

THE MILITANT

SPECIAL FEATURE

Chinese overseas in changing world
is theme of ISSCO Malaysia event
— PAGE 8-10

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 47 DECEMBER 29, 2025

Kilmar Abrego García is out of prison: 'My fight will continue'

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — After 275 days in prison, Kilmar Abrego García, a 30-year-old construction apprentice and member of SMART Local 100, was released from immigration detention Dec. 11.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland ordered Kristi Noem, the Department of Homeland Security secretary, and other government officials to release him, finding immigration authorities had no lawful authority to detain or deport him. She ruled that a 2019 ruling used to deport him last March lacks a judge's order to remove him. In other words, Abrego García should never have been stopped by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and arrested in the first place.

Abrego García was taken into ICE custody in Beltsville, Maryland, while driving in his car with his son. He was flown illegally to El Salvador where he was thrown in the notorious CECOT Max prison and systemati-

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Join battle against Jew-hatred, bloody massacre in Australia



Large crowd at Bondi Beach Pavilion in Sydney Dec. 15 pays tribute to victims of pogrom the day before. Killings lend urgency to the need to fight Jew-hatred, defend Israel as a refuge for Jews.

Working class must lead fight on antisemitism, pogroms

BY MIKE TUCKER

SYDNEY — "This was a massacre, a pogrom," Jewish Board of Deputies President David Ossip told a press conference at Bondi Beach Dec. 15. The

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Statement by the Communist League in Australia

December 16, 2025

The horrific shooting of Jews celebrating Hanukkah at Bondi Beach December 14, was a violent act of Jew-hatred which should be condemned by all working people, our unions, and supporters of democratic rights.

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US hands off Venezuela! No to US embargo against Cuba

BY RÓGER CALERO

In a sharp escalation of threats against the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, U.S. military forces seized a large oil tanker carrying crude from Venezuela Dec. 10. It's the latest violation of the country's sovereignty as part of the U.S. rulers' drive to overthrow the government in Caracas and impose one subservient to their interests.

A day earlier, two U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets flew right into the center of the Gulf of Venezuela near Maracaibo, the country's second-largest city and main oil-producing region. This is the closest U.S. fighter jets have flown toward the coast of Venezuela since September, when the Pentagon began its provocations by sending an armada to the Caribbean and expanding its deployment of military forces to countries in the region.

Washington has conducted a wave of strikes against boats off Venezuela's coast, which the White House claims were trafficking drugs to the United States from Venezuela. According to the U.S. Southern Command, 25 boats

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SWP builds actions against attacks on Jews, promotes workers power



Militant/Bernie Senter

Deborah Liatos brings solidarity from SWP to Hanukkah celebration of over 200 in Culver City, California, Dec. 14. SWP mobilized across the country to build actions against Jew-hatred.

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are responding to the horrific Jew-hating massacre at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, Dec. 14. Two Islamist thugs shot dead 15 people and wounded dozens more who were attending a Hanukkah celebration.

Party branches organized members

to campaign widely in the working class to explain the stakes for the labor movement in combating Jew-hatred and antisemitic attacks. They campaigned door to door in working-class neighborhoods, at union picket lines and at vigils and protests called in response to the killings. They issued press statements and are organizing Militant Labor Forums to condemn the murders and to point a

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Spreading capitalist crises, rivalries driving threat of a new world war

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Working people around the world face more wars than at any time in recent decades, while the world's capitalist rulers engage in an escalating arms

race and seek new alliances. Washington's efforts to reinforce its waning global domination are at the center of most of these conflicts.

Capitalist rulers across the globe are driving humanity toward a third world war. They're impelled by deepening competition and rivalries that are inevitable under imperialism. They fight over the redivision of the world and plunder of the wealth they extract from the labor of working people and the earth's resources.

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Ukrainians insist on defending their nat'l sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As the fourth anniversary of Moscow's invasion aimed at conquering Ukraine nears, Russian President Vladimir Putin aims to break the resolve of working people there to defend their country's sovereignty. His problem is his army is taking heavy losses with spreading demoralization, while failing to make any decisive breakthrough on Ukraine's eastern front.

The Kremlin hopes to use the region's severe winter to make a breakthrough. Waves of Moscow's drones and cruise and ballistic missiles target Ukraine's power grid, causing

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Abrego García is out of prison

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cally beaten and tortured.

His deportation was a gross violation of his constitutional right to due process, and another 2019 court order barring the government from sending him to El Salvador, where he was born. He and his family had been threatened by gangs there. The new ruling by Judge Xinis meant there was, in fact, no actual order to deport him at all.

Once he was freed from the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Pennsylvania, Abrego García drove over 200 miles home to Maryland, where he was reunited with his wife, Jennifer Vásquez Sura, his children, his brother César and mother Cecelia, and supporters from CASA, the immigrant rights group that defends him and organized to welcome him home.

The SMART union, which has been part of his defense from the beginning, shared the celebration. “Kilmar and his family have finally been given the chance to see each other again,” General President Michael Coleman posted prominently on the union’s website. Abrego García’s fight is a flashpoint in the broader battle for the rights of undocumented workers for the unity of the working class.

Government vindictiveness

Under the terms of his release, Abrego García was ordered to ap-

pear at a mandatory ICE check-in at the Baltimore field office Dec. 12, 14 hours after his release the night before. The Donald Trump administration lost no time in moving yet again to deport him. As Abrego García was driving home, Philip Taylor, acting regional deputy chief immigration judge in Baltimore, rushed out a new order around 7 p.m. to “correct” the 2019 order, claiming the fact it did not contain a deportation order was just a court clerk’s mistake.

Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Abrego García’s lawyer, got a restraining order from Xinis barring immigration authorities from detaining him again.

Abrego García addressed his supporters before entering the building for his ICE check-in. “I stand here before you, and the fight will continue. I will remain standing. I will not bow my head to anyone,” he said. “I will always stand against the injustices this government has committed.” He was interrupted with chants of “Sí, se puede” and “Todos somos Kilmar.”

He thanked his “luchadores,” Spanish for fighters — his wife, family, his union and CASA, and all of his supporters everywhere who have helped in his fight. He said the families of other immigrants like him that have been separated from one another should also “Keep fighting!”

His supporters surrounded him as he walked into the building, and then again as he walked out. Abrego García remains free. But new rounds in his protracted battle for asylum lie ahead.

On Dec. 17 the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO broadly



AP/Stephanie Scarbrough
Kilmar Abrego García, speaking to the press the day after winning release from prison Dec. 11. Backed by his union, SMART, and many others, he is continuing to fight to win his freedom.

sent out an email “Kilmar Abrego García released from ICE custody,” which included the remarks Abrego García made Dec. 12.

The far-reaching criminal vindictiveness of the Trump administration, including its insistence on deporting him to Africa, where he has no connections, has played out in court for months. The Department of Justice attempted to deport him to Uganda, Eswatini, Ghana and, most recently, Liberia. They’ve insisted refugee status or residency in Costa Rica was impossible, that the country’s government didn’t want him. But Costa Rican Minister of Security Mario Zamora told the court, “Costa Rica’s offer to receive Mr. Abrego García for humanitarian reasons remains in place.”

On Nov. 20 the government called its key witness, a top ICE official, John Cantu, to testify in response to an order from Xinis to produce someone who knew their case top to bottom. But he testified his sworn declaration against Abrego García was drafted by someone else, and admitted he didn’t understand parts of his own statement. He said he had no involvement with the Abrego García case until last month, and then only took part in a “five minute Teams call” with the Department of State.

When the government finally

obeyed a U.S. Supreme Court order to return him to the U.S., the Justice Department filed charges of human trafficking against Abrego García in Tennessee. This case is a frame-up.

The judge there, Waverly Crenshaw, says the government’s case is a “poor attempt to tie Abrego to MS-13,” a Salvadoran gang. And he is considering throwing the case out as a “vindictive” prosecution. Abrego García has steadfastly maintained his innocence and refused to take a plea deal.

For now, it looks like Abrego García will spend the holidays at home with his family and friends.

‘Militant’ publishing schedule

This is a two-week issue.
The next issue will be mailed out January 2.

THE MILITANT

Capitalism caused social crisis in Southeast Asia

Some 2,000 people have died and over 1 million have been displaced in flooding in Southeast Asia since late November. The ‘Militant’ explains that unbridled capitalist expansion turned the storms into a deadly social disaster, not “climate change” as bourgeois pundits claim.



AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara
Flood survivors cross swollen river on logs in North Sumatra, Indonesia, Dec 2.

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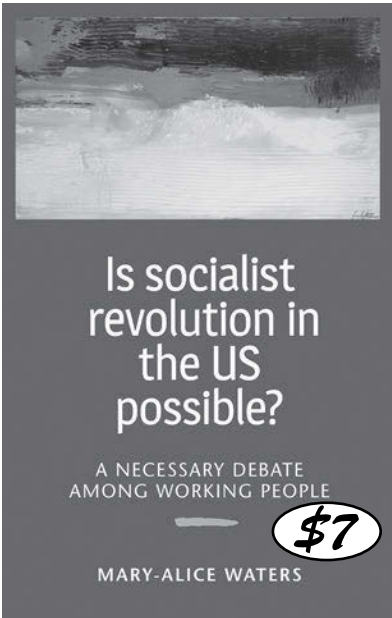
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Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Vivian Sahner, Brian Williams.

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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

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US hands off Venezuela!

Continued from front page

have been destroyed at sea with some 95 people killed.

The oil tanker, called the Skipper, was loaded with 1.1 million barrels of heavy crude when it was ambushed by U.S. forces in international waters between Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago. Before that, Skipper offloaded some 50,000 barrels to another ship for delivery to Cuba. The rest of the crude — contracted by a Cuban state-run oil trading firm and a Panama-based broker — was to be sold to China.

U.S. forces took the captured vessel to Houston. When asked what will happen to the oil, valued at tens of millions of dollars, President Donald Trump said, “We keep it, I guess.”

The White House says the ship was sanctioned by the Treasury Department in 2022 over accusations that it was part of a network of shadow tankers smuggling crude on behalf of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hezbollah in Lebanon. U.S. officials say the ship was also used to transport sanctioned Venezuelan oil.

Maduro said the assault revealed the real reason for Washington’s aggression against Venezuela. “It has always been about our natural wealth, our oil, our energy, the resources that belong exclusively to the Venezuelan people,” he said, not drug trafficking. “The U.S. Coast Guard and military are being given orders to commit illegal acts of piracy,” he added. “They have already been ordered to kill and finish off boatmen” who “were not even going to the United States.”

On Dec. 16 Trump announced that U.S. forces will impose a blockade on “all sanctioned oil tankers” entering or leaving Venezuela. This would ratchet up the pressure on Venezuela’s economy, which relies on oil exports for much needed revenue to import basic necessities like food and medicine.

Cuba condemns assault on Venezuela

“This act of piracy and maritime terrorism is a serious violation of international law,” Cuba’s Foreign Ministry said Dec. 12. It is “aimed at hampering Venezuela’s legitimate right to freely use and trade its natural resources with other nations, including the supplies of hydrocarbons to Cuba.”

Since 2000, Venezuela’s government, first under Hugo Chávez and then Maduro, has sent oil to Cuba at highly subsidized prices, allowing Cuba to ease acute shortages, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union — its main trading partner — in the early 1990s. The growing ties between Venezuela and Cuba earned the wrath of Washington, which hoped to

bring down Cuba’s socialist revolution by tightening its economic embargo and isolating the country.

In 2019 the U.S. government stepped up measures to block fuel supplies to Cuba by blacklisting vessels. This has contributed to Cuba experiencing some of the worst power outages in decades, with blackouts stretching for hours, sometimes days. Cuba’s electrical system has stayed afloat largely because of oil received from Venezuela, Russia and Mexico.

“Hopefully the end of Mr. Maduro’s reign of terror in Venezuela is near, and then we can focus on Cuba, one of his greatest allies and one of the most oppressive regimes in our backyard,” wrote Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham. His comments express the bipartisan intent of the U.S. imperialist rulers.

The Cuba-Venezuela oil program is part of a broader political and economic collaboration between the two countries. Cuba sent internationalist volunteers to Venezuela to help implement social reforms initiated by the Chávez government in the early 2000s. They helped make medical care more accessible to millions of Venezuelans, and to eliminate illiteracy.

The contribution of Cuba’s internationalist volunteers was nothing new. It’s consistent with the revolutionary government’s long record of support for national liberation struggles as well as sending medical brigades to care for victims of natural disasters. Washington slanders Cuba’s international medical programs as “human trafficking,” and vilifies Cuban doctors as being



National Popular Coordinating Committee, Dominican Republic

Protest in Santo Domingo Dec. 10 says, “No to war against Venezuela!” and “Yankee hands off Venezuela!” National Popular Coordinating Committee condemned government of Dominican Republic for joining Washington in threatening military maneuvers against Venezuela.

agents of its government.

Officials in Washington are currently peddling the lie that Cuban agents control Venezuela’s intelligence and military apparatus, as well as the presidential security detail. In fact, they say, Maduro fears being killed by his own Cuban allies if he decides to relinquish power.

In early December, Reuters reported that Cuban officials had reached out to Washington “about what the region would look like without President Nicolás Maduro” in office. Josefina Vidal, Cuban deputy foreign minister, rejected the report as blatant lies “to implicate Cuba in the fabrication of falsehoods and pretexts to justify” the aggression. The Cuban government has consistently spoken out against Washington’s effort to topple Maduro.

Working people in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean are following the Trump administration’s provocations against Venezuela. Many question the extrajudicial killings at sea and are not convinced there is any “evidence” to justify bombing boats allegedly carrying drugs, nor by Washington’s claims that Venezuela poses a threat to the U.S.

In the Dominican Republic, President Luis Abinader has permitted U.S. military planes to use the country’s San Isidro Air Base and main international airport in operations in the Caribbean. A protest in Santo Domingo Dec. 10 strongly rejected the use of the facilities as a base to attack other nations, with some participants recalling Washington’s invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965.

Rezayi family demands justice in cop shooting of their son

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Three months after 15-year-old high school student Nooran Rezayi was gunned down by a Longueuil cop, no criminal charges have been laid and the name of the cop put on administrative leave has still not been revealed. Rezayi’s family, immigrants from Afghanistan, says the Bureau of Independent Inquiries has left them in the dark about its investigation. The Longueuil mayor has also called for an inquiry into how the police handled the shooting after it happened.

The family and their supporters held a press conference Dec. 9, announcing they are suing Longueuil city authorities and the police for 2.2 million Canadian dollars (\$1.6 million) for using “unreasonable and disproportionate force.”

The killing outraged people in the

local community and beyond. Hundreds attended Nooran’s funeral, including many of his schoolmates. Over 1,000 people demonstrated Sept. 27 calling for “Justice for Nooran.”

The Rezayis and their lawyers released a revealing YouTube video taken by a neighbor’s outdoor security camera showing the 11 seconds between the cops’ car coming around the corner and Nooran being shot.

It shows Nooran and four of his friends sitting on the curb in the residential area where he lived looking at their phones. Suddenly, without warning, a squad car turns the corner. The young people start to run. Nooran stops to pick up his backpack.

A cop can be heard yelling three times, “Get down on the ground.” Three seconds later two shots are heard.

The cops claim they were responding to a 911 call reporting a gang of young people with firearms in the area. Nooran had no weapon, only his backpack containing his schoolbooks and other necessities.

Even though Nooran’s family lives only 10 minutes from the spot where he died, and the youth was immediately identified by a friend, it took five and a half hours before the police notified the family of his death.

“We want justice. We want this officer to be punished and the police department to take responsibility. This must never happen again,” Nooran’s mother, Fahim Rezayi, told the media.

On Dec. 11 Longueuil Mayor Catherine Fournier announced she

is asking the Quebec public security minister to investigate the Longueuil chief of police and police force for not following proper protocol and regulations after the killing of Nooran.

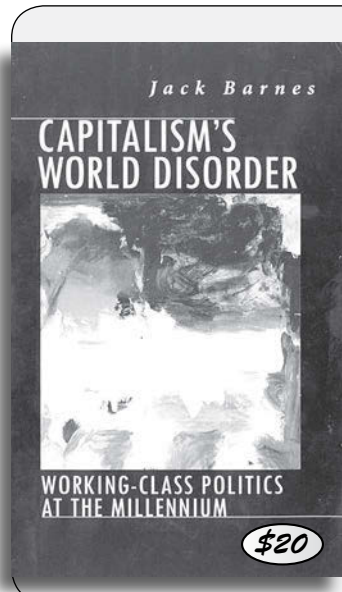
But there is no reason for working people to have any confidence in the objectivity of the Bureau of Independent Inquiries, the cops or the public security minister.

The Bureau of Independent Inquiries is a police agency, and 50% of its investigators are former cops. It reports to Quebec’s minister of public safety. In its nine-year history only two of the 450 investigations it’s held have led to criminal charges being filed against police. In the 52 investigations it conducted into cases where police fatally shot someone, zero charges resulted. Nooran is the fourth person who died at the hands of Quebec cops this year.

“It seems there was a real intent of trying to cover tracks,” said Fernando Betlon, one of the Nooran family lawyers.

“Asking the minister of public security to investigate changes nothing,” Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in the October 2026 Quebec general election, told the *Militant*. “As one sign at the September protest said, ‘No to the police investigating the police.’ Their job is to ‘service and protect’ the ruling rich.”

“We need to mobilize our unions, churches, mosques, synagogues and community organizations to collaborate with Nooran’s family to fight to bring those responsible for the death of Nooran Rezayi to justice,” Young said.



Capitalism’s World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium

by Jack Barnes

“The social devastation, financial panics, political turmoil, police brutality and military assaults accelerating all around us are not chaos. They are the inevitable product of lawful and understandable forces unleashed by capitalism.”

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Postal union protests gov't using post offices to launch ICE raids

BY KEVIN DWIRE

MINNEAPOLIS — Dozens of mail carriers and supporters rallied and marched here Dec. 14 in subzero temperatures to demand that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents stop using U.S. post office property to organize raids and arrests during “Operation Metro Surge,” the federal government’s accelerating assault on immigrant workers here.

Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers spoke to the protesters gathering at Lake Street Post Office before their march of a mile to Powderhorn.

“Letter carriers are not law enforcement officers. We deliver the U.S. mail,” Joe Rian, president of NALC Branch 9, told participants. The branch “voted to not voluntarily cooperate with federal agents in the arrest or prosecution or attempted deportation of our members, their families, or any members of the community,” he said. “Nor will we provide immigration status information that may come to us in our position as letter carriers.”

Stefan Seaberg, who works at Powderhorn Post Office, described the impact of the raids on working people. “Folks are locking the doors of their businesses. People are not going to work to provide for their families,” he said. “As workers we have everything in common with immigrants, documented or not. And we have nothing in common with a ruling class that tells us immigrants are our enemy.”

Chris Pennock, vice president of Branch 9, told the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, ICE “used the Powderhorn Post Office parking lot to arrest somebody right in the middle of where the carriers are returning.”

Pennock told the *Militant* that a week after the union voted to not cooperate with ICE “they started using post office parking lots as a staging ground. Two of the carriers at the stations where they were operating said, ‘We’ve got to do something’ and we started organizing this protest.”

“They’re using our parking lots to

attack and destroy the communities we serve,” said Emmett Bongaarts, who works at Lake Street. “We’re calling on postal management to take action to get ICE out of our workplace. We’re telling the Postal Inspection Service to cut all ties with ICE.”

“I feel concerned because we carry Arrow keys to get into a lot of the buildings,” mail carrier Aleesha Berg told the *Militant*. “We’re afraid we’re going to be coerced into letting ICE agents into the buildings. We’ve been told that if an ICE agent does approach us, we need to send them back to the station to talk to our managers.”

The Department of Homeland Security boasts that ICE has arrested more than 400 people in Minnesota. They have particularly targeted Somali workers after President Donald Trump said they were all “garbage.”

ICE is randomly stopping and arresting people who appear to be Somali or Latino. A Somali worker was roughed up and arrested by ICE on his lunch break Dec. 9. Videos show

Greek farmers protest high production costs, low prices

BY NATASHA TERLEXI

NIKAIA, Greece — From the beginning of December a wave of farm protests has spread across Greece, as farmers seek to protect their livelihoods from soaring production costs and falling prices for the goods they produce.

Farmers’ representatives came together Dec. 13 here in Nikaia in Thessaly, the region where the protests began, to coordinate their next steps. Gathered were the representatives of 57 “bloka” — local protests by farmers parking their tractors at highway intersections. They came from the northern province of Macedonia to the island of Crete in the south. Just outside this town, 1,900 tractors stand on the main highway joining Athens to Thessaloniki, while 2,500 stand at the nearby protest at Karditsa.

“We will continue this fight until the government gives solutions that will ensure the ability of farmers, beekeepers



Militant/Mary Martin

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 9 called Dec. 14 protest against ICE using post office lots to stage immigration raids in Minneapolis. Dozens rallied in subzero weather.

him repeatedly telling them he’s a citizen as he is thrown face down onto the snowy sidewalk. He was released after two hours.

ICE agents entered a coffee shop in this city’s Brooklyn Park suburb Dec. 12, pretending to be customers. After a while they claimed they had hit a car in the parking lot. When employees went outside to investigate the agents arrest-

ed a worker originally from Ecuador.

At a construction site in the town of Chanhassen Dec. 13 ICE agents laid siege after two workers refused to come off the roof of a house. One worker had to be taken to the hospital because of the frigid temperatures. Onlookers and protesters got blankets and warm drinks to the other worker. He came down after ICE left.

and fishermen to continue to exist in the future and to live with dignity,” Kostas Tzellas, representing the Karditsa farmers’ associations, told the gathering.

Anger and despair have been building for years, especially in Thessaly, which was devastated by Storm Daniel in September 2023. Nearly one-third of the region’s arable land was flooded. The meager compensation farmers got for lost herds of goats, sheep and cattle left them struggling to stay on their farms, the representative from Trikala said. Nor have flood-protection schemes promised by the government materialized.

“We must fight for guaranteed prices and lower costs of production, starting with cheaper gas and electricity, if we are going to stay on our land,” he said. “Without this there is no incentive to rebuild our herds or continue plowing.”

In his address to the meeting, Atha-

nasios Nasiakopoulos, the mayor of the Thessalian town of Kileler, reported a 40% drop in the municipality’s population over the past three years.

Compounding the anger among stock farmers is an epidemic of sheep pox that has led to the culling of entire herds by authorities.

The meeting decided to also fight for reducing the cost of electricity to 8 cents per kilowatt-hour, tax-free fuel to farmers and a guaranteed minimum price for their products.

“We haven’t brought our tractors on the asphalt for 100 euros per stremma [one-quarter acre]. We want to continue to exist tomorrow and live off our income,” Tzellas said.

Additional demands include an overhaul of the state system of agricultural insurance to ensure 100% compensation for losses from natural disasters and diseases, as well as the freezing of farmers’ debts to banks, the power company and other creditors.

The farmers also said they won’t negotiate with the government unless charges against dozens of farmers who have been arrested during the protests are dropped. Rizos Maroudas, representing the protesters in Nikaia, said to loud applause.

“We’ve come to a dead end here,” Konstandinos, who grows legumes and tomatoes in the nearby village of Melia, told the *Militant*. “I handed over my lentils in June to the cooperative. In October I got 20 cents a kilo for them. I am still waiting for the balance, which should bring me to 85-90 cents [\$1-\$1.07] a kilo. Meanwhile, I have to live on borrowed money,” he said. “How much do lentils cost on the supermarket shelf? Four and a half euros [\$5.30]. That’s not fair to me, or to workers in the cities!”

“All kinds of people come to the protests to show their support: taxi drivers, truck drivers, civil servants, teachers, and unionists from different jobs,” he said. Farmers vowed to step up their actions over the Dec. 20-21 weekend.

Magdalini Lappa contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 25, 2000

Meat packers and other unionists should join with the United Food and Commercial Workers union in protesting the Dec. 5 raid at Nebraska Beef by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, aided by Omaha police and Nebraska State troopers.

The raid and the company’s subsequent firing of workers protesting line speed is a direct attack on the union-organizing drive at the plant and on others in the region. A vigorous and united response can demand: Stop the deportations! End the raids! Rehire the fired workers! Recognize the union!

Many meat packers have been drawn into the workforce in the U.S. from around the world. Making immigrant workers “illegal” and “alien,” relegating them to a second-class and pariah status, and setting them up for victimization is an age-old divide-and-rule tactic of the bosses and their government.



December 26, 1975

A dispute in the State Department over how far to go in intervening in the civil war in Angola was made public in a front-page story in the *New York Times*. This significant development can be ascribed to the experience in Indochina.

A sector of the ruling class recognizes that a new adventure abroad would in all likelihood meet with mass opposition from the start. Meanwhile, the Ford administration has already become involved in the Angolan civil war. The arguments used to justify intervention: The threat of a Communist take-over.

It is clear that the main enemy in Angola is imperialism. For all those who believe in the right of peoples to determine their own fate, these considerations dictate a course similar to the one followed in opposing the imperialist aggression in Vietnam. The slogan ought to be “Get them out before they get us in!”



December 25, 1950

What is this “national emergency” which demands that the American people submit to “austerity” and regimentation under a “garrison” regime? What is this “grave danger” that President Truman says must be met by “full mobilization” and the exercise of his dictatorial war-time powers?

Truman’s armed intervention in the Korean civil war has led to a military disaster. American imperialism’s scheme for a “cheap” conquest in Asia has been shattered against a formidable obstacle it did not foresee: the tremendous power of the Asian revolution.

The American people don’t feel threatened by anything except the danger of the catastrophic war, inflation and dictatorship that the actions of Washington are leading to. The “national emergency” that Truman’s proclamation is designed to overcome is the popular opposition to the war plans.

SWP: No to attacks on Jews

Continued from front page
working-class road forward.

Party members are also introducing the *Militant* to fellow workers. It provides weekly coverage of the struggle against Jew-hatred and explains why the defense of Israel as a refuge for Jews is key to advancing that fight.

They're also introducing the book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, published by Pathfinder Press shortly after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom that killed 1,200 people in Israel.

"Hundreds of millions are being drawn into world politics by the unfolding crisis of the imperialist system and its ramifications in every corner of the globe," the book's first chapter says. "The rise in Jew-hatred and violence that has marked the opening decades of the twenty-first century — from the Middle East to North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific — is deeply rooted in this global crisis."

The book documents the record of the communist movement combating Jew-hatred going back to V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik-led 1917 revolution in Russia.

In Seattle, SWP member Rebecca Williamson met Sydney Nelson, a high school student living in Auburn, Washington, about 30 miles south of the city Dec. 13. Nelson said he discusses what's going on in the world with his friends.

"Hamas was in the wrong to attack Israel, and Israel must defend itself. However, they don't have the right to kill thousands of Palestinian children," he said.

"For years, Hamas stashed its weapons under apartment buildings, schools and hospitals deliberately increasing the casualties of Palestinians," Williamson said. "Hamas is a Jew-hating organization whose origins go back to the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem who met with Hitler in order to expand the Nazi's slaughter of Jews to the Middle East."

She showed him the *Militant* and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. "This book shows it's possible to end pogroms, with a fight for political power by the working class as happened in the early years of the Russian Revolution. It also contains the founding document of Hamas that shows it's not a national liberation organization," she said.

Nelson subscribed to the *Militant*. "We were just talking about this a couple of days ago," he said. "Who is right, Israel or Hamas? I say Israel was because it was attacked. I'm interested to learn more about what the paper presents."

In New York, SWP members Willie Cotton and Seth Galinsky attended a menorah lighting ceremony of some 200 people at Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza Dec. 14. Rabbi Menashe Wolf, a friend of Rabbi Eli Schlanger, and of those

murdered in Sydney, said several people had asked if the celebration would be canceled because of the massacre. The response had to be the opposite, he said, "to rise up and shine brighter."

Cotton and Galinsky distributed 60 copies of a statement by Paul Mailhot, chairperson of the New York SWP, condemning the murderous assault. "The Socialist Workers Party will continue to tell the truth," Mailhot wrote, "that fighting Jew-hatred is an essential part of working people fighting for our own class interests."

In Atlanta, Susan LaMont, a leader of the SWP there, wrote a letter condemning the attacks to the *Atlantic Jewish Times*. She also submitted it to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and a Black community newspaper, the *Atlanta Voice* and to others.

SWP members Lisa Potash and Marklyn Wilson went to a Dec. 15 menorah-lighting ceremony of 75 people where they met Dena Schusterman. They invited her to a Dec. 21 Militant Labor Forum where Potash is leading a speak-out against the Jew-hating murders in Australia. Schusterman got a copy of the *Militant*.

Need for an amnesty for immigrants

SWP candidates address all the important questions facing working people today.

In Oakland SWP members campaigned for party candidates Norton Sandler for governor of California and Margaret Trowe for Congress, in Atchison Village in Richmond, Dec. 14. Eric Simpson met Rosa Sanchez, a banquet server currently on disability and a UNITE HERE member. She pointed to the importance of fights by hospital and hotel workers for better wages.

"What ICE is doing is terrible. They will pick you up on the street just because of your face and ask for papers," she told Simpson. "Our union UNITE HERE is fighting for immigrants. If you've worked a job for years and don't have a Social Security number, we are demanding that the hotel not be able to fire you."

CL announces Joe Young campaign for Quebec Parliament

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — Shortly after announcing his campaign for Quebec's National Assembly in the St. Laurent riding, Joe Young, a member of the Communist League, joined an action here in defense of immigrant rights Dec. 12.

Organized by "Quebec is us, too," the rally of some 200 people protested the Quebec government's cancellation of access to permanent residency for many immigrants. Olivier Carrière, Quebec Federation of Labour general secretary, spoke at the action, which was attended by representatives from several unions.

"The government just wants to bring us here to work as cheap labor without rights," Benaouda Houacine, originally from Algeria, told Young at the action. "Many of us are only given closed work permits," making residence in Canada temporary and contingent on working for only one employer, regardless of the conditions there.

"The Communist League joins with over 180 unions and immigrant rights organizations demanding permanent residence status for all immigrants in Canada," Young said. "This fight is es-



Militant/Lisa Potash

SWP member Marklyn Wilson, left, shows *Militant* and discusses party's condemnation of Jew-hating massacre in Australia with Dena Schusterman at Dec. 15 Atlanta Hanukkah celebration.

Simpson gave her a copy of the SWP campaign flyer calling for "Amnesty for undocumented workers: It's in the interests of all working people." He pointed to "the example of the fight by Kilmar Abrego García against deportation for the rest of the labor movement. He's backed by his union, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers. He's out of jail now because of the fight his union and others have put up."

Sanchez signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*. "We have to fight for a better world," she said.

On Chicago's South Side, SWP members Leroy Watson and Lisa Rottach campaigned Dec. 13 for David Rosenfeld, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. They met retired worker Herb Ivory.

"I think Trump is trying to fool the public into going to war. There's no other reason to have all of these soldiers in military gear in Chicago," Ivory said. "I follow the news. I see what they're doing to us, to Venezuela. It's wild."

"The capitalist government represents the billionaires, not the working class," Rottach said. "There is stiffening competition for markets and resources among the rival capitalist governments around the world. They

will launch another world war, if need be, to further their interests. The working class must wage a revolutionary struggle for power, and strip the war-making power out of their hands."

In the apartment complex where Ivory lives, the landlords "want to raise our rent from \$800 to \$2,000! We face losing our home. We've had tenant meetings and talked until our heads fall off, but they're driving ahead," he said.

"Housing under capitalism is just another way to turn profits," Watson said. "Workers deserve affordable and comfortable housing. That's another reason we must take power into our own hands and wield that power to meet the needs of the working class."

Ivory said he looked forward to reading his copy of the *Militant*, and he wanted to stay in touch.

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sential to confront the bosses' divide-and-rule tactics."

Houacine told Young that he had joined a contingent organized by "Quebec is us, too" at the 50,000-strong Nov. 29 union demonstration. It protested against multiple anti-union and anti-democratic laws proposed by Quebec's provincial government.

Young's campaign offers a way forward for working people in the face of these assaults.

"The ruling rich are using their governments in both Ottawa and Quebec City to try to silence working people," Young told the *Militant*. "They're waging war on us at home and increasing military spending in preparation for wars against their rivals abroad."

"The Communist League explains the working class needs its own party, to lead the fight to take political power from the capitalist war makers and into our own hands. The Communist League is the nucleus of that party."

Political crisis facing working class

Young discussed this perspective when he met Modelet Osias and his wife, both originally from Haiti, on

their doorstep in St. Hyacinthe, near Montreal, Dec. 7.

They discussed the economic and political crisis facing working people in Haiti, including the spread of deadly gang violence.

"It's the rich who supply these gangs," Osias said.

"When Washington and Ottawa intervene, it's never to help Haitian working people," Young replied. Last year Washington brokered the establishment of a transitional government and a Kenyan-led foreign military force, which has done little to stop gang violence.

"Yes, that's right," Osias said. "The U.S. revoked the visa of the only opposition," referring to Fritz Alphonse Jean, a member of the transitional governing council.

Young pointed to the broader conflicts accelerating around the world today. "Instead of using their vast resources for human needs in Haiti or anywhere else, the Canadian and U.S. rulers are setting the stage for another war of global proportions," he said. "You don't think I'm exaggerating, do you?"

"Not at all," replied Osias.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CANADA

Montreal

Working Class Needs Own Party to Take Political Power. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League candidate for the riding of St. Laurent in the October 2026 Quebec provincial election. Sat., Jan. 10, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St. Denis #204. Tel: (514) 272-5840.

Pathfinder books ‘are different,’ sell well at book fair in Mexico

BY NAOMI CRAINE

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — “This is different than the other publishers,” said Juan Alexis Capistrano, as he looked over the books in the Pathfinder Press stand at the large International Book Fair here. He decided to get a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. “The media talks a lot about Trump and what he’s doing,” but deportations and other attacks on the working class “were already happening under Obama and Clinton,” he said.

Capistrano was one of hundreds of students, workers and others who spoke with volunteers at Pathfinder’s booth. Many were surprised and interested to find books on revolutionary working-class politics coming from a publisher in the U.S. A number came back more than once and brought friends.

The book fair, which ran Nov. 29-Dec. 7, is one of the largest in the world. Organizers said more than 950,000 people came to buy books and enjoy hundreds of book presentations, literary and academic forums, activities for children and much more. Publishers from 64 countries were represented. Barcelona was the place of honor for this year’s fair, and there were nightly free concerts featuring musicians from there.

Three days were set aside for publishers, authors, distributors, bookstores and others in the book trade to meet and conduct business.

The Pathfinder booth became a center for discussion on why capitalism inevitably is producing growing economic and social crises today. And why the working class organizing on a road to taking political power is the only way to stop imperialism’s march toward another world war.

Many are following with concern Washington’s growing threats against Venezuela. Among the 464 books sold, titles on Cuba’s socialist revolution were popular. Other bestsellers included the speeches of revolutionary leaders like Thomas Sankara in Burkina Faso and Malcolm X. Several people picked up

issues of *New International*, featuring articles such as “Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War” and “US Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War.”

Dozens bought copies of the *Militant*, and a few subscribed. This reflected the interest in the U.S. class struggle, and its connections to the struggles of workers in Mexico and elsewhere.

One young man said he recently moved back here from Albuquerque, New Mexico, because of Washington’s immigration crackdown. He had worked for two years in a paper mill there, and described long hours and bad working conditions, like he had seen in factories in Mexico. He got *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters, in part to learn about the big demonstrations for immigrant workers’ rights in 2006 and how they had strengthened the working class. He picked up a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning under Capitalism* by Barnes, the top seller at the Pathfinder booth, with 27 copies sold.

Fight against Jew-hatred

“Do you have any books on Israel?” Bernardo Cruz Rocha, who works in care for the disabled, asked Eric Simpson, one of the Pathfinder volunteers. Simpson showed him *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. “This book explains how the scapegoating of Jews is used to whip up reactionary violence, as was done in the czarist empire in Russia, by Hitler’s Nazis and today by Hamas,” Simpson said. “It explains why Israel became necessary as the only refuge for Jews in the world, and why only the working class taking political power can open the door to resolving this and all other unsettled national questions.”

Cruz agreed Hamas is reactionary, and “they use the Palestinians as shields.” He bought the book, one of the top sellers at the booth, at 19 copies.

Some people who picked up that book said they took note of growing Jew-hatred, including antisemitic graffiti here directed at Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Some of the most popular titles were



Militant/Naomi Craine

Hundreds visited the Pathfinder booth at Guadalajara book fair in Mexico in December, interested in books by Socialist Workers Party leaders, Cuban and other revolutionaries worldwide.

on the fight for women’s emancipation, including *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Sankara; *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer, leaders of the Federation of Cuban Women; and *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* by SWP leaders Evelyn Reed, Joe Hansen and Waters.

Women’s emancipation

Yared Gurrola, a history student at the University of Guadalajara, got the *Cosmetics* book and came back the next day to get *Woman’s Evolution* by Reed. “I don’t really know much about this, but I need to,” he said. “It’s not only understanding women’s history, but men’s as well. We need to unite to fight against the same problems.”

Alfonso Piña, from San Luis Potosí, said he had been a mechanic and union member for many years and now works in sales. He said one of the issues workers in Mexico have been fighting for is to shorten the legal workweek from 48 hours to 40.

We discussed the need for workers to rely on themselves and the unions, not look to bosses or capitalist governments to protect us. He bought *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*.

Elias Ivan García Rios got a copy of the same book, along with *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs and several other titles. He was eager to learn more

about the struggles of workers in the U.S. and elsewhere. García told Pathfinder volunteer Laura Garza he’s the director of the Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral, a group that helps workers defend their rights.

Several people told Pathfinder volunteers they sympathized with the widespread protests and road blockades by corn farmers now taking place across Mexico, demanding higher prices for their crops to meet the cost of production. They won a higher price from the government, although not as much as they wanted.

There have also been some protests by truck drivers. “Those are over security,” Victor Flores, a transport worker, told this correspondent at the booth. He said he’s interested in the history of workers’ struggles and bought *50 Years of Covert Operations in the US: Washington’s Political Police and the American Working Class*.

Many people took flyers announcing 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 Victor Dreke Cruz.

Dozens of people asked Pathfinder volunteers to contact them before the fair next year. And many took information about the international campaign to pressure Washington to stop denying visas to Cuban athletes to participate in qualifying competitions necessary to advance to the Olympics.

The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward

The global order imposed by victors of the inter-imperialist slaughter of World War II is shattering with explosive ramifications for workers and farmers worldwide. A decadeslong retreat by the working class and unions has come to an end. More and more

workers are saying, “Enough is enough!” They’ve begun to wield the collective power of the exploited producers in response.

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Israeli hostage tortured by Hamas speaks at NJ temple

BY LEA SHERMAN

WESTFIELD, N.J. — Bar Kuperstein, seized by Hamas and held hostage for 738 days, described his experiences in their hands to 700 people at Temple Emanu-El here Dec. 10. He got a standing ovation.

Kuperstein was joined by his friend, Din Tesler, who translated. Both were security guards at the Nova music festival Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas carried out the largest pogrom against Jews since the Holocaust, killing some 1,200 people, wounding thousands and kidnapping 251, who were taken into captivity. Some 3,000 people were at the festival, where 364 were killed and 40 kidnapped.

Kuperstein, then 21, had trained as a medic in the Israel Defense Forces. As the massacre began, he stayed to help festival participants get out of harm’s way, shuttling people off the grounds. He was captured, held in captivity for

more than two years and was among the last 20 hostages released Oct. 13 — a date he calls his “new birthday.”

His first days in Hamas captivity were in an apartment, then he was moved frequently. He spent nearly 500 days in tunnels. The majority of time with five other hostages. During this time they faced starvation, beatings and humiliation. Hamas gave them enough food for one person, which they split six ways. Sometimes the food would have worms, sometimes there would be no food or the water would be dirty, “with a fish in it,” he said. Kuperstein lost 66 pounds.

Showers were once a month in a bucket of freezing water with dish soap and a rusty knife to shave.

Sometimes things got “complicated” between the hostages, Kuperstein said. But when Friday night Sabbath came around, they had a service among themselves and sang Hebrew

songs. They never gave up hope they would be freed.

Kupershtein said one of his captors called his mother, Julie Kupershtein, in Israel, demanding she press Israel’s government to give in to Hamas’ demands. “You’re not doing enough for your son,” the Hamas thug told her in Hebrew. “Go to the demonstrations, go to the media to demand a ceasefire. Your son’s life is in your hands.”

“My son is not in my hands,” she told the Hamas thugs.

Rabbi Ethan Prosnit introduced the program, pointing to a picture of Sarah Milgrim and introduced Bob Milgrim, her father, who was in the audience. Sarah Milgrim was killed along with Yaron Lischinsky, both staffers at the Israeli Embassy, outside the Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., May 21. The Jew-hating killer, Elias Rodriguez, chanted “Free Palestine” as he was being arrested.

'We're not in the same boat,' workers' protests tell Tehran

BY SETH GALINSKY

In one of the largest actions by oil and gas workers in Iran in decades, 5,000 contract workers from 12 South Pars refineries and many family members marched in Asaluyeh Dec. 9, demanding higher wages, more humane work schedules, job safety and better benefits. The action grew out of 18 consecutive weekly protests.

The next day hundreds of oil, gas and energy workers protested outside the Majlis, the national parliament in Tehran, to demand the abolishment of the hated contract labor system. The overwhelming majority of workers in Iran, including in the oil industry, work through contractors, employment agencies or under temporary contracts.

The protest in Asaluyeh was called by the Bushehr Gas Refinery Workers Union, which has close ties to a wing of the Iranian regime. The union publicized the march for over a week.

Asaluyeh is a port city and capital of Bushehr province in southern Iran and the center of the South Pars/North Dome Gas Field, the world's largest, shared between Iran and Qatar.

In an attempt to keep workers from participating, police blocked off roads and set up barriers. The union responded by organizing workers into two disciplined groups that successfully marched toward the governor's office.

Among the chants at the march were "18 million tomans [\$144] in wages, 15 million in rent," and "Stealing workers' rights is a betrayal of the country."

'We're not begging, we're warning'

"We are not begging. We are warning you: Cut off the hands of the those leechlike contractors from our lives, our property and our tables," an oil worker said in a speech to the action.

The contract companies "are owned by regime insiders and government profiteers who, acting as intermediaries between the oil industry and the workers, employ them under far more exploitative, near-slave-labor conditions with wages and benefits roughly half those of official and directly contracted workers," the Free Union of Iranian Workers said, commenting on the Tehran protest.

The same is true in other industries.

Some contractors in the oil and gas industry are owned by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a central part of the regime's apparatus to repress opposition to its rule.

Oil, gas and energy workers were joined in the Dec. 10 demonstration in front of the Majlis by workers from the agricultural bank and from the government welfare agency.

The welfare agency workers held simultaneous protests across the country. Their banners said, "We are welfare employees, but we ourselves lack welfare."

The power and breadth of the oil workers' protest, and their ability to attract other workers, was reflected in two members of parliament speaking to the protesters in the Tehran action. "You are right," one MP told the crowd, "we are following up on converting your employment status — but it will take time."

The Free Union of Iranian Workers reported that MP Hassan Nowruzi "even shamelessly uses the 12-day war [with Israel] as an excuse, saying, 'We



Thousands of oil and gas workers march in Asaluyeh in southern Iran Dec. 9 for higher wages, job safety and better conditions for contract workers, one of largest labor actions in decades.

are all in the same boat'" and warning workers against holding protests.

"No sir! We workers and you plunderers are not in the same boat," the union said. "You and your government have punctured the boat that carries our livelihood, and through these holes you are looting everything we have."

The protests take place amid growing opposition among working people

to the regime's support to Hamas and war against Israel, to the plunging value of the national currency, rising prices of basic goods, a steep increase in executions of prisoners charged with drug offenses and other crimes, a wave of arrests of union and political activists, and widespread defiance of the regime's dress code that requires women to wear the hijab to cover their hair.

Join fight against Jew-hatred, massacre in Australia

Continued from front page

previous evening 15 people were shot and killed and dozens more wounded at the beach where over 1,000 had gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. It was an act of pure Jew-hatred.

"For two years people have paraded in our streets and universities calling for the intifada to be globalized, a catchphrase that means kill the Jews wherever you find them," Ossip said. "Last night the intifada was globalized and came to Bondi."

Those killed ranged from a 10-year-old girl to an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor from Ukraine.

Two Islamist gunmen, a father and son, stood on a footbridge overlooking the beach and cold-bloodedly fired dozens of rounds from high-powered rifles into the crowd for around 10 minutes.

Four people who confronted the killers bravely tried to disarm them. They came close but ultimately were shot

and three of them killed.

One of the terrorists was also killed when more police finally showed up and shot him.

The gunmen are reported to having been associated with antisemitic Islamist groups in Sydney. They had draped a homemade Islamic State flag over the windscreen of their car. And the car was found to contain deadly explosive devices.

Solidarity and defiance

Thousands of members of the Jewish community and others came to Bondi in a steady stream the following day to grieve, show solidarity and express their defiance. Many brought flowers, contributing to a growing floral tribute across the front of the beach pavilion. There were speeches, songs and prayers. Candles were lit as the vigil continued into the night. Similar vigils and other events were held in cities and towns across Australia. Thousands also responded to emergency requests to donate blood to help the wounded.

Similar vigils and meetings were held worldwide, denouncing the murderous attack and calling for redoubling the fight against Jew-hatred.

The iconic Sydney Opera House was lit up that night to show a menorah — the Jewish candelabrum used to mark the eight days of the religious holiday of Hanukkah — in tribute to those killed and wounded. In 2023, the Opera House had been lit up in the colors of Israel's national flag two days after the Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel. That sparked a violent protest at the building by a pro-Hamas mob chanting antisemitic slogans and hunting for Jews to attack.

Sharp rise in Jew-hatred

There has been a sharp rise in Jew-hatred in Australia over the two years since Israel launched its defensive war against Hamas in Gaza to prevent another Oct. 7 pogrom. Pro-Hamas protests organized by middle-class leftist and Islamist groups have drawn support from Labor and Green Party politicians, many nongovernmental organizations,

as well as much of the union officialdom and the liberal media.

Calls to boycott Jewish businesses, and to ban events and artistic performances by Jews, as well as individuals said to be linked to Israel, have been accompanied by vandalism, violence and arson targeting the Jewish community. Bondi, in the heart of the district where many Jews in Sydney live, has been a focal point of these attacks.

"Anti-Jewish racism has left the fringes of society and become part of the mainstream, where it is normalized and allowed to fester and spread," the Executive Council of Australian Jewry said in a report released this month.

Jewish organizations, and many of the hundreds who gathered at Bondi the day after the mass shooting, sharply condemned the federal Labor Party government of Anthony Albanese for its failure to confront the growing wave of antisemitism, saying it had blood on its hands.

"Over the past two years, we've seen unprecedented acts of antisemitism in our city, synagogues being set alight, cars being firebombed, and houses being defaced. We, as a community, have repeatedly warned that it was only a matter of time until blood was spilt," Ossip told the press conference.

The Australian prime minister convened a special National Cabinet meeting Dec. 15, drawing in the eight premiers of Australia's states and territories. Albanese focused the meeting on the need to tighten restrictions on gun ownership.

The Australian Jewish Association condemned that response as "trying to blame the guns not the terrorists," and an "attempt to deflect attention from antisemitism."

"The Labor government led by Anthony Albanese has lined up with other imperialist powers attacking Israel," helping to fuel the rise of Jew-hatred in Australia, the Communist League said in a statement released Dec. 16. "We cannot rely on the government or their police," it said. (See front page for full statement.)

What must be done to end Jew-hatred

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



Stakes for the international working class

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"Jew-hatred is a world question. The fight against it is decisive to every working-class battle today against the brutal consequences for humanity of imperialism and its convulsions.

"Jew-hatred is not eternal; it is rooted in class-divided society and the class struggle. The authors answer the all important question: What is to be done to end it — for all time."

— Dave Prince, Chapter 1

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Chinese overseas in a changing world is theme of ISSCO Malaysia event

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — “Chinese Overseas in a Changing World: Global Networks, Local Realities” was the theme of the 12th International Conference of ISSCO, the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas, that took place Nov. 4-6 at the Malaya University of Malaysia. Out of a population of 34.1 million, more than 22% of Malaysians today are of Chinese ancestry. This was the second ISSCO International Conference to be held here.

Since its founding in 1992 ISSCO has organized conferences, from Southeast Asia to North America, South Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and beyond. The gatherings have served to promote knowledge of the rich history of Chinese living overseas in countries around the globe, including their struggles against prejudice and discrimination.

Some 500 people from 27 countries participated in the Kuala Lumpur conference, ISSCO’s largest ever, and 96 student volunteers from Malaya University worked to ensure the conference’s success.

The sharpening conflicts between Washington and Beijing and their impact on some 40 million Chinese living and working overseas was at the center of both the plenary sessions and during more than 80 panel discussions at the conference — approximately half of which were conducted in Chinese with the other half in English.

“Our changing world faces numerous uncertainties,” outgoing ISSCO President Li Minghuan, a professor at Xiamen University in Fujian Province in southern China, told the conference’s opening session. “China’s rising stature, China-U.S. relations, China-EU relations, and China’s relations with the

Global South shape not only the general trend of the world. They also have an impact on the development of overseas Chinese communities.”

Washington emerged as the world’s dominant imperialist power following its blood-soaked victory in World War II. Today, it seeks to shore up its weakening place at the head of the capitalist world “order” and push back the growing economic and military strength of Beijing.

Chinese rulers challenge Washington

The Chinese rulers have extended their industrial power across Asia, Africa and Latin America and are deploying greater military clout, especially in the Pacific. This includes Beijing’s long-standing determination to take control over Taiwan, which it considers an integral part of the People’s Republic of China. The U.S. rulers, who are equally determined to maintain their dominant power in the Pacific, are reinforcing their military alliances with the rulers of Japan, Australia, the Philippines and others in the region.

In one of the keynote addresses during the conference, Tan Chee Beng, adjunct professor at University Tunku Abdul Rahman in Malaysia and a former president of ISSCO, spoke to this reality: “An economically and militarily powerful China may not make life of the Chinese overseas easier, especially in the current situation of China-U.S. rivalry which also involves U.S. allies. Chinese overseas need to be sensitive to local reality, while at the same time they need to defend their ethnic and cultural rights.”

A highlight of the conference was a forum organized around this theme in a plenary session panel featuring academics from the People’s Republic of China, the Philippines, South Africa,



Militant/Baskaran Appu
International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas conference Nov. 4-6 at Malaya University. Some 500 people from 27 countries participated in Kuala Lumpur conference, ISSCO’s largest ever.

Singapore and Malaysia. In “the current geopolitical reality ... overseas Chinese are under increasing scrutiny in countries where they now live,” moderator Zhou Min from the University of California said in her opening remarks.

ISSCO conferences in each of the last three years all featured sessions where participants discussed the harassment and prosecution of scientists, academics and businessmen of Chinese origin, and successful campaigns to defend them against charges of espionage in the service of Beijing.

Fight for Malaysia’s independence

Another of the themes addressed in panels and other activities during the conference was the rich history of Malaysia.

Following the Japanese attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which marked the beginning of World War II in the Pacific in December 1941, Japanese forces invaded Malaysia, then a part of the global British Empire. Within a few weeks the British colonial masters of what was then called Malaya were expelled as the Japanese army swept south. When the tide of war turned, and Japanese troops were defeated in 1945, however, that did not usher in Malayan independence. Instead, a new period of British domination and years of civil war opened. (See article on next page.)

The imperialist forces eventually crushed the armed insurgency, which had a strong base among the Chinese plantation workers, but were forced to concede independence in 1957. Their legacy of divide and rule — pitting the indigenous Malay population against Chinese and Indian communities that at the time constituted roughly 50% of the total population of Malaya — has deeply marked Malaysian government policies ever since.

Reflecting interest in the sharpening international class struggle, many conference participants stopped to discuss with volunteers from Australia, Canada and the U.S. at a table of Pathfinder Press books, featuring titles on revolutionary struggles led by working people around the world.

Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution was the most popular title. It describes the little-known history of Chinese workers in Cuba’s struggles against Spanish and U.S. domination and their participation in the country’s socialist revolution that brought

an end to the decades of discrimination Chinese Cubans faced. (See accompanying article below.)

At the closing session, the conference’s organizing chairman and new ISSCO president, professor Datuk Dr. Danny Wong Tze Ken, announced that Wenzhou University in China will host the next regional ISSCO conference in 2026. The university has a large department on the study of Chinese overseas and a program designed to encourage overseas Chinese students to come study in China.

Panel discusses how Cuba uprooted discrimination against Chinese

BY LINDA HARRIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — “The unique history of Chinese in Cuba” was the title of a presentation at the 12th International Conference of ISSCO given by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. The book is based on interviews with Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sio Wong.

Her remarks were part of a panel that addressed the discrimination Chinese migrants have — or have not — faced in Malaysia, South Africa and in Cuba.

Waters began by saying that the contributions by the panelists before her provided a good counterpoint for understanding what is unique about the history of Chinese in Cuba. “Cuba is the only country in the world with a significant history of Chinese immigration where there is today virtually zero discrimination or prejudice against their descendants.”

This is the opposite of the experience of Chinese elsewhere, she noted, “as we’ve been discussing throughout this conference.” Given the deepening crisis of the capitalist system worldwide, “the owners of capital and their governments are always looking for scapegoats to divert attention from the real problem, which is capitalism. They want people to believe it’s ‘the Chinese,’ or people whose skin is Black, or ‘the Jews’ who are exploiting them.”

There’s a second thing that makes Cuba unique, Waters explained. It is the only country where working people have made a successful socialist revolution in the last 75 years. “They eliminated the economic foundations of racism and that’s what made it possible, unlike elsewhere, to tackle dis-

Malaysian people waged long fight against British rule

One of the important issues discussed at the November ISSCO conference in Malaysia was the history of the anti-imperialist struggle against British rule. What is now Malaysia was part of the British Empire from the late 1700s until independence was won in 1957. This April 14, 1952, Militant article, titled “Malaya’s Fight for Independence,” explains what was involved.

BY CHARLES HANLEY

The British Tory government, reports the April 8 *N.Y. Herald Tribune*, has given “full approval” to the savage reprisals inflicted upon an entire Malayan village for allegedly aiding guerrilla bands waging a struggle for national independence. “Last month,” says the *Herald Tribune*, “Secretary of State Dean Acheson gave strong American support to the British campaign.” What is the nature of this “campaign” to which Churchill-Acheson and Company give their whole-hearted support?

On March 28 the Associated Press reported that British High Commissioner General Sir Gerald Templer “has ordered the 5,000 villagers of Tanjong Malin under house arrest and cut their rice ration, accusing many of them of aiding Communist guerrillas in the area 45 miles north of this city.” This barbarous measure aroused voices of pro-



Imperial War Museum/SE 5878
Struggle for national independence against British colonialism by Malaysian people emerged out of Malayan people’s army, above, fighting Japanese occupation during World War II.

test even in the British House of Lords. “Viscount Stansgate,” reports the April 8 *Herald Tribune*, protested that “no one could justify... preventing women and children from getting enough food when they had done nothing wrong.”

‘Collective Punishment’

The Earl of Listowel, a Labor peer, protested that “such ‘collective punishment’ was a new departure in British

colonial policy.” But the Earl was either short of memory or ignorant of “British colonial policy.” Collective punishment has been practiced against the people of Malaya for years and condemning innocent women and children to hunger is only one of its milder forms.

The British imperialists have practiced a “scorched earth” policy in Malaya, burning villages, imposing collective fines, evacuating whole village popula-



Prior to 1959 revolution, Playa de Marianao, above, had been a “whites only” preserve for Havana’s wealthy families. Fidel Castro led fight against all forms of discrimination, including for Chinese Cubans, as socialist revolution advanced interests of workers, farmers,

es,” she said. “They nationalized the land and gave titles to landless peasants who tilled it. They led workers to take control of their factories and production. They organized and armed working people

— women as well as men — creating disciplined militias ready to defend their gains. They opened the beaches and all public facilities to blacks. They slashed rents to 10% of a family’s income.

“And,” Waters pointed out, “in the Chinese ‘barrio’ it was the Chinese workers themselves who organized a militia unit and drove out the mafia, drug dealers, gambling dens and brothels,” for which Havana was infamous, worldwide.

A revolutionary history

The first Chinese came to Cuba as indentured laborers in the mid-19th century to work on the vast sugar plantations. Thousands joined the independence forces, fighting the Spanish colonial rulers (1868-98), organizing their own Chinese battalions. After indentured servitude was abolished in 1871, waves of new migration included wealthier traders. Over time the class composition of

tions, destroying homes and crops, because the people “failed to help British security forces in the campaign” against the guerrillas. And now the “civilizers” have come up with something new!

On April 5, a Reuters dispatch from Singapore disclosed that “chemical warfare from the air is to be launched” against what the imperialists call the “communist bandit food-growing areas in the depths of the Malayan jungle.” The *New York Times*, April 5, reports that the British owned *Straits Times*, which the *N.Y. Times* characterizes as one of the most reliable newspapers in the Far East, reports that British planes “flying low over jungle clearings, would spray large areas ‘with a withering chemical destroying food crops which support terrorist gangs.’” Such food-destroying chemicals have already been used, says the *Times*, and “chemicals had also been used to destroy trees along the sides of two dangerous roads in Malaya in order to deny terrorists natural cover.”

Why are the British imperialists and their American counterparts driven to practice such beastly atrocities upon innocent and helpless men, women and children in the Malayan jungle? Behind the spurious facade of a crusade against “communism” lurks the bloody hand of the imperialist exploiter of a rich colonial country and its people.

Colonial Prize

Malaya is a peninsula situated south of Burma and Siam (Thailand), north of Indonesia, and one of the rich countries of South Asia. The British cling to it not only because of the port and military base of Singapore but because Malaya also produces two thirds of the world’s natural rubber supply, one third of its tin, as well as rice, cocoa, sugar cane, coconuts, etc. It is a country of large plantations, beautiful cities and good roads. But it is also a jungle country dangerous to Europeans. There are no roads in the jungle, but there are guerrillas fighting for Asia’s freedom from colonial tyranny.

Malaya is a bi-national country inhabited mainly by 2,760,000 Malaysians and 2,850,000 Chinese immigrants. The Chinese live in the cities and also in the countryside, but mainly form the towns’ population. They are denied citizenship under the “democratic” rule of the British.

The French bourgeois newspaper *Le Monde* has published an interesting and revealing series of articles by its special correspondent, Robert Guillain.

Guillain points out the predominant role of the Chinese in the Malayan war. The movement originated in the Malayan Chinese anti-Japanese resistance in World War II. The guerrilla army does not get any noticeable aid from the outside. The Malayan revolt is not organized in Moscow or in Peking; it is organized in Malaya. And it is actively or passively supported by almost the entire people — Malaysians and Chinese — of the peninsula.

British Schemes

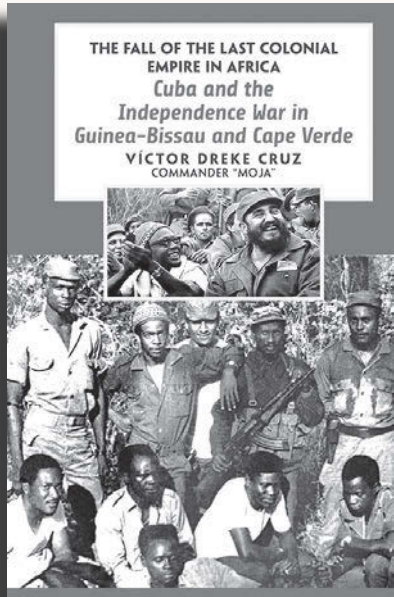
The British are trying to sponsor an anti-communist Malayan nationalist movement and anticommunist trade-unions. Guillain admits that this artificial “movement” is not very successful. The only kind of unity between Malay-

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Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa

By Victor Dreke



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 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.

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Let Cuba Play! Fight US refusal to give visas to Cuba’s athletes

BY JANET POST

The U.S. government is refusing to grant travel visas to more than 100 Cuban athletes to take part in qualifying events necessary to compete in the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

A campaign, Let Cuba Play! backed by a number of Cuba solidarity groups, political organizations, athletes and individuals is organizing to reverse this.

“Our primary focus will be to organize the broadest number of athletes from the sports world alongside concerned artists, unionists, religious, campus figures, prominent individuals and others, to remind members of the International Olympic Committee from various nations and organizations of their obligation to honor the organization’s own charter,” Let Cuba Play! says.

“‘Let them play’ is not a slogan; it is a fundamental call for justice,” Yasser Ibarra, from the Cuban Embassy in the U.S., said in a video Nov. 23. “We want our athletes to have access to qualifying competitions and, even if they secure their Olympic spots, we want to ensure they do not face new excuses or obstacles.”

The U.S. government has been putting barriers in the way of Cuban athletes competing in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, including denying visas for Cuban baseball players to participate in the

2026 World Baseball Classic in March. Endorsers of the Let Cuba Play! efforts include the National Network on Cuba; Kevin Kucera, area director of District 190, International Association of Machinists in Los Angeles; Tamara Hansen, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba; Carlos Lazo, Puentes de Amor/Bridges of Love; Bob Schwartz, Global Health Partners; Ike Nahem, New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition; Medea Benjamin, Codepink; Socialist Workers Party; and a growing list of others.

You can volunteer to help plan outreach, public events and media coverage by signing up on www.letcubaplay.com.

The campaign is also circulating a petition to International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry, and Gene Sykes, chair of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. It notes the IOC’s charter “rejects discrimination of any kind and protects every athlete’s right to compete free from political interference.”

Let Cuba Play! is supported by Cuba’s National Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER), created in 1961 after Cuba’s 1959 revolution. Since then, Cuba leads every nation in the Americas, with the exception of the U.S., in gold medals won at the Pan American Games and summer Olympics.



JIT Deporte Cubano

Havana Little League team celebrates win Dec. 14. Since the revolution, Cuba has won more gold medals at Pan American, summer Olympics than anyone in the hemisphere, except U.S.

Cuba uprooted discrimination

Continued from page 9

Chinese in Cuba became more mixed. And by the time of the 1899 census, a handful of wealthy Chinese owned some 42 sugar plantations. At the time of Cuba’s developing socialist revolution in the 1950s, there were both Chinese who supported the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship and those — like the three Chinese Cuban generals — who joined the revolutionary movement.

Waters concluded by explaining the deep social and economic crisis in Cuba today, emphasizing its roots in

“the implacable determination of the U.S. to crush the example of the Cuban Revolution. Washington is waging a war to destroy Cuba economically. They want to try to convince working people around the world that we can’t make a successful revolution. That a socialist revolution — not capitalism — inevitably leads to economic collapse and a police state,” she said.

A brief but lively discussion followed the presentations, with a number of questions about Cuba. One participant asked what China and Russia are doing to help Cuba.

Waters responded, “There is a lot of lip service from both governments, saying ‘We Stand with Cuba!’ There are many memoranda of agreement co-signed between Cuba and those governments but most often little is heard of them afterward. Few of the promised investments and projects materialize. There’s no mystery really. Moscow and Beijing are interested in profits and influence, not aid. And Russia faces its own economic crisis because of its invasion of Ukraine.”

When you hear about the U.S. military sending warships to the Caribbean, Waters said, “remember: The ultimate target is Cuba, and always will be, as long as the revolution lives and Cuban working people have the confidence and capacity to defend it. That is what they have proven for 67 years and counting.”

Malaysian people waged long fight against British rule

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ans and Chinese which is possible in Malaya is unity in common anti-imperialist actions, not unity in an alliance with the imperialists who, so far, have not even granted elementary political rights to the Chinese.

The guerrilla army itself is small. “Amidst a population of 6,500,000 inhabitants, the five thousand men whose organization calls itself Liberation Army of the Peoples of Malaya are like a handful of sand; but they are like grains of sand thrown into a motor: They seriously damage the entire machine,” says Guillain. The five thousand are supported by many other thousands. They are not isolated and are therefore able to wage a continuous campaign of sabotage against 25,000 British soldiers and 100,000 policemen, a campaign that started in June 1948.

The Liberation Army has been capable of plunging the British colonialists into an atmosphere of uncertainty. The British are unable to defeat it. At any time the guerrillas can retreat into the jungle or come out of the jungle. Pursuing them is not much use. Their weapons are light; they can easily carry them. And the jungle is immense. And there even exists a second jungle: The Chinese community in the cities. It is difficult to find a guerrilla fighter hidden by Chinese sympathizers. And there are practically no “Quislings” to betray him to the British. The Chinese communities are impenetrable.

The Liberation Army is not the group of “bandits” the British talk about in their official communiques. It is, in fact, a uniformed, highly disciplined organization, divided into regiments (each of 500 or 600 men), companies and platoons. The Liberation Army has a unified command and a planned strat-

egy. This “Red Army of the Jungle,” as Guillain calls it, also attaches great importance to the political education of every soldier and officer. Each unit has its political instructor. Each unit has its regular educational courses.

“Karl Marx in the deep jungle,” reads one of Guillain’s subheads. When they are not in action, the guerrillas have to study each day the questions of economy, politics and revolutionary strategy. Tropical diseases and heat cannot vanquish their determination. They edit their own newspapers under almost fantastic difficulties. They even publish books. Their theories may be influenced by Stalinism to a considerable extent — we do not know about this. But we do know that an army of partisans waging

its own struggle under its own leadership and supported by a revolutionary movement of the people is bound to develop a policy of its own, to become increasingly independent from the Kremlin. This is proven by the examples of Yugoslavia and China.

The British at present attempt a hunger blockade against the partisans in the jungle after the failure of every other military measure. They are bound to fail again. Hunger will not break the spirit of Marx. And townspeople and farmers will both continue to help the Liberation Army. For they see the downfall of colonialism at the end of the road, even if the struggle is long and painful. The Malayan people know that this is but one of the fronts of an entire continent in revolt.

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Mass protests topple Bulgarian gov't on eve of joining eurozone

BY TERRY EVANS

The challenges confronting Bulgaria's capitalist rulers increased following a wave of protests against budget proposals. Next month Bulgaria joins the bloc of countries using the euro currency, as its rulers try to attract foreign investment, with competition for markets and resources deepening among Europe's rival capitalist powers.

Beginning in late November protests grew, from tens of thousands to 100,000. Working people and others took to the streets of Sofia and other cities in Bulgaria to demand the conservative governing coalition headed by Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov scrap a budget that increased taxes and social security contributions. He resigned and his government collapsed Dec. 11.

Defenders of the budget claimed the increases were needed to meet the eurozone's membership requirement that the government's budget deficit be no more than 3% of the country's gross domestic product.

These protests reflect the response of working people worldwide to the deepening crisis of capitalism today.

Bulgaria's rulers have faced political instability for years. They've had seven elections and a succession of short-lived governments since 2021. Zhelyazkov had survived six no-confidence votes since taking office in January.

The demonstrations were backed by liberal opposition capitalist parties, We Continue to Change and Democratic Bulgaria.

In July, We Continue to Change mounted protests against the arrest of Blagomir Kotsev, mayor of Varna, and Nikolay Barbutov, deputy mayor of Sofia. Both are members of this party, which claims the ruling coalition was planning to remove all opposition officeholders in the country's major towns. Kotsev was freed Nov. 28, Barbutov remains under house arrest.

Workers and youth who are opposed to the country joining the eurozone as well as those in favor were both part of the actions that swept Zhelyazkov from office. "We want to be a European country, not one ruled by corruption and mafia," student Ventsislava Vasileva told Agence France-Presse at one of the protests.

Bulgarian President Rumen Radev

is consulting with different parties to try to form a new government.

Meanwhile, the pro-Moscow Vazrazhdane party has submitted a resolution proposing to postpone entry into the eurozone. Bulgaria's parliament has repeatedly rejected proposals to hold a referendum on whether to join. Recent opinion polls show neither those for nor against command majority support. Thousands demonstrated against adopting the euro prior to the government voting to do so in September.

The European Commission — dominated by Berlin and Paris, the strongest imperialist powers in the bloc — says Bulgaria will be admitted into the eurozone regardless of the political situation in the country.

Bulgaria is the poorest country in the European Union, with a population that has declined from nearly 9 million in the 1980s to 6.8 million today, the result of continuing emigration. The average monthly wage



Associated Press/Valentina Petrova

Rally against government budget proposals in Sofia, Bulgaria, Dec. 1. Signs read from left, "How many more lies?" "The future is not a business deal" and "Democracy is not a dictatorship." Economic, social and political crisis led to weeks of large, angry protests.

is about \$415.

Following the fall of Zhelyazkov's government, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Bulgaria held a new round of protests outside

the parliament to oppose any step to freeze the wage raises for public sector workers and benefit increases that had been included in Zhelyazkov's failed budget proposal.

Capitalist crises, rivalries drive threat of new world war

Continued from front page

In the Caribbean, Washington has assembled its largest military presence since the 1989 invasion of Panama. It's carrying out deadly attacks and provocations aimed at toppling the government in Venezuela, reasserting its domination of Latin America and pushing back at the influence of its main global rival, Beijing.

A central target of the U.S. rulers is Cuba's socialist revolution. They fear its example for working people worldwide. Their decadeslong efforts to crush it have been met by resistance from Cuban workers and farmers, who are determined to defend their conquests. Today the Donald Trump administration, the Cuban government says, is intensifying its "policy of maximum pressure and economic suffocation" against the Cuban people.

In the western Pacific, two nuclear-capable U.S. B-52 strategic bombers flew with Japanese jet fighters over the Sea of Japan Dec. 10 in a joint show of force. The day before Moscow and Beijing had demonstratively flown long-range bombers side by side between Japan's Okinawa islands and South Korea, where there are large U.S. military bases. The Moscow-Beijing probe coincided with maneuvers by a Chinese

aircraft carrier nearby.

Tensions have flared between the rulers of China and Japan over Taiwan. Beijing insists it will take over, if necessary by force, the self-governing island. Tokyo and Washington declared Dec. 11 their joint opposition to "any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force." Taiwan is a key flashpoint as Washington tries to defend its weakening domination in the Pacific, won as a result of its victory in World War II.

The largest armed conflict in Europe since that imperialist slaughter — Moscow's war to conquer Ukraine — has revolutionized drone warfare. Today every capitalist power is racing to equip its own forces with this new destructive technology.

Capitalism threatens a world war

"Capitalism today is marching not only toward more wars but at the same time stumbling toward a depression and world social crisis," Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, wrote in "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," available in *New International* no. 7.

The 1991 Iraq war announced "the conflicts that lie ahead as the imperialist rulers follow the historic logic of their declining world system of exploitation and oppression," Barnes wrote.

For the past decade, world military expenditure has been soaring. Last year it reached a new peak, jumping by 9.4%, to \$2.7 trillion. In 2024 Washington's military spending alone was almost \$1 trillion, while Beijing's was an estimated \$314 billion. The five biggest military powers, which include the governments of Russia, Germany and India, accounted for 60% of this armament spending spree.

Moscow's war spending will swallow nearly one-third of its state budget next year. The imperialist powers in Europe, led by the rulers of Germany and France, boosted their total military spending by 17%, to \$693 billion last year.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called European leaders "swine" Dec.

17 after German Chancellor Friedrich Merz compared the Kremlin regime to Hitler's Nazis of the late 1930s.

U.S. 'national security' course

The National Security Strategy document issued by the Trump administration Dec. 4 outlined Washington's aim to build "the world's most powerful, lethal, and technologically advanced military." Rebuilding basic industrial capacity in the U.S. is essential for this.

As part of a July trade deal between the South Korean government and the White House, shipbuilding giant Hanwha Group is to expand production at its newly acquired shipyard in Philadelphia from less than two ships a year to 20. This will boost the building of warships and submarines in the U.S. to try to close the gap on China's global shipbuilding domination.

The U.S. rearmament drive is bipartisan. The Trump-hating *New York Times* editors warned Dec. 11 that the U.S. rulers were "at risk of falling behind China." They credited Trump for taking steps toward building "a bigger, stronger and more efficient defense industry."

The U.S. rulers fear the challenge posed by Beijing's expansion of trade and investment across Latin America in recent decades in what they consider their "backyard." The White House national security document threatens that Washington will keep the Western Hemisphere "free of hostile foreign incursion or ownership of key assets."

The statement lists the U.S. rulers' "core, vital national interests," including keeping open crucial sea lanes across the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Washington wants to "prevent an adversarial power from dominating the Middle East, its oil and gas supplies, and the chokepoints through which they pass," the statement says. The imperialist system breeds more deadly conflicts. Growing capitalist exploitation causes deepening struggles by working people. The solution for humanity lies in the working class taking power into its own hands from the capitalist war makers.

Imperialism's march toward fascism and war



Available at pathfinderpress.com

A class-struggle program for workers today

As the capitalist economic and social crisis deepens, the working class is being hammered by high prices for necessities, including groceries, energy, rent, health care and more, and by increasing difficulties in getting and keeping a decent job.

This year bosses have laid off some 1.2 million workers, the highest number since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The monthly government reports about the jobs being “created” today are a total distortion of the facts. When statistics were adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported 900,000 fewer jobs had actually been created in the 12-month period ending in March 2025. According to Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, this trend has continued through the rest of this year. Since April, he says, there’s actually been a net loss of 20,000 jobs a month.

For those laid off it has become increasingly difficult to get another job. More than one in four workers on the unemployment rolls, nearly 2 million, have been without a job for at least six months. With the capitalist economy stagnating, bosses are either cutting their workforce or not replacing workers who leave, while making those still on the job work faster, at the expense of their lives and limbs.

“The right to employment is the only serious right left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation,” the Socialist Workers Party said in the program adopted at its founding convention in 1938. This is the starting point for organizing a union-led fight for every worker’s right to a job with adequate wages, humane work schedules and proper job conditions families need to live, rather than be torn apart by the bosses’ relentless drive for profits.

The political resolution adopted by the SWP in 2022, printed in *The Low Point of Labor Resistance*

Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward, explains: “Working people need a course that strengthens confidence in our own worth and our ability to organize together and fight. A course that helps the working class and unions forge alliances with farmers, other exploited producers, and the oppressed.

“Class-conscious workers call for a shorter work-week with no cut in pay, with regular hours. We call for a massive public works program to provide employment for millions at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, childcare centers, housing, bridges, roads, and other needed infrastructure. In face of inflation, we demand cost-of-living escalators for wages (as well as retirement, jobless, and disability payments).”

Millions of workers today are being forced to increase their incomes by taking on two or three jobs. But this leaves no time to relax, to look at how workers can unite to take on the attacks of the capitalist rulers, and to spend time with their families and participate in union, political and social activity.

“What’s needed is a floor *for all families* of working people,” says the SWP resolution, “an income that’s sufficient for workers to maintain steady employment, as the labor movement fights for universal childcare and medical care.” All of those below this line, which today encompasses millions of working-class families, should be provided with a government-guaranteed income supplement.

It’s along this course that working people can strengthen and revitalize our unions and join the fight to build a movement tens of millions strong, to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers, end once and for all the exploitative and oppressive system of capitalism, and join the struggle for a socialist world.

Australia CL statement

Continued from front page

Since the murderous pogrom carried out by Hamas against Jews in Israel on October 7, 2023, the number of attacks on Jews, on synagogues and Jewish homes and businesses in Australia has escalated.

These assaults have been encouraged by street demonstrations mobilising support for Hamas and calling for the destruction of Israel and its people. The Bondi shooting shows what is meant by the slogan “Globalise the intifada.”

The Labor government led by Anthony Albanese has lined up with other imperialist powers attacking Israel and ignored warnings from Jewish organisations of the likelihood of a deadly attack on Jews in Australia.

In today’s world of deepening social and economic crises, growing capitalist rivalries and wars, we will see more anti-Semitic assaults. The fight against Jew-hatred and defence of Israel as a refuge for Jews is a life-or-death question for the working class everywhere.

We cannot rely on the government or their police. The most powerful force that can push back these attacks and prevent another Holocaust is the working class. Fighting Jew-hatred is an essential part of working people fighting in their own interests.

Why Israel became inevitable as a refuge for the Jews

Below are excerpts from the first chapter by Dave Prince in The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class. Copyright © 2024 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

In the years leading up to and during World War II, the dominant imperialist powers slammed the doors on all but marginal Jewish immigration. That was the course of Washington and London, led by Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, and followed by the ruling classes of Canada, Australia, and others.

In the aftermath of the war — after Hitler’s genocidal extermination of 40 percent of the world Jewish population, six million human beings — the imperialist victors in Washington and London kept their own borders shut tight for three more years. They pushed more than 250,000 Jewish survivors into barely livable “displaced persons” camps in the defeated European countries of Germany, Austria, and Italy.

Where were the Jews to go?

Prospects for an extension of the socialist revolution in Europe were betrayed by the Stalinist regime and its national Communist Parties. ... Proletarian victories in one or more of those countries could have stopped the human catastrophe of the Second World War. ...

Israel became inevitable as a *refuge* for the Jews. But not a *solution* to Jew-hatred or pogroms. There is no safe haven for Jews in the imperialist epoch, anywhere in the world.

Defense of Israel’s right to exist is based on that history. It is a country that offers sanctuary to Jews, anywhere, anytime, in face of persecution and violence.

Only under such conditions will working people in Israel and the region — of Jewish, Palestinian, and other national origins — have the political space to build mutual trust and unity in common struggle. And such class solidarity, in turn, opens the road to forging a communist party, a proletarian party, capable of leading the working class and its oppressed and exploited allies toward a socialist revolution. ...

The deepest *abhorrence* of the October 7 pogrom is found in the working class in the United States and elsewhere. It is there — *not* among privileged professionals and the middle classes, or on university campuses, where Jew-hatred is flourishing today — that communist workers find the greatest openness to the fight against the persecution of Jews. It is among working people that communists get a hearing on why the stakes for the labor movement in fighting Jew-hatred and pogroms are so great.

Ukrainians insist on their national sovereignty

Continued from front page

lengthy cuts to power, heat and light across most of the country. At the same time the drones are used to target civilians.

After a sustained aerial attack by Russian missiles, tens of thousands of people in the southern port city of Odesa were without electricity for three days in mid-December.

“Life has been difficult, but people are very supportive of each other,” Yana told the BBC, reflecting the determination Ukrainians have to keep fighting. She still has power and invites people to her home to charge their phones. She says she and others who have power or generators offer anyone who needs it the chance to wash or take a shower.

Near the Donbas front lines, DTEK, the largest power company in Ukraine, providing power for 5.6 million Ukrainians, has been attacked every three or four days.

Eight of DTEK’s engineers have been killed on the job. “Every day they risk their lives to keep power in the area,” Maxim Timchenko, the head of DTEK, said.

Washington presses for peace deal

Officials in the Donald Trump administration are pressing Ukraine to agree to a ceasefire deal in order to clear the way to advance U.S. imperialist interests in the region, with no regard for Ukraine’s sovereignty. Trump has offered Moscow normalized economic and political relations in exchange for halting a war it shows no signs of ending.

Trump’s negotiators have reached a side deal with the government of Belarus, a close ally of Moscow. President Alexander Lukashenko agreed to release 123 political prisoners Dec. 13 in return for the Trump administration lifting sanctions on Belarusian potash exports.

Those released include Ales Bialiatski, who fought

for rights for political prisoners; Maria Kalesnikava, who helped lead mass protests against Lukashenko’s rule in 2020; and Viktor Babaryka, imprisoned when he ran against Lukashenko in the 2020 election.

Washington hopes to pull Lukashenko away from Putin. “There’s no such thing as permanent allies or permanent enemies,” a U.S. official involved in talks with Kyiv and Moscow told the *Financial Times*.

Putin says there will be no deal unless Ukraine cedes the whole of Donbas, a key mining and industrial region. But his troops only occupy about 80% of the area.

Washington had demanded Ukraine give up the territory, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky flatly rejected this reflecting the views of the majority of Ukrainians. On Dec. 11 he rejected a new U.S. proposal that Ukraine withdraw from Donbas and designate it as a “demilitarized zone,” with no guarantee Moscow’s forces wouldn’t march right in.

Cities in the western Donbas are key to Ukraine’s efforts to repel Moscow’s advances. Nearly three-quarters of Ukrainians would accept a freezing of the front lines, a survey released by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology showed Dec. 15. Almost two-thirds are willing to keep fighting.

Kyiv’s forces have retaken parts of Kupiansk, a key Ukrainian town in the Kharkiv region, which Moscow claimed control of Nov. 21.

The small gains Moscow has made on the eastern front come at a devastating toll to the lives and limbs of its troops. Working people in Russia’s army and who live under Putin’s tyranny are the most important potential allies in Ukraine’s fight.

Bruce Keller is a former U.S. Marine who volunteered for Ukraine’s Foreign Legion. He looks to win respect and collaboration from Russian soldiers he captures. He shows them respect, in sharp contrast to the brutality and torture Russian commanders mete out to Ukrainian prisoners of war.

“On your knees, please,” he says in a video showing the capture of Russian troops, before offering them a cigarette. Keller points out that basic civility helps prevent casualties during captures.

After the war, he says he wants to settle in Ukraine.

‘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