

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Rallies across Australia
condemn Jew-hating attacks**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 42 NOVEMBER 24, 2025

‘Gazans want to live, not die for Hamas’

BY SETH GALINSKY

While Hamas is using the U.S.-imposed ceasefire to shore up its brutal dictatorship in Gaza, the White House is keeping up pressure on Israel, demanding it refrain from any major attack on the Tehran-backed group whose founding covenant calls for slaughtering the Jews.

The U.S. ruling class wants to “stabilize” Gaza to deepen its ties with regimes in the Middle East that can help advance its political influence and its ability to reap huge profits off gas, oil and other resources there. This is key to pushing aside Beijing, its main global competitor.

As part of the first steps in the ceasefire, Israeli troops pulled back to the “yellow line” in Gaza. There are as many as 200 Hamas operatives trapped in tunnels in the Israeli-controlled Rafah area of southern Gaza. At first Washington pressed Israel to allow them to return with their light weapons to the Hamas-controlled area of Gaza. Israel said no.

Then Washington urged Israel to let the thugs leave without their weapons. Another option would be to require the trapped fighters to give up their

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Washington: Hands off Venezuela and Cuba!

BY RÓGER CALERO

The U.S. War Department announced Nov. 10 its forces attacked and sank two more boats, killing six people, off the shore of Venezuela, claiming they are targeting “narco-terrorists.” This brings the total to 76 people killed in 19 deadly attacks.

Washington is using its economic, military and political weight to strengthen its dominant position throughout the Western Hemisphere, and in particular the reach of U.S. oil and natural gas monopolies. As part of this, Washington is seeking to topple President Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, regain control of the country’s vast oil and natural gas resources, and use them as leverage against its competitors, especially Beijing.

It is also part of the U.S. rulers’ decadeslong economic war against Cuba’s socialist revolution.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio traveled through the region in March pressuring Caribbean governments to cease using Venezuela’s PetroCaribe program to buy oil. Established

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SWP points road forward as capitalist crisis deepens

Mamdani’s ‘municipal socialism’ no advance



Militant/Naomi Craine

David Rosenfeld, left, SWP 2026 candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois and SMART-TD member, talks with striking Teamsters member Linne Boyd at Chicago Labor Day march.

SWP drive advances reach of the ‘Militant,’ books by party leaders

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are in the final days of the eight-week fall campaign to introduce the party to more working people and extend the readership of the *Militant* and books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders. Members of the SWP, and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K., plan to go over the international goals of 1,300

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Socialist Workers Party: ‘Workers need to take political power!’

BY TERRY EVANS

The 2025 elections took place with workers having faced declining living standards under both Democratic and Republican administrations for years. At the same time, trade conflicts intensify and the threat of more wars between capitalist rivals grows, with each seeking to defend its own interests and profits worldwide.

Increasing numbers of workers sense

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Teamsters hold vigil, demand gov’t action after deadly UPS plane crash



Militant/Amy Husk

Nov. 6 vigil at Teamsters Local 89 union hall in Louisville for victims of UPS plane crash two days before. An engine came off 34-year-old cargo plane and it smashed into nearby worksites.

BY AMY HUSK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — United Parcel Service Flight 2976 crashed almost immediately after takeoff at the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport Nov. 4, killing at least 14 people, mostly area workers, injuring many more and destroying or

damaging workplaces in the area.

Two days later, Teamsters Local 89, which organizes the workers at the UPS Worldport distribution center at the airport, held a vigil to mark the disaster.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-11 cargo plane, carrying about 38,000 gallons

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Murderous catastrophe in Darfur as Islamist rebels slaughter thousands

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As a two-and-a-half-year bloody civil war ravages the toilers in Sudan, the reactionary Rapid Support Forces seized el-Fasher, the largest city in the Darfur

region, Oct. 26, unleashing a massacre against the indigenous black population.

Two days later, RSF paramilitary soldiers systematically shooting unarmed civilians at point-blank range are shown on videos posted by the Sudan Doctors Network. Dead bodies are scattered alongside burned-out vehicles.

“Fifty or 60 people in a single

Continued on page 2

ACLU joins fight to end Missouri ban on ‘Militant’

BY JANET POST

In an important victory for freedom of speech and the press, Missouri prison authorities have overturned the ban on *Militant* issue no. 28, dated Aug. 11, at the South Central Correctional Center in Licking. It will be delivered to the paper’s subscribers.

The Missouri Department of Corrections told *Militant* attorney David Goldstein that the department will review the impoundment of issue no. 36, dated Oct. 13, and would either let Goldstein know

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Workers at Safeway’s N. Calif. bread plant win new contract

Doctors strike Allina over clinic closures, workloads, unpaid work

New catastrophe in Darfur

Continued from front page
street ... they kill them bang, bang, bang. Then they would go to the next street, and again bang, bang, bang,” a witness named Mubarak who had escaped to the town of al-Dabba, told Reuters.

“Six health workers, four doctors, a nurse and a pharmacist were abducted from the city’s only functioning hospital,” the World Health Organization wrote, “and more than 460 patients and their companions were reportedly shot and killed.”

Tens of thousands of people tried to flee toward Tawila, 40 miles away. Everywhere “there were beatings, executions. Some people were taken away just because they were black,” Nasreldin, one of the few who made it to that town, told the Norwegian Refugee Council there.

With the takeover of el-Fasher, the Rapid Support Forces, which are largely comprised of Arabs, now control the entire Darfur region in western Sudan, an area the size of Spain. The civil war has devastated the lives of millions of working people throughout the country. Much of Khartoum, Sudan’s capital, has been destroyed, about a quarter of the country’s 45 million people have been forced from their homes and at least 150,000 civilians killed.

Rivals fight over control of resources

In 2019 months of anti-government protests and strikes toppled the three-decade-long dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. A military-led transitional government, with backing from Washington, was then put together by Sudan’s Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

and the RSF’s Lt. Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. It promised a return to civilian rule, but instead maintained military rule.

The U.S. government pressured Sudan’s competing army and paramilitary to combine their forces into a single army. Instead, fighting erupted in April 2023 with each group seeking to grab control over the country’s rich natural resources, which include oil, gold, copper, iron ore and natural gas.

Successive Sudanese governments had maintained their rule by wielding national divisions cultivated by the former British colonial rulers based on tribal origin and religion.

The Rapid Support Forces emerged from what had been the Janjaweed militias, which were utilized in the early 2000s by the al-Bashir regime to brutally suppress a rebellion by black African groups in Darfur. They killed tens of thousands of civilians and hundreds of thousands more perished from hunger and disease.

The Rapid Support Forces began its siege of el-Fasher in April. They constructed a 35-mile earthen berm around the city in an attempt to encircle its 1 million residents. Facing daily shelling and starvation conditions, more than 70% of the city’s population fled.

Foreign powers intervene in war

Heightened competition among capitalist powers for resources and political and military influence in Africa is driving intervention in the conflict.

RSF fighters are armed with bomb-carrying Wing Loong II and Fei-Hong-95 drones, made in China and



Norwegian Refugee Council

Thousands of people escape into refugee camp in Tawila, Sudan, Oct. 31. They were fleeing massacre by Rapid Support Forces, formerly Janjaweed militias, in el-Fasher in Darfur region.

supplied to them by the United Arab Emirates. “The UAE has been accelerating the flow of materiel to the RSF in recent months and enabling it to launch fresh offensives,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported Oct. 31.

Rapid Support Forces fighters “have been conducting door-to-door searches, picking out non-Arab men and boys before executing them,” the *Journal* reports. “Residents say militia members swept through the city, raping black women, detaining aid workers and forcing the last remaining residents to leave.”

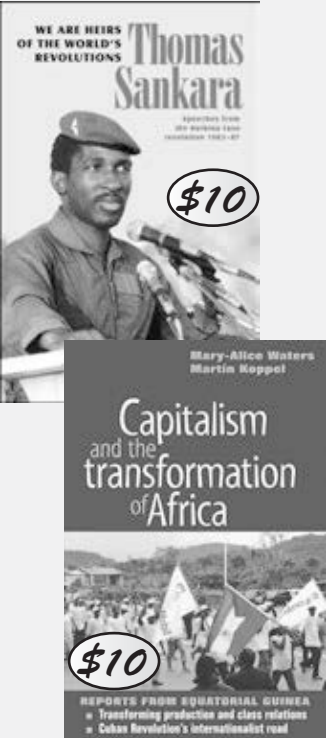
Sudan is one of the poorest and least-developed countries in the world, a legacy of imperialist exploitation and oppression. Located in the Horn of Africa, it’s the third-largest country on the continent, with 500 miles of coastline on the Red Sea, a strategically important commercial transit area.

The rulers in both Tehran and Moscow are seeking to establish military bases there. Moscow supplies the Sudanese Armed Forces, led by al-Burhan, with weapons, military equipment and oil.

After seizing el-Fasher, Dagalo’s RSF announced Nov. 6 that it agreed to a truce promoted by Washington, with backing from the governments of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE.

However, the following day the paramilitary force launched drone attacks on Khartoum and the city of Atbara. Both the RSF and the Sudanese army have agreed to various ceasefire proposals during the civil war. None have succeeded.

Further reading



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THE MILITANT

After hurricane in Cuba, no one is left on their own

Hurricane Melissa left a deadly trail across Jamaica, Haiti and other Caribbean islands at the end of October. In Cuba, over 700,000 people were evacuated with no loss of life. Cuba’s socialist revolution, where no one is left on their own, puts the needs of working people first.



Radio Cabaiguán
Residents of Granma province in Cuba are rescued from floods after Hurricane Melissa.

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US hands off Venezuela, Cuba!

Continued from front page

in 2005, PetroCaribe had become a major supplier of oil to 14 Caribbean nations at lower rates. Members paid between 5% and 50% of the market price upfront, and the remainder over several decades at 1% interest.

Historically victims of high oil prices and unfavorable financing imposed by imperialist banks and oil monopolies, many Caribbean and Central American governments embraced PetroCaribe. It cut costs and lessened their economic and political dependence on Washington.

The program earned the Venezuelan governments of Hugo Chávez and his successor, Maduro, political support from participating nations. The White House accuses Caracas of “extorting” these countries, while offering no real alternative.

Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, the U.S. capitalist rulers have imposed crippling sanctions on Venezuela’s oil industry. In 2019 under the Joseph Biden administration the Treasury Department imposed sanctions on Petroleos de Venezuela, SA, the country’s state-owned company known as PDVSA, and banned all purchases of Venezuelan oil, including from third countries.

While the PetroCaribe program has been largely suspended, due to Washington’s sanctions causing a major decline of Venezuela’s oil industry, Caribbean governments denounced Washington’s actions, saying they were being forced to spend much more on oil. “We in the Caribbean are suffering immensely,” Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit told a July 2023 meeting of Caricom, a regional trade bloc.

‘Huge opportunity’ for U.S. bosses

The U.S. capitalist rulers are jockeying to turn the discovery and development of large new reserves of oil and natural gas in Guyana and Suriname into a profit bonanza for them, and to deal blows to their competitors. At the same time, White House officials present this expansion as “a huge opportunity for the Caribbean.”

While these imperialist vultures cir-

cle, however, many of the region’s nations, whiplashed by world market oil prices and credit conditions imposed by imperialist financial institutions, cannot afford to buy.

The majority of Caribbean countries rely on imported diesel and fuel oil for 90% of their electricity. Energy prices for individual consumers are among the steepest in the world, more than double the high rate in the U.S. today.

Meanwhile, all the major oil monopolists — from ExxonMobil and Chevron to China National Offshore Oil Corporation — are flocking to invest billions in Guyana and Suriname. They’re looking to rob the region’s natural resources and then profit off selling them back to the people there.

The growing U.S. naval armada deployed off the coasts of Venezuela is intended to step up the pressure on the Maduro government, either for deep concessions or his overthrow. It also sends a message to Beijing, Moscow and Tehran that their trade and financial dealings with Caracas are not acceptable to Washington.

Venezuela exports oil to China

Facing biting U.S. sanctions that closed down markets to Caracas, as much as 70% of Venezuela’s oil exports were sold to China between 2023 and 2025. Trade relations between Beijing and Caracas, however, have not been a “balanced” partnership, to say the least. Caracas built up a \$50 billion debt to Beijing, whose rulers expect to be repaid with oil shipments at discounted prices.



U.S. Navy photo/Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Alyssa Joy
U.S. aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford, world’s largest warship, entered Caribbean Nov. 11. Washington is deploying force of warboats, bombers, troops to assert U.S. rulers’ power.

China has become more than just a crucial market for Venezuela’s oil, but also a major stakeholder in joint oil ventures there.

All this weakens Caracas’ already strained foreign currency earnings, 53% of which comes from PDVSA.

The U.S. rulers’ latest moves to overthrow the Venezuelan government have won an ally in neighboring Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. She has been a vociferous supporter of the U.S. naval deployment and deadly attacks in the Caribbean, which her counterparts in Caricom have opposed.

As a reward, the U.S. government green-lighted three-way talks between Shell, Trinidad’s government

and PDVSA to negotiate the development of the Dragon gas field in Venezuelan waters. Caracas called off the talks Oct. 27 after the USS Gravelly, a destroyer fitted with guided missiles, docked in Trinidad to conduct joint exercises with that country’s navy. Persad-Bissessar “has decided to join the warmongering agenda of the United States,” Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said on national television.

The use of tariffs, so-called free trade agreements, sanctions, or crude political threats and military might is aimed at achieving the best position for the U.S. rulers to drain the surplus value produced by workers and small farmers into their own pockets.

Rallies across Australia condemn Jew-hating attacks

BY MIKE TUCKER

SYDNEY — Hundreds turned out at rallies organized by “Never Again Is Now” in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth Oct. 26 to protest Jew-hatred, and simultaneous actions were held in another 12 cities and towns. Two weeks earlier, 8,000 members of the Jewish community here gathered to mark the anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom by Hamas in Israel and to condemn attacks on Jews.

There has been a sharp increase in antisemitic violence in Australia over the past two years, since Israel launched its defensive war against Hamas in Gaza. Pro-Hamas protests organized by middle-class leftist and Islamist groups have drawn support from Labor and Green Party politicians, many nongovernmental organizations, much of the union officialdom and the liberal media.

Calls to boycott businesses and to ban events, artistic performances, and individuals said to be linked to Israel have been accompanied by vandalism, violence and arson targeting the Jewish community.

In June, 100 Jews celebrating a religious festival at a Brisbane hotel faced a 150-strong pro-Hamas mob bursting in, chanting “baby killers” and screaming, “All Zionists are terrorists.”

In September, a 66-year-old Jewish man on a train in Sydney was assaulted by two men with a knife yelling anti-Jewish abuse.

In November, a young Jewish woman who applied for a job at a plant nursery in Melbourne was sent a rejection notice accusing her of complicity in genocide and urging her to leave the city.

The Israeli music duo “Infected Mushroom” pulled out of a music festival in Queensland in July and had a sold-out concert in Adelaide cancelled in September after being targeted by anti-Israel groups.

They performed in Melbourne Nov. 3. A pro-Hamas protest to shut them down was met by a counterprotest organized by Lions of Zion. The Jewish group also held a 40-strong protest

outside the Melbourne plant nursery that same day. Speaking to the *Australian Jewish News*, Lions of Zion co-founder Isaac Balbin said, “Racial vilification isn’t OK when it happens to anybody,” adding, “going forward, it’s not going to be free to mess with the Jews anymore.”

The Hamas leadership in Qatar filed legal papers in a federal court in Australia Oct. 15 challenging the government’s designation of Hamas as a terrorist organization. This move reflects the degree of support Hamas feels it has gained among middle-class and capitalist layers. If successful, the Nazi-like group would be able to function openly in the country.

An Islamist group aligned with Hamas, Hizb ut-Tahrir (Party of Liberation), which openly promotes Jew-hatred, has been prominent in anti-Israel protests.

Antisemitic agitation is also increasing on the far right. Sixty members of a Nazi group, National Socialist Network, rallied outside the New South Wales state parliament in Sydney Nov. 8, with a large banner demanding, “Abolish the Jewish lobby.”

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Workers at Safeway's N. Calif. bread plant win new contract

RICHMOND, Calif. — Public protests paid off for Safeway bread plant workers here, who won a new contract 14 months after their old one expired. The workers won wage gains of \$4.95 an hour over four years, and the fight puts workers in a better position to push back against company attacks.

The members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 125 approved the contract Oct. 26.

The Safeway bread plant is owned by Albertsons, a giant supermarket chain across 35 states.

The union won the new contract after escalating its fight. An Oct. 5 protest, where workers held signs saying “Enough is enough” and “Shame on Albertsons, shame on Safeway” outside a company-organized “Fall Festival,” helped turn the tide.

“Every day after our protest we used those signs on our cars in the parking lot. The union made some T-shirts too, which we wore into work,” a worker told the *Militant* at the bakery Nov. 8. He requested his name not be used to avoid company retaliation.

“We said that if the company didn’t fix the contract we will call off,” he added. Pulling out of the parking lot after working 12 hours on Saturday, he said there was a lot of unity among the 40 workers there. And he thanked the *Militant* for being part of the fight.

“The company tried to scare us by threatening to shut the plant down,” said Joann Velasquez, Local 125 vice president and recording secretary. After the protests, “we were able to come to an agreement. You have to show you are serious to get them to respond.”

— Eric Simpson

Houston convention center unionists win 25% wage hike

FORT WORTH, Texas — On the heels of the victory of the 40-day strike by members of UNITE HERE Local 23 at the Hilton hotel in Houston, some 100 food service workers at the nearby George R. Brown Convention Center ratified a new contract Nov. 6 with 25% wage increases.

Many workers there, also members of Local 23, were making \$16 an hour.

The victory at Hilton “helped us to get a good contract,” Adriana Rodriguez, a convention center server, told NPR. Her wages will rise from \$19 to \$24 an hour by the end of the three-year contract.

The convention center workers are employed by Levy Premium Food Services. The new contract also covers food service workers at the Wortham Theater Center, Miller Outdoor Theatre and Jones Hall. The contract will improve job scheduling and safety protections.

“The Hilton fight definitely set a new precedent,” Franchesca Caraballo, Local 23 president, told Houston Public Media. “Workers are looking at it, like, ‘OK, well that’s the new standard. So we’re not going to accept anything less.’”

About 350 UNITE HERE members at the nearby Marriott Marquis are preparing to negotiate their contract after it expired Oct. 1. The contract for another 600 union dining and retail workers employed by OTG expires Dec. 1.

— Alyson Kennedy

Doctors strike Allina over clinic closures, workloads, unpaid work

MINNEAPOLIS — “Health care is a human right!” and “Doctors on the outside? Trouble on the inside,” were chanted by hundreds of members of the Doctors Council, an affiliate of the Service Employees International Union, during a one-day strike against Allina



Militant/Eric Simpson

Workers at the Safeway bread plant in Richmond, California, members of BCTGM Local 125, rally Oct. 5, part of fight for a new contract with a wage raise. Unionists were victorious.

Health in the Twin Cities area Nov. 5.

Picket lines were set up in front of the Allina Health clinics in West Saint Paul and Coon Rapids, as well as near the Allina Health corporate headquarters here.

After 20 months of negotiations, Allina has refused to agree to a first contract with the union, whose members include doctors, nurse practitioners and physicians assistants.

Bosses at the health care giant have closed down five clinics in the area and began contracting out lab work, which had been processed locally. These moves have increased the patient load in the remaining clinics and delayed lab results needed for doctors to prescribe treatment.

One of the union’s demands is for doctors to receive four hours’ pay per week for work they perform at home after clinics close. They’re now expected to work after hours without pay on paperwork and to answer patient emails.

Matt Hoffman, a doctor and spokesman for the protest, told the *Militant* union members from across the Twin Cities area joined the action. So did many of their patients

Hoffman said Allina representatives told union negotiators their priorities are to boost profits. But the doctors’ priorities are providing the care needed to keep patients out of emergency rooms and to prolong their lives.

— Mary Martin

Teamsters demand gov’t action after UPS plane crash

Continued from front page
of fuel for a flight to Hawaii, lost an engine and burst into flame, smashing into businesses in a nearby industrial area where thousands of gallons of motor oil and antifreeze were stored.

Throughout the city people watched in horror as the crash caused a huge fiery explosion that sent smoke and debris into neighborhoods miles from the airport. Local officials ordered a shelter-in-place order for a 5-mile radius around the airport. The crash and fire hit several businesses, including Kentucky

Petroleum Recycling and Grade A Auto Parts, both of which were destroyed and several workers were killed.

Sabit Aliyev, who was working at Kentucky Truck Parts and Service, told the *Louisville Courier Journal* the explosion “knocked me off my feet. I was thinking it was my last moments.” He and a co-worker were stuck there for two hours as the fire raged around them until they were rescued.

It took days of searching through the wreckage to find the remains of the 14 who were killed. This includes

the three pilots on the plane, workers in the area and a man and his 3-year-old granddaughter.

The industrial area that was destroyed lies between a CSX rail yard and Ford’s Louisville Assembly Plant, which lost power and had to cancel two shifts.

Some 300 working people came out to the Teamsters Local 89 hall Nov. 6 to honor those who were killed or injured. Most were workers at the UPS facility at the airport. It’s the largest UPS facility in the world, where more than 12,000 workers process over 22 million packages daily. Local officials and union leaders spoke, including Bob Travis, president of the Independent Pilots Association.

Travis described the solidarity between the pilots’ union and the Teamsters, explaining that in 1997, when the union members at UPS went on strike, the pilots “didn’t turn a wheel for 16 days. And we’ll do it again if necessary.”

This kind of solidarity is what is needed to press the bosses and the government to find out the truth about the cause of the Nov. 4 disaster.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash. The Federal Aviation Administration ordered the grounding of all MD-11 and MD-11F aircraft for inspection. The FAA order said the “left-hand engine and pylon detached from the airplane during takeoff” and this “unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.”

When these planes have been deemed unsuitable for continued passenger service, they are refitted for cargo transport and continue flying, often for decades.

In 2009 a similar crash of a FedEx MD-11 plane killed the two pilots on board.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

November 20, 2000

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Meat packers at two slaughterhouses owned by Rosen’s Diversified Inc. are organizing to resist an antiunion offensive by the bosses.

The company has stepped up its campaign of intimidation and pressure against leaders of the union; started its own newspaper, *Bull Notes*, in both Spanish and English to counter the union’s *Workers’ Voice* that is produced by and distributed to workers at both plants; and has refused to recognize the union representation election victory by workers at its Dakota Premium Foods plant in South St. Paul.

An article in the *Workers’ Voice* explains, “What is behind this company campaign is to punish workers who used their union to improve their conditions. ‘Keep the union out of it!’ is the message.” Rosen’s is making it clear it intends to not recognize the union at Dakota.

THE MILITANT

November 21, 1975

“History Shortchanged Women, Feminist Says,” headlined a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* interview with Evelyn Reed on Oct. 22. St. Louis was the first leg of a tour that will take Reed to eleven major U.S. cities, Ireland and across Canada speaking on “Woman’s Evolution and Human Nature” and “Is Biology Woman’s Destiny?”

Anthropology is often defined as “the science of man.” Evelyn Reed has another view. “Women were the first farmers, industrialists, scientists, doctors, teachers, historians. Women’s work created nothing less than the human species.”

“We are finding out more about that matriarchy. It was a collective-type system in which nobody was richer or poorer than the other, unlike society today. A decade ago the matriarchy was almost a dead issue. Now it is on the agenda again for discussion, reexamination, and debate.”

THE MILITANT

November 20, 1950

Contrary to his assurances, President Truman has ordered the release of the \$62,500,000 handout voted by Congress for the Spanish fascist butcher, Franco.

It will be none too soon for the shaky Franco regime which has brought the Spanish workers and peasants to the verge of starvation. With the U.S. dollars, Franco will be able to reinforce the brutal terror which has kept his prisons and concentration camps overflowing. At the time Truman said he would impound the loan, the *Militant* categorically predicted that “at the moment Truman feels the coast is clear he will unfreeze the loan.”

It was no trick at all for the U.S. State Department to line up a 37 to 10 vote in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly to reverse the 1946 policy. Thus, Truman now props up bloody Franco under cover of “UN sanction.”

SWP drive for ‘Militant,’ books

Continued from front page
Militant subscriptions and the same number of books by Nov. 18. While the 2025 elections are over, the SWP is already running candidates for elections next year as contests are getting underway, including Norton Sandler for governor of California and David Rosenfeld for U.S. Senate from Illinois.

Door-to-door teams in workers’ neighborhoods are key to the party’s weekly work. There is no letup in capitalism’s deepening crisis and the class struggle — or the SWP’s campaigning. The SWP aims to lead in building an independent working-class party capable of taking political power from the capitalists and their Democratic and Republican parties, which rule over worsening conditions for working people worldwide amid the growing threat of war.

“A campaign team from Oakland visited Stockton, an industrial city in California’s Central Valley, after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested some two dozen immigrant workers there,” Betsey Stone reports. “Going door to door we found opposition to the arrests and a positive response to the party’s call for amnesty for immigrants working in the U.S.”

“I’m against how ICE is scaring people,” Katherine Claudio told Stone at her door. “I can see arresting someone who’s done something criminal, but they are just grabbing hard-working people.”

“It’s in the interests of all workers to oppose these attacks,” Stone replied. “Equal rights for all, with or without papers, is needed to strengthen our unions. Denying due process to immigrants undercuts rights all workers need.”

Claudio, an unemployed worker, wants a nurse’s aide job but can’t find any. “The Socialist Workers Party calls for unions to fight for a federally funded jobs program to put millions to work building things workers need, like child care centers, housing and hospitals,”

Stone said. Claudio subscribed to the Militant to learn more.

A truck driver who has been involved in an organizing drive also subscribed and got the books *Teamster Rebellion*; *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*; and *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia: The Example of the Cuban Revolution*.

Josefina Otero reports from Dallas that she and Gerardo Sánchez met Herlinda Gomez, a Fort Worth librarian, while campaigning in a grocery store parking lot. They discussed Israel’s efforts to defeat Hamas to prevent another Holocaust as well as the need to get the heel of Hamas off the people of Gaza.

Worldwide fight against Jew-hatred

Gomez, who grew up in Michoacan, Mexico, also supports the fight of Kilmar Abrego García and the demand for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S. to unite the working class. She bought a Militant subscription and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* to be able to show others about Hamas’ roots.

She also got *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us* to learn more about resistance by working people today. She took catalogs describing a range of Pathfinder books to order some for the library where she works.

At an election-night event in Minneapolis Nov. 4, Mary Martin reports, the SWP candidate for mayor, Kevin Dwire, and Edwin Fruit for City Council celebrated with supporters the accomplishments of the SWP campaign. Gabriel, a West African immigrant, bought *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* in French. “This is a very important book for people in Africa,” he said. “I will send it to my daughter when I finish reading it.”

In the union bakery where Fruit works, a Somalian-born



Craig Honts, center, candidate for N.J. lieutenant governor, brought SWP campaign and working-class solidarity to Teamsters Local 25 picket at Republic Services in Massachusetts in July.

co-worker bought three copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. He told Fruit one copy was for himself and two for other family members, all of whom oppose Jew-hatred and Hamas’ murderous course in the Middle East.

Seattle SWP members set up a booth at the annual Portland, Oregon, book festival Nov. 8, selling 83 books and 24 subscriptions.

To join the effort, find out more, meet SWP members, or join the party, contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Help SWP go over the top in Party-Building Fund

As we enter the final week to raise \$140,000 for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, party branches report success in winning new contributors who are interested in supporting the SWP’s work.

Marklyn Wilson, an SWP member from Atlanta, reports that campaigners have been raising the fund as part of their political discussions with workers on their doorsteps. So far, nearly \$30 in such donations has been contributed “from people who want to help us out, out of solidarity.”

This Militant correspondent campaigned with Joel Britton at the afternoon shift change at the plant gate of the Ghirardelli chocolate factory in San Leandro, California, Nov. 6, where the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union organizes several hundred workers. Many workers there know about the SWP’s record supporting union strikes and other struggles. Three workers who stopped to talk gave \$65 to the Party-Building Fund. Five picked up subscriptions to the Militant.

Two SWP branches have raised their quotas, and several say they expect to go over their goals, which will help put the national drive over the top.

To contribute, write a check to “Socialist Workers Party” and send it to SWP, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

— MAGGIE TROWE

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

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	51	55	52	\$10,000	\$7,047
Chicago*	75	74	65	52	\$14,000	\$9,305
Cincinnati	55	51	55	43	\$5,000	\$4,164
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	62	60	57	\$5,000	\$4,451
Los Angeles	80	79	80	86	\$14,000	\$7,947
Miami	35	27	35	27	\$5,000	\$3,525
Minneapolis*	65	60	65	57	\$6,700	\$5,215
N. New Jersey	70	69	70	62	\$7,500	\$6,999
New York	90	76	90	93	\$20,500	\$17,604
Oakland	80	73	80	79	\$15,000	\$13,915
Philadelphia	50	36	50	44	\$6,000	\$2,874
Pittsburgh*	50	41	50	38	\$7,000	\$6,151
Seattle	65	64	65	68	\$15,000	\$12,340
Washington	45	45	45	40	\$4,500	\$3,084
Other		29		693		\$2,290
Total U.S.	875	837	865	1,491	\$135,200	\$106,911
Prisoners		115				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	45	41	65	59		
Manchester*	50	46	45	45		
Total U.K.	95	87	110	104		
Canada	90	81	100	113		
Australia	30	30	30	49		
Other Int’l				50		
Total	1,090	1,150	1,105	1,807	\$135,200	\$106,911
SHOULD BE	1,300	1,138	1,300	1,138	\$140,000	\$122,500
*Raised goal						

US moves to deport Kilmar Abrego García to Africa

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — The Donald Trump administration’s Department of Justice filed a new motion before Judge Paula Xinis in U.S. District Court in Maryland Nov. 7 seeking to have Kilmar Abrego García deported to Liberia, thousands of miles from his wife and children, friends and fellow SMART union co-workers.

Xinis has so far barred his deportation. The 30-year-old sheet metal apprentice had already been deported in March to El Salvador, in the face of a long-standing court order barring his being sent there. He was thrown into the notorious supermax CECOT prison and was tortured. The Justice Department later admitted that move was a “mistake.”

Under the pressure of public protests, including by the SMART union, the Justice Department finally complied with a Supreme Court ruling that he be re-

turned to the U.S. But then he was arrested on frame-up charges of “human smuggling.” Abrego García insists these charges are false.

Now the government is trying to pretend that case doesn’t exist in order to deport him to Africa.

Government officials, including Attorney General Pamela Bondi and Department of Homeland Security head Kristi Noem, have been criticized by both Judge Xinis, and Judge Waverly Crenshaw, who is presiding over the human smuggling frame-up case, for publicly attacking Abrego García and prejudicing his defense. Both judges are considering sanctions against the government for vindictive prosecution.

Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, one of Abrego García’s lawyers, told the court that the government of Costa Rica is ready to accept Abrego García as a refugee, which the young worker would accept. The government refuses to consider this because they want to punish him.

The SMART union steps up

The stakes in this fight, a national flashpoint, are well presented by his union, in a Nov. 5 statement, “Protecting our rights: Kilmar Abrego and the fight for due process.” It’s printed in the fall issue of SMART’s magazine.

SMART has defended him since

his March 12 arrest. General President Michael Coleman and Abrego García’s local, Local 100, helped organize the first press conference where he stood with Abrego García’s wife, Jennifer Vásquez Sura, and rallied the labor movement to defend him.

SMART locals around the country have marched with union banners to “Bring home brother Abrego García.” In Detroit, they led the May Day parade.

According to the article, “The case of Kilmar Abrego García is not just about one man. It is about all of us — and the rights we all stand to lose when one person is deprived of theirs.”

SMART lawyer Luke Rebecchi says in the article, “Millions of people in this country, many of our members, are not citizens but have every lawful right to be here and to work.”

On the right to due process he adds, “The Constitution mentions ‘citizens’ in many places, but it specifically states ‘no person’ [in the Fifth Amendment]. The use of ‘person’ was intentional, and it protects all persons in the United States regardless of their citizenship status.”

“Union members know, better than most other people in the world, the power of solidarity,” the union pointed out. No deportation! Asylum for Abrego García!

SWP points the road forward

Continued from front page

both bosses’ parties aim to put the burden of the deepening crisis of their capitalist system on our backs and that they’re determined to defend U.S. imperialist interests abroad, no matter the devastating consequences for our class.

Democratic candidates won races for governor in the largely blue states of New Jersey and Virginia. In New York City, liberals and the middle-class left fueled the win of Zohran Mamdani, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America who was the Democratic Party’s candidate. Voter turnout in New York was higher than normal, but didn’t top 40%.

Mamdani campaigned on “affordability,” modest reforms to alleviate some of the hardships created by capitalism. DSA candidates across the country said they were advancing “municipal socialism.”

Mamdani spoke often during his campaign against the existence of Israel, the only state that provides Jews an unconditional refuge. His campaign served to advance the normalization of antisemitism in capitalist politics.

Ten months into Donald Trump’s presidency, stubbornly high prices for basic necessities continue. Coffee has risen by 19% over the past year. Workers with employer-sponsored health insurance can expect to pay 6.5% more next year. Child care costs are up 29% over the past four years.

Sky-high rents in New York, which Mamdani promised he would try to address, have risen 5.6% over the past year. Spurred by sharpening worldwide competition, the bosses are laying off workers. UPS has cut 34,000 jobs this year and plans to eliminate 14,000 more. Amazon announced plans to cut 14,000. Thousand of white-collar workers are being thrown out of work, as bosses replace them with a combination of “artificial intelligence” and speedup. So far this year, total job cuts have topped 1 million.

In addition to deep-seated anger toward the bosses’ attacks on wages, jobs and conditions, many workers oppose Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and deportations that target undocumented workers, including their friends, neighbors and co-workers.

The working-class voice in 2025

The only working-class voice in the race in New York — or any other election across the country — was the Socialist Workers Party. In New York, Paul Mailhot got a serious hearing for the SWP’s perspective of mobilizing labor’s power to combat capitalism’s twin scourges of joblessness and inflation; advancing the political organization of working people independent of the Democrats and Republicans; and charting a course to replace capitalist rule with workers power. “Two key issues that we get a big response to,” Joanne Kuniarsky, SWP candidate for governor of New Jersey, told NewsNation, are “the possibility of another world war” and the “complete devastation of workers’ wages and conditions.” Despite being excluded from the main candidates debates and ignored by much of the capitalist media, Kuniarsky got 7,834 votes. Liberals, Stalinists and the “woke” middle-class left hailed the outcome of the New York race. Mamdani “inspires

young people who are cynical about politics,” the *New York Times* editors wrote. “We are rooting for his success.” His win “represents a major political breakthrough,” declared the Party for Socialism and Liberation, a Stalinist group.

But 61% of voters stayed away, concluding there wasn’t anything worth choosing between Mamdani, disgraced former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who was responsible for the deaths of thousands of older people in the state’s nursing homes during the COVID pandemic; and former Guardian Angels boss, Republican Curtis Sliwa.

Mamdani’s campaign was lavished with a \$12.8 million subsidy from city authorities in the form of “matching funds.” Cuomo and Sliwa got in on the scam, getting \$7.1 million and \$4.5 million. But the same officials denied funds to incumbent Mayor Eric Adams, claiming his paperwork was “misleading.” Adams dropped out and backed Cuomo.

In contrast to the bosses’ parties, SWP candidates rely solely on contributions from working people.

Mamdani is one of a growing number of DSA members running as Democrats, along with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Bosses adjust to election result

“For as long as we can remember, the working people of New York have been told by the wealthy and the well-connected that power does not belong in their hands,” Mamdani told supporters in his victory speech. “New York, this power, it’s yours.”

Rhetoric aside, political power remains firmly in the hands of the exploiting class, which is adapting itself to the incoming administration. While opposing him, the capitalist rulers will find ways to continue raking in profits.

Mamdani’s course is not to urge working people to fight to take political power, relying on the capacities of



Screen shot from video

New York mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani speaks at anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions rally in May 2021. Mamdani’s campaign aimed to help normalize antisemitism.

our class and its allies, but to look to middle-class radicals like him to speak for us. And to depend on sops he’ll hand out, like some free bus rides, to try to soften the blows of the capitalist crisis. His administration will continue to promote the illusion the imperialist Democratic Party is a vehicle for advancing workers’ interests.

The SWP candidates say that all political questions are class questions, that a working-class road forward starts with a union-led fight for a government-funded program to provide millions of jobs at union scale to build housing, child care facilities, clinics and other things working people need. They present a course to strengthen workers’ confidence in our own worth and capacities to fight.

Mamdani’s backing is based on “woke” middle-class meritocrats who view everything through the left/right divisions within capitalist politics, as well as the lens of nationality, race or gender, not the sharply counterposed class divisions that underlie all oppression.

These layers are part of a growing polarization in politics today, inspired by “cancel culture” and the use of violence

to dispense with those who challenge their self-satisfying perspectives.

Mamdani campaigned against Cuomo by charging him with “Islamophobia.” He won support from some workers, looking anywhere for a change.

Mamdani has a long history of antisemitism, championing reactionary efforts to boycott Israel, refusing to demand Hamas disarm and repeating dangerous age-old slurs about an international Jewish conspiracy. In 2023 he said the boot of police brutality in New York is “laced by the IDF” — the Israel Defense Forces.

These positions are dangerous for the working class. This will become clearer as Mamdani’s Democratic Party administration takes office.

The SWP points to the two great revolutions of our epoch — the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by V.I. Lenin and the 1959 Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement — as examples for workers today. Workers need to take political power into our own hands, dismantle capitalist exploitation and oppression, and join hands with fellow workers worldwide to build a future.

the SWP candidate for governor of California in the 2026 elections, told the *Militant* Nov. 10. “The sanctions imposed by the U.S. rulers, the EU and other western imperialist powers, whatever their supposed target, fall heaviest on working people in Russia, as well as those who have gone into exile, who are the best potential allies of Ukrainian workers and farmers fighting to

bourgeois opponents of Putin in Europe who fail to “extend a hand to anti-war Russians and see them as potential allies.” Instead, he says, the damage of the financial sanctions “lands on Russians who oppose Putin, who resist his regime and who are already persecuted for it in their own country.”

He pointed out that this reinforces the Great Russian chauvinist propaganda line of the Putin regime, which claims “the war in Ukraine is being fought to protect Russia from European Russophobes who supposedly hate all Russians, regardless of their political views.”

“Sanctioning anti-war Russians in Europe only feeds that narrative,” said Yashin. “Many who initially opposed the war and fled to Europe seeking freedom and justice end up disillusioned.” Some have lost their “motivation to support anti-war movements or democratic organizations.”

Worse still, he said, some get demoralized and return to Russia and “even begin to think that perhaps Putin has a point” with his aggression because the nationalism of the European rulers casts “all Russians as enemies.”

The Socialist Workers Party agrees with Yashin’s point, Norton Sandler,

‘We want to live, not die for Hamas’

Continued from front page

weapons in exchange for safe passage to another country. But Hamas says “the concept of surrender” does not exist in its “dictionary.” And so far, no other government is willing to accept them.

Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, a key U.S. negotiator, flew to Israel to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and push for a solution. Israel has agreed to hold off on attacking the Hamas operatives trapped in Rafah for the time being.

To monitor its “peace” plan, Washington set up the Civil-Military Coordination Center in a three-story building in Kiryat Gat in southern Israel near the Gaza border. Israeli military and intelligence personnel occupy an entire floor, with U.S. officials on another. Some 40 U.S. “partners,” including representatives of the imperialist governments of France, Germany, the U.K. and other countries and NGOs, are on a separate floor.

The U.S. government has replaced Israel in overseeing the humanitarian aid shipments entering Gaza, although they still need Israeli approval.

The Trump administration is seeking to find governments that will agree to send troops to Gaza to participate in its “International Stabilization Force” to police Gaza.

The only government that has agreed to do so is the Turkish regime, which is hostile to Israel and has longstanding ties to Hamas. Israel has said it will never accept that. Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have said they are not willing to participate.

De facto partition of Gaza

The area Israel is operating in is 53% of Gaza. A number of Gazans, at least in the hundreds, have taken refuge there. Hamas controls the rest and posts armed thugs where some 2

million Gazans are living under its tyrannical rule.

No longer worried about major Israeli attacks, Hamas is rebuilding its tunnels, trying to build up its arms supplies and making plans for future pogroms against Israel and Jews.

Its immediate aim is reestablishing its dictatorship. It has carried out frequent attacks on its opponents, using torture, beatings and killings. This is a sign of the group’s weakness, not strength.

Al Jazeera recently publicized a poll claiming most Palestinians support Hamas and 53% of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank support Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, anti-Jewish pogrom that killed 1,200 people in Israel. But Al Jazeera is bought and paid for by the rulers in Qatar and well-known for its support for Hamas. It refused to cover protests by thousands in Gaza during the war demanding “Hamas, Out! Out!”

Hear the voice of Gazans

“This is not research. It is propaganda disguised as data,” Ezzideen Shehab posted Nov. 7. “Ask anyone in Gaza and they will tell you the truth: Oct. 7 was a catastrophe. People want the weapons gone.”

Shehab is a doctor in northern Gaza who has been treating those wounded in the war there for the last two years. He is not a supporter of the Israeli government or its war against Hamas, nor a supporter of Hamas or its rival Fatah. He refuses to keep silent.

“Let any independent body come to Gaza, walk among the tents, speak to the displaced, and they will hear this voice, a voice that has no party, no flag, and no propaganda machine. It is the voice of ordinary Gazans who love life and want to live, not die for someone else’s cause,” he wrote.

Hamas leader Mussa Abu Marzouq told Drop Site News that Hamas is open to getting rid — for now — of longer-range weapons that could pose an immediate threat to Israel. But he said Hamas must keep its “light arms” to prevent a civil war and “chaos.”

Hamas needs those arms to be able to strike fear into the people of Gaza and execute its political opponents to stay in power.

Attacks on Arab bus drivers shows challenges in Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

A spike in violence against bus drivers in Jerusalem sheds light on the challenges and the opportunities to overcome divisions in the working class and to strengthen the unions in Israel.

There are several bus lines serving the Jerusalem area and at least 60% of the drivers are Arabs, mostly residents of East Jerusalem, Yaniv Bar Ilan told the *Militant* by phone Nov. 10. He is a spokesperson for Koach LaOvdim (Power to the Workers), one of the three main union federations in Israel.

In one recent two-day period there were nine attacks on bus drivers. Many were by young fans of Beitar Jerusalem, a soccer team. One of Beitar’s fan clubs, La Familia, is notorious for its racist attitude and treatment of Arab citizens and residents of Israel.

After their team lost a match, the

Iran: Oil, power workers protest contract labor system



Free Union of Iranian Workers

More than 1,000 Iranian oil workers and their family members, from all across the country especially the southern oil fields, protested outside the president’s offices in Tehran Nov. 1. They were joined by electrical workers at power plants who face similar issues.

Chanting “Enough with the promises — our tables are empty,” they demanded an end to the exploitative contract labor system and to discrimination in hiring, as well as for higher wages and better work conditions. Another popular chant was “Tanks, guns, fireworks — contractors must be gone,” meaning no matter what you throw at us, we’ll keep on fighting.

Contract workers, who have fewer rights and benefits than permanent workers, make up as much as 75% of the workforce in the oil and gas industry in Iran.

“We demand direct employment and the elimination of contractors,” workers said, according to a report on the protest by the government-funded Iranian Labour News Agency. “The essential duties of the oil industry rest on us, but the benefits and privileges go to others.”

The Council for Organizing Protests of Oil Contract Workers said that the workers have been fighting for four years for the abolition of the contract system. That is also the demand, the council said, in numerous other industries, like telecommunications, power plants, mining, auto plants and steel mills, where workers face the same problem.

The demonstration was well-organized, with many protesters arriving on chartered buses. Marshals wore vests showing the state-owned oil company logo, with the words “oppressed contract worker” underneath.

— SETH GALINSKY

With Washington’s hope for an international force to take over Gaza still little more than a wish, some Israeli officials and Palestinian opponents of Hamas have raised an alternative — clear the war damage inside the Israeli-controlled section of Gaza, rebuild and allow Palestinians without ties to Hamas to resettle there.

This was first raised in July by Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz. Moumen Al-Natour, a lawyer from northern Gaza and opponent of Hamas, raised a similar idea, calling

for Israel to set up “safe zones” in areas it controls.

According to the *Atlantic* magazine, Washington is considering a plan that would include compounds for 25,000 people.

But as long as Hamas is intact, armed and in control of any portion of Gaza — and backed by the regime in Iran and other reactionary capitalist forces in the region — it will keep preparing to carry out its central goal: to destroy Israel and kill or expel all the Jews there.

And the government isn’t doing enough to confront the problem, he said. “There is a plan for a special unit of police on bikes that could get immediately to the sites of such attacks,” but the plan has not been carried out. Police rarely arrest the attackers when they are Jewish. And the official in charge of the transportation ministry has done nothing to confront it.

“Most of the Jewish drivers condemn these attacks,” Bar Ilan said. The bus drivers are in three different unions — Koach LaOvdim, the Histadrut, or Histadrut Leumit — depending on which bus line they work for. All three unions organize both Jewish and Arab workers.

“I talked to one of the Jewish drivers who is a fan of Beitar Jerusalem,” Bar Ilan said. “He agreed the attacks and the chants of ‘Death to Arabs’ were despicable.”

Stalin's 'Popular Front' in France blocked workers taking power

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November is *The Crisis of the French Section (1935-36)* by Leon Trotsky. Growing class battles across Europe, from rising proletarian struggles in France to the Spanish Revolution, posed the need for workers to take power to stop imperialism's march toward another world war. Adolf Hitler had come to power in 1933 after the sectarian course of the German Communist Party, on orders from Joseph Stalin, had blocked united working-class resistance to the Nazis' rise. Moscow then did a U-turn, ordering all CPs to ally with liberal capitalists in a "Popular Front." This class-collaborationist course was used to block workers from fighting to take power to defeat growing fascist forces. The excerpt is from Trotsky's Nov. 26, 1935, call, "For committees of action not the People's Front!" Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

The "People's Front" represents the coalition of the proletariat with the imperialist bourgeoisie, in the shape of the Radical Party and smaller tripe of the same sort. The coalition extends both to the parliamentary and to the extra-parliamentary spheres. In both spheres



Workers occupy Renault auto plant in France, May 1936, part of wave of sit-down strikes that posed possibility for fight by workers to take power. Communist, Socialist parties in alliance with liberal capitalists in Popular Front government blocked the revolutionary upsurge.

the Radical Party, preserving for itself complete freedom of action, savagely imposes restrictions upon the freedom of action of the proletariat.

The Radical Party itself is undergoing decay. Each new election gives added proof of the passage of supporters away from it to the right and to the left. On the other hand, the Socialist and Communist parties — because of the absence of a genuinely revolutionary party — are growing stronger. The general trend of the toiling masses, including the petty bourgeoisie, is quite clearly to the left. The orientation of the leaders of the workers' parties is no less self-evident: *to the right*. At a time when the masses by their votes and their struggle seek to cast off the party of the Radicals, the leaders of the united front, on the contrary, seek to save it. After obtaining the confidence of the masses of workers on the basis of a "socialist" program, the leaders of the workers' parties then proceeded to voluntarily concede a lion's share of this confidence to the Radicals, in whom the masses of workers have absolutely no confidence.

The "People's Front" in its present guise shamelessly tramples not only upon workers' democracy but also upon formal, i.e., bourgeois, democracy. The majority of the Radical voters do not participate in the struggle of the toilers and consequently in the People's Front. Yet the Radical Party occupies in this front not only an equal but a privileged

position; the workers' parties are compelled to restrict their activity to the program of the Radical Party. This idea is most outspokenly advanced by the cynics of *l'Humanité*. ...

The proletariat does not deny anyone the right to struggle side by side with it against fascism, the Bonapartist regime of Laval, the war plot of the imperialists, and all other forms of oppression and violence. The sole demand that class-conscious workers put to their actual or potential allies is that they struggle *in action*. Every group of the population really participating in the struggle at a given stage and ready to submit to common discipline must have the equal right to exert influence on the leadership of the People's Front.

Each two hundred, five hundred, or one thousand citizens adhering to the People's Front in a given city, district, factory, barrack, and village should in time of fighting actions elect their representative to the local committee of action. All the participants in the struggle are bound by its discipline.

The last congress of the Communist International, in its resolution on the Dimitrov report, expressed itself in favor of elected committees of action as the mass support for the People's Front. This is perhaps the only progressive idea in the entire resolution. But precisely for this reason the Stalinists do nothing to realize it. They dare not do anything for fear of breaking off col-

laboration with the bourgeoisie.

To be sure, in the election of committees not only workers will be able to participate but also civil service employees, functionaries, war veterans, artisans, small merchants, and small peasants. Thus the committees of action are in the closest harmony with the tasks of the proletariat's struggle for influence over the petty bourgeoisie. But they complicate to the extreme the collaboration between the workers' bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie. In the meantime the People's Front in its present form is nothing else than the organization of class collaboration between the political exploiters of the proletariat (the reformists and the Stalinists) and the political exploiters of the petty bourgeoisie (the Radicals). Real mass elections of committees of action would automatically eject the bourgeois middlemen (the Radicals) from the ranks of the People's Front and thus smash to smithereens the criminal policy dictated by Moscow.

However, it would be a mistake to think that it is possible at a set day and hour to call the proletarian and petty-bourgeois masses to elect committees of action on the basis of a given statute. Such an approach would be purely bureaucratic and consequently barren. The workers will be able to elect a committee of action only in those cases in which they themselves participate in some sort of *action* and feel the need for revolutionary leadership. In question here is not the *formal democratic* representation of *all* and *any* masses but the *revolutionary* representation of the *struggling* masses. The committee of action is an apparatus of struggle. ...

The greatest danger in France is that the revolutionary energy of the masses will be dissipated in spurts, in isolated explosions like Toulon, Brest, and Limoges, and give way to apathy. Only conscious traitors or hopeless muddleheads are capable of thinking that in the present situation it is possible to keep the masses immobilized up to the moment when they will be blessed from above by the government of the People's Front. Strikes, protests, street clashes, direct uprisings, are absolutely inevitable in the present situation. The task of the proletarian party consists not in checking and paralyzing these movements but in unifying them and investing them with the greatest possible force.

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Fight for workers control of production!

The exact cause of the deadly crash of a 34-year-old United Parcel Service cargo plane in Louisville, Kentucky, Nov. 4 hasn't yet been determined. But the deaths of 14 people were not "accidents." Nor are the hundreds of other lives lost in factories, construction and transportation every year. The Boeing MD-11 plane has the second-worst safety record of any active commercial aircraft, with over 60 still in service.

All work can be organized to be done safely. But under the profit-driven workings of capitalism, cutthroat competition drives the bosses to cut corners with no regard to workers' lives and limbs. They manufacture shoddy and unsafe goods they know will break down, and impose back-breaking speedup and ever-longer schedules. In doing so they contaminate the soil, air and oceans with no concern for conserving the earth's resources for future generations.

Mineowners' drive for profit, which includes keeping unions out, is behind the rise in black lung disease among coal miners. Black lung is caused by exposure to coal and silica dust. It had been virtually eradicated when the union was stronger.

The government's refusal to maintain and upgrade infrastructure and the shipowners' drive to use ever-larger cargo vessels lay behind the death of six construction workers when a fully loaded container ship lost power and hit the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore last year, bringing it down.

The working class is the only force with an interest in assuring work is done safely. Safety cannot be en-

forced by looking to government regulatory agencies, which are set up to protect the bosses.

Using union power is the only road to prevent more disasters. In the late 1960s and '70s coal miners organized a campaign of strikes and protests that won union control over mine safety, including the right to shut down production if dust levels were too high. They fought for and won the establishment of clinics across the coalfields.

Days after leading workers and farmers to conquer power in 1917, the new Bolshevik-led government in Russia issued a decree establishing control of production "by all workers and office employees of an enterprise." Workers' representatives were given access to all company books and facilities. The decisions of their representatives were made "binding on the owners of enterprises."

The decree was the first step on the road to overturning capitalist exploitation and putting the entire economy under the direction of working people. Like the other conquests of the Russian Revolution it was later reversed in a counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin.

The example of what was achieved under V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks shows what's possible. Similar steps were taken in Cuba after workers and peasants there, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, made a revolution in 1959. They demonstrated that workers are capable of conquering power, taking control over production and planning, and reorganizing society to meet the needs of all. That is the road to ensuring no worker has to die on the job.

ACLU joins fight to end Missouri ban on 'Militant'

Continued from front page

what was objectionable or perhaps avoid a need for the appeal. The MDOC extended the time the *Militant* has to appeal to Nov. 24.

"The overturn of the first ban is important for the rights of prisoners and for the right of the *Militant* to reach its readers," John Studer, editor of the *Militant*, said. "We will continue the fight for the release of issue no. 36."

To join the effort to overturn the ban on issue no. 36, please send letters from unions, organizations, defenders of free speech and others. Letters should be sent to: DAI Director, Department of Corrections, 2729 Plaza Drive, P.O. Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Please email a copy to the *Militant* at themilitant@mac.com.

"The United States Supreme Court has long recognized that '[p]rison walls do not form a barrier separating prison inmates from the protections of the Constitution,'" wrote David Fathi, director, and Corene Kendrick, deputy director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, along with Luz Maria Henriquez, executive director and Gillian Wilcox, director of litigation, of the ACLU of Missouri.

"Unless *The Militant* advocates violence — and it does not — it may not be censored simply because it espouses viewpoints with which prison officials disagree," they wrote.

"MDOC's censorship of *The Militant* — a publication in print for nearly [a] century that is widely read in prisons — is unconstitutional. We urge MDOC to reverse the censorship decision, and to refrain from such unconstitutional censorship decisions in the future."

The *Militant* has nearly 350 subscribers in at least 163 state, federal and municipal prisons in 33 states. Every time the paper is denied to its subscribers, Studer said, "we challenge it and win broad support. In most cases we've won."

Prison authorities claim *Militant* issue no. 36 "Contains information which can be used to instill violence or hatred among the offender population."

Another group that wrote urging prison authorities to overturn the ban is PEN America.

Timothy Frankland, a member of the American Postal Workers in St. Paul, Minnesota, also wrote, "No substantive reason has been given for the ban, which is a clear violation of prisoners' constitutional rights and the right of the *Militant* to reach its subscribers who are currently incarcerated."

'Mandela's granddaughters'

Deeply appreciated the article, "Mandela granddaughters in Israel: 'People killed for being Jewish.'" The *Jewish News*, a paper published in Britain, added that the two women rejected the slander of calling Israel an "apartheid" state. The granddaughters told the paper: "Apartheid was government-mandated racial separation. What we saw in Israel and Gaza is very different. There is no comparison. We witnessed communities — Jewish and Arab — living, working, marrying side by side. Equating the two misrepresents both histories."

Greg McCartan
Oslo, Norway

from different parts of the island, showing the magnitude of the losses, and also the confidence that recovery is possible.

There has been an outpouring of solidarity from other parts of Cuba. One community leader on the outskirts of Havana showed me her garage with a dozen carefully labeled boxes of clothes and shoes, medicines and tools. Havana taxi drivers have taken up a collection to send six taxis. In spite of the economic crisis and shortages, Cubans are finding ways to help those who lost their homes and livelihoods.

Matilde Zimmermann
Havana, Cuba

LETTERS

Solidarity in Cuba after Hurricane Melissa

Hurricane Melissa crossed eastern Cuba Oct. 29 with sustained winds of 120 mph and torrential rains. No lives were lost, but agriculture was devastated and many thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed.

As the storm approached, brigades of electrical and construction workers with heavy equipment were sent from central and western Cuba, along with doctors and other health workers. They went to work as soon as the hurricane was over. TV news features interviews with residents, and with the linemen and others who have come in

Ottawa urges longer jail time for convoy leaders

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — The Canadian federal government is continuing its vindictive drive to railroad to prison Tamara Lich and trucker Chris Barber, spokespersons for the trucker-led 2022 Freedom Convoy outside Parliament. This was part of a fight to end government job-threatening COVID testing mandates.

Federal prosecutors announced Nov. 6 they're appealing the sentences handed down by Judge Heather Perkins-McVey Oct. 7. Both Lich and Barber were sentenced to 12 months house arrest, to be followed by several months of a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. stay-at-home curfew.

Under Canada's criminal code, mischief is a serious charge, and federal prosecutors had demanded a seven-year jail term for Lich and eight years for Barber. The house arrest sentences reflect the broad support among working people for the Freedom Convoy and their disgust and outrage with the yearslong frame-up and witch hunt Ottawa has carried out against them.

There are considerable stakes for working people in the fight by Lich and Barber. Their convictions are an attack on free speech, based on what they said on video and social media, not on any illegal actions they took.

They are defending key rights working people need to defend ourselves against the growing attacks by the ruling capitalist families and their governments today.

The goal of Canada's capitalist rulers is to jail Lich and Barber as a warning to others, particularly workers who are trying to use union power to fight for adequate wages and safer working conditions. It goes hand in hand with the Liberal government's use of anti-labor back-to-work orders to halt strikes by port, rail, postal and other workers.

Back Lich and Barber!

Lich and Barber were tried together in an unprecedented yearlong court case that ran from Sept. 5, 2023, to Sept. 13, 2024. The prosecution is still pressing to seize and auction off Barber's tractor-trailer, a motion the judge will rule on by the end of November.

Lich spent 49 days behind bars without having been convicted of anything before the trial. Both faced draconian bail conditions.

The arrests of Lich and Barber, and those of many other participants in the protest, came after then Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked the notorious Emergencies Act, fraudulently claiming the protest constituted a "national security" and "public order" emergency.

Under the act, Ottawa unleashed 3,000 cops with military-style weapons against the truckers and their supporters, brutally breaking up the protest.

Civil liberties organizations challenged the government's use of the Emergencies Act. In January 2024 federal court Justice Richard Mosley ruled that the use of the act against the Freedom Convoy was unconstitutional and illegal. He said Ottawa's action violated the rights of the Freedom Convoy participants, protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The government is appealing Mosley's ruling.

Lich and Barber continue to fight back. They have both said they will appeal their convictions.

"This new move by Ottawa against Tamara Lich and Chris Barber is a wake-up call to every union member and fighter for democratic freedoms," Katy LeRougetel, who was the Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, told the *Militant* Nov. 8.

"They need the support of the labor movement, which should campaign to support their demand their sentences and convictions be overturned, and that the draconian anti-worker, anti-democratic Emergencies Act be repealed."

'Militant' Prisoners Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com