

SWP presents a road forward as capitalist crisis, war threat grow

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Millions of working people face economic uncertainty, social crises and growing threats of new wars today. Members of the Socialist Workers Party are campaigning to explain these are the result of the workings of the capitalist system and its dog-eat-dog drive to compete for markets and profit. They're using the party's election campaigns, the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionary fighters to explain what is happening, why, and to point a road forward.

We're finding fellow working people are interested in discussing the SWP's experience in building solidarity with strike battles and other resistance against deteriorating conditions of life and work. Some are interested in joining in the work of the party to advance the interests of the working class.

Many see that neither the Democrats nor the Republicans, the twin parties of the U.S. rulers, have any solutions for working people. They are interested in

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Defeat of Hamas crucial to prevent a new Holocaust



Maja Smiejewska/Press Association via AP

Thousands rally in London's Trafalgar Square Oct. 5 backing Israel's defensive war against Hamas, mark anniversary of Nazi-like group's pogrom massacring Jews in Israel, Oct. 7, 2023.

Trump's 'peace' plan aims to push US imperialist interests

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Two years after the worst pogrom against Jews since the Nazi Holocaust during World War II, the defeat of Hamas remains key to preventing it from carrying out a new Holocaust today.

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Fight against Jew-hatred key to line of march of working class

Combating Jew-hatred and defending the right of Israel to exist as a refuge for Jews is a dividing line among all

EDITORIAL

those who claim to speak for the working class. That remains true today, as Washington tries to shut down Israel's

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Alberta teachers join tens of thousands of workers on strike all across Canada



Bella Coco/Calgary Journal

Some 51,000 Alberta teachers went on strike Oct. 6 against overcrowded classrooms, erosion of public education, for wages they can live on. Above, rally in Calgary on eve of the strike.

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Some 51,000 teachers in Alberta walked off the job Oct. 6 in a fight against overcrowded classrooms and the erosion of public education, and for wages that keep up with inflation.

They had previously voted by close to 90% to reject, for a second time, a proposed contract between their union, the Alberta Teachers' Association, and Alberta's United Conservative Party provincial government.

The day before the walkout more

than 20,000 teachers, students, parents and other working people held rallies in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer and Lethbridge, showing the broad support for the teachers' fight.

"This strike is not just about us," Jason Schilling, president of the teachers union, told the press. "It's for the students who can't get the education they deserve because of class sizes and lack of resources."

Hundreds of students walked out of class Sept. 22 to rally outside the Al-

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US military buildup in Latin America, Caribbean targets conflict with Beijing

BY RÓGER CALERO

Under both the current Republican and former Democratic administration, the U.S. capitalist rulers have sharply stepped up their economic and mili-

tary moves against Venezuela, and in Latin America more broadly, seeking to strengthen Washington's alliances in the fierce competition they're engaged in with the state capitalist rulers in China.

"This is a decisive decade and our actions or inactions regarding the PRC [People's Republic of China] will have ramifications for decades to come," Gen. Laura Richardson, commander of the army's U.S. Southern Command, told the House Armed Services Committee in March 2023.

She was expressing a bipartisan view

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Rail workers discuss UP-NS merger, fight for jobs and safety

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHICAGO — In July, Union Pacific Railroad announced plans to take over Norfolk Southern. The \$85 billion merger deal, if approved by government regulators, would form the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S., moving some 40% of the nation's rail freight through 43 states from coast to coast.

Rail workers know from long experience that the bosses use mergers to push for job cuts and speedup that further erode safety, in the name of "efficiency" and "cost cutting."

"I think they're going to use the merger to put a ton of people out of work," a member of the International Association

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Striking UK refuse workers: 'With union backing we can win'

Protests erupt in Morocco over jobs, health care and a future

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Protests over dire economic and social conditions, lack of jobs and little confidence in a better future facing working people, especially youth, have erupted throughout the North African country of Morocco. The demonstrations, which began Sept. 27, quickly spread to at least a dozen cities, including Rabat, the capital; Casablanca; and the port city of Tangier, as well as smaller towns, with daily actions taking place over the course of the week.

The unemployment rate in Morocco is at 12.8%, government reports say, with youth unemployment over 35%.

The actions are the most significant to erupt in Morocco since 2011 when “Arab Spring” protests against autocratic rule spread across a number of countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

Protesters are demanding jobs and that the government put more resources into public health care and education. They are particularly angered over the fact that eight pregnant women had died at a public hospital in Agadir because of inadequate facilities.

The protesters oppose the government’s plan to spend billions of dollars upgrading stadiums and other steps to prepare for cohosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup soccer match, instead of dealing with the decrepit state of public services affecting toilers throughout the country. “Stadiums are here, but where are the hospitals?” they chanted.

Authorities have moved to clamp down on the protests. Three people were killed when cops fired on demonstrators near Agadir Oct. 1. The next day the Moroccan Association for Human

Rights reported that 1,000 people have been arrested in the nightly protests throughout the country. Hundreds have been injured, along with some police, Agence France-Presse reported.

As the protests spread, Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch went on national television to say his government was ready for “dialogue and discussion.” But many demonstrators instead demand he step down.

Workers and farmers in semicolonial countries are being hit hard by the deepening worldwide capitalist crisis and threats of war. Protest actions like those in Morocco have broken out in a number of countries in Africa and Asia.

Demonstrations over water cuts, power outages and other difficulties broke out in Madagascar, an island off Africa’s east coast. They forced President Andry Rajoelina to dissolve his government Oct. 2. Three-quarters of the population face a life of grinding poverty.

Days earlier, thousands of Filipinos



AP photo

Mass protests erupted across Morocco over joblessness, poor health care and education. Above, young people protest in Casablanca Oct. 2, taking lead in the fight for a better future.

filled the streets of Manila to protest corruption, including misappropriation of billions of dollars designated for flood relief projects. In Nepal youth-led protests in September against worsening living conditions brought thousands into the streets and toppled the government.

In Indonesia mass demonstrations

erupted in August over the devastating impact of inflation and unemployment on working people. Protests spread to over 110 cities.

Youth in all of these countries are following what is unfolding elsewhere, looking for a way to fight as effectively as possible.

Alberta teachers join tens of thousands on strike in Canada

Continued from front page

berta legislature in Edmonton as well as in Calgary in support of the teachers. Evan Li, a 17-year-old Grade 12 student, told the Oct. 5 Calgary rally what it’s like for students in classrooms of 50 or 60 students. “Imagine what that means for kids with special needs who need extra help. We support our teachers because they are standing up for us.”

“We have students who are struggling to learn English, students who

are struggling with different learning needs,” Jackie Ford, a teacher for 27 years who has 38 students in her Grade 6 class, said. And teachers can’t “reach all of them and help all of them the way they deserve, the way we should be.”

Alberta teachers last went out on strike in 2002, but the provincial government declared a “public emergency” and ordered them back to work.

135,000 gov’t workers on strike

More than 135,000 workers are now out on strike across Canada, including 55,000 postal workers, 22,000 British Columbia government workers and 10,000 Ontario government college workers. They’re fighting against cutbacks and deteriorating public services, and for living wages to meet the havoc of inflation and ensure safe working conditions. They counter the government attacks on the right to strike carried out against rail, port and postal workers, as well as Air

Canada flight attendants.

When postal workers went on strike last November, challenging Canada Post’s plans to introduce part-time weekend jobs at lower pay and second-rate benefits, they were ordered back to work on instructions from Ottawa.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers began another cross-Canada strike Sept. 26 after Ottawa ordered Canada Post bosses to phase out door-to-door mail delivery and close many of the country’s rural post offices.

“We are fighting to save our jobs and the postal service,” Andrew Massa, a Montreal letter carrier, told the *Militant* Oct. 3 while picketing at the giant Saint-Laurent sorting plant here. “If the government tries to force us back to work again, we need to defy it, like the Air Canada flight attendants did” in August. The flight attendants’ courageous decision to defy the government, and the strength and support for their strike, have inspired workers across the country.

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THE MILITANT

Washington bars Cuban teams from US, Puerto Rico

The U.S. rulers have never forgiven Cuban working people for making a socialist revolution under Washington’s nose. Now they are extending their brutal embargo to Cuban athletes and sporting teams, refusing to give them visas to play on U.S. soil or in Puerto Rico.



Granma/Ricardo López Hevia

U.S. rulers’ embargo against Cuba’s socialist revolution includes ban on sports teams.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Striking British Columbia public service workers win support

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Public service workers here represented by the B.C. General Employees' Union are expanding their strike over wages and conditions, and winning widespread labor support.

Over 5,000 strikers and their supporters marched and rallied in Victoria Oct. 6 to bring their demands to the provincial legislature on the first day of its fall session.

The demonstration was lively and spirited, with labor songs and chants like, "We have the power. What kind of power? Union power!"

Melissa Moroz, executive director of the Professional Employees Association, many of whose 1,800 members are also on strike and have been picketing alongside BCGEU members, joined BCGEU President Paul Finch and other labor officials in carrying the lead banner.

"We won't back down, we won't be divided, and we don't stop until we win a fair deal," Finch told the crowd.

The BCGEU, the largest union in the province, with 34,000 members, launched the strike Sept. 2 after the membership voted 92.7% to walk out.

Members and leaders from many other area unions took part, including the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, BC Teachers' Federation, BC Nurses' Union, MoveUP, International Longshore and Warehouse Union and others.

Negotiations broke down last week after the government refused to significantly raise its wage offer. The union is demanding a 4% raise each year.

"Wages can only lag behind so much before it hits a breaking point," Finch told CTV News at the rally, "and that's what you're seeing."

— Ned Dmytryshyn

Philadelphia hotel workers strike in Center City, win support

PHILADELPHIA — UNITE HERE Local 274 members at two union-organized Philadelphia hotels went on strike Oct. 5. There are 150 union workers at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, and 40 at Hampton Inn Center City. This is the first strike at the Sheraton,

the largest union-organized hotel here.

After workers have been ravaged by years of inflation, the union is demanding a significant wage increase, improved pensions and health care, and an end to long-standing understaffing.

The Sheraton has 760 rooms. Eighteen years ago it had a staff of 350; now it has less than half that. The workers include room attendants, cooks, bartenders and others. The picket line is up around the clock and solidarity visits are welcome. Teamsters Local 169, which represents the engineers at the Sheraton, is honoring the picket line.

Members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA are also refusing to cross the picket line. International AFA Vice President Keturah Johnson has helped lead chants on the Sheraton picket line. "Our union represents some 50,000 flight attendants at 20 airlines and many stay at this hotel. If the hotel workers can't do their job, we can't do ours," she said.

— Ved Dookhun

Ottawa taxi drivers strike against fee hikes that cut wages

OTTAWA, Ontario — Some 500 drivers for the Blue Line Taxi company, members of Unifor Local 1688, have been on strike here since Sept. 19. They voted to walk out by 94%.

Many striking drivers joined an Oct. 1 solidarity rally for postal workers outside Parliament here. The postal workers are on strike against the government's moves to end home delivery and slash jobs in much of rural Canada.

The Militant spoke with Local 1688 President Bahdon Issa on the picket line outside the company's head office. He said a majority of the drivers are owner-operators, while others rent from the company. The key issue in the strike is bosses' demand for a 38% increase in dispatch fees the drivers have to pay.

In addition the percentage they pay for using the company's credit card machines to collect fares is going from 3.5% to 5% for each transaction.

"When you start up in the morning, the first \$100 you make goes to the company for fees and expenses. The monthly expenses to drive are about



Militant/Ved Dookhun

Striking hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 274, picket Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Oct. 6. They're demanding wage raise, improved health care, end to understaffing.

\$2,000. All we are left with are the crumbs," Issa said.

The company's owner, Coventry Connections, told the union the proposed dispatch fee increase is "fair, modest, and essential," given it has not kept up with inflation for over a decade.

The strikers still go to area airports due to contractual obligations. They are the only ones allowed to drive disabled passengers. "Our fight is with the company, not with the public," Issa said.

They're winning a lot of support as drivers honk as they go by the picket line. Contracts for other unionized taxi drivers in Ottawa will be up next year.

— Joe Young

10,000 college support workers in Ontario strike over layoffs

BROCKVILLE, Ontario — On Sept. 11 some 10,000 full-time support staff at Ontario's 24 colleges, members of the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, went on strike for job security, better wages and benefits. They include disability support staff, library technicians, financial-aid workers and information technology services staff.

Talks between the union and the College Employer Council broke down Sept. 29 after the employer refused to budge on job security.

"We are walking the line to protect our work after thousands upon thousands of

layoffs across the system, there's nothing else this fight can be about," Christine Kelsey, chair of the full-time staff bargaining team, told the press after the talks broke off.

"None of the employer's proposals save a single job. True job security looks like protections against the elimination of jobs, not extended notice or streamlining new pathways for layoffs."

On the picket line here that day, workers were eager to explain their fight. Crystal Baker, picket captain at Saint Lawrence College Brockville campus, told the *Militant* her job was eliminated and she had to move to another position.

"Already food services and parking have been contracted out," she said. "In addition, both the Brockville and Cornwall campuses have lost their bookstores and libraries. Students get their books out of a vending machine."

On Sept. 18, a number of students on all three of Saint Lawrence College campuses walked out of class to join the picket line. "As students we really need our support staff," Emma Coughlin, a third-year nursing student at Brockville, told the media.

— Beverly Bernardo

Striking UK refuse workers: 'With union backing we can win'

BIRMINGHAM, England — "We're dug in for however long it takes," striking refuse worker Ali Chidodo said. "We've come too far. With union backing we can win." The workers have been on strike for over six months. Chidodo was among 120 refuse workers, members of Unite the Union, who protested outside the Birmingham offices of Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood Oct. 1.

"We're not here because she's a local MP," Unite convenor Matt Reid said, "but because she's a leading government minister. While the wage cuts are an attack by the City Council, the government is behind it. There was a deal on the table in the summer but it was scuppered by government-appointed commissioners."

Like other ministers, Mahmood is backing the council, accusing the strikers of "holding the city to ransom." She calls on Unite to accept wage cuts of up to 8,000 pounds (\$10,780) a year and cuts to safety-critical jobs.

"This is above all an attack on the union," driver Jim Briggs told the *Militant*. "They want to break the union by replacing us with agency workers without rights. If Birmingham Council wins, other councils will follow suit. If we win it will be a victory for all workers."

— Jonathan Silberman

—25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

October 16, 2000

The labor movement needs to defend the rights of immigrant workers, from protesting the violent assault on two workers in Long Island, New York, to opposing the factory raids and deportations carried out daily by the U.S. immigration police around the country.

The government, Democrats and Republicans, is responsible for the attacks. By targeting workers who originally hail from other countries, the employers and their government seek to divide working people. The attempt to criminalize a section of the working class is aimed at pitting us against each other.

It's capitalism that generates unemployment and other fundamental problems facing workers and farmers. The unions need to reject any "America first" framework of defending jobs. Instead, what is needed is a fight to win jobs for all and to organize all workers into the unions.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 17, 1975

BOSTON — For the past weeks, hardly a day has gone by here without a demonstration at the Massachusetts Statehouse. And for good reason, the Massachusetts legislature is debating a state budget that, if it passes, one effect will be to deprive 100,000 working poor and 28,000 disabled people on welfare of all medical care.

On Sept. 30, 2,000 of the many thousands who will be affected by the cutbacks in human services held a rally and march. Later in the afternoon, 3,000 members of AFSCME and SEIU demonstrated to demand an end to government layoffs and restoration of their promised cost-of-living wage increase.

On Oct. 1, several hundred senior citizens who stand to lose Medicaid benefits if the budget passes came to protest. Students from 19 state colleges and universities will rally Oct. 8 to demand an end to the cutbacks in higher education.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 16, 1950

The 24th Infantry Regiment is a regiment of Negroes. When the war broke out in Korea it was one of the first regiments dispatched to the war zone. At Yechon the regiment defeated North Korean forces. The capitalist press announced it as the first victory of American arms and played up the fact that it had been won by Negroes.

The Pittsburgh Courier now reports: Certain elements in the U.S. command disapproved of the favorable publicity given to the Negroes. The regiment was compelled to continue fighting week after week with the inevitable results. Obviously, North Korean forces broke through American ranks many times. But the failures of the 24th were magnified out of all proportion.

The ruling class has its own war against the oppressed, particularly those who show determination in resisting the blood suckers who live off of them.

US military in Latin America

Continued from front page
among U.S. military and civilian policy makers that action has to be taken to push back against Beijing’s growing influence in Latin America and the Caribbean. This is key, they say, for the U.S. rulers’ ability to compete in the Western Hemisphere, the Indo-Pacific region and globally.

“The PRC knows that economic power is a prerequisite for global military power,” Richardson told the congressional committee a year later. She noted that 22 of the 31 countries in U.S. Southern Command’s “area of responsibility” have signed on to Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative, through which the Chinese rulers extend loans and initiate infrastructure projects with governments in Central and South America seeking to broaden Beijing’s foothold.

The U.S. commander noted Beijing is “playing the ‘long game’” with its development of sites and facilities that could have both a commercial and military use. Chief among them is a megaport in Chancay, Peru, which China’s state-owned Cosco Shipping Ports has built with majority-ownership and control.

Beijing’s goal with the Chancay port is to boost China’s share of trade, including importing minerals, agricultural goods and other products from Brazil and Bolivia. Currently ships carrying goods to China from much of Latin America and the Caribbean must travel through the Panama Canal. Using the new port and larger ships will reduce travel time from Peru to Shanghai from 35 to 23 days.

‘We’re taking back the canal’

During a visit to Panama in February, Secretary of State Marco Rubio pressed Panama President José Raúl Mulino to change the “status quo,” which gave significant control of the management of Panama Canal ports to the Hong Kong-based conglomerate CK Hutchison.

Speaking of the canal, President Donald Trump said in his January Inaugural Address, “We didn’t give it

to China. We gave it to Panama. And we’re taking it back.”

The construction of the canal was completed in 1914, 11 years after the U.S. military intervened in Panama in 1903, imposing a treaty giving U.S. rulers the right to the canal “in perpetuity.”

Decades of struggles by Panamanians against U.S. domination of their resources and government and for an end to the occupation of the Canal Zone finally forced Washington to relinquish its control in 1999. The treaty included the dismantling of U.S. military bases — 16 of them — that had been used repeatedly for military interventions and to prop up dictatorial regimes aligned with U.S. imperialism.

The Trump administration is pressing the Panamanian government to allow a larger U.S. military presence in the canal area and free passage for its navy. “We had a hard time imposing the principle of Panamanian sovereignty over our territory,” President Mulino said April 10, after a visit by War Secretary Pete Hegseth.

While the deal reached between the two governments stops short of allowing the U.S. to reestablish permanent bases, the Pentagon will have broader sway to deploy its personnel there. Hegseth had pressed for more, but Mulino warned him, this “would set the country on fire,” explaining how unpopular such a move would be among Panamanian toilers.

Rubio’s first visit to Latin America as secretary of state included Panama.



Megaport at Chancay, Peru, dominated by China shipping company COSCO, will boost Beijing’s trade in minerals, agriculture with Latin America, challenging U.S. rulers in their “backyard.”

It led to Mulino’s announcement in February that Panama was dropping out of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. A month later, CK Hutchison agreed to sell its shares in two of its divisions that operate 43 ports in 23 countries, including two at either end of the Panama Canal, to U.S. investment company BlackRock.

Washington has also stepped up its use of tariffs and other threats to extract concessions from its southern neighbors, and to curb Beijing’s influence in the region. While China has surpassed the U.S. as South America’s top trading partner, U.S. imperialist interests still dominate the region, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean. And the U.S. rulers are determined to expand their position.

In his second trip to the region, in April, Rubio faced opposition from leaders of Caribbean governments when he called for port fees of up to \$1.5 million to be levied on every port call made by ships built or flagged by China. They complained the move would deal blows to the region’s oil and gas industry, and significantly raise the cost of imported goods, particularly food.

Washington’s recent deployment of a navy armada off the coast of Venezuela and stationing jets on the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico is part of their buildup. In the last two years the U.S. Southern Command has coordinated joint military exercises with at least seven different countries in the region, including Guyana, which abuts Venezuela.

Maryland rally: ‘Release Kilmar Abrego García’

Continued from front page

see on trumped-up charges of “human smuggling,” based on a traffic stop 903 days earlier. The Tennessee police had released him without any charges.

Abrego García has steadfastly maintained his innocence, and his family and supporters have insisted that the criminal charges were filed to punish him for winning his return to the U.S.

On Oct. 3 U.S. District Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. in Nashville, Ten-

nessee, ruled the charges filed by the Donald Trump administration had a “reasonable likelihood of vindictiveness.” He ordered an Oct. 10 hearing to open discovery in the case and discuss its scope. Abrego García’s lawyers can seek evidence to prove the government used criminal law for revenge against him. The ruling came after an immigration judge had denied Abrego García’s motion to reopen his asylum case.

While lawyers say the legal bar to prove “vindictive prosecution” is high, there is a lot of evidence that points to it in this case.

There are social media posts and statements by the Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem disparaging Abrego García as a gang member and human trafficker, even though he had not been tried and convicted of any criminal charges in the United States. President Trump called him “Uganda man,” threatening his imminent deportation there, even though he has no connection whatsoever to that African country.

Among the most serious appearances of vindictiveness, Crenshaw wrote in his decision, are remarks by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, the Justice Department official in charge of the Tennessee case against Abrego García on the day of his arrest. Blanche told FOX

TV that the government didn’t start “investigating” him for the Tennessee case until after a judge in Maryland questioned “the government’s decision to deport Abrego García.”

At the Oct. 6 hearing here U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis rejected a bid by the Trump administration to suspend hearings on his case for the duration of the federal government shutdown.

Abrego García’s attorney, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, told the court that he should be freed. It is illegal to hold him in custody when ICE is not making steady progress to deport him. Government threats to send Abrego García to Uganda, Eswatini or some other country are designed to intimidate him and possibly return him to El Salvador.

Justice Department attorneys were unable to present Xinis with any evidence the government is moving to deport him. “You’ve either done it or your haven’t,” she said. “It’s not a hard question, guys.” Xinis ordered another hearing for Oct. 10, telling government lawyers to produce a witness with concrete evidence as to what they are doing.

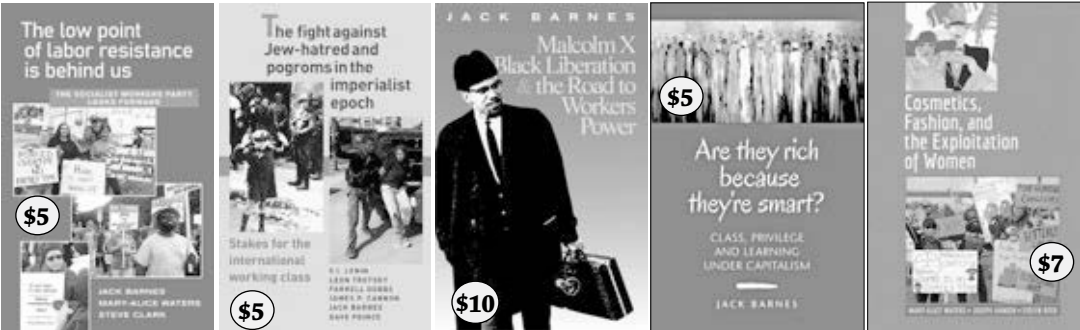
“This case is not just about one man,” CASA activist Lydia Walther-Rodriguez told the press after the hearing. “It is about the integrity of the U.S. Constitution as we continue to witness the inhumane retaliation by our government to a man and his family who are simply demanding due process.” CASA, an immigrants’ rights group, has defended him from day one.

More support from unions, immigrant rights groups, defenders of constitutional freedoms and others is needed to demand “Free Kilmar Abrego García!”

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SWP presents a road forward

Continued from front page

the possibility of the working class taking political power into our own hands.

The goal of this fall campaign, which runs Sept. 20 to Nov. 18, is to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant* and an equal number of books, which address these questions in more depth.

SWP campaigners explain the party is financed solely by working people. This fall's Party-Building Fund aims to raise \$140,000. We ask people who like what they hear about the party to make as generous a contribution as they can.

The *Militant* and book campaign is conducted jointly with members of the Communist Leagues in Canada, the U.K. and Australia.

In cities and towns across the country, members of the international communist movement knock on doors in working-class neighborhoods, and join union picket lines and social protests, like actions against Jew-hatred and in defense of Ukraine's national sovereignty. We explain that all political questions are class questions.

When Tony Lane and Sergio Zambrana campaigned in McKees Rocks in western Pennsylvania Oct. 4, Nina Pierre came to the door wearing a T-shirt from a group that fundraises for activities by toilers in Haiti. "I know the group, I attended one of their activities," Lane said. He introduced himself as the SWP candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh.

Pierre raised the importance of the protests taking place against deportations and other attacks on immigrant workers by the U.S. rulers. Lane explained that the party's call for amnesty for undocumented immigrants is aimed at building the unity of the working class. She agreed that such a fight is needed to overcome "divisions that only help those in power."

As well as introducing her to the *Militant* newspaper, the SWP campaigners showed her some of the books they had brought. Pierre subscribed, saying she wished her husband was there to join the

discussion. She was especially interested in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Another woman on the same street also subscribed and got *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

Rallies protest Manchester killings

A rally in Manchester, England, had been called to mark the anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom by Hamas that slaughtered 1,200 Jews and others and took some 250 hostages in Israel. After two Jews, Adrian Daulby and Melvin Cravitz, were killed Oct. 2 at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation synagogue, the rally swelled to over a 1,000, both Jews and non-Jews. Many noted the Manchester killings were part of a worldwide rise of Jew-hatred.

Several people came by a Communist League table noting the signs saying, "Defend Israel's battle to prevent a second Holocaust" and "US/UK troops, warships, bases out of the Middle East!"

Bar worker Robert Howarth told Andrés Mendoza, CL candidate for Manchester City Council, that he and Samuel Ashworth "traveled from Blackburn to the rally to show solidarity." Ashworth said he "didn't know anything about Jewish people and what they faced until Oct. 7." He decided he had to "look into why they are targeted."

Mendoza said Jew-hatred is "growing in the face of today's global imperialist crisis." It is used to divert working people "away from seeing the capitalist system as the source of our problems."

Howarth and Ashworth were among eight rally participants who bought introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* along with a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. Five of those people weren't Jewish, but each told CL member Caroline Bellamy they came to show their solidarity. Hugo Wils, another CL candidate for Manchester City Council, described how on seeing the signs at the CL table, one person donated 20 pounds (\$27) to the CL's party-building fund.

Ögmundur Jónsson wrote that CL campaigners were well received at a similar event in London's Trafalgar Square. Thousands turned out, as numbers swelled in response to the murderous attack on Jews in Manchester.

Six interested participants got copies of *The Fight Against Jew-hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*, two got *Militant* subscriptions, and eight others picked up a copy of the paper. Dozens left carrying the statement by the CL's candidates in Manchester denouncing the attack.

To help circulate the *Militant* and books on revolutionary working-class politics, and make a contribution, contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Pete Clifford contributed to this article.

Paul Mailhot: 'Workers need to take political power'



Militant

NEW YORK — "The working class is not getting what we need. Wages aren't enough. Health care is going down the drain," retired fireman Mike Morale told Paul Mailhot, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, Oct. 5. Mailhot was campaigning door to door in the Brooklyn neighborhood of East New York. "Democrats and Republicans can't even get a budget together," Morale said, referring to the government shutdown in Washington. "You can be sure rich people will get paid without a budget, but not workers."

"The entire capitalist system is organized around profit-making for a small handful of super-rich ruling-class families, not what the vast majority of working people need," Mailhot said. "Workers need to organize ourselves, build unions to strengthen solidarity, and fight for amnesty for immigrants working in the U.S. in order to cut across the divisions the bosses use against the entire working class. Workers need political power. The Socialist Workers Party is committed to that fight."

Morale is originally from Trinidad. When Mailhot commented on the history of militant labor struggles there, Morale agreed. "Yes, lots of oil workers" joined those battles, he said. "Our class is an international class," Mailhot responded. "Examples of struggle anywhere help workers around the world figure out how to fight effectively."

Morale said he was interested in what the SWP candidate had to say, and would read the *Militant*. The previous night Mailhot spoke to an audience of 50 at a Militant Labor Forum on "A working-class answer to today's economic uncertainty, political assassinations, Jew-hatred and imperialism's march toward World War III."

— RÓGER CALERO

Books by SWP leaders, 'Militant' sell well at one-day Georgia festival

BY JANICE LYNN

DECATUR, Ga. — "This is the best booth here!" more than one participant at the Oct. 4 Decatur Book Festival told volunteers staffing the Pathfinder Books booth from Atlanta.

The one-day event in this Atlanta suburb was attended by thousands of people. The attractive Pathfinder booth, well stocked with books by Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary leaders, drew a steady stream of visitors, young and old. Many stopped to browse and discuss politics, purchasing 122 books and 18 subscriptions to the *Militant*. Top sellers were *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes; *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* by SWP leaders Evelyn Reed, Joseph Hansen and Mary-Alice Waters; and *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning under Capitalism* by Barnes.

Titles on the road to women's emancipation, Cuba and its socialist revolution, as well as by and about Malcolm X and Thomas Sankara, who led the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso, were among the best sellers. Five issues of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, were also sold.

Rick Berg bought a copy of *Lenin's Final Fight* to learn more about the

political struggle by V.I. Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. He led the fight against Great Russian chauvinism and in defense of the rights of oppressed nationalities, including Ukrainians. Berg had recently returned from bringing four vehicles to Ukraine, which were then converted to ambulances.

Many visitors to the booth also shook hands and spoke with Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, who was campaigning at the fair. Many took a copy of the party's campaign platform home with them.

Tom Baumann contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Leandro

A Working-Class Answer to Today's Economic Uncertainty, Political Assassinations, Jew-Hatred, and Imperialism's March Toward Another World War. Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Fri., Oct. 17. Reception, 5:30 p.m.; program, 6:30 p.m. San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund						
Sept. 20 - November 18 (week two)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	24	55	34	\$10,000	\$703
Chicago	65	37	65	25	\$14,000	\$864
Cincinnati	55	13	55	16	\$5,000	\$0
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	30	60	22	\$5,000	\$0
Los Angeles	80	39	80	59	\$14,000	\$1,910
Miami	35	9	35	3	\$5,000	\$600
Minneapolis	65	23	65	12	\$5,500	\$1,150
N. New Jersey	70	24	70	24	\$7,500	\$2,311
New York	90	31	90	40	\$20,500	\$940
Oakland	80	23	80	27	\$15,000	\$3,800
Philadelphia	50	12	50	12	\$6,000	\$0
Pittsburgh	50	21	50	9	\$6,000	\$1,100
Seattle	65	10	65	18	\$15,000	\$0
Washington	45	20	45	12	\$4,500	\$0
Other		26		407		\$350
Total U.S.	865	342	865	720	\$133,000	\$13,728
Prisoners		50				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	15	45	16		
Manchester	45	29	45	21		
Total U.K.	90	44	90	37		
Canada	90	33	100	35		
Australia	30	15	30	14		
Total	1,075	484	1,085	806	\$133,000	\$13,728
SHOULD BE	1,300	325	1,300	325	\$140,000	\$35,000

Rail workers fight for jobs, safety

Continued from front page

of Machinists who works at the Union Pacific Proviso yard near Chicago told the *Militant* Sept. 22. He asked that his name not be used for fear of company reprisals. “They claim they’re broke when it comes to investing in anything, but they want to buy another railroad? They’re barely fixing the locomotives now. We’re working with skeleton crews. And they’d like to go to just one person on the train!”

The question facing railroad workers and our unions is how can we take this on. The fundamental nature of dog-eat-dog capitalist competition leads to monopoly, hand in hand with squeezing more profits out of their workers. The capitalist rulers’ government always stands behind the bosses, whichever party is in power. The record in the rail industry — including the bipartisan vote in Congress to uphold President Joseph Biden’s decision to bar my union, SMART-TD, from striking in 2022 — bears this out.

In 1980, the U.S. had 33 Class I railroads. That year a bipartisan Congress passed the Staggers Rail Act, removing many restraints on the rail bosses, facilitating an accelerated consolidation of the industry. As they merged or bought out their competitors, the biggest carriers ripped up tracks, closed yards and stopped serving less profitable routes to focus on the most lucrative. They spun off local delivery operations to smaller short-line railroads, many of them non-union, with lower pay and even worse working conditions.

Today there are just six Class I railroads in North America, four headquartered in the U.S. and two in Canada. Meanwhile, the number of short lines has grown from 220 to over 600, carrying 29% of U.S. freight. And the percentage of union rail workers has fallen from 83% in 1983 to 54% today.

The rail barons deepened their offensive against rail workers and our unions. Freight rail crews went from four or five workers to today’s standard of two, an engineer and a conductor. Many carriers introduced the remote control switching operation in the rail yards, eliminating the engineer and leaving two, or all too often one, switchmen controlling the engine from a belt pack while doing all the work on the ground.

At the same time, UP’s average train length has grown from 8,000 feet five years ago to almost 9,500 today. Some are as long as 15,000 feet, nearly 3 miles.

The rail bosses have carried out similar cuts with worsened conditions for workers who maintain the tracks, inspect and repair cars and engines, and other crafts. In 1980 there were some 500,000 rail workers; by the early 2000s there were half that number. Over the last decade the rail bosses have cut nearly another one-third. They are pushing to get rid of the road conductor, and are testing no-crew-run trains.

Rail workers have resisted many of these attacks, but have repeatedly come up against government intervention. The century-old Railway Labor Act — which is also used against airline workers — is designed to tie the unions up in red tape. There can be years of mediation, “cooling-off” periods, presidential emergency boards and other hoops to jump through before workers can legally strike. And Congress, with large biparti-

san majorities, has repeatedly stepped in to outlaw strikes, like they did in 2022.

What can we do about the merger?

Unions representing rail workers have taken various positions on the Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern deal. The rail conductors’ union, SMART-TD, changed its position completely Sept. 22 to support the merger after UP agreed to “job protection” for current union members.

Union Pacific’s promise that workers “will not face involuntary furloughs as a result of the merger” is “proof that when workers and management sit down in good faith, we can build an industry that serves everyone: employees, companies, and the American people,” union President Jeremy Ferguson said.

Tony Cardwell, president of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, said the union rejected a similar proposal because UP wouldn’t agree to protect workers if it leases out more tracks to short-line railroads.

Cardwell said that the Teamsters, which the BMWED is part of, have good relations with President Donald Trump, and he hopes they can get help from the White House in protecting union members’ interests.

Neither collaboration with the bosses, as they try move to undercut their competitors, nor looking to government officials and agencies that exist to protect capitalist interests offers a way forward for workers.

Workers have to organize to fight

We’re not going to stop the capitalist drive toward monopoly. It’s a fundamental part of the functioning of capital. The bosses are protected in this by the



Foster County Emergency Management via NTSB

July 5, 2024, derailment released hazardous materials in Foster County, North Dakota. Rail bosses continue to use tanker model that contributed to disaster here and East Palestine, Ohio.

armed power of the state.

What we *can* do is fight for better conditions of work and for control of safety on the job, as we strengthen our unions and look to overturning capitalist rule in the future. That takes organizing ourselves independently of the bosses and their government, winning solidarity among all rail workers and our unions, and from the working class more broadly.

The government’s response every time freight rail workers consider striking shows the ruling class is scared of our potential power. Whether they’re able to stop us from using that power is a question of the relationship of forces, and our own confidence to act together in our interests.

A good example was the strike in August by flight attendants at Air Canada. They were fighting to be paid for all the hours they work. The Canadian government immediately

used anti-labor laws to order an end to the strike, as it has done to workers in several other unions. But this time the flight attendants kept their picket lines up, won widespread labor support and got a better contract.

Fights by rail workers for safer conditions, larger crews instead of more cutbacks, and shorter trains would win support from many workers. The residents of East Palestine, Ohio, won broad support, from rail workers and others, after a Norfolk Southern train derailed there in 2023. Norfolk Southern bosses decided to burn off five carloads of toxic vinyl chloride in order to reopen the main track as fast as possible. This compounded the damage to working people in the area. Their fight for accountability from the company and the government gives a glimpse of what’s possible.

Naomi Craine is a freight rail conductor and member of SMART-TD.

Over 1,000 protest killing of Jews at synagogue in Manchester

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — “We are not Jews trembling on our knees,” Raphi Bloom, a leader of the Jewish community here, told more than 1,000 people gathered in the city’s center Oct. 5 to protest the killing of two Jews, Adrian Daulby and Melvin Cravitz, in an assault on the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation three days earlier. The attack was carried out when the North Manchester synagogue was busy on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year.

The rally, originally called to mark two years since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom, drew people who came to show solidarity with the congregation and express their opposition to the rise in Jew-hatred in the U.K. and worldwide.

“Two of our community were murdered simply for being Jews,” said Bloom, who worships at the synagogue.

On Oct. 2 Jihad al-Shamie, a British citizen of Syrian descent, rammed a car into worshippers who were defending the gates of the synagogue. He then ran toward several with a knife, stabbing some and charging the front door to try to get inside. One worshipper said al-Shamie screamed, “This is what you get for killing our children,” repeating a centuries-old blood libel smearing Jews and trying to justify their annihilation.

Witnesses said they could see what appeared to be bombs hanging from

al-Shamie’s waist. Although the devices turned out to be fake, his intent was clear — to murder as many Jews as possible.

Worshippers fought al-Shamie off, preventing him from getting through the door. Police ended the assault by shooting him dead. In the course of defending the synagogue, three other worshippers were seriously injured.

Cops say that Daulby, who was defending the synagogue, was killed in police gunfire. His family issued a statement saying he died “during an act of courage to save others.” Cravitz also died trying to stop al-Shamie from getting inside.

Six other people have been arrested on suspicion of complicity in the attack.

At the Oct. 5 rally several people carried signs reading, “Never again is now” and “We shall dance again,” a slogan raised by survivors of Hamas’ assault on the Nova music festival in Israel, part of their Oct. 7 pogrom.

The killings have provoked widespread solidarity with the victims of the attack. Samuel Ashworth traveled to the rally from Blackburn to show his support. He told the *Militant*, “I didn’t know anything about Jewish people and what they faced until Oct. 7, then I looked into why they are targeted.”

“Every Jewish organization, every Jewish school, every Jewish communal organization has security outside. We’re the only faith community that has to do

this all the time, that tells you something about what Jews face in Britain,” Raphi Bloom told LBC News.

“The government’s demonization of Israel has played a significant part in allowing Jew-hatred to flourish,” he said at the Manchester rally. “Two weeks ago it rewarded Hamas with the prize of Palestinian statehood, for which Hamas thanked them, calling this the ultimate fruit of Oct. 7.”

Hundreds joined a vigil outside the synagogue in Manchester Oct. 3. U.K. Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy from the Labour government was met with repeated shouts of “Shame on you!” from many in the crowd.

“We unequivocally condemn this anti-Semitic terrorist attack against Jewish worshippers during Yom Kippur,” wrote Eddie Dempsey, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union in an Oct. 2 statement, one of several issued by union leaders.

At the Oct. 5 rally, members of the Communist League distributed a statement by Andrés Mendoza and Hugo Wils, the party’s candidates for Manchester City Council. “The Communist League stands in the front lines of the fight against Jew-hatred,” Mendoza and Wils wrote, “and in defense of Israel as an unconditional refuge for Jews.”

Thousands filled Trafalgar Square in London Oct. 5 to mark the Hamas pogrom and to protest the killings in Manchester.

Defeat of Hamas is crucial to prevent a new Holocaust

Continued from front page

Since President Donald Trump announced his 20-point “peace” plan Sept. 29, Hamas has been pressing for “revisions” that would give it wider latitude to rebuild, rearm and launch new attacks. For his part, Trump is demanding Israel end its fight to decisively defeat Hamas.

Around the world, the Oct. 7 anniversary was marked by mobilizations in support of Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews, as well as pro-Hamas celebrations of its murderous pogrom.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas murdered 1,200 men, women and children, Jews and others who lived and worked with them, and 250 people were taken hostage. Since then Hamas and its backers in Iran have repeatedly vowed to attack “again and again” until all the Jews are dead or gone.

Hamas’ response to Trump’s “peace” plan underscores that nothing has changed. Hamas has objected to giving up its weapons or its position in Gaza. It has set additional conditions for accepting the plan, for instance, saying a hostage release is only possible “provided the field conditions for the exchange are met.”

Yet shortly after Hamas released its first reply to Trump’s proposal, the U.S. president said, “Based on the Statement just issued by Hamas, I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE,” adding, “Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza.” He ignored any need to consult with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump doubled down on his pressure on Israel’s government after Netanyahu expressed objections to Hamas’ conditions. He berated the Israeli leader for being “so f---ing negative.”

Netanyahu says his government will continue working with Washington “to end the war in accordance with the principles set forth by Israel.” This would have to mean the complete destruction of Hamas.

Talks have opened in Egypt between Israel and Hamas, overseen by Steven Witkoff, U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, and Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who had been centrally involved in U.S. machinations in the Middle East during Trump’s first term.

The first issue being addressed is the release of all remaining hostages.

Hamas officials are demanding the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza to coincide with its releases of the hostages.

The Israel Defense Forces continue to surround Gaza City and has reinforced its positions, but paused its offensive to



March in Central Park in New York Oct. 7 to commemorate those killed in Hamas’ pogrom, the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, demand Hamas release rest of the hostages.

take Hamas’ last main stronghold while talks continue. The IDF urged the city’s residents, who have mostly evacuated at IDF’s request, not to return.

Washington presses its own interests

Washington is now placing the responsibility for the continuation of the war on Israel, while pressing ahead on the aims of the U.S. imperialist rulers. When Trump talks about “peace,” he’s talking about imposing a “Pax Americana” for Washington to achieve the stability it needs to extend its domination and plunder in the Middle East. Competing capitalist rulers, including in France, Spain and Britain, are determined to get their share of the exploitation of the resources and labor power in the region. They say Israel is guilty of “genocide,” and call for a “two-state solution,” which would leave Hamas in charge of Gaza.

But Israel is not responsible for starting the war, or of its continuation today, nor for the disaster that has befallen working people in Gaza. That lies entirely with Hamas. Thousands in Gaza are hoping for an end to the conflict and for an end to Hamas’ tyrannical rule.

Gazans demand Hamas end war

“Hamas must say yes to this offer — we have been through hell already,” Mahmoud Bolbol, a construction worker in Gaza City, told the *New York Times*. “Hamas needs to understand: Enough is enough.” Most Gazans are not members of the group, he said, “so why drag us into this?”

Alaa Khalil, a mother of six living in a tent in Gaza, told the *Wall Street Journal* that before the war she supported Hamas. But Hamas’ attack on Israel and its conduct during the war has led her to back away from the group and its lead-

ership. “I don’t feel like our suffering matters to them,” she said.

Despite digging a vast tunnel network in preparation for its pogrom, Hamas didn’t build a single shelter to protect people in Gaza. Their deaths, Hamas believes, are a martyrdom that brings pity from imperialist rulers, pushing them against Israel.

Others agree Hamas would never put the interests of the Palestinian people above its own. “They don’t care about what people think or public opinion,” Abdelhalim Awad, a bakery manager in central Gaza, told the *Times*. “If they cared about that, we wouldn’t be in this situation.”

Nidal Eissa, a father of three in Gaza City, told the *Times* he hopes to rebuild his life in a Gaza no longer ruled by Hamas. “If the war ends with solutions and the ruling system changes, I will open a business and stay in my country,” he said. “Most important is that they change the regime that dragged us into ruin and destruction.”

Hassan Shehada told the *Times* he hopes that peace will come and that the people of Israel and Gaza will realize their fates are intertwined. “Israel can’t give up on us and we can’t give up on Israel,” he said. “If there is no real peace built on solid foundations between us, nothing will work.”

This depends on Hamas being completely defeated. If the end of the war leads to its survival, Hamas will rebuild and carry out more pogroms. While Netanyahu’s capitalist government looks to Washington, he also acts on the reality that Hamas will never back off its commitment to Israel’s destruction. If Washington compromises the fight to dismantle Hamas, he says Israel “will finish the job.”

Thousands mark Oct. 7 pogrom, in US, around the world

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Thousands gathered across the U.S., in Israel and around the world Oct. 7 to mark the second anniversary of the deadly pogrom carried out by Tehran-backed Hamas and to demand the release of all the remaining hostages. Hamas thugs murdered over 1,200 people in Israel that day, raped women, mutilated their bodies, seized 250 hostages, proudly posted videos of their atrocities and have threatened to do the same and worse again.

Hundreds filled the Great Lawn in New York’s Central Park before marching with pictures of hostages and those killed in the attack. Two days earlier, Iair Horn, who was taken hostage by Hamas and held for 498 days, spoke at Temple

Emanu-El in Manhattan. He talked about his younger brother Eitan, who is still held hostage. “This must be the moment when families are reunited,” Horn said, “when the nightmare ends.”

In London, thousands gathered in Trafalgar Square Oct. 5 to mark the pogrom, lighting candles for Adrian Daulby and Melvin Cravitz, two Jews murdered at a Manchester synagogue days earlier. Those killings show “how deadly this virulent antisemitism has become,” Keith Black, chairman of the Jewish Leadership Council, told the demonstrators. “Our streets have been filled with protesters screaming Jew-hatred, our students have faced relentless waves of abuse on campus.”

More than 1,000 chairs with the photographs of Israeli hostages and those murdered Oct. 7 were installed in front of Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate. Mourners placed stones and photos on chairs in a vigil echoing Jewish traditions.

‘End Hamas’s reign of terror’

In Israel, 30,000 people filled Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv. The ceremony opened with a moment of silence for those killed by Hamas.

“We will continue to act to achieve all the war’s objectives: the return of all the hostages, the elimination of Hamas rule and ensuring that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a state-

ment. “What began in Gaza will end in Gaza,” he said, “with the end of Hamas’ reign of terror.”

But along with the gatherings that condemned Hamas’ brutality, its supporters chose Oct. 7 to hold actions in several cities around the world hailing the Nazi-like group.

In New York hundreds marched through midtown chanting “From the river to the sea,” a call for the destruction of Israel. Marchers carried banners that said, “Long live the intifada” and “Glory to our martyrs.” One carried a banner with an image of a jihadist flag adorned with a machine gun.

Large pro-Hamas demonstrations were held in Sydney, London, Paris, Geneva, Athens, Tokyo and elsewhere.

In Muswell Hill, London, a display of yellow ribbons in solidarity with the hostages was cut down by a Hamas supporter. “People are trying to erase the trauma that has happened to Israelis, to the Jewish community,” Emma Semp, who puts up ribbons, told the BBC.

Protesters in Melbourne, Australia, sprayed-painted “Glory to Hamas” and “Oct. 7 do it again.” Pro-Hamas supporters waved Palestinian flags and shouted “Israel is a terrorist state,” outside King’s College London.

Hamas marked the two-year anniversary of its massacre calling it a “glorious day of success.”

The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the imperialist epoch

Stakes for the international working class

by V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Jack Barnes, Dave Prince

Jew-hatred and pogroms are part of the permanent social convulsions of the imperialist epoch. Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia showed there is a road to uproot national oppression.

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The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the imperialist epoch

Stakes for the international working class

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JACK BARNES
DAVE PRINCE

‘Authenticity and future of our revolution depend on women’

Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle by Thomas Sankara is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for October. Sankara was the central leader of the popular, democratic revolution in Burkina Faso. He had been won to Marxism before leading an uprising in August 1983 in what had been the French colony of Upper Volta in West Africa. Inspired by the Cuban Revolution, he mobilized workers and peasants, women and youth to carry out deep-going social measures in one of the poorest countries in the world, as well as to extend international solidarity. He was assassinated in a counter-revolutionary coup on Oct. 15, 1987. The excerpt is from his speech to a rally of several thousand women on March 8 that year. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Thomas Sankara, leader of 1983-87 popular revolutionary government in Burkina Faso, giving “The revolution cannot triumph without emancipation of women” speech, March 8, 1987.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

The revolution’s promises are already a reality for men. But for women, they are still merely a rumor. And yet the authenticity and the future of our revolution depend on women.

These are vital and essential questions, because nothing whole, nothing definitive or lasting can be accomplished in our country as long as a crucial part of ourselves is kept in this condition of subjugation — a condition imposed over

the course of centuries by various systems of exploitation.

Starting now, the men and women of Burkina Faso should profoundly change their image of themselves. For they are part of a society that is not only establishing new social relations but is also provoking a cultural transformation, upsetting the relations of authority between men and women and forcing both to rethink the nature of each.

This task is formidable but necessary. It will determine our ability to bring our revolution to its full stature, unleash its full potential, and show its true meaning for the direct, natural, and necessary relations between men and women, the most natural of all relations between one human being and another. ...

In other words, posing the question of women in Burkinabè society today means posing the abolition of the system of slavery to which they have been subjected for millennia. The first step is to try to understand how this system functions, to grasp its real nature in all its subtlety, in order then to work out a line of action that can lead to women’s total emancipation.

In other words, in order to win this battle common to men and women, we must be familiar with all aspects of the woman question on a world as well as a national scale. We must understand how the struggle of Burkinabè women today is part of the worldwide struggle of all women and, beyond that, part

of the struggle for the full rehabilitation of our continent. The condition of women is therefore at the heart of the question of humanity itself, here, there, and everywhere. The question is thus universal in character. ...

From the beginning of human history, man’s mastering of nature has never been accomplished with his bare hands alone. The hand with the opposable thumb is extended by the tool, which increases the hand’s power. It was thus not

“The revolution cannot triumph without the genuine emancipation of women.”

—Thomas Sankara

physical attributes alone — musculature or the capacity to give birth, for example — that determined the unequal status of men and women. Nor was it technological progress as such that institutionalized this inequality. In certain cases, in certain parts of the globe, women were able to eliminate the physical difference that separated them from men.

It was the transition from one form of society to another that served to institutionalize women’s inequality. ...

For millennia, from the Paleolithic to the Bronze Age, relations between the sexes were, in the opinion of the most skilled paleontologists, positive and

complementary in character. So it was for eight millennia. Relations were based on collaboration and interaction, in contrast to the patriarchy, where women’s exclusion is a generalized characteristic of the modern historical era.

Frederick Engels not only traced the evolution of technology but also of the historic enslavement of women, which was born with the arrival of private property, owing to the transition from one mode of production to another, and from one form of social organization to another. ...

Humankind first knew slavery with the advent of private property. Man, master of his slaves and of the land, also became the owner of the woman. This was the great historic defeat of the female sex. It came about with the upheaval in the division of labor, a result of new modes of production and a revolution in the means of production.

In this way, paternal right replaced maternal right. Property was now handed down from father to son, rather than as before from the woman to her clan. The patriarchal family made its appearance, founded on the sole and personal property of the father, who had become head of the family. Within this family the woman was oppressed. ...

[T]he struggle to liberate women is above all your struggle to deepen our democratic and popular revolution. ... It now falls to you to act with the greatest sense of responsibility in breaking through all the chains and shackles that enslave women in backward societies like ours and to assume your share of the responsibilities in the political fight to build a new society at the service of Africa and at the service of all humanity.

In the very first hours of the democratic and popular revolution we said, “Emancipation, like freedom, is not granted, it is conquered. It is for women themselves to put forward their demands and mobilize to win them.” ...

Together we must collectively take care that women retain access to work. It is work that emancipates and liberates women by assuring them economic independence and a greater social role, as well as a more complete and accurate understanding of the world. ...

[T]he revolution cannot triumph without the genuine emancipation of women.

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EDITORIAL

Fight against Jew-hatred key for working class

Continued from front page
defensive war against Hamas. It does so to advance the U.S. rulers’ imperialist interests in the Middle East and beyond, regardless of the consequences for Jews, for Israel and for what Hamas’ survival would portend for all working people.

From its founding in 1987 out of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas’ goal has been to wipe the Jewish people and Israel off the face of the earth. Its determination to carry out another Holocaust remains unchanged two years since its Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom. It is in the class interests of workers worldwide for Israel to carry its war through to the end.

Hamas refuses to give up its arms and is using the current talks to gain space to rebuild and seek out new allies to pursue its murderous aims.

Capitalist rulers in Europe and elsewhere blame Israel for “genocide.” Hamas says their claims show its Oct. 7 pogrom, what it calls a “glorious day,” was successful. Efforts to slander Israel for “genocide” are advanced by Stalinist forces everywhere.

For working people, the fight to defend Israel as a refuge for the Jews is a front line in the battle to prevent Washington and other imperialist powers from marching humanity toward fascism and a third world war.

President Donald Trump’s demand that Israel stop its attacks on Hamas are part of the U.S. rulers’ efforts to impose stability for their own imperialist interests. These include advancing relations with capitalist regimes across the region, including Hamas’ backers in Tehran, and extending Washington’s economic, political and military domination throughout the Middle East.

Earthquake wreaks havoc on Cebu in Philippines

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — A severe earthquake rocked the Philippines island province of Cebu Sept. 30. Its aftermath became a social catastrophe for tens of thousands of working people in the region.

Two days after the 6.9-magnitude quake, the death toll stood at 72 people, with hundreds injured and 170,000 displaced. Roads, bridges, houses and churches were damaged or destroyed. Patients at Bogo City’s heavily damaged hospital had to be treated outdoors.

While the search for survivors continues, hundreds of aftershocks still plague the area. This was the deadliest earthquake since 2013, in a nation that sits in the so-called Pacific Rim of Fire.

At least 10 people died in SM Cares Village, originally constructed from scratch to house some of the survivors of Haiyan, a typhoon that killed more than 6,000 people when it swept through the archipelago in 2013.

Speaking to this *Militant* reporter in Auckland Oct. 3, Meredith Bianes said her family home in the hard-hit town of Medellín suffered cracks in the walls.

“We are worried for the people staying there, including my 96-year-old mum,” Bianes said. “Just this

The stakes are enormous for the working class worldwide. A decisive victory in Israel’s defensive war is crucial. Along that road working people — Jews, Palestinians, Druze, Kurds and others — can advance struggles and forge alliances for their own class interests and national aspirations. It’s out of such struggles that workers come to see that all political questions are class questions.

Safeguarding Israel will not end Jew-hating violence. This requires a deepening of the class struggle.

The killing of two Jews defending a synagogue in Manchester, England, last week, and rising assaults on Jews in the U.S. and elsewhere show Jew-hatred is not a Middle East question. As social and economic crises deepen, the rulers will try to divert the anger of the ruined middle classes and some demoralized workers away from the capitalist class and its responsibility for the crisis they face. The rulers will unleash fascist forces to target Jews, the labor movement and communists.

The fight to eradicate Jew-hatred in the imperialist epoch requires overturning the political rule of the bosses, ending capitalist exploitation and charting a road to end all national oppression. Most importantly, this must be done here in the U.S., home of the world’s final empire.

To make socialist revolutions possible, vanguard parties must be built that are disciplined and capable of leading tens of millions to take power. Such parties can only be forged and tempered in the course of the class struggle. Workers need a party they know and whose leaders and members they have come to trust.

You can be part of the struggle to build such a party today — Join the Socialist Workers Party.

morning, they experienced more aftershocks.” As rain poured down on broken ground Sept. 30, thousands left homeless had nothing but plastic bags to cover themselves.

Media reports show the response of national and local government has been piecemeal at best. Visiting the disaster zone Oct. 2, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. admitted, “We do not have a place to put our displaced families.”

But many toilers expect little help from the government, given revelations of misappropriation of funds that is shaking ruling circles in the Philippines and prompting street protests against government corruption.

According to the Sunstar online news provider, “The Social Security System has opened a special calamity loan program for members” affected by the earthquake and recent typhoons. Loan approvals are capped at 20,000 Philippine pesos (US\$345) and interest rates would be lowered to 7%.

Working people are stepping forward to offer solidarity and aid, Bianes said. Some are organizing fundraising, including among the many Filipinos living overseas.

UMWA, NBLA call for Oct. 14 Washington rally

BY TONY LANE

ABINGDON, Va. — Some 80 people attended the annual National Black Lung Association conference here Oct. 3, the first time it’s been held in Virginia. “We demand the Department of Labor enforce the new silica rule,” Vonda Robinson, vice president of the association, told the *Militant* after the meeting ended. From Virginia, she had organized the meeting.

“Association members discussed plans to take their fight and protest to Washington, D.C., Oct. 14. Vans are being organized from Virginia and West Virginia and members are coming from Kentucky.

“The Department of Labor and coal companies have fought against the implementation of the silica rule. It’s been postponed two times,” Robinson said. “We’ll have signs outside the DOL to get their attention and we’ve contacted the news.” The meeting agreed to go ahead with the protest regardless of the ongoing federal government shutdown.

The rally is a joint effort with the United Mine Workers of America. UMWA President Cecil Roberts will speak, along with a doctor who treats black lung patients at a clinic in the Virginia coalfields.

After years of pressure from the National Black Lung Association and others, the Mine Safety and Health Administration in April 2024 announced a new “silica rule” that would cut in half the amount of silica dust miners can be exposed to. However, implementation of the rule has been postponed.

As bosses push to extract profit from thinning coal seams, miners have to cut through ever-thicker layers of rock, releasing silica into the air and their lungs. Breathing the coal and silica dust can create a hybrid disease that leads to progressive massive fibrosis, a deadly form of black lung.

Overturning cuts at NIOSH

Robinson also spoke about the fight to overturn government job cuts, including at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, that are hurting the effort to combat black lung. “We got NIOSH back to work,” she said. The National Black Lung Association, mine workers union, and black lung clinics were successful in reversing some layoffs at NIOSH.

“Figures for black lung were going down, now they are going up. The coal companies only care about mining more coal,” NBLA President Gary Hairston told the *Militant*. This is the why the association will be redoubling its effort to press for the new silica rule to be put into effect.

“The senators won’t talk to us. They send out a staff rep,” Hairston said. “We want to see what the eyes tell us. They don’t respect working people.”

Working people active in NBLA chapters from Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia — including miners, retired and working, and widows and spouses of miners with black lung — attended the conference, along with medical clinic personnel from those states plus Ohio.

The highlight of the morning session was a presentation by Dr. James Brandon Crum, a radiologist with a black lung clinic in Pikeville, Kentucky. He said it’s right in the bull’s eye for the highest concentrations of black lung cases in the U.S.

Crum debunked common misconceptions about black lung — that it occurs mainly among older miners, is usually related to smoking, that there is no treatment, and that it isn’t that common anymore with modern mining practices. “Silica is a big factor,” he said, “but not the only factor; almost all dust is mixed dust.” But that the coal operators want to blame it on anything other than coal dust.

Crum pointed out the disease can progress long after workers are no longer actively working in the mines. He stressed the importance of continuing to monitor miners’ health, including through X-rays and CAT scans, to follow the degree of the disease.

His clinic has done studies on hundreds of miners. One study showed 10% of miners he examined had what is referred to as “complicated” black lung, and over half of these are more serious cases. Crum said this is the result of the failure of prevention and protection by the employers and the government.