

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Working people in Ukraine fight
to defend national sovereignty
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 89/NO. 44 DECEMBER 8, 2025

Defend Israel's right to exist! Stop Hamas terror in Gaza

BY SETH GALINSKY

The latest rounds of fighting in Gaza and Lebanon show that nothing has been resolved as a result of the U.S.-imposed ceasefires. Hamas and Hezbollah refuse to disarm and Washington is pressing Israel to hold off from taking decisive action against the two groups that are intent on Israel's destruction.

Hamas and Hezbollah were both severely weakened by Israel, but are rebuilding their forces and preparing for future attacks on Jews. Israel, if it is to survive as a refuge for Jews in a world of increasing acts of Jew-hatred, must act to prevent the Tehran-backed groups from launching new pogroms.

President Donald Trump's so-called peace plan says Hamas must disarm and an "International Stabilization Force" — which exists only on paper — will take its place. But the only force capable of disarming Hamas is the Israeli army.

"Hamas is not disarming; they are actually rearming," Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani told reporters visiting an Israeli army post in Gaza City Nov. 19. "It's something that we will not accept."

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US rulers look to dominate region as Latin America drug trade grows

BY RÓGER CALERO

In the midst of Washington's push to reassert its military domination in Latin America and the Caribbean, voters in Ecuador delivered a resounding "No" vote on a government proposal to allow U.S. military bases there.

In a Nov. 16 national referendum with an 82% turnout, more than 9 million Ecuadorians rejected a series of measures backed by President Daniel Noboa, including one that would have allowed Washington to reopen bases.

Using the age-old "carrot and the stick" method, the U.S. government has been negotiating the reopening of a Forward Operating Location at the Eloy Alfaro Air Base in the coastal city of Manta. The U.S. military operated a base there from 1999 to 2009, when the Rafael Correa government let the lease expire in response to broad popular pressure.

President Noboa promoted the referendum, arguing U.S. military presence would help fight drug traffickers and violent gangs. Homicide rates in

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All out for Nov. 29 protest in Montreal! Fight to defend unions, political rights in Quebec



Kruger packaging plant workers on strike in Montreal Nov. 21. Labor movement rally Nov. 29 to protest Quebec government attacks on unions, political rights as economic crisis deepens.

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Quebec's four main union federations and five other unions are organizing to bring thousands of unionists to a mass united rally in Montreal Nov. 29. They are protesting a whole series of laws either already adopted or proposed by the Quebec government that trample on union rights and political freedoms.

"We are at war. This is the fight of our lives," Magali Picard, president of the Quebec Federation of Labor, told delegates to the annual convention of the

United Steelworkers Nov. 20. The QFL the largest union federation in Quebec, is using its own convention in Quebec City Nov. 24-27 to mobilize for the march and rally.

Union contingents will gather at Canada Place in downtown Montreal and march to the office of Quebec Premier Francois Legault to rally and hear speeches by union leaders.

The demonstration taps into the widespread dissatisfaction in the working class with the Coalition for the Future

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Cuba's historic role in defeat of South Africa invasion of Angola



Cuban, Angolan fighters celebrate, May 1988. Cuba's 16-year internationalist volunteer mission helped defeat U.S.-backed South African invasion, strengthened Cuba's socialist revolution.

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

This November marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of revolutionary Cuba's internationalist mission known as Operation Carlota, in which 425,000 volunteers served for 16 years in Angola in support of that country's defense of its newly

won independence. Portugal had held Angola in colonial slavery for nearly five centuries.

Cuban and Angolan fighters defeated repeated attack launched by the white-supremacist regime of South Africa and its allies in Africa and

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Trump, Mamdani meet at the White House, say they can 'work together'

BY TERRY EVANS

President Donald Trump and New York Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani — from opposite poles of the capitalist two-party shell game — held a

press conference together after meeting at the White House Nov. 21. They pledged to collaborate to try to make New York "great again."

Liberal and conservative pundits alike were confounded when they didn't yell and scream at each other. They're consumed by Trump calling Mamdani a "communist" or Mam-

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Back SEIU leader David Huerta, charged for joining protest against raid

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — "These charges are baseless, they are attempting to silence anyone who dares to speak out, organize or demand justice," union leader David Huerta told the press after pleading not guilty at his arraignment in federal court here Nov. 25.

President of the Services Employees International Union California,

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Hundreds at UC Berkeley hear Israeli hostage tortured by Hamas 7

— On the picket line, p. 4 —

40,000 University of California workers organize two-day strike

Boeing Machinists back to work after 101-day strike in Missouri

US looks to dominate Latin America

Continued from front page
Ecuador are among the highest in the world. Mexican, Albanian and Colombian mafias are fighting for control of multimillion dollar drug operations there.

But the memory of abuses carried out by the U.S. military during its 10 years in Manta was too strong for many Ecuadorians. They rejected Noboa’s appeal, seeing the return of the U.S. military as an affront to the country’s sovereignty.

Despite the setback in Ecuador, Washington continues to expand its military deployment in the region, as it threatens to either tame or topple Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The U.S. government says its military buildup is an “anti-narcoterrorism” operation, accusing Maduro of heading a cartel that sends drugs to the U.S. and threatens national security.

Washington continues to use this justification for its military buildup and for blowing up boats off Venezuela’s coast and in the Pacific it claims are moving drugs, despite the widely known fact that Venezuela is not a source of cocaine. The vast majority of global cocaine production is concentrated in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

For years the capitalist rulers in the U.S. have had Maduro’s government in its crosshairs. With a change in government in Venezuela, Washington also aims to deal a big blow to Cuba, which receives political support and oil from Caracas. Since 1959, the overthrow of Cuba’s socialist revolution has been a central goal of all U.S. administrations — Democrat and Republican alike.

Ecuador is a major hub for cocaine shipments to Europe, Asia and the Pa-

cific. These are more profitable destinations for drug traffickers than the U.S. A kilo of cocaine reportedly sells in Colombia for \$2,000, in the United States the average price is \$28,000, whereas the same kilo (2.2 pounds) goes for \$40,000 in Europe.

Ecuador’s ‘narcobananas’

Tons of cocaine are transported inside millions of banana crates shipped every day from Ecuador’s port of Guayaquil. The practice is so widespread, it’s commonly known as “narcobananas.” The drug trafficking reached President Noboa’s family business in March, when a report emerged alleging that 700 kilos of cocaine were found in containers belonging to the Noboa Trading company between 2020 and 2022. According to European Commission reports, 57% of the banana containers from Guayaquil arrive in Antwerp loaded with cocaine.

An estimated 90% of U.S.-bound cocaine passes across the U.S.-Mexico border after being conveyed through a corridor from Central America to Mexico. To get to the Caribbean, Colombian drug traffickers transit through Venezuelan territory.

US deployment threatens region

Working people in the U.S. and throughout the hemisphere are watching the massive U.S. build-up of military assets in the region with growing concern. And they question Washington’s military strikes.

As of Nov. 24, the U.S. military has destroyed at least 21 vessels, killing 83 people, who they claim are involved in drug trafficking. The U.S. government has produced no evidence these



Reuters/Marco Bello

Trinidadian fishermen are battered by Washington’s deadly military attacks in its “anti-narcoterrorism” campaign against Venezuela, meant to increase U.S. rulers’ hold on the region.

boats carried drugs, nor did they provide the people aboard them due process. The White House has defended the actions, saying regular interdiction operations are ineffective.

There are now about 15,000 U.S. military personnel in the region, including thousands of Marines and the USS Gerald Ford carrier battle group on Venezuela’s doorsteps, as well as F-35 fighter jets based in newly reopened U.S. bases in Puerto Rico.

The government of Trinidad and Tobago has enthusiastically backed Washington’s deployment. The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit and helicopters carried out joint exercises with the military there Nov. 16-21. Trinidad and Venezuela are separated

by a small bay just 7 miles wide at its narrowest point. The U.S. airstrikes against alleged drug boats has stoked fears in fishing communities there. Many are staying closer to shore, afraid they might get targeted.

During the nine years the U.S. base operated in Manta, military and coast guard personnel were accused of mistreating locals and sinking or damaging 14 fishing boats allegedly involved with drug trafficking.

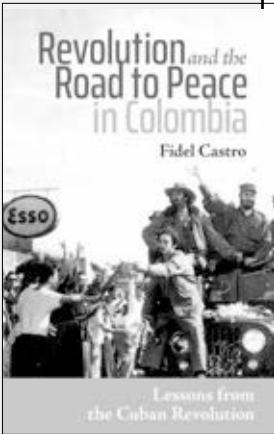
One fisherman was killed along with his crew of 18 when U.S. forces sank his boat in 2002. A relative of his told France 24, “It wasn’t animals who went out fishing. It was parents, sons, husbands, uncles, who went to seek bread for their children.”

Recommended reading, Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia

By Fidel Castro

Drawing on a half century of revolutionary experience leading the working people of Cuba, Fidel Castro presents the political lessons of Cuba’s efforts to bring an end to a decadeslong armed conflict in Colombia.

Available in English, Spanish, French \$10
pathfinderpress.com



THE MILITANT

Extend TPS for Haitians, Venezuelans, others

Protests in Miami and elsewhere call for extension of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, Venezuelans, Ukrainians, other refugees, part of defending rights of immigrants under government attack today. This would help unite the working class in the U.S.



Militant/Rachele Fruit

Miami protest Nov. 15 demanded extension of TPS visa coverage for Haitian immigrants.

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Cuba fights moves by US to block its athletes from Olympics

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — Most people in the U.S. would assume that as the host of the upcoming 2028 Olympic games in Los Angeles, the U.S. government would be obligated to allow athletes from all countries to compete. But it has systematically denied visas to almost 100 Cuban athletes, coaches and sports officials since early 2025. This could prevent their participation in required qualifying events for the 2028 Olympic Games, excluding Cuba’s young athletes from the games.

To take steps to prevent this, more than 70 people, including leaders of Cuba solidarity organizations based in the U.S., Canada and a few other countries, joined a video meeting Nov. 23 to advance an international campaign to demand the U.S. government “Let Them Play” and grant visas to Cuban athletes. They also plan to urge the International Olympic Committee to push back against Washington’s refusal to hold an event open to all the world’s athletes. The LA US Hands Off Cuba Committee organized the meeting.

Yasser Ibarra, first secretary to the Cuban Embassy in Washington, told the meeting he appreciated the efforts of all those joining “to defend the right of Cuban athletes to compete, to grow, and to represent their country on equal terms.

“When a country denies an athlete the basic right to compete,” he said, “it is not only disrupting a sports calendar, it is damaging careers, individual efforts, collective dreams, and the possibility of representing an entire nation with dignity. These obstacles are part of a broader policy of pressure and hostility that also manifests itself in the field of sports — another expression of Washington’s pressure imposed on the Cuban people.”

“‘Let Them Play’ is not a slogan; it is a fundamental call for justice. We want our athletes to have access to qualifying competitions and, even if they secure their Olympic spots, we want to ensure they do not face new excuses or obstacles,” he said.

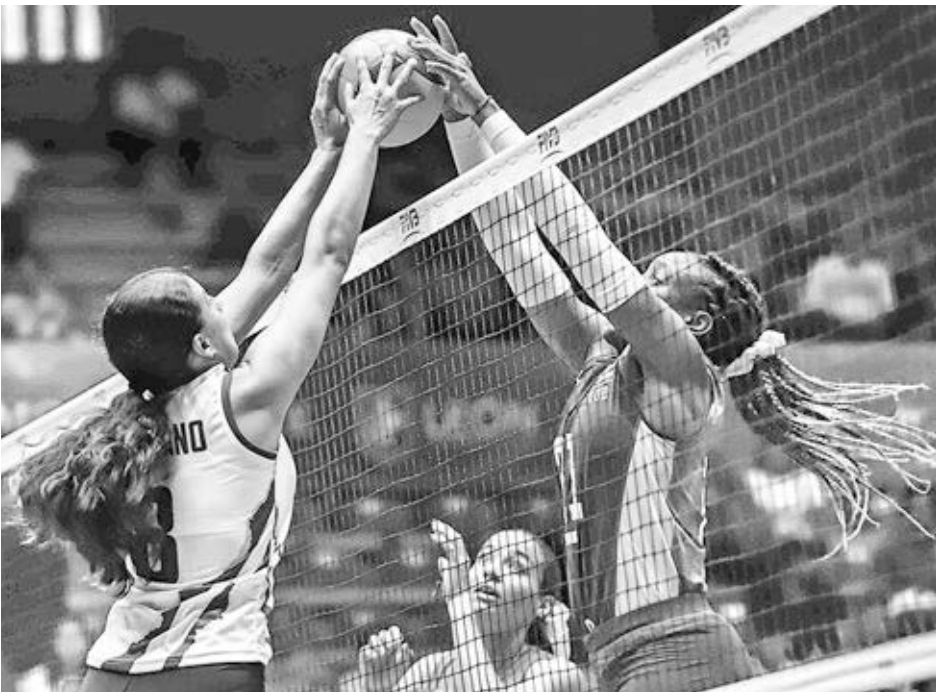
“That is why your support is so valuable — because organized solidarity makes a real difference. I invite you to join actively: to spread the campaign, to reach out to organizations, to engage with sports groups and political representatives in your countries, and to help ensure this issue does not fade into silence,” Ibarra told participants in the meeting.

The Hands Off Cuba Committee in Los Angeles and others participating on the call agreed to work together to win a wide number of groups to send

messages to the State Department and to the members of the International Olympic Committee urging visas to Cuban athletes be granted. They also plan to win support from sports figures and others for this campaign.

Among those promoting the effort are Kevin Kucera, Los Angeles Area Director of District 190, International Association of Machinists; Michael Vera of the Inland Boatmen’s Union of the Pacific, Southern California region; Bob Schwartz of Global Health Partners; Medea Benjamin of Codepink; Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba; Carlos Lazo, organizer of Puentes de Amor/Bridges of Love; the National Network on Cuba; Danny Valdes, co-chair of Democratic Socialists of America Cuba Solidarity Working Group; and John Waller, former national coordinator of Pastors for Peace Caravans to Cuba.

“Anyone who believes all countries



Norcalinfo

Cuban volleyball team, right, plays Nicaragua at U23 Pan American Cup in Mexico July 28. Washington’s denial of visas to Cuban athletes could prevent participation in 2028 Olympics.

should get a fair shot at participating in these games should join this campaign to demand the Cubans not be excluded,” Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, told the *Militant* after the meeting. “Washington’s de-

cadelong economic and political war against the people of Cuba is aimed at punishing them for having made a socialist revolution.”

To learn more or to join the effort visit LetCubaPlay.com or email letcubaplay@gmail.com.

Rally to defend unions, political rights in Quebec

Continued from front page

of Quebec (CAQ) government. Workers face a deepening economic, political social and moral crisis of the world capitalist system. The government’s response is to attack union rights and the right to strike.

The protest is drawing in different sections of the working class and some middle-class professionals, which is reflected in the unprecedented decision of the Quebec family doctors organization to join the union action. Over 13,000 Quebec doctors and their supporters had recently rallied at Montreal’s Bell Centre to protest Bill 2, pushed through the Quebec National Assembly without any discussion. The bill cut off negotiations between the doctors and the government over speedup, wages and other attacks on their jobs. The doctors, who have the support of a majority of the population, charge the imposition of Bill 2 will seriously exacerbate the existing crisis in the health care system.

The mass action takes place the day before anti-labor Law 14, adopted in April, goes into effect. This law gives the government the power to declare any strike illegal and to force workers to submit to binding arbitration. Legault says he was inspired by federal anti-strike laws used recently by Ottawa to end strikes by thousands of rail, postal and port workers.

Air Canada flight attendants set an example for all workers by defying a back-to-work order, making gains the bosses hoped to avoid.

Gov’t attacks on union democracy

Bill 3, another target of the demonstration, aims to restrict the ability of unions to use their dues to fund what the government calls “political action,” like building the Nov. 29 protest. It says that unions can only use dues on bargaining and contract issues, unless authorized to do more by a vote of the union membership conducted under strict government supervision.

Unions will also be required to submit to a yearly financial audit by the government, to obey mandatory minimum quorums for votes at union meetings to take effect, and other interventions into

internal union affairs.

This law flies in the face of a Canadian Supreme Court ruling that unions have the right to use union dues to fund “political action” as they see fit. The Court also ruled that the right to strike is protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom.

Bill 3 “is an anti-worker, anti-union, pro-business law designed to weaken unions. We will stand and fight against this law of political interference and control,” the Steelworkers union said. “It’s time to mobilize.”

Other proposed laws include Bill 1 and Bill 94, which are aimed at weakening the unions by dividing workers by nationality and religion in the name of the “secularization” of Quebec society. They also give the use of French priority, barring use of other languages on the job, even in informal conversations.

These government moves against la-

bor violate political freedoms supposedly protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They also ban many public workers from wearing any clothing associated with their religion, like the Muslim hijab, Jewish kippah or Sikh turbans.

These moves are “part of a series of government actions” that are “aimed at strengthening government powers,” the League for Rights and Freedoms said. They “are a threat to democracy, the rule of law and human rights.”

“The Nov. 29 demonstration is crucial for the defense of our unions and their ability to mobilize the power of the working class,” said Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal in the recent municipal election. “It points to the need for working people to break with the parties of the bosses and take political power into our own hands. All out Nov. 29!”

SEIU leader David Huerta charged

Continued from front page

Huerta was arrested and charged by the U.S. government with “obstructing justice” as he protested an immigration raid outside the Ambiance Apparel garment plant in downtown Los Angeles June 6.

The protest was one of many held here that month as tens of thousands took to the streets to demand a halt to raids and deportations, after federal immigration cops descended on communities across Southern California in a crackdown on immigrant workers.

“I will continue to stand with you until every worker and every family is safe from raids, separation and fear, and our constitutional rights are protected,” Huerta said Nov. 25.

Federal officials claimed in their original indictment that Huerta was “taunting” and “yelling” at federal officers, that he attempted to block federal enforcement vehicles from exiting the scene and had urged other protesters to sit in front of the vehicles.

A video posted by television station KPIX shows Huerta and others arguing with government officials. He has

hands at his hips before being shoved to the ground, hoisted up by the back collar of his shirt and taken into custody. Huerta had to be hospitalized as a result.

Thousands joined an SEIU rally called to demand Huerta’s release June 9. He was freed on bond later that day.

The government initially charged Huerta with a felony that could have led to a six-year jail sentence. But the charge was reduced to a misdemeanor.

A statement in support of Huerta released by his union, SEIU Workers West, says, “This administration has turned the military against our own people, terrorizing entire communities, and even detaining U.S. citizens who are exercising their constitutional rights to speak out.” Huerta’s trial has been set for Jan. 20, 2026.

“The arrest and charges against David Huerta are an outrage,” Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles mayor, told the *Militant*. “It’s important the labor movement follow the lead of the SEIU in demanding all charges against him be dropped.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA
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What We Can Learn From Pre-Historic Societies About the Road to Women’s Emancipation Today. Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Dec. 7, 6 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

40,000 University of California workers organize two-day strike

OAKLAND, Calif. — Some 40,000 custodians, cafeteria workers, patient care assistants, hospital technicians, gardeners and others at University of California hospitals and campuses, members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299, went on a two-day strike Nov. 17-18 in a fight for higher wages and better working conditions. They’ve been without a contract for over a year.

Workers picketing at the UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital in Oakland told the *Militant* their wages don’t keep up with rising prices. “The increases in payments they’re asking for medical insurance are huge,” AFSCME staffer Maria Flores said. Because of high rents in San Francisco and Oakland, she said, some workers live in their cars on workdays, only going home on weekends.

Giselle Curi, a medical assistant in a surgical ward, said her main concern is short staffing at the same time many workers face cuts in their hours. “It doesn’t affect us in surgery a lot, but in other departments they try to keep workers part time so they can’t get benefits.”

Nurses in the system, members of the California Nurses Association, were also scheduled to strike in solidarity. But their participation was called off after a tentative agreement was reached by their union on the eve of the strike. Nevertheless, many nurses joined the AFSCME picket lines on their breaks and days off.

Nurses who were on the picket line at the children’s hospital told the *Militant* they were angry at the top university managers’ refusal to pay decent wages and benefits to the very workers that need it most. They said that the University of California hospitals are run like a business, with too much of the profit going to management.

One cleaner and his friend, both of whom work at a giant University of California hospital complex in San Francisco, joined the picket. The CEO at that complex takes home a gross pay of \$1,815,969.

More money needs to go to workers, they said. A union flyer distributed by pickets says U.C. executives have re-

ceived wage increases averaging 52% since 2016. Wages for front-line workers have fallen by 7% over that time.

— Betsey Stone

Boeing Machinists back to work after 101-day strike in Missouri

After a 101-day strike, some 3,200 members of International Association of Machinists District 837 are back on the job at Boeing’s military aircraft and munitions plants in the St. Louis area. Machinists there voted in favor of accepting the company’s latest offer by 68% Nov. 13. The contract includes an immediate raise of 8%, followed by 4% raises during each of the following four years of the five-year agreement.

The main change from the previous offer, which had been narrowly voted down in October, was the company’s offer to double the signing bonus to \$6,000 from \$3,000. Other key issues in the strike included workers’ demands to speed up the time frame for newer workers to reach top scale, raises in the top scale pay instead of lump-sum payouts, and for bonuses and retirement contributions closer to what was won by Boeing workers in the Seattle area last year.

Throughout the strike the union maintained picket lines 24/7 at all the Boeing facilities in the area. They won support from other unions, including at rallies in front of the company’s corporate offices.

“We’re still getting calls and support, even after the strike,” Yasmine Greene, an assembler and IAM 837 shop steward, told the *Militant* by phone Nov. 23. She said United Auto Workers Local 2250, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the A. Philip Randolph Insti-



Militant/Betsey Stone

Members of AFSCME Local 3299 picket UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital in Oakland Nov. 18, part of statewide two-day strike at UC hospitals for higher pay and better working conditions.

tute and other labor organizations “are still helping us out, organizing food drives and toys for the holidays.”

The strike “brought a lot of people together,” Greene said. “We made it over 100 days together. We showed our solidarity and comradery.”

— Naomi Craine

Strike at Mauser Packaging in Chicago ends as bosses shut plant

CHICAGO — Teamsters Local 705 members ended their strike at the Mauser Packaging Solutions subsidiary plant in the Little Village neighborhood here Nov. 21. Bosses had announced they were shuttering the plant that day.

The union’s 168 members walked off the job June 9. Workers at Mauser plants in Los Angeles and Minnesota carried out solidarity actions with their fight.

Mauser’s “last, best, and final offer” was rejected by the union in August.

Workers at the plant cleaned steel drums used to transport chemicals. The union was fighting against dangerous working conditions and for higher pay. It was also demanding the company agree to prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from entering the plant without a relevant warrant. Little Village is one of Chicago’s largest Mexican immigrant communities.

Mauser is a sizable international company, with more than 180 sites around the world and a workforce of over 11,000. Their most recent financial report says their income grew 19% the previous year to over \$4 billion.

“We are waiting to hear about possible severance pay,” striker Javier Hernandez told the *Militant*. “The company never showed us papers giving the reason for closing the plant.”

— Dan Fein

Drug trade is just another business under capitalism

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington claims the formidable military armada it’s assembled off Venezuela is aimed at taking action against drug dealers. But the U.S. rulers have no intention of stopping the drug trade, which attracts the traffickers, because it’s an exceptionally profitable business for a wing of the capitalist class in the U.S. And the damage these drugs do to millions of human

beings is coldly calculated as a byproduct of doing business.

While occasionally there are highly publicized drug busts in the U.S. — almost always targeting lower-level operators — these rarely target the comfortable capitalist businessmen who rake in the big profits from spreading the poison. The only difference between them and others in the capitalist class is they reap superprofits, a normal bonus for

those who take bigger risks.

The wide availability of drugs — from ones still illegal, like heroin, cocaine and fentanyl — or marijuana, which is sold today in corner stores all across New York City, is all part of a huge money-making industry.

And there is a tie between legal and “illegal” use of opiates. Hospitals dispense powerful painkillers with little help afterward to patients who get hooked on them. So all too often they have to turn to the street for illegal opiates, often laced with more dangerous and addictive ingredients. Since 1999 there have been 900,000 deaths from opioid overdoses in the U.S., with the numbers having accelerated over the past half decade.

In big cities and rural areas alike, the drug trade is wreaking havoc on working people.

Drug overdoses killed over 100,000 people for a third consecutive year in 2023, drawing some attention from the big-business media. But when there was a slight decrease the following year, coverage of the continuing carnage dropped from the papers. And the figures are on the rise again. U.S. overdose deaths remain higher than in any other country.

OxyContin: highly addictive

Purdue Pharma began producing the prescription painkiller OxyContin in 1996. Through a massive public relations campaign, company bosses hailed the drug’s benefits, while downplaying its addictive nature and the deadly risk

Continued on page 5

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

December 4, 2000

MONTREAL — After tying up the port for 28 days and defying government back-to-work legislation for 17 of those days, truckers at the Port of Montreal voted Nov. 19 to accept an agreement with the provincial government and end their strike.

Some 900 truckers went on strike Oct. 22, battling 41 transport companies as well as the provincial and federal governments to win union recognition and a first contract. The drivers haul containers to and from the port of Montreal and railway terminals.

On Nov. 2 Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard enacted strike-breaking legislation. The truckers and their union refused to submit to the law and remained defiant in the face of more than \$2 million in fines levied by the government and \$16 million in lawsuits initiated by trucking bosses.

THE MILITANT

December 5, 1975

After 490 years of direct colonial rule, the Portuguese flag in Angola was taken down for the last time in the early evening of Nov. 10.

The country’s future remains clouded by continuing warfare, as contending imperialist powers step up their intervention and jockey for control over Angola’s vast natural resources. South African troops are reported to be operating in central and southern Angola, areas controlled by the FNLA and UNITA.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a news conference Nov. 10 that Washington would not tolerate Soviet “hegemonial aspirations” in Angola.

Such clear threats of increased intervention by Washington and other imperialist powers present a serious danger to the Angolan masses in the weeks ahead.

THE MILITANT

December 4, 1950

STOP THE WAR NOW!
Withdraw All Troops! Recall Gen. MacArthur!
To the President and Members of the Congress:

Once more, as at the start of your Korean intervention, I take this means to tell you what I believe is the heartfelt sentiment of the overwhelming majority of humanity, including the American people today: Stop your criminal aggression against the Asian people. Let them settle their own fate!

Who wants this war? Not the Koreans. Not the Chinese people. Only your arrogant militarists like MacArthur; only your profits-hungry ruling class of monopolists and international financiers; only the political hirelings of a rapacious imperialism seek this war.
JAMES P. CANNON, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Trump, Mamdani meeting

Continued from front page

dani and the middle-class left calling Trump a “fascist.” But real politics reflects the fundamental conflict between the class interests of the ruling capitalist families and working people.

Both Mamdani and Trump won election by presenting themselves as sharply different from most politicians who have dominated their parties, the Democrats and Republicans. For more than 150 years, the U.S. rulers have governed through these two parties, urging workers to hold their nose and choose the “lesser evil.” Today both parties are looked upon with growing disgust by working people.

Mamdani is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. He defeated disgraced Democrat Andrew Cuomo in both the party’s primary and in the mayoral election. Trump backed Cuomo at the last minute, hoping to try to stop the DSA member who he erroneously called a “communist” from winning.

Mamdani campaigned on “affordability.” But his proposals — free bus rides, more child care and a handful of government-run supermarkets — pose no serious road forward in the face of the deep economic and social crisis hitting the working class today.

Trump, a real estate mogul, also presents himself as a champion of the working class. He scores points by pointing to the liberals’ infatuation with “wokery” and people’s pronouns.

Trump says the problem is “corrupt elites.” Mamdani says it’s the “billionaires.” Neither explain that real politics is found in the clash of the class interests of the ruling capitalists with the needs and aspirations of the working class.

They both called their meeting “productive,” smiling side by side and saying they share common interests in reducing the cost of living, without offering any concrete proposals. Trump lavished praise

on Mamdani, pledging his administration would help the new mayor “make everybody’s dream come true, having a strong and very safe New York.” Mamdani said, “I look forward to working together to deliver that affordability for New Yorkers.”

Reporters tried to stir the two up against each other. One asked Mamdani if he still thought Trump was a “fascist.” When he stammered a little, Trump jumped in, saying, “It’s OK, you can just say it. That’s easier. It’s easier than explaining it. I don’t mind.”

Mamdani “seems to be slightly uncomfortable with Trump’s flattery,” the *New York Times* live news feed noted. A day after the meeting Mamdani said he still believed Trump was a “fascist” and a “despot,” but one he would work with.

This just shows Mamdani has no idea what fascism is. German workers couldn’t “work with” Adolf Hitler in the 1930s, as he smashed the unions to defend capitalist rule, before unleashing the Holocaust.

One reporter asked Trump to explain why he has said Mamdani was a “communist.” “He’s got views that are a little out there,” Trump said, but added, “He’s going to change also. We all change.” He said conservatives would come to like some things he would do.

Both capitalist politicians had decided the best way to come out on top at the meeting was to appear to be the one who was most considerate. Overall, Trump appeared more magnanimous and Mamdani a little out of his element.

Far from offering a road for workers to fight for power and to run society in the interests of the majority, Mamdani had campaigned as a “municipal socialist,” with a program of mild reforms. The goal of Mamdani and those who share his views is to try to patch up the social evils bred by capitalism in order to save capitalist rule. Trump offers different means to achieve the same goal.

Neither offers anything to meet the

Drugs: profitable capitalist business

Continued from page 4

of an overdose. They reaped billions in profits.

Facing chronic pain from on-the-job injuries and the cumulative effects of highly repetitive labor, many workers turned to opioids, legal or not, for relief. As they got hooked, the drug took over their lives.

Many found it harder and harder to fork over the hundreds of dollars a day for OxyContin, and switched over to much cheaper heroin, or the even more deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is 50 times stronger.

“The Business of Drugs,” a Netflix documentary, highlights the testimony of the horrendous experiences those who became addicted went through.

Facing thousands of lawsuits over the effects of OxyContin, Purdue filed for bankruptcy in 2019. After six years in court, a bankruptcy judge ruled Nov. 14 that the company’s billionaire owners, the Sackler family, must pay out \$7.4 billion. Most of this award, however, is going to state and local governments to develop so-called prevention programs, not to the victims of the profit-driven bosses.

The scourge of drug addiction,

destroying the lives of millions, is a product of the workings of the capitalist system. The biggest problem isn’t the traffickers, it’s the substantial market in the U.S. that draws their attention.

Like everything else under capitalism, if something turns a profit, it’s good.

What’s needed is to forge a working-class movement led by class-conscious fighters whose character, reliability and trustworthiness make them capable of organizing millions to overthrow capitalist rule.

Malcolm X, one of greatest working-class leaders of the last century, urged workers to break from drugs, to learn their self-worth through struggle. After he broke from the Nation of Islam in 1964, forming the Organization of Afro-American Unity to become more politically active, he barred drug use in the organization.

The Socialist Workers Party says the use of drugs — illegal or not — is a threat to the workers’ movement. It is an obstacle to a way of life and activity that builds the loyalty and discipline needed to fight uncompromisingly for the interests of all working people.

Jew-hating mob threatens attack on NY synagogue



NEW YORK — A Jew-hating mob ready for blood gathered at the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan Nov. 19 and threatened violence against Jews going into a meeting there. This provocative action merits the condemnation of all working people, but the office of New York mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani instead provided political cover for the antisemitic gang.

Some 200 people pushed right up to the door of the synagogue, chanting, “Resistance you make us proud, take another settler out” and “From New York to Gaza, globalize the intifada.” Both chants celebrate Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom that killed 1,200 Jews and others in Israel. “We need to make them scared,” one of the Jew-haters repeatedly exhorted the crowd. Inside, Nefesh B’Nefesh, a group that provides assistance to Jews who want to emigrate to Israel, was holding a meeting.

Mamdani’s press secretary, Dora Pekec, issued a statement the following day saying the mayor-elect “believes every New Yorker should be free to enter a house of worship,” without mentioning it was Jews who were being threatened. Mamdani’s office said it “discouraged the language used” at what it called “last night’s protest,” but did not condemn the action itself.

Pekec went on to say, “These sacred spaces should not be used to promote activities in violation of international law,” a code word for an attack on the right of Jews to meet and discuss emigrating to Israel. The pro-Hamas group PAL-Awda promoted the provocation with a flyer titled, “No Settlers On Stolen Land.” It repeated the slander that Israel’s defensive war against Hamas is “genocide.”

The Socialist Workers Party in New York delivered a letter to the synagogue and its rabbi, Arthur Schneier, protesting the Jew-hating action. “The Socialist Workers Party stands with you and will continue to tell the truth: that fighting Jew-hatred is an essential part of working people fighting for our own class interests.” The party offered its assistance if further threats arise.

— TERRY EVANS

social catastrophe working people face today nor the escalating capitalist competition worldwide that is driving toward a new world war.

With Mamdani smiling beside him, Trump said they were both committed to “peace” in the Middle East, and touched on his policies to advance the profit-driven interests of the U.S. rulers in the region and in Ukraine.

Trump also used the meeting to claim his administration had gotten prices in the U.S. “way down from last year,” a remark that flies in the face of the reality workers experience every day.

Capitalist crisis facing workers

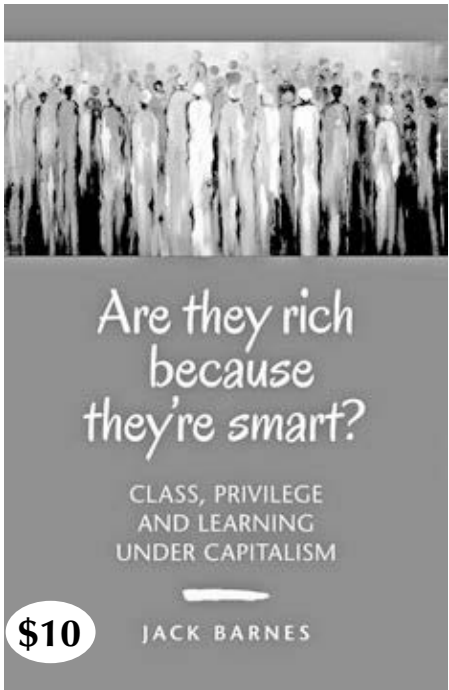
The government’s own figures show that real wages have declined further this year as prices remain persistently high and the bosses are pressing to hold down wages. More and more workers are putting off starting families they simply can’t support.

The fight to change these conditions is percolating today. Not in a search for reforms within the two-party capitalist setup, but among workers on the shop floor in factories and other work places, and on strike picket lines. It takes place at protests against the administration’s raids and deportations of workers without papers.

Neither Trump’s tariffs on the U.S. bosses’ competitors, nor Mamdani’s

narrowly-focused “municipal socialism” will alleviate what workers face today. What’s needed is a sharp break with bosses and their two capitalist parties, and working people building a party of our own.

In the course of today’s working-class struggles, workers begin looking for political answers not just for number one, but to protect and advance the interests of our class, both here and around the world. What’s needed is to build a party capable of leading workers in our tens of millions to fight to replace capitalist rule with workers power.



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Working people in Ukraine fight to defend nat'l sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Separate talks between the governments of the U.S. with Russia and Ukraine are taking place over alternative plans aimed at a potential end to Moscow's war on Ukraine. The sole concern of President Donald Trump's administration is to impose stability and set the stage to improve collaboration with Moscow, to advance the interests of the U.S. rulers, not Ukraine's sovereignty, regardless of the resolve of working people there to defend it.

The talks were spurred when a leaked 28-point "peace" plan drawn up by negotiators from the White House and the Kremlin became public Nov. 19. And U.S. government sources reported Trump had given Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky until Thanksgiving to accept the package or all bets were off.

Trump wants to lift U.S.-led economic sanctions and facilitate the reintegration of Russia into the global capitalist economy. He wants to allow Moscow to rejoin the G8 grouping of imperialist governments. He hopes to pull Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime away from the embrace of Beijing, Washington's primary global competitor, as the U.S. rulers try to shore up their declining world supremacy in the fight over profits, markets and resources.

Washington also looks to use a settlement to reassert its domination over "allied" imperialist governments in Europe.

The leaked proposal has now been dropped by Washington in favor of a revised 19-point plan issued Nov. 24 after talks between officials from the U.S. and Ukraine, joined later by representatives of capitalist powers in Europe.

The new plan postpones a decision on Putin's demand that Ukraine cede territory that Moscow has failed to conquer. It eliminates the proposal, initially agreed to by negotiators for

Moscow and Washington, that Ukraine cut the size of its armed forces by more than half. It leaves open the possibility Ukraine could join the imperialist-led NATO military alliance, a move that is fiercely opposed by Moscow.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Nov. 25 that Moscow will not agree to anything other than the plan it had cooked up exclusively with Washington.

One of Moscow's main demands is Kyiv surrender its hold on about 25% of Donetsk province that Russian forces have never been able to take in 11 years of war. Moscow's forces currently occupy 20% of Ukrainian territory, including all of the Crimean Peninsula, home to a largely pro-Ukraine Tatar people.

After years of grueling battles against the attempt to subjugate Ukraine, working people there remain determined to defend the country, having successfully repelled Moscow's drive to seize Kyiv in 2022.

"Are we defending our borders here just to give them away? What's the point of all this, of all these sacrifices?" Vitalii Traikalo, a Ukrainian soldier at a front-line artillery position near Pokrovsk told Reuters. Ukrainian forces had just cleared the center of that city of Russian troops.

Putin demands all of Donbas

Taking all of the rich industrial and mining regions of Donetsk and Luhansk has always been a key war goal for the Kremlin. Thousands of Ukrainians have given their lives defending this territory. And under the initial Washington-Moscow proposal, thousands more would have been displaced, forced to flee murderous repression under Moscow's expanded occupation.

Ceding territory in the Donetsk cities of Slovyansk, Kramatorsk and Druzhkivka, where a quarter of a million people live, is unacceptable to most Ukrai-



Moldovan police

Russian drone lands on building roof in Floresti district, Moldova, after penetrating that country's airspace Nov. 25. Moscow is escalating its probes of NATO defenses. Capitalist powers in Europe and worldwide are stepping up rearmament on a march toward another world war.

nians. In a year of trying to capture the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, Putin has sacrificed the lives of Russian workers in uniform in vast numbers in its "meat-grinder" offensive, with an average of over 1,000 casualties a day.

Nadiya, a resident of Slovyansk, witnessed the original seizure of the city in 2014 by Russian forces. She rejected Moscow's claims that it was carried out by the local people and pointed to Ukrainian struggles to defend the city since.

"All these years, people died for what, so that we'd just hand it over?" she told Current Time news network correspondent Andriy Kuzakov. She said she believed the land would "remain Ukraine, I'm absolutely certain of it. If I hadn't been certain, I would have left."

The Ukrainian government has called for a meeting between President Volodymyr Zelensky and Trump by the end of November to thrash out questions left unresolved in the new 19-point plan. Zelensky predicted Moscow would try to "derail this opportunity for an agreement and to prolong the war."

Zelensky warned that Ukraine "may now face a very difficult choice: either loss of dignity, or the risk of losing a key partner."

Moscow stages assault on Polish diplomat over Ukraine aid

BY ROY LANDERSEN

A brazen physical attack on the top Polish diplomat in Russia on a city street in St. Petersburg Nov. 16, followed by media coverage backing the attack, show how Moscow's murderous war on Ukraine is increasingly roiling ties across Europe. Moscow's relations with Warsaw, and with other European powers, have sharply deteriorated in recent months.

Krzysztof Krajewski, Poland's ambassador to Russia, was assaulted as he and Consul Jaroslaw Strycharsky were walking to join local Polish community members in a celebration of Poland's Independence Day.

Ten people carrying anti-Polish and anti-Ukraine signs surrounded the diplomats, aggressively denouncing Warsaw's support for Ukraine's determined battle to defend its sovereignty and its defensive military buildup. Some shouted, "Our children are dying because of your money." Several struck at the ambassador before his security detail intervened.

Russian media accused the Polish security agents of aggressive behavior

toward "a peaceful group of demonstrators," ignoring the attempted physical assault on Poland's top diplomat.

A Russian television report cynically entitled "Warm Welcome" claimed the protesters were "social activists." It said these "concerned citizens" were asking why "Polish authorities pursue a policy of double standards: on one hand declaring a desire for peace, while on the other financing and arming Ukraine."

Threat of wider war

The attack comes on the heels of a number of other provocations by Russian President Vladimir Putin against Poland. A couple of days earlier, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk denounced "an unprecedented act of sabotage" that had almost caused a deadly passenger train derailment. A Nov. 14 explosion had damaged the rail line between Warsaw and Lublin, a key supply route for military aid to Ukraine.

The Polish government announced the deployment of 10,000 soldiers to protect critical infrastructure. It also ordered the closure of the last Russian Consulate, in Gdansk, leaving only the

Russian Embassy in Warsaw.

Earlier, a wave of Russian drones had flown over Polish territory from Belarus Sept. 10, a dangerous provocation the Kremlin claimed was simply a case of drones "straying" from attacks aimed at cities in western Ukraine. For the first time, NATO jet fighters were scrambled, using live fire to down the drones inside alliance airspace. Moscow has carried out similar drone intrusions elsewhere, causing disruption and testing the military preparedness of its opponents in the U.S.-led NATO alliance.

These new threats, coming amid the ongoing military rearmament by all regimes in Europe, are a reflection of how Moscow's Ukraine war and the efforts of the capitalist rulers in Europe to defend themselves and their place in the imperialist pecking order threaten a new world war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will only agree to a deal that leaves Ukraine seriously weakened and keeps open possibilities for advancing his goal of conquering all the country. He says there is no basis for an independent Ukraine, whose existence he blames on V.I. Lenin and the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, which fought for the right of oppressed nations to self determination.

The scale of the death and destruction being orchestrated by Putin's expansionist capitalist regime is described in a joint appeal for solidarity with Ukraine issued Nov. 16 by the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) and the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU).

Ukraine unions appeal for solidarity

Addressed to unions in countries in Europe, it notes how Moscow's war has turned "into a prolonged terror against workers, trade unions and peaceful communities." It notes that houses, hospitals, factories, and schools have been demolished. The jobs and entire communities of workers in front-line regions are being destroyed.

Ukraine's energy and other critical infrastructure, "everything that sustains the lives of millions of people," are being targeted. "In the first eight months of 2025 alone, 766 workers were injured and 154 were killed while doing their jobs," the appeal said. Numerous trade union offices have been hit.

Putin has stepped up his deadly missile and drone assault. At least seven people were killed by Moscow's aerial strikes on Kyiv Nov. 25. Six days earlier, 26 people were killed and 94 injured when a missile hit a residential building in Ternopil in western Ukraine. Five were killed in an attack in Zaporizhzhia the same night.

Recommended reading



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Hundreds at UC Berkeley hear Israeli hostage tortured by Hamas

BY JEFF POWERS

BERKELEY, Calif. — Omer Shem Tov, an Israeli who was seized by Hamas at the Nova music festival during its Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom and held hostage for 505 days, spoke to an audience of 500 people Nov. 18 on the University of California, Berkeley campus. The meeting was organized by the Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center and other groups. Most of the audience were students from that campus. Participants also came from San Francisco, Oakland and other places in the Bay Area.

The meeting was part of a national speaking tour that will include Colorado, Arizona, California, North Carolina, Florida and Massachusetts.

Shem Tov was held in Hamas’ tunnels in Gaza, where he suffered constant abuse. He was told his parents and the people of Israel did not care about him. He was half starved until a few weeks before his release, when he was better fed because Hamas did not want him to look like a Holocaust victim when they let him go. During his entire imprisonment he never saw the light of day.

Shem Tov explained how two of his friends did not fare so well. Ori, who Shem Tov said had saved his life when they were captured, died in Hamas’ tunnels. Maya, who was shot in the leg, was treated by a Hamas veterinarian, not a doctor. She has yet to fully recover.

Shem Tov taught himself Arabic while in captivity. His jailers never relented in their abusive attitude toward him. “One of the main reasons I was able to survive was because of the training I received as a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces,” he said.

The morning before Shem Tov’s talk, Students Supporting Israel, which sponsored the meeting, set up over 1,200 white chairs on a large lawn outside the university’s main library. On each chair was placed a photo of someone killed in the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre, or during their captivity in Gaza.

A small group of 10 pro-Hamas protesters rallied outside the meeting. This was a marked contrast from a meeting organized at UC Berkeley Feb.

26, 2024, to hear Ran Bar-Yosafat, the deputy director of the pro-Israel Kohelet Policy Forum. That meeting was canceled after 200 pro-Hamas thugs broke doors and smashed windows in an effort to attack the participants.

More than 1,000 people demonstrated on the campus two weeks later to protest cancellation of that meeting and to defend free speech and Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

After the meeting with Shem Tov, one student told the *Militant* that the only mistake the organizers made was not getting a bigger room for the event. The meeting was completely sold out and many people had to be turned away.



Courtesy Leah Kofman

In addition to speaking in a packed auditorium at UC Berkeley, former hostage Omer Shem Tov staffed a table on campus, inviting those who’ve heard pro-Hamas lies to come talk to him.

Defend Israel’s right to exist! Stop Hamas terror in Gaza

Continued from front page

Despite beatings, torture and murders of Palestinians carried out by its thugs in Gaza, Hamas has not been able to stamp out the growing opposition to its rule.

Hamas thugs have also repeatedly violated the ceasefire by crossing the “yellow line” between the 53% of Gaza controlled by Israel and the remainder of the territory where Hamas is reimposing its brutal dictatorship.

Since Nov. 21, the Israel Defense Forces killed at least 11 Hamas operatives who tried to flee the tunnels in Rafah. Six Hamas thugs surrendered, even though the Nazi-like group’s leaders boast that “surrender” is not in their “dictionary.”

The Israel Defense Forces is destroying remaining Hamas tunnels in the Rafah area. This can make it possible for Gazans who want to be free from the boot of Hamas to move there and begin rebuilding their lives.

U.S. officials are planning to set up temporary housing compounds for up to 25,000 people each with clinics and schools in areas of Gaza controlled by Israeli forces.

The Popular Forces, one of several anti-Hamas militias based in the Israeli-controlled zone, says it is taking measures to secure parts of Rafah

and “prepare it to receive families as quickly as possible.”

Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel for more than a year to reinforce Hamas after its Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom. But after Israel severely wounded thousands of Hezbollah fighters, destroyed its most advanced missile stores and decimated its leadership, Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire in Lebanon in November 2024.

Hezbollah was created in 1982 at the initiative of Tehran to extend its reactionary influence in the region. Since 2005 Hezbollah has been part of the Lebanese government.

The Lebanese army has helped to enforce the ceasefire in southern Lebanon, removing nearly 10,000 rockets, 400 missiles and over 205,000 smaller explosives. But Hezbollah refuses to disarm and is stockpiling missiles in the north. An Israeli airstrike Nov. 23 killed Hezbollah’s chief of staff, Haytham Ali Tabatabai, a central figure in its attempt to reorganize and prepare future assaults on Israel.

While the White House claims it supports limited strikes by Israel against Hamas and Hezbollah, it insists Israel exercise “restraint” and not launch an offensive.

U.S. imperialism puts plunder first

Washington is trying to create an alliance with regimes from Egypt and Saudi Arabia to Tehran to take on Beijing, its main rival worldwide, to push back its influence in the Middle East. The U.S. capitalist rulers see maintaining the ceasefires as essential to this goal and for advancing their plunder of the oil and other natural resources in the region.

President Trump welcomed Mohammad bin Salman, the Crown Prince of oil-rich Saudi Arabia, to the White House Nov. 18, greeting him with a military band and a flyover of F-35 fighter jets. This was followed by a lavish state dinner that included major capitalist owners, such as Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Apple CEO Tim Cook.

Trump approved a deal selling two squadrons of F-35s to Saudi Arabia and announced that the Saudis would purchase nearly 300 U.S. tanks.

This will make Saudi Arabia the only Middle Eastern country besides Israel with the stealth F-35 in its arsenal, although the Israeli version includes elec-

tronic warfare systems and fuel tanks with 30% greater capacity than the Saudis were given. Israel objects, as this undercuts its military superiority in the air.

In addition, U.S. companies will begin working with the Saudi kingdom to construct nuclear energy plants. A White House fact sheet called all this a demonstration of “the Trump Administration’s ‘America First’ approach.”

This is also the U.S. rulers’ approach to Syria. The week before bin Salman’s visit, Trump welcomed Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa to the White House.

Twenty years ago al-Sharaa, then a member of al-Qaeda, was a U.S. prisoner in Iraq. He later became the central leader of the Islamist groups that overthrew the Assad dictatorship in Syria last year.

The Israeli government has good reason to distrust the new government. Despite claiming to be building a new Syria for all of its nationalities and religions, the regime’s forces have clashed with the Druze, Kurdish and Alawite minorities, killing hundreds of civilians.

This is of little concern to the U.S. rulers. The Trump administration has lifted sanctions on Syria so it can rejoin the international banking and financial networks, making possible loans, financial transfers and aid.

While the capitalist government in Israel looks to U.S. imperialism to aid its defense, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu understands that Israel must be ready to act on its own if it is to survive.

Israel’s message to Washington

When Netanyahu visited Syrian territory held by Israel Nov. 19, a Ynet article was headlined, “Netanyahu’s tour of the Golan buffer zone sends a message to Syria — and Washington.” The Israel Defense Forces expanded the buffer deeper into Syrian territory after the fall of Assad to prevent the new regime from threatening Israel.

The article pointed out “the unusual composition of the entourage accompanying Netanyahu — including not only Defense Minister Israel Katz, IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir and Shin Bet Director David Zini, but also Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar.” Netanyahu made clear that Israel will not withdraw from any part of the zone — regardless of what Washington wants — until al-Sharaa agrees to ban heavy weapons and any substantial Syrian armed presence there.

Israelis in West Bank: ‘Stop attacks on Palestinians’

The liberal bourgeois media paints Israelis who live in West Bank settlements as overwhelmingly racists who illegally live on “occupied” land and seek to ethnically cleanse the territory of Palestinians. They don’t say a word about Hamas and Islamic Jihad thugs who have carried out thousands of anti-Jewish terror attacks there since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom.

Most Israelis who live in the West Bank oppose the violence by right-wing extremists who have beaten up Palestinian farmers, set fire to their homes, cars and businesses, poisoned or stolen their livestock or vandalized a mosque. A small number of perpetrators have been arrested, but Israeli soldiers often look the other way.

These anti-Arab attacks are “weakening ourselves,” Rabbi Shaul Judelman told the Times of Israel Nov. 24. He is one of 400 Israeli residents of the Gush Etzion bloc in the West Bank who signed a petition opposing the anti-Palestinian attacks. In Gush Etzion, “there are many Jews and Palestinians who have known each other for a long time,” Judelman said.

“We, residents of Gush Etzion, lovers of Zion and the Land of Israel, feel that we cannot remain silent in the face of the terrible wave of violence in recent weeks,” the petition reads. “These acts stand in violation of the law, morality, and halakha [Jewish law].”

Most of the people in the Elazar settlement where Nechama Goldman Barash, a teacher and petition signer, lives oppose the violence, she told the Times of Israel. But many say the bigger problem is the attacks by Hamas. Even if the numbers of extremists who attack Arabs are small, she said, “we should protest people who are violent in unspeakable ways, so we can confront it and deal with it.”

— S.G.

Miners on strike tell FDR, ‘You can’t mine coal with bayonets!’

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November is Labor's Giant Step — The First Twenty Years of the CIO: 1936-55 by Art Preis. He fought in labor battles in the 1930s, then became a staff writer for the Militant, covering the rise of the powerful industrial union movement. The excerpt tells of the successful United Mine Workers strike in the midst of World War II. The miners defied government threats to send troops, fought on and won a decisive victory. The Militant called this “a landmark in the history of the American class struggle.” Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ART PREIS

There were many signs of the growing restiveness of the industrial workers as 1942 drew to a close and during the opening months of 1943. ... The spreading coal strike forced [President Franklin Delano] Roosevelt to step forward personally to take public responsibility for leading the opposition to the miners. He telegraphed [UMWA President John L.] Lewis on April 29 that he would use “all the powers vested in me as President and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy” if the strikes were not ended by the morning of May 1. Roosevelt’s threat brought an immediate defiant reply from the mine workers. Nearly 10,000 Ohio miners left



Associated Press

Miners in Ohio read about the UMWA battle May 1, 1943. In midst of imperialist war, miners defied government order to go back to work, continued their strike, won broad labor support.

the pits. By the morning of Saturday, May 1, every union soft coal mine in the country was closed. The national strike of the miners was not only the largest coal strike the country had seen up to this time. It was the largest single strike of any kind the land had ever known. It was carried out with a dispatch, discipline and single-minded determination that had never been surpassed in the American labor movement.

The press did surpass itself in the volume of vituperation, slanders and threats hurled at the miners and Lewis. Lewis was linked with Hitler in newsreels, on the radio, in countless newspaper cartoons. Union leaders joined the chorus of anti-labor forces who were screaming for nothing less than the destruction of the miners union under the guise of aiding the war for “democracy.” UAW-CIO President R.J. Thomas said that the miners’ walkout was “a political strike against the President.”

On May 1 Roosevelt himself ordered government seizure of the struck coal mines and their operation under Solid Fuels Administrator Harold L. Ickes. Ickes “seized” the mines by promptly ordering the American flag to be flown over all mine properties and directing all mine owners and managers to run the mines as government agents in the name of the government — all profits to continue as usual. Ickes then declared the miners were working “for the Govern-

ment” and ordered them back to work. The miners didn’t budge. They waited for the decision of the union. On Sunday night of May 2 Roosevelt ... speaking in a savage tone, attacked Lewis and the miners, claiming that the strike involved “a gamble with the lives of American soldiers and sailors.” ... This writer ... toured the Western Pennsylvania mining area near Pittsburgh and wrote on May 3 for the May 8 *Militant*:

“The hope of the mine operators and every other boss in the country that President Roosevelt’s speech last night would send the coal miners scurrying back to the pits this morning in a demoralized rout has been completely smashed. “Sticking by their guns in a magnificent display of union discipline and solidarity, and in the face of an unparalleled barrage of government threat and intimidation, the miners throughout this key soft coal area today held hundreds of local meetings and in an organized, deliberate fashion voted to return to work tomorrow pending the outcome of the 15-day mine truce announced by United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis.” The *Militant* was the only significant press voice, in or out of the labor movement, that spoke unconditionally in defense of the mine strike. The wartime miners strikes became the touchstone by which to judge the

true loyalty of every union leader and working-class group toward the American workers. It revealed great masses of CIO workers in strong sympathy with the coal miners. But the whole top layer of the CIO bureaucracy opposed the miners in fear lest a UMW victory might force them to take more vigorous action against the wage freeze and thereby come in conflict with Roosevelt. In Detroit on May 2, the day of Roosevelt’s radio call to the miners, a thousand delegates representing 350,000 members of the United Auto Workers in Michigan overrode their national officers and adopted by overwhelming vote a resolution to support not only the UMW’s demands but the strike as well. The UAW national leaders, which included President Thomas and Vice-President Reuther, introduced and backed a minority resolution opposing the strike. Thomas, Reuther and the Stalinist delegates spoke against Lewis and the strike. But the delegates would not be swayed. Only a half dozen or so — recognized Stalinists — openly voted against the majority resolution to back the coal strike. ... [T]he miners’ victory opened a whole new wave of labor struggle, mounting steadily through 1943, 1944 and 1945, reaching a titanic climax in the winter of 1945-46. The employers’ postwar plan to turn the war veterans against the workers and smash the unions was never able to get going. The miners themselves were able to go on from victory to victory in the war and immediate postwar period, winning many new gains, such as health and welfare funds, retirement pensions and other conditions, which then became objectives of the CIO unions as well. Above all, the miners demonstrated as never before the fact that nothing can produce coal — or any other form of wealth — but the labor of workers. When the miners said “you can’t dig coal with bayonets,” they were saying that organized labor, united and determined to defend itself and its rights, is invincible. That is why, in hailing the miners’ victory, *The Militant* of November 13, 1943, said: “The miners strikes of 1943, taking place in the midst of the Second World War, will forever remain a landmark in the history of the American class struggle.”

November
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder Readers Club Specials



Labor's Giant Step
The First Twenty Years of the CIO: 1936-55
ART PREIS
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8 The Militant December 8, 2025

Fight deportations, win amnesty for immigrants

Washington’s escalating immigration raids and deportations are a serious threat to working people and the unions today. They seek to divide the working class into two camps: workers born in the U.S. and others born abroad. The goal of the bosses and their government is to set us against each other, the better to exploit us all.

At the same time, they’re fueling struggles against these government attacks. These fights can win victories and bring workers together. This is in the interests of all working people.

Some recent fights the *Militant* has featured include:

- The campaign against the deportation of sheet metal apprentice Kilmar Abrego García. He’s fighting the Donald Trump administration’s moves to try to deport him to Liberia, a country in Africa he has zero connection with. Abrego García has a wife and three children here, and his fight to stay in the U.S. is backed by his union, the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers. The government was forced to return him to the U.S. after violating a federal court order and deporting him to El Salvador, where he was imprisoned and tortured. He is fighting for his freedom against a vindictive assault by the government.
- David Huerta, a leader of the Service Employees International Union in Los Angeles, was beaten, jailed and slapped with felony charges for participating in a protest against an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at a garment plant there. Forced to drop the felony charges, prosecutors are still trying to go after him. He and his union are fighting back.
- Restaurant owner Anou Vongbandith has returned to Philadelphia after an outpouring of support from working people across the city forced authorities to release him from ICE detention. He’s been in the U.S. since fleeing repression in Laos 45 years ago, and is still fighting to stay here.

- In a similar battle, Ruperto Vicens, who runs a restaurant in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, was released from detention Nov. 18 after he had been detained by ICE, despite having a visa to work in the U.S. Family members and supporters raised \$96,000 for his legal defense. His fight continues.

There are many more examples of situations where workers have come together to join successful fights to turn back government threats to deport people they’ve come to know. One great example was when co-workers, neighbors, people who got to know each other at their kids’ soccer games all came together to win freedom and return Carole Mayorga back to her family and job waiting tables in Kennett, Missouri. “I voted for Donald Trump,” Vanessa Cowart, who goes to the same church as Mayorga, said. “But no one voted to deport moms.”

Join in spreading the word about these fights. Help win support from your union, church, friends and co-workers. Each of these struggles, and others like them, set an important example.

Under the impact of today’s deepening worldwide capitalist crisis, tens of millions have emigrated to the U.S. in search of a better life. The bosses take advantage of this to try and create a pariah layer of the working class with fewer rights who live in fear of deportation. Their drive to superexploit this layer of workers is part and parcel of their efforts to weaken our unions and drive down the wages and conditions of all workers.

This is a life-and-death question for the labor movement. We cannot allow the working class to get torn apart under the blows of the rulers’ offensive. We need to join in a fight to win amnesty for all workers in the U.S. without papers. This is the road to unify labor’s ranks and strengthen the entire working class for the bigger class battles to come.

Cuba’s role in Angola

Continued from front page

internationally, including U.S. imperialism, that threatened to overturn Angola’s independence.

A commemoration was held in Havana Nov. 18 to celebrate the anniversary of the onset of that struggle. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel greeted everyone, including members of the diplomatic corps from Angola, Djibouti, Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, South Africa, Namibia and Guinea. He brought greetings and an embrace from Raúl Castro, a leader of the Cuban Revolution.

Angola’s ambassador to Cuba, Carlos Cruz de Lemos Sardinha, recalled how the Cubans had crossed the Atlantic to fight for Angola. He said new generations need to know about the support the revolutionary island nation brought to Angola at a difficult time, and in spite of the fact that Cuba was suffering the consequences of the brutal effects of the U.S. rulers’ economic and political war. He thanked Cuba for its example of solidarity and assured all those present that Cuba’s strength and sacrifice in support of Angola had not been in vain.

Operation Carlota was named after a slave called Black Carlota. On Nov. 5, 1843, while working on the Triunvirato plantation in the Matanzas region, she took up her machete at the head of a slave rebellion in which she lost her life.

“At the moment of the birth of a sovereign and free Angola, Cuban internationalist combatants, under Fidel’s guidance, responded to the call of the president of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], Dr. Agostinho Neto, to support the struggle against the invading forces that sought to stifle the cry for independence,” Álvaro López Miera, minister of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, told the gathering.

“This epic act of solidarity” was “initiated by 480 Cuban military instructors in the summer of 1975,” he said. The combatants and people of Cuba responded to the fraternal call because as Fidel said, “to be internationalists is to pay our own debt to humanity.”

“Operation Carlota did not end; it was transformed,” he said, pointing to how Cuba still sends aid to Angolan hospitals, classrooms and more.

Enormous victory for African freedom

In late 1987, South African apartheid troops launched a second major offensive, hoping to inflict a crushing defeat on Angola. But the Cuban and Angolan leaderships came to an agreement to decisively defeat South Africa and assure Angola’s independence. The March 1988 victory they won at Cuito Cuanavale, routing the apartheid army, echoed around the world — and across South Africa above all. In the words of Nelson Mandela, that victory “broke the myth of the invincibility of the white oppressors.”

Less than two years later, Mandela, who was imprisoned for more than 27 years by the apartheid state, walked free. “By 1994 the racist regime was no more, and Mandela was president of South Africa,” SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters explains in her introduction to *Cuba and Angola: The War for Freedom* by Harry Villegas, a Cuban general who served three tours of duty in Angola.

The decadeslong battle greatly strengthened Cuba’s socialist revolution. Combatants who served in Angola brought back with them renewed pride in Cuba’s internationalism and determination to defend it arms in hand.

Cuba leads fight against Alzheimer’s disease

BY JAMES HARRIS

WASHINGTON — “Today, I want to speak with you about an urgent crisis, a remarkable story and an opportunity we can no longer afford to ignore,” said Alejandro Pila, deputy ambassador at Cuba’s embassy here, welcoming some 50 participants to a Nov. 18 screening of “Teresita’s Dream.”

The short film, made by Cuban director Daniel Montero and the U.S. production company Belly of the Beast, is a documentary on Cuba’s path-setting fight against the ravages of Alzheimer’s disease. Montero addressed the meeting and answered questions from Cuba by Zoom. Busboys and Poets, a well-know restaurant and political meeting space, hosted the screening.

“Teresita’s Dream” tells the story of Dr. Teresita de Jesús Rodríguez, who discovered a promising drug in fighting the disease after her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. The drug has been effective in arresting the development of the devastating disease, and reversing its effects in some patients. The film also documents how despite a six-decade-long embargo of Cuba by Washington, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, Cuba continues to play a leading role in scientific research and development of important medical treatments.

Considered the most common form of dementia, Alzheimer’s currently affects more than 50 million people worldwide. The World Health Organization projects that will increase to 80 million by 2030.

“We are nothing without our memories, which is what makes Alzheimer’s such a terrible disease,” Dr. Rodriguez says in the film. It includes photos and videos of her mother, her research, and progress made by recipients of NeuroEpo, the name of the drug she pioneered and which is now produced in Cuba. “Sometimes the science done in a small place like Cuba is underestimated,” she modestly explains.

While the drug is being used in Cuba, where an estimated 10.2% of people over 65 have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, Pila said the U.S.



Cuban doctor Teresita de Jesús Rodríguez developed drug to fight Alzheimer’s. U.S. isn’t interested in fact it’s successful.

government has neither tested it nor explored it in government research institutions.

“They have never opened the door to see whether this nonamyloid mechanism could help millions of U.S. citizens,” he said. “In the U.S. the stakes are rising, as Alzheimer’s disease hits hardest among the most vulnerable — African American, immigrant and rural populations here.

“It is time for the U.S. to reimagine what is possible. It is time to say yes to science, yes to collaboration, and yes to the millions of families who deserve better than the status quo.”

The short documentary is an important new tool, both for explaining new possibilities to fight Alzheimer’s and advancing the fight against the U.S. government blockade of Cuba and pressing Washington to take Cuba off its “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list.

Speaking on behalf of Belly of the Beast, Sanjna Selva said the film has already been screened in several cities, with plans underway to expand its distribution in 2026.

Cuba & Angola The War for Freedom

Harry Villegas (“Pombo”)

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