

THE MILITANT

SPECIAL FEATURE

Philadelphia forum: 'Fight deportations! Win amnesty'
— PAGE 2

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 3 JANUARY 26, 2026

CL candidate in Montreal: 'Workers need to take power'

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — "Washington's Jan. 3 bombing of Caracas and capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, is another major step toward a third imperialist world war driven by the deepening crisis of the world capitalist system," Joe Young told 30 people at a special Militant Labor Forum here Jan. 10. The meeting launched the Communist League campaign of Joe Young for Quebec National Assembly in the electoral district of St. Laurent here. The election will take place in October.

"The Communist League condemns this violation of Venezuelan sovereignty and Washington's announced intention to tighten its control over the entire hemisphere," he said

Young explained President Donald Trump's administration is acting for the entire U.S. ruling capitalist class, especially for its oil bosses who have never forgiven Venezuela for nationalizing the oil industry. It is part of the rulers looking to defend their dominant position in

Continued on page 5

Tehran rulers kill 1,000s in deadly attacks on protesters

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the wake of the killing of thousands of protesters by the Iranian regime, a two-week wave of demonstrations that began Dec. 28 and spread throughout the country has been pushed back — for the moment.

The scope of the protests, as well as the government's response using mass repression and shutting down the internet and most cellphone service, shows the bourgeois clerical regime is weaker than ever. It is desperately trying to prevent working people in Iran and other opponents of its reactionary dictatorship from communicating with each other.

More than 18,000 people had been arrested and 2,400 killed as of Jan. 13, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency. Government officials have given similar figures. A doctor in Tehran told the *Guardian* that in one hospital in Tehran alone more than 400 people were treated for gunshot injuries to their eyes.

Some videos have made it through the blackout. One shows dozens of body

Continued on page 7

US hands off Venezuela, Maduro! Hands off Cuba!

US rulers aim to defend imperialist domination



Reuters/Eduardo Munoz

Federal agents, heavily armed cops take Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, handcuffed, to indictment in New York Jan. 5. U.S. troops invaded Venezuela, seized him two days before.

BY RÓGER CALERO

After launching a military assault on Venezuela and kidnapping Nicolás Maduro, the country's president, Jan. 3, President Donald Trump's administration has taken further steps to advance the U.S. rulers' economic, political and military objectives in Venezuela and across the hemisphere. The assault on Venezuela was the opening salvo of stepped-up efforts by the U.S. ruling class to reinforce

its domination and confront its global adversaries far more directly.

The U.S. rulers are maintaining a naval blockade in Caribbean waters and seizing tankers to try to bend Caracas to its will, further secure control over Venezuela's vast oil resources and deal blows to Beijing and other rival powers. With imperial arrogance, the White House announced it would "run" Venezuela, imposing U.S. con-

Continued on page 6

Support 15,000 NY nurses on strike over staffing, health care and safety



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Members of New York State Nurses Association picket Jan. 13 at New York-Presbyterian hospital. Nurses have won broad support in fight for working conditions that can improve care.

BY TERRY EVANS

NEW YORK — "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Unsafe staffing's got to go," chanted some 150 nurses on the picket line outside Mount Sinai West hospital here Jan. 13. Nearly 15,000 members of the New York State Nurses Association walked out at 10 hospital locations across the city the day before, the largest nurses' strike in the city's

history. Trucks, cars, and city buses honk their horns in support.

Nurses at Montefiore, New York-Presbyterian, and Mount Sinai hospitals are fighting for better staff/patient ratios to allow for improved care, health care benefits for nurses and safe working conditions.

"We're on the picket line because

Continued on page 3

Working people, unions need to fight for amnesty for immigrants in the US

BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Following the Jan. 7 confrontation between Renee Good and her wife Rebecca with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement

agent that led to Good being shot, daily protests and vigils have been carried out on the block where it happened, across the city and the country.

And it's provoked a needed debate on the way forward.

Renee Good and her partner were activists in one of the anti-ICE networks in the city, ICE Watch, which trains people to "monitor and resist" ICE activities. Good had parked her car to block the street as ICE vehicles approached. After failing to move, and an exchange with

Continued on page 9

SWP campaigns against capitalist rulers' drive to a third world war

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

In the days following Washington's heavily armed incursion into Venezuela and its increasing threats against Cuba's socialist revolution, members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are reaching out to discuss the way forward with workers and youth.

They have been going door to door in working-class neighborhoods, discussing how Washington's attacks stem

Continued on page 4

Inside

The working-class road to end imperialism, war 9

Solidarity with Mississippi synagogue after arson attack 5

Workers face high prices, having to take part-time jobs 6

Why Cuba's socialist revolution is an example for workers today 8

Philadelphia forum: ‘Fight deportations! Win amnesty’

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — In order to fight effectively against exploitation and deportations of immigrant workers, “we need peaceful protesting, not agitating or throwing things. The rallies show people care,” Anh Vongbandith told a Jan. 10 Militant Labor Forum here titled “Fight Deportations, Win Amnesty for Immigrants!”

Anh has been fighting alongside her husband, Anou Vongbandith, since he was stopped and arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents July 26 as he was on his way to work, because one of his car lights was flickering. He was detained and threatened with deportation to Laos or some other country.

Anh spoke along with Ved Dookhun, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party here. From the audience, Anou joined the discussion. The couple owns a popular restaurant, Das Good Cafe, in the Germantown neighborhood.

Now 50 years old, Anou came to the U.S. when he was 5, fleeing repression with his parents. Today he can’t speak the Lao language and has only loose connections to family there.

Anou had his green card taken away when he and his wife were arguing with their 15-year-old daughter, and she accused them of child abuse. She has long since admitted no abuse ever happened.

“Whatever is most valuable in your heart is what they will use against you,” said Anh.

After his arrest, Anou was detained in the Moshannon Valley Processing Center near Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Anh, partisans of their

restaurant and others organized to get out the word about his arrest and to press for his release.

Anh described an Aug. 9 demonstration in front of the restaurant in solidarity with them. “We expected 50 people. There were 700.”

“We did what I was told was impossible,” she said at the rally. Anou was freed on bond Oct. 29, in great part due to the support they won.

We can win these fights

“Working people run the country, that’s who we’re protecting. Everybody!” Anh said. “If anybody needs help with their fight, they can come to me.”

Anou described the horrific conditions at the prison and said that by far most people he met don’t belong there. “Like me, they got stopped and didn’t have the right document. I met one 72-year-old prisoner who took a plea deal in 1986.

“It was bittersweet getting out because everybody should get out,” he said. “I try to stay in contact with some of those I met. I get messages on WhatsApp from former prisoners who were deported to Africa.”

Anou received many letters of support. Fellow prisoners “read all my letters — it gave them hope,” he said. “The letters kept him going,” Anh added. “Because of the support we got him out in three and a half months.”

Prisoners attentively watched the TV news about the fight of Kilmar Ábrego García, the 30-year-old apprentice sheet metal worker and SMART Local 100 member from Beltsville, Maryland, who is fighting against his



Militant/Abby Tilsner

Anh Vongbandith speaks at Jan. 10 forum in Philadelphia on fight by her husband Anou and Kilmar Ábrego García against threats of deportation. At right is SWP member Ved Dookhun.

own deportation. For a while he was sent to Moshannon. He has since won release and is home in Maryland getting out the word about his fight and participating in court hearings.

“Kilmar is our champion,” said Anou. “If he wins, we all win.”

Anh said she and Anou are composing a letter of solidarity to send to Ábrego García. “The support shows people care,” she said.

Ábrego García has said that when he was sent to the brutal CECOT megaprison and tortured in El Salvador he had no idea of the support he was getting in the U.S. It had a big effect on him

when he got out and learned about it.

“Solidarity is so important because the whole idea of detention is to break you down,” Dookhun told the forum. “We are for broad, public demonstrations, that can draw the broadest support. It is possible to build a powerful movement that can win amnesty for millions of workers without papers.

“Because of oppressive working conditions around the world imposed by the U.S. and other imperialist powers, people migrate to the U.S. and other countries,” he said. “That makes the working class here more diverse, capable and effective fighters.”

Montreal protest: ‘Hands off Venezuela!’

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Some 100 people came out to a picket at the U.S. Consulate here Jan. 11 defending Venezuela’s sovereignty and opposing Washington’s threats to attack Cuba. The action was organized by a dozen groups and promoted by the Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable.

“Hands Off Venezuela” read two big banners carried by protesters in French and English as they marched through downtown to the Complexe Guy-Favreau. Some protesters brought homemade signs condemning U.S. intervention in Venezuela and calling for the freeing of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Joe Young, Communist League candidate in the Quebec Na-

tional Assembly elections, wore a sign calling for “Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba!” Others carried flags from several Latin American countries, including Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela.

Four rail workers who are members of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference came to the action. “I am here to show my solidarity with Venezuela,” Nicolas Lavigne told the *Militant*. “These gratuitous and inhuman actions shouldn’t, and must not, be ignored.”

Kaya Dubé-Snow, who had been part of the Teamsters Canada Rail delegation to the union-called protest against the Quebec government Nov. 29, brought her girlfriend. “I came to the demonstration to support Venezuela and to learn how to get more involved,” she said.

THE MILITANT

‘Sutures Saves Lives’ provides support to Cuba

The “Sutures Saves Lives” campaign aims to raise \$75,000 by mid-February to send 60,000 badly needed sutures to Cuba. The criminal U.S. embargo makes it hard for Cuba to get medical supplies. Read the ‘Militant’ to find out about solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.



Prensa Latina
Campaign leader Bob Schwartz, left, brings solidarity to Cuban hospital in 2023.

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Support NY nurses on strike

Continued from front page

staffing levels are unsafe,” Sophia Yapparrindell, a Mount Sinai registered nurse, said. She carried a sign, “No health care, no nurses.”

“Ironically, our health care benefits” are on the chopping block, John Benson, a registered nurse in the Emergency Department at Mount Sinai West, told the *Militant*. “The hospital wants us to pay more for health insurance and give us fewer benefits. It’s a takeback contract.”

Hospital bosses are denouncing the nurses. “Unfortunately, NYSNA decided to move forward with its strike while refusing to move on from its extreme economic demands, which we cannot agree with,” a Mount Sinai spokesperson told the press.

Mount Sinai reported the corporation took in \$11.9 billion in 2024.

“Prior to the last contract there was no enforceable plan for staff/pa-

tient ratios,” Benson said. A Jan. 2 statement by the union explains that bosses are trying to roll back staffing levels that nurses won when they went on strike at two New York hospitals three years ago. That contract expired Dec. 31. “The hospitals have no contingency to maintain staffing levels if nurses get sick,” Benson added.

“This strike is our chance to make meaningful change to the staffing ratios,” Jennifer Lynch, a nurse practitioner in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, told the *Militant* on the picket line of some 300 nurses at New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital the same morning.

“The ratios depend on the unit,” Lynch said. “In the Emergency Department there are no ratios at all. Some nurses take care of 15 to 20 patients at a time. This is also the area where frustration among patients is highest after long waits.”



Militant/Terry Evans

Over 100 nurses picket at Mount Sinai West Jan. 13, with hundreds more at other locations.

Lynch has worked there for 18 years. “We’re worried about AI,” she said. She described how hospital bosses “are introducing ‘virtual nurs-

ing.’ AI should not be used to override the judgment of experienced nurses, or to take away jobs.”

At the Mount Sinai West picket line Benson pointed to a number of recent on-the-job violent assaults targeting nurses, especially in the Emergency Department. “Society is becoming more violent,” he said. “I want to take care of my patients, but I also want to be safe at work and to go home to my family.”

Nurse Alicea Walker told the *Militant*, “We’re going to stay out until we get the health care coverage we need.”

NYSNA reported nurses at three Northwell Health hospitals in Plainview, Huntington and Syosset on Long Island reached new contract agreements Jan. 8 with improved staffing standards, 5% annual wage increases and maintaining their health insurance. Long Island nurses are voting on that contract this week.

The nurses union’s website urges working people to join the New York picket lines, which are up daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In addition to Mount Sinai West and New York-Presbyterian, nurses are on strike at Mount Sinai, Mount Sinai Morningside and Montefiore Einstein in the Bronx. The exact picket line locations can be found at www.nysna.org/news/take-action-support-nyc-nurses-strike.

Contributions to the union’s strike fund are needed. They can be made at <https://nysna.tfaforms.net/5110966>.

Tamar Rosenfeld contributed to this article.

Moscow targets heat, power amid winter freeze in Ukraine

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow launched more than two dozen missiles and hundreds of drones in a major assault on Ukrainian residential areas and its power grid Jan. 13. The goal of President Vladimir Putin’s regime is to leave civilians without heat, power and water as the harshest part of winter hits. Some half a million people were left without power in the Kyiv region.

In the northeastern Kharkiv area, four people were killed and six injured when a mail depot was targeted. Rescue workers worked to free survivors by lamplight in freezing temperatures.

On Jan. 8, two Russian ballistic missiles damaged multiple apartment buildings in Kryvyi Rih, killing one person and injuring 24, including six children.

The Kremlin is trying to wear down Ukrainian

resistance by targeting working people. In 2025 civilian casualties were the highest since the year of the invasion itself in 2022. Moscow has hit Ukraine with daily aerial barrages for months, “deliberately terrorizing the civilian population, waiting for



State Emergency Service of Ukraine

Russian ballistic missiles hit apartments in industrial city of Kryvyi Rih, in eastern Ukraine Jan. 8, killing one and injuring 24. Moscow attacks residential areas, power grid hoping to demoralize Ukraine’s working people.

the harshest winter conditions, and striking cities across Ukraine,” a Jan. 9 statement by the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine said.

During another large-scale overnight attack the same day, Moscow used a powerful new nuclear-capable hypersonic missile for only the second time in the war. It hit near Lyiv in western Ukraine close to the border with Poland.

Putin is emboldened to launch these strikes now because of Washington’s growing disinterest in coming to Ukraine’s defense, as it is involved in conflicts elsewhere. And Putin’s murderous attacks are intended as a warning to European powers supporting the Ukrainian government that he doesn’t intend to back off. But the effect of these attacks reinforces the determination of Ukraine’s working people to fight back and defend their country’s sovereignty.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

January 22, 2001

The labor movement needs to respond to the power shortages, rate hikes, and skyrocketing fuel prices by demanding government expropriation of the power and energy companies. The anarchy of capitalism, especially in times of economic crisis, brings with it the potential for such sudden, devastating outbreaks of shortages, wild price hikes, or sudden collapses of prices or production.

There is absolutely no need for an energy crisis. There is plenty of coal. Expanding production would employ tens of thousands in mining jobs. With union power in place at every mine, coal can be taken out of the ground under safe conditions.

The crisis forced on working people by the energy monopolies will be repeated in industry after industry until workers and farmers can mount a revolutionary struggle to replace the capitalist government with one of our own.

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

January 23, 1976

Spain is being rocked by a massive strike wave. Touched off by the expiration of labor contracts, sharply rising prices, and growing demands for democratic rights and amnesty for all political prisoners, it has involved more than 100,000 workers in the Madrid area alone. A Reuters dispatch termed it “the biggest show of labor strength since Franco came to power 36 years ago.”

The confrontation between the Franco regime and the labor movement was brought to a head by the strike of 4,000 subway workers. The mood of the Madrid working class was shown by dozens of sympathy rallies and walkouts in solidarity with the transit workers.

Although the strikes were provoked by economic issues, many workers also demanded freedom of expression, assembly, and other democratic rights.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

January 22, 1951

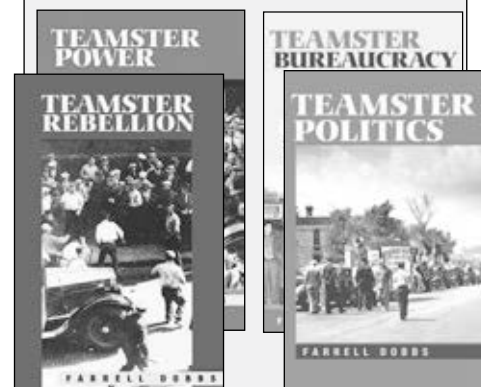
The White House is thinking of a negotiated peace in the Korea war. The same ruling class which served an ultimatum to the Korean people to submit to capitalist rule, also commanded the American workers to bend the knee to open shop rule.

But in the past U.S. mass production workers under the slogan “Solidarity Forever” brought the industrial tyrants to heel. Workers who know this can also understand what humbled Truman and MacArthur in Korea; the invincible power of the oppressed millions, striking for freedom, unity and independence, convinced their cause was just.

Wall Street’s wars to crush the anti-capitalist struggles of the peoples of the world are no less reactionary than their offensive against the American workers. These wars will never cease until the U.S. workers join in the worldwide fight for socialist emancipation.

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Campaign against US war drive

Continued from front page

from the deepening crisis of world capitalism today. The growing conflicts over resources, markets and labor are accelerating the imperialist rulers' march toward a third world war. The SWP members explain the only way to prevent this is for the working class to take political power out of the hands of the ruling class here and around the world.

SWP campaigners present this revolutionary perspective as they join protests against Washington's invasion of Venezuela, rallies against raids and deportations of workers without papers, and actions in solidarity with the growing mobilizations against the reactionary cleric-led regime in Iran.

In Forest Park, Georgia, SWP member Lisa Potash and Susan LaMont, who was the party's candidate for mayor of Atlanta, campaigned door to door on the day U.S. forces landed in Caracas. They met a young roofer, originally from Honduras, whose first response was that what the U.S. did seizing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was good.

But as the discussion went on, he grew more interested in what the SWP members had to say about the need for working people everywhere to oppose U.S. imperialism's violation of Venezuela's sovereignty. He bought a *Militant* subscription along with *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* in Spanish.

Wearing signs demanding Washington get out of Venezuela and end the blockade it has imposed today against Cuba, SWP members John Benson and Marklyn Wilson participated in a protest in Atlanta against the U.S. invasion of Venezuela Jan. 3. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran an interview with Benson, identifying him as a SWP member "handing out flyers celebrating the Cuban Revolution and denouncing the attack in Venezuela."

In Miami, SWP members Rachele Fruit and Laura Anderson joined an annual event Jan. 12 to commemorate the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Some 175 people came to the event to demand the extension of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians. It's due to expire Feb. 3, making Haitian immigrants liable to arrest and deportation. Members of Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ and UNITE HERE Local 355 also participated.

Fruit met Oslande Rousseau, a worker in Miami Beach, who had visited both Cuba and Venezuela. "Let me tell you the Venezuela of Maduro is not the Venezuela of Chávez," he said when Fruit explained her opposition to the U.S. rulers' violation of Venezuelan sovereignty.

"And the Venezuela of Chávez is not the Cuba of Fidel Castro. Workers in Cuba took political power into their own hands," Fruit said. She showed Rousseau *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke, which he decided to buy. It describes one of the most important anti-colonial struggles after World War II and provides a firsthand account of Cuba's decisive political

and military aid in that battle.

Socialist Workers Party members visited the Port of Oakland in California Jan. 6 to offer solidarity with truck drivers targeted as part of the federal government's anti-immigrant attacks.

Truckers targeted by ICE

Over 100 drivers who are immigrants have been arrested in the government's "Operation Highway Sentinel" sweep in the state. Another 20,000 had their Commercial Driver's Licenses cancelled by the California Department of Motor Vehicles at the end of last year.

SWP members spoke with Harshit Khosla, a driver who knows others who've lost their license. The government "says they are making the roads safe again," Khosla said. "But they give no proof immigrant drivers are especially prone to accidents and a threat to others. They are taking away what these workers need to support their families."

Truckers visiting a lunch truck at the port got copies of a statement, "Amnesty for undocumented workers — It's in the interests of all working people," issued by SWP candidates Norton Sandler for California governor, Margaret Trowe for U.S. Congress, and Laura Garza for Los Angeles mayor.

"Employers profit when there is a layer of workers forced to accept worse conditions because they fear deportation," SWP member Betsey Stone told an Afghani trucker after he described the abuse port drivers face at the hands of the companies. "That's why the union movement needs to oppose the raids and deportations and demand an amnesty for immigrants in the U.S."

Revolutionary leadership needed

In Montreal almost 4,000 people marched Jan. 10 backing protests in Iran against the reactionary regime there.

Syrian regime steps up attacks on Kurds in Aleppo

BY JANET POST

The Syrian government of President Ahmed al-Sharaa ordered its forces to lay siege to three largely Kurdish neighborhoods in Aleppo, the second-largest city in Syria, Jan. 6-11. They seized control of two of them, Ashrafiyah and Sheikh Maqsoud, driving out the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, before declaring a ceasefire.

Since the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's murderous dictatorship in late 2024, al-Sharaa's new government has sought to extend its control over the entire country, with support from government-allied forces who killed hundreds of Alawites and Druze over the last year, and from the Turkish rulers.

Over the six days of fighting in Aleppo, 82 people were killed and scores wounded. Electricity and water were cut off by the army, as was the entry of food and medical supplies. The Khaled Fajr Hospital in Sheikh Maqsoud was shelled. An estimated 160,000 people were forced to evacuate the city in the dead of winter, finding shelter in mosques, churches and people's homes.

The assault on Aleppo followed efforts by al-Sharaa's government to force the SDF to implement an agreement made last year to integrate its fighters, estimated at between 50,000 to 90,000 soldiers, into the country's armed forces. The government in Damascus says they must join as individuals, claiming this will help "unify" Syria, and demanded



Militant/Rachele Fruit

Socialist Workers Party member Laura Anderson discusses how fight for amnesty can unite the working class, strengthen unions with Daniel Subdiaz at Jan. 12 protest by Haitians in Miami.

Reactionary forces supporting the return of the son of the former shah had called the action. Communist League campaigners Katy LeRougetel and Annette Kouri discussed the way forward for working people in Iran and internationally with a number of participants.

"Sanctions hurt the people more than the government, but it's the cheapest way to hurt the regime," Ali, who asked not to use his last name, told LeRougetel after she explained her opposition to the sanctions imposed by Ottawa and Washington.

The shah's hated dictatorship was overthrown in a popular revolution in 1979. Gains made by workers, farmers and oppressed nationalities as a result of that massive struggle were pushed back in a counterrevolution led by the clerical forces of the current oppressive regime.

Ali wasn't convinced by what LeRougetel said but took a statement issued by Joe Young, the CL's candidate in Quebec's provincial election.

Parsa Ahmadi had been studying in

Iran during wide-ranging protests there in 2022. He also questioned LeRougetel's refusal to choose between the son of the former shah and the present counter-revolutionary regime after she explained working people needed to organize independently of the capitalist rulers.

"Wasn't it a good thing that the U.S. and U.K. invaded France to fight the Nazis" in World War II? Ahmadi asked.

LeRougetel explained workers should look to their own forces to take on and defeat the fascists, not the imperialist governments. "Hitler could have been defeated before he came to power," she said, but the Stalinist regime in Moscow and the parties that looked to it sabotaged revolutionary openings that could have united the workers movement against the Nazis.

"To build the leadership working people need today, the CL encourages fighters to join us," she said. Ahmadi signed up for a *Militant* subscription. To join the campaigning, contact the area nearest you listed on page 8.

a Dec. 31, 2025, deadline. But the SDF insists it will only join the state military as a block with its own command structure firmly in place.

Washington, which had been an ally of the SDF in the fight against Islamic State in Syria, is urging the SDF to go along with the Syrian government's demands. To advance their own political and military interests, the U.S. rulers are seeking to advance relations with al-Sharaa.

The SDF controls the oil-rich northeast area of the country, carved out in the course of the Kurds' struggle for national rights. Kurds are an oppressed nationality of some 30 million in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey and have fought for decades for a homeland.

Thousands of Kurds demonstrated against the assault on Aleppo in the city of Qamishli, in the SDF-controlled area Jan. 8.

Turkey Defense Minister Yasar Güler said Ankara supports al-Sharaa's plan to force the SDF fighters to submit to Syrian armed forces command. It offered military support for the assault on Kurdish neighborhoods in Aleppo. The Turkish rulers view any advance made by Kurds in Syria as a blow to their own efforts to suppress the fight for Kurdish national rights inside Turkey.

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, the government arm of the SDF, called the assault "an act of treachery and a

major crime committed by an authority that claims to represent the state yet kills its citizens and violates their dignity."

In Iraq the Kurdistan Regional Government of Prime Minister Masrour Barzani denounced the siege of Aleppo as "ethnic cleansing." Videos of the siege on Rudaw news show a Kurdish woman fighter being thrown off a building.

SDF Commander-In-Chief Mazloun Abdi said the ceasefire would "ensure the evacuation of the dead, the wounded, trapped civilians, and fighters" to safer SDF-controlled areas. Some of the fighters though were being transferred to Syrian detention centers, a Syrian security official said.

Last year President Donald Trump's administration lifted U.S. sanctions on Syria and removed the terrorist designation from Tahrir al-Sham, the group al-Sharaa led when Assad was overthrown. The U.S. rulers have a decadeslong record of opposing the Kurds' fight for national rights. In 2017 when Kurds voted for independence in a referendum in Iraq, Washington stood aside when the Turkish, Iraqi and Iranian governments took steps to prevent its implementation.

The Trump administration is trying to strengthen relations with the governments of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and others in the Middle East to establish stability for the U.S. capitalist rulers and advance their plunder of resources and peoples of the region.

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‘Workers need to take power’

Continued from front page
the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world.

“Socialist Cuba is also a direct target of this attack,” he said. Thirty-two Cuban soldiers, on assignment in Venezuela, were killed in this assault. Young noted thousands of Cubans had mobilized in Havana Jan. 3 to protest the attack.

Washington aims to deepen its decadeslong economic and commercial war against Cuba by cutting off its supply of Venezuelan oil. Cuba badly needs oil to keep its electrical grid running, Young said. Cuba and Venezuela need the solidarity of all working people and our unions.

“The Canadian Labour Congress joins the international labour movement, including the International Trade Union Confederation and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, in condemning the recent U.S. military aggression and violation of Venezuela’s sovereignty,” the CLC said in a Jan. 5 statement.

Ottawa’s complicity

Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney spoke for the interests of Canada’s ruling capitalist families in declaring his support for Washington’s war moves in the Caribbean. He claimed the U.S. attack opened the “opportunity for freedom, democracy, peace and prosperity for the Venezuelan people.”

Ottawa has imposed economic sanctions against Venezuela, refused to recognize the Maduro government after he won the 2018 elections there, and closed its embassy the following year.

Canada’s capitalist rulers, who lost property and assets when Cuban workers and farmers nationalized their patrimony during the Cuban Revolution, have always opposed the revolutionary government, Young said.

“In 1978 Ottawa cut its aid programs to Cuba, part of its opposition to Cuba’s heroic internationalist political and military support for Angola’s struggle to defeat repeated invasions by apartheid South Africa.”

While Ottawa has almost always fallen in line behind Washington’s foreign policy, the sharpening economic competition between the two imperialist

rivals is fanning the drive to war, Young said. He quoted from a Jan. 4 *Globe and Mail* editorial urging Ottawa to do more to reduce Canada’s economic dependence on the U.S. and spend billions to rebuild Canada’s military.

Working people and our unions should reject calls to rally around the flag as part of “Team Canada,” which backs Canada’s capitalist rulers against those of the U.S. Unfortunately, Young said, supporting “Team Canada” is also the stance of the union officialdom today.

Canada is an imperialist power like the U.S., although a much weaker one. The working class here has no interest in fighting for the victory of Canada’s billionaire ruling families in their sharpening conflicts with the ruling rich in the U.S. and elsewhere.

A working-class road forward

“Ottawa’s biggest confrontation is with us: the workers and farmers who generate the surplus value out of which Canada’s rulers draw their profits,” said Young. The capitalist rulers’ march to war abroad goes hand in hand with their escalating war against working people in Canada. This is what’s driving their deepening efforts to use their courts and cops to target fundamental rights we need, like the right to strike.

“They are the class enemy we face and must overthrow to build a society based on human solidarity, not capitalist exploitation,” he said. U.S. workers



Militant/Steve Penner

Joe Young, Communist League candidate for Quebec National Assembly, joined 100 people protesting Washington’s war moves in Latin America at U.S. Consulate in Montreal Jan. 11.

are our most important ally in that fight against our common enemy — the ruling rich of both countries.

Several speakers in the forum’s lively discussion said that their co-workers tended to view President Trump as the problem.

“It’s not the individual, it’s the capitalist system we must get rid of,” replied Young. “Right now Trump is acting for the whole U.S. ruling class in preparations for new wars to come.”

“The two great socialist revolutions of the 20th century — the 1917 Russian Revolution and the 1959 Cuban Revolution, the first socialist revolution in the Americas — are examples for working people here and around the world,” he said. “With the

proven Marxist leadership put together by V.I. Lenin in Russia and by Fidel Castro in Cuba, toilers in both countries showed their capacity to take and hold political power.

“They transformed their countries and themselves,” he said. “We can do the same thing here.”

“My campaign will explain working people must break with the parties and governments of the ruling rich and build mass working-class parties, with the fighting capacity and experience necessary to organize millions to take political power into our own hands. This is the goal of the Communist League.

“I urge you to campaign with us and join the League.”

Solidarity with Mississippi synagogue after arson attack

BY STEVE WARSHALL

Before dawn on Jan. 10 a Jew-hating arsonist set fire to the Beth Israel Congregation synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi, the largest in the state. Two Torah scrolls, holding the most sacred Jewish religious text, were destroyed and five others damaged as the synagogue was gutted. Another Torah, which had been rescued during the Nazi Holocaust, was not damaged. The attack takes place as antisemitic violence has increased since Hamas’ murderous pogrom killed 1,200 people in Israel Oct. 7, 2023.

The police arrested Stephen Spencer Pittman, 19. They said he had confessed, calling his target a “synagogue of Satan.” He faces federal charges of using fire to maliciously damage or destroy a building involved in interstate commerce.

Security camera video the synagogue provided to the press shows a person with a hood covering his face splashing liquid inside the lobby of the synagogue.

“We have already had outreach from other houses of worship in the Jackson area and greatly appreciate their support in this very difficult time,” Congregation President Zach Shemper told the press.

He said they were arranging to continue holding regular services in a new location.

The Beth Israel Congregation synagogue also houses the offices of the Institute for Southern Jewish Life, which organizes school programs and traveling rabbinical services to Jewish congregations across the South.

The synagogue has received a number of messages of solidarity and statements joining in denouncing

Jew-hatred. Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said the attack wasn’t random violence. “An attack on a synagogue is an attack on all Jews.”

Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta in 2025, sent a statement expressing solidarity with the synagogue. “We condemn in the strongest possible terms this and all other acts of Jew-hatred,” she said. “The immediate offers of help you have received, including from other religious denominations, reflect the repugnance with which the vast majority of working people in Jackson and beyond react to such Jew-hating actions.”

Fighting Jew-hatred key for workers

“What happened in Jackson shows again that the fight against Jew-hatred and threat of another Holocaust is a decisive question for workers worldwide, not only in the Mideast,” she said.

LaMont pointed to the recent pogrom on Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, as another example of the renewed drive to exterminate Jews today. “Israel’s defeat of Hamas would remove a huge obstacle to the development of common struggles by workers of all nationalities in the Middle East,” LaMont said. “Israel — the one state that unconditionally offers Jews a refuge — is the only force capable of doing that. It deserves the support of workers everywhere.”

“Working people in Iran, who have taken to the streets in recent weeks, are a key ally in the fight to defeat Hamas. A majority of Iranian toilers loathe Tehran’s murderous use of its proxies in the region and its calls for ‘Death to Israel.’”

Beth Israel Congregation has a long

history. The Reform synagogue was erected in 1860, at the onset of the Civil War, the first built in the southern U.S. states. There are some 3,000 Jews in Jackson today.

The synagogue has been targeted before for its strong stand in defense of Black rights during the civil rights struggles in the 1960s. It suffered an arson attack in 1967 by members of the Ku Klux Klan, who said they were targeting its rabbi, Perry Nussbaum, for supporting the fight for Black liberation.

Jim Berk, CEO of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an organization that fights Jew-hatred, said Saturday’s arson attack “is an assault on that legacy of the Congregation.

“Jewish leaders and institutions did not stand by on the sidelines during the Civil Rights Movement,” Berk said. “Synagogues joined marches, they spoke out, they stood with Black Americans against segregation, racism, and terror. Its memory is a warning not to let history slip from view.”

One day later, attack in Los Angeles

One day after the attack on Beth Israel, members of the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, which was burned down in the wildfire that swept Altadena in California one year ago, discovered that Jew-hating graffiti had been painted on remaining parts of the destroyed synagogue’s outside wall.

The synagogue’s rabbi, Joshua Ratner, described the graffiti as “hateful and antisemitic.”

Clark Linstone, the congregation’s president, said they wouldn’t be intimidated. “The community is strong,” he said. “I think people are hopeful and looking forward.”

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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US hands off Venezuela, Cuba!

Continued from front page
trol on oil operations and marketing.
“I am pleased to announce that the interim authorities in Venezuela will be turning over between 30 and 50 million barrels” of “sanctioned” oil to the U.S. government, Trump said Jan. 6. Revenue from the sale of the oil “will be controlled by me.”

This is equivalent to one to two months of Venezuelan oil production. The value to the U.S. government would be as much as \$2.8 billion.

Meanwhile, U.S. forces continue to unilaterally seize oil tankers carrying Venezuelan “sanctioned oil,” including some linked to a “shadow fleet” run by Tehran and Moscow.

They seized the *Marinera* Jan. 7 as it approached Iceland, ending an 18-day pursuit. The tanker had swapped its false flag for a Russian flag, hoping to provide some deterrence. Moscow requested Washington stop its pursuit and sent a submarine and a destroyer to the area, before U.S. special operations forces commandeered the ship. The Pentagon had deployed aircraft and other assets to the U.K. ahead of the operation.

Following the ouster of Maduro, the Trump administration said it was canceling a “second wave of attacks, which looks like it will not be needed.” Trump said Washington and Caracas, now headed by former Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, “are working well together.”

Rodríguez was sworn in as president Jan. 5, the same day Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were indicted in a New York court on multiple conspiracy charges related to cocaine trafficking.

With an armada in front of Venezuela’s coast and thousands of troops, aircraft and ships in the region, the U.S. government says it is “working with” remaining leaders of the Venezuelan government, looking to maintain stability and manage a transition.

Imperialist heist

Meanwhile, Trump hosted a White House meeting Jan. 9 with top executives from Chevron, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips and other major oil companies to pitch a \$100 billion investment plan in Venezuela’s oil industry. This was a graphic display of how big capital plunders underdeveloped countries.

Trump called on the oil executives to invest, pledging they would “get their money back as quickly as we can,” and then “we can divvy it all up.” To put a veil on the imperialist heist, White House officials interspersed their comments with assurances that this will also be “beneficial” for the people of Venezuela and the United States.

While open to the offer, the oil bosses demanded Washington do more to make Venezuela “investable.” It “has to be a win for the company and our shareholders,” Darren Woods, Exxon-Mobil CEO, said. “We’ve had our assets seized there twice and so you can imagine to re-enter a third time would require some pretty significant changes” in Venezuela’s laws.

The oil boss was referring first to the 1976 nationalization of Venezuela’s oil industry, through which Venezuela reclaimed sovereignty over its natural resources. And then some 25 years later, when the Venezuelan government sought to gain greater control over the

industry, which was still largely dominated by U.S. corporations. In the early 2000s, the Hugo Chávez government changed the terms of operation for foreign companies, and redirected a larger portion of oil revenues to much-needed social spending. The measures were widely popular among working people in Venezuela, who felt pride in benefiting from the fruits of their country’s patrimony.

In response, every U.S. administration since then has imposed punishing sanctions on Venezuela’s oil and gas sectors, aggravating the industry’s decline and worsening the economic conditions confronting working people. To guarantee their returns, oil bosses are now demanding the people of Venezuela abandon sovereign rights they have fought for over decades, and accept the U.S. rulers’ imperial domination.

U.S. seeks to assert dominance

Control of production of Venezuelan heavy sour crude also has a strategic place in the U.S. capitalist rulers’ growing efforts to “reindustrialize” their economy. Ramping up production capacity and controlling strategic resources are a necessary preparation for future wars.

Washington is now pressing Caracas to cut ties with Moscow, Beijing and Tehran. Trump said Jan. 9 that if Beijing and Moscow want Venezuelan oil, they can buy it from the U.S.

With U.S. sanctions barring most countries from obtaining Venezuela’s oil, Beijing had become far and away its biggest buyer and its largest investor. Beijing has poured billions of dollars into Venezuela, with Caracas building up a debt that grew to \$44 billion in 2017, which it has been paying down with oil. Moscow has also invested heavily.

“If we didn’t do this, China would

Workers face high prices, having to take part-time jobs

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The capitalist economic crisis in the U.S. continues to tighten the squeeze on working people, with jobs — especially decent-paying, full-time jobs — becoming increasingly difficult to get. Amid high prices for basic necessities, from groceries to transportation, housing, health care, day care, elder care and more, increasing numbers of workers are working more than one job to try to make ends meet.

The number of employed with more than one job is at its highest level in over 25 years. This involved a record 9.3 million people in November, comprising 5.7% of the workforce. Those working two full-time jobs jumped by 18% in the past year, with women making up the bulk of that increase.

At the same time, many more workers who want a job can’t get one at all. This includes 6.2 million people the government categorizes as “discouraged” and doesn’t even count as part of the labor force. Another 5.3 million workers, nearly a million higher than a year ago, have had to accept part-time jobs, with less pay and few benefits.

In 2025 bosses laid off 1.2 million workers, up 58% from the previous year, while stepping up pressure for



U.S. Coast Guard photo
U.S. Coast Guard cutter pursued “sanctioned” Russia-flagged oil tanker across North Atlantic before Washington seized vessel Jan. 7 near Iceland, escalating tensions with Moscow.

have been there and Russia would have been there,” Trump said. “When you add Venezuela and the United States together, we have 55% of the oil in the world,” he added.

To feed refineries in the U.S. Gulf states — specifically engineered to process Venezuelan oil — U.S. companies were importing oil from Canada. Securing Venezuelan oil will now increase Washington’s leverage over Canadian capitalists in trade and other deals. Using tariffs and other threats, including threats of attacking drug cartels in Mexico, Washington is pressuring both governments prior to a July 2026 review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Blockade of Cuba

Tankers bound for Cuba are a special target of the U.S. naval blockade of Venezuela. Washington hopes to force the Cuban people and government into submission by cutting off its supply of oil and trade.

“There will be no more money or oil going to Cuba — Zero!” Trump said Jan. 11. “I strongly suggest they make a deal, before it is too late.”

The U.S. rulers are determined to erase the example set by the Cuban people and their socialist revolution, which brought working people to power, overthrew capitalist exploitation and showed toilers everywhere there is an alternative to fascism and world war.

The Cuban government sent a clear response to Washington: “Those who turn everything into a business, even human lives, have no moral authority to point fingers at Cuba for anything,” said Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel. “Those who blame the revolution for the severe economic hardships we suffer should be ashamed to speak. Because they know these hardships are the result of the draconian measures of extreme suffocation that the U.S. has been imposing on us for six decades and now threatens to intensify.”

“Cuba is a free, independent, and sovereign nation. No one dictates what we do. Cuba does not attack. It has been attacked by the U.S. for 66 years,” said the Cuban president. “It does not threaten. It prepares itself, ready to defend the homeland to the last drop of blood.”

those still on the job to work faster and produce more. The capitalist rulers in their drive for profits have been making some progress in what they call “productivity” and we know as speedup. “Worker productivity grew at its fastest pace in two years in the third quarter,” reported Reuters, something “economists have termed a jobless economic expansion.”

The *Wall Street Journal* ran an article, “Slowest Labor Market in Years Leaves Job Seekers Stuck,” that described the workday of 40-year-old Monique Battiste, who lost her job in marketing a year ago.

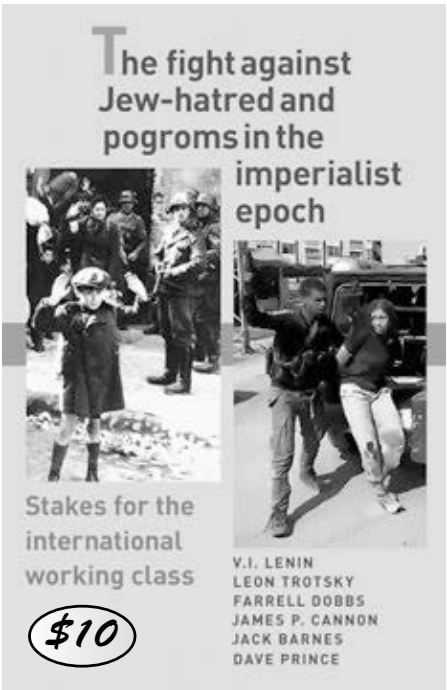
Decline in industrial jobs

“By 4:30 a.m., she arrives at a client’s Dallas apartment to lead an hour-long personal training session. She speeds home by 6 a.m., takes her 10-year-old daughter to school, tries to nap, then logs online at 9 a.m. to work as a part-time marketing assistant. At 3 p.m., she is back to school to pick up her daughter. She prepares dinner, then hurries to an Amazon warehouse for a 6 1/2-hour shift sorting, scanning and hefting bulky items. Her workday ends at 10:30 p.m.” The *Journal* also talked to Glenn Jones, who worked in sales un-

til he was laid off in May 2024. Since then he’s worked a variety of gigs and applied for over 1,000 jobs, but hasn’t gotten a bite. He said he applied for a job delivering food for DoorDash, but they put him on a waiting list, saying there were too many people in his

Continued on page 9

Recommended reading



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Tehran rulers attack protesters

Continued from front page

bags and corpses on stretchers outside a morgue in Tehran. Another shows family members at the Behesht Zahra Cemetery in Tehran Jan. 12 chanting anti-government slogans at a ceremony for those killed.

The protests began when capitalist merchants at the bazaar in Tehran — previously allied with wings of the clerical regime — along with small shopkeepers, shut their doors and protested their mounting losses from the devaluation of the currency and rising prices. The Iranian rial has lost at least 40% of its value against the dollar since the 12-day war with Israel in June.

Israel’s success in destroying Iranian air defenses and missile stores, along with its killing of many top leaders of the regime’s hated repressive apparatus, was popular among many working people in Iran.

The protests, some in the tens of thousands, soon spread to bazaars around the country, to universities and to small towns and large cities in every one of Iran’s 31 provinces. In many of the small towns these were the first significant anti-government protests by working people. These areas are often the hardest hit by unemployment and the deepening capitalist economic crisis, exacerbated by U.S. sanctions.

Workers oppose being cannon fodder

Deep-rooted hatred for the regime and its trampling on democratic rights, and the attempts to expand its reactionary influence throughout the Middle East, broke into the open with demonstrators chanting “Freedom, freedom, freedom,” “Death to the dictatorship,” and “Not for Lebanon, not for Gaza; I give my life for Iran.” The last slogan expresses the widespread opposition among working people toward the regime’s “axis of resistance,” which includes Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis. It aims to destroy Israel and eliminate the Jews there.

While some 60% of Iranians are from the Persian nationality, mostly Shia Muslims, 40% are from oppressed nationalities, largely Sunni Muslims. By the third or fourth day actions spread to northwestern Iran, home to Kurds, an oppressed nationality. Baluchis, who like the Kurds have a long history of fighting for their national rights, took to the streets in Sistan-Baluchistan province in southeastern Iran. There were also large actions in Khuzestan, with its large Arab population.

At first the police, along with operatives of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and thugs from the paramilitary Basij, tried to quell the protests by firing tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets and beating people with clubs, but they were often overwhelmed by the large crowds.

Provocations by prince, Mujahadeen

At some protests there were provocative actions — including attacks on police stations, government offices or individual cops and pro-regime thugs — by supporters of the Mujahadeen, an armed anti-government group that seeks support from Washington and other imperialist powers, as well as by supporters of the exiled U.S.-based “Crown Prince” Reza Pahlavi. He is the son of the last Shah of Iran, whose hated U.S.-backed dictatorship was overthrown by

a mass popular uprising in 1979.

Pahlavi touts himself as the leader of the protests and openly promotes violent provocations. While some calls were heard at actions in Tehran and other cities in favor of his return, other protesters, especially among Iran’s oppressed nationalities, have been chanting “Death to the oppressor, be it a Shah or Supreme Leader.”

Older workers know firsthand what life was like under the shah, with thousands of political prisoners, and torture of unionists and political opponents by the hated Savak, the shah’s secret police.

Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs, Azerbaijanis and other oppressed nationalities will never forget the discrimination, racism and state violence they faced under the shah, including his imposition of Farsi as the only official language. With the consolidation of the cleric-led counter-revolution by 1983, the Islamic Republic reinforced the national oppression fostered under the shah.

Khamenei slanders protesters

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei used the provocative actions by the Mujahadeen and shah supporters to bolster his slander that the protesters were agents of U.S. imperialism and of Israel’s Mossad.

At first President Masoud Pezeshkian said the demands of the merchants were legitimate and offered to negotiate. But soon he shifted, echoing the same charges as Supreme Leader Khamenei, who represents the real power in the country.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the police and the Basij stepped



Relatives chant against regime at ceremony for slain protesters at Tehran’s Behesht Zahra Cemetery Jan. 12. Despite killing 2,400, arresting 18,000, regime is more isolated than ever.

up their deadly attacks Jan. 9 and 10, using semi-automatic weapons and machine guns, causing large numbers of deaths of peaceful protesters.

With the internet shut down the regime mobilized thousands of loyalists for rallies across the country Jan. 12, falsely charging the protesters with being Israel’s “hired terrorists.”

President Donald Trump, looking for stability in the Middle East to seek profits for the U.S. rulers, warned Khamenei that Washington could “start shooting soon” if the regime keeps killing protesters.

“Even if Trump authorizes attacks on Iran in the coming days, his goal will not be to change the Islamic Republic or to support the protesters. Rather, his priority is to change the behavior of Iran’s government in a way that serves U.S. interests,” Farsi-language internet

site Tahkim-e Mellat noted. The Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company Union issued a statement Jan. 7 in solidarity with the anti-regime protests, noting that “these movements have emerged not to return to the past, but to build a future free from the domination of capital, founded on freedom, equality, social justice and human dignity.”

“Genuine liberation is possible only through the conscious and organized leadership and participation of the working class and oppressed people, not through reproducing outdated and authoritarian forms of power,” the bus workers union noted, “nor reliance on foreign powers or factions within the ruling establishment.”

What’s need is “unity, solidarity and the creation of independent organizations in workplaces and neighborhoods and at the national level.”

Amid growing rivalries, US rulers expand war production

BY TERRY EVANS

Following Washington’s invasion of Venezuela, President Donald Trump called on Congress to increase the U.S. rulers’ current record-level war spending — \$901 billion budgeted this year so far — by more than 50%. Trump’s demands come amid a sharp acceleration in the rivalry between Washington, Beijing and the U.S. rulers’ competitors in Europe, and Washington’s expanding efforts to reassert domination of the Western Hemisphere.

Trump says Washington will “run” Venezuela for years and insists Washington will get Greenland from Denmark’s rulers. Venezuela and Greenland both have fossil fuels, rare earth minerals and strategic ports. For Moscow and Beijing, losing their access and ties to Venezuela is a significant blow. The U.S. rulers view control of Greenland as key to their efforts to drive Beijing out of shipping and potential military corridors across the Arctic.

In moving to fast-track U.S. war production, Trump is acting for the entire U.S. ruling class, not narrow partisan political interests. He knows the U.S. rulers need to crank up industrial production to meet the economic and military challenges ahead.

Trump issued an executive order Jan. 7 capping the pay, dividend payments and other perks awarded to war industry bosses if they don’t build new plants, increase production and meet the Pentagon’s demands for on-time delivery. War Secretary Pete Hegseth

will monitor their compliance.

The Pentagon also announced a significant seven-year contract with Lockheed Martin for more Patriot missiles. Hegseth said such long-term deals were needed “so these companies will be confident in investing more to grow the industrial base that supplies our weapons systems more and faster.”

Sonic weapons used in assault

Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, glorified the gruesome use of new sonic weapons during the invasion of Venezuela. She posted five American-flag emojis alongside an account in the *New York Post* by an alleged survivor of Washington’s slaughter, in which U.S. forces killed 100 Venezuelans and Cubans guarding President Nicolás Maduro.

“It was like a very intense sound wave,” the unnamed survivor states. “We all started bleeding from the nose. Some were vomiting blood. We fell to the ground unable to move. We couldn’t even stand up after that sonic weapon — or whatever it was.”

The U.S. rulers’ rivals and competing ruling classes currently allied to Washington are responding to its war moves by expanding production of their own deadly armories.

Chinese officials boasted Jan. 4 they possess high-powered microwave weapons with greater reach than Washington’s. Beijing unveiled its highly mobile truck-mounted system, saying it has almost unlimited firing capacity

and can take out drone swarms over a much wider area than lasers. The U.S. microwave anti-drone system can range over 1.2 miles, while Beijing’s version ranges beyond 1.9 miles.

A Chinese-made radar system supplied to Venezuela failed to provide the government there with advance warning of Washington’s invasion. And Moscow’s air defense systems provided to Venezuela were not operational, as Russian military specialists and spare parts were redirected to the Kremlin’s war in Ukraine.

The capitalist rulers in Germany, the most powerful imperialist power in Europe, are also ramping up their war preparations, like rival ruling classes elsewhere.

For decades Berlin had let its military decay. But Chancellor Friedrich Merz got rid of rules restricting war spending last year. Germany’s 2025 military spending topped 83 billion euros (\$97 billion), up from 23 billion in 2021, before Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

As Washington demands control of Greenland, the country’s foreign minister, Vivian Motzfeldt, proposed meeting with U.S. officials without inviting the Danish government, which claims responsibility for directing Greenland’s foreign policy. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with officials from Greenland and Denmark Jan. 14.

Motzfeldt’s proposal indicates Washington’s war moves elsewhere are having an impact on some Greenland officials.

Why Cuba's socialist revolution is an example for workers today

As we mark the 67th anniversary of the popular triumph in Cuba that opened the way to the first socialist revolution in the Americas, the Spanish edition of Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January. The excerpt is from the foreword by Mary-Alice Waters, an SWP leader and president of Pathfinder Press. It shows the power of Cuba's revolution and why today Cuba is targeted by Washington as the U.S. rulers escalate war moves in Latin America, the Caribbean and around the world. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

In less than seventy-two hours of combat in April 1961 along the southern coast of Cuba near the Bay of Pigs, Cuba's Revolutionary Air Force, militias, police, and Rebel Army defeated an invasion by some 1,500 Cuban counterrevolutionaries financed, armed, trained, scripted, and deployed by Washington. The stunning victory, Yankee imperialism's first military defeat in the Americas, had repercussions around the world — not least of all within the United States itself.

Jack Barnes takes that historic mo-



Granma

"Liberty Caravan" led by Fidel Castro enters Havana Jan. 8, 1959. Popular insurrection and general strike toppled U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, brought workers and farmers to power.

ment as the starting point for *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. It was the moment when Cuba no longer appeared as yet another potential Latin American victim of the most powerful empire in history, but emerged as its equal. "For us, what Cuban workers and peasants had accomplished," Barnes writes, "was the example in our own political lifetime of the necessity and the possibility of revolution, of not only how to fight but how to fight to win, of the capacity of ordinary human beings to transform themselves as they confront challenges and take on responsibilities they would have previously deemed impossible." ...

Nearly fifty years after the revolutionary victory that brought down the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista on January 1, 1959, the U.S. rulers remain as committed to the necessity of overthrowing the Cuban Revolution as they were when the workers and farmers of Cuba, and the young people drawn to their struggles, led by the July 26 Movement and its Rebel Army, fought their way into history and began taking control of their own destiny. ...

From the class perspective of the U.S. rulers, there was never anything irrational in their hatred for the radical land reform, mass campaign to wipe out illiteracy, nationalization of housing and slashing of rents, outlawing of racial discrimination, nationalization of basic

industries, drawing of women into the workforce on a large scale, establishment of a popular militia, and other actions taken by the Cuban people and their revolutionary government. ...

The course of Cuban working people was simply an unbearable challenge to the assumed property "rights" of the U.S. ruling families, who feared that the example set by the first socialist revolution in the Americas would be emulated elsewhere in our hemisphere. What drives Washington is "not fear of the Cuban Revolution" alone, as the Second Declaration of Havana proclaimed in February 1962, but fear of the Latin American revolution. "Fear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free peoples of the Americas." ...

This is the world in which the example set by the people of Cuba remains as important as it was the day they took power, demonstrating in practice what it takes to break the stranglehold of imperialist exploitation and defend those conquests. Explaining that truth to workers and farmers in the United States as they find themselves propelled into struggles that lead them to rethink many long-held prejudices in quite unexpected ways is not simply an act of working-class solidarity, however important that may be. It is a proletarian necessity, essential to the internationalist political education and transforma-

tion of the working class itself. As the Cuban people proudly say of their aid to the peoples of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere around the world, "Those who are not ready to fight for the freedom of others will never be ready to fight for their own."

Shortly before *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* came off the press in 2001, Colin Powell, the new secretary of state, explained Washington's uncompromising stance toward Cuba's revolutionary government. He did so more accurately than he perhaps intended. Testifying April 26, 2001, before a congressional committee, he responded to the question of why the U.S. government refuses to alter its decades-long policy toward Cuba. Powell replied that in China, Russia, and Vietnam "you can see leaders who the world is changing." But in Cuba, he said, Castro "hasn't changed his views in any way."

The secretary of state got it only partially right, of course. As with each of his predecessors, his inability to fathom the human beings driving the Cuban Revolution was above all a class blindness. It is not only Fidel and the broad and deep revolutionary leadership of Cuba who have not changed their revolutionary convictions. It is the people of Cuba in their overwhelming majority who have never surrendered. Who refuse to subordinate the interests of working people to the prerogatives of capital. Who stand ready, as always, to aid revolutionary struggles wherever they may occur, by any means necessary. ...

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is not primarily a book about Cuba, however. Above all, it is about the struggles of class-conscious working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and why the course of the class battles accelerating here today is and will continue to be inextricably intertwined with the defense of the conquests of the Cuban people. ...

"What the workers and farmers of Cuba showed us is that with class solidarity, political consciousness, courage, focused and persistent efforts at education, and a revolutionary leadership of a caliber like that in Cuba — a leadership tested and forged in battle over years — it is possible to stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds *and win*."

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The working-class road to end imperialism, war

Rapacious wars over land and labor have marked the capitalist system since it replaced feudal rule. The drive to ever-deadlier world war is a permanent reality in the imperialist epoch, announced in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Today, the rivalry between Washington, weakened but still dominant, and its competitors is rapidly accelerating, destabilizing the imperialist “world order.”

Every new military conflict advances the imperialist rulers’ march toward a third world war, from Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine to Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel, to Washington’s invasion of Venezuela and its threats of further interventions elsewhere.

The U.S. rulers are driving to extend their control across the Western Hemisphere. And they are pushing to rebuild and expand U.S. industry to churn out the weapons of war they will need. Their world supremacy is based on ceaseless competition to dominate their rivals and preventing the development of revolutionary struggles that threaten capitalist rule. Washington is using its assaults on Venezuela to press forward its drive to overturn Cuba’s socialist revolution.

These conflicts show there is no “international law,” founded on virtuous principles that float above the class struggle to guide relations between rival powers. Each country is ruled by a capitalist class that is driven to compete or die under the dog-eat-dog laws of their exploitative social system. It’s the national class interests of the U.S. ruling families for markets, resources and labor to exploit that is the foundation of the march toward new wars, not which of the Democratic or Republican parties hold the White House.

Following Washington’s invasion of Venezuela, President Donald Trump made threats to take Greenland from the rulers of Denmark, one of its NATO “allies.” His administration calls for building a new “Golden Fleet” of battleships to defend U.S. imperialism in every corner of the globe.

The U.S. government is not “our” government. It advances the interests of the U.S. capitalist class, never those of working people. In contrast to capitalist rulers, working people seek to live in peace with fellow workers worldwide.

For years Washington acted on the illusion it had won the Cold War, believing it could use military power across the globe without facing any serious challenge. It more and more acts on the reality it lost the Cold War and confronts today a serious challenge from the rising economic and military clout of China’s state-capitalist rulers and their allies. Washington is moving to more directly confront its foes. It seeks to push Beijing back in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, and to contain the Chinese rulers’ expansionist moves in the Pacific.

The rulers in Beijing, Moscow and Tehran are trying to counter Washington. They are part of the Beijing-led BRICS bloc that began joint naval exercises off the coast of South Africa Jan. 10.

With the imperialist war drive intensifying today, the stakes for the working class grow. Only by taking state power into our own hands can the working class prevent the indescribable horrors of another Holocaust and a calamitous third world war.

Preparation for the class battles that will make a socialist revolution possible takes place wherever working people resist the bosses’ attacks, extend solidarity to fellow workers, and speak out against Washington’s assaults against Venezuela, Cuba and elsewhere.

In the course of these fights, and in the deeper struggles that lie ahead, workers learn our interests are incompatible with those of the bosses and their parties. We must build a party of our own. A party that fights to unleash the immense power of the working class, the one class that has the capacity to transform society and build a new world free of war. To be part of that struggle, join the Socialist Workers Party.

High prices, part-time jobs

Continued from page 6

area looking for driving jobs there.

Jobs in manufacturing are particularly hard to get. Some 8,000 manufacturing jobs were cut in December alone, marking the eighth straight month of losses. Since 2023, some 200,000 manufacturing jobs have been eliminated.

Throughout 2025 virtually all the available jobs were in four areas: health care, education, hotels and restaurants, jobs with low pay and few benefits.

In the beginning of this year, workers in 19 states, as well as 49 cities and counties, got raises to at least \$15 per hour, a product of earlier struggles by workers and the unions. “For the first time,” the *New York Times* said, “more Americans will earn a minimum wage of \$15 or more than will earn the federal minimum of \$7.25.”

But \$15 an hour buys far less today than when that fight began. Prices for everyday expenses have risen over 25% over the past several years.

To get by, more and more workers are going into debt. In the last two months of 2025, working people spent a record \$20 billion on “buy now, pay later” schemes. “For many people, ‘buy-now-pay-later’ has become ‘buy-then-pay-now,’” reported Market Watch.

The companies offering these plans profit by enticing workers to purchase items even if they can’t afford them by promising they can take them home now and pay for it in the future. But the penalties get steep if you miss a payment. A late fee is added on and a higher interest starts accumulating on the outstanding balance. You can find yourself going deeper and deeper in debt.

‘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

Working people, unions need to fight for amnesty for immigrants in the US

Continued from front page

agents that included taunts by Good’s partner, she was ordered to get out of the car.

Instead, Renee Good tried to drive off and in a video widely played by the media appears to graze one of the agents. The agent, who had taken his own phone video that showed more of the exchange, responded by shooting Renee Good three times. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Since Dec. 1 over 2,000 ICE agents have been deployed to the Twin Cities, with more on the way, following the exposé of a wide-reaching fraud for profit scam based in the city’s Somali community. In what the government calls “Operation Metro Surge,” authorities have harassed immigrant workers and say they have arrested over 2,400 who they claim “have criminal records.”

Minneapolis Public Schools canceled classes district-wide for the remainder of the week Jan. 7, citing “safety concerns.” The move came after officials at Roosevelt High School said armed U.S. Border Patrol officers came on school property in pursuit of an employee. In the process they handcuffed two staff members and sprayed chemicals on bystanders.

Central Avenue in Northeast Minneapolis is home to many immigrant-owned restaurants shops and eateries. This is also where the Socialist Workers Party has its Minnesota headquarters. Luis Puma is the manager at Chulla Vida, an Ecuadorian restaurant. “People are scared, And they’re not coming to work or coming out to eat or get takeout,” Puma told the *Militant*. “It has helped that more Americans have been coming here lately to eat.”

Some liberal media, Democratic Party politicians and radical-left outfits say the shooting was a “second George Floyd event” by a second Trump administration. Stalinist and ultraleft forces have called nighttime actions, looking for confrontations.

For months, groups like ICE Watch have tracked ICE agents, tried to block their movements and blown loud whistles seeking to alert any immigrants in the area to hide out.

Democratic Farmer Labor Mayor Jacob Frey held a news conference telling ICE: “Get the f--k out of Minneapolis!” This has become a slogan on placards at protests now.

Frey also penned a *New York Times* article Jan. 8 titled, “I’m the Mayor of Minneapolis. Trump is Lying to You.” Like all the radical and liberal media, he didn’t mention that Good’s companion had been there, helping her block the street and deriding the ICE agents.

Similarly, these forces at first covered up the fact that Renee and Rebecca Good were regular activists in provocative actions against ICE. Instead, they printed quotes from neighbors saying they weren’t political.

Gov. Tim Walz threatened “war with the federal government,” ordering the Minnesota National Guard to be on alert.

Workers look for ways to protest

SWP members in Minneapolis, including this reporter, have participated in a number of evening vigils as well as daytime protest marches, speaking out against attacks on immigrant workers. Candles and flowers are piled up at the location where Renee Good died. Activists have shut the block down and hundreds of students and working people of all nationalities visit there every night.

Skeeter Hitchcock, 51, drove from Arcadia, Wisconsin, where she works in a feed mill, to join the protests. She told the *Militant*, “I had to be here. I think ICE is overstepping. The U.S. is built on immigrants.”

Still others are attracted to the actions organized by the ultralefts, saying they are looking to “get some action going” against ICE agents. One eyewitness to such an exchange told the *Militant* that several in the crowd shouted “No!” to any such suggestion.

Many here remember the destruction left after the George Floyd protests, which ultraleft groups and Black Lives Matter turned into confrontations and rioting, leaving many blocks of stores burned down.

At a Jan. 10 march of thousands at Powderhorn Park in south Minneapolis, SWP members carried signs

pointing a working-class road forward to defend the rights of immigrant workers and unify the working class. Their demands included “Amnesty for all undocumented workers,” “Immigrant rights is a union fight” and “Drop the charges against Ábrego García.”

We met with a good response and real interest in discussing what working people can do to defend immigrants’ rights. This was in sharp contrast to many signs simply using curse words against ICE and Trump. Several participants picked up copies of the *Militant* and two bought subscriptions.

The fight to build a mass working-class movement to win amnesty, to allow workers without papers to live and work openly without fear, is counterposed to using whistles to tell immigrants to hide out or joining in provocative confrontations with ICE agents or other cops.

At a Jan. 9 Militant Labor Forum on Venezuela, SWP speaker Edwin Fruit explained the party’s call for amnesty for all undocumented workers, and fighting for the rights of immigrant workers like Ábrego García, is a life-and-death question for the labor movement.

Disciplined, union-led marches are needed to demand foreign-born workers not be targeted simply for trying to make a living in this country. He pointed to the example of the Dec. 20 march here, which was co-sponsored by the state AFL-CIO. Union members helped marshal it, to protect it and assure its character was true to its intent.

Fruit said that the SWP does not support or advocate the provocative and ineffective actions of those who follow ICE agents with cameras, block their vehicles, throw snowballs at their cars or otherwise attempt to endanger and impede ICE operations.

He explained that even the perception of interfering with the work of police or federal agents can lead to arrest or worse if the cops feel their lives are in danger.

“The way forward is for the working class to build a movement capable of taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist class,” he said. “Only the Socialist Workers Party is explaining this. Join with us!”