

Putin steps up deadly attacks on civilians all across Ukraine

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The reactionary regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin is stepping up its bombardment of Ukraine's cities, residential areas and power supplies. Putin counts on demoralizing the Ukrainian people, enabling Moscow to conquer and assimilate them. This is despite Russia's forces suffering catastrophic casualties.

The Kremlin aims to deprive the Ukrainian people of heat during the coming winter's frigid temperatures. But despite temporary blackouts, the dedication and ingenuity of Ukrainian power workers has kept the national electrical grid functioning.

On Oct. 10, Moscow launched 465 drones and nearly three dozen missiles, disrupting power supplies in nine regions of Ukraine and plunging some parts of the capital, Kyiv, into darkness. Ukrainian air defenses were able to down 405 drones and 15 missiles, but the rest got through. The Russian military has adapted its airborne weaponry to make unexpected dives and turns, which Kyiv's defenses-

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New Syria gov't targets Kurds, signals spread of wider conflict

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Fighting broke out Oct. 6 between Syria's new government and Kurdish forces, which for years have controlled an autonomous region carved out in the struggle for their national rights in the oil-rich northeast of the country. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces say government forces have repeatedly sought to infiltrate territories under the SDF's control.

Kurds, an oppressed nationality, make up some 10% of Syria's population. Thirty million Kurds, in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey, comprise the world's largest nation without their own country.

One civilian and one government soldier were killed in the Kurdish-controlled neighborhoods of Aleppo, the main city in northern Syria.

Millions of working people across Syria, hoping for a better future, celebrated after Ahmad al-Sharaa's forces overthrew the 50-year-long Assad regime last December, after a popular uprising and civil war begun in 2011 cost the lives of more than 300,000 people and displaced millions. Many pushed

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Defend Israel's right to exist as refuge from new Holocaust

Defend Palestinians in Gaza from Hamas thugs



Yoan Valat/Pool via Reuters

President Donald Trump with, from left, heads of state from Turkey, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan at "peace" conference in Egypt Oct. 13 as Washington moves to pull together alliance.

Trump says that Hamas thugs patrolling streets of Gaza is OK

BY SETH GALINSKY

The release of the 20 remaining living hostages by Hamas — starved, tortured and brutalized for 738 days after the Jew-hating group kidnapped them during the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom — was celebrated throughout Israel and beyond. But it doesn't mean there is peace.

Hamas says it won't disarm — a key Israeli demand — and is already using the ceasefire to regroup, reestablish its

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There is no peace! For Israel's decisive defeat of Hamas!

There is no "peace" in Gaza today, nor did Washington ever mean for there to be. The goal of the U.S. imperialist rulers is a "Pax Americana," to impose

EDITORIAL

their political, economic and military domination over the region — drawing on the collaboration of the capitalist re-

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Socialist Workers Party, 'Militant' campaign expands political reach



Militant/Mary Martin

Tony Lane, right, SWP Pittsburgh mayoral candidate, discusses call for amnesty for immigrant workers in U.S. with Anabel Garcia, left, Edith Cardana in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, Oct. 11.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

"Before the union came it was stressful working there," said Sayre Archira, a former worker at TomaTek, a tomato processing plant in Firebaugh in California's Central Valley. She was speaking with Socialist Workers Party members from Los Angeles and Oakland as they introduced the *Militant* and other party literature during their

Oct. 11-13 visit to the area.

A successful organizing drive brought 1,100 workers at the factory into the Teamsters union after 91% voted for the union in July 2024. They ratified a contract with wage increases of over 20%. The valley is the agricultural hub of California, which produces over half the country's vegetables, fruits and nuts.

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US rulers' raids, deportations aim to divide workers, weaken unions

BY TERRY EVANS

The surge in immigration raids under President Donald Trump's administration is aimed at deepening divisions between workers in the U.S. with papers and those without and to intensify the exploitation of all. Millions of undocu-

mented workers have been forced into second-class status, living in fear of arrest and deportation, with fewer rights to defend themselves.

The Democrats and Republicans — the capitalist rulers' two main parties — both strive to provide exploitable immigrant labor, as needed by the bosses and big capitalist farmers. The Joseph Biden administration excluded or deported

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'Militant' takes on Kansas prison ban

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Authorities at the Lansing Correctional Facility, a state prison in Kansas, recently began barring *Militant* subscribers there from getting their paper. The *Militant* has launched a fight to overturn this violation of the constitutional right of workers behind bars to read the papers of their choice.

In mid-July the Kansas Department of Corrections adopted a new Internal Management Policy and Procedure that restricted inmates to getting books and publications from

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Kaiser hospital workers strike for wage raise, hiring more staff

Calif. bread plant workers picket, demand raise, respect

Two Canada truckers’ protest leaders sentenced to house arrest

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — Chris Barber and Tamara Lich, who were spokespeople for the February 2022 protest in Ottawa by hundreds of truckers and others, were sentenced to 18 and 12 months respectively Oct. 7. Dozens of supporters attended the hearing. Both Lich and Barber have been ordered to spend 12 months under house arrest, and then be subject to several months of a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. stay-at-home curfew.

Lich says she is considering appealing her sentence.

In November, in a separate court proceeding, the government will continue its vindictive attempt to seize Barber’s 2004 Kenworth truck, his family’s primary source of income.

The two were speaking out for the several hundred truckers, their families and supporters who occupied streets around Parliament for a few weeks in early 2022, protesting government vaccine mandates that violated their rights and threatened their livelihoods.

Claiming a grave threat to national security was unfolding there, the government imposed the anti-working-class Emergencies Act and sent 3,000 heavily armed police to break up the peaceful protest.

A federal court has since ruled that Ottawa’s use of this act against the truckers was illegal, a violation of basic freedoms guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Barber and Lich had been convicted April 3 on frame-up charges of mischief, a serious crime under Canadian law. Government prosecutors had de-

manded seven years in prison for Lich and eight years for Barber. The judge rejected this out of hand, pointing out people convicted of far more serious charges, like robbery and aggravated assault, often serve less prison time. Barber conducted himself “with the noblest of intent,” the judge added, and “did not advocate for violence.”

This sentence sends “a chilling message to Canadians who freely exercise their Charter freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly,” said John Carpay, president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, which helped raise funds for Barber’s defense.

Before their trial, Lich and Barber had been subjected to extraordinary restrictions to get out of jail on bail. This was designed to silence them and serve as a warning to others tempted to protest against the government. Lich was forbidden from using social media for any reason, contacting any of the other leaders of the convoy, or participating in activities opposing vaccine mandates.

“Our campaign stands against this frame-up trial and punitive sentences,” Philippe Tessier, a rail worker, Teamster



Above, AP/Adrian Wyld; inset, Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms
Freedom Convoy truckers protest Canadian government’s vaccine mandate in 2022. Inset, trucker and convoy spokesperson Chris Barber ordered to serve 12 months house arrest Oct. 7.

union member and Communist League candidate for mayor of Saint Leonard, a borough in Montreal, told the *Militant*. “In the context of the deepening economic, social, and political crisis of the capitalist system, the use of the notorious Emergencies Act against the truckers was a threat of what will come as working-class resistance and the use of union power to defend our interests grows. We call for the sentences to be overturned and the law repealed.

“Ottawa has been carrying out a major assault on the unions and our right to strike, imposing back-to-work orders on rail, port and postal workers,” Tessier said. “Ten thousand striking Air Canada flight attendants pointed the way forward when they defied yet another government back-to-work order in August, continuing their strike and making gains. Now 55,000 postal workers are on strike after being ordered back to work last December.”

Manchester rail workers strike wins broad solidarity

BY ANDRÉS MENDOZA

MANCHESTER, England — On Oct. 8, their third day of strike action, rail workers here were joined by Danny Taylor, a leader of the six-month-long Unite union refuse workers strike in Birmingham, a delegation from the Fire

Brigade Union and representatives of the Manchester Trades Union Council.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union members were protesting outside the offices of Carlisle Support Service, a contractor Northern Trains uses to check tickets. Their strike began after Carlisle refused to raise workers’ wages above the UK Living Wage, set by the government at 12.60 pounds (\$16.75) an hour. The over 150 RMT union members had won union recognition for the first time last year, as well as for all 14 Carlisle’s contracts with rail companies around the country.

“I’m confident you can win,” Steve Shaw, the RMT union regional organizer, told the strikers at a public meeting after the protest. “You’ve won before over union recognition.” As well as the three days of strike action, union stew-

ard Gary Corrigan explained RMT workers have been refusing to scan tickets since Sept. 3, meaning riders travel free. “This is hurting both Carlisle and Northern Trains,” Shaw said.

He welcomed Taylor to the meeting. “You are not alone,” Taylor said, describing how hundreds of refuse workers had been on strike resisting an 8,000-pound pay cut. “We will not be intimidated, we will not be broken, we will fight on,” he said. “Let me tell you something: From Birmingham to Manchester — your strength is in your unity. It’s the bosses who are scared. They are terrified when working people stand together,” he said.

Taylor also told the rail workers he had just gotten word that 15 agency workers who had been crossing their picket lines had just that day joined the refuse workers on strike.

THE MILITANT

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Bella Coco/Calgary Journal

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Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Vivian Sahner, Brian Williams.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Kaiser hospital workers strike for wage raise, hiring more staff

LOS ANGELES — Over 40,000 nurses and other health care workers at Kaiser Permanente hospitals went on strike for five days starting Oct. 14. “Kaiser pushed us to the end,” Tina Chin, a physician assistant in neurosurgery, told the *Militant* at a large picket line outside the Kaiser hospital on Sunset Boulevard here. “I’ve never done this before. They have to start respecting us so we can do our job correctly.”

The strike by the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals and other unions spread through 500 Kaiser hospitals and clinics on the West Coast and in Hawaii. Strikers include nurses, physician assistants, anesthetists, pharmacists and other medical personnel.

“Year after year, Kaiser has made billions. Year after year, they have raised prices on membership,” said Hectos Raygoza, a member of the local bargaining team and a physician assistant. “While inflation shot up, Kaiser refused to increase wages beyond the 2% yearly increase” negotiated in the last contract. The union is asking for a 25% raise over the next four years to catch up with inflation.

“But it’s not just about wages,” Raygoza said. “We’re overbooked and time spent with each patient has been reduced.”

Nicole Wooten, a registered nurse in Riverside, described what they face. “Nurses go home exhausted because we have too many patients to take care of. The shifts are long, the pace never slows, and there’s always one more call light, one more chart, one more medication to give. You move from room to room like you’re on a timer — because you are.

“And then, when you finally get to leave, you think about the faces you saw that day — the people you wanted to help more but couldn’t. The patient who was scared and needed someone to sit with them, but you had five other rooms to check. The one who wanted to tell you a story, but you were already halfway out the door to handle something urgent.

“That’s not how we want to practice nursing,” she said. “We want to give every patient time, attention and compassion, not just the bare minimum to survive the shift.

“This fight for a strong contract is personal for me. I grew up on the picket line. Back in the 1980s, my dad worked at Brown & Sharpe in Rhode Island, and he was part of what’s considered the longest industrial strike in U.S. history,” she explained. “I was just a kid, but I remember standing out there every day with him. He was a picket captain, and he never gave up.

“So when the chance came here to step up and be a union advocate, I knew it was my time. When I told my dad, he cried. He agreed, ‘Now it’s your turn.’

“And that’s why I’m here. Because the work we do matters.”

— Bernie Senter

Calif. bread plant workers picket, demand raise, respect

RICHMOND, Calif. — Workers picketed outside the Safeway bread plant here Oct. 5, protesting company abuse and refusal to grant union demands. The workers, members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 125, have been working under an expired contract for over a year.

“They are offering pennies for raises. We need money that folds,” Jerrod Bush, a worker with 23 years at the company, told the *Militant*. He said the workers, who make bread sold in Safeway stores, are especially angry that the company refuses to raise their wages to match the pay workers get doing the same jobs at a sister plant in Los Angeles.

Work schedules are also a big issue. “This year it’s worse than ever,” said Alejandro Cendejas, who has 30 years at the plant. “First, they laid off a bunch of workers and then called them back. Now many aren’t getting enough hours to maintain their families, while others with more seniority are forced to work overtime. All to save the company money!

“And if you don’t get sufficient hours, your medical coverage can be cut!”

“This is hard work. And it’s really hot in there,” added Javier Vega. “The way



Militant/Ray Parsons

Nurses and other health care workers picket Kaiser hospital in Los Angeles Oct. 14, first day of strike at 500 facilities in California and Hawaii, fighting for wage raise and hiring more workers.

they treat us, you are only a number.”

The union decided to picket the plant on the same day the company organized a “Fall Festival” inside, with free food, open to workers and the community. Recognizing this as a bribe calculated to undercut their fight, workers spread the word to skip the event and picket instead.

On short notice, half of the 40 workers turned out for the picket. They could see that there was a low turnout for the affair. The pickets made sure their chants were loud enough for those there to hear.

“We’ve gotten out our message. The company knows we are united. That we are angry,” BCTGM International Representative Karrie Setters told pickets when they gathered at the end. “We can’t stop here. We have to continue the fight.”

— Betsey Stone

Frontier call center workers rally for wage raise, safety on the job

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. — Two hundred Frontier customer call center workers, members of Communications Workers of America Local 9588, rallied here Sept. 28 to highlight their fight for better wages, affordable health care and safety on the job.

“We need to make sure labor’s voice is heard. Without union wages and benefits we will only become part of the problem, not the solution,” Janet Fields, a Frontier call center worker and mem-

ber of the union, told the *Militant*. She said the economy is getting worse and it’s impacting workers more. “It used to be a puddle, now it’s a canyon we have to jump across.”

Jimi Brubaker, president of the union and a repair technician with 21 years at the internet service provider, said, “We need better safety training and a raise in wages. The company also wants to increase our payments for health care.”

“Today we see a growing gap between the haves and have-nots,” Ricardo Cisneros, executive secretary of the Inland Empire Labor Council, chipped in. “The home I live in, I wouldn’t be able to afford if I bought it right now.”

Jose Salas, who is a fiber-optic technician and has worked at Frontier for 19 years, said safety is very important. “You can get electrocuted or fall off a ladder. Sometimes they give us too much work. We need enough time to do the job safely.”

Mike Kennedy is a construction splicer in Frontier’s San Bernardino yard and a member of CWA Local 9400. He said the bosses are contracting out work. “There is no quality control behind contractors. Our bosses try to hide how much contract work is done. They wait until we’re out in the field to bring the contractors in.

“We’re trying to make sure they know without us their plant doesn’t run,” he said. “They want to increase what we pay for benefits, without compensation. Our wages pay for less and less.”

“We’re working now without a contract while we’re negotiating,” Esthela Hernandez, who works in copper and fiber-optic programming, said. “Half of us have a pension and 401(k), half don’t. We want everyone to have it.” She had also attended the Frontier contract rally in Whittier sponsored by CWA Local 9586 on Sept. 26.

“I started when it was GTE, then Verizon and now Frontier,” Darnisha Lee, vice president of Local 9400, said. On Sept. 24 “we walked out on a one-day strike for the day from field offices, yards and call centers. We want a no-layoff clause and not to be replaced by contractors. In 1998 there were 450 people where I work. Now there are 40.”

— Deborah Liatos

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

October 23, 2000

A general political strike and revolt toppled the regime of Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic Oct. 5. Factory workers, farmers, and other working people were at the center of the revolt.

During the previous 10 days, militant strikes by coal miners and other working people had made the country ungovernable after the Milosevic regime refused to recognize outright victory for the opposition candidate in the Sept. 24 presidential elections.

“The coal miners strike was the hot spot that received international attention,” said Martina Vukasovic, a mathematics student at the University of Belgrade. “But it was just the tip of the iceberg. Workers and farmers were at the center of the rebellion. Before it was mainly students, professors and middle-class people at the protests. Without the workers we wouldn’t have overthrown the parasitic regime.”

THE MILITANT

October 24, 1975

DELANO, Calif. — Overcoming seemingly impossible odds, the United Farm Workers emerged the victor in union representation elections here.

The Delano victory has special significance because of the particular historical role of the area. It was in the Delano vineyards in 1965 that the first major strikes were conducted that established the UFW as a force in agriculture. And it was in Delano in 1973 that thousands of strikers were jailed, hundreds were savagely beaten by deputies, and two were killed.

The balloting was accompanied by grower violence, widespread illegal arrests, firings of pro-UFW workers, payroll padding on the eve of the elections, flouting of the election procedures, and a lot more. The UFW climaxed its election drive with impressive showings at two big ranches that were the scene of the most extreme grower illegality.

THE MILITANT

October 23, 1950

After four years of war in Indo-China, the French colonialists have been unable to reconquer the greater part of that land, although fully half of the existing French army has been engaged in fighting the partisan forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

The puppet government of former emperor Bao Dai rests on French bayonets. Without American aid the French military machine in Indo-China might easily crumble. Washington has just announced that the French will be granted up to \$2.4 billion for rearmament and “military operations in Indo-China.”

The people of Vietnam have the same right to be independent as the American people had in their fight against British colonialism in the 18th Century. American workers should protest against the “dirty war” which French capitalism aided by Washington is waging against freedom-loving people.

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287 books on Marxism, union struggles sold in Santo Domingo

BY SETH GALINSKY

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — “These books are necessary for a new awakening,” Frankely Polanco, a building painter, said while he was looking over the Pathfinder Press stand at the 27th Santo Domingo International Book Fair Oct. 1. He was one of hundreds who visited the stand, the first time Pathfinder has participated.

Organized by the Ministry of Culture, the fair was dedicated to children’s literature and to historian Frank Moya Pons, who has written dozens of books on the history of the Dominican Republic. More than a book fair, the 11-day festival included some 650 events, from musical performances, film showings, plays and dance troupes to book presentations, panel discussions, poetry readings and more.

It attracted hundreds of thousands, including tens of thousands of high school, junior high and elementary school students in their school uniforms. The ministry reported 11,000 students took advantage of its offer of a free book. Many chose one on Juan Pablo Duarte, considered the father of the country’s independence struggle against Spain.

Pavilions for publishers, bookstores, authors and crafts were set up at Plaza de la Cultura, between the national theater, library, the Museum of Modern Art and other cultural institutions, which participants were encouraged to visit.

“I had no idea you were going to be here with these kinds of books,” said Polanco. He bought *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*; *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes; *What Is to Be Done?* by V.I. Lenin and other titles in Spanish.

“The books on working-class struggles caught my attention,” said Clara Morel, a member of the Theatrical Workers Union SITEARD. “We face the same conditions as many other workers. Often our jobs are temporary or by contract, without any benefits.”

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters is one of the books she bought, in part because of how it describes the fight of immigrant workers in the U.S. “In the Dominican Republic, the press often paints the Haitian workers as invaders,” Morel said. “But Haitians are the main workers in sugar cane, construction and other industries, doing work that Dominicans don’t want to do. We have to confront these attempts to divide us.”

Victor Caro, an electrical engineer, bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Barnes, and *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia* by Fidel Castro.

“While there isn’t institutionalized racism in the Dominican Republic, unlike what existed in the U.S.,” said Caro, “there are similarities.” That is why he wants to read more on Malcolm X, the fight for Black rights and the class struggle in the U.S.

He gave an example of racist attitudes toward “Afro-descendants” that have been changing. “It used to be that a black woman with curly hair couldn’t get a job in the banks here unless she straightened her hair.”

Jesús Núñez, national coordinator of the Sugarcane Workers Union, brought more than a dozen workers originally from Haiti who have toiled for decades on sugar plantations in the Dominican Republic and are fighting for pensions and other rights today. They wanted to come to the



Militant/Samir Hazboun

Hundreds visited Pathfinder stand Oct. 1-5 at Santo Domingo International Book Fair. “The books on the working-class struggles caught my attention,” a member of a theater union said.

Pathfinder stand to pick out books to read in Spanish or French. One retired worker began reading his copy of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* as soon as he got it.

One book fair worker said she’s been reading about the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. “It’s terrible what has been happening to Jews today,” she said, noting that her daughter lives in the U.S. and has been influenced by those who turn the truth on its head, claiming Jews in Israel are Nazis. She was glad to see *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

Not everybody shared her reaction. Some told volunteers at the booth Israel’s war against Hamas in Gaza is

“genocide.” But the book was one of the top sellers, with 15 sold, as well as four copies of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon.

The Pathfinder stand was set up for the last five days of the festival. By the last day, participants had bought 287 books, most in Spanish, but a good number in English. The best seller was *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* with 22 copies; 21 copies of *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*; 15 of *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels; 17 of *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara; and 12 of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Worker Power*, in three languages.

Pathfinder looks forward to next year’s festival.

Mass protests lead to fall of government in Madagascar

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — “Since Sept. 25 young people and entire families have been paying the price for their courage — courage to demand water, electricity and freedom,” Henintsoa Ramanalahy told a march of 300 here Oct. 11. “We say to our brothers and sisters in Madagascar, as long as you march for the truth, we will march with you.”

Thousands of youth, working people and unions began protesting in late September, angry over the conditions

they faced and inspired by similar mass actions in Nepal, Morocco and Indonesia. Madagascar, a large island off the east coast of Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a population of 32 million and a median age of 19.

Since winning independence from France in 1960, every government formed has worked to enrich its cronies and pander to corporate plunderers in a mineral-rich country. Protesters demanded the resignation of President Andry Rajoelina, who came to power in a coup in 2009.

One of the largest corporations in the country is the QMM mine, owned 20% by the government and 80% by Rio Tinto, a huge mining company with tentacles all over the world. Located on the southeastern end of the island, the company extracts ilmenite, used in paint, ink, paper and toothpaste, as well as some highly profitable heavy metals.

Notorious for destruction of the living conditions of toilers in the area, the QMM mine has been the site of militant protests by workers and area residents, whose lives have been upended. In 2023 three protesters there were shot down and killed.

These conditions helped fuel the recent protests. Despite moves by the regime to repress the actions, with authorities shooting tear gas and rubber bullets, the demonstrations continued and won over growing numbers of members of the military.

President Rajoelina disappeared Oct. 12, reportedly flown out by the French government. The military said it’s tak-

ing over, dissolving the government, except for the National Assembly.

While protesters have shown resilience and insist on basic change, they have no clear idea of what to do. “Honestly, I’ve no idea who should replace him,” protester Angie Rakoto told the online Independent Oct. 14, talking about the ousted president. “But it has to be someone who is here for the Malagasy people, not himself.”

At the Montreal demonstration, Aro Koloina Andrianaiivo, a communications student at Concordia University, pointed to the role of Rio Tinto. “We are fighting for drinkable water, a livable wage, women’s rights, while the president defends their profits.”

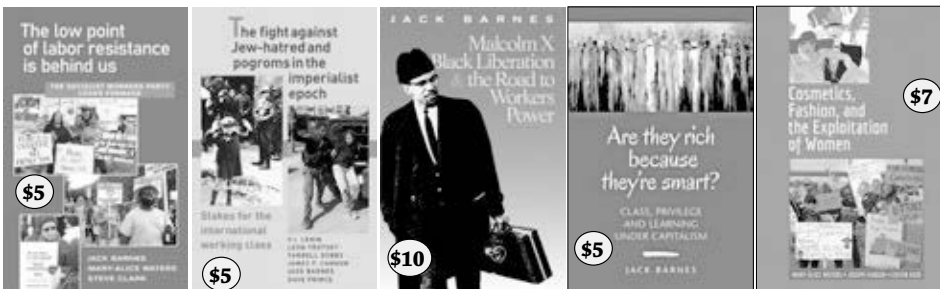
The next day, this *Militant* worker-correspondent joined Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, driving to Sorel-Tracy, Quebec, to show solidarity with 180 steelworkers who have been on strike at Rio Tinto’s metal powders plant since July 10. Three days earlier, the company had announced it was closing the plant.

I mentioned to Patrick Sarrazin, the president of Local 7493 of the United Steelworkers there, that I had joined the solidarity action backing the Madagascan protesters the day before. “I know the president of the Rio Tinto mine union in Madagascar,” he told me. “I went there two years ago to provide union training to the mine workers, who have to operate in very difficult conditions.” He said he knew about the three protesters killed there two years ago demonstrating in front of the mine.

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- Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia
- Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
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SWP, ‘Militant’ campaign

Continued from front page

“We were always running, doing multiple jobs, all for very low pay,” Sayre said. “The wage increase was really needed.”

“Nearly everyone we talked with had worked at TomaTek, or knew someone who has, and all expressed support for the union,” SWP member Betsey Stone reported.

She and party member Bernie Senter spoke with Carmen Santos, another former TomaTek worker. “Before, they had everyone running to keep up, firing and laying off people at will,” Santos said. “Now they have job protection.”

She got a *Militant* after expressing interest in an article on the transformation of sports in Cuba following the socialist revolution there. Her 10-year-old daughter, Frieda, who loves to play basketball, said that to be on the city team it costs over \$1,000, which the family couldn’t afford. “After the workers took power in Cuba, school and other sports competitions were free, so everyone could participate,” said Stone, who wrote the article and was a highschool basketball player herself.

The SWP campaigners sold eight subscriptions to the *Militant* in three Central Valley towns. In Atwater, they talked with sweet potato workers about the recent victory of the United Farm Workers unionizing Viera Ag, the largest sweet potato company in the state.

In a complex of small apartments rented by farmworkers, more copies of the *Militant* were sold. Laborers there said the complex will shut in November when the sweet potato season ends. Many will look for work elsewhere and return next spring.

SWP members discussed the party’s demand for amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers. “Equal rights for all who are working in the U.S. is in the interests of all working people,” SWP member Joel Britton told mechanic Luis Alcantar. “The case of Abrego García, whose union has defended him against

deportation and government frame-up, is an example to be followed.”

Britton also explained the party’s stand in support of Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews and why Hamas needed to be completely defeated. “When Israel doesn’t finish the job it backfires, that has happened before,” Alcantar said. Britton said President Donald Trump is pushing a course to advance the interests of the U.S. capitalist rulers. This will let Hamas rebuild. After further discussion on capitalism’s economic crisis and its march toward another world war, Alcantar signed up for a subscription to learn more.

These efforts are part of a campaign by the SWP to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant* and an equal number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders from Sept. 20 to Nov. 18. The Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are part of the effort.

Party members are discussing what can be done to advance workers’ struggles today and to win solidarity, and why it’s possible for workers to chart a course to take political power into our own hands. They’re presenting the party’s program and activity to workers on their doorsteps, at union picket lines and social protests.

SWP Party-Building Fund

The SWP relies on contributions from working people to finance its work. This fall’s Party-Building Fund has a target of raising \$140,000. People attracted to the party and its working-class program are asked to contribute what they can.

Dozens of visitors to the Fall Fair in Cincinnati Oct. 11 were drawn to a SWP literature table. The party is running John Hawkins for mayor and Ned Measel for City Council.

Bosses push workers “to the limit with no regard to our safety, family needs, or even our lives,” Steven Justice, a worker with decades in steel mills and machine shops, told SWP members Anthony Dutrow and Jacquie Henderson.

“The Democrats and Republicans are both parties of the rich,” Justice said. “They will never be any help to workers.” He was pleased to meet the party, getting a subscription to the *Militant* along with *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 and Dave Prince.

Alexa Justice, Steven’s daughter, agreed. “This is exactly what I am looking for!” she told SWP member Valerie Libby, who encouraged her to participate in Militant Labor Forum programs and to join in campaigning for the party. “Yes, I want to do that,” she said. When her father suggested that she get an introductory *Militant* subscription, she said, “No! I don’t want to be without it after just 12 weeks.” She subscribed for a year.

“I know the answer to that question,” she laughed, when she saw the cover of

DC rally demands action against rise in black lung



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein

WASHINGTON — Some 100 members of the National Black Lung Association — coal miners, wives, widows and other family members and friends — rallied here Oct. 14, along with members of the United Mine Workers of America. They’re demanding the enforcement of new safety guidelines. After years of pressure from the NBLA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration in April 2024 said the amount of silica dust miners can be exposed to would be cut in half. But implementing the rule was postponed.

“We’re tired of seeing 28 year olds with complicated black lung. A 35 year old died last week. These people are not going to see their children grow up. This rule has to be enforced,” Vonda Robinson, vice president of the National Black Lung Association, told the rally.

Some participants leaned on canes or sat in walkers. Others held up pictures of relatives who had died — victims of the resurgence of a disease that was virtually eradicated in the mines when the union was stronger. Some said that they have been fighting for certification to get medical benefits for 20 or 30 years.

“Congress, you aren’t doing nothing for us,” Gary Hairston, president of the NBLA, told participants. “You have us stand beside you when you run for election. We need you all to stand up for us coal miners.”

“We have a job to do,” Hairston told the *Militant*. “Educate each other because when the unions come together there is nothing we can’t do.” UMWA President Cecil Roberts, UMWA Secretary-Treasurer Brian Sanson and pulmonologist Dr. Leonard Go also spoke. Participants came from Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

— ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. “But I’d like to find out more about how we ‘discover our own worth and learn what we’re capable of becoming,’ as the back cover says.” She bought the book.

Six subscriptions were sold and dozens took the party’s campaign platform.

‘Values U.S. labor coverage’

In the U.K., Communist League members Dag Tirsén and Hugh Robertson visited *Militant* subscribers in Peckham, London, Oct. 11. Syrus Cook said he liked the paper’s inter-

national coverage, especially “reports from labor struggles in the U.S.,” since the media there gives the impression the union movement in the U.S. is “totally suppressed.”

Cook had been part of a union fight with the bosses of the charity he works for, over better wages for newer hires. He said he wanted to spread the word about the campaign of Julie Crawford, the Communist League’s candidate for Southwark Council in 2026.

To help get the *Militant* and books on revolutionary working-class politics into more people’s hands or to make a contribution to the SWP Party-Building Fund, contact a distributor listed on page 8.

SWP candidates in Minneapolis protest assault on synagogue

BY JOANNE MURPHY

MINNEAPOLIS — “The Socialist Workers Party calls on all working people and our unions to protest the Jew-hating attack on Temple Israel in Minneapolis,” Kevin Dwire, the SWP candidate for mayor, and Edwin Fruit, the party’s candidate for Minneapolis City Council, wrote in a letter of solidarity to Marcia Zimmerman, the temple’s senior rabbi, Oct. 9.

Hamas supporters spray-painted Jew-hating threats on the walls of the synagogue days earlier. They wrote, “Al-Aqsa Flood,” Hamas’ name for its Oct. 7, 2023, massacre of some 1,200 Jews in Israel, and drew inverted triangles, the symbol Hamas uses to identify targets for murder.

The attack on the temple “came on the second anniversary of the deadliest pogrom against Jews since the Holocaust. It occurred hours after a rally in downtown Minneapolis of Hamas supporters who called for the destruction of Israel,” Dwire and Fruit wrote. The SWP candidates will continue to “speak out against Jew-hatred and in defense of Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.”

Jew-hating comments on social media are “disgusting,” Tyrell Cunningham, 20, told Fruit and this worker-correspondent as we campaigned door to door here Oct. 10. Cunningham, who works as a cook in an elder-care residence, told us he had heard about the attack on the synagogue. He got an introductory subscription to the *Militant*.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund Sept. 20 - November 18 (week three)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	26	55	35	\$10,000	\$1,253
Chicago	65	41	65	26	\$14,000	\$3,014
Cincinnati	55	19	55	20	\$5,000	\$1,115
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	34	60	24	\$5,000	\$756
Los Angeles	80	47	80	67	\$14,000	\$1,910
Miami	35	11	35	14	\$5,000	\$1,150
Minneapolis	65	25	65	16	\$5,500	\$1,150
N. New Jersey	70	31	70	35	\$7,500	\$2,311
New York	90	38	90	57	\$20,500	\$5,165
Oakland	80	33	80	35	\$15,000	\$5,325
Philadelphia	50	17	50	15	\$6,000	\$0
Pittsburgh	50	23	50	12	\$6,000	\$1,503
Seattle	65	14	65	19	\$15,000	\$1,400
Washington	45	20	45	24	\$4,500	\$0
Other		26		407		\$350
Total U.S.	865	405	865	806	\$133,000	\$26,402
Prisoners		58				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	20	45	25		
Manchester	45	31	45	21		
Total U.K.	90	51	90	46		
Canada	90	40	100	43		
Australia	30	17	30	17		
Total	1,075	571	1,085	912	\$133,000	\$26,402
SHOULD BE	1,300	488	1,300	488	\$140,000	\$52,500

Putin steps up deadly attacks

Continued from front page
es haven't adjusted to yet.
In Kyiv and elsewhere, 29 people were injured while a 7-year-old boy was killed in Zaporizhzhia.

The Kremlin has also escalated attacks on Ukraine's trains and rail network. A Russian drone strike targeted two passenger trains in the Sumy region Oct. 4, killing one person and injuring at least 30.

Ukraine's agricultural production is also a target. A giant Soviet-era pig farm outside Kharkiv was hit by three waves of drones Oct. 3. Out of 15,000 pigs penned up there, 13,000 were killed in the attack and subsequent fire.

These brutal attacks aimed at civilians were met with jingoistic praise in the state-controlled Russian media. On Rossiya-1 TV, Kremlin propagandist Vladimir Solovyov called for even heavier strikes "to turn off the lights for good and make them freeze in the dark this winter" and "to break the will of the Ukrainian people."

By contrast, Ukraine is concentrating on launching its precision drones and missiles against Russian military targets, as well as oil refineries and depots crucial for Putin's war machine. As Moscow responds by shifting remaining oil and gas supplies from civilian use, prices at the pump for workers have soared.

Russian airfields, ammunition and missile stockpiles have been hit, including in Moscow-occupied areas in Ukraine, from the Donbas to Sevastopol in Crimea.

Kyiv has launched more than 30 strikes on Russian oil and gas sites since the start of August, setting many ablaze hundreds of miles inside Russia. At least 16 of the country's 38 oil refineries have been hit, with five disabled, cutting Moscow's productive capacity by 20%.

Putin is prepared to sacrifice Russian workers in uniform en masse to pursue his dream of conquest. But Ukrainian toilers are determined to defend their country's national sovereignty.

Heavy casualties for small gains

Russian forces have suffered over 1 million casualties since the war began. Moscow now controls a fifth of Ukraine's territory and has seized less than 1% since January 2024.

Dmitry Rogozin, a Russian senator and member of the pro-Kremlin United Russia party from the part of Zaporizhzhia occupied by Moscow, admitted last month that despite relentless Russian attacks, the upper hand is with the Ukrainian defenders. Russian forces are advancing only "with enormous difficulty and at a colossal cost," he said.

He described the front line as largely deadlocked today. Russian armor "is destroyed before it even reaches the front," he said, and small infantry assault groups push forward with little success. Despite Russia's advances in drone technology, Kyiv's forces have "10 times more drones."

Valeriy Zaluzhny, Ukraine's former top general and current ambassador to the U.K., wrote in the Dzerkalo Tyzhnya online newspaper Sept. 24, "Ukraine's advantage lies in its people." They "not only stopped the invader but have already made the country a hub of battlefield innovation."

For months Putin has concentrated forces in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, trying to take the strategic hub of Pokrovsk, without success. Ukrainian forces inflict heavy losses on the attackers daily. Some 20 Russian workers in uniform, a platoon's worth, die for every yard of ground gained. And many gains are rapidly reversed.

'I just want to get home alive'

Journalists from the independent outlet Verstka quoted revealing discussions from private group chats of mobilized Russian soldiers at the front Sept. 26. They interviewed several about life in the trenches and their views on the war. Many said the prospect of being thrown into Moscow's "meat grinder" attacks is a deadly game of roulette.

"I just want to return home alive. I'm not a patriot and I'm not dying to take over Ukraine," one draftee, a retired cop, said. "Everyone wants to go home."

"People are fleeing every day" from the front, said a mobilized soldier serving in a military police unit tasked with catching deserters. He said few people condemn them.

"I Want to Live," a group in Ukraine

Hundreds in Russia protest Putin's Ukraine war, regime



Defying police censorship and the threat of repression, hundreds of young Russians gathered in St. Petersburg's Kazanskaya Square Oct. 14 to sing an outlawed song calling for Russian President Vladimir Putin to be overthrown. They joined street musicians on Nevsky Prospect to perform "Cooperative Swan Lake," a song a court there banned as "extremist."

Written by pro-Ukraine rapper Noize MC, the song mimics the practice of the Stalinist leaders of the Soviet era playing Swan Lake to cover up political turmoil. It has become an unofficial anthem for opponents of the Putin regime's wars and repression.

The St. Petersburg court ruled the song was "propaganda for violent change of the foundations of the constitutional order," harmful to "morals." The Kremlin branded the rapper a "foreign agent."

The song's title refers to Lake Cooperative in northwest Russia where Putin's inner circle gathers for holidays. The lyrics, in an obvious reference to Putin, say, "Let the old man shake in fear for his lake." Noize MC, whose real name is Ivan Alexeyev, fled to Lithuania in 2022 after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, but he keeps releasing music supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and memorializing opposition fighters against Putin's rule. Although banned in Russia, his songs circulate widely on the internet, with millions of listeners.

Police say they have arrested one of the singers.

— ROY LANDERSEN

that helps Russian soldiers surrender safely to Ukrainian forces, released figures Oct. 8 on recent Russian military losses. The staggering number is 281,550 casualties in just eight months of 2025, about a battalion a day.

Putin tries to hide the huge losses from the Russian people. Having brutally suppressed anti-war protests at home, his regime is now investigating the Rus-

sian Antiwar Committee and hundreds of thousands of other anti-Kremlin exile groups and individuals abroad, whose reports on the real facts of the war make their way back into Russia.

The regime calls them "terrorists," claiming they're planning the "overthrow of the government." Putin rightly fears Russian working people will ultimately respond to such a call.

Protesters defy attacks by pro-Moscow gov't in Georgia

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Tens of thousands of protesters filled the streets of Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, Oct. 4 after the Georgian Dream government claimed victory in municipal elections held after months of attacks on almost daily demonstrations, raids on independent media and the jailing of most of the leading opposition figures.

The elections were the first since the increasingly authoritarian and pro-Moscow party claimed a narrow victory in the October 2024 presidential elections that many consider rigged. Major opposition parties boycotted the new elections.

After a small group of protesters attempted to enter the presidential palace

grounds, riot police unleashed pepper spray and water cannons on the large crowd, arresting dozens, including the world-renowned opera singer Paata Burchuladze. He had addressed the rally in Tbilisi's Freedom Square.

"Every person involved in this violent act will be prosecuted," Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze threatened, claiming the government had foiled an "attempted coup planned by foreign intelligence services." He accused European Union officials of backing an "attempt to overthrow the constitutional order."

While providing no evidence, the government claimed it had discovered a cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives outside Tbilisi it said were intended for "subversive acts."

Georgia has been rocked by protests since December 2024 when the government indefinitely postponed talks on joining the EU, saying they wouldn't be rescheduled until at least 2028. Riot police brutally attacked the first demonstrations, arresting more than 300 and injuring over 100. Protests, large and small, have continued since then.

A country of 3.7 million people, Georgia declared independence in 1991 when the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union collapsed. There is widespread opposition to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and many Georgians fear they will find themselves under

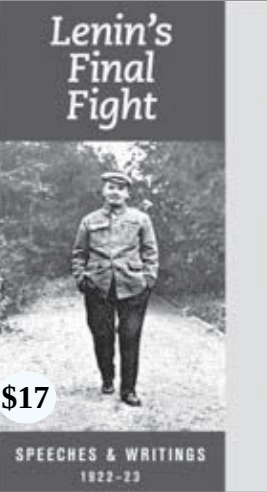
Moscow's thumb again. Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime invaded Georgia in 2008 to try to reassert Moscow's domination. He pulled back his forces later, but still occupies South Ossetia and Abkhazia, where Moscow is building a new naval base.

Georgian Dream was formed and bankrolled by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a multibillionaire capitalist who made his fortune in banking and steel in Russia. By far the richest man in Georgia, his party has been in office for 13 years.

"We've said that we will be here until the end, and we're still here," Gota Chanturia, one of the protesters in Tbilisi, told The Associated Press. Almost every day for nearly a year Chanturia has joined rallies in Freedom Square outside Georgia's parliament. The civics teacher said he's racked up \$102,000 in fines, about 10 times the average annual salary in Georgia. He was charged with blocking roads 56 times. The government considers participation in a protest "blocking the streets." Chanturia says he hasn't paid the fines and doesn't plan to.

These types of charges have been levied against hundreds of protesters, with authorities using surveillance cameras equipped with facial recognition to target demonstrators. More than 60 have been thrown in prison.

"I declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism."



"It must be absolutely insisted that the union Central Executive Committee should be presided over in turn by a Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, etc. Absolutely!"

— V.I. Lenin, 1922

In 1922 and 1923 Lenin waged his last political battle. At stake was whether the revolution would remain on the proletarian course that had brought workers and peasants to power.

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Defend Israel's right to exist

Continued from front page

hold on power, attack political opponents on the streets of Gaza and prepare new attacks against Jews. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Hamas that it will have to give up its weapons “either the easy way or the hard way.”

Washington turned up the pressure on both Israel and Hamas to agree to the tenuous halt in the fighting. The U.S. rulers see the continuation of Israel's defensive war for the destruction of Hamas as an obstacle to advancing their own interests in the Middle East and worldwide. That includes ensuring U.S. exploitation of the gas, oil and other resources in the region and cobbling together an alliance of capitalist regimes aimed at pushing back Beijing, Washington's main global competitor.

“This is not only the end of a war, this is the end of an age of terror and death,” claimed President Donald Trump in his speech to Israel's Knesset Oct. 13. “This is the historic dawn of a new Middle East.” But Trump's words mask the reality that nothing has been resolved in Gaza. As long as Hamas exists it will threaten Israel's existence and seek to carry out more pogroms.

The release of the living hostages and the bodies of at least seven others takes place two years after Hamas — trained, financed and armed by the reactionary regime in Tehran — started the war by massacring 1,200 people, taking 251 hostages and raping and mutilating dozens of women. It was the worst anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust.

Prior to the hostage release, the Israel Defense Forces, which had been closing in on Hamas' last strongholds, halted its offensive and withdrew its troops to a new defensive line where it still controls 53% of the Gaza Strip.

Israel in turn released some 250 members of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Fatah convicted of murders and other acts of terror in Israel, more than 150 whom were deported to Egypt. They also released some 1,700 Gazans detained since the start of the war.

Nothing in the second phase of Trump's plan has been agreed to. Under the White House plan, Hamas' tunnels and weapon production facilities are supposed to be destroyed and its weapons decommissioned, but nowhere does the 20-point plan say how this would be accomplished, by whom or when.

A “transitional government of a technocratic, apolitical Palestinian

committee” is supposed to be responsible for running Gaza, supervised by a “Board of Peace” headed up by Trump. An “International Stabilization Force” is to police Gaza, but so far no government has committed to taking part.

Trump gives green light to Hamas

As Trump ended his trip to Israel, a reporter asked him about the reappearance of Hamas thugs keeping “order” on the streets of Gaza. “They do want to stop the problems, and they've been open about it, and we gave them approval for a period of time,” he said.

Since the ceasefire began Hamas has stepped up its assaults on Gazans who oppose its dictatorial rule, killing at least 32 people in clashes with clans. Trump continued to give Hamas the green light. Hamas “did take out a couple of gangs that were very bad,” Trump said at the White House Oct. 14. “That didn't bother me much, to be honest with you. That's OK.”

“It's no different than other countries like Venezuela [that] sent their gangs into us.”

In fact, the biggest gang in Gaza is Nazi-like Hamas. It is being challenged by competing forces, some with ties to the Palestinian Authority. They seek to take advantage of Hamas' battering by Israel and the growing hatred in Gaza for the anti-working-class outfit.

Hamas has its eyes on more serious forces — the thousands of Gazan toilers who despise its rule. Earlier this year demonstrations broke out with protesters chanting “Hamas out! Out.”

In a statement after the ceasefire was announced Hamas swore to “remain faithful to the covenant.” That's its 1988 founding document that says Hamas' goal is to kill the Jews and destroy Israel.

Illusions in U.S. imperialism

The day before the hostage release, Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, and U.S. Mideast envoy Steven Witkoff spoke to a large crowd in Tel Aviv.

They presented Washington as a loyal friend in the defense of Israel. Many in the crowd chanted, “Thank you Trump, thank you Kushner, thank you Witkoff.” But the idea that the U.S. imperialists



Screen shot from video

Hamas posted videos of its executions of Palestinians in Gaza it accused of being “collaborators” of Israel. Hamas knows it is widely hated by Palestinians in Gaza and is trying to intimidate people there to prevent them from challenging its moves to reestablish its dictatorial rule.

are committed to defending Israel's right to exist is an illusion, with great dangers for the fight against Jew-hatred.

The U.S. rulers are not looking to defend Jewish or Palestinian national rights, but to advance their own domination of the Middle East, which is key to trying to shore up their declining power worldwide.

In his speech to the Knesset, Trump said, “The hand of friendship and cooperation is open” to the regime in Tehran. But the central objective of Tehran, no less than Hamas, is the destruction of Israel.

Trump flew to Egypt from Tel Aviv the same day to attend a “Peace in the Middle East” summit he co-chaired with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi. The nondecision-making summit was attended by heads of state or high-ranking officials from 20 countries, including Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Turkey, Indonesia, France, Germany, the U.K., Italy and Spain, all jockeying for a piece of the pie. Tehran refused an invitation to attend. Netanyahu said he had things to attend to.

Trump made sure he was photographed smiling next to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. A not-so-subtle message to Israel that the U.S. rulers will keep up the pressure for Israel to end its opposition to the Palestinian Authority playing a key role in governing Gaza.

Trump, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Qatar head of state

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Egyptian President el-Sisi all signed the “Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity.”

Hamas is enemy of Gazans, Israelis

More information is coming out on the abuse of hostages at the hands of Hamas. Some lost as much as 40% of their body weight while in captivity.

Tal Shoham, a hostage freed in February, described to the Times of Israel how many of the hostages were “intentionally starved” by Hamas or its allies.

Shoham said he saw how Hamas took “sadistic thoughts and actions not just against Israelis but also Gazans.” He witnessed a Hamas thug shoot a Gazan man in the knees just because he “looked suspicious.” Then after an ambulance crew started treating the man, the thugs finished him off because “they decided that he should die.”

Working people in Israel and Gaza are looking for ways to put an end to Hamas' rule, which would remove the biggest obstacle they face to advancing their class interests and national aspirations.

“People are afraid. They don't know if Hamas will give up power or not,” Izz al-Din Shihab from southern Gaza told The Times of Israel after the ceasefire began. “More than once we have protested against them.”

“Yes, people are somewhat happy about the ceasefire,” he said. “But after that? What comes next?”

New Syrian gov't targets Kurds, signals wider conflict

Continued from front page

aside concerns about Sharaa's Islamist group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. He is a former member of al-Qaeda.

In recent weeks Syrian armed forces have beefed up their presence in the area, establishing new checkpoints and roadblocks. This comes amid the arrival of Turkish military reinforcements at the Kuweires Airbase in eastern Aleppo. It's controlled by the Syrian National Army, a Turkish-backed coalition of armed Syrian opposition groups, with an estimated strength of up to 70,000 fighters.

In March an agreement was signed between the Syrian Democratic Forces and the new Syrian regime, intended as a step toward integrating the SDF into the Syrian state. This effort is backed by Washington and by Ankara, which sees the SDF as an offshoot of Kurdish rebels in Turkey that the government there has attacked and repressed for years.

But little progress has been made. The SDF wants to join the Syrian army

as a block, with its command structure in place and all of its 50,000 troops, including the 20% who are women. The Syrian government says that SDF fighters must join the army as individuals.

Thousands of Kurds joined demonstrations Sept. 17 to protest the government's demands and to defend their region's hard-won autonomy.

Washington has withdrawn some of its troops from the Kurdish region in Syria, backing away from the tactical alliance it forged with SDF in 2017 to defeat Islamic State. In September, the head of the U.S. military's Central Command held talks with Syrian President Sharaa to discuss military cooperation. Washington seeks to deepen its relations with the new Syrian government in a country where until recently Moscow and Tehran held sway, propping up the former Bashar al-Assad dictatorship.

The Turkish government has threatened to intervene if the SDF doesn't

dissolve itself into Syria's army. Ankara has begun providing formal air defense instruction to Syrian army personnel as part of a broader military cooperation agreement signed earlier this year.

In March, under Sharaa's command, government forces carried out bloody attacks against Alawites, a religious minority in two coastal provinces, killing 1,400 people.

In July, Sharaa sent troops into southern Syria, where they massacred hundreds of Druze, another religious minority. Videos surfaced online showing armed men killing Druze civilians kneeling in squares and shaving the mustaches off elderly men in an act of humiliation.

A resident in Sweida, whose fiancé and members of his family were killed, spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. “When the regime fell, we were the first people to celebrate,” she said, but now “I think Ahmad al-Sharaa is a murderous extremist.”



How Minneapolis Teamsters, SWP fought Roosevelt’s drive to war

Teamster Bureaucracy by Farrell Dobbs is one of the Books of the Month for October. This is the last of his four volumes on the Teamsters. It covers the union’s campaign to lead working-class resistance to the bosses’ attacks and the U.S. rulers’ drive to enter the unfolding world war to compete for profits and power. Unleashing the FBI, the Franklin Roosevelt administration tried to smash union power and silence anti-war militants. It framed up and imprisoned 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Teamsters for campaigning against the war. Dobbs, a central leader of the Teamsters battles and one of those imprisoned, later became SWP national secretary. The excerpt is from the first chapter, “Let the people vote on war.” Copyright © 2018 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

When Roosevelt first took office in 1933, the country was caught in the paralyzing grip of a deep economic depression. The resulting hardships caused rebellious moods to grow in intensity among the workers and small farmers. So extensive was the mass discontent, in fact, that the capitalists became worried about the danger that a revolution-



From left, *Socialist Appeal*, Oct. 16, 1937, points to danger to working class of Washington’s drive to join coming world war over markets and power; Jan. 8, 1938, issue reports founding of Socialist Workers Party; July 26, 1941, *Militant* explains government decision to frame-up SWP and Teamsters leaders to silence their leadership of anti-war opposition in labor movement.

ary situation might emerge.

To get out of this bind, the boss class acquiesced in a promise by the incoming president to give the “ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed” of the nation a “New Deal.” ...

Just enough social concessions were added to revive faith among workers and farmers that their problems could be taken care of through repair of the capitalist system. In that connection, especially, the aims of the New Deal were supported by the trade union bureaucracy, the social democrats and — beginning in 1935 — the Communist Party.

As a consequence of those combined factors, the labor upsurge was confined to struggles at the trade union level; the workers were blocked from taking the road of independent political action and forming their own party; and the capitalist ruling class kept a firm hold on the reins of government. ...

Imperialist rivals were encroaching upon territories abroad which this country’s ruling class, with its global interests, had staked out for exploitation. Among those competing governmental gangs, two loomed as the most formidable opponents of their Wall Street counterparts. One operated from within Hitlerite Germany; the other had its base in Japan, where a militarist regime held power. Both had their eyes on the superprofits United States banking combines and monopoly corporations were raking in from foreign holdings; Germany and Japan were out to grab a larger piece of the action.

It was in this rivalry between imperialist cutthroats that Roosevelt was dedicating himself to the protection of “American interests.” But that wasn’t what he talked about during the 1936 elections. Instead, he campaigned on

the basis of his phony image, built up during his first term, as a champion of the exploited masses. ...

At that point General Drivers Local 544, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, set out to organize trade union opposition to Roosevelt’s preparations for use of the workers as imperialist cannon fodder. Local 544, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, was led by Trotskyist militants. They were revolutionary socialists, whose training and experience enabled them to grasp the real meaning of the scheme being cooked up in Washington.

The leaders of Local 544 were also seasoned campaigners, well versed in the organization of mass actions. Thus it was apparent to them that the first task was to alert the union ranks to the dangers arising from the new course taken by the White House and to explain why the workers’ vital interests were threatened. Only in that way could the necessary forces be drawn together to launch a broad protest movement.

Fortunately, there was an excellent vehicle at hand to undertake that beginning. The Minneapolis Teamsters had a weekly paper, the *Northwest Organizer*, published initially by the General Drivers Union. In 1936 it had been made the official organ of the Teamsters Joint Council, a body composed of representatives from all IBT locals in the city. ... All in all, the Teamster organ had a prime body of readers, among whom the initial protest forces could be mobilized.

The educational phase of the campaign was opened through an editorial in the April 22, 1937, issue of the paper. It was pegged to the upcoming celebration of May Day, the international working-class holiday. ...

“May Day will continue to express

the interlocking nature of economics and politics,” the editorial said in part. “But although puny politicians may try to turn the occasion into a common election rally, the workers will be turning their attention to much broader and sounder implications, namely independent working-class action. Proper economic subjects such as hours, wages, jobs, relief and organization, will be amplified by consideration of political relations such as civil liberties, war and the other struggles ahead. ...

“Wars and rumors of war are ... necessary implements of great capitalist competitors. Not one of them can remain peaceable but each must strive until his power is broken, to gain worldwide supremacy by ruthless terror and destruction. Here, too, petty politics are of no avail. Why? Because government, ‘the executive committee of the ruling class,’ must not only conduct war for its master, but must prepare the way by subduing all opposition and assuring ‘unity at all costs’ at home. May Day therefore calls for renewed defense of workers’ rights.” ...

[T]he Teamster paper set out to counter the jingoistic line, opening with an editorial which asserted:

“The reason the United States has its garrisons in China and its warships in the Far Pacific is to protect American capitalism in the Orient. The American worker has nothing whatever at stake, the American bosses have millions of dollars of investments that must be protected. The American worker has nothing to gain and everything to lose by a war fought to protect American capitalism. ... In the present crisis in the Far East, the interests of the American workers lie with the interests of the downtrodden people of China.”

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There is no peace! For decisive defeat of Hamas!

Continued from front page

gimes there, including Tehran — in order to plunder its resources and exploit its labor power.

The administration of Donald Trump sees Israel’s determination to defeat and disarm Hamas as an obstacle. When told Hamas forces were reorganizing and murdering political opponents in Gaza, he brushed it off, saying they were just helping reestablish order: “We gave them approval for a period of time.”

The Socialist Workers Party stands with the Palestinian people against Nazi-inspired Hamas’ repression and killings. Whoever Hamas targets today, its goal is to prevent any advance of the class struggle, which would draw together Arabs, Jews and other fighters. This would be the greatest danger to Hamas’ long-term objectives — maintaining power, the destruction of Israel and a new Holocaust.

The defense of Israel as a refuge for Jews is central to the fight against Jew-hatred today. It’s a dividing line in world politics and a front-line battle for the working class and oppressed peoples everywhere.

What is unfolding is intensifying pressure on Israel from all imperialist powers, encouraged by Hamas supporters among the “woke” middle-class left worldwide.

All the governments intervening in the conflict — including Turkey, the U.K., France, Russia and China — are maneuvering to advance the interests

of their own rulers.

Working people of all nationalities in the region — Palestinians, Jews, Kurds, Druze and others — share common class interests. Through the class struggle, workers forge ties and it becomes possible to advance different national aspirations and overcome the capitalist rulers’ attempts to set us against each other.

In the course of class-struggle experience, workers will be won to building parties capable of leading the working class to take political power into our own hands, free ourselves from capitalist exploitation and end all national oppression, including the poison of Jew-hatred.

Jew-hatred and pogroms are a permanent feature of the imperialist epoch. But they are not eternal. Ending Jew-hatred is possible by eliminating its source — capitalist rule — and replacing it with workers power.

The imperialist epoch is also the epoch of wars bred by the competing capitalists’ drive for profit at the expense of all others. Today they are marching toward a third world war in a world of nuclear-equipped powers.

But this is also an epoch of revolutions, as the working class has expanded across the globe. We will have our chance, in the Middle East, the U.S. and worldwide, to take power and alter the course of history.

To be part of that struggle, you should join the Socialist Workers Party.

US rulers’ raids, deportations aim to divide workers

Continued from front page

over 4.6 million immigrants during his term.

Today Trump has made detention and deportations a prominent hallmark of his administration, using especially cruel measures to try to assure a significant layer of the working class lives in fear. That is, in conditions the bosses hope will make them submissive to attacks on their wages, working and living conditions.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests have more than doubled, while the number of workers without papers held behind bars is at an all-time high. The Department of Homeland Security claims to have carried out some 400,000 deportations.

As the government steps up its attacks on immigrants, a recent *New York Times* and Sienna University poll found that even people who believe immigrants who enter the country illegally should face deportation, have growing unease about the extent of the raids and the denial of these workers’ right to due process and a court hearing. Many workers are open to offering solidarity to those who’ve been in the country for years.

One of the best known cases is that of Kilmar Abrego García, a 30-year-old sheet metal apprentice and member of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers union. ICE seized him and deported him to a supermax prison in El Salvador without a hearing, despite the fact a court had specifically ruled that shouldn’t be done.

Abrego García, backed by his union, is now back in the U.S. fighting for his freedom.

Building a working-class movement

The openings to build support to push back the government’s attacks are a product of the fact that large numbers of immigrant workers have lived and worked together alongside native-born workers for several decades. They face the same grinding assaults on living standards. In some cases, they’ve been part of the same union struggles.

Landscape gardener Narciso Barranco was picked up by ICE as he worked trimming the shrubs at an IHOP restaurant in Santa Ana, California, June 21. Mexican-born Barranco has been in the U.S. for 30 years. As he tried to escape, the Department of Homeland Security claimed he menaced ICE agents with the weed whacker he was carrying. They pepper sprayed and beat him, shackled and arrested him.

Barranco asked his son Alejandro to sell the truck he uses in his landscaping business so he could hire a lawyer. But Alejandro and his two brothers set up a GoFundMe account instead, explaining his father’s

case and raising more than \$200,000 in contributions. In addition to funding his legal defense, some of the money was deposited into Narciso Barranco’s account. He used it to buy food for fellow detainees at the ICE facility where he was held, and to provide funds for prisoners to phone their families.

His sons hooked up with a local immigrant rights group and organized a vigil and march in his support.

Twenty-four days after his arrest, Barranco was released. “There’s so many more people going through situations like this right now,” Alejandro Barranco told the press. “It finally hit me that this is bigger than us.”

In Rochester, New York, ICE agents raided a construction site Sept. 9, arresting one worker who had been working on a roof. Two other workers there targeted for arrest refused to come down. A crowd of about 100 people gathered at the site to protest the raid, organized by immigrant rights groups and local churches. After a four-hour standoff, the ICE officers backed off. The two workers got away.

Not all these fights end in victories. Harjit Kaur, a 73-year-old seamstress, was arrested in San Francisco Sept. 8. Several hundred people joined a protest against her detention Sept. 12. Despite having lived in the U.S. for over three decades, Kaur was deported to India.

These fights and others like them attract widespread support from working people. But the media has concentrated on confrontations and deadly assaults at ICE facilities carried out by antifa, other “woke” radical middle-class groups and individuals.

Joshua Jahn took a high-powered rifle, climbed up a nearby building and opened fire at ICE personnel at their office in Dallas Sept. 24. He killed one immigrant detainee and wounded two others before killing himself. He wrote “ANTI-ICE” on his ammunition.

For months an ICE facility in the South Waterfront area of Portland, Oregon, has been the site of nightly attacks by black-outfitted, masked and helmeted groups. The Trump administration seized on the clashes as justification to order the National Guard to Portland Sept. 28. The administration is now appealing a court ruling that blocked the deployment.

The government is testing how far it can go deploying troops as a repressive force at home as it prepares the ground for their use in wars to come overseas, and against union and other working-class struggles that lie ahead in the U.S.

The unions should take the lead in struggles against raids and deportations. A union-led struggle for an amnesty for all workers in the U.S. without papers can unify the working class and strengthen the unions, the better to fight for the class interests of all workers.

‘Militant’ takes on ban

Continued from front page

just three vendors — Books-A-Million, Books N Things Warehouse Inc., and Christian Bookstore a/k/a Christianbook.com.

Since then three *Militant* subscribers at the Lansing prison have been unable to get their papers, and others they subscribed to. They were issued a “Notice of Mail Censorship,” saying that the paper is not an “approved vendor.”

“Publishers such as the *Militant* have a First Amendment right to send publications to inmates, particularly to disseminate political views,” *Militant* attorney David Goldstein wrote state prison authorities Aug. 21, appealing this ban. “The *Militant* has been delivered to inmate subscribers within KDOC facilities since 2018. The *Militant* is also delivered to several hundred inmates at approximately 140 federal, state and local facilities throughout the United States.”

Goldstein received an email response Sept. 3 from Darcie Holthaus, corrections manager II at the Kansas Department of Corrections, saying, “Your publication has been approved.” She added, “The residents will need to initiate a new request to our business office for the publication, and they will be allowed delivery assuming no censor guidelines regarding safety/security are violated. A censor will be issued for each copy until the new request from the resident(s) reaches the business office.”

However, in September Lansing Correctional Facility authorities “continued to censor the *Militant* and refused to deliver it to the inmate subscribers,” Goldstein wrote back Oct. 9. This is despite the fact that inmate subscribers followed Holthaus’ instructions, informing prison authorities the *Militant* has now been listed as an approved vendor and requesting the *Militant* be delivered to them.

Prison authorities sent a form letter to them saying the *Militant* is “not an approved vendor,” “was not purchased through established procedures,” and “does not include an invoice, receipt, or packing slip verifying the purchase was made by the resident.”

“Is there something the *Militant* can do to address the apparent problem that the new procedures appear to exclude publications otherwise protected by the U.S. Constitution merely when they are provided free to inmates?” Goldstein wrote in his Oct. 9 appeal.

“The *Militant* hereby specifically requests that KDOC provide it and its subscribing inmates with a clear explanation as to what it, or its subscriber inmates, must do that it may continue to deliver the *Militant* to KDOC inmate subscribers, in accordance with the publisher’s and the inmates’ constitutional rights,” he said.

We will continue to keep *Militant* readers informed of this developing political rights fight, and what you can do to help. Stay tuned.

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