

THE MILITANT

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UK rail union protests gov't threat to deport unionists

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 35 OCTOBER 6, 2025

‘Woke’ left hails violent attacks to shut political opponents down

BY TERRY EVANS

The Sept. 10 assassination of conservative politician Charlie Kirk at a rally at Utah Valley University reflects the growing normalization of the use of violence to cancel political opponents by “woke” radical petty-bourgeois forces. It’s a serious and increasing danger for the working class.

The spread of violence has become a fact of political life, from the riots and street fighting after the death of George Floyd in 2020, to the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson last year, to unprovoked attacks on Jews on campuses.

Tyler Robinson confessed to his family and friends he killed Kirk, a close ally of President Donald Trump. While much about Robinson’s views are still unknown, he made clear he carried out the killing for political reasons. “I’d had enough of his [Kirk’s] hatred,” he told his roommate.

He will appear in court on charges that carry the death penalty Sept. 29.

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Drive to expand reach of SWP, ‘Militant’ is off and running ‘Workers need to take political power’



Kevin Dwire, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minneapolis mayor, after speaking at League of Women Voters debate Sept. 9. The working class needs its own party, he said.

BY TERRY EVANS

Members of the Socialist Workers Party kicked off the party’s fall propaganda campaign and fund drive Sept. 20. They’re presenting the SWP’s response to events in world politics to fellow workers and inviting them to join with the party in today’s union and po-

litical struggles to advance the interests of working people.

They’re discussing why a road forward for the working class requires taking political power from the capitalist class and into our own hands.

The goal of the campaign is to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant*, the same number of books on revolutionary working-class politics, and to win those

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Israelis fight a defensive war against Hamas, attacks in UN

BY SETH GALINSKY

At the center of the debates swirling around the annual United Nations General Assembly are competing attempts by all the imperialist powers and other ruling classes to end or obstruct Israel’s defensive war against Hamas. Each power hopes to get a piece of the exploitation of the natural resources and labor of the Middle East.

From France to the United Kingdom, from Canada and Australia to the United States, the imperialist rulers are trying to force Israel to accept a ceasefire that would leave Hamas, which is backed by the regime in Tehran, intact to prepare more pogroms.

Hamas massacred 1,200 people, wounded thousands more and raped and mutilated women Oct. 7, 2023, the worst anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust. It still holds 20 hostages believed to be alive and the bodies of others.

On the eve of the U.N. meetings, Hamas released a video of its death squads publicly executing three men in Gaza City accused of being Israeli

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Winning amnesty for undocumented workers key to unite the working class



Fugees Family

Some 200 people rally in Bowling Green, Kentucky, June 11 to demand freedom for Ernesto Manuel-Andres, 18, who was seized and detained by ICE. He won release two weeks later.

BY RÓGER CALERO

The longer-term battle for amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S. is deeply tied to today’s fight to defend and extend constitutional protections and to

AS I SEE IT

advance the unity and fighting capacity of the working class.

This has become more evident as the ruling capitalist families and their government, led by Democrats and Repub-

licans alike, have sought to impose ever-tighter restrictions on legal and political rights of immigrants. They simultaneously make adjustments to guarantee a proper flow of cheap labor to exploit as their employment needs vary.

“The number of illegal aliens into the United States was zero,” President Donald Trump said July 1, boasting about the sharp drop in arrests by the border patrol this year. “Even I find that hard to believe,” he said. “Somebody must have gotten in.”

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NY forum: ‘Back fight of Ukrainian people to defend national sovereignty’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — “The world we are living in today is marked by increasingly cutthroat trade conflicts, social explosions and wars among rival capitalist ruling classes,” John Studer told participants at a Sept. 20 Militant Labor

Forum here, called to discuss Moscow’s war to conquer Ukraine and working people’s defense of the country’s sovereignty. Studer is the *Militant*’s editor and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

“They’re fighting over the earth’s raw materials, markets, sources of superexploitable labor, profits and spheres of influence,” he said. “The capitalist rulers in the U.S. and worldwide are once again marching humanity toward social catastrophe, fascism, another Holocaust for the Jews and World War III.”

Studer pointed to two watershed events that have accelerated this course. First, the Oct. 7, 2023, Tehran-financed and -organized pogrom by Hamas in

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Canada ‘hate’ law threatens freedom of speech, unions

BY STEVE PENNER AND JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — In a new and far-reaching attack on democratic freedoms, the Liberal federal government of Mark Carney has introduced in Parliament a so-called Combatting Hate Act. The proposed law makes a crime of any conduct “with the intent to provoke a state of fear in a person in order to impede their access” to a place of worship, school, or cultural and community center. The bill includes creating a new stand-alone crime of hate.

Civil liberties groups have spoken

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Australia protest counters Jew-hating mobilization

BY MIKE TUCKER

SYDNEY — Over 2,000 members of the Jewish community rallied at Sydney’s Bondi Beach Sept. 7 to counter a provocative anti-Israel protest.

“When the antisemites come here, to the area that has the largest Jewish population in New South Wales, with the intent of intimidating our people, we have the right to have our voices heard, to stand up, and to speak our truth,” Rabbi Yosef Eichenblatt told the crowd. We need to show unity, strength and “not succumb to fear,” musician Hylton Chilchik said. The growing crowd marched to confront the rally of some 200 on the beach supporting Hamas in Gaza.

Responding to Jew-hating chants of “Intifada” and “From the river to the sea,” the counterprotesters chanted, “Bring them home,” a reference to the Israeli hostages held by Hamas, and sang and danced.

The action was organized by Stand With Us Australia under the rallying call, “No, not in our backyard.” Much of the liberal media claimed the Jewish protesters were a violent mob. “The real story was thousands standing calmly, proudly, and peacefully,”

the group responded the next day. “People came because they have had enough of intimidation, harassment and deliberate provocation.”

There has been a sharp rise in antisemitism in Australia since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom against Jews in Israel, including physical assaults and abuse, vandalism and arson attacks on Jewish businesses, homes and synagogues. This has been fueled by repeated attacks on Israel by Australia’s Labor Party government, other politicians and much of the media, demanding it halt its defensive war against Hamas.

Sizable street protests supporting Hamas have been organized by middle-class leftist and Islamist groups. They’ve been backed by Labor and Green Party politicians, many non-governmental organizations, much of the union officialdom and the liberal media. On Aug. 3, 100,000 anti-Israel protesters marched across Sydney Harbour Bridge. A week later, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that Canberra would vote to “recognize a state of Palestine,” which it did Sept. 21 to coincide with meetings at the United Nations.

Groups opposing Israel’s war here call for Jewish and Israel-linked businesses to be boycotted and supporters of Israel to be banned from public events. They have vandalized and firebombed factories they say help arm Israel and have threatened violence against work-



Over 2,000 Jews and opponents of Jew-hatred joined a rally at Bondi Beach in Sydney September 7, protesting against provocative anti-Israel mobilization nearby. Speaking is musician Hylton Chilchik.

ers there. Open Jew-hatred is rife in these middle-class layers.

As Jew-hating violence escalated over the past year, Australia’s police and intelligence agency sought to downplay the threat. Australia Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw blamed “criminals for hire.”

In August the government charged Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps with orchestrating two major antisemitic arson attacks last year, one on the Lewis Continental Kitchen in Sydney and the other on the Adass Israel synagogue in Melbourne. It broke diplomatic relations with Iran, expelled its ambassador, and said it will move to proscribe the IRGC as a terrorist organi-

zation. “These were extraordinary and dangerous acts of aggression orchestrated by a foreign nation,” Albanese said, seeking “to undermine social cohesion and sow discord in our community.”

Jew-hatred is endemic to the imperialist epoch, including in Australia. Like Washington and other imperialist powers, Canberra refused to open its doors to Jews trying to flee the Nazi Holocaust. Responsibility for the upsurge in attacks on Jews here today lies with the statements and actions of the Australian government, backed by a majority of the ruling class, along with the media and other institutions of capitalist rule, as well as middle-class liberals, leftists and Islamists who openly promote it.

London rally opposes Syrian gov’t attacks against Druze, Christians

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

LONDON — Dozens of Druze and their supporters held a protest here Aug. 30 to call attention to the situation they face in southern Syria, with murderous attacks against them, including by government forces.

In English and Arabic, protesters called for “Sweida’s right to self-determination,” “Save the Druze” and “Save the Christians.”

Many participants held photos of people who had been killed. They laid the blame squarely on Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, with

banners and slogans saying, “al-Sharaa is ISIS.” They called for an international committee to investigate the crimes committed.

“Two thousand Druze in Sweida have been killed by the regime,” Bashar Hudefe, who had been a chef in Sweida, told *Militant* reporter Dag Tirsén. “Israel stopped it. Now the world must know about it.”

“I stood side by side with people like al-Sharaa during the revolution against Assad in Syria,” said Rami Emad. “I risked my life for them, and look what they are doing now!”

The Militant

Vol. 89/No. 35

Closing news date: September 24, 2025

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, 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

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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THE MILITANT

Halt US military buildup in the Caribbean

As Washington increases military operations in the Caribbean, it sent 10 F-35 stealth fighters to Puerto Rico, for possible airstrikes throughout the area. The U.S. rulers use colony in Puerto Rico as a military base. Protests there can halt this, as was done in Vieques.

Militant/Juliet Luther

50,000 people rally in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, in 1999 demanding U.S. Navy out of Vieques.

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Houston hotel workers extend strike in fight for wage raise

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

HOUSTON — Some 400 members of UNITE HERE Local 23 have been on strike at the city-owned Hilton Americas hotel here since Labor Day. They’ve now extended their strike, originally set for 10 days, through Oct. 12. One of their central demands is to win a \$23-an-hour minimum wage.

“I’ve worked at this hotel for 21 years in housekeeping. I started at \$6.50 an hour and now I make \$16.50, that’s all,” striker Lourdes Herrera Fernandez told the *Militant*. That’s what most workers there make.

“We ain’t going away. That’s our message,” Willy Gonzalez, secretary treasurer of Local 23, told the *Houston Chronicle*. “We have the courage to continue it, we have the resources to fund it, and we’re in it to win it.”

“This is my first strike,” said Brian Garcia, a banquet cook at the Hilton for six months. “Before I started working here I worked nonunion jobs at a warehouse for \$15 an hour and as a restaurant cook for \$14 an hour. I wanted to work at the Hilton because there is a union.

“There are five cooks, including me, in the evening. We prepare food for as many as 3,000 people,” he said. And they get \$16.50 an hour.

“I think it is really good out here because you are getting to know people you passed at the hotel and never talked to,” he added. “Some people are close to retirement. They’re fighting for the future generation.”

“UNITE HERE contracts at the George R. Brown convention center will expire soon,” said Ramon Garcia, who works for the union. “The banquet servers, dishwashers, cooks and warehouse workers there are members of Local 23. The janitors are members of the Service Employees International Union, and they’ve been walking the picket line with us.”

The hotel reported it had a revenue of \$29.5 million in the first seven months of this year.

News about the strike is getting

around and solidarity is growing. More than \$15,500 has been raised on a GoFundMe page organized by Franchesca Caraballo, president of the Texas chapter of Local 23. Strikers report union members have joined their picket line from the Houston airport LSG Sky Chefs, Marriott Hotel, George Brown convention center and other locals. The Texas AFL-CIO has also backed the strike.

When this *Militant* worker-correspondent joined the picket line, I was asked by a passerby what it was about. When I told him the issues in the strike, he said, “I’m a member of the Steelworkers union and I’ll let my union know about this.”

Members of UNITE HERE Local 23 at LSG Sky Chefs at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport are gathering messages of solidarity and collecting contributions for the strikers. On Sept. 16 George Chalmers, a worker there, brought the first batch of messages to the picket line. He was handed a bullhorn and asked to read them in both English and Spanish.

Members of Bakery, Confectionery,



UNITE HERE Local 23/Marcela Zaleta

Striking members of UNITE HERE Local 23 at Hilton Americas-Houston hotel Sept. 20. Bringing messages of solidarity are members of BCTGM Local 111 at Bimbo in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 111 at Bimbo bakery in Grand Prairie brought messages from their co-workers. They also read them over the bullhorn, adding, “We will also be sending a contribution of \$160.”

“I’ve been at housekeeper for 19 years and active in the union for 16. They don’t want to negotiate a \$23-an-hour minimum,” striker Jovanka

Gonzalez said. “March with us. Walk the picket line. Join our struggle.”

Send messages and donations to UNITE HERE Local 23, 2506 Sutherland St., Houston TX 77023, or go to the “Support Hilton Americas Workers’ Fight for a Fair Contract!” GoFundMe page.

Hilda Cuzco contributed to this article.

Public outcry wins release, asylum for Ayman Soliman

BY BETSY FARLEY

CINCINNATI — Ayman Soliman, who had served as a Muslim chaplain at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, walked out of Butler County Jail here on Sept. 19. After 72 days in immigration detention, the federal government dropped all charges against him and restored his asylum status.

“I am indebted to those who advocated for me,” Soliman told the press. “What you’ve done tells us we’re strong when we act together,” Soliman told his supporters. “The noise you made makes a difference.”

Public protests after he was imprisoned and an open letter by more than 400 Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy calling for his release helped

publicize his case and win his freedom.

Soliman left Egypt in 2014 after having been jailed and tortured following a military coup by Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, head of the Egyptian armed forces. Soliman was imprisoned for reporting on the mass, popular Arab Spring protests that brought down the Hosni Mubarak regime.

He was arrested and imprisoned by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in July, a month after his asylum status was revoked. It had been approved under the first Donald Trump administration in 2018.

Federal officials initially moved to revoke his asylum in December 2024, while Joseph Biden was still president. The government claimed Al-Gam’iyya al-Shar’yya, a promi-

nent, social services charity he was involved with in Egypt, had some ties with the Muslim Brotherhood. That amounted to “material support to terrorism,” officials said.

After Soliman was seized by ICE, he was imprisoned with hundreds of other immigrants in the Butler County Jail. “They said they would deport the worst of the worst,” Soliman told the media. “But what I saw in jail with me was the best of the best unjustly imprisoned. Everyone has the right to due process.”

“Ayman Soliman’s release is an example of the fact that innocent people are being held in ICE custody for no reason,” Samantha Searls, program director for Ignite Peace, told the *Militant*. Her organization, backed by a number of churches and religious groups in the area, helped organize the campaign to free Soliman.

Soliman said he received 760 letters of support while he was in prison. “That lifted up the spirits, not only mine, but my fellow inmates — that one of the oppressed among them had support.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 2, 2000

Tens of thousands of farmers, truck drivers, and fishermen have been organizing massive protests across Europe in recent weeks against skyrocketing fuel prices that are driving many of them to ruin. Blockades of fuel depots, ports, airports, and refineries have marked the actions, along with marches and demonstrations.

The actions have won widespread support from working people. Following mass actions in France, Germany and the United Kingdom, large mobilizations have taken place in Spain. In Finland, Sweden, and Norway similar events unfolded.

Truckers in Belgium have tied up the center of Brussels, the capital, and fishermen in Ireland vowed to tie up their boats around the country. Protests have also been reported in Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia. Truckers in Israel have also threatened strike action.



October 3, 1975

The recent assassination attempts against Gerald Ford are part of the violence, hatred, and irrationality that is accepted as routine by the current rulers of this country — Democrats and Republicans alike. Human life is counted as cheap. And the official violence sets into motion its unofficial hangers-on and imitators.

The SWP opposes everything Gerald Ford stands for. But the Marxist movement has from its very inception rejected individual terrorism and political assassination.

Our objective is a society cleansed of violence, and our goal is to win the support of the masses of American working people. The violence in this society is not a product of “human nature.” It is a necessary prop of this decaying capitalist system, in which a wealthy ruling minority will stop at nothing to uphold its “right” to exploit and oppress the majority.



October 2, 1950

“We will fight this law to the last ditch,” declared all candidates of the SWP after Congress enacted the McCarran-Kilgore police-state law. Their statement said:

“Congress has ordered the American people to shut up or go to jail. Congress has commanded all of us not to think and not to speak except as the ruling plutocrats and their political gangsters dictate. Congress has demanded that we submit in servile silence to war, militarism, wage-freezing, price-gouging, profiteering and Jim Crow. The law atom-bombs the Bill of Rights.

“The American people have great historic models showing how to fight oppressive laws. We will hold up these glorious traditions before the American people in this election campaign. We will call on them to fight by building a mighty crusading party, a labor party of the workers, Negro people, working farmers, youth.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland
Defend Free Speech and Constitutional Protections. Why Workers Should Oppose the Effort to Normalize Political Assassination and Violence. Sat., Oct. 4, 5 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

NEW YORK

New York
A Working-Class Answer to Today’s Economic Uncertainty, Political Assassinations, Jew-Hatred, and Imperialism’s March Toward World War III. Speaker: Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City. Donation: \$5. Sat., Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 13th floor. Tel: (646) 434-8117.

Canada ‘anti-hate’ law threat

Continued from front page

out against the threat this law poses to the rights of free expression and protest. The Canadian Constitution Foundation says it “would allow for up to life in prison for committing an act” the cops and courts claim was motivated by hate.

The government also seeks to make “willfully promoting hatred against any identifiable group by displaying certain symbols in a public place” a crime that would carry a two-year jail term. Criminalized symbols would include images identified with groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and the Proud Boys, as well as the Nazi swastika and the SS thunderbolt.

The proposed law is justified as a response to the growing number of attacks on Jews in Canada. For that reason it has been supported by a number of Jewish organizations. Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, senior director of policy and advocacy at the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, called the bill “an important step toward making Canada’s Jewish communities safer.”

But no one is made safer by an attack on free speech. That’s why the Canadian Constitution Foundation said the government’s proposed hate crimes legislation would infringe on freedom of expression.

‘Online Harms Act’

The Liberals have also announced that they are considering reintroducing the Online Harms Act, which was introduced in 2024 but never adopted because of a public outcry. Ottawa claims it would protect children from online sexual predators by creating a Digital Safety Commission to police the web. “Don’t be fooled,” Joanna Baron, executive director of the Canadian Constitution Foundation, warned, “most of the bill is aimed at restricting freedom of expression.”

In addition to implementing government censorship over the internet, it would impose prison sentences of up to life in prison for anyone a judge rules committed an offense “motivated by hatred” or who advocates “genocide.”

Israel and its defenders are the main ones being accused of “genocide” today, for taking steps to destroy Hamas, which insists it will organize more pogroms until all the Jews are gone.

Whoever the government of Canada uses the bill to target initially, it will end up being used to go after working people and our unions as we resist growing attacks by the employers and their government as the crisis of the world capitalist system deepens.

These new bills are the Canadian rulers’ latest moves in this direction. Over the past year, the Liberal Party government has used anti-working-class laws to shut down strikes by Air Canada flight attendants, postal and longshore workers, and freight rail workers at Canadian National Railway.

In 2022 when truckers and their supporters organized a three-week-long peaceful protest in Ottawa over COVID mandates, the government

invoked the Emergencies Act to send 3,000 heavily armed police to break it up. It filed frame-up charges that are still being pursued against some of the protest leaders.

The Liberal government, then headed by Justin Trudeau, accused the truckers of being fascists, pointing to some who carried swastikas. However, they did so not because they were Nazis but because they were accusing the Trudeau government of acting like fascists. This new law would make that illegal.

Attacks on unions

Several cities in Canada have adopted or are discussing adopting so-called bubble-zone restrictions, forbidding protests close to religious institutions, schools and hospitals. Hospital workers organized by the Canadian Union of Public Employees held a Sept. 9 protest against such a regulation in Ottawa where it is being considered by the City Council.

“For hospital workers, holding rallies and protests outside hospitals is critical to raise public awareness about key issues such as working conditions, patient neglect and workplace violence,” Michael Hurley, president of the hospital workers union, said.

“This sets a dangerous precedent for all citizens by violating our Charter-pro-



Canadian Union of Public Employees

Hospital workers demonstrate in Ottawa Sept. 9 demanding City Council drop plan for “bubble-zone” law that would criminalize their right to protest outside hospitals. Canadian government’s proposed new “anti-hate” law is attack on free speech aimed at workers, unions.

tected right to free expression” under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, he said. “Health care workers are already deprived of the right to strike.”

Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, told the *Militant*, “Defending our democratic freedoms — free speech, the right to protest and for workers to strike — is crucial for today’s and tomorrow’s battles by the working class. The rally organized by the Ottawa hospital workers is an important example to follow.

This is central to building a working-class party that can challenge the rule of the wealthy and fight for workers power.

“Moreover,” she added, “It’s total hypocrisy to claim that Ottawa introduced this bill because of its concern with the rise of Jew-hatred in Canada. Ottawa’s condemnation of the Israeli government for waging a defensive war against Hamas and its recognition of a Palestinian state that would be led by Hamas, fan the flames of Jew-hatred and violence.”

Seattle meeting celebrates political life of Rashaad Ali

BY JACOB PERASSO

SEATTLE — Rashaad Ali, a 30-year member of the Socialist Workers Party, died Aug. 27 after battling illnesses for the last year. He was 78. A celebration of his life and political contributions to building the SWP took place here following a Militant Labor Forum Sept. 13. The forum, titled “Amnesty Now for All Immigrants in the U.S.!” was given by Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for King County Executive.

Forty-five people attended the celebration. Among them were Ali’s lifetime companion, Michele Smith, their daughter Aisha, Ali’s sister Cecile and his stepson Lev. Participants brought food and drink that was enjoyed between the forum and the celebration of Ali’s life. Norton Sandler, a member of the SWP National Committee, spoke at the celebration

Ali grew up in an East Harlem, New York, housing project. “Like millions of his generation, he was deeply impacted by the battle to overthrow Jim Crow segregation in the South and the battle against racist discrimination across the country,” said Sandler. “He was laying cable for the telephone company when he joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1969, and the SWP a short while later. He had already participated in protests against the war in Vietnam and learned about the Cuban Revolution. He came in contact with the Communist Party and the SWP, both of which sought to recruit him.”

A fighter for Black rights his whole life, Sandler said, “he was won to communism, deciding that building the SWP and fighting for the working class to take power were necessary to end racist oppression.”

Ali was in the SWP branch in New Orleans in the 1970s when party members were involved in organizing support for Gary Tyler, a 17-year-old youth framed up for murder during a desegre-

gation battle in a nearby small city, as well as against the attacks and frame-up of Eddie Carthan, one of the first Blacks to be elected mayor in a Mississippi Delta town since Radical Reconstruction. Ali went to this town, Tchula, to join protests defending Carthan and to write about the fight for the *Militant*.

“Little is written today about the role Black workers played in desegregating U.S. basic industry in the 1960s and ’70s,” Sandler said. The New Orleans branch was active in the fight against a lawsuit filed by Brian Weber, a white lab technician at Kaiser Aluminum in Gramercy, Louisiana, who sued in 1974 to overturn a United Steelworkers of America-negotiated consent decree aimed at giving Black workers the opportunity to get out of the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs. Weber claimed he was a victim of “reverse discrimination.” The consent decree assured that Blacks and women would get 50% of the places in a new job-training program.

SWP cadres helped sell hundreds of copies of a Pathfinder pamphlet called *The Weber Case: New Threat to Affirmative Action* in factories, mines and mills across the country. In an important victory for Black rights, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the consent decree in 1979.

SWP branches were deeply involved in the 1974-75 fight to desegregate Boston’s schools. “Thousands of white students boycotted classes and white mobs took to the streets in an attempt to thwart court-ordered school desegregation. Black students arriving by bus at South Boston High School, where opposition to court-ordered busing has been strongest, were greeted by a threatening mob of 400 who screamed, ‘Niggers go home!’” wrote the *Militant*, which championed the fight from the beginning.

The Boston NAACP joined forces with the SWP and others to mobilize against the mobs. Ali participated in a

conference of 2,000 at Harvard University in early 1975 that founded the National Student Coalition Against Racism, which worked to support the Black students. He was part of the defense team at that conference that prevented Maoist-inspired ultraleft thugs from breaking it up.

“At its 1979 convention the SWP voted to implement a ‘turn’ where party members and leaders would get jobs in basic industry,” Sandler said. “The decision followed major world events, including the 1974-75 worldwide recession, the defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam, the struggle in Boston and new stirrings in the labor movement. These developments in the class struggle laid the groundwork for building fractions in the unions, to join in fights there and recruit. This has been the party’s course ever since.

“Rashaad jumped into this, working in rail in two cities, in meatpacking, in garment and at Machinist union-organized United Airlines in San Francisco. We worked together there, building union support for the 1997 Teamsters strike against UPS.”

Sandler described how Ali shouldered various leadership responsibilities in the party, serving as branch organizer in New Orleans, Baltimore and New York. He was the SWP candidate for mayor of New Orleans, the New York City Council and governor of Maryland, among others. He joined the *Militant* staff in the 1980s.

Ali served on the party’s National Committee between 1984 and 1990. He was part of the SWP’s fraternal delegation at the 1984 World Congress of the Fourth International.

Ali left the party in 2000. Several years later he became an organized supporter of the party, which he remained until his death.

Participants in the celebration contributed over \$4,700 to the work of the SWP.

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‘Woke’ left hails violent attacks

Continued from front page

After George Floyd was killed as he grappled with cops in Minneapolis, antifa, Black Lives Matter and other radicals orchestrated weeks of looting and street battles. Their thuggery was carried out in the name of combating cop brutality, but alienated working people and destroyed the protest movement. Many liberals adapted to and provided rationalizations for their violent attacks.

Following a leak of the U.S. Supreme Court’s plans to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, Nicholas John Roske decided he would kill Justice Brett Kavanaugh and two other high court judges to prevent the court from ruling. He hoped his actions would give then President Joseph Biden the chance to appoint the justices’ successors. Roske was arrested near Kavanaugh’s house fully armed and carrying directions to reach his other targets.

Luigi Mangione shot UnitedHealthcare CEO Thompson after casing his route to a morning meeting in New York last December. “Frankly, these parasites simply had it coming,” Mangione declared in notes he was carrying when he was arrested. “They continue to abuse our country for immense profit.”

The petty-bourgeois left exploded with sympathy for Mangione, and death threats against other CEOs multiplied.

The growing use of political violence is related to the rise of “cancel culture” among privileged middle-class layers, especially on college campuses. They’ve hounded political opponents and shut them down. They’ve pressured administrators to impose bans on historic works of art, literature and science that don’t conform with their “woke” world outlook. Deeply resentful, they claim anything they view as “oppressive” has to be eliminated.

Tyler Robinson sent a text after shooting Kirk, saying, “Some hate can’t be negotiated out.”

“We need to bring back political assassinations,” wrote Julia Xu, a student at Oberlin College in Ohio, on a college-wide network after Kirk was killed. She is a member of Students for a Free Palestine and said her comments were “influenced” by learning about Chinese Stalinist Mao Tse-tung. “I don’t think that everyone deserves the right to free speech,” she claimed. “Some people should be afraid to express their opinions in public.”

She ridiculed Caucasian students whose views didn’t hue close enough to hers. “It just shows that white men will always empathize with the people who look like them,” she said.

After her posts were picked up in the media, the college administration stepped in to help her retract her comments and apologize.

Origins of today’s political thuggery

Decades before Kirk’s killing, the use of violence and murder against political opponents was promoted in the labor movement by Stalinist parties. Joseph Stalin headed a counterrevolution in the Soviet Union, overturning the program and course of V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution. Stalinist parties worldwide targeted defenders of Lenin’s course, including those that went on to establish the Socialist Workers Party.

Stalin’s police-state regime fielded a murder machine responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of revolutionaries in the Soviet Union; the

assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico in 1940; and the killing or imprisonment of thousands of revolutionary-minded fighters since then.

Its thuggery was aped in the U.S. by petty-bourgeois radicals like the Weather Underground, a Stalinist-inspired ultraleft sect. They carried out a series of bombings and kidnappings in the 1970s, handing a golden opportunity to the capitalist rulers and their cops to smear the workers movement. To try to justify such assaults, many radical groups quote the views of Frantz Fanon, a supporter of the Algerian Revolution who claimed that inflicting deadly violence was “therapeutic.” Fanon’s views are cited with growing frequency by today’s Stalinists and others.

The Trump administration is taking advantage of these pretenders to communist politics to launch attacks on constitutional protections the working class needs. He issued an executive order Sept. 22 designating antifa as a domestic terrorist group and threatening to target anyone accused of funding it. Antifa is a variety of ultraleft forces who orchestrate violence against small rightist groups and cops.

Trump’s order builds on the expansion of domestic spy operations after the passage of the 2001 Patriot Act, which increased snooping on political groups and individuals opposed to Washington’s policies and was backed by Democrats and Republicans alike. This advanced the rulers’ efforts to re-

Drive to expand reach of SWP, ‘Militant’ off and running

Continued from front page

attracted to the SWP to contribute to it and to join. Members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are part of the effort. SWP members are organizing to raise \$140,000 for the annual Party-Building Fund. The campaigns run through Nov. 18.

Party members go far and wide to meet workers on their doorsteps and on union picket lines. SWP campaigners are joining protests against Jew-hatred and other actions of vital importance to the working class. The party’s candidates for public office are helping lead these efforts.

“The police do what they want to do,” Stéphanie Labelle told Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for mayor of Saint-Leonard, a borough of Montreal, when he visited her to discuss renewing her *Militant* subscription Sept. 17. Labelle had participated in demonstrations against cop brutality in the wake of the police killing of Abisay Cruz in Montreal last spring.

“When the police came to ‘help’ Abisay, they killed him,” she said. “When Jews get attacked in the streets, the police take a long time to act, if they act at all. Look at the Jewish father who was attacked in front of his kids in August. It took up to an hour for the cops to get there.”

The cops, like the government, act for Canada’s capitalist rulers, Tessier said. Workers need to come together and act in our own class interests. “When the government ordered striking flight attendants back to work recently, the strikers defied the order, setting an example to workers everywhere,” he said. The CL points to the capacities of working people, demonstrated powerfully in past struggles that show it’s possible to for us to take political power. Labelle re-



AP Photo/John Minchillo

Following 2020 killing of George Floyd, thugs destroy Office Depot in St. Paul, Minnesota, during a wave of riots and looting. Explosion of violent attacks is dangerous for the working class.

habilitate the FBI as a political police force, an effort continuing today.

Administration targets ‘hate speech’

“We will absolutely target you, go after you, if you are targeting anyone with hate speech,” Attorney General Pam Bondi threatened Sept. 15. For years, the deliberately vague term “hate speech” has been used by liberals and conservatives to deal blows to free speech.

Vice President JD Vance urged workers to report co-workers who “celebrate” Kirk’s death to their boss, to get them fired. War Secretary Peter Hegseth ordered the top brass to monitor the comments of military personnel. So far, eight have been suspended

or placed under investigation, accused of mocking Kirk’s death.

The administration is also threatening broader probes into George Soros’ Open Society Foundations and other wealthy capitalist “nonprofits,” over their funding of the *Nation* magazine, which published an article comparing Kirk to Nazi spokesman Joseph Goebbels.

Working people need to be able to discuss and debate without fear of violent assaults from the government or political opponents. Workers and our unions should stand at the forefront of safeguarding constitutional protections regardless of who the government is aiming at today, because tomorrow working people will be the target.

newed her subscription for six months.

Tessier and Katy LeRougetel, the CL’s candidate for mayor of Montreal, were certified on the ballot after campaigners turned in 150 signatures for Tessier and 300 for LeRougetel. During that effort they sold 30 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 40 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries and more than 70 copies of the paper.

The campaign to expand the *Militant*’s readership takes place amid sharpening trade conflicts, an escalating arms race and more wars.

Workers can stop the march to war

“The deepening rivalries between Washington and other imperialist powers, as well as with Moscow and Beijing, are products of the deepening crisis of capitalism,” Laura Anderson, SWP candidate for mayor of Miami, told 125 people at a candidates debate Sept. 20 at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. “Workers can see that imperialism is marching humanity toward a third world war.”

Anderson pointed to Washington’s deployment of a naval armada off the coast of Venezuela, which it claims is aimed at stopping drug traffickers. She described the U.S. government’s renewed militarization of Puerto Rico, with some 6,500 Army and Navy troops, including forces trained in amphibious invasions. This reinforcement in the U.S. colony threatens new intervention in the Caribbean and Latin America.

“Until working people break from the Democrats and Republicans,” Anderson said, “we cannot make any political advances. Both parties serve the capitalist rulers, carry out their wars abroad and their assaults on workers at home.

“The conquest of power by workers and farmers is the only road to peace and the effective defense of labor and of

the earth’s land, waters and atmosphere. Gains for working people can and will be won as byproducts along that road of revolutionary struggle,” she said.

The Cuban Revolution shows it’s possible for workers to organize society and put human needs first, she said. After the debate one participant approached Anderson to tell her she backed her comments about Cuba and supported its socialist revolution. SWP members are active in protests against Washington’s economic and political war against the Cuban people and their government.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Dwire, SWP candidate for mayor, joined a Sept. 12 informational picket line of his union, UNITE HERE Local 17, to build support for the hotel workers’ contract fight.

Hours later, Dwire and Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for Minneapolis City Council in Ward 1, joined a rally for Teamsters members at the University of Minnesota. Like many workers squeezed by the crisis of capitalism, the cafeteria, maintenance and landscape workers there demand higher wages. The next day the union announced it had won a tentative agreement with the university.

“I’m all about workers’ rights, even though I don’t have a union,” Owen Sall told Dwire on his doorstep in southern Minneapolis Sept. 14. Sall installs printing presses and told Dwire he was impressed the mayoral candidate came to his door. He took a campaign brochure and a copy of the *Militant* to learn more.

To help get out the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, contact the area nearest you listed on page 8.

Beverly Bernardo in Montreal, Rachele Fruit in Miami and Mary Martin in Minneapolis contributed to this article.

Back fight of Ukraine people

Continued from front page

Israel that killed 1,200 people, most of them Jews, and wounded thousands, and the importance of Israel's response — a defensive war that to be successful must lead to the destruction of Hamas in order to defend the existence of Israel as a refuge for Jews.

Second, the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

“This war has marked the region and the world ever since,” Studer said. “Ruling classes worldwide, from Washington and rival imperialist powers to Moscow and Beijing, are upgrading their militaries and weaponry, and forming new blocs to advance their own interests.”

When Putin invaded Ukraine, the SWP responded immediately. The party campaigned and continues to do so today to get out the truth about Moscow's murderous assault on Ukraine's right to exist as a nation.

The SWP calls for getting Washington's nuclear weapons and troops out of Europe. They're not there to aid the Ukrainian people's fight for national sovereignty but to pursue Washington's own imperialist interests, Studer explained.

Putin's war targets Ukrainian people

“Putin's war targets the people of Ukraine. It's not aimed at military targets,” Studer said. “Just last night Moscow launched 40 missiles and 580 drones against cities and villages throughout the country. In Dnipro, a Russian missile directly hit a multi-story residential building, killing one and injuring 26.”

Moscow uses its deadly assaults to try to demoralize Ukrainians, he said. In the areas of eastern Ukraine occupied by Russian forces, Putin issued a decree that any Ukrainians living there that have not become Russian citizens are “foreigners” and subject to deportation beginning Sept. 10. They are also denied basic medical care, and cannot receive pensions or other social benefits.

On Sept. 10 Russia's Supreme Court approved a 10-and-a-half-year sentence for Ukrainian IT worker Iryna Horobtsova. She was abducted by Russian forces from her home in Kherson, in eastern Ukraine, in May 2022 after speaking out against Moscow's invasion and participating in protests there. The charge against her was “spying” over a period of almost 11 months. But during that time she was held incommunicado in Russian captivity, Studer pointed out.

There is increasing anti-war sentiment among working people in Russia. When Moscow's invasion first began there were big protests, which were repressed by the Putin regime. “In fact, it's a crime to admit it's a war, rather than a ‘special military operation,’” Studer said. But individuals continue to find ways to express public opposition to Moscow's assaults, despite the threat of imprisonment.

Large numbers of Russian soldiers are being killed or injured. They're thrown into “meat grinder” frontal attacks to gain control of small amounts of territory. “Close to a million Russian troops are dead or maimed,” Studer said. Nearly one in three Russians say they know someone killed fighting in Ukraine, a recent poll says.

“Russia's working class, including those in uniform, are the most important potential ally of Ukrainian workers in their fight to defend their national sovereignty,” he said. “This is why we oppose Washington's sanctions against Russia, as they hit working people the hardest.”

Ukraine and fight against Jew-hatred

Studer pointed out that the struggle to defend Ukraine's sovereignty is deeply connected to the fight against Jew-hatred. After the 1939 Stalin-Hitler pact divided Poland between Berlin and Moscow, Ukraine, which was then part of the Soviet Union, had the second-largest Jewish population in the world after the U.S., about 2.7 million.

“The march of Hitler's forces across Ukraine was accompanied by a ferocious effort to kill Jews. It was one of the centers of the Holocaust,” said Studer. Over two days, Sept. 28 and 29, 1941, more than 33,000 Jews were murdered at Babyn Yar, on the outskirts of Kyiv. Over the next few years another 70,000 to 80,000 were killed and dumped in the ravine there.

“And this was repeated as the Nazis marched all across Ukraine,” said Studer. Two weeks later in Dnipropetrovsk, the Nazis lined up and executed 11,000 Jews at the ravine there over two days. After the defeat of the fascist forces by Soviet troops, the regime of Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin refused to acknowledge these atrocities. It tried to build over the sites of the pogroms and refused to erect monuments to the Jews who were



1966 rally at Babyn Yar, Ukraine, commemorates 25th anniversary of Nazi pogrom murdering 33,000 Jews, Sept. 28-29, 1941. Inset, Ivan Dzyuba, Marxist author of *Internationalism or Russification?* He told rally, “Babyn Yar is a tragedy of all mankind, but it happened on Ukrainian soil. And therefore, a Ukrainian has no right to forget it anymore than a Jew. Babyn Yar is our common tragedy, a tragedy for both the Jewish and Ukrainian nations.”

slaughtered there, Studer said.

A small monument was erected after a yearslong fight that included Ukrainian Marxist Ivan Dzyuba, poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko and composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

Studer described the three reporting trips he and other leaders of the SWP made to Ukraine in 2014 and 2015, and what they learned about the massive struggle by working people who joined the popular Maidan uprising, toppling pro-Moscow Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014.

“We met with workers across the country — steel, rail, nuclear power, coal and iron ore miners, at chemical plants and more, immediately after the victory on the Maidan,” Studer said. “They told us how they viewed that struggle and how proud they

were of what they accomplished.

“They said the bosses and the capitalist government did everything they could to take advantage of the fight with Moscow to attack workers and their unions. And they explained they could see another Maidan in the future.

“All political questions are class questions,” Studer said. “They can only be resolved by the actions of great social classes, classes with leadership that chart a road forward. It is only with the working class taking political power that we will be able to end the threat of new wars and all the other horrors of capitalist rule once and for all. That's the example set by the two great revolutions of our epoch, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by V.I. Lenin and Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro.”

UK rail union protests gov't threat to deport unionists

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON — A hundred people joined a Sept. 17 protest here called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union and backed by other unions against changes made by the Labour government to visa-eligibility requirements. This poses the threat of deportation for nearly 200 workers on the London Underground and thousands of other workers nationwide.

The government announced July 1 that 180 job categories would be stricken from the list of “skilled worker visa” eligibility, including “rail travel assistant.” Salary thresholds for getting the visas were also raised, so if your pay is lower, you're no longer eligible and can be deported. The changes took effect July 22.

Akinwumi Akinyemi, who works for London Underground at Paddington Station, told the *Militant* he had come from Nigeria in 2022, getting a job on the Underground last year. His wife works in the National Health Service. With the government's changes, they face deportation when their visas expire next year.

Akinyemi said he went to see Rail, Maritime and Transport union representative David Kasim and together they worked to find out all those affected. They then brought this attack on workers to the attention of the RMT's London Transport Regional Council, which organized the protest.

“It's important that we have union backing,” Kasim told the *Militant*. “We need a coalition of unions to fight this. We're trying to get an injunction, and

then some sort of exemption, as we try to get this ruling repealed.”

“Our members were employed with the expectation that they could stay and build their lives here,” Eddie Dempsey, general secretary of the RMT, told the protest. “If you're a paid-up member of the RMT, I don't care where you're from, we will defend you. The minute you join our union you're one of us.”

“When you tell people, ‘Come, study, if you find a job you can stay,’ you give them an expectation,” Avi Khera, one of the workers affected by the changes, told the *Militant*. “We're standing up for ourselves. What have we got to lose? We just want what's fair.” Khera has spent tens of thousands of pounds since moving to the U.K., on college tuition, visa fees and the National Health Service surcharge levied on immigrants.

The demonstration was supported by the Transport Salaried Staffs Association and the Public and Commercial Services Union. Members of Unison, Unite and the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain joined in.

Between 500 and 2,000 of their members at the Department for Work and Pensions could be threatened by the changes, the Public and Commercial Services Union said.

“We have reports of cases in Manchester, Hull and elsewhere,” Conor Price, a member of the RMT National Executive Committee for Manchester and North West England, told the *Militant*. “There could be hundreds of thousands of workers

affected across the country.”

“We're not just numbers, we're human beings,” Ayodele Oynole, who works on the Underground at London Bridge Station, said. He came from Nigeria with his wife and two children in 2022. “With union support, I'm certain we can turn back this attack.”

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Israel fights a defensive war

Continued from front page

collaborators. Almost simultaneously it released a video of Alon Ohel, who it took hostage at the Oct. 7 Nova music festival. He has been held in horrendous conditions for more than 700 days. The video's release “constitutes psychological terror,” his parents say.

On Sept. 24, the Israel Defense Forces released a video that shows Hamas combatants firing on Israeli troops from positions in Gaza City's Shifa Hospital. For Hamas, civilians are human shields and potential “martyrs” for its ruthless war against Israel.

Hamas' brutality underscores what its leaders have said repeatedly — their goal is to kill or drive out all the Jews and destroy Israel.

Despite this, the governments of the imperialist rulers of Australia, Canada, France, Portugal and the U.K. have announced they recognize a Palestinian state as part of a “two-state solution.”

“Why are all these countries recognizing Palestine now?” boasted Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad on Aug. 2. Because of the “powerful blow that was delivered to Israel on Oct. 7.”

In his statement, U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer claimed, “Hamas can have no future, no role in government, no role in security” in Gaza. But the only force capable of ensuring that is Israel, which now controls at least 75% of Gaza and is advancing its offensive against the Jew-hating group.

Starmer charges Israel's anti-Hamas offensive is “utterly intolerable.” As if Israel's war is equivalent to the murders carried out by Hamas' death squads. And Starmer repeats the lies promoted by Hamas supporters that Israel is causing a famine in Gaza.

“This move does not advance peace,” Emily Damari, a dual British-Israeli citizen who survived 471 days in Hamas captivity, said in an online statement. “By legitimising a state en-

tity while Hamas still controls Gaza and continues its campaign of terror you are not promoting a solution; you are prolonging the conflict.”

White House ‘plan’ for Gaza

President Donald Trump rejected the call for recognition of a Palestinian state, saying it would be a “reward” for Hamas' atrocities. That's because he has his own plan for imposing stability on the region to advance U.S. imperialist interests. In fact, the pressure on Israel to end the war before it is won is greatest from the U.S. ruling class.

“We have to stop the war in Gaza immediately,” Trump told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 23.

Later that evening Trump met with representatives from the governments of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Jordan. He opened the meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by his side. The Turkish government broke almost all commercial relations with Israel after Oct. 7 and has been one of its most vociferous opponents.

When the United Nations came into existence on Oct. 24, 1945, just two months after the end of World War II, Washington saw it as a tool for U.S. imperialism, to advance the world supremacy it had won in the war.

But in the face of accelerating imperialist rivalries today and the growing domination of the U.N. by “woke” meritocratic layers, the U.N. has become less useful to the U.S. rulers. In Gaza and beyond, its agencies have become enablers and apologists for Hamas.

A 72-page report by the U.N. Human Rights Council released Sept. 16 charged Israel with “genocide” in Gaza. It ignores all the facts — Hamas' goal of annihilating Israel; its arming and funding by Tehran; the years of preparation for a new Holocaust, including the massive tunnel system; its use of civilians as human shields.

Instead, the report says that Hamas' attacks on Oct. 7 “were brutal war crimes but they did not pose an existential threat to the State of Israel.” But the Nazi-like group has made clear many times over that its goals are an “existential threat” to the Jewish people and to any Arab or immigrant worker who works with Jews.

The report regurgitates Hamas' justification for the pogrom. It claims you have to “take account of the fact” that Israel is “unlawfully occupying and settling Palestinian territory,” reinforcing Hamas leader Hamad's statement after the pogrom that “everything we do is justified.”

Palestinian Authority to Gaza?

One common feature of all the imperialist schemes for a postwar Gaza — including some pushed by Trump — is to put the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority in charge. The Palestinian Authority, which administers large parts of the West Bank, is painted as corrupt and incompetent, but “better” than Hamas.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is angling to get

Iran protests: ‘Our enemy is here!’ ‘Stop warmongering’



Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers Union

“Our enemy is right here, they lie when they say it's in America,” “Enough warmongering, our tables are empty,” and “No to inflation and high prices, no to war and destruction” were some of the slogans retirees chanted in Kermanshah province in Iran Sept. 21, along with demands for higher pensions and better medical care.

Retirees from the steel and mining industries marched in Isfahan the same day, chanting, “Officials, have some shame. Leave the country!” There were more than 20 protests by retirees, steelworkers, oil workers, teachers and others across Iran Sept. 21 and 22, part of weekly protests that vary in size from dozens to hundreds. Above, retirees in Shush, Khuzestan province.

These demands “send a clear message to the plundering rulers,” noted the Free Union of Iranian Workers. “We, the workers, retirees, wage earners and oppressed layers of society, know you very well and will not allow you to deceive us with excuses like wars, sanctions and the very inflation you yourselves have created.”

The protests take place amid a deepening economic crisis, including water and electricity shortages, in the wake of the “12-day war” between Israel and the reactionary regime in Tehran. Growing numbers of workers oppose the regime's continued threats against Israel. Iranian toilers face the harshest effects of new U.N. economic sanctions levied after the regime refused to curtail its nuclear enrichment program.

Several of the protests called for freeing Masoud Farhikhteh, Shari'feh Mohammadi and other union and political prisoners. Farhikhteh is one of 18 teachers arrested Sept. 16 when police raided a general assembly of the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Unions in Shahreza in Isfahan province. All the teachers were released except for Farhikhteh, a long-time union leader.

Mohammadi, a former member of the Coordinating Committee to Help Create Labor Organizations, was arrested in December 2023, accused of armed rebellion and being a member of a banned Kurdish political party. Her family insists the charges are false. The regime recently reinstated the death sentence on her.

— S.G.

his hands on what could be millions of dollars of aid to rebuild Gaza. He tries to present himself as a trustworthy alternative to Hamas who recognizes Israel's existence and is a friend of the Jews.

But for decades the Palestinian Authority has fomented the same Jew-hatred that is at the heart of Hamas' existence.

Textbooks in the West Bank, just like in Gaza, indoctrinate children to glorify terrorist attacks on Jews. In a speech in 2023, Abbas repeated myths about “Jewish capitalists,” saying that Hitler and “Europe hated the Jews,” not because they were Jews, but because of their “social role.” He said this “had to do with usury, money and so on.”

Gazan: Hamas ‘ignited this war’

Working people in Gaza continue to find ways to express their opposition to continued rule by Hamas. “Wherever they go, destruction and ruin follow,” a woman in Gaza says in one recent video posted online.

“What happened on Oct. 7 does not represent us.”

“We must not forget that Hamas is the one who ignited this war,” another Gazan posted to his Facebook account. “Not only that, Hamas also rejected the conditions that could have stopped this madness.

“If it had accepted the handover of the hostages from the beginning, it would have been possible to spare the people of Gaza these massacres, and we would not have reached here.”

Defeating Hamas would prevent a new Holocaust in the Middle East and remove the biggest obstacle to working people — Jewish, Arab, Druze, Christian, immigrant and more — finding ways to come together and defend their own class interests.

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You can fight for ‘democracy’ in Vietnam, but not in Alabama?

Blacks in America’s Wars by Robert W. Mullen is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for September. It recounts the hidden history about Blacks participation in U.S. wars, from the First American Revolution to the Civil War to the war in Vietnam. This includes the fight against the segregationist policies that the U.S. military enforced, from the 1898 Spanish-American War through World War II. The excerpt below deals with the opposition by Blacks and other working people to Washington’s invasion of Vietnam in the 1960s, as Blacks returning from the war faced racist, derogatory treatment from the same U.S. government here at home. Copyright © 1973 by Robert W. Mullen. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ROBERT W. MULLEN

The gap between the American ideal and the reality of Black people’s conditions in the United States is one of the Afro-American’s strongest grievances. Malcolm X frequently contrasted the “American dream” with the Black “American nightmare.” As a result of this country’s failure to deliver on its stated democratic ideals, Afro-Americans developed tremendous skepticism and cynicism regarding the government’s rhetoric about “defending democracy”



Associated Press/Claude Bohner
Soldiers at Con Thien, Vietnam, in December 1968. Facing racist treatment in the army and at home, Black GIs opposed U.S. rulers’ claim invasion of Vietnam was to “defend democracy.”

and fighting for the self-determination of a small country.

Having experienced American-style “democracy” first hand, many Afro-Americans could deeply sympathize with the resistance of the Vietnamese to its imposition on them. As Malcolm X put it, “You and I haven’t benefited from America’s democracy, we’ve only suffered from America’s hypocrisy.”

There is no system in the world that has proven itself “more corrupt, more criminal” than the American system of democracy that “still enslaves twenty-two million Afro-Americans,” Malcolm told the Militant Labor Forum in New York in April 1964. He denounced the hypocrisy of a system that “can go all over this earth telling other people how to straighten out their house, when you have citizens of this country who have to use bullets if they want to cast a ballot.”

Malcolm X was one of the first Black leaders to speak out against American involvement in Vietnam. Speaking to a group of Black teenagers from McComb, Mississippi, on December 31, 1964, he blasted the United States as having “the most hypocritical government since the world began” because it was “supposed to be a democracy, supposed to be for freedom and all of that kind of stuff when they want to draft

you and put you in the army and send you to Saigon to fight for them — and then you’ve got to turn around and all night long discuss how you’re going to just get a right to register and vote without being murdered.”

The Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations repeated time and again that America had an obligation to uphold the “rights” of its allies. Blacks were often quick to notice the contrast between this zeal and the fact that “twenty-two million people are living witnesses to the fact that America has failed to keep its constitutional commitment to its own Negro citizens at home.”

The government was willing to send more than half a million GIs to “defend democracy” in South Vietnam. But at the height of the voter registration drives in the South, after widespread intimidation and murders of Blacks trying to register, less than two hundred federal marshals and registrars could be found for assignment to Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, and elsewhere, although it was the president’s sworn duty to uphold the constitutional rights of citizens of this country.

As novelist John Oliver Killens put it: “We Black folk find it difficult to understand the nation’s hesitation about sending troops to Mississippi to guarantee free elections when we read

of American boys dying thousands of miles from home to ensure freedom for the Vietnamese. The subtlety escapes us.”

During the height of the civil rights movement, when the government and political leaders continually admonished Blacks to remain nonviolent, to avoid striking back at those who beat and murdered them, Black youth were being drafted into the army to engage in violence against the Vietnamese people. The hypocrisy of the government’s stance was clear to many, but it was Malcolm X, again, who gave this realization its most biting expression:

Look right now what’s going on in and around Saigon and Hanoi and in the Congo and elsewhere. They are violent when their interests are at stake. But for all that violence they display at the international level, when you and I want just a little bit of freedom, we’re supposed to be nonviolent. They’re violent in Korea, they’re violent in Germany, they’re violent in the South Pacific, they’re violent in Cuba, they’re violent wherever they go. But when it comes time for you and me to protect ourselves against lynchings, they tell us to be nonviolent. ...

Because of the obvious disparity between the stated goals of the United States in Vietnam and the commitment towards those same goals in the United States, it should not surprise anyone that the first organized civil rights group to protest the Vietnam war was a group in the deep South that had had firsthand experience with the lack of federal protection for Blacks trying to exercise basic democratic rights.

This first organized protest took the form of a leaflet circulated in McComb, Mississippi, and printed in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party newsletter of McComb on July 28, 1965. The statement said, in part: “It is very easy to understand why Negro citizens of McComb, themselves the victims of bombings, Klan-inspired terrorism, and harassment arrests, should resent the death of a citizen of McComb while fighting in Vietnam for ‘freedom’ not enjoyed by the Negro community of McComb.”

The leaflet had been circulated after the death of John D. Shaw, 23, of McComb, who had been a participant in civil rights demonstrations there in 1961.

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The UN is a den of thieves, plunderers

The speeches at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly began Sept. 23. The central issue on the table is Israel’s fight to destroy Hamas and prevent another Holocaust. This is deeply in the interests of working people everywhere.

The Israeli people are under attack from many corners. France, England and other imperialist powers came out for the first time for recognition of a Palestinian state, while opposing Israel’s war. Given the reality in the Middle East today, this state could be nothing but a Hamas-run setup. Hamas has plainly said it will never rest until Israel is destroyed and all Jews are either killed or driven out.

The U.S. government says it opposes the step taken by Paris and London. But Washington is also an obstacle to preventing a new Holocaust. It cares nothing for Israel or the Jews. The U.S. capitalist rulers seek to end the war and impose a “Pax Americana” to defend their lust for plunder and power across the Mideast.

Nothing in the interests of the working class can come from the U.N. In January 1919, V.I. Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, denounced as a “thieves’ kitchen” the newly formed League of Nations, the predecessor to the U.N. The League had just been founded by the imperialist victors of the First World War.

He said it was “a piece of fakery from beginning to

end.” It was set up to enforce “a usurer’s peace, an oppressor’s peace, a butcher’s peace, because Germany and Austria were looted and carved up” and seven-tenths of the world’s population were in servitude.

Two and a half decades later, this new den of thieves, the United Nations, was hatched by Washington — in collusion with London and the Stalinist rulers in Moscow. Washington sought to impose its blood-stained “peace” and “security” for domination of the world, as the victor in the second imperialist world slaughter, and to police its postwar world order.

Washington’s 1950-53 brutal war against the Korean people was carried out under cover of U.N. “peacekeeping forces” in blue helmets, as was its 1960 intervention in the Congo and numerous other interventions since.

Today that old world order — and the fiction of a U.N. global body above the fray of competing capitalist state powers — is being ripped asunder, as Washington’s domination weakens and rivalries grow both among the imperialist governments and with their capitalist competitors, from Beijing to Moscow.

The only road to the liberation of toiling humanity, an end to imperialist war, and the threat of nuclear annihilation is the building of a revolutionary party capable of leading the working class and its oppressed allies to take political power.

Amnesty for immigrants to unite working class

Continued from front page

The rulers’ crackdown on immigration, however, is not aimed at permanently cutting off the flow of cheap labor, but to create an atmosphere of intimidation that heightens insecurity and fear among immigrants who make it into the U.S.

For decades, squeezing or relaxing immigration requirements have changed according to the employers’ needs for production, as well as facilitating their goal of fostering divisions within the working class.

The current policy of mandatory detention of virtually all those facing deportation; retroactively deporting permanent legal residents for past criminal offenses, a violation of the Constitution’s Fifth Amendment, which prohibits the government from prosecuting or punishing an individual twice for the same offense; and the practice of denying family and friends information about anyone detained — all of these have been used at one time or another for decades.

These inroads on workers’ rights go together with broader attacks aimed at convincing U.S.-born workers that immigrants are not entitled to the same rights and opportunities. A recent example is the attempt by Washington to eliminate in-state college tuition and financial aid to undocumented students. Many attempts have been made at the local, state and federal level over the years to deny immigrant workers driving licenses, public education and health care, including emergency hospital services.

Language discrimination has long been used to divide and stir up hostility toward immigrants and others who don’t speak English. Last April, President Trump signed a new executive order mandating commercial truck drivers demonstrate proficiency in English, supposedly to “protect the safety of American truckers, drivers, passengers, and others.” The labor movement must reject this anti-labor measure.

Politicians say that throwing undocumented immigrants out of the country will open jobs for native-born Americans. This isn’t true. Bosses are using the immigration crackdown to trim their workforce while keeping production at the same level to boost profits.

The bosses need to maintain a reserve army of labor — the unemployed — to pit workers against each other and hold down wages and ignore safety. This is

built into the capitalist system. Whatever steps the rulers take to tighten immigration control, their intention isn’t to stop bosses from hiring immigrant workers. It’s to create a layer of the working class with less rights and protections, more susceptible to exploitation.

Fight for amnesty and unity

In 1986 the Ronald Reagan administration garnered bipartisan support to pass the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Close to 3 million undocumented immigrants who had lived in the U.S. before 1982 were granted permanent resident status.

At least another 3 million remained illegal, fair game for the bosses to deepen their exploitation. It included penalties for knowingly hiring undocumented workers. But for every boss who was selectively fined, thousands of others were placed in a stronger position to cut wages and pocket profits from these workers.

And they said they were “taking a bigger risk,” so they demanded more.

State officials were required to verify the immigration status of applicants for welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, unemployment benefits and housing assistance, deepening their pariah status.

To supply enough farm labor the law opened the door for wider use of “temporary guest worker” visas. Agricultural workers were now legally forced to submit to low pay and miserable working conditions as the price of protection from the immigration cops. And if they couldn’t take the conditions and went to look for another job, they faced deportation.

Tens of millions of working people from the oppressed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as from poorer regions of Southern and Eastern Europe, have migrated to the imperialist centers. They’re driven by the economic realities of imperialist exploitation of their homelands, military conflicts, political turmoil, gang violence and social crises.

Capitalist rulers everywhere have sought to take advantage of this migration. They have become utterly dependent on this massive pool of exploited and superexploited labor.

At the same time, millions are incorporated into the working class wherever they end up, going through experiences in battles as the bosses seek ways to get out of the deepening crisis of their capitalist system.

The labor movement has a life-and-death interest in fighting the rulers’ attempt to establish a caste of workers without legal rights. The unions have a major role to play in leading the fight for a total amnesty, with full citizenship rights for all immigrants. Otherwise, labor’s efforts to organize and mobilize its power will always be crippled.

Teamsters at Perrigo win wage increases

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK — Two hundred Teamsters ended a 16-day strike against Perrigo Co., an over-the-counter drug manufacturer in the Bronx. The workers voted overwhelmingly to ratify a three-year contract Sept. 18.

The workers, members of Teamsters Local 210, won higher wages, defended their retirement benefits and beat back an attack on their schedules and overtime pay. Perrigo bosses were pressing to move from 10-hour to 12-hour shifts, with Saturdays at straight time and Sundays at time and a half. The new contract maintains double time for Sunday work.

The company harassed strikers and tried to intimidate them by hiring permanent replacements and asking strikers to cross the line. The bosses put up two large “Now hiring” banners at the gate in front of the plant. The workers stood firm, getting support from other unions and from many workers around the plant.

“They always ask the workers to sacrifice,” Mahmood Hossain told the *Militant* on the picket line Sept. 17. “We have families. Prices are going up. Now they want us to work 12-hour shifts with less overtime pay. How are we supposed to make it?”

“I’m worried about the ladies with kids at home,” said striker Irfan Virani. “How are families supposed to manage these 12-hour shifts?”

The strike defeated the attacks. “These Teamsters proved that when you stand together, you can beat back threats and win,” Lydia Torres, vice president of Local 210, told the press.

Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City and a former Perrigo employee, joined the picket line Sept. 17. Virani asked him how he would deal with rampant corruption in the government. “The capitalist class is always corrupt, because it steals from our labor,” Mailhot said. “What matters is which class is in power, not which Democratic or Republican candidate is elected. Our campaign is about fighting for workers to take power.”

“I agree the capitalist system is a corrupt system,” said Virani. “And with how you explained the Republicans and Democrats have no program for working people. They go where the money is.”

LETTERS

Remembering Pat Scott

Former co-workers of Pat Scott held a memorial picnic and celebration of her life Sept. 6 in Federal Way, Washington. She had been a member of “Our Walmart,” which fought to organize a union there from 2011 to 2015. Through that experience, Scott met members of the Socialist Workers Party on the job and became a staunch friend and supporter of the party. She died March 17 after a long illness.

Along with other Walmart workers nationwide, Scott went on strike in December 2014, part of a nationwide week of actions. The United Food and Commercial Workers union backed Our Walmart’s campaign for better wages and conditions on the job. After the strike, Scott was fired, but won her job back, working there over 20 years.

Scott worked to build support for Alyson Kennedy, the SWP candidate for president in 2016 and 2020. “You guys are the only ones I see who are fighting for workers’ rights,” she told party members. She used her artistic talents to design a campaign button for Kennedy that the SWP campaign printed and used around the country in 2016, and she helped get the *Militant* and books by party leaders around to workers she met.

Scott traveled across the region with party members to bring support from Walmart workers to other labor struggles, including to support the 2017-18 silver miners strike in Mullin, Idaho; to Yakima in 2020 to back a strike by apple packinghouse workers; and to Portland, Oregon, to walk picket lines with bakery union members on strike at Nabisco in 2021.

After reading the Pathfinder book *It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System* about the fight to free five framed-up Cuba revolutionaries in the U.S., Scott said: “I can sum this up — under capitalism there is no justice for working people.”

The SWP was Pat’s party. We need more Pat Scotts! *Rebecca Williamson*
Seattle, Washington

‘Militant’ Prisoners Fund

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