

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Protest set against gov't move to deport Kilmar Abrego García
— PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 43 DECEMBER 1, 2025

Israel looks for way to destroy Hamas, faces US resistance

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hamas is purchasing and storing advanced weapons abroad for use in future pogroms against Jews. It has no intention of accepting the U.S.-imposed “peace” deal, ceding its armed control over Gaza. And it has not backed off its goal of destroying Israel and eliminating the Jews living there.

After the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution Nov. 17 backing President Donald Trump’s so-called peace plan, Hamas responded, reiterating that resisting Israel’s “occupation by all means is a legitimate right.” That’s its justification for its Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom that killed 1,200 Jews and others in Israel and an announcement it will do so again. The Chinese and Russian governments abstained on the resolution.

The Israel Defense Forces reports Hamas operatives have been violating the ceasefire almost every day by crossing the “yellow line” into the 53% of Gaza that is under Israeli-control.

U.S. officials are shuttling between Jerusalem, Doha, Ankara and Cairo, seeking to keep the ceasefire in place

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‘Working class needs its own party, a road to take power’

SWP ‘Militant,’ books, fund drive go over the top!



Militant/Candace Wagner

SWP member Tony Lane met Mandalynn Baird on her doorstep in Moundsville, West Virginia, Nov. 16. He explained why the working class needs to take political power. “That sounds right,” Baird said. “But how do we get there?” she asked as she subscribed to the *Militant*.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Socialist Workers Party successfully completed the party’s eight-week fall campaign to win 1,300 new *Militant* subscribers and sell the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionary

fighters Nov. 18. Members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. joined in the effort. The SWP also raised \$140,000 for its annual Party-Building Fund.

As we go to press, the totals are 1,308 subscriptions, 1,965 books and \$144,868 contributed to the fund. A chart showing figures from each area is on page 5.

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US rulers push to deepen their domination in Latin America

BY RÓGER CALERO

As a U.S. naval strike group led by the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world’s largest and most advanced warship, entered the Caribbean Sea, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth further heightened tensions in the region by announcing Operation Southern Spear Nov. 13. At the same time, senior U.S. military officials reportedly presented President Donald Trump with options for military strikes inside Venezuela, escalating threats to violate the country’s national sovereignty.

The U.S. military continues to attack what it claims are drug-trafficking small boats off the coast of Venezuela and Colombia. U.S. forces conducted their 21st lethal strike Nov. 15, bringing the number of people killed to date to 83. Washington claims the massive armada it has assembled in the Caribbean is aimed at “narcoterrorist organizations” tied to President Nicolás Maduro and other high Venezuelan government officials. No evidence has been presented to back up these claims.

To underscore Washington’s intention to assert its domination in the region, Hegseth said, “The Western

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Quebec gov’t opens a frontal assault on the unions and on political rights



Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN)

Strike rally for better wages, schedules, working conditions by maintenance workers, bus and subway drivers, office workers at Montreal Transport Society. Quebec unions have called mass rally in Montreal Nov. 29 opposing government attacks on union, political rights. See ad page 2.

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — In response to a serious escalation of the Quebec government’s attacks on union rights and democratic freedoms, all four Quebec union federations and five other unions have called for a demonstration here Nov. 29. Thousands are expected to attend.

The focus of the action is a series

of laws adopted or proposed by Premier Francois Legault’s Coalition for the Future of Quebec (CAQ) government, which give it the power to outlaw strikes, expand its interference in union affairs and restrict unions’ rights to engage in political activity.

As the laws are being discussed, four unions representing 9,000 main-

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‘Militant’ wins victory in fight against censorship in Missouri prison system!

BY JANET POST

The *Militant* was informed Nov. 18 by David Brengle, from the Office of General Counsel at the Missouri Department of Corrections, that the ban on the Oct. 13 issue of the paper at the South Central Correctional Center

in Licking, Missouri, has been overturned. This is the second time in the recent months that a ban on the *Militant* there has been reversed.

This is an important victory in the fight to defend the constitutional rights of both workers behind bars and the *Militant*.

In response to an appeal from the paper, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union’s National Prison Project, ACLU affiliate in Missouri and PEN America had written the

Continued on page 9

Workers face blows as today’s crisis of capitalism deepens

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Rising prices for basic necessities, from groceries to electricity and health care, and now growing layoffs, are making it increasingly difficult for working people to make ends meet. This crisis has grown whether the bosses’ Democratic or Republican parties are at the helm. It’s rooted in the workings of the capitalist system itself.

Those in the ruling class and their well-remunerated upper-middle-class supporters are getting richer from the

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Starbucks workers strike over contract, wages, schedules

Quebec gov't attacks unions, rights

Continued from front page
tenance workers, bus and subway drivers, and office workers at the Montreal Transport Society (STM) have been conducting or plan to conduct strikes for better wages, schedules and working conditions.

Under the government's threat to declare its strike illegal, the maintenance workers' union suspended its four-week action Nov. 12. Two days later the bus and subway drivers' union called off a strike scheduled over the next two days after reaching a tentative agreement.

The adoption of Bill 2 ended negotiations between the government and the federation of doctors. It imposes conditions that force doctors to meet quotas for the number of patients they see or face major financial penalties.

Some 13,000 doctors and medical students took part in a boisterous Montreal protest rally against the law Nov. 9, a week after a similar action in Quebec City.

At the rally, George Michaels, a family doctor for 40 years, told the *Montreal Gazette* that its "negative impact on health care" for patients will be similar to the 1990s cutbacks "that closed several hospitals in the province and thousands of doctors and nurses were let go."

Under penalty of fines up to 20,000 Canadian dollars (\$14,200) a day, the government ordered the doctors to end their protests.

Against the right to strike

Law 14, formerly Bill 89, authorizes the Minister of Labor to end strikes and impose mandatory arbitration. It's set to come into force Nov. 30. The law is explicitly based on similar powers in the federal Labor Code that Ottawa has used since the summer of 2024 to force

railway, port and postal workers, as well as Air Canada flight attendants, to end strikes. The flight attendants set an example by defying the law and making gains in the contract they reached.

Bill 3 aims to restrict the ability of unions to fund "political action," such as building solidarity with workers in struggle and speaking out and acting on political questions. It's "an anti-worker, anti-union, pro-business law designed to weaken unions," the United Steelworkers union in Quebec said.

The CAQ has explicitly stated the bill targets the Autonomous Federation of Teaching (FAE), a teachers' union federation, which is challenging Quebec's Bill 21 in the Supreme Court of Canada. The bill prohibits teachers from wearing religious symbols. Many FAE members are Muslim and wear a headscarf.

Bill 3 requires unions submit their financial records for annual audits by the government. It imposes mandatory minimum quorums for union meetings and other intervention in internal union affairs.

"We will stand up and fight against this law of political interference and control. It is time to mobilize," the Steelworkers' statement said.

Gov't seeks to divide working class

The CAQ government has also passed laws or introduced bills to divide workers based on their language or religion. On Oct. 9, it filed a bill to establish a Quebec "constitution," that would take precedence over any existing or future laws.

It incorporates Law 96, passed in 2022, which restricts access to services and education in English in a province where close to 20% of the population speaks that language regularly



Oppose Quebec government cutbacks, attacks on unions and political rights!

Mass united union rally 1:30 p.m. Saturday, November 29 Canada Place, Montreal

The Quebec government has opened a frontal assault on the labor movement and union and political rights, as well as cutbacks that deepen the social crisis workers face today. Join the mass, united rally set for Nov. 29 in Montreal, called by the union confederations.

at home. Protests have been organized against it by English-language rights organizations.

The bill incorporates the "notwithstanding clause" of the Canadian Constitution, which allows provincial and the federal governments to exempt laws they pass from any challenge in court. The governments of Ontario and Alberta have used the clause to pass anti-strike laws.

Finally, on Oct. 30, the government passed Bill 94. It extends previous legislation prohibiting anyone who works in a public school from wearing religious symbols, such as Muslim head scarves, Sikh turbans and Jewish kippahs. Among those targeted are care provid-

ers, secretaries, volunteer librarians, janitors and cafeteria staff.

Under the pretext of combating what the government claims is a decline of the French language, Bill 94 also requires school staff to communicate in French with each other and with students, even if they have another language in common.

The CAQ's assault on democratic freedoms aims to foster divisions in the working class in the interests of the bosses. It's part of an offensive by the bosses, backed by Ottawa and provincial governments, to try to break ongoing working-class and union resistance amid a deepening capitalist economic and social crisis.

THE MILITANT

Teamsters call for action over UPS plane crash

After an engine came off, a UPS plane crashed in Louisville, Kentucky, Nov. 4 killing 14 people. That model jet, only used for hauling cargo today, has had some earlier crashes. Only workers control can end the deadly results of the bosses chasing profits at the price of safety.



Militant/Amy Husk
Nov. 6 vigil at Teamsters hall in Louisville for victims of UPS plane crash two days earlier.

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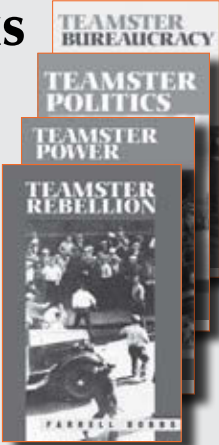
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US domination in Latin America

Continued from front page

Hemisphere is America's neighborhood — and we will protect it," as he announced a Joint Task Force. Mauricio Claver-Carone, an adviser to the U.S. president, added, "You can't be the preeminent global power if you're not the preeminent regional power."

The government in Caracas denies the U.S. accusation of drug trafficking, denouncing Washington's violation of its sovereignty, and has mobilized tens of thousands of troops and volunteer militias against possible U.S. military intervention. Governments in the region have warned of the danger of an invasion.

The arrival of the Ford and its accompanying battle group brings the total deployment of U.S. troops in the area to approximately 15,000. This includes Marines and troops in Puerto Rico and aboard eight other warships in the Caribbean, as well as fighter bombers now based in the area.

U.S. imperialist interests

The U.S. Southern Command explains the new Joint Task Force will advance its counternarcotics operations by adding unmanned systems on the land, sea and air. At the same time, it will be "learning lessons for other theaters." In other words, practicing for future wars to come.

This show of force in the Caribbean is part of broader moves by Washington to confront rival powers seeking to expand their influence in the Americas.

It goes hand in hand with reactivating and reviving military bases in the region it had been forced to abandon or deactivate earlier.

The U.S. rulers are pressing for greater military presence in the Panama Canal, and the Pentagon is renovating the Roosevelt Roads naval base in Puerto Rico. They had been forced to abandon this base under the pressure of mass mobilizations by working people in Puerto Rico against their bombing practice on the island of Vieques.

The Pentagon is also building new radar and communication systems at civilian airports in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as adding space to base aircraft, and refueling installations. Through a series of "security cooperation" agreements, the U.S. military maintains additional installations in Aruba, Curacao and Colombia.

For decades it has kept a strategic outpost at the Soto Cano Air Base in

Honduras. Also known as Palmerola, the base was used in the 1980s as part of U.S. interventions in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Washington is pressing governments in the region to back its economic, military, and political aims, offering aid to those who agree and retaliation against those who refuse.

Broader target: Beijing

In its efforts to curb Beijing's growing economic and military footprint in Latin America, Washington has scored two significant gains in Argentina. In July 2023 it pressured Buenos Aires to purchase 24 used F-16 fighter planes from Denmark, instead of taking Beijing's offer of brand new JF-17 fighter jets. More recently the Trump administration extended a \$20 billion financial-rescue plan to bolster the Javier Milei government, which has faced severe economic pressure.

The loan came with conditions. "You can do some trade," President Trump told Milei during his Oct. 14 visit to the White House, but you "certainly shouldn't be doing anything having to do with the military with China."

The U.S. government has expressed its strong opposition to Beijing-Buenos Aires infrastructure projects, including the existing Espacio Lejano space-tracking facility located in Pa-



Cuban News Agency

Fifty thousand demonstrated in Havana in solidarity with the people of Venezuela Oct. 17. Along with targeting government in Caracas, U.S. rulers look to attack the Cuban Revolution.

tagonia. Washington views the station as part of Beijing's strategy to enhance its global surveillance capabilities aimed at the U.S.

Washington wants Beijing out of Argentina. But China is Argentina's second-largest trade partner after Brazil. Some 80% of Argentine meat and soy exports go to China. Joint infrastructure projects in Argentina have included construction of two hydroelectric dams, as well as a contract

to build a nuclear power plant. Chinese companies and banks are major lenders and investors in Argentinean telecommunications, railway, mining and other industries.

Beijing has used its Belt and Road Initiative to become South America's largest trading partner.

These are part of the bigger stakes in the U.S. rulers' operations today in the Caribbean and throughout the Hemisphere.

Author Boualem Sansal released from prison in Algeria

BY JANET POST

In a victory for human rights, 81-year-old prize-winning Algerian novelist Boualem Sansal was released from imprisonment Nov. 12 and flown to a hospital in Germany where he is being treated for prostate cancer.

Sansal's release by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune came after growing pressure from writers, artists and civil libertarians worldwide. Tebboune said he granted a humanitarian pardon after an appeal from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Sansal was arrested in November 2024 at the Algiers airport returning from France. In March he was convicted and sentenced under Algeria's repressive anti-terrorism laws to five years in prison for "undermining national unity" and insulting public institutions.

Sansal is longtime and outspoken critic of Algerian government authoritarianism, Islamic fundamentalism and government attacks on freedom of expression. His arrest came after giving an interview where he argued that under colonial rule the French rulers had redrawn Algeria's borders to include land that belongs to Morocco.

Tebboune was elected with military support in 2019 after a political movement of hundreds of thousands forced the resignation of then President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Tebboune has led a crackdown on debate and dissent with hundreds arrested.

Sansal's first book, *The Oath of the Barbarians*, published in 1999, revealed corruption and brutality in the government's military suppression of an Islamist revolt that began in 1992, and resulted in as many as 150,000 people killed.

In July 2012 Sansal received an Arab Nobel Prize awarded in France for *Rue Darwin* (Darwin Street). But

the prize money was revoked under pressure from opponents of Israel's right to exist, citing Sansal's participation in the Jerusalem International Writers Festival in Israel. Hamas said he had "committed an act of treason against the Palestinian people." Hamas "is a terrorist movement of the worst kind," Sansal responded. "Hamas has taken Gazans hostage. It has taken Islam hostage."

Sansal's latest book, *2084: The End of the World*, won the Academie Francaise's Grand Prize in 2015. A modern take on George Orwell's novel *1984*, it describes a postapocalyptic extremist caliphate where anyone who criticizes the regime is disappeared.

Continued repression

An appeal by well-known Algerian novelist Kamel Dauoud, Salman Rushdie, Annie Ernaux, Wole Soyinka and many others called for his

release. PEN America joined the call, denouncing the "climate of fear and repression" in Algeria.

While Sansal was released, the regime has continued to repress writers and artists the rulers consider political opponents. On Nov. 12, Mohamed Tadjadit, a 31-year-old Algerian poet, was sentenced to five years in prison. A former fruit street vendor, he became well-known during the anti-government protests in Algeria in 2019.

Tadjadit has been detained at least six times for his writings and participating in peaceful protests. "A homeland oppressed, dishonored," is how one of his poems describes Algeria. "They placed justice under money's weight. And made freedom forbidden."

Amnesty International, PEN America and 18 other prominent organizations have circulated a statement calling for his freedom.



Arnaud Cesar Vilette/OLA News/Sipa via AP Images

Worldwide protests freed author Boualem Sansal, a dual citizen of Algeria and France, from imprisonment in Algeria Nov. 12. Above, rally in Paris in March calls for his release.

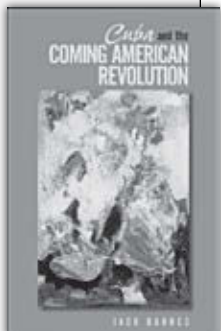
Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

This is a book about the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary — it can be made.

It's about the class struggle in the U.S., where the capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly. \$10

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Supreme Court discusses SWP role in the fight for ballot access

BY TERRY EVANS

A victory won by the Socialist Workers Party in a political rights lawsuit against the Illinois State Board of Elections in 1979 became a central focus of the discussion at an Oct. 8 U.S. Supreme Court hearing.

At issue was a case brought by Illinois Republican Congressman Michael Bost, who is appealing a lower court decision that he has no legal standing for his challenge to a state law that allows mail-in ballots to be counted up to 14 days after the election. The lower court ruled Bost couldn't sue because he was assured of winning the election, as he had done in 2024 by a wide margin.

"You pointed to the Illinois Socialist Workers case," Justice Neil Gorsuch said to Bost's attorney, Paul Clement. "They had zero chance of winning the election."

Does that mean the SWP's challenge to Illinois' petitioning requirements should have been thrown out? Illinois Solicitor General Jane Notz implied the answer was yes, stubbornly insisting that to mount a challenge you had to face "a substantial risk of harm."

"What you're sketching out for us is a potential disaster," Chief Justice John Roberts said in response to Notz's comments. It would force courts to guess whether a candidate was likely to win or not, he said, to judge if they had standing to challenge the election law. He said he supported a different standard.

Referring to Bost, Roberts said, "Look, he's a candidate. He's challenging a rule in the election. You know, isn't that enough?"

In the SWP case, the Supreme Court held the party had standing to bring a case that struck down an Illinois law imposing discriminatory petitioning requirements on the party and other candidates running independently of the Democrats and Republicans. The ruling in that case advanced constitutional rights.

Clement was asked if he thought political parties that are considered to

have little chance of winning, like the SWP, should have standing to challenge election laws. He said yes, "I stand in locked shoulder with the Socialist Workers Party."

"Those are interesting bedfellows you're taking," Justice Sonia Sotomayor interjected, as if sharing a concern for equal justice for all was something to be sneered at.

"But I'm delighted to have those bedfellows because that's the way we think about elections in this country," Clement replied, backing broad access to the ballot. "We don't think just give me the bottom-line result."

The Illinois law overturned by the Supreme Court in the SWP case required the party's candidates for local office obtain signatures equal to 5% of the number of votes cast at the last election, far more than required for statewide office. The court ruled the law violated the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause.

The 1979 ruling was not only a victory for the SWP. It "can make it easier for the labor movement to nominate and run candidates who truly represent working people," the *Militant* wrote at the time.

The court has yet to rule on whether Bost has standing to pursue his case.

Miami rally: 'Extend TPS protection for Haitians!'



Militant/Rachele Fruit

MIAMI — A car caravan and press conference here Nov. 15 demanded the extension of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, as well as those from Venezuela and 15 other countries. Cubans in the U.S. had also been protected under a separate government program.

The government ended protection from deportation and the right to work in the U.S. for over 600,000 Venezuelans Nov. 7, and overnight many lost jobs they'd held for years. A federal judge in July blocked a Department of Homeland Security order revoking TPS for Haitians. It is now due to expire Feb. 3.

The protest was led by the Families Action Network Movement and brought together some 25 people, representatives from several churches, immigrant rights organizations and elected officials.

Harris Harrington, an adviser for Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, told this *Militant* reporter three more protests are planned in December and January. A regular protest at the Krome Detention Center Dec. 7 will be devoted to the issue. Campaigners are building a contingent to take part in the Martin Luther King Day parade on Jan. 19.

— RACHELE FRUIT

ON THE PICKET LINE

Starbucks workers strike over contract, wages, schedules

ST. ANTHONY, Minn. — At the Starbucks workers' picket line here Nov. 14, picket captain Abby Haland told the *Militant*, "Starbucks jobs aren't livable without winning a contract. Low wages and lack of benefits mean many of us work two jobs and are on food stamps."

Over 1,000 members of Starbucks Workers United, an affiliate of the Service Employees International Union, went on strike at 65 stores in more than 40 cities across the country Nov. 13, including here. The union chose that date because Starbucks bosses had set

it as Red Cup Day, an annual giveaway and one of their busiest days of the year. This meant strikers could reach a larger audience. Their slogan is, "No contract, no coffee!"

"There is no system in place to guarantee hours," Haland said. "It depends on the manager, but they can keep our schedules at 19 hours a week, just below the point where we could receive benefits. Starbucks knows what our demands are and needs to come back and negotiate."

The union represents 9,500 workers at 550 of Starbucks' 10,000 stores. Strike demands include a signed con-

tract with higher wages, more scheduled hours per week, and an end to bosses' attacks on the union.

Starbucks had pledged in 2023 to sign contracts at all unionized stores by the end of the next year. But then in September 2024 a new CEO, Brian Niccol, was brought in and closed hundreds of shops, including 59 where workers had voted to unionize.

Niccol claims the company has the best benefits and pays the highest wages in the industry and that the union's demands are "unreasonable."

In press statements Starbucks workers and their union representatives tell a different story. According to *Forbes* magazine, the average starting wage is just \$15.25 an hour in most states and the majority of the workers are kept under 20 hours a week to save the company from having to pay for benefits.

"We have won incredible support from people in the community who know we need decent wages to pay our bills," Haland said. "So, let's win this contract!"

The strike is ongoing. Go and show your solidarity!

— Mary Martin

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

November 27, 2000

HAVANA — The Second World Conference of Friendship and Solidarity with Cuba opened Nov. 10 with more than 4,000 in attendance from 117 countries. Hundreds of organizations are represented, including solidarity organizations, trade unions, peasant organizations and religious groups that have been working to end the 40-year U.S. policy aimed at overturning the revolution.

Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly of People's Power, outlined for conference participants the economic, political and military aggression waged by the U.S. government against the revolution.

Alarcón stressed that the revolution itself is the target: "Most important is that a revolutionary power is in place, in the hands of a fighting proletariat. The ones who can force the U.S. government to change things are the people of the United States."

THE MILITANT

November 28, 1975

On Nov. 10, the last Portuguese troops in Angola boarded ships bound for Lisbon. After 490 years of direct colonial rule, the Portuguese flag no longer flies over that African country.

The winning of independence is a victory for the tenacious struggle of the people of Angola against the long years of brutal war waged by the oldest imperialist power in the world. It is also a tribute to the revolutionary upsurge of the workers and peasants in Portugal, and the rank-and-file soldiers who rebelled against fighting any longer for their imperialist masters.

On Nov. 10, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger threatened increased U.S. intervention in Angola. Washington will not tolerate Soviet "hegemonial aspirations," Kissinger hypocritically proclaimed. The demand must be raised in every imperialist capital: "Hands off Angola!"

THE MILITANT

November 27, 1950

As the result of the defeat of many union-backed capitalist party candidates in the recent election, the organized workers are being flooded with advice like "get out of politics" and "politics is no place for the labor movement."

What the setback suffered really shows is that if the union leaders offer nothing better than the corrupt, war-mongering, pro-capitalist Democratic Party politicians, then many workers will turn in disgust and desperation to the corrupt, war-mongering, pro-capitalist Republican Party, or not vote at all.

But if labor cannot "win" with the Democrats does that mean it must leave politics entirely in the hands of a few big capitalist newspapers, the corporations and their hired political agents? That would simply mean unconditional surrender to the politics of Big Business and abdication of all political rights.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



See distributors on page 8, or order at www.pathfinderpress.com

‘Militant,’ books, fund over top!

Continued from front page

In Pittsburgh, SWP members campaigned in communities in the surrounding coal-mining region Nov. 16. “We’re here to discuss the worsening economic conditions working people face and the growing threats of World War III,” party member Tony Lane told Mandalynn Baird, a nursing assistant, on her doorstep in Moundsville, West Virginia.

“There’s only one force that can prevent war and build a new society based on human solidarity — the working class,” he said. “As we become more united, we will be powerful enough to take state power into our own hands.”

“That sounds right,” Baird said, “but how do we get there?” Lane explained the importance of bringing solidarity to every struggle in the interests of working people today, how this helps build workers’ confidence in ourselves as a class and why we need to build a political party of our own.

Baird described the challenges she faces at work. “I oversee 60 patients by myself, most of whom suffer from Alzheimer’s. I have to turn patients over. Fortunately I have upper body strength from growing up in the country and chopping wood.” She works six straight 12-hour days with eight days off in between. “It’s rough for my three kids.”

She subscribed to the *Militant*.

Combating Jew-hatred

Everywhere they’ve campaigned, SWP and CL members explain that the fight against Jew-hatred is at the center of Israel’s war to destroy Hamas, the only road to preventing more pogroms against Jews and defending the existence of Israel in the face of Hamas’ threats to wipe it out.

The U.S. rulers are ratcheting up pressure on Israel to hold off carrying the war through to the end, seeking instead to advance their own in-

terests in the Middle East.

In Fort Worth, Texas, SWP members have sold 14 copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. “Most of them to workers we meet going door to door in working-class neighborhoods,” Alyson Kennedy reports.

“During World War II my father saw prisoners from the death camps in Europe and couldn’t believe what he was seeing,” *Militant* subscriber Johnnie Lewis told SWP member George Chalmers. Lewis’ wife had visited the Holocaust museum in Dallas, where the “pile of shoes” left by concentration camp victims had a big impact on her, he said. Lewis got a copy of the book to learn more about where Jew-hatred comes from and what can be done to end it.

‘We blew through the fund goal’

Many party branches went over their quotas for the SWP Party-Building Fund.

“The Pittsburgh branch originally took a quota of \$6,000 for the fund,” Candace Wagner reports. “Many who regularly contribute pledged larger amounts this year, reflecting their determination to see the party reach more workers. We blew right past our goal and raised it to \$7,000. We’re now well over that.

“The highlight has been winning new contributors. A *Militant* subscriber we visited in Steubenville, Ohio, threw in an extra \$47 when she bought two books. One worker who renewed his subscription gave \$20 to the fund. After SWP members talked with another worker, he followed them down the street to give them a \$20 bill.”

In Washington, D.C., Arlene Rubinstein reports SWP campaigners won 10 new contributors to the fund, including a \$40 donation. Five of these were collected by Glova Scott from



Militant/Eric Simpson

Members of the SWP sold 7 *Militant* subscriptions at an anti-ICE demonstration in San Francisco Oct. 23. They raised demands to unite workers and strengthen the unions, “Stop ICE raids and deportations now!” and “Amnesty for all undocumented immigrants working in the U.S.”

co-workers at the BCTGM-organized bakery where she works.

Many unionists appreciate the *Militant*’s “On the Picket Line” column, a valuable tool for publicizing their struggles, learning about other strikes and organizing drives and building solidarity.

Here in the Bay Area some 40 workers at the Safeway bread plant in Richmond, members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 125, recently won a contract after organizing protests outside the plant.

SWP members Joel Britton and Eric Simpson, a member of Local 125 at another factory, talked to workers outside the plant at shift change Nov. 15. “These workers were glad to see the ‘On the Picket Line’ item on how they won a substantial wage increase,” Britton said.

Four workers signed up for introductory subscriptions and three books were sold — two of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* and one of *The Working Class and the Transformation of*

Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism.

In Minneapolis, Edwin Fruit reports “there’s a real hunger for books in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and other languages.

“Last week at the Militant Labor Forum, on ‘Lessons from the 1930s on the fight against fascism and war for today,’ we sold six books, three in French to a worker from Togo.

“At work I sold four books in Arabic to a Somali co-worker. And two books in Spanish to a Nicaraguan-born co-worker, including issue no. 9 of the *New International* on ‘The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution.’”

The international fall campaign is over but SWP and CL members continue to extend the reach of their parties, week-in and week-out, as the capitalists’ war moves and their attacks on workers living and working conditions deepen.

The party is announcing more candidates for office in 2026. You can join in campaigning activities by contacting the area nearest you listed on page 8.

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

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	60	55	61	\$10,000	\$10,008
Chicago*	75	80	65	65	\$14,000	\$14,312
Cincinnati	55	57	55	57	\$5,000	\$5,023
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	67	60	65	\$5,000	\$5,336
Los Angeles	80	83	80	88	\$14,000	\$14,353
Miami	35	37	35	35	\$5,000	\$5,160
Minneapolis*	65	68	65	75	\$6,700	\$6,928
N. New Jersey	70	73	70	73	\$7,500	\$8,123
New York	90	93	90	98	\$20,500	\$21,224
Oakland	80	86	80	87	\$15,000	\$16,538
Philadelphia	50	55	50	53	\$6,000	\$6,109
Pittsburgh*	50	50	50	50	\$7,000	\$7,369
Seattle	65	70	65	68	\$15,000	\$15,135
Washington	45	51	45	46	\$4,500	\$4,750
Other		29		713		\$4,500
Total U.S.	875	959	865	1,634	\$135,200	\$144,868
Prisoners		130				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	45	48	65	67		
Manchester*	50	50	45	46		
Total U.K.	95	98	110	113		
Canada	90	90	100	119		
Australia	30	31	30	49		
Other Int’l				50		
Total	1,090	1,308	1,105	1,965	\$135,200	\$144,868
SHOULD BE	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	\$140,000	\$140,000
*Raised goal						

Protest set against gov’t move to deport Abrego García

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — Supporters of Kilmar Abrego García will rally in his defense Nov. 20 outside a U.S. District Court hearing in Greenbelt, Maryland, protesting the Donald Trump administration’s latest move to immediately deport him to Liberia. CASA, an area immigrant rights group, called the rally, “Freedom for Kilmar.” It demands his release “to bring him home where he belongs — with his family.”

Along with his family, friends, CASA and other supporters of immigrant rights, his union, the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, has backed his fight for due process and release from prison.

If he is unable to prevail in his fight to stay in the U.S. with his wife and children, Abrego García says he is willing to go to Costa Rica, which says it

is ready to accept him as a refugee. He would continue his fight to return and remain in the U.S. from there. The government refuses to consider this. Instead, in a transparent effort to punish him, the Justice Department insists on deporting him to Africa.

In a gross violation of the constitutional right to due process, the 30-year-old sheet metal apprentice from Beltsville, Maryland, was seized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and deported to El Salvador March 15, despite a court order barring the government from sending him there. He and his mother had fled to the U.S. after they were threatened by gangs in El Salvador. Without a hearing, he was flown to the notorious CECOT prison where he was tortured.

Courts, from Maryland to the U.S. Supreme Court, ordered the Justice Department to bring him home. Finally, under pressure of public protests, he was returned in June, but immediately arrested on frame-up charges in a Tennessee court of being a gang member involved in “human smuggling.” He insists these charges are false.

The government says they’ll drop the charges if Abrego García submits to going to Africa.

In August Judge Waverly Crenshaw,

who is presiding over the Tennessee case, said the government’s case was a “poor attempt to tie Abrego to MS-13,” the Salvadoran gang ICE claims he was tied up with.

Waverly, as well as Judge Paula Xinis who is hearing Abrego García’s immigration case in Maryland, have sharply criticized government officials for their prejudicial public attacks on Abrego García. They both say they are considering sanctions against the officials over what looks like a case of vindictive prosecution.

On Nov. 13 the Justice Department filed 10 pages of additional material against Abrego García in the Tennessee case and the “human smuggling” charges. New witnesses were furnished who claim Abrego García is a member of the MS-13 gang, along with a new claim he sent pornographic texts to a minor.

The Nov. 20 hearing in Maryland before Judge Xinis will deal with a government motion to remove the court order barring it from deporting Abrego García to Liberia. If it succeeds, the Liberian government says it will only accept him temporarily, leaving his future up in the air.

Join this fight! As his union explains, protecting all our rights means fighting for Kilmar Abrego García.

Miners, nurses, oil workers, retirees take to streets in Iran

Water shortage, price hikes, war moves fuel protests

BY SETH GALINSKY

“Our pay slip is a mark of slavery,” several hundred temporary workers from the Fajr Jam gas refinery in Bushehr province in southern Iran chanted during a work stoppage and march Nov. 10. “Enough with promises, our table is empty.”

This is just one example of boss-labor conflicts across Iran today.

Just 60 miles away, 3,000 workers and their families from 12 refineries were marching through the streets of Asaluyeh, at the South Pars Gas Complex. They were demanding to be hired directly by the company instead of through the super-exploitative contract system. They were also demanding wage increases, more humane work schedules and other improvements.

Four days later, oil workers from at least nine refineries who are employed directly by the oil companies held protests throughout the southern oil and gas fields, demanding wage hikes, an end to a cap on their wages, improvements in retirement pay and measures to protect their retirement funds. They have been holding weekly protests for over a year.

That same week hundreds of nurses took to the streets in front of the University of Medical Sciences and Akbar

Hospital in Mashhad in northeastern Iran for three days in a row. “Inflation is in dollars, our wages are in rials,” they chanted. “Our rights are only won in the streets.” Inflation on basic necessities is now running at over 40% a year.

The Union of Retirees reports that the cost of “the simplest vegetables have increased several times.” It says people are asking angrily, “Have we reached a point where fruit has become a family’s dream?” adding, “if this path continues, tomorrow bread and eggs will also be considered luxury goods.”

Weekly protests across the country by retirees have grown a little bigger and more boisterous over the last several months.

Miners at the Zarshouran Gold Mine in West Azerbaijan, a mostly Kurdish province in the northwest, protested in front of the mine offices Nov. 13. “We all work in the same complex, but our wages and benefits are half those of the factory workers,” one said. In addition, the miners are owed back wages.

These are just some of the dozens of labor protests and strikes taking place every week in Iran amid a crippling water shortage, a deepening economic crisis and widespread opposition to the regime’s military interventions abroad aimed at extending its power



Nov. 4 protest and strike by workers in the South Pars gas field for higher wages, more humane work schedules. Dozens of labor actions and strikes are taking place every week in Iran.

and at destroying Israel, the only refuge for Jews in the world.

Severe water shortage

“A whopping 19 dams — up from nine three weeks ago — are on the verge of drying out, filled to less than 5% capacity,” Al Jazeera reports. In Tehran a drop in pressure between midnight and 5 a.m. essentially cuts off water nightly.

Iranian authorities have depleted so much of the water in underground aquifers that over 800 towns and villages, including Tehran, face land collapses due to subsidence. In September 40 schools and a residential complex were evacuated because of imminent collapse.

member Sonya Fatah also spoke.

Jewish organizations across the country denounced the attack. “This shocking act of antisemitic violence reflects the escalating climate of intimidation facing Jewish students on Canadian campuses,” the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center said.

“Behind it all, there’s an abject failure of government representatives to call out Jew-hatred at any level,” said Rabbi Joe Kanofsky of Toronto synagogue Kehillat Shaarei Torah. The synagogue had been vandalized for the 10th time the week before.

The Canadian Antisemitism Education Foundation called on the university administration to end “its discriminatory policies of keeping Jewish events off campus.”

Most of the capitalist media coverage of the attack played down its violent character and the Jew-hating, pro-Hamas character of the forces involved.

A *Toronto Star* article never mentioned the name of the group that organized the attack. It described them only as “a group of protesters.” The paper also failed to report the attack had been organized to break up the meeting by force.

The CBC News report emphasized the attackers’ claim they “were grabbed, shoved, chased and thrown to the ground” by one of the IDF speakers. But, as a video of the attack clearly shows, he was trying to defend the meeting against an attacking mob.

Students Supporting Israel President Ilan Sinelnikov said that the Canadian tour of the two IDF soldiers will continue, reaching as many campuses as possible — especially those where Jewish students feel isolated and intimidated.

Israel looks to destroy Hamas

Continued from front page

by pressing Israel to hold off destroying Hamas. Their plan includes a “transitional government” and an “International Stabilization Force” made up of foreign troops to police Gaza.

Washington claims to be trying to “balance” the needs of all parties. But the U.S. rulers are only interested in one party — the U.S. capitalist class, its plunder of the region and its need for alliances with governments in the region, including Tehran.

Hamas — backed by the reactionary Iranian regime — says it opposes any international force. Hamas official Osama Hamdan says the group never agreed to disarmament. No Arab government is going to send in its troops to do battle with the Jew-hating group.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that Gaza “will be demilitarized and Hamas will be dismantled, either the easy way or the hard way,” whatever the “plans” of the White House.

Meanwhile, Hamas is taking advantage of the tenuous truce to reassert its control, collect taxes, levy fees on imported fuel and cigarettes and fine merchants it claims are overcharging customers.

Hamas keeps brutalizing Gazans

Hamas continues to beat, torture, kill or detain Palestinians to prevent any opposition to its dictatorial rule. Its thugs abducted Mahmoud Moeen Khilla from his workplace in Gaza City and tortured him for eight hours Nov. 12, dumping his lifeless body in front of al-Shifa Hospital. Hamas later said it was an “unfortunate incident” and cynically offered its “sincere condolences” to his family.



Hamas thugs tortured Mahmoud Moeen Khilla, dumped his body at al-Shifa Hospital. Hamas said it was an “unfortunate incident.”

On Nov. 17, the Abdul Salam Yaseen Company, which runs water-desalination plants all over Gaza, shut down its operations after Hamas thugs detained operation director Mohammad Abu Awda at work. Hundreds of thousands of Gazans rely on the plants for clean water.

The company issued a statement condemning the arrest and demanding Abu Awda’s release. Within 24 hours, he was freed and the company resumed operations. But the company issued another statement offering an “explicit apology for any confusion” caused by its earlier comments, saying the arrest was “nothing more than a misunderstanding” and pledging its “full respect to the relevant authorities” — Hamas.

‘Most people in Gaza oppose Hamas’

“It’s a mistake to treat all of Gaza like it’s Hamas and Hamas like it is all of Gaza,” said lawyer Mousen al-Natour during an Oct. 23 interview on the Live From the Table podcast. Natour was a central organizer of protests for democratic rights in Gaza in 2019 and earlier this year organized marches there of thousands demanding “Hamas, Out! Out!”

He was asked if videos from the Oct. 7 pogrom showing crowds of Gazans cheering Hamas as it paraded Israeli hostages through the streets reflected the views of most Gazans. “How many people did you see in those videos,” al-Natour asked. “Hundreds? There are 2 million people in Gaza.”

When asked about Israel’s war against Hamas, he replied, “War is horrible. But you cannot take Hamas from the scene without a war. No one can degrade its capability without a war.”

“Most people are against Hamas,” he said. “They don’t want a temporary peace. We need a peace that lasts forever with the Israelis.”

Getting the boot of Hamas off the back of the people of Gaza would re-



Secretary of State Marco Rubio, center, at U.S.-run Civil-Military Coordination Center in Israel Oct. 24. Center’s main goal is to advance the U.S. imperialist rulers’ interests in the Middle East. Key to this for Washington is restraining Israel from continued efforts to destroy Hamas.

move the biggest obstacle to working people there being able to organize in defense of their own class interests and to forge ties with working people in Israel and throughout the region.

Strife, divisions in the West Bank

The West Bank is another battleground in the fight to defend Israel as a refuge for Jews. Unlike Gaza, Israeli settlements dot the territory. Tehran arms Hamas and Islamic Jihad units there in the hope of creating another outpost to use in its war to destroy Israel. About 40% of the territory is under the civil control of the Palestinian Authority and 60% under Israeli control. There have been decades of disputes over land rights, access to water and roads.

In 2023 there were an average of 214 terror attacks per month spearheaded by Hamas and Islamic Jihad on Jewish residents of the West Bank. Israel Defense Forces stepped up its operations against the Jew-hating terror there, and the number of terror attacks has now dropped to 57 a month.

But a small and persistent minority of residents of Israeli settlements attack Palestinian farmers and workers. In October — olive-picking season — the

Israel Defense Forces “recorded 86 incidents of ‘nationalist crime’ compared with 25 in the same period last year.”

While some of those attacking Palestinians have been arrested, in many cases Israeli soldiers have looked the other way, including when those attacked are Israeli Jews and others who have volunteered to help farmers complete the harvest. And sometimes Israeli troops prevent the farmers from going to their plots, saying they are “security zones.”

A mosque in Deir Istiya, a Palestinian village in the West Bank was torched and defaced Nov. 12. The day before dozens of Israeli rightists carried out arson attacks on Palestinian factories and farmland between Nablus and Ulkarem. They also attacked IDF soldiers who were trying to stop them.

Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting that Israel “will take very forceful action against the riots against” Palestinians and IDF soldiers “because we are a nation of laws.”

The situation in the West Bank cannot be definitively addressed until Hamas both in Gaza and elsewhere is destroyed. This will open up space for forging ties between Jewish, Arab and other workers and farmers.

Former hostages describe torture, abuse by Hamas

BY SETH GALINSKY

Along with the slaughter of 1,200 Jews and others and the rape and mutilation of dozens of women, a central part of Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom was the kidnapping of 251 hostages, forcing them into captivity in Gaza.

But more facts about Hamas’ brutality are coming out now that all remaining living hostages have been released. Their stories help lay bare the true character of the Jew-hating thugs.

Rom Braslavski, who spent 738 days in captivity, described Hamas’ depravity in an interview with Israel’s Channel 13. He was abducted from the popular Nova Music Festival, a prime Hamas target, where he had been working as a security guard. He was 19 years old.

Braslavski was kept alone the entire time, held by Hamas ally Islamic Jihad, except for 48 hours spent with fellow hostage Sasha Troufanov in Rafah in May 2024. For that brief period, “we spoke for hours, without stopping,” Braslavski said. He said he was often fed less than one piece of pita bread a day.

Conditions worsened in March 2025 after he refused the demand he convert to Islam. The captors reduced his already meager food ration, and his wa-

ter ration to half a liter a day. They only allowed him to use the bathroom three times a day and kept him blindfolded almost all the time.

The thugs stepped up frequent beatings, including hitting him repeatedly with a metal whip.

The torture got even worse after August 2025, when Islamic Jihad released a video of an emaciated Braslavski describing how little he was given to eat. They began sexual abuse, stripping him naked and tying him up.

“It was sexual violence, and its main purpose was to humiliate me,” he said. “The goal was to crush my dignity.”

‘Tortured me because I’m a Jew’

“They tortured me for one reason: Because I am a Jew,” he told Channel 13. “They beat me because I’m Jewish. That’s it.”

The treatment of the hostages varied. Some were kept mostly above ground in the homes of Hamas supporters. There were those who were imprisoned with other hostages, while others were kept alone almost the whole time in Hamas’ tunnels. Some lost between 30% and 50% of their body weight.

Former hostage couple Keith and Avi-

va Siegel testified before the U.N. Committee against Torture, held in Geneva Nov. 12. Aviva was kept captive for 51 days, released in an earlier exchange for Hamas members imprisoned in Israel. Keith was kept captive for 484 days.

Keith Siegel was forced to watch while Hamas thugs beat a woman hostage as she lay on the floor with her hands and feet tied and mouth gagged.

The worse moments, Aviva Siegel testified, were seeing how the thugs “tortured my husband Keith [and] what they did to the girls. And I wasn’t even allowed to hug [them]” afterward.

These and a growing number of other hostages’ reports expose the lies of Hamas and its supporters. Hamas Political Bureau member Khalil Al-Hayya claimed Nov. 7 that the “Al-Aqsa Flood” — Hamas’ name for its Oct. 7 pogrom — “was a restoration of dignity against” the “marginalization” of the Palestinian issue. Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal cynically referred to the hostages as “guests”!

Hamas says the current ceasefire is just a temporary “truce.” It’s using the time to reassert its dictatorial power in Gaza, and have already begun preparing for the next Oct. 7.

Recommended reading

THE TURN TO INDUSTRY
Forging a proletarian party
Jack Barnes
\$15

The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the imperialist epoch
\$10

Malcolm X Black Liberation & the Road to Workers Power
JACK BARNES
\$20

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The working class in the US is destined to take political power

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November is Speeches to the Party: The Revolutionary Perspective and the Revolutionary Party by James P. Cannon, who was the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The book covers the prospects for working-class revolutionary struggle coming out of the Second World War, won by Washington. The excerpt is from the SWP's 1946 political resolution, "Theses on the American revolution." It explains why the working-class battle to take political power in the U.S. is decisive for all humanity, as Washington attempts to wield its military power to offset its weakened place as the last capitalist empire. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The United States, the most powerful capitalist country in history, is a component part of the world capitalist system and is subject to the same general laws. ... The overwhelming preponderance of American imperialism does not exempt it from the decay of world capitalism, but on the contrary acts to involve it ever more deeply, inextricably, and hopelessly.

U.S. capitalism can no more escape from the revolutionary consequences of world capitalist decay than the older



Petrograd Soviet meets amid 1917 Russian Revolution. Bolshevik Party led by V.I. Lenin went from tiny minority in February to leading workers, peasants to overthrow the czar and take power nine months later.

European capitalist powers. The blind alley in which world capitalism has arrived, and the U.S. with it, excludes a new organic era of capitalist stabilization. The dominant world position of American imperialism now accentuates and aggravates the death agony of capitalism as a whole.

American imperialism emerged victorious from the Second World War, not merely over its German and Japanese rivals, but also over its "democratic" allies, especially Great Britain. Today Wall Street unquestionably is the dominant world imperialist center. Precisely because it has issued from the war vastly strengthened in relation to all its capitalist rivals, U.S. imperialism seems indomitable. So overpowering in all fields — diplomatic, military, commercial, financial, and industrial — is Wall Street's preponderance that consolidation of its world hegemony seems to be within easy reach. Wall Street hopes to inaugurate the so-called "American Century."

In reality, the American ruling class faces more insurmountable obstacles in "organizing the world" than confronted the German bourgeoisie in its repeated and abortive attempts to attain a much more modest goal, namely: "organizing Europe."

The meteoric rise of U.S. imperialism to world supremacy comes too late. Moreover, American imperialism rests increasingly on the foundations of world economy. ... But the world foundation is today shot through with insoluble contradictions; it suffers

from chronic dislocations and is mined with revolutionary powder kegs.

American capitalism, hitherto only partially involved in the death agony of capitalism as a world system, is henceforth subject to the full and direct impact of all the forces and contradictions that have debilitated the old capitalist countries of Europe.

The economic prerequisites for the socialist revolution are fully matured in the U.S. The political premises are likewise far more advanced than might appear on the surface. ...

Given an objectively revolutionary situation, a proletarian party — even a small one — equipped with a precisely worked out Marxist program and firm cadres can expand its forces and come to the head of the revolutionary mass movement in a comparatively brief span of time. This too was proved conclusively — and positively — by the experiences of the Russian Revolution in 1917. There the Bolshevik Party, headed by Lenin and Trotsky, bounded forward from a tiny minority, just emerging from underground and isolation in February to the conquest of power in October — a period of nine months.

Numerical weakness, to be sure, is not a virtue for a revolutionary party but a weakness to be overcome by persistent work and resolute struggle. In the U.S. all the conditions are in the process of unfolding for the rapid transformation of the organized vanguard from a propaganda group to a mass party strong enough to lead the

revolutionary struggle for power.

The hopeless contradictions of American capitalism, inextricably tied up with the death agony of world capitalism, are bound to lead to a social crisis of such catastrophic proportions as will place the proletarian revolution on the order of the day. In this crisis, it is realistic to expect that the American workers, who attained trade union consciousness and organization within a single decade, will pass through another great transformation in their mentality, attaining political consciousness and organization.

If in the course of this dynamic development a mass labor party based on the trade unions is

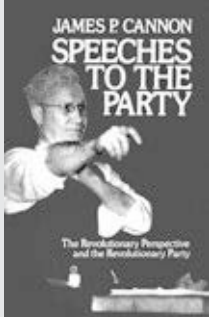
formed, it will not represent a detour into reformist stagnation and futility, as happened in England and elsewhere in the period of capitalist ascent. From all indications, it will rather represent a preliminary stage in the political radicalization of the American workers, preparing them for the direct leadership of the revolutionary party.

The revolutionary vanguard party, destined to lead this tumultuous revolutionary movement in the U.S., does not have to be created. It already exists, and its name is the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY. It is the sole legitimate heir and continuator of pioneer American Communism and the revolutionary movements of the American workers from which it sprang. Its nucleus has already taken shape in three decades of unrelenting work and struggle against the stream. Its program has been hammered out in ideological battles and successfully defended against every kind of revisionist assault upon it. The fundamental core of a professional leadership has been assembled and trained in the irreconcilable spirit of the combat party of the revolution.

The task of the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY consists simply in this: to remain true to its program and banner; to render it more precise with each new development and apply it correctly in the class struggle; and to expand and grow with the growth of the revolutionary mass movement, always aspiring to lead it to victory in the struggle for political power.

November
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Fight bipartisan assault on Venezuela, Cuba

President Donald Trump’s escalating threats to the sovereignty of Venezuela’s working people are a serious danger to all workers. They’re the latest step in a decadeslong drive by both Democratic and Republican administrations to bring down Venezuela’s government.

Their goal is to install a government that will do Washington’s bidding, help accelerate the U.S. imperialists’ plunder of the country’s oil wealth, push back the influence of Beijing and facilitate the U.S. rulers’ political and military domination of the Western Hemisphere. The bipartisan imperialist gang in Washington especially wants a government in Venezuela that helps to isolate Cuba, advancing the U.S. rulers’ decadeslong drive to overthrow Cuba’s socialist revolution and eradicate the example it sets.

Workers and our unions should demand U.S. hands off both Venezuela and Cuba!

Washington’s sanctions against working people in Venezuela were first imposed by President George W. Bush in 2005 and have been deepened by administrations since. The measures have had a devastating impact, hitting hard on top of the effects of the worldwide capitalist crisis. Inflation in Venezuela is running at 270%. Some 8 million people have left the country over the last 10 years.

The bipartisan backing for the Trump administration’s assaults are highlighted in a Nov. 18 editorial in the liberal *Washington Post*. “With sticks and carrots Trump hopes to compel Maduro to abdicate,” the paper’s editors say approvingly, before gloating over the

possibility of opposition leader María Corina Machado being installed by Washington.

Cuba is a special target of Washington’s two-party capitalist rulers. They fear the example of the Cuban Revolution spreading.

What was accomplished by Fidel Castro and the Cuban people after overthrowing the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959 shows real progress for working people is only possible by our class taking political power and uprooting the exploitation intrinsic to capitalist rule. They took their destiny into their own hands, transforming themselves in the process. They extended unstinting internationalist aid to anti-imperialist struggles, from Vietnam to Guinea-Bissau and throughout Latin America.

In so doing they strengthened their own revolution.

The example of Cuba’s socialist revolution is even more important in today’s crisis-ridden world, as cutthroat competition and sharpening trade wars expand, inexorably driving rival capitalist rulers toward fascism and a third world war.

There is an alternative! As persistent high prices, stultifying schedules and, more recently, growing layoffs hit workers hard — all the natural consequences of capitalism — workers in the U.S. and elsewhere will have our chance to emulate the example set by Castro and the leadership he built. We can build a party to lead workers and the oppressed to take power here, and to join the fight for a socialist world. Join the Socialist Workers Party!

Workers face blows as crisis of capitalism deepens

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stock market “booming near all-time highs,” John Williams, president of the New York Federal Reserve, told the *Financial Times*. This includes the orgy of investment in advancing artificial intelligence. The S&P 500 leading stocks have risen 36% in the last six months. Wall Street fixture Morgan Stanley predicts the surge will continue into 2026.

But there’s a different picture on the other side of the class divide. Since the start of this year, bosses have laid off more than 1 million workers. This includes 34,000 by UPS, with another 14,000 on the chopping block, 15,000 by Verizon and 14,000 by Amazon.

U.S. manufacturing production contracted for the eighth straight month in October. That month General Motors announced job cuts of 3,300 workers at three of its plants in Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. Through layoffs and refusing to replace workers who retire or quit, bosses are pushing punishing speedup for those still on the job.

For those laid off it has become increasingly difficult to get another job. More than one in four workers without jobs — nearly 2 million — have been unemployed for at least six months. In Grantsville, Utah, Jessica Howard’s job at a health care technology company where she’d worked for 17 years was eliminated seven months ago. She’s applied to nearly 400 companies without success. “After a while the rejections really get to you,” she told the *Washington Post*. “It starts to break you down emotionally.”

Hundreds of thousands of workers usually pick up temporary jobs in retail stores, transportation and warehouses over the Christmas holidays. This year a number of companies, like UPS and Macy’s, have held off saying how many workers they’ll hire. According to the job-placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas major U.S. companies have announced plans to hire half as many as last year.

Hourly wages are rising more slowly for all workers, especially the lowest paid. Through September the wages of low-paid workers increased at an annual rate of just 1.4%, while the government’s official price index was up 3%.

Beef prices up? Try ‘Hamburger Helper’

Prices for groceries have remained high for almost half a decade. With beef prices increasing 14.7% over the past year to a new all-time high, more workers are purchasing Hamburger Helper to

help stretch out their family meals. The product’s sales have risen 14.5% year over year in August.

One in eight workers, including millions with children, rely on the federal government’s food stamp program. Increasing numbers of people, including workers with full-time jobs, are lining up to get supplies at local food pantries. In New Bedford, Massachusetts, one food bank recently extended its hours into the evening so those who work can still pick up food.

Electric bills are going through the roof. They’re expected to increase by more than 10% this winter and in some states by much more. In New Jersey energy costs have surged 21% since last August.

More and more workers are falling behind on monthly car payments, leading to a jump in reposessions. Last year an estimated 1.73 million vehicles were seized by the repo man.

For the first time since the capitalist downturn in 2008, subprime auto loans are rising. A record 6.65% of workers saddled with one were 60 days or more past due. Workers trying to trade in vehicles are finding their car is worth less than the debt they still owe.

A similar situation faces workers and some middle-class families that have taken out long-term mortgages on their homes. Just short of a million are “underwater,” meaning they owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth.

Meanwhile, foreclosure filings on homes were up nearly 20% for the year in October, as housing costs have been driven up by skyrocketing increases in the cost of home insurance. Young people looking to move out of their parents’ places in hopes of being able to raise a family are stuck.

More and more working people are relying on credit cards to pay bills. But with large unpaid balances and exorbitant interest rates, they’re going deeper into debt.

About a quarter of U.S. adults face harassment from collection agencies, which buy up their debts for pennies on the dollar then sue you to reap huge profits. With a court ruling in their favor, these vultures move to seize part of your wages and your bank accounts.

The deepening crisis underscores the importance of backing today’s strike battles, and the need for a union-led fight for jobs with wage rates, schedules and conditions necessary for families to live on. As workers fight for protection from the twin scourges of unemployment and high prices, we can build the party we need, to chart a course to take political power into our own hands.

Allegiant pilots rally for contract, win solidarity



Militant/Candace Wagner

Pilots demand new contract Nov. 18 at Pittsburgh airport.

BY CANDACE WAGNER

PITTSBURGH — “Members of our union are protesting at 22 airports across the country today,” Will Fierman, a pilot and Teamster Local 2118 media representative, told the *Militant* at Pittsburgh International Airport Nov. 18. Some 1,400 Allegiant pilots are demanding a contract more in line with other airlines, with higher wages and better schedules and benefits.

Their last contract expired in 2021. “With no progress in talks,” Fierman said, “97% of us voted to strike.”

Flight attendants at the company joined the action. “We have to have their back, just like we need theirs,” said Roseann Teramana, a representative of Transport Workers Union Local 577. In the flight attendants’ recent contract, “for the very first time we got the ability to call ‘timeout’ [walk off the job]. Unfortunately we can only do that after 18 hours. We hope for more improvement next time.”

Pilots at Delta also joined the protest. Members of UNITE HERE participated during their lunch break at Sky Chefs, which caters to airlines.

‘Militant’ wins victory!

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Missouri Department of Corrections urging it to end the censorship and deliver the *Militant* to its readers. A big shout-out to all those who joined in the effort!

John Cotman, associate professor emeritus in the Political Science Department at Howard University, had written to Department of Corrections officials urging them to drop the bans, pointing out they “violate the First and 14th Amendments in the Constitution.” He asked what the reason for the ban was, since the *Militant* had not been given an explanation.

DeAnna Duff, a Department of Corrections constituent services manager, wrote back saying the censorship was based on an article in the Oct. 13 issue about police in Montreal killing Nooran Rezayi, a 15-year-old boy, while he was playing with friends. Prison officials claimed the article “contains information which can be used to instill violence or hatred among the offender population.” The article, written by John Steele, also reported more than 1,000 people marched in a protest Sept. 27 calling for “Justice for Nooran.”

Hundreds of people, including neighbors and schoolmates, attended Nooran’s funeral Sept. 25. “Young people in the community told the media they face continual harassment by the police,” the article said.

In his letter for Amnesty International USA, Justin Mazzola, the organization’s deputy director of research, said that the “article merely provides a factual accounting of an incident of lethal force and a historical overview and accountability with respect to Canadian law enforcement — none of which can be reasonable inferred to be used to ‘instill violence or hatred among the offender population.’”

“The act of informing subscribers about events of the outside world in and of itself and without more should not be a means to violate the right to freedom of expression of incarcerated individuals,” he wrote.

The *Militant* has 350 subscribers behind bars in 163 state, federal and municipal prisons in 33 states. It challenges every effort by prison authorities to bar subscribers from getting their paper, and has won the large majority of them.