, 2025  
**Editor:** John Studer  
**Managing Editor:** Terry Evans  
**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Vivian Sahner, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, three weeks in June, and one week in September.

**Business Manager:** Bob Bruce  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.  
**Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
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**E-mail:** [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)  
**Website:** [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.  
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Teamsters strike Mauser plant over wages, conditions, rights

CHICAGO — “We are two months into our fight, and no one has crossed the picket line,” union steward Leon Garrett, one of some 120 members of Teamsters Local 705 who have been on strike since June 9 at Mauser Packaging Solutions here in Little Village, told the *Militant*. They recondition 55-gallon steel drums used for chemical transport. “Most of us are Black and Hispanic, and we are not going to let this company divide us.”

Some 250 Local 705 members and strike supporters gathered outside Mauser company headquarters Aug. 5 in suburban Oak Park for a solidarity rally. A loud siren went off in the parking lot, drowning out the speakers. Then it fell silent. Some workers laughed it off, saying this is the way Mauser plays their games and tries to interfere with the union.

After the rally participants carried out a short march through the parking lot, chanting, “What do we want? A fair contract! When do we want it? Now!”

Strikers said there is more at stake than wages. The union is demanding improvements to unsafe working conditions, better break scheduling, and reasonable shift start times. One of their demands is for the bosses to agree not to allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents onto workplace property unless they have a warrant.

“My Hispanic co-workers know that we fight for everyone,” Garrett said. “If you get in trouble, we are there for you. If immigration marshals come into the plant, they must present completed warrants signed by judges. They can’t just be snatching people.”

Little Village is a densely populated Chicago neighborhood where most residents are of Mexican heritage. In recent months there has been a step-up in ICE arrests and detentions of immigrant workers.

Martín Rico is originally from Mexico and has worked at Mauser for two years unloading trucks. “We all have rights, including immigrants,” he told this reporter at the rally. “I have no

idea whether ICE will come for us or not, but at least with a union we have the possibility to fight back together.”

Garrett reports they are receiving support. “People bring by water, pop and candy. Folks from local restaurants bring food right to the line and cook it up for us on the spot.”

Bring your solidarity to the picket line at 3201 S. Millard Ave! Pickets are there 24 hours a day Monday-Friday, and from 5 a.m. to noon on Saturday and Sunday.

— Lisa Rottach

## ‘Unity is key’ in Quebec aerospace workers’ fight

LAVAL, Quebec — Following their Friday general assembly, it was hot dogs and ice cream on the picket line Aug. 8 for members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) at the Heroux-Devtek aerospace company here.

The bosses locked out some 100 workers July 9, the day after the union organized a one-day strike to emphasize their demand for wage parity. Workers at another division of the company in Longueuil, earn eight Canadian dollars (\$5.80) an hour more.

The workers manufacture landing gear for both military and commercial aircraft.

They said they’re getting a lot of solidarity from CSN members and other workers. Dozens of truckers and others passing by honk and wave in support.

The bosses have hired some scabs, but there is virtually no production going on. The Quebec labor tribunal recently ordered the company to stop using scabs, which is illegal under Quebec labor law.

“With a boss like ours the union is really, really important,” said machinist William Gagnon, adding this is his first time on a picket line.

“The workers here have our full support,” CSN Executive Committee Treasurer Yvan Duceppe told the *Militant*. He spoke to the 35 to 40 workers present, saying, “Your unity is key. They can’t make profits without you.”

The workers were very impressed

## SkyChef airport food workers protest for new contract



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

SEATAC, Wash. — Some 100 SkyChef airport food preparation workers, members of the UNITE HERE union, and their supporters rallied at the airport here Aug. 7, above, part of a National Day of Action. Overall, some 10,000 SkyChef workers are involved in the fight for a new contract, and rallies were held at 15 airports. The workers haven’t had a new contract since 2016.

Flight attendants, airport food workers at Gate Gourmet, and members of Service Employees International Union Locals 6 and 775, the United Food and Commercial Workers, and Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers unions joined the lively picket in front of international arrivals at the airport. SEIU Local 6 Organizer Anthony King, representing wheelchair pushers and other workers inside the airport, brought greetings. They are fighting for a contract as well, and will hold a rally at the same location Aug. 15.

A message of support from SMART-Transportation Division Local 324 President Nate Morris was read by Local member Henry Dennison. Rail workers face the same draconian restrictions on their right to strike as airport workers, including those at SkyChef, under the notorious Railway Labor Act. That doesn’t stop them from fighting for an acceptable contract.

Paula Isla-McGill, president of the Seattle local of the Association of Flight Attendants at Alaska Air, spoke, as well as SeaTac Mayor Mohamed Egal.

The rally got bigger when a group of workers coming off shift joined in. “We fight, together with the union, to get more money,” SkyChef worker Rose told the rally. “But without the union, SkyChef pays minimum wage.”

— REBECCA WILLIAMSON

that Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, had joined them on the picket line Aug. 8. She was here to speak at a Militant Labor Forum the following night.

“This is what we use our campaign for,” she said. “To help build solidarity with fights like these that are going on here and around the world.”

Visit the picket line! Support messag-

es can be sent through the CSN website, or by mail to CSN, 1601, avenue De Lorimier, Montreal, Quebec H2K 4M5.

— John Steele

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

August 21, 2000

PRETORIA, South Africa — “Let us not equivocate: a tragedy of unprecedented proportions is unfolding in Africa,” Nelson Mandela told delegates at the 13th international AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa. “Decades have been chopped from life expectancy and young child mortality is expected to more than double in the most severely affected countries.”

Southern Africa is the epicenter of the AIDS pandemic. The spread of the disease is fueled by the horrendous social conditions imposed on hundreds of millions of workers and peasants as a result of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation, including the oppression of women.

There are 16 countries on the continent where more than one-tenth of the adult population (aged 15-49) is infected with HIV. By 1998, AIDS-related diseases had killed 11.5 million Africans.

### THE MILITANT

August 15, 1975

James Eagle, one of the four Indians the FBI was looking for on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation last June, has been charged with the deaths of two FBI agents. Eagle, nineteen, and his family are known on the reservation as American Indian Movement supporters.

The charges are based on an FBI claim that two prisoners who had been incarcerated with Eagle told agents he had admitted to the shootings. The charges can only be considered a frame-up, the latest in a long series the government has been fabricating against Indian militants in the past several years.

On July 26, American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks was convicted on charges of armed riot and assault in such a frame-up. Russell Means, another AIM leader who faces multiple frame-up charges, was the target of an apparent murder attempt on the Rosebud Indian Reservation July 28.

### THE MILITANT

August 21, 1950

By more than doubling its military budget in the space of nine weeks the Truman administration has started a switch of the domestic economy from a civilian to a war basis.

The crises of war economy take the form of inflation (soaring prices, acute shortages of necessities and consumer goods, debasement of currency, shattering of the fiscal system).

Since Truman’s undeclared war in Korea erupted, in the space of these few weeks, military armaments have been hiked in price by 40% to 50% and in some cases even by as much as 90%.

It is these fantastic inflationary leaps in arms costs that will determine, as the months go by, the general price levels. A military budget of \$50 billion annually would mean a 20% reduction in living standards. This means the scourge of inflation on a scale never experienced by the workers of this country.

## UK bin workers

Continued from page 2

greetings from the National Executive and read a solidarity message from its European Passenger Services branch.

Unionists from the National Education Union, Fire Brigades Union, Public and Commercial Services Union, Bakers union and others joined the action.

“I feel the unions are starting to wake up. We need to win this,” union steward Danny Taylor told the *Militant* after the action. To strengthen the strike, the union is planning a “family fun day,” with entertainment and food for workers and their families, Reid said.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



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# Rally in Philadelphia demands that ICE ‘Bring Anou home!’

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

PHILADELPHIA — Several hundred people filled the block outside Das Good Cafe in the Germantown neighborhood here Aug. 9 chanting “Bring Anou home!” and “Who’s our neighbor? Anou’s our neighbor!” The rally protested Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention of co-owner Anovsack “Anou” Vongbandith.

Now 50 years old, Vongbandith came to the U.S. when he was 5, fleeing Laos with his parents. He can’t speak the Lao language and has only loose connections to family there. His immediate family is here. He has a serious heart condition and his family doesn’t know if he is getting the care he needs.

Vongbandith and his wife, Ahn, opened their restaurant a year ago and are well known to people in the neighborhood.

Ahn, who is spearheading his defense, spoke at the rally, saying her husband was picked up by ICE as he left for work July 26 and is currently being held at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center.

“This is not about just Anou, but it’s about every family torn apart like ours, every person who belongs here, and is being forced away from their loved ones,” she said.

“So I’m asking you to help bring Anou home. Help bring all of them home. Home to their families, to their friends, to their communities who love them.”

The rally was organized by West Central Germantown Neighbors, Asian Americans United, Reclaim Philadelphia, and the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance. Also speaking at the rally were Rev. Gregory Holston, State Rep. Christopher Rabb, and State Sen. Art Haywood.

Anou never obtained citizenship and had his green card taken away when he and his wife were accused of child abuse in 2008 in Florida by their then 15-year-old daughter. They were charged after Ahn accused a 21-year-old man their daughter was seeing of statutory rape, and the girl sought retribution.

When their three children were placed in foster care, Anou took a plea deal to get them home, which is now being used to try and deport him. Their daughter, now 35, has since denied any abuse ever happened.

Anou’s attorneys never mentioned that accepting the plea deal would place him in violation of immigration law. Since then, he has been under ICE supervision, checking in twice a year with the agency. It makes Anou “so angry that he took a plea deal out of fear,” Ahn told the *Chestnut Hill Local*.

Because of his heart condition, “if he goes to Laos without his medication, he will not survive,” she said.

John Booth, a cook at Shriners Hospital, who came across the protest on his way to work, told the *Militant*, “I didn’t know anything about this even though I live around the corner. It’s great so many people see how important it is to speak up and stand together in the neighborhood.”

“They’re ripping up families. I was pleased to see so much support to stop this,” said Alex Mohamed, owner of Takka Grill & Pizza right next door.

“I understand what deportation



Militant/Janet Post

Hundreds at Aug. 9 protest against ICE arrest of Laotian-born Anou Vongbandith in Philadelphia. “This is not just about Anou, but about every family torn apart like ours,” said his wife, Ahn.

means. My grandfather from Colombia was deported back in the 1970s. Then he came back and was able to get legal papers when [President Ronald] Reagan issued a broad amnesty in the ‘80s. It shows we can win,” stu-

dent Jamie Nieves said.

Supporters have raised over \$60,000 for Anou’s GoFundMe “Save Our Dad From Deportation” defense fund, which was started by his younger daughter, Jade.

## Amnesty, not prison, for immigrant workers in the US!

Continued from front page

people like Kilmar Abrego García, an apprentice sheet metal worker and member of the SMART union; International Association of Machinists member Maximo Londonio in Washington state; café worker Carol Mayorga, who had lived in Kennett, Missouri, for decades; high school students in New York; and many more workers.

Their neighbors, co-workers, family and friends, many of whom had voted for Donald Trump, organized to fight to win their freedom.

What is needed today is not more immigration prisons, but an amnesty for all those immigrants in the U.S. This is the road to advance the unity of the working class against the employers and their government.

But for the administration in Washington, they continue to ramp up plans to imprison tens of thousands of immigrant workers. Their goal is to intimidate the millions of workers without papers, shut them up and get people to “self deport.”

The expansion underway of prisons and other schemes to detain and deport immigrant workers is well underway.

The Department of Homeland Security has deputized personnel from the Texas National Guard; the Drug Enforcement Administration; Bureau of

Prisons; U.S. Marshals; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and members of the State Department and Internal Revenue Service to assist in immigration operations.

The DHS budget is set at over \$165 billion this year, with \$45 billion allocated to construction of new detention facilities. The administration’s goal is to have 100,000 beds available in the nation’s immigration prisons.

By Aug. 17, Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, will house 1,000 immigrants, with a capacity to hold 5,000.

This jail is referred to as a “soft-sided” facility — actually a gigantic tent — to hold immigrants for deportation proceedings. For those who already face removal, “ICE Air,” as Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s deportation fleet is known, is ready. Since the beginning of the year, they have deported people to Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela. Washington has also moved to obtain agreements from governments abroad to incarcerate immigrants there from the U.S. in exchange for cash or political favors.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has chosen Camp Atterbury in Indiana and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey to be refitted to house

several thousand more immigrants awaiting deportation, along with the U.S.-occupied Guantánamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

Prisons are a profitable venture

Even with the expansion of prison capacity on military bases and elsewhere, some 85% of workers in immigration detention are held in for-profit jails run by companies like the GEO Group.

Conditions in these facilities, where inmate populations have exploded as arrests have grown, are marked by overcrowding, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. In June a riot broke out at a Tennessee prison run by CoreCivic, one for-profit prison company, over abysmal conditions, where a single correctional officer was responsible for hundreds of inmates.

CoreCivic is now trying to take over and reopen the notorious maximum security prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, as a privately run detention center.

CoreCivic “expects us all to have amnesia about their track record here, and then they muddy the waters with big financial promises,” said Esmie Tseng from the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The company tries to sell its profitable venture by promising the prison will provide jobs, and payments to the city of \$1 million up front when its facility opens, and hundreds of thousands more over the years.

At an April 9 Border Security Expo, where bosses came to exhibit their wares for handling immigrants, Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons said he has a plan to round up immigrants for detention with a fleet of trucks. He said it would be similar to how Amazon delivers packages around the U.S., “like Prime, but with human beings.”

As ICE agents expand their raids and arrests across the country, they’ve run into protests by workers and their unions, who’ve come to know and appreciate fellow workers without papers in their communities.

These fights — large and small — set an example in the fight for amnesty to unify the working class.

## Protest hits ICE, Ambridge, Pa., cops immigration raids

BY DAVE FERGUSON

AMBRIDGE, Pa. — More than 50 people gathered here Aug. 1 to protest a combined local police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation the night before, which led to the arrest of at least 10 people.

The police and county sheriffs “were going through bars, questioning people, checking for warrants and papers,” Lorianne Burgess told the *Militant*, and then they turned their focus “to a Hispanic grocery store where a family was picked up.” Burgess, who owns a bakery in Ambridge, just north of Pittsburgh, had called for a protest against the arrests on Facebook.

“I saw the cops, I thought at first it was a drug bust,” retired state worker

and Ambridge resident Jack Royal told the *Militant*. He joined the protest after finding out about it that morning. This was the second action against the raid, one had been put together as the arrests took place.

Beaver County District Attorney Nathan Bible described the cop action as a “saturation operation.” Its purpose was to “round up any individuals with outstanding warrants,” he said. “While federal agents from ICE were present, this was in no way an ‘ICE raid.’”

“This was not public safety,” Monica Ruiz, executive director of Casa San José, an area-wide immigrant rights group, said in a statement. This was “a show of power meant to terror-

ize immigrant families.”

Tony Lane, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, had gone to Ambridge to present the party’s campaign.

“As well as expressing our support for the protest,” Lane told the *Militant*, “we discussed with participants in the action the important steps being taking by unions in acting against deportations, and the need for a broader fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers to unify the working class.”

In recent weeks there have been a number of ICE operations targeting restaurants, apartment stores and ride-share workers in towns on the northern outskirts of Pittsburgh.

# SWP at Seattle debate: ‘Cuban Revolution is example for today’

BY HENRY DENNISON

SEATTLE — The Socialist Workers Party candidates here, Rebecca Williamson for King County Executive and Jacob Perasso for mayor, participated in a candidates’ forum at the Filipino Community Center July 30 organized by the King County International Airport Community Coalition. Some 75 people came.

Perasso, a baker at Safeway and member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union, explained the SWP candidates are different from the others in that they speak for the working class and explain that capitalism can’t be reformed to work for our class.

“The capitalist system is rotten to the core. It will take struggles by working people and our unions to win what we need,” he said. “And ultimately we need to overthrow capitalist rule and take political power into our own hands.” He said that the SWP is organizing to do just that and invited participants to join the campaign.

Williamson, a freight rail worker and member of the SMART-TD union, said working people need to break from the Democratic and Republican parties. She explained the imperialist world order put in place after the U.S. emerged victorious in that battle over markets, influence and profits is coming apart. All the major capitalist powers are maneuvering against each other, which points toward another world war and possible nuclear conflagration. “Today’s social and political questions will be decided by which class rules,” she said.

In contrast, “my campaign is for unity,” mayoral candidate Clinton Bliss said, implying that workers and bosses could work together toward improving the city in the interests of all. Katie Wilson, who days later won the primary election, defeating the incumbent Bruce Harrel (who did not participate in the forum), said she was running because “we can do better” in reforming city policies, claiming her reform campaign has made life better for working people.

In response to a question about how to provide more housing, Bliss said “public/private partnerships” are needed. Wilson said that increasing zoning for building housing and “streamlining the process” would help.

“The housing question and homelessness can’t be solved under capitalism,” said Perasso. “Workers need to fight for higher wages and a massive government-funded public works program to build affordable housing and provide jobs for those who need them. But to solve the problem requires building a mass movement of millions of working

people to make a revolution like workers and peasants did in Cuba.”

Candidates were asked how to combat environmental pollution from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport that mainly falls on working-class communities.

## “Mobilize our unions”

“Housing for working people is more often built in flood-prone areas and areas of higher pollution, cheaper land, where the capitalists can make a profit. That’s how the capitalist market works, it prices working people out of safer housing,” Perasso said. “We need to mobilize our unions to fight for safer working-class housing and workers control of production and safety on the job.”

In response to a question about recent federal cuts to Medicaid, Wilson called for seeking “progressive revenue sources,” or taxes on the wealthy, to reduce the impact of the cuts.

“The cuts are an attack on the working class and we need to oppose them,” Perasso said. “But to end the problems that stem from a medical system designed around producing profit for the bosses and investors, health care needs to be taken out of



Militant/Scott Breen

Jacob Perasso, SWP mayoral candidate, speaks at Seattle candidates’ forum at Filipino Community Center July 30. “Workers need to take power into our own hands,” he said.

the realm of profits completely.

“Here again, the Cuban Revolution is a good example. The revolutionary combatants forged the basis of a medical system based on human solidarity beginning in the opening years of the revolutionary struggle, setting up clinics that treated everyone without regard for profit.”

Perasso also explained that rising Jew-hatred was a dangerous threat to the working class and workers need to defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews. He and Williamson

called on workers to fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers in the United States to unite the working class and join fights against deportations of union workers and others.

Many in the audience liked what the SWP candidates had to say. Several came by the SWP campaign literature table afterward to talk and get more information. One of the other candidates for King County Executive bought a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

## ‘Fight for a workers gov’t to prevent another world war’

### Continued from front page

government to prevent another world war,” Kuniansky told a well-attended Militant Labor Forum the candidates addressed Aug. 9.

“With Moscow’s war against the Ukrainian people, the decisive turning point in Israel’s drive to defeat Hamas and the threat of a new Holocaust, and the imperialist powers’ tariff wars, working people sense the world is headed toward more wars.

“The decisive issue now in Israel’s defensive war is to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews and to finish off Hamas. Israel is acting despite opposition from the major imperialist powers, including Washington, Ottawa, London and Paris — which call for an end to the fighting and creation of a so-called two-state solution that would allow Hamas to live and rebuild. The imperialist clamor is backed by top layers of the Israeli military and security establishment, as well as middle-class layers in Israel that are transmission belts for Washington’s pressure.

“You have to start with what will strengthen the working class,” Kuniansky said. Dealing a death blow to Hamas and incorporating the Palestinians into Israel would create more favorable conditions for Jews, Palestinians and others to come together in common struggles, she said, and build the working-class leadership they need to advance the interests of all the toilers, including the national aspirations of the Palestinian people and the special national question of the Jews.

### International working-class unity

Kevin Dwire reported that while campaigning door to door in Montreal he met an immigrant worker from Syria who supported the Druze national minority there. They have recently come under military attack by the new Syrian government, which was pushed back by Israel’s defense

of the Druze. He told Dwire that he had participated in a demonstration in Ottawa to support the Druze.

“The internationalization of our class today is one of our strengths,” Dwire said. “It helps advance the labor movement.”

Winning unions to a fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers is a “fight for the soul and unity of the labor movement,” he said. “The superexploitation of immigrant labor is a key source of the bosses’ profits, as well as a tool the capitalist rulers use to try and keep the working class divided.

“We are not living in ordinary times today,” Dwire said, describing a series of initiatives taken by labor unions to help lead fights to win freedom for workers arrested by U.S. immigration cops and threatened with deportation.

### No to national chauvinism, war

“Wielding tariffs or free trade, the capitalist rulers battle against each other for markets and profits. Either way, working people go to the wall,” Dwire said.

“I visited the Rio Tinto picket line with some of my co-workers a couple of weeks ago and discussed the tariff conflict between Washington and Ottawa,” said Tessier, a conductor for the Canadian National Railway and member of the Teamsters union.

“One striker told me, ‘We’ll see what happens with the tariffs. That’s the business of the bosses. We have to fight for the wages we need.’” Tessier contrasted this fighting spirit with the course of Canada’s trade union officials, who have become junior members of the Liberal government’s “Team Canada” campaign against Washington.

This same Liberal government has been making preparations for new wars, attacking crucially needed democratic freedoms that working people need, like the right to assemble, protest and speak freely, as well as the right to strike.

Since last summer, Ottawa has used anti-labor laws to order striking rail, port and postal workers back to work. “Now it has introduced the so-called Strong Borders Act, a sweeping attack on the rights of immigrants and the entire working class. And it has announced a huge increase in military spending over the next decade.”

Tessier explained that Ottawa, along with other imperialist powers, is preparing for future wars, as competition between them for the markets and resources sharpen. Ottawa’s patriotic propaganda and its protectionist tariffs is aimed against fellow workers worldwide, especially in the U.S., who are the most important and powerful ally of workers in Canada.

“The history of the revolutionary workers movement can’t be understood without seeing the importance of joint struggles by workers and other exploited producers on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border,” he said.

The candidates urged those in the audience to help build and join the communist movement, and to join in the effort to collect the signatures necessary to put LeRougetel and Tessier on the ballot for the Nov. 2 election.

“The Communist League is the only party in Canada that explains the need to build a proletarian party to organize the working class to take political power,” Tessier said. “We point to the example of the Bolshevik-led 1917 Russian Revolution and the 1959 Cuban socialist revolution, led by Fidel Castro.”

Throughout the weekend, campaigners collected 17 signatures for LeRougetel and five for Tessier. They need 81 more to hit their goal of 300 for LeRougetel and 62 more to reach the goal of 150 for Tessier. They also sold three *Militant* subscriptions, four books on revolutionary politics and history and a number of copies of the *Militant*.

Join the Communist League! Join the Socialist Workers Party!

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### TEXAS

#### Fort Worth

**The Working Class, the Jewish Question, the World Capitalist Crisis and Prospects for Revolution.** Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California. Sat., Aug. 23. Reception, 5 p.m.; program, 5:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 201C, Gramercy Center. Tel.: (817) 899-6720.



# Ukraine resists Moscow's war

**Continued from front page**  
in its occupation of around 20% of Ukraine. Putin hopes to get Washington's backing for a deal that will not only legitimize his regime's landgrab, but also hand over other parts of eastern Ukraine that are currently held by Kyiv's forces.

President Volodymyr Zelensky rejected this, saying, "Ukrainians will not gift their land to the occupier."

He added that any decisions made by Putin and Trump without the Ukrainian government will be "dead decisions; they will never work."

This stance has been backed by a number of capitalist powers seeking to advance their own rival interests, including France, Italy, the U.K., Germany, Poland and Finland.

While opposing Zelensky's exclusion from the talks, these governments are using their financial and military backing to Ukraine to pressure Kyiv to compromise on its territorial integrity. "The current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations," they said in an Aug. 9 statement.

There is a possibility Ukraine will be invited to the talks, Vice President J.D. Vance said Aug. 10. Putin's agreement to meet the U.S. president came just as Trump was about to enforce an Aug. 8 deadline of imposing new secondary tariffs on nations importing discounted Russian oil. The effects of Washington's current sanctions on Russia fall most harshly on working people there.

Putin's war goal is to subjugate Ukraine and forcibly incorporate as much of it as possible into Russia. He wants to eliminate Ukrainians as a nationality and destroy their language, identity and culture. As recently as June he said, "We see Ukraine as ours."

### Volunteers defend Ukraine

Regardless of the Alaska talks, working people in Ukraine are determined to keep resisting Moscow's assaults on their cities and front lines.

"We've fought so long that we rely

only on ourselves, not on presidents, gods or talks," Ukrainian army Capt. Filatov told the Aug. 9 *New York Times*, from the ruins of Pokrovsk, a key site of bloody battles in Ukraine's east. Thousands of Russian soldiers have been sent to their deaths there in "meat grinder" assaults.

Combat medical volunteer Viktoriia Honcharuk had been working in a Wall Street bank in New York. "And then Russia invaded my country, and I reevaluated my life," she told the *Wall Street Journal* Aug. 7. She said she accepts that "every single time I go for evacuations, I might be killed — but that's OK with me."

"When you see what Russia brings — the mass graves, the forced deportations, the torture of civilians — you stop romanticizing compromise," Honcharuk said. The struggle for Ukraine's survival is "about dignity, about never having to look a child in the eyes and explain that you gave up their future."

### Women in Ukraine's armed forces

Of Ukraine's 1 million military personnel, 100,000 are women, all of whom are volunteers since Ukraine doesn't conscript women. Some 5,500 serve on the front lines as snipers, fighter pilots, medics, drivers, artillery and drone crew members or in other roles. The toll of Ukrainian troops killed resisting the Russian invasion now includes an increasing number of women.

A tribute to seven women, who lost their lives serving in front-line combat roles, was carried in the online Euromaidan Press Aug. 8. Christine Chraibi wrote that some were career soldiers, others signed up as the war



Vadym Sarakhan

**Kateryna Troian, a legendary drone operator with over 1,000 successful strikes, was known by her call sign, "Meow." She was killed by artillery fire near Pokrovsk, in eastern Ukraine, June 8.**

intensified. They evacuated wounded under artillery fire, carried out reconnaissance missions in contested territory and conducted military drone missions.

"Their stories reveal how Ukraine's war has quietly revolutionized military service," Chraibi wrote. "Civilians became drone pilots. University students became battlefield medics. Mothers learned reconnaissance. They died performing jobs that placed them in the most dangerous areas of combat — from evacuation routes under artillery fire to reconnaissance missions in contested territory."

Their courage and dedication exemplify the resistance of the Ukrainian people.

### Moscow's drive to Russify Ukraine

The Putin regime has "a large-scale state policy of militarizing Ukrainian

children," Dariia Zarivna, executive director of Bring Kids Back UA, told the *Journal*. She said they have been systematically seized and transferred from areas of Ukraine occupied by Moscow's forces to Russia. The Ukrainian government has records on nearly 20,000 cases of children being kidnapped to Russia.

Some are advertised for adoption, searchable by eye and hair color. For those not adopted, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War says Moscow has set up "at least 43 children's camps throughout Russia to house deported children, at least 32 of which are explicitly 'reeducation' facilities." Many of these children are being stripped of their Ukrainian names and birthplaces as they are put up for adoption.

The Kremlin also seeks to prepare teenage Ukrainian boys to fight against fellow Ukrainians. They can be conscripted to fight in the Russian army as soon as they turn 18.

## Two workers killed in explosion at US Steel coke plant in Clairton

**BY KATHIE FITZGERALD**

**PITTSBURGH** — Multiple explosions rocked the U.S. Steel plant in Clairton, 15 miles south of Pittsburgh, Aug. 11, killing two workers and sending 10 others to area hospitals. As of press time, five remain in critical condition. The blasts were heard miles away and released clouds of noxious smoke and fumes into the atmosphere.

A press conference described by the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* as "tightly controlled" shed little light on the nature or cause of the explosion. Even though Scott Buckiso, a vice president and chief manufacturing officer for U.S. Steel, Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato and other area executives spoke, "Questions from the media about the possible cause or origin of the blasts went unanswered, as did requests for information about

the dead and injured."

The United Steelworkers union released a brief statement saying it "will work to ensure a thorough investigation."

The 100-year-old mill, now a subsidiary of Nippon Steel, converts coal into coke, which is used in making steel in ovens of 1,800 degrees. It is one of the largest coke mills in the world, employing some 1,400 workers.

The mill has seen numerous accidents and fatalities over the years, most recently this February when a fire sent two workers to the hospital.

Many area residents heard and felt the explosions and worried about what it meant. Amy Sowers, who grew up in Clairton, told the media, "Lives were lost again, how many more lives are going to have to be lost until something happens?"



### Join Aug. 18 protests! Support PSA Airlines flight attendants two-year fight for new contract!

Join the flight attendants at PSA Airlines, members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, on their picket lines Aug. 18. They are fighting for a new contract that includes a substantial wage increase, pay for time spent boarding, sick leave and more.

PSA, a subsidiary of American Airlines, pays flight attendants 45% less than crews doing the same work at American.

Picket lines will be held at airports in Philadelphia; Dallas; Charlotte, North Carolina; Dayton, Ohio; and Ronald Reagan Washington International Airport in Arlington, Virginia.

For more details go to the union's website at [www.afacwa.org](http://www.afacwa.org).

### The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us

**The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward**

*By Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark*



[pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)



# New attacks on synagogues show real face of Jew-hatred

BY JANET POST

Attacks on synagogues in Australia, Canada and elsewhere over recent weeks highlight the stakes in the fight to defend Israel as a refuge for Jews, to advance the working-class fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms.

In British Columbia, Canada, someone scrawled death threats against Jews on the front doors of Victoria's Congregation Emanu-El, the oldest continually operating synagogue in the country.

"Jews are evil! Because genocide is evil! Stop genocide. Stop the Jews!" the virulent text read. "Jews are murdering thousands of gentile children. In the future Palestinians will get their revenge against you child-killing Jew-monsters."

"This is a painful reminder that the fight against anti-Semitism is far from over," the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver said in response.

When the Aug. 2 attack came, members of the synagogue were preparing for Shabbat services, including a bar mitzvah in the morning and a Tisha B'Av service in the evening.

It came just days after the government of Canada joined France, the U.K. and the Arab League in calling for the recognition of a Palestinian state. Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad told Al Jazeera this call was "the fruit" of their Oct. 7 pogrom. "Before Oct. 7 did any country dare recognize a Palestinian state?" he asked. These calls aim to prevent a total defeat of Hamas by Israel.

In response to the synagogue attack, Nina Krieger, British Columbia's public safety minister, announced an expansion of the Hate Crimes Unit. But the attack on the synagogue is not a "hate crime," but the threat of deadly violence against Jews in support of Hamas' goal of another Holocaust.

"The messages invoked age-old and violent antisemitic blood libels, falsely accusing Jews of murdering children and calling for revenge," Nico Slobinsky, vice president of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs for the Pacific Region, told Canadian Jewish News. "These are not just hateful words, they are dangerous incitements."

"That the act of antisemitic vandalism was discovered the weekend of Tisha B'Av, a day that commemorates centuries of Jewish persecution, is no coincidence."

There has been a rise in antisemitic attacks in Canada since Hamas' murderous assaults in Israel. Hamas supporters have shot bullets at Jewish schools; carried out physical attacks, threats and vandalism at synagogues; and attempted

to shut down events featuring speakers from Israel. Pro-Hamas encampments have been set up on at least 15 university campuses across the country.

## Jew-hatred attacks in Australia

In Melbourne, Australia, a man wearing a "Scream" mask and a long black coat, riding a black e-scooter, targeted the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation in South Yarra five times between March 11 and July 30, spray-painting antisemitic messages on its walls. One reads, in large letters, "WAR CRIMES," with Star of David substituted for letter "a."

There has been a surge in antisemitic attacks across Australia, rising from 495 in 2023 to 2,062 in 2024.

In just three days, July 4-6, in southeast Australia there was an arson attack on a synagogue, a physical assault on workers and patrons at a Jewish restaurant, the torching of a car, and graffiti attacks on businesses assumed to be linked to Jews. On July 31 Giovan-



Jew-hating death threat on door of Congregation Emanu-El, Victoria, British Columbia, Aug. 2.

ni Laulu, accused of setting fire to the Adass Israel Synagogue in Melbourne Dec. 6 where one worshipper suffered burns, made his first court appearance.

"It is important that working people and our unions are standing up to protest these Jew-hating attacks, and we

must continue to do so," Robert Aiken, the Communist League candidate in the 2025 federal elections, told the *Militant*. "Capitalist governments have never protected Jews, fought against pogroms, nor supported the right of Israel to exist as a refuge for Jews."

# Israeli gov't approves offensive for defeat of Hamas

BY SETH GALINSKY

After a heated 10-hour debate Aug. 8, the Israeli government approved a new offensive aimed at decisively defeating Hamas and extending Israeli military control over all of Gaza. The Security Cabinet voted to instruct the Israeli army to take over Gaza City, one of the Tehran-backed group's last remaining strongholds.

Some 1 million Palestinian civilians living there would be evacuated to designated safety zones, prior to Israeli soldiers wresting control from Hamas.

The decision was "strongly" condemned by the governments of Australia, Germany, Italy and the U.K. in a joint statement. They restated their call for an immediate end to Israel's war to destroy Hamas and for a "two-state solution" to be imposed.

President Donald Trump said the decision was "pretty much up to Israel." His administration had previously pressed Israel to agree to a ceasefire with Hamas.

The decision was made amid an international campaign by a host of imperialist governments, backed by the middle-class left and the bourgeois media, falsely claiming Israel has caused a famine and is carrying out "genocide" in Gaza.

Hamas is the main reason there are food shortages in Gaza. The terror group tries to violently disrupt the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Fund aid distribution. According to the U.N., 87% of its separate aid shipments are stolen by armed bands before reaching warehouses. The U.N. uses that as an excuse for leaving truckloads of aid at the border untouched.

Claims that Israel is starving Palestinians are aimed at preventing Israel from dismantling Hamas once and for all. But it was Hamas that started the war, Oct. 7, 2023. In collaboration with the reactionary regime in Tehran, it murdered 1,200 people in Israel, took 251 hostages and raped dozens of women in the worst anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust.

Stepping up the pressure on Israel, 147 governments currently recognize a

Palestinian state, even though Hamas says it will never renounce its aim of wiping out Israel. The German government recently announced a partial arms embargo against Israel.

Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad boasted about its massacre of Jews. "The fruits of Oct. 7 are what caused the entire world to open its eyes to the Palestinian issue," he said Aug. 2.

Hamad claims Hamas is fighting for Palestinian "freedom." In reality, Hamas crushed the ruling Fatah forces after Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005. The Nazi-like outfit imposed a brutal dictatorship on the people of Gaza to advance its goal of annihilating Israel. Political opponents were tortured and killed, women's rights were restricted, and strikes by workers crushed. Hamas cynically uses Palestinians as human shields every time Israel responds to its attacks.

Soon after Israeli forces responded to the Oct. 7 pogrom, Washington and other capitalist governments began pressing Israel to reach a "permanent" ceasefire deal with Hamas. The U.S. capitalist rulers see the war in Gaza as an obstacle to extending their political, economic and military domination and plunder of the Middle East.

## Israel won't commit suicide

In an Aug. 10 press conference, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that no matter what other governments say, the war will continue. "We're not going to commit national suicide."

The heated debate over the road forward in the Security Cabinet is a reflection of the semi-civil war in bourgeois politics in Israel. This conflict is sharpening as high-ranking officials in the Israel Defense Forces and the Shin Bet intelligence agency, along with bourgeois opposition parties — who share the outlook of U.S. imperialism — push for the war to end, even if that would leave Hamas intact, able to recruit, rebuild and carry out more massacres.

They argue that Hamas cannot be

defeated, but only "contained," and that turning over control of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority, which administers much of the West Bank, would provide Israel with security.

Israel Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir vehemently opposed the cabinet plans to take over the entire territory and move civilians to areas outside Hamas control. He argued instead that the IDF should encircle Gaza City and stage targeted raids to try to wear down Hamas.

Organizations of hostage families that oppose Netanyahu have called for a nationwide general strike in Israel Aug. 17 to protest the government's decision to continue the war. They say that getting back the remaining living 20 hostages and the bodies of 30 more is the only thing that matters, even if that means giving in to Hamas.

Their call is backed by a number of middle-class organizations, including the Israel Bar Association, organizations of owners and employees of some high-tech companies and hedge funds, and the administrations at several universities.

The Histadrut, the largest trade union federation in Israel, decided to not endorse the strike.

The bourgeois press, like the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal*, point to actions like this to claim the decision to defeat Hamas is unpopular and the Netanyahu government is isolated. They ignore the fact that Israel, like all capitalist countries, is class-divided.

Most workers want to see the fight to destroy Hamas carried through to the end.

These biased news outlets almost never quote working people or hostage families who argue Hamas must be defeated.

"Don't use my son" as an excuse to shut down the country on Aug. 17, Eli Shtivi told Channel 14 News. Idan Shtivi's body is one of those being held by Hamas after his murder at the Nova music festival during the Oct. 7 pogrom.



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# For Lenin's internationalism, against Stalin's counterrevolution!

The Case of Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. It contains Trotsky's testimony before the 1937 Dewey Commission investigating frame-up charges made against him in the infamous Moscow Trials. Central leaders of the 1917 Russian Revolution were sentenced to death at these trials in the late 1930s, after the Joseph Stalin regime consolidated its counterrevolution in the Soviet Union. Trotsky, in exile and one of the chief defendants, explained how he led the fight to continue Lenin's revolutionary internationalist course. John Dewey, a well-known Columbia philosophy professor, chaired the commission. The excerpts are from the second and ninth sessions. Copyright © 1965. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

QUESTION: Were there in the Central Committee, or in the Communist International, differences over the question of the differentiation of bureaucracy and administration in the proletarian dictatorship? Was the danger of Bonapartism foreseen, and what position did you take on these questions?

LEON TROTSKY: These questions played the greatest role in the discussions in the Central Committee, and in personal discussions between Lenin and myself.



*Socialist Appeal*, as *Militant* was then named, reports Dec. 18, 1937, on Dewey Commission's exposure of Moscow Trials frame-up of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky. Issue on March 19, 1938, describes Stalin's execution of V.I. Lenin's aides, need to fight imperialist war, fascism.

Lenin had the finest sensitivity on this question, and he was the teacher of the future Left Opposition. He affirmed many times that the greatest danger for us was that we, as a backward country, isolated — that we could see our state, the proletarian state, degenerate into a bureaucratic, Bonapartist state.

He proposed certain organizational measures, as, for example, his Control Commission of genuine workers from the shops, in order to control the bureaucrats and show the bureaucrats that they are only transitory workers of the state. I want to say that the Control Commission itself degenerated and became a worse instrument in the proletarian dictatorship.

Lenin understood, however, that it was impossible to preserve the Soviet dictatorship only by organizational measures. It depended upon the world situation, the historic factors in the world arena. If the German proletariat, the most developed in Europe, if it had accomplished a victorious revolution — and we hope that it will do so yet — the combination of the Soviet state with the proletarian German state would have given us the possibility to avoid the degeneration of the Soviet state in Russia. Our isolation was the most important factor in our degeneration. ...

[W]e did what we could to avoid the degeneration. During the Civil War the militarization of the Soviets and the Party was almost inevitable. But even dur-

ing the Civil War I myself tried in the army — even in the army on the field — to give a full possibility to the Communists to discuss all the military measures. I discussed these measures even with the soldiers and, as I explained in my autobiography, even with the deserters. After the Civil War was finished, we hoped that the possibility for democracy would be greater. But two factors, two different but connected factors, hindered the development of Soviet democracy. The first general factor was the backwardness and misery of the country. From that basis emanated the bureaucracy, and the bureaucracy did not wish to be abolished, to be annihilated.

The bureaucracy became an independent factor. Then the fight became to a certain degree a struggle of classes. That was the beginning of the Opposition. For a certain time the question was an internal question in the Central Committee. We discussed by what means we should begin the fight on the degeneration and the bureaucratization of the state. Then it became not a question of discussions in the Central Committee, but a question of the fight, the struggle between the Opposition and the bureaucracy. ...

In 1926, the struggle was very acute. ... But then came the Chinese Revolution. The attitude of the Stalinists in the Chinese Revolution was as dangerous as now in Spain. It was in 1927, in October, when the Central Committee, behind our backs, sent a telegram ... to the

Chinese Central Committee to stop the agrarian movement because it was the time of an alliance between Stalin and Chiang Kai-Shek.

TROTSKY'S ATTORNEY ALBERT GOLDMAN: You mean the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party?

TROTSKY: The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party — to stop the agrarian movement because the Generals and officers of the National Armies were in their majority landlords and rich farmers. The agrarian movement of the poorer peasants, which was the genuine Chinese revolutionary movement, was dangerous to the higher stratum of the officers. Stalin was afraid to lose his alliance, as now with France. He sent a cable. He has assured the French bourgeoisie not to be afraid of a revolutionary policy in Spain. He reflects the French bourgeoisie. The same thing in China. Then the struggle became very acute for many months on the basis of our differences concerning the Chinese revolution. ...

We considered the Soviet Union as a part of the world revolutionary movement of the working class. We considered it our duty to take every measure which could save and preserve the Soviet Union. We considered that the revolutionary movement in every country — that its success would best guarantee the stability of the Soviet Union. We never tried to submit the revolutionary movement in any country to the specific interests of the Soviet Union, because such a submission signifies the weakening of the workers' movement in that country — in all countries. ... [This] coincided totally with the independent revolutionary development of the proletariat across the world. ...

We regarded ourselves, in spite of our expulsion, as part of the Party and part of the Communist International. ...

GOLDMAN: I believe you told us before, your attitude on this matter changed after Hitler took power.

TROTSKY: Then we declared that the historical event was the defeat of the German proletariat. We said, "By the attitude of Stalin's Politburo and the C.I., they are a hindrance to the understanding of the lessons of this defeat. We cannot wait for a long time for historical miracles. The Comintern as a revolutionary organization is dead. We must create a new organization."

August

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# Defeat of Hamas is a decisive question!

**Continued from front page**

talists fear their rule is threatened, they will unleash fascist goons to go after Jews, workers, their unions and organizations, and communists. Their “radical solution” will be, “It’s Jews, not capital, that are to blame!”

Israel has dealt Hamas, and Tehran and its proxies serious blows. Workers and the oppressed in the Middle East have taken advantage of that breathing space to organize resistance, from renewed strikes and protests by working people in Iran, to the Druze in Syria defending themselves from bloody assaults, to Palestinians in Gaza who have gone into the streets demanding Hamas get “Out! Out! Out!”

These actions point the way to deepening common struggles by the toilers against the capitalist rulers and their governments and expanding the political organization of the working class and oppressed — showing there is a road that leads toward the working class taking political power.

On the other side stand the imperialist powers, led by the capitalist rulers in Washington. They’re intensifying pressure on the Israeli government to back off from the battle to eradicate Hamas. Opposition to defeating Hamas is also organized inside the upper echelons of the Israeli military and security services, as well as the left of bourgeois political forces in Israel.

Opposition to a course that secures the defeat of Hamas is intensifying because of the key place of the Middle East, with its vast material resources, in the deepening rivalries between the world’s main capitalist powers. The U.S. rulers seek to defend their weakened domination of the imperialist world “order.” The fate of the Jews and of Israel is of concern to the U.S. rulers only in so far as they have to deal with Israel’s determination to prevent another Holocaust and its refusal to bow to the interests of U.S. imperialism.

Washington stepped in to bomb Iran with the aim of forcing an end to Israel’s assaults. The opposition of the toilers in Iran to the dictatorial regime in Tehran was deepening. Washington gave the Iranian regime some breathing space, which it used to unleash a wave of repression against working people there.

London and Paris, and the capitalist regimes in the Arab League, are intensifying their campaign of lies al-

leging Israeli-organized “starvation” and “genocide” of the Palestinians, and demanding the imposition of a “two-state solution.” But two states are impossible if one of them is determined to annihilate all Jews and the state of Israel. A state in the hands of Hamas will be a death sentence for millions of Jews.

Utilizing figures and doctored photographs provided by Hamas, the imperialist powers say Israel is responsible for mass starvation of children in Gaza. This is a modern-day version of what is known as the blood libel used for centuries by reactionaries to rationalize the indiscriminate slaughter of Jews — men, women, children and infants — claiming Jews kill children. Today’s lies about Israeli policies fuel increasingly deadly Jew-hating assaults in all the imperialist centers, including here in the U.S.

Israel is not starving Palestinians. The U.N. reported that only 300 of 2,600 trucks sent by Israel to Gaza reached their destination. The rest were looted by Hamas and other armed criminals.

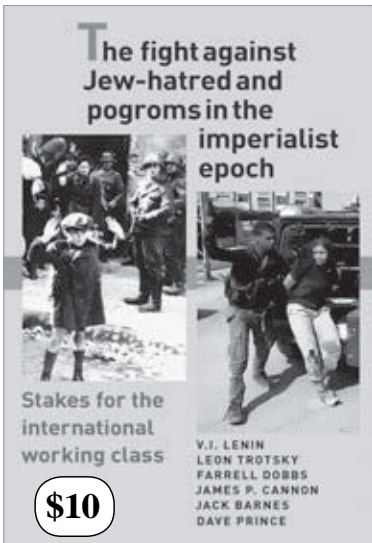
In the imperialist epoch, there can be no permanent refuge for the Jews. That can only be achieved with the victory of proletarian revolutions in a growing number of countries worldwide.

As Israel fights to decisively defeat Hamas and prevent another Holocaust, it defends its existence as a refuge for the Jews today by incorporating the Palestinians in Gaza to free them from Hamas’ tyranny, to defend them against Hamas.

For decades Hamas has crushed all efforts of Palestinians to assert their interests. Getting Hamas’ rule off the backs of the Palestinians will remove a huge obstacle to common struggle by workers and farmers across the region. It will open the door to building alliances in class battles and to advancing the national aspirations of Palestinians and other oppressed nationalities, including the Jews.

The road of the class struggle is the road to developing the leadership working people need. Class-struggle experience is decisive to forging parties capable of leading millions of working people to replace capitalist rule with workers power. That’s true in Israel, across the Middle East, in the U.S., and as part of advancing socialist revolutions in a growing number of countries worldwide.

The defeat of Hamas is an essential next step in advancing that struggle.



## Teamsters Airgas strike enters week seven

**BY VICTOR AURIER**

VALLEY VIEW, Ohio — Seven weeks into their strike against Airgas, Teamsters members here who fill and haul gas tanks are determined to win contracts with wage increases and improved health care.

The Teamsters are on strike in Ohio, New Jersey and Hawaii and have extended their picket lines to company locations in 11 states.

“The last raise I got was 35 cents and that was four years ago. With the economy today and inflation, that’s not enough,” striker Fernando Perez Donato told the *Militant*. He’s one of the 15 workers here, members of Teamsters Local 507, who are on strike for their first contract. “Airgas makes so much money, but they won’t give their workers a raise.”

Donato explained Airgas has some managers working, but is struggling to find replacement workers.

The bosses are “stalling because they’re scared that if we win the same contract as workers did at Oakwood, the rest of the Airgas employees in the city will try to do the same,” he said. “When we heard Oakwood workers won a contract, we started talking with them and they told us what they won. We said, ‘We want that!’”

“This is my first strike. It’s not like I expected,” said driver Angel Paris. “I knew other co-workers, but now we are a lot closer. It’s unfortunate that it had to come to this, but we have to fight for what

we want. We need affordable health insurance and family-supporting wages. We’ve gotten a lot of support from other unionists.”

Paris has joined in the extended picketing. “I went with the union to St. Louis, Cincinnati and Syracuse, New York. Many union members honored our picket lines. The Teamsters locals in those cities did everything to help us out.”

In Oahu, Hawaii, some 35 Airgas workers, members of Teamsters Local 996, have been on strike since July 28. “We work long hours for this company every day, and all we are asking for is fair pay and decent benefits so we can take care of our families,” Jonathan Kapua, a technician and Local 996 steward, said on the Teamsters website.

In North Brunswick, New Jersey, Teamsters Local 701 filed a lawsuit against Airgas after the company “deliberately or negligently” released hazardous chemicals on picketing workers in both New Jersey and Illinois. “We have small tank leaks from time to time, but nothing like what occurred in July,” said Travis Cox, a Local 701 member who was on the strike line during the release there.

To support striking Airgas Teamsters, contact Local 701, 2003 Route 130 South, Suite B, North Brunswick, NJ 08902, (732) 297-2701; Local 507, 5425 Warner Road, Suite 7, Valley View, OH 44125, (216) 328-0111; and Local 996, 1817 Hart St., Honolulu, HI 96819, (808) 847-6633.

## Getting a job is harder

**Continued from front page**

wages with worse benefits. Over half of the jobs “created” since the beginning of the year have been in health care. From April to July the number of jobs available in mining, logging, manufacturing, wholesale trade and retail trade has declined, as bosses drive to increase their profits through exploiting fewer workers by speeding up production.

The official unemployment rate ticked up to 4.2% in July, from 4.1% the month before. But the number of workers unemployed for 27 weeks or longer increased to 1.83 million, the highest level since 2017, not counting the huge leap in unemployment as the pandemic unfolded. Nearly 2 million workers are getting unemployment payments, the highest number in nearly four years.

With competition for jobs growing fiercer today, more workers give up looking for jobs. They are no longer counted as part of the labor force and no longer figured in counting the unemployment figures. In fact, the labor force actually shrank by 380,000 in the first six months of 2025. The last time that happened was 10 years ago.

Overall, the number of people not being counted in the labor force, considered by Washington to be “discouraged,” jumped by 1.3 million in the first half of 2025.

### High prices tightens squeeze

Workers continue to face rising prices on a number of household necessities, including groceries, heat and light, rent and medical care. “I really believe that the American economy has a massive math problem. Everything is getting more expensive but wages have not,” Kiara Carniewski, 31, told the *Wall Street Journal* Aug. 3. The article explains workers have little choice but to cut back on their spending.

Among those being affected the most are our children. “Nearly 10 million American children are living in poverty, the most since 2018,” the *Journal* reported. And “tens of millions more ... are precariously close.”

Felica Allen, a 39-year-old nursing assistant and single mother, works the graveyard shift in the emergency room at UHS Wilson Medical Center near Binghamton, New York. She returns home to care for her four children, ages 3, 12, 14 and 17, while trying to catch a little sleep before her next shift.

Recently she won a wage increase to \$22.90 an hour, but the raise resulted in the government slashing her monthly food stamp benefits from nearly \$1,000 to \$564. “How do I feed my family now when I was barely making ends meet before?” she told the *Journal*.

To cover costs, increasing numbers of working people are paying monthly bills with their credit cards, but the high interest rates charged on unpaid balances, a boon to the banks’ profits, put them ever-more deeply in debt. The average annual interest rate on credit card balances rose to 22.25% in May. Over 172 million people in the U.S., that’s over half the total U.S. population, carry a monthly balance on their cards, totaling an average debt of over \$6,300 each in the first quarter. Overall, credit card debt now tops \$1.2 trillion.

## LETTERS

### More support for the SWP

I am writing from Memphis, Tennessee, with a fun anecdote. I was talking with a new friend and learned he and his family are from Grenada. His father has some memorabilia from the revolution, including a poster of Maurice Bishop. In conversation we realized we had both voted for the Socialist Workers Party candidate, Rachele Fruit, who was on the ballot in Tennessee in the last presidential election! This coincidentally happened right before I went to Miami on vacation and saw and told the story to Rachele Fruit in person at a Militant Labor Forum.

Emily Dalerta

Memphis, Tennessee

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