

Forum in Quebec discusses Cuba's role in Africa's fight for freedom

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — A well-attended Militant Labor Forum here Nov. 30 focused on Cuba's historic role in the yearslong struggle that brought down the hated apartheid regime in South Africa. The panelists were Mayuka Abdul-lai, a cleaner at Montreal airport, originally from Ghana; Fatimata Ouattara, a physiotherapist originally from Burkina Faso; and Philippe Tessier, a rail worker and Teamsters union member, speaking for the Communist League.

The meeting marked the 50th anniversary of Operation Carlota, when the revolutionary Cuban government organized to send what became 425,000 volunteers. They served in Angola from 1975 to 1991 in the historic battle against repeated invasions by the white supremacist regime in South Africa.

The struggle culminated in 1988 when Cuban and Angolan forces decisively defeated the South African army at Cuito Cuanavale. "Following this defeat," Tessier told the 36 people at the meeting, "Pretoria was forced to sit down at the negotiating table, abandon its invasion and grant independence to

Continued on page 2

SWP finds good response to the 'Militant,' books by party leaders

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

Socialist Workers Party members are getting a good response from workers and young people searching for a way out of today's worsening crisis of capitalism that's driving rival ruling classes toward a new world war. They're presenting the party's perspective that the only way out is

134 Pathfinder books sold at African Studies conference in Atlanta

— page 10

for working people to take political power into our own hands.

The SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are discussing a revolutionary road forward with workers who recently got subscriptions to the *Militant* during the party's fall propaganda campaign.

"I love everything about the paper, especially how it tells the truth about what's really happening in the world,"

Continued on page 5

Protest Washington's latest threats of war against Maduro and Venezuela



Reuters/Ricardo Arduengo

U.S. Marines practice landings in Arroyo, Puerto Rico, Oct. 16. Trump administration threatens invasion to pressure Venezuelan government, assert its domination of Latin America.

BY RÓGER CALERO

Washington continues its escalating threats against the government of Nicolás Maduro, saying U.S. forces may begin targeted airstrikes inside Venezuela, similar to the ones the U.S. Department of War has been carrying out against boats it alleges are carrying drugs to the U.S.

The government of President Don-

ald Trump also said Dec. 2 that any country in the area involved in the illegal drug trade "and selling it to our country is subject to attack, not just Venezuela."

To advance these assaults, and put growing pressure on Maduro, the U.S. government has deployed the largest military force in the Caribbean in

Continued on page 8

Defend Israel's existence as refuge against Jew-hatred

Hamas reimposes rule in Gaza, refuses to disarm



AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana

Armed thugs patrol Gaza as Hamas reimposes tyrannical rule on Palestinians. Only force capable, willing to disarm its death squads to prevent more pogroms is Israel Defense Forces.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hamas leaders make it clear they have no intention of disarming, nor of giving up their brutal stranglehold on Gaza or abandoning their goal of destroying Israel and eliminating the Jews. As the weeks go by with no moves to disarm Hamas, the pro-Nazi thugs are growing emboldened.

If Israel is to survive as a refuge for Jews, sooner or later it will have to go on the offensive to destroy Hamas and

incorporate more of Gaza into Israel. No other force is capable of doing this.

With Israel controlling 53% of Gaza and Hamas the rest, the "yellow line" that separates the two has become "a new border line," Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said Dec. 8. This puts Israel in a better position to prevent Hamas' attacks, but does not eliminate the key cause of the wars there — Hamas' use of the territory it

Continued on page 9

Putin steps up assault on Ukraine as US gov't presses Kyiv to give in

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Since 2022 determined Ukrainian working people have resisted Moscow's invasion and drive to seize all of their country. Today the conflict has become

a bloody war of attrition. With complete disregard for the lives and limbs of Russian soldiers, President Vladimir Putin is trying to expand the occupation of territory in Ukraine's southeast.

Meanwhile Washington is attempting to impose a peace deal in order to expand its prospects for businesses and profits while rebuilding its relations with Moscow.

Talks underway brokered by President

Continued on page 7

Unions must take on Washington's war on workers without papers

BY TERRY EVANS

Since taking office, President Donald Trump's administration has launched a far-reaching effort to deport hundreds of thousands of workers without papers, posing a serious challenge to the labor movement. Trump slanders immigrant workers, saying millions are criminals or worse, and calls them "garbage."

He seized on the shooting of two National Guard troops in Washington, D.C., by a refugee from Afghanistan

Continued on page 3

Inside

Protests oppose gov't threats against Somalis in Minnesota 3

Labour gov't in UK weakens crucial right to trial by jury 5

Deadly flooding in Southeast Asia reveals social catastrophe 6

— On the picket line, p. 4 —

Bay Area teachers strike for adequate staffing, better pay

UK gallery workers win support during strike for higher pay

Forum on Cuba’s role in Africa

Continued from front page

Namibia. Less than two years later Nelson Mandela won his freedom after 27 years in prison.”

Mandela went to Cuba in 1991 to thank the Cubans for their contribution. “The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom, and justice, unparalleled for its principled and selfless character,” he said.

Abdullahi spoke about the scope and importance of Cuba’s internationalist solidarity throughout Africa. “Cuba has been in most African countries. They help and leave without taking anything from us. They don’t care about our gold or diamonds,” he said. “So many doctors came from Cuba when we were facing malaria and other sicknesses.”

He said he learned about the *Militant* when supporters of the weekly working-class newspaper knocked on his door. He thanked the paper for its coverage of the struggles of work-

ing people around the world.

Ouattara explained that it is impossible to understand Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, without also talking about Cuba, a decisive ally there and in many other African struggles.

Sankara and Burkinabe revolution

“Burkinabe foreign policy under Sankara” — standing side-by-side with Cuba — “was part of the international struggle against oppression, in particular against apartheid,” she said.

Ouattara described how under Sankara’s leadership special attention was taken to educate the Burkinabe people about apartheid in South Africa. For example, video presentations on the struggle there were presented all over the country, including in the smallest villages.

“The Canadian government opposed the Cuban internationalist mission,” Tessier said. “A few months after the beginning of the 1975 war in Angola, Pierre Trudeau’s Liberal government moved to prevent Cuban planes from using the Gander airport in Newfoundland to refuel on the way to Angola and put additional pressure on the Cuban government to stop its support.” For over a decade Ottawa suspended all financial aid to Cuba.

Sankara was assassinated by counterrevolutionaries in 1987, Ouattara said, and “all his works were destroyed, wiped out or deformed. But since 2022, the popular progressive revolution under the leadership of Captain Ibrahim Traoré has again given to our people a part of its dignity. For the first time in a long time, a national policy is in continuity with the work of Sankara.”



Above, Ricardo López Hevia/Granma; inset, Militant/Jim Upton Cuban-Angolan tank crew at Cuito Cuanavale, May 31, 1988, after victory over South African apartheid forces there. Inset, airport cleaner Mayuka Abdullahi, originally from Ghana, speaking at Nov. 30 Montreal forum on Cuba’s internationalist solidarity with Africa.



In the discussion, Tessier expressed a different view of the military regime that seized power in Burkina Faso. “Traoré leads the ruling army’s efforts to stabilize capitalist rule,” he said. “While Sankara was for utilizing the French language, imposed on them by French imperialism, to make connections with the rest of the world, Traoré is opposed. Traoré is for the jailing of people who are gay. There is not the same continuity.”

Steve Penner, from the Communist League, spoke in the discussion. “Like other great revolutionary and communist leaders, such as V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky, who led the Russian Revolution in 1917, and Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, who led the 1959 Cuban Revolution, Sankara understood there is no other way to overcome the exploitation and oppression we face other than through the organization, mobilization and education of working people. There is no leader anywhere in Africa today with that perspective.”

Soulèye Ndiaye, originally from Senegal, said he thought the panelists had done a remarkable job in explaining what is happening in Africa and the rest of the world, and he wants to know more. He subscribed to the *Militant* and got *Thomas Sankara Speaks* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, both in French.

Idrissa Diallo from Guinea said, “We see Cuba as an African country because of its support for our struggles.”

Tessier wrapped up the meeting, saying, “Yesterday many of us here participated in the massive labor-sponsored march against the attacks the Quebec government is waging against the unions, doctors and immigrants.

“Struggles such as this, like Cuba’s revolution and its inspiring mission in Angola, show that with a proletarian leadership workers and farmers have the capacity to unite and fight against the world capitalist system. To organize a mass struggle to take political power to end racism and all other forms of oppression and stop the march of imperialism toward war, that’s what the Communist League seeks to join in doing.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA Oakland

No to Washington’s Wars! Amnesty for Immigrants! Support Union Struggles!
Speaker: Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for Congress. Sun., Dec. 21, 6 p.m.
Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel: (510) 686-1351.

The Militant

Vol. 89/No. 46

Closing news date: December 10, 2025

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

Published weekly except for one week in January, three weeks in June, and one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

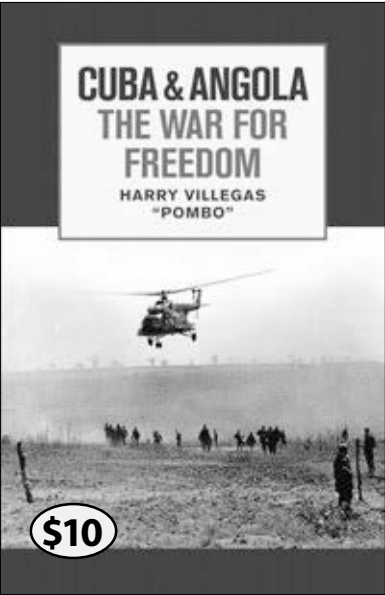
France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.



pathfinderpress.com

CUBA & ANGOLA
THE WAR FOR
FREEDOM
HARRY VILLEGAS
“POMBO”

\$10

THE MILITANT

No to Putin’s war on the Ukrainian people!

Moscow’s murderous war on Ukraine is increasingly focused on attacks on civilians. The ‘Militant’ provides weekly coverage explaining the stakes for working people in defending Ukraine’s sovereignty, and also opposing sanctions against Russia that hit working people there the hardest.



AP Photo/ Efrem Lubatsky
Nataliia Naumova, right, recovers from drone attack in Ukraine hospital Nov. 3.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, A\$10 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

Protests oppose gov’t threats against Somalis in Minnesota

BY EDWIN FRUIT

MINNEAPOLIS — Some 200 people protested in front of Signature Aviation at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Dec. 3. The federal government is utilizing Signature to transport immigrants arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents here to detention centers in other parts of the country. The action was sponsored by the Service Employees International Union, UNITE HERE, the Minnesota AFL-CIO and others.

The Donald Trump administration recently targeted Minneapolis-St. Paul for immigration sweeps — especially targeting Somalis — sending some 100 officers and agents into the area.

Greg Nammacher, president of SEIU Local 26 and chair of the rally, told protesters it is crucial for labor to take a stand. “Already, two of our union members have been swept up in these raids,” he said.

“These deportations create terror in our neighborhoods and are ripping families apart,” said Geof Paquette, an organizer with UNITE HERE Local 17. “They do nothing but sow fear and anxiety in our community. We’ve got to demand better.”

After the rally, participants marched to the nearby airport rider-service lot to extend solidarity to Uber and Lyft drivers, many of whom are East African. They are fighting for airport authorities to provide bathrooms they can use and a place to pray.

“In the Labor Movement, an injury to one is an injury to all. By vilifying our Somali American co-workers and neighbors and threatening military-style raids in Minnesota’s communities, President Trump is attacking our state’s entire Labor Movement,” said a statement issued by Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham in response to Trump’s smears against Minnesota’s Somali American community.

“Union members refuse to let anyone, even the President of the United States, divide us based on what we look like, where we were born, or how we pray.”

Trump calls Somalis ‘garbage’

At a cabinet meeting Dec. 2, Trump said Somalia is “barely a country” and accused refugees in Minnesota of having “ripped off that state for billions of dollars, every year, and they contribute nothing.”

“We don’t want them in our country. Their country stinks,” he went on. “Let them go back to their country and fix it.”

He also attacked 5th District Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who is a refugee from Somalia, saying, “Ilhan Omar is garbage. She’s garbage. Her friends are garbage.”

Opponents of the rights of immigrants point to a recent welfare fraud investigation here that has led to the conviction of some 60 people, including some of whom are Somali. They use this to buttress their slanders against the whole Somali community.

Minnesota is home to the largest emigre Somali population in the world. Most fled from a devastating civil war in the 1990s. The vast majority — 87% — are now American citizens.

Karmel Mall, a shopping center filled with Somali-owned and operat-

ed businesses, displayed flyers on its windows and doors Dec. 3 saying ICE agents will not be allowed entrance without a warrant.

“Today and yesterday, the neighborhood was stormed with ICE agents,” developer and mall owner Basim Sabri told the media. “In fact, my security guards have to ask them to move out of the lot.

“They stop people obviously just based on their look,” he said, “not based on a piece of paper provided to the agent to execute by the court.”

Imams, priests, rabbis and other religious leaders came together at the Umatul Islam Center in Minneapolis Dec. 4 in a show of support for the Somali neighbors.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dako-

Unions must take on Washington’s war on immigrants

Continued from front page

Nov. 26 to deepen the assaults. One of the guard members, 20-year-old Sarah Beckstrom, was killed. Rahmanullah Lakanwal was charged with the shooting. The administration immediately suspended all asylum applications by immigrants in the U.S. — some 1.5 million people.

It announced it will “reassess” all applications approved under the previous administration and indefinitely bar Afghanis from entering the country. Lakanwal had been granted asylum in the U.S. after fighting in a CIA-funded pro-U.S. paramilitary unit. He was evacuated when Kabul fell in 2021.

“If they can’t love our country, we don’t want them,” Trump said.

The administration paused all immigration applications from 19 nations, mostly in Africa and the Middle East. “They shouldn’t punish all of us because of one person,” Obaidullah Durani, a delivery driver in Arizona originally from Afghanistan, told the *New York Times*. “This is a country of laws and democracy; the man has been arrested.”

Trump’s deepening attack on immigrants comes on the heels of a step up in deportations and border stops under the Democratic administration of Joseph Biden. It has gone hand in hand with growing threats to target people for their religious beliefs and political views, a clear violation of the U.S. Constitution. Trump says he would like to strip U.S. citizenship from immigrants he says “undermine domestic tranquility” or hold views he calls “non-compatible with Western Civilization.”

The administration’s latest measures come after months of expanding raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the streets, at car washes, Home Depot parking lots, warehouses, factories and farms. These swoops leave an entire layer of the working class, numbering in the millions, either incarcerated, deported or living and working in greater fear.

The government also ended protected legal status for hundreds of thousands of workers from Venezuela, Haiti and other crisis-ridden countries, to try to force them to leave the U.S.

Workers seized by ICE face brutal conditions in government or for-profit privately run detention centers, separated from their families and



Militant/Edwin Fruit

March at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport Dec. 3 protests government threats to Somali immigrants.

tas put out a statement saying it “condemns President Trump’s remarks referring to Minnesota’s Somali community as ‘garbage.’”

“Across history and in our own time,” it said, “treating human beings as ‘garbage’ clears the psychological path toward violence.”

facing deportation.

But many immigrants find their neighbors, co-workers and others — including Trump supporters — don’t agree with these assaults. They see immigrants as fellow workers. Support can be won for the release of detainees from unions, churches and others in the communities where immigrants live and work. The scope, brutality and arbitrary character of the raids are unpopular among wide layers of the working class.

Hundreds turned out in Astoria, Queens, a neighborhood of New York City, Dec. 7 to protest against the arrest and separation of Fei Zheng from his 6-year-old son Yuanxin. They had fled from China, fearing deepening repression there. Zheng was reporting to a scheduled immigration appointment at the Federal Plaza in Manhattan Nov. 26 when ICE grabbed him. Its agents regularly stake out immigration hearings, a gross violation of people’s rights.

Zheng is being held at a detention wing of the Orange County jail, while Yuanxin is in custody of the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement at an undisclosed location. Many of his classmates at P.S. 166 and their families joined the protest, as well as area unionists.

Raids heighten insecurity of millions

ICE agents say they’ve seized an average of 1,100 people every day in recent weeks, up from 821 daily between mid-January and mid-October. The administration is building new detention centers to incarcerate 100,000 people at a time, up from the current capacity of 40,000.

To hamper workers picked up in the raids from winning release, the administration in July ruled that undocumented workers were to be denied bond hearings, undermining constitutional protection of equal treatment under the law. A federal judge overturned the ruling Nov. 25.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced Nov. 28 steps to tighten the use of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, passed under the Democratic administration of Bill Clinton in 1996. The act bars workers without papers from obtaining government benefits.

The administration tries to convince U.S.-born workers and immigrants with legal papers that this will mean more benefits will be available for them. In

fact the only consequence will be to deepen divisions within the working class, as the bosses press forward their assaults against the jobs, work conditions and wages of all working people.

Since May the administration has urged judges to place more workers picked up by ICE into “expedited removal.” Also adopted under Clinton, this fast-track expulsion allows an immigration officer to act as prosecutor and judge, summarily deporting anyone they choose following a single interview. This undermines everyone’s constitutional right to legal representation and due process.

The goal behind Trump’s foul-mouthed smearing of immigrants, and his administration’s stepped-up raids, deportations and the denial of constitutional protections is not aimed at expelling all undocumented workers. It’s to create heightened insecurity among workers without papers, making them more vulnerable to superexploitation by profit-hungry bosses.

In fact, over the summer Trump exempted from this crackdown bosses in agriculture, meatpacking plants, hotels and restaurants, all of whom are dependent on immigrant labor.

While attacks on workers without papers are accelerating today, they’re consistent with the course of the U.S. ruling class regardless of which party is in the White House. The government seeks to regulate the flow of immigration to meet the bosses’ needs for cheap labor, and to do so in a way that deepens divisions among workers.

The bosses’ capacity to reap profits off workers’ backs depends on the competition among workers for jobs, which is inevitable under capitalism.

The scapegoating of immigrant workers by the bosses and their government does find an echo among some workers. But most want to see the working class united, the better to defend our own class interests.

The unions can advance a course to unify working people regardless of our immigration status, or our nationality, religion or race, so we can fight against the twin afflictions of joblessness and high prices. Crucial to that struggle is fighting for an amnesty for all workers in the U.S. without papers, the only road to ending the pariah status imposed on over 11 million of our fellow workers.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Bay Area teachers strike for adequate staffing, better pay

RICHMOND, Calif. — Some 3,000 teachers and other school workers went on strike against the West Contra Costa Unified School District Dec. 4, demanding better wages and adequate staffing. This is their first strike since the district was founded in 1965.

They held a spirited rally here of over 1,000 strikers — teachers in the United Teachers of Richmond and staff members in Teamsters Local 856. “The district says cut back, we say fight back!” and “Rain or shine, we walk the picket line!” they chanted.

“We don’t have enough special education teachers,” Teamster Hope Mariscal, a bilingual teachers aide, told the *Militant*. “Last year in my school we had three paraprofessionals for special needs students. This year we have two. We want full staffing so the children aren’t getting different substitute teachers all the time.”

“Some kids never have a permanent teacher,” Sue King, a second grade teacher at Montalvin elementary school and a shop steward, said. “Consistency is key.”

“We’re demanding a permanent teacher for every student, smaller classes and smaller caseloads for special education workers,” strike captain Ethan Sorscher added. “Also, the district is prematurely exiting students from special education, which needs to stop.”

“For me the strike is about the conditions for our students,” Rachel McLachlan, a third grade teacher at Mira Vista elementary, said. “It’s also about salary. We’re one of the lowest-paid districts in the region, and that’s why we have so many vacancies.”

“It’s very important that teachers have what they need so they can give the students what they need,” Nicole Miner, mother of a first grader here, said, holding a sign that read, “Parents stand with teachers.”

The next day the school district negotiators agreed to return to the bargaining table. Called out on a day’s notice, hundreds of unionists marched and chanted outside the school where the ne-

gotiations were taking place on Dec. 6, then held a candlelight vigil. They sang, “We shall overcome,” and “All I want for Christmas is a fair contract, so I can afford to live in California.”

Other teachers in the area face similar challenges. Members of the United Educators of San Francisco voted Dec. 3 by 99.3% to authorize a strike.

— Maggie Trowe

UK gallery workers win support during strike for higher pay

LONDON — More than 150 workers, members of the Public and Commercial Services Union, went on strike at the Tate galleries in Liverpool, London and St. Ives Nov. 26-Dec. 2, demanding higher pay.

Strikers at the Tate Modern here carried homemade signs, “Tate Gallery review — a portrait of the staff in turmoil,” “Priceless art? ... Undervalued staff!!!” and “You can still Turner this around.” The strike coincided with the opening of the “Turner & Constable, Rivals & Originals” exhibit.

“The pay rise is our main demand,” Sophie Bruck, union representative for Tate United, told the *Militant*. She explained the workers had had a below inflation pay increase for the past two years while their expenses were rising sharply.

“In 2021 they changed the pension scheme for new starters, and they’ve shut the subsidized canteens that made a lot of difference to workers,” Bruck said. More workers have joined the union during the strike because “they saw it doing something.”

Strikers have received support from other unions, including visits to their pickets by the general secretaries of both the Fire Brigades Union and the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union. Other supporters included a number of artists and curators.

— Ólöf Andra Proppé

Starbucks workers strike for more hours and wage raise

SEATTLE — The Starbucks Workers United union continues to mount strike picket lines Monday to Friday at three



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Teachers on strike against the West Contra Costa Unified School District and supporters march in Richmond, California, Dec. 6. Fight is over higher wages and for hiring more teachers.

stores in this area and in cities across the country. The strike began at 120 stores Nov. 13, hitting the company in 85 cities on one of their biggest promotional days of the year, and more since. Some 2,500 workers are participating overall. Strikers told the *Militant* the key issues are more hours — 20 hours a week is the minimum needed to qualify for health care and other benefits — as well as higher wages.

Since 2021, the union has organized some 550 stores, but the company has resisted negotiating a contract. There are 17,000 Starbucks stores in the U.S.

Starbucks disputes the number of stores on strike, and claims it offers a generous wage and benefit package.

In a recent settlement announced in New York City Dec. 1, Starbucks agreed to pay over \$35 million to more than 15,000 workers there over arbitrary switches in their schedules and cutting their hours from July 2021 to July 2024. This boosted strikers across the country.

“Anyone who works in retail knows that this is the highest volume time of year. Starbucks capitalizes on this period of sales through various holiday promotions, yet it’s the worst time to be a barista here,” Michelle Eisen, a Starbucks Workers UNITED spokesperson told *Northwest Labor Press* Dec. 4. “No

matter how busy it gets, workers know that [corporate] isn’t going to offer them more staffing or higher pay if we don’t do something about it.”

Strikers at the University District location in Seattle told the *Militant* they’re receiving support from other unions and nearby businesses, which donate food, hot drinks and water. At several locations strikers have organized strike kitchens, making hot meals for themselves and their families. Some Teamster-represented drivers are refusing to cross picket lines to make deliveries.

Starbucks Workers United is affiliated with the Service Employees International Union, which makes its union hall available to organize the strike. SWU is soliciting nonperishable items for their food kitchens around the country.

“We are getting support from other states and from around the world, with messages of support,” University District striker Marisol Espinoza, a shift supervisor who has worked there since 2018, told the *Militant* Dec. 4. “They say we’re with you. It has a big impact.”

“The company says it’s a small percentage of stores on strike, and they’re perfectly fine,” she said. “They’re encouraging us to get back to the bargaining table, which they’ve been avoiding for quite some time. They didn’t want us to go on strike.”

“We’re going to stay out as long as it takes,” she added. “It’s nice seeing all the local support. People ask how they can help? Don’t buy Starbucks while we’re on strike, anywhere. Come stop by the picket line.”

For picket locations across the country, go to <https://www.nocontractnocoffee.org>.

— Rebecca Williamson

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 18, 2000

The assault on working people by the U.S. government over the past two decades has hit working-class women particularly hard. From the federal legislation that ended Aid to Families with Dependent Children in 1996, working women and their children have been eliminated from the kind of protection that Social Security had guaranteed for children, women, workers injured or thrown out of a job, and others.

AFDC and related programs were part of a social safety net won through the mass labor upsurge in the 1930s and extended through the battles for civil rights and women’s rights in the 1960s and 1970s.

The labor movement needs to defend every single gain the working class has made as part of the fight against the devastating conditions being imposed by the employers, their government, and the normal workings of the capitalist system.



December 19, 1975

BOSTON — Racist vigilantes invaded the Black community this morning Dec. 10, firebombing the headquarters of the NAACP. The home of a Black minister was also firebombed. Black students in South Boston High School were assaulted. Yesterday, bomb threats compelled the evacuation of the National Center for Afro-American Artists.

The wave of terrorist attacks followed the announcement by U.S. District Court Judge Arthur Garrity that he was placing South Boston High School in receivership.

At a news conference, Maceo Dixon, a coordinator of the National Student Coalition Against Racism, urged a readiness “to picket and march, to demonstrate and rally, to demand that these lawbreakers — from the corridor gangs of young racist toughs to their adult backers and the politicians who egg them on — be dealt the full force of the law.”



December 18, 1950

AKRON, Ohio — More than 100 mothers of GIs in Korea have signed a petition to President Truman, pleading for him to withdraw all troops from Korea. The idea is reported to be spreading from Akron to other communities.

The petition was drawn up by Mrs. Richard Abicht, mother of two and sister-in-law of a 17-year-old Marine. After the newspapers announced it, she was flooded with telephone calls of support from wives and relatives of men in the service.

“They take our boys to fight and die in a land unbeknown to the majority of the people until it was invaded. ... They battled their way to the 38th parallel, which to our boys meant ‘home again.’ But, no. They had to fight on — objective the Manchurian border. And why?”

“Next the Chinese. ... It develops now into a battle where young men must fight, die and suffer the pangs of Hell.”

Special Offer

Teamster Series

Lessons from U.S. labor battles of the 1930s

by Farrell Dobbs

\$16 each, all four for \$50

pathfinderpress.com

TEAMSTER BUREAUCRACY

TEAMSTER POLITICS

TEAMSTER REBELLION

TEAMSTER POWER

Good response to 'Militant,' SWP

Continued from front page

Tyrone Morgan, a retired school cafeteria worker and longtime member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 372, told this worker-correspondent when I met him on his doorstep in New York City Dec. 7.

Morgan was pleased to hear about the 50,000-strong march by unionists and other working people against the Quebec government's assault on union and political rights. He said he "was looking forward to reading more about it."

"The bosses always underestimate what working people are capable of doing," I said. Then I showed him the book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. He decided to buy it and gave an additional \$3 donation.

In Minneapolis SWP members Kevin Dwire and Joanne Murphy met a construction worker from Colombia while they campaigned door to door Dec. 6. They discussed the earlier civil war in Colombia and he said he didn't like the methods used by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which included taking civilian hostages.

The SWP campaigners showed him the title *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia: The Example of the Cuban Revolution* by Fidel Castro and he decided to buy it. Castro was part of efforts to end six decades of armed conflict that ended in 2008. In the book Castro describes the lessons of the rich experience of working people in Cuba as they fought to take state power and make the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

In Richmond, California, SWP members Maggie Trowe and Andrea Morell brought solidarity to 3,000 schoolteachers and other workers on strike against the West Contra Costa Unified School District there Dec. 4. At the picket line the president of Teamsters Local 586 subscribed to the *Militant* and purchased *Teamster Power* and *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*. Another teacher bought the Spanish edition of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* with a subscription.

The SWP is running Norton Sandler for governor of California in

next year's election.

Party members Bernie Senter and Ray Parsons set up a table to promote the Sandler campaign at Los Angeles City College Dec. 3. They met a student whose family was from Armenia who pointed to the *Militant* headline, "Defend Israel's right to exist! Stop Hamas terror in Gaza." She asked Parsons to explain the headline because it seemed to her that people in Gaza are struggling against an Israeli occupation.

"Hamas is the central obstacle to working people of all nationalities coming together to address their problems," Parsons replied. He pointed to Hamas' thuggery against Palestinians and its deadly Jew-hating assaults.

"National divisions are harmful to the working class," she said. They discussed the recent war between Armenia and Azerbaijan and politics in the U.S. She liked what Parsons said about the Republican and Democratic parties serving the interests of the capitalist class, not workers, and decided to get a subscription to the *Militant*.

In Montreal the organizer of the International Forum on Development



SWP campaigner Beverly Bernardo with Tyrone Morgan, *Militant* subscriber, retired member of AFSCME Local 372, in New York Dec. 7. "I love everything about the paper, it tells the truth about what's really happening in the world," he said. Morgan bought a book, gave \$3 donation.

and Solidarity invited Pathfinder Books to have a table at the event Dec. 5-6. He had previously seen Pathfinder titles at the November Montreal Book Fair. More than 100 Africans, living both in North America and Sub-Saharan Africa, participated in the forum's panel discussions and plenary sessions.

Communist League campaigners sold 17 books by revolutionary

working-class leaders at the event, including titles by Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso. Two participants left with French-language copies of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power*.

To find out more and join in campaigning for the SWP candidates, contact the area nearest you listed on page 7.

Labour gov't in UK weakens crucial right to trial by jury

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

LONDON — The Labour government in the U.K. is looking to restrict the fundamental right of an accused person to be tried by a jury of their peers. This right is deeply in the interests of all working people. The government is also proposing to remove the automatic right of appeal.

Justice Secretary David Lammy reported the proposals to Parliament Dec. 2, seeking to cut in half the number of jury trials in England and Wales and replace them with court cases of just one judge.

The proposals limit the right to jury trials to crimes that would carry sentences of more than three years on conviction, and for many fraud cases. The new setup would also allow Magistrates' courts, a lower tier in the judicial system, to take up some of the cases.

Lammy claims there is "no right" to be tried by a jury and has attempted to justify the attack by pointing to

the backlog of 80,000 cases in the judicial system. He says that victims of crime are being "denied justice," and that courts would operate 20% faster with the changes.

He says 60% of rape cases fail to make it to trial, with victims pulling out because of the long delays. In fact "the vast majority of rapes reported are abandoned long before a charge is brought, due to factors such as policing delays," the *Sunday Times* pointed out.

If adopted, the proposals would also undermine freedom of speech. People facing prosecution under reactionary "hate-crime" laws would now be denied the right to trial by jury.

This could make a big difference. Last year Lucy Connolly, a child care worker in Northampton, and Jamie Michael, an ex-soldier in Wales, were prosecuted for "inciting racial hatred" following comments they made after the brutal murders of three young girls in Southport by Axel Rudakubana, a British boy of Rwandan descent. Under pressure Connolly pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 31 months in prison. Michael opted for a jury trial and was acquitted.

A letter signed by Conservative Leader Kemi Badenoch and 54 other Members of Parliament urged the government to scrap Lammy's plan. They say he's taking an "axe to jury trial because of an administrative failure to provide enough court sitting days." Under the proposal serious crimes will be "decided not by 12 men and women drawn at random from the community but a single official of the state."

Several Labour MPs have also signed a letter calling on the government to drop the proposal. "It is our belief that the public will not stand for the erosion of a fundamental right," it said.

Some challenge the government's claim the move would speed up trials.

"No one imagines that this will reduce the backlog," Geoffrey Rivlin, a former deputy High Court judge, told a conference for criminal barristers.

Some critics of the proposal point out jury trials are an ancient liberty won in the 13th century. They marked an important advance, replacing "trial by ordeal," an often deadly physical punishment that if survived showed your innocence.

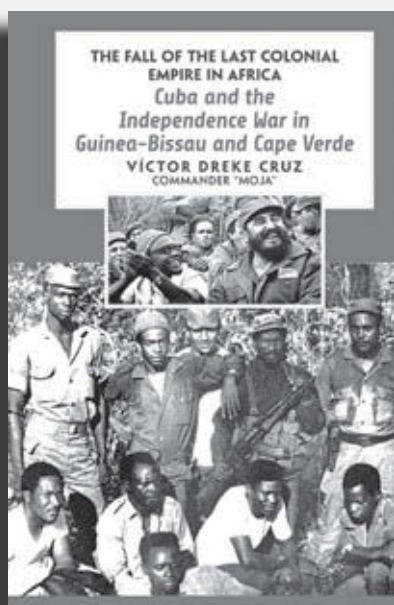
But for several centuries trial by a jury of your peers was available only to the feudal nobility and other upper layers of society. The broader extension of this right to the toiling majority took bloody fights over the long evolution of the class struggle in Britain, alongside other rights as capitalism began to emerge out of feudalism.

Institutions like the "Star Chamber," where a single judge acted as the judicial arm of the monarch, existed from the 15th to 17th centuries, meting out brutal punishments. It was abolished in 1641 during the English Revolution.

It wasn't until much later with the development of modern industry and the emergence of the working class as a political force that struggles to abolish property qualifications for the right to vote, and consequently for jury service, took place. Women didn't sit on juries until the 1920s. Since the 1970s, Parliament has increasingly restricted jury trials, with more and more cases being reserved solely for a magistrate or judge.

In class-divided society, defense of jury trials and other rights is crucial for the working class. Dag Tirsén, the Communist League candidate for Enfield Council in London, condemned the government's plans. "If implemented," he told the *Militant*, "they would be a serious threat to the rights of workers, increasing the possibility of frame-ups as we fight to build unions and to act in politics in our own class interests."

Available Jan. 1 — Pre-order offer \$7



IN 1974-75 the people of two West African countries, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, put an end to 500 years of Portuguese colonial exploitation. Led by a popular movement forged by Amílcar Cabral, their struggle triggered the collapse of Portugal's entire colonial empire and brought down the fascist dictatorship in Portugal itself.

VÍCTOR DREKE's firsthand account brings to life this decisive victory in the wave of anti-imperialist struggles that swept the globe during and after World War II.

CUBA's revolutionary leadership provided vital aid to the African fighters we meet here — the men and women Cabral saw as part of "humanity's soldiers." We also meet the Cuban volunteer combatants who joined their struggle.

Visit pathfinderpress.com or see distributors page 7

Deadly flooding in Southeast Asia reveals social catastrophe

BY MIKE TUCKER

SYDNEY — Monsoon rains and tropical storms caused massive floods and landslides, which devastated much of Southeast Asia since late November, leaving some 2,000 dead and over 1 million displaced. Buildings and farmland, including whole towns, have been destroyed, and roads, rail lines and other infrastructure torn up. While capitalist politicians and the media were quick to blame “climate change,” many working people have pointed to actions by governments and capital that turned this weather event into a social disaster.

“The government is to blame for the rising death toll due to the lack of response,” Sydney warehouse worker Amrullah Arazak, who comes from the province of Aceh on Indonesia’s island of Sumatra, told the *Militant*. “So many people are still missing and nothing has been organized to find them.” Aceh is one of the hardest hit regions. “They say the situation is under control, but people are still dying.”

Annual monsoon floods are a normal part of life in Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. They’re usually a boon for agricultural production, but floods from this year’s heavy rains were turned into a disaster by the impact of unbridled capitalist expansion.

“The impacts are different today because of excessive deforestation with illegal logging and mining,” Hegel Terome, a leader of Kalyanamitra, a Jakarta-based women’s organization, told the *Militant*.

Over 11 million acres of forest have been harvested on Sumatra over the past two decades. This not only reduces the ability of the soil to absorb rainfall, but as the storms hit, massive piles of logs were swept downstream slamming into dwellings and bridges with immense destructive force. Even after floodwaters subsided, many places remain covered in thick mud and piles of debris.

There has been widespread anger at the refusal of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto to declare a national disaster, which would allow greater national and international aid. Instead Prabowo urged local governments to do more “to confront climate change effectively.”

With whole villages washed away and others inaccessible, many working people lack necessities and face starvation. There are outbreaks of disease, while medical facilities and equipment have been severely damaged. Local governments say they lack the resources to cope. The Indonesian government slashed aid to local governments and to the nation’s disaster management body earlier this year as part of budget cutbacks.

In the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, some 200,000 people died in Sumatra, mainly in Aceh. But residents say the impact on infrastructure of the latest flooding is more severe.

In southern Thailand, the city of Hat Yai was submerged by heavy rain, with 400,000 trapped in their homes. It took the Thai government a week to respond. Pom Johnson told the *Militant* from New Zealand that former colleagues in Thailand said they had been left to fend for themselves without food or water. The help that did come was largely from volunteers.

Recent poorly designed infrastructure fed the disaster, she explained. Many new highways have been built on embankments higher than the surrounding houses, without adequate drainage. These blocked floodwaters then engulfed the houses.

Similar highway construction swelled floodwaters in Hulu Langat, in Malaysia, Baskaran Appu told the *Militant*. He had just returned to Sydney after visiting his family there as the floods hit.

The effects of Beijing’s profit-driven Belt and Road program deepened the crisis in many areas. In Sri Lanka, an elevated highway built by the Chinese government is being blamed for turning villages and towns into lakes near the capital, Colombo. The expressway, which connects the city to the airport, was built across wetlands and acts like a dam, leaving rainwater nowhere to go. A network of highways funded by Chinese loans has caused similar problems across the island.

All 25 provinces of Sri Lanka were hard hit by the floods. Hundreds of dams and canals have been damaged along with two-thirds of the country’s rail tracks. Estimates say the damage to infrastructure could be 10 times that caused by the 2004 tsunami, which killed 40,000 people



AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara

Flood survivors cross swollen river on logs in North Sumatra, Indonesia, Dec. 2. Unbridled capitalist expansion turned storms, flooding in Southeast Asia into a deadly social disaster.

living along the coastline.

The death toll has also been high in the country’s mountain plantations around Kandy, where capitalist expansion has meant a third of the population now lives in landslide-prone areas. As elsewhere, communities affected by the floods have been left to fend for themselves. Bodies remain buried amid the landslides, threatening to contaminate drinking water. Sri Lanka’s government is mired in economic crisis, with

mountainous debts to Beijing.

In the Philippines, hit by the same storms, thousands marched in Manila Nov. 30 for the third time in three months. They protested the embezzlement of billions of dollars of government funds that had been approved for flood-control projects that have never been built.

Baskaran Appu contributed to this article.

Washington expands bases, weaponry in Puerto Rico

BY RÓGER CALERO

As part of its broader military buildup across Latin America and the Caribbean, Washington has rapidly expanded U.S. aerial and naval operations in Puerto Rico, provoking widespread concern and indignation among working people there. Many oppose the U.S. rulers once again using their colony of Puerto Rico as a base for military aggression against sister nations in the region.

“We categorically condemn the continued illegal military buildup, aggression and military presence in the archipelago of Puerto Rico,” the Frente Independentista Boricua (Boricua Independence Front), a group in New York, said in a recent statement. As well as military escalation “with the intent of regime change and exploitation of Latin American natural resources.”

Since August, the U.S. Marines and naval forces have carried out amphibious landing exercises. They are transporting and installing equipment at the recently reactivated Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba. The Pentagon has moved helicopters, fighter jets, surveillance and transport aircraft, as well as drones, to military and civilian airports across the island.

Residents and authorities in the town of Aguadilla told the press they see U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drones taking off day and night, some armed with Hellfire missiles. They are used for surveillance and strikes alongside naval and fighter jets obliterating boats and people the Donald Trump administration claims are carrying drugs.

“Let it not be said that there is one Puerto Rican who is complicit in invading a sister Latin American nation,” said Sonia Santiago of Mothers

Against War. The group has been holding demonstrations at Camp Santiago in Salinas, where U.S. Marines are training. Their next action is planned for Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. at the entrance to the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station.

U.S. aims to renew use of Vieques

Residents of Vieques, a small island 7 miles off the mainland, are particularly outraged the Pentagon is considering renewed use of the shuttered U.S. Navy bombing range there. Washington was forced to close the base in 2003 under pressure of broadly supported mass protests. U.S. officials also said they plan to dispose of unexploded ordnance from the live munitions used during the current drills in Salinas.

“From the Navy you could expect anything,” Ismael Guadalupe told Telemundo reporter Glorinel Soto. Guadalupe was a leader of the movement that forced the U.S. Navy out of Vieques.

For more than 60 years, the Navy used big parts of La Isla Nena, as Puerto Ricans call Vieques, for bombing practice and storage of ammunition. There is still hundreds of thousands of unexploded ordnance spread around the area.

“All they left was illnesses,” Luis Ortiz, a local fisherman, told Telemundo, referring to the high cancer rates and other health problems plaguing Vieques residents from exposure to depleted uranium and a host of toxic heavy metals leaching poisons into coastal areas and waters. Residents and fishermen have demanded the U.S. decontaminate the area and return all these lands into Puerto Rican hands.

Residents and their supporters have vowed to oppose the use of their island for military purposes again, threatening the lives and livelihoods of the Puerto Rican people.



La Voz Digital of Puerto Rico

Demonstration against U.S. Marines training at Camp Santiago in Salinas, Puerto Rico, organized by Mothers Against War Nov. 29. In center is Sonia Santiago, a leader of the group.

Putin steps up war on Ukraine

Continued from front page
dent Donald Trump are aimed at ending the war on terms favorable to Washington and U.S. investors, regardless of Ukrainian sovereignty. Ukraine “is losing” the war Trump said Dec. 7, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky “is going to have to get on the ball and start accepting things” demanded by Moscow.

Trump also says he’s seeking “strategic stability” across Europe with an eye to lowering Washington’s military and political profile there as he strives to reassert U.S. imperialism’s waning world dominance.

Moscow launched a major aerial barrage against Ukrainian energy infrastructure Dec. 6, coinciding with the latest round of talks between officials from Washington and Kyiv. Ukrainian defenses shot down most of the drones and missiles, but 29 sites, mainly of power infrastructure, were hit. The Kremlin’s goal is to deprive Ukrainian people of light and heat as winter sets in.

U.S. ‘national security strategy’

The White House issued a National Security Strategy document Dec. 4 saying Washington seeks “competitive advantage and military dominance.” The document especially highlighted the widening rift between Washington and its “allied” rivals in Europe.

The statement says an “expeditious cessation of hostilities” in Moscow’s war is essential “to stabilize European economies, prevent unintended escalation or expansion of the war,

and reestablish strategic stability with Russia.” It adds that Washington is “at odds with European officials who hold unrealistic expectations” about the outcome of the war.

Moscow hailed the White House statement as being in line with its views. Trump’s negotiators have backed the Putin regime’s call for territorial concessions by Ukraine in return for “peace.” The Ukrainian government says it will never give away any part of its country.

In another sign of warming relations between Washington and Moscow, 64 Russian immigrants were flown from the U.S. back to Moscow Dec. 9 as part of Trump’s deportation program. On arrival they were detained and interrogated by Russia’s political police, with several immediately drafted into the army.

Washington’s strategy document calls for the rebuilding of Ukraine “to enable its survival as a unitary state,” but clearly a smaller and weaker one. Putin demands a cap on the size of the Ukrainian military, veto power over any military alliances, as well as limits on its weaponry.

“Either we liberate these territories by force, or Ukrainian troops will leave these territories,” Putin insisted Dec. 5. He was referring in particular to Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, two strategic and well-fortified cities in western Luhansk province held by Ukrainian forces. He is demanding the Ukrainian government cede this territory in any deal.

This is part of his demand for all of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. And it would give his forces a more extensive launching pad for a further invasion. Putin rejects any involvement in Ukraine of military forces from capitalist governments in Europe. If these powers want to go to war, he told the press Dec. 2, “We are ready right now.”

Putin has gambled that his country’s much larger population and resources will enable it to absorb much heavier losses than Ukraine. Russian forces occupy 19.2% of Ukraine’s area in the southeast, which includes the Crimean Peninsula and big hunks of the Donbas mining and industrial region.

The Russian rulers’ territorial gains this year along the 800-mile front in southeastern Ukraine have been relatively minor, while its forces are suffering over 35,000 casualties a month that



AP Photo/Andrii Marienko

Ukrainian students enter an underground school on first day of fall term in Kharkiv Sept. 1. Despite constant bombing by Moscow, Ukrainian working people find ways to carry life on.

the Kremlin is struggling to replace.

From the outset Putin has made clear he aims to subjugate the Ukrainian people and their country. He denies the existence of a separate Ukrainian nationality and blames Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin for its creation.

Lenin for national self-determination

After workers and farmers conquered power in Russia in 1917, the Lenin-led Bolshevik government granted the right to self-determination for all nations oppressed under the czarist empire, including Ukraine. A few years later, Joseph Stalin led a counterrevolution against Lenin’s Bolshevik program, driving working people from power and reimposing Moscow’s domination over Ukraine.

The determination of working people in Ukraine today to defend their country’s sovereignty against Moscow reflects their deep-seated national aspirations.

For nearly 18 months waves of Russian troops have made small advances fighting for the ruined city of Pokrovsk, once a key hub for Kyiv’s military. The BBC reported on responses by several Ukrainian fighters there Dec. 9.

The Skala Assault Regiment’s deputy commander is a volunteer from Latvia. He said that Latvians “understand that if Ukraine loses the war, it’s going to be our country next.”

The commander of the unit, named Yuri, told the BBC, “I think the whole world should know we will not just give up our territory.”

Ukrainian forces still hold the north of the city. Another soldier, from a different unit in Pokrovsk, dismisses Moscow’s claims of capturing the city as “Russian propaganda.”

One fighter, who says Ukraine should not trade land for peace, added: “We are part of this land. If we give it up Russia will want more.”

December

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder

Readers Club

Specials

30%

DISCOUNT

Cuba & Angola:
Fighting for
Africa's Freedom
and Our Own

BY FIDEL CASTRO,
RAÚL CASTRO,
NELSON MANDELA

Cuba's 16-year
internationalist
mission in Angola
helped defeat apartheid South Africa's
invasion, secured Angola's sovereignty,
won Namibia's independence, deepened
the mass struggle in South Africa and
strengthened Cuba's socialist revolution.
\$12. **Special price \$8.50**

Art & Revolution

Writings on Literature, Politics and Culture

LEON TROTSKY

\$15. **Special price \$10.50**

The Origins of Materialism

GEORGE NOVACK

\$15. **Special price \$10.50**

How Far We Slaves Have Come

South Africa and Cuba in Today's World

BY FIDEL CASTRO, NELSON MANDELA

\$7. **Special price \$5**

The Communist League of America

Writings and Speeches, 1932-34

JAMES P. CANNON

\$25. **Special price \$17.50**

La Question Juive

(The Jewish Question)

ABRAM LEON

\$17. **Special price \$12**

Join the Pathfinder Readers
Club for \$10 and receive
discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT

PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

OFFER GOOD UNTIL January 10

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

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

— V.I. Lenin, 1922

pathfinderpress.com

\$17

SPEECHES & WRITINGS
1922-23

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the
Militant, *New International*, and a full
display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: P.O. Box 6012.
Zip: 94603. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite
250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email:
oaklandswp@gmail.com. **Los Angeles:**
2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel:
(323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 5711 NW 7th Ave.
Unit B. Zip: 33127. Tel: (305) 929-8966.
Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland
Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678)
528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 4750 S. Pulaski
Road. Zip: 60632. Tel: (312) 792-6160.
Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 2401 1/2
Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612)
271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email:
swplincoln@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite
205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-
1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St.,
13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117.
Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

OHIO: Cincinnati: 2300 Montana Ave.,
Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038.
Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824
Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel:
(215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.
net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313.
Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email:
swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: Dallas-Fort Worth: 6815
Manhattan Blvd., Suite 201C Fort Worth. Zip:
76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfwswp@
gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 508 Ken-
nedy St., NW #314 Zip: 20011.
Tel.: (202) 248-0306. Email:
swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 650 S. Orcas
St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755.
Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 2, First floor, 275 George
St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73
Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604.
Email: clydsydney@outlook.com

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis
#204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email:
cllcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.
Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road
(first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code:
N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email:
cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329,
Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank
St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: 07545 526351.
Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

US threats against Venezuela

Continued from front page
decades, including aircraft, naval attack ships and ground troops. It has authorized the CIA to conduct covert operations, including trying to get high-ranking military officers to flip on Maduro, arrest him, or kill him.

In another violation of Venezuela's sovereignty, President Trump unilaterally declared Venezuela's airspace "to be closed in its entirety" Nov. 29. Commercial airlines suspended flights, increasing the economic hardship of working people there on top of the effects of long-standing U.S. sanctions.

Trump to Maduro: leave or else

Trump and Maduro talked by phone Nov. 21 where the U.S. president, according to the *Miami Herald*, told Maduro he had to leave the country, and that he could go to the destination of his choice along with those closest to him. The paper says this discussion was facilitated by the governments of Brazil, Qatar and Turkey.

For over two decades, the U.S. capitalist rulers — under both Democratic and Republican administrations — have tried to topple the Venezuelan government and replace it with one more subservient to their interests. In this latest attack the Trump administration is accusing the Maduro government of being "narco-bandits," without presenting any evidence.

At the same time, the U.S. president and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth are seeking to distance themselves from a Sept. 2 missile strike ordered on a boat that had already been hit, with survivors clinging to the smoldering wreckage and waving for help.

Democratic Party forces in Congress are pushing for public hearings to make political points against Trump by looking "more closely" at the "possibility" of a war crime being committed. Anyone who watches even a portion of the video that has been made public will see a gruesome attack on helpless shipwrecked sailors.

While seeking to tamp down the issue, Trump and Hegseth have both said the decision for the second strike was made by Adm. Frank Bradley and defended it. The administration says the decision was entirely legal and within his authority.

Republican lawmakers have pushed back on Democrats' grandstanding, pointing to the long bloody record of extrajudicial killings carried out

by the Barack Obama administration during the so-called war on terror.

"It is not an unprecedented thing," said Republican Speaker of the House Mike Johnson Dec. 2, noting both Democratic and Republican administrations had used similar killings.

Under Obama, "I think there were 550 drone strikes on people who were targeted as enemies of the country," he pointed out, "and nobody ever questioned it. Secondary strikes are not unusual."

The U.S. military carried out another deadly strike Dec. 4, destroying an alleged drug boat in the Eastern Pacific. Four people were killed, the U.S. Southern Command said. At least 87 people have now been killed in 23 strikes.

Trump frees drug kingpin

On Nov. 16, the State Department designated the Cartel de los Soles, or Cartel of the Suns, as a "foreign terrorist organization." Washington alleges the "cartel" is overseen by Maduro himself. But even U.S. intelligence agencies had previously questioned whether such a cartel exists.

On Dec. 1, Trump pardoned Juan Orlando Hernández, the ex-president of Honduras. He had been convicted



Reuters/Norlys Perez

March in Havana Dec. 6 against Washington's attacks on Venezuela's sovereignty. Both Democratic and Republican administrations have tried to topple the Venezuelan government.

ed in the U.S. of conspiring with drug traffickers to transport some 400 tons of cocaine into the United States. Hernández was convicted in 2024 based on the testimony of Alexander Ardón, a fellow National Party official, who described bribes from the Sinaloa Cartel funneled to Hernández's election campaign in exchange for protection for their cocaine shipments.

Bourgeois media pundits said they were "confounded" by the decision, given the administration's insistence the fight against cartels is a top priority. But there is no inconsistency here, as the U.S. capitalist rulers will do whatever serves their economic and political interests. Trump's decision coincided with presidential elections taking place in Honduras, which he hoped to have an impact on.

4,500 Jews Get Another Lesson in 'Democracy'

This article appeared in the Aug. 4, 1947, Militant. It describes the plight of Jews seeking to escape displaced persons camps in Europe on the Exodus seeking refuge in Palestine, who were blocked by the British rulers. London, like Washington and all other imperialist powers, closed its borders to Jews before, during and after World War II. It shows the importance of the fight against Jew-hatred, which is rooted in the deepening crisis of capitalism. Evelyn Atwood was a pen name for Evelyn Reed, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

BY EVELYN ATWOOD

For the past 12 days, 4,500 Jewish refugees, among them 1,800 women and children, bound for Palestine, have undergone bloodshed and torture at the hands of the British imperialists that Hitler could hardly excel.

Packed like sardines in an ancient American ferryboat renamed Exodus 1947, this mass of tired, hungry, unwashed people, clad in rags, sleeping on boards, endured their hardships in the hope of finding a place where they could begin a new, decent life for themselves and their children.

About 17 miles out of Haifa, six British warships — five destroyers and one cruiser — opened up savage warfare on the little vessel and its defenseless occupants. The warships smashed into the Exodus from three directions, enveloping the ship in a cloud of fire bombs, gunfire, tear gas. Huge portions of the ship were reduced to kindling wood.

Scores wounded

For more than three hours, while women and children screamed, the murderous assault continued. Twenty men fell seriously wounded, five lay dying, a hundred were injured. William Bernstein, 24, of Los Angeles,

chief mate of the ship, with four others in the wheelhouse were attacked by armed British soldiers who leaped aboard the vessel. Bernstein died the following day in a Haifa hospital of a fractured skull. A 15-year-old boy, orphaned by Hitler's gas chambers, expired of British gun wounds. Jewish boys were "smashed down like animals," reported J. S. Grauel, former clergyman and now working with the American Christian Palestine Committee.

The damaged ship, in danger of

From the pages of the 1947 'Militant'

floundering, made for the Haifa port. The ship's captain flashed a message to UNSCOP (United Nations Special Commission on Palestine) which correctly stated: "Come quickly, come immediately to Haifa to witness a shocking crime against humanity and international law. There was never such a crime on the high seas...."

Unloaded from the Exodus, many of them in bloody bandages on stretchers, the Jewish immigrants were ordered aboard three British ships, the Empire Valour, Ocean Vigour, and Runnymede Park for re-shipment to France. Food supplies were far from sufficient for such multitudes.

British officials still claim that the refugees were well treated. The condition of the involuntary passengers revealed quite the contrary. Several died as a result of ill treatment or of wounds. According to a Reuters dispatch, a Jewish doctor who went aboard the Runnymede Park said there was an epidemic of diarrhea

among the children. But reports about the condition of the ship's occupants could not be verified, since newspaper men were forbidden even to approach the ships. The wretched people could be observed only through field glasses. Some were peering through portholes. Others were standing on decks which were completely compartmented with barbed wire.

So bitterly have the Jews suffered in Europe at the hands of the Nazis and later of the Allied "liberators" that to date they are refusing to leave the ships docked at Port de Bouc, France, and accept refuge offered in France. "The authorities seemed relieved when the refugees declined to land and the British did not demand a forcible evacuation of the vessels. There was obviously a lack of supplies to care for so large a group," reports the July 30 *New York Times*.

U.S. shares guilt

The British imperialist brigands are not alone in their responsibility for this monstrous episode which is only one of the shocking crimes against a long-suffering people. President Truman's crocodile tears about their plight, his hypocritical request of the British government to permit 100,000 Jews to emigrate to Palestine, cannot cover up the crime of Wall Street's government in closing the doors of this country to these displaced persons.

The Jewish people, like the oppressed, toiling masses of the whole world, will find genuine peace and security only when the monstrous capitalist system is abolished. But right now their hardships can be mitigated through a demand raised by the workers of every country to open its doors. Above all in this big and rich country, the workers must force Congress and Truman to immediately open the doors to the Jewish and other refugees.

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.

Also in Spanish, French, Farsi

pathfinderpress.com

Defend Israel's right to exist

Continued from front page
controls to prepare anti-Jewish pogroms.

Despite the fact that Israel controls a majority of the territory, Hamas maintains near-dictatorial control over the large majority of Gaza's population.

A central part of Hamas' strategy has always been to use the deaths of Palestinians to convince bourgeois public opinion worldwide that Israel is at fault. In fact these deaths are a result of Hamas deliberately putting civilians at risk from Israeli retaliation to its attacks on Jews.

"The end of the war was declared two months ago, but the battle is not over," Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal told the Covenant for Jerusalem conference in Istanbul Dec. 6. He boasted that the Al-Aqsa Flood — Hamas' name for the bloody Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom it carried out in Israel — has "prepared the international arena" to treat Israel as a "pariah."

"The resistance and its weapons are the honor and glory of the Islamic nation," Mashaal said. He rejected "all forms of guardianship" of Gaza, the West Bank and "all of Palestine," a rejection of President Donald Trump's plan for an international force to occupy Gaza.

The next day Hamas leader Bassem Naim told The Associated Press Hamas is "open" to talking about "freezing or storing" its weapons — but only temporarily. Naim said Hamas would welcome a U.N. force, but only along the border as a buffer to block the Israel Defense Forces.

Hamas rebuilding its death squads

Hamas is taking advantage of the Washington-imposed ceasefire to rebuild its badly battered army of death squads, intimidate Palestinians in Gaza who resist its brutal rule, and build up stores of weapons for future use against Jews and Israel.

Every week brings new reports of Palestinians executed, tortured or beaten by Hamas thugs or of business owners kidnapped and held for ransom.

Alaa Al Zarabi was one of the latest victims. The young man got into a dispute with a Hamas member while waiting in line for aid. Members of Hamas' infamous "Arrow" unit beat him, then shot him to death.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is still trying to convince Muslim governments to agree to send troops to make up the "International Stabilization Force" envisioned in the Trump "peace" plan for Gaza.

The Turkish government insists it be allowed to send thousands of its

troops as part of the new force. The Israeli government has vetoed that. And with good reason.

The Turkish government has been a vehement opponent of Israel's war to defend itself against Hamas and hosts Hamas leaders. A Turkish official told the *Jerusalem Post*, "The Americans also very much want us there" and have been putting pressure on Israel to allow this.

"Israel, every day is violating the ceasefire," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan claimed, without providing any evidence. He made clear that Hamas should be left intact. "Disarmament cannot be the first stage in this process," he said, adding that the role of the stabilization force should be "peace monitoring not peace enforcement."

The U.S. rulers want an end to the war in Gaza. They see it as an obstacle to advancing their own economic, political and military interests in the Middle East. Defending Jews in Israel — or the rights of Palestinians — is not their concern.

Arab minorities join Israeli army

The Oct. 7 pogrom and Israel's blows to Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and to the rulers in Iran who helped orchestrate the massacre have strengthened the resolve of working people in Israel to stand up to Hamas and defend Israel's existence. With all the contradictions inherent in a capitalist country, the Israeli government is the only one in the world that provides Jews with an unconditional refuge and defends that refuge arms in hand. Without this, a new Holocaust could take place.

Within Israel, the determination to defend the country's existence extends more and more to Arabic-speaking minorities, which make up some 20% of the population. When Hamas' death squads killed 1,200 people in their Oct. 7 pogrom, 24 Israeli Arabs and more than 50 immigrant workers were among those murdered.

"IDF sees sharp rise in enlistment from Druze, Bedouins, and Arab Christians," was the headline of a Dec. 6 article in the *Jerusalem Post*.

"The most surprising change has emerged in the Golan Heights, home to more than 20,000 Druze," the *Post* said. Since Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1981, most Druze living there had not taken Israeli citizenship and unlike Druze in other parts of Israel are not subject to the military draft.

At least 300 Druze from the Golan have voluntarily enlisted in the IDF since the start of the war in Gaza. Is-

'Anti-Zionism is Jew-hatred, it is not OK'



Rod Morata/Michael Priest Photography

NEW YORK — Over 1,000 demonstrators turned out to defend the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan and protest against Jew-hatred Dec. 4. The rally was in response to a provocative threat two weeks earlier when a screaming Jew-hating mob of 200 came right up to the door of the synagogue.

"Resistance you make us proud, take another settler out," was one of their main chants. Hamas considers all Jews in Israel "settlers" who the Nazi-like group has a right to target. Inside the synagogue a group that provides assistance to Jews wanting to emigrate to Israel was holding a meeting.

Incoming Mayor Zohran Mamdani condemned the "language" of the pro-Hamas action, then condemned the synagogue, claiming it was promoting activities "in violation of international law."

The Jew-hating action "was not just an attack on Park East synagogue," the synagogue's rabbi, Arthur Schneier, told the crowd Dec. 4. "This was an attack against the Jewish community, to intimidate us, but we're not afraid."

"Our grandparents were Holocaust survivors so we know what happens when people don't stand up," Jolie Widawsky, a recent graduate of Touro College who came to the rally with her sister, told the Times of Israel. Handmade signs at the rally included "Anti-Zionism kills Jews" and "Anti-Zionism is Jew hate is not OK."

The protest was initiated by the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York and co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee and the New York Board of Rabbis. Nearly 100 Jewish schools, organizations and congregations from New York City and Westchester County signed on. Buses brought people from Jewish communities throughout the region.

— SANDRA LATHAM

raeli airstrikes helped defend Druze in Syria this summer, after they were attacked by various forces, including troops from the new regime of President Ahmed al-Sharaa.

While Palestinian Arabs in Israel are not subject to the draft, a small but increasing number of Muslim Palestinians have volunteered to serve in

army combat units, said Safi Ibrahim, a Druze who is a colonel in the Israel Defense Forces.

"No matter what minority group you come from, everyone saw the cruelty of Oct. 7 and realized that the enemy didn't care if it was a Bedouin woman with a headscarf or a Jew from a kibbutz," Ibrahim told the *Post*.

Jew-hating moves to bar Israel from Eurovision competition end in failure

BY SETH GALINSKY

After the concerted campaign by several imperialist powers and other countries to get Israel banned from the annual Eurovision Song Contest, part of their broader effort to make the Jewish state into a pariah, national broadcasters from Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Iceland announced they would boycott its next contest in Vienna in May 2026.

The Irish government's RTE broadcaster said taking part in Eurovision with Israel was "unconscionable given the appalling loss of lives in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis there," repeating blood libels promoted by Hamas.

RTE of course makes no mention of Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom massacring 1,200 Jews and others in Israel, which started Israel's defensive war to destroy the Nazi-like group. Nor does it mention Hamas' responsibility for the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza, using them as human shields.

The Spanish government has also been in the forefront of Jew-hating attempts to get Israel excluded from

sporting and other international events, spreading the lie that Israel is "exterminating a defenseless people." Madrid is one of the largest funders of the Eurovision competition.

Israel has competed in Eurovision since 1973, because KAN, its public broadcasting company, is a member of the European Broadcasting Union. Its singers have won four times. Last year Israeli entrant Yuval Raphael, a survivor of Hamas' attack on the Nova music festival, came in second.

The governments of Germany, France, the U.K. and Austria opposed the attempts to kick Israel out. But they have also been responsible for normalizing the international slander campaign against Israel, including spreading lies about widespread famine in Gaza. What underlines their different stance on Eurovision is the deepening rivalries between the competing capitalist powers.

Setting a bad precedent of using artistic and cultural performances to impose political viewpoints, Moscow has been banned from Eurovision since its 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Books that point working-class road forward



from pathfinderpress.com

Holiday greetings to readers behind bars!

Holiday greetings to our readers behind bars! The 1.8 million people incarcerated in the U.S. are overwhelmingly part of the working class. The defense of their rights and their ability to have unfettered access to the news and politics of their choice is deeply in the interests of all working people.

The *Militant* tells the truth about the conditions facing workers on both sides of prison walls. It provides a window to the struggles of fellow workers across the world. It unravels the key political questions facing the working class. And it advances the international solidarity of the one class capable of bringing an end to the wars, exploitation, oppression and injustices coming down on working people today.

Tens of thousands of workers without papers are being thrown into horrid conditions in the government's immigration detention facilities, often denied the right to challenge their imprisonment. Thousands are deported, many to countries they've never lived in where the main language is one they don't speak.

Under capitalism, the cops, courts, prisons — the entire criminal “justice” system — are organized to intimidate and demoralize workers, and to serve as a brutal warning to millions to submit to the dictates

of the bosses and their government. In the eyes of the bosses and their government, all workers are part of the “criminal” class. And they've never hesitated to frame up fighting unionists and other working-class combatants whenever they feel threatened.

Every time prison authorities bar our subscribers from getting the paper, the *Militant* fights to overturn the ban. It wins support far and wide, and overwhelmingly we succeed. The *Militant* stands in solidarity with struggles against the rulers' barbaric use of solitary confinement and the death penalty.

The *Militant* is proud of the growing number of readers it has in U.S. prisons. It's the highest number in decades. The paper offers subscriptions at reduced rates or free to those who don't have funds. It encourages you to take advantage of substantial discounts on books on revolutionary working-class history and politics published by Pathfinder Press. It urges you to introduce the paper to fellow inmates and encourage them to take up subscription offers.

These deals are made possible by the contributions of *Militant* readers who support our efforts. To those readers, we thank you, and to all, we encourage you to give generously to the paper's prisoners fund!

Interest in Pathfinder at African Studies conference

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — The 68th annual African Studies Association conference, held here Nov. 20-22, drew 1,550 professors, authors, researchers, librarians and others from across the U.S. and nearly every country in Africa. Some came from universities in Australia, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe.

The conference featured more than 300 panel discussions, plenary sessions and other meetings. Participants from Nigeria, Ghana and other countries with a sizable number of attendees held country meetings. The exhibition hall had 30 booths and displays from publishers, bookstores and other vendors, including Pathfinder Press. On the first morning of the conference a volunteer from Pathfinder and other publishers gave presentations to a gathering of ASA librarians.

Pathfinder's attractive booth featuring a broad range of titles by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionaries engendered nonstop political discussions. For many coming by to talk this was their first ASA conference, while others were regular visitors who stop by the Pathfinder booth each year. And some described how they are using titles like *Thomas Sankara Speaks* in their classes.

A special leaflet and display at the booth highlighted the upcoming publication of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke Cruz.

Independence war in Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde

Dreke's firsthand account describes how the decisive victory was won in 1974-75 by the people of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, who finally put an end to 500 years of colonial exploitation. Led by a popular revolutionary movement forged by Amílcar Cabral, their struggle triggered the collapse of Portugal's entire colonial empire and brought down the 40-year fascist dictatorship in Portugal itself. Cuba's revolutionary leadership provided vital aid, including Cuban volunteer combatants who joined their fight. Dreke was their leader.

The anti-colonial struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde and Cabral's leadership were topics in several workshops, where participants welcomed news of the new book. Nine took advantage of Pathfinder's prepublication offer to order it.

There was also wide interest in the lessons of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, led by Thomas Sankara. Of the 134 Pathfinder titles sold at the conference, 33 were books or pamphlets by Sankara, in English, French and Arabic.

Margaret Asho, who is studying law at the University of Indiana and whose family is from South Sudan, had circled *Thomas Sankara Speaks* in Pathfinder's ad in the conference booklet. She also got *Socialism*

and *Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara. “I want to learn more about socialism and how it can impact societies, including Cuba.” Titles on the Cuban Revolution and Cuba's role in the African freedom struggle also sold well, 21 in all. They included *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own* and *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* featuring speeches by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela.

“Oh! I'm so happy you have Malcolm X here!” one of several young people visiting the Pathfinder table for the first time this year said. Many had heard of Malcolm X but had never seen books featuring his speeches and interviews, only what others had written about him. Twelve titles containing his speeches were purchased, along with four copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Many people wanted to discuss the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom by Hamas against Jews and others living in Israel, the rise in Jew-hatred worldwide since then, and the importance of supporting Israel's right to defend itself as a refuge for Jews, including the need for the total defeat of Hamas. Three participants bought copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, including one in French.

Several said they were looking for answers to why antisemitism is on the rise and wanted to know more about Israel. Others also wished to learn more about fascism and its history. Three people bought *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky.

Books on the fight for women's emancipation were also popular, with 22 sold, including four of *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* and two of *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Frederick Engels.

Susan Kung'u, a graduate student in communications studies at Presbyterian University of East Africa in Kenya, talked with SWP member Sam Manuel, trying to decide which book to buy. She chose *The Communist Manifesto*. “I think this is what I need,” Kung'u said. “I want to learn about where capitalism came from and about the working class.”

The last customer of the day was a student from Sudan. His eyes lit up when he saw titles in Arabic. He bought all three: *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* and *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolution*, both by Thomas Sankara, and *Voices from Prison: The Cuban Five*, about five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by Washington and imprisoned for up to 16 years for defending Cuba from attacks organized by U.S.-based counterrevolutionaries.

Pat Travis from Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this article.

Tunisia union calls strike against gov't crackdown



NurPhoto via AP/Chedly Ben Ibrahim

Unionists march past UGTT headquarters in Tunis Dec. 4 protesting repression by Tunisian President Kais Saied.

BY JANET POST

The Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) has called a nationwide general strike Jan. 21 against the government of Tunisian President Kais Saied to protest his crackdown and arrests of political opponents, restrictions on basic rights, and to demand wage raises to offset the exorbitant prices working people face.

For the last three weeks, Tunisians have taken to the streets to demand the release of political prisoners. Carrying banners reading, “Opposition is not a crime” and “Free Tunisia,” protesters in Tunis, the capital, have held up pictures of detained political activists.

They also chanted, “The people want the fall of the regime!” the rallying cry of the 2011 mass uprising that overthrew the regime of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and led to a wave of protests throughout the region known as the Arab Spring.

Saied was first elected in 2019, promising to maintain liberties won through those struggles. But by 2021 he had disbanded parliament. He ruled by decree, claiming it was an “emergency measure” necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite protests against his attack on political freedoms, he rewrote the country's constitution and clamped down harder.

“Since 2021 Saied has dismantled or sidelined opposition parties and civil society groups, including the UGTT,” Reuters reported Dec. 5, and “jailed top opposition politicians.”

Some 40 opponents of the government were given prison sentences from four to 45 years Nov. 28. They were convicted of “conspiring” to oust Saied, who branded them as “terrorists.” Human Rights Watch said several “had done little more than engage in basic political acts, including holding meetings with foreign diplomats or international organizations.”

Among those imprisoned are civil rights activist and lawyer Ayachi Hammami and Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, co-founder of the opposition National Salvation Front coalition. Hammami said he would launch a hunger strike. “Just as I fought outside prison for democracy, human rights, freedoms and social justice, I will turn the cell in which Kais Saied imprisons me into a space of struggle as well,” he told the media.

Twenty of those charged fled abroad and were sentenced in absentia, including the well-known French-Jewish writer Bernard-Henri Levy.

“We are not intimidated by your threats or your prisons. We do not fear jail,” said UGTT General Secretary Nourredine Taboubi Dec. 4 following a union protest. The UGTT has 800,000 members.

There have been repeated demonstrations in Tunisia against the worsening economic conditions working people face. Tunisia has an overall unemployment rate of 16%, and up to 40% for youth. In western Tunisia, the poverty rate is 37%.

Food prices have doubled since 2021 and there are shortages of basic necessities, including coffee, rice, cooking oil and sugar. An increasing number of Tunisian farmers on the border with Algeria are trying to get jobs as seasonal laborers there.

‘Militant’ Prisoners Fund

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