

THE MILITANT

NEW YORK MEETING

'Cuba's socialist revolution is example for workers of the world'
— PAGES 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 4 FEBRUARY 2, 2026

SWP campaign points road to fight imperialist drive to WW III

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

As the pace of Washington's moves to assert its dominance in the Western Hemisphere and worldwide accelerates, intensifying the war moves of its rivals in Europe and elsewhere, the stakes for working people are increasing.

Washington's Jan. 3 attack on Venezuela and tightening economic blockade on Cuba; its imposition of a "Peace Board" to stifle Israel's efforts to defeat Hamas in Gaza; its threats to take over Greenland and intervene in Iran — these moves make it clearer to growing numbers of working people that the ruling rich and their governments are marching toward a third world war.

Working people want to live in peace with fellow workers around the world. Members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom are campaigning to discuss with them that the only way to prevent the unimaginable horrors of a new world conflict is for workers to take state power into our own hands.

The deepening crisis of the capital-
Continued on page 4

Amnesty for immigrants, to unify the working class!

Course of liberals, left poses obstacle to progress



Militant/Mary Martin

Broad, labor-supported rally in Minneapolis Jan. 10 against ICE assaults and mass deportations. Mass union action is needed to involve immigrant workers, fight to unify the working class.

BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations targeting immigrant workers have escalated here. They've spread from the Twin Cities area to Rochester, Willmar, St. Cloud, Mankato, Alexandria, St. James, Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Waite Park and Detroit Lakes.

The assaults are prompting wide-

spread discussion among working people about what we can do to be effective to defend workers without papers, stop attacks on constitutional protections like due process and unite the working class.

The wide-ranging arrest and deportation of immigrant workers here puts the lie to the claims of President Donald Trump's administration that it would only target the "worst of the worst criminals."

The nightly local news includes
Continued on page 5

New York nurses' strike is a battle for all of labor!

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — Fifteen thousand nurses at three of New York City's major hospital systems — Montefiore, Mount Sinai and New York-Presbyterian — entered their second week on strike here Jan. 19. The workers walked out at 10 locations on Jan. 12. This is the largest nurses' strike in New York City's history.

The nurses are fighting to maintain staffing ratios that were won three years ago, safe working conditions and decent health care benefits. With thousands of nurses on strike and only 10 locations to cover, the picket lines are large and spirited, helping keep strikers upbeat.

"We won both staffing ratios and the right to enforce them when we struck three years ago," Karin Tarasenko, who works in the Labor and Delivery Department at the main hospital in the Mount Sinai system in East Harlem, told the *Militant*. "Now they're trying to take all that language out of the contract."

Another labor and delivery nurse on the picket line across town at Mount Sinai West explained what the ratios mean. "One nurse should attend
Continued on page 3

Brutal repression in Iran covers up truth — regime is weaker than ever



Mourners chant anti-regime slogans at Jan. 19 funeral at Tehran cemetery for 21-year-old Ahmad Khoravani. He was one of thousands of protesters killed by regime's thugs Jan. 8-10.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Due to the government's blackout of internet and cellphone services, it's still unknown how many people in Iran were massacred by the reactionary bourgeois clerical regime Jan. 8-10. One government official told Reuters at least 4,500 protesters had been killed. The Human Rights Activists News Agency says it could be triple that, along with some

5,800 people severely wounded and 26,000 arrested as of Jan. 19.

While the bloody attacks ended the two-week protest wave, opposition to the regime has deepened. The working classes are battered but unbowed.

No significant wing of the capitalist regime has repudiated the regime's murderous assaults on the protests that

Continued on page 8

Syrian gov't launches deadly attack on Kurds, blow to their nat'l rights

BY TERRY EVANS

A dayslong assault by the Syrian army against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces pushed the SDF out of large parts of Kurdish-controlled areas in northeastern Syria Jan. 18. The

government tossed aside a ceasefire deal it had signed with the SDF the day before, with fighting continuing around the city of Kobani and in other areas.

Washington was formerly allied with the SDF in the fight against the reactionary Islamic State forces that had spread death and destruction across the region in 2015. But the U.S. government is now telling the SDF to give up its arms and let Syrian government forces take over the northeast region.

The U.S. rulers seek closer ties with
Continued on page 2

Miami Haitians mark disaster of 2010 earthquake, fight to keep TPS

BY NELSON GONZALEZ

MIAMI — With federal authorities having slated Feb. 3 for the end of Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants, they and their supporters have organized a number of actions to fight for extension of legal status in the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security says 348,187 Haitians have TPS protection in the U.S. Over 100,000 live in Florida.

The Family Action Network Move-
Continued on page 9

Inside

'Peace Board' aims to advance U.S. imperialist interests 9

United flight attendants rally in Chicago for new contract 3

Boeing, gov't knew about flaw in UPS plane that crashed 4

Gov't attacks on Kilmar Ábrego García coming apart 7

Who was the Shah, what was the 1979 Revolution in Iran? 8

Syrian gov't attacks the Kurds

Continued from front page

the new Syrian president, Ahmad al-Sharaa. They view stronger relations with him as a vital part of strengthening their alliances with Arab regimes across the Middle East, as they drive to establish a "Board of Peace" to rule over Gaza and to plunder the region.

Washington is determined to ensure the unresolved struggle for Kurdish national rights does not get in its way.

Divided between Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, over 30 million Kurds are the world's largest nationality without a homeland. For decades they have refused to stop fighting for their national rights despite facing severe repression. The Kurdish-led autonomous zone in northeast Syria was carved out in the war against the Islamic State. Kurds make up 10% of Syria's population of 23 million.

Syrian troops seized full military and administrative control of Deir el-Zour and Raqqa, the two provinces in the Kurdish-controlled region that are majority Arab. They also include areas where many of Syria's oil and gas fields are located.

Led by fighters from the Kurdish People's Protection Units, the SDF also includes some Arab, Turkmen and Assyrian fighters.

The SDF continues to hold areas in most of the third province of the northeast region, Hassakeh, which is majority Kurdish, as well as the town of Kobani in Raqqa province. It repelled attacks by Syrian government forces there Jan. 20. Residents say that electricity and water supplies have been cut off. The Syrian government denies its forces are besieging the city.

"We signed an agreement on Sun-

day [Jan. 17], but Damascus broke it immediately," Ilham Ahmad, head of foreign relations for the SDF-affiliated civil administration said.

The agreement would have dismantled Kurdish control of northeastern Syria and led to SDF fighters joining the Syrian army one by one after being "vetted" by the government.

In a move long called for by the rulers of Turkey, the ceasefire agreement included the removal of any Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) forces from Syria. For years the PKK has fought successive Turkish governments for Kurdish national rights. It declared a ceasefire in March last year.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is backing al-Sharaa as the Syrian president seeks to solidify his government's political and military grip on Syria. Erdogan has especially prioritized dealing blows to the struggle of Syrian Kurds, fearing that any gains they make would set an example to Kurds in Turkey. In 2018 the Turkish army invaded the Afrin area in northwest Syria, forcing some 160,000 Kurds there to flee, many to the northeast region.

The current Syrian army offensive follows its drive last week to retake Kurdish-controlled areas defended by the SDF. As a result of that assault more than 500 Kurdish families have fled to Hassakeh province.

U.S. rulers back Syrian gov't assault

Since the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime in late 2024, Washington has cultivated ties with al-Sharaa's government and ended U.S. sanctions on Syria. Just prior to the assault on the Kurdish region, Tom Barrack, U.S. special envoy for Syria, met with SDF leader



Sy_Defense/X

Syrian army parading in Aleppo Dec. 8. With U.S. okay, it attacked Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, driving deep into their territory Jan. 18, a blow to Kurdish self-determination.

Mazloum Abdi in Iraq Jan. 17 to force through the ceasefire and ceding of territory to the government's forces.

After the deal was signed, President Donald Trump said, "Just so you understand, the Kurds were paid tremendous amounts of money, were given oil and other things. So they were doing it for themselves, more so than they were doing it for us."

Washington's backing for the Syrian government is just the latest in a long series of betrayals of the Kurdish national struggle.

Al-Sharaa, a former leader of al-Qaeda, took office claiming he would respect the rights of all Syrians. But he has sought to extend his regime's control over the entire country and especially to impose its control over national and religious minorities. In July 2025 forces allied with his government launched assaults on Druze-majority areas in southern Syria, killing hundreds. Resistance by the Druze, backed by the Israeli government, forced an end to the attacks.

Last March, Syrian government forces carried out attacks on members of the Alawite minority, formerly a stronghold for the Assad regime, killing over 1,400.

Al-Sharaa's government is based on a coalition whose roots were in reactionary Islamist forces. When Assad fled and Al-Sharaa took over in late 2024, the Israeli government acted swiftly to push back the threat the new government represented. Israeli forces launched 320

airstrikes demolishing the Syrian navy, and taking out its chemical weapons, missiles and other military sites.

As the Syrian government forces make big gains in the northeast region today, al-Sharaa issued a decree recognizing Kurdish as an official language and outlawing discrimination against Kurds Jan. 17. The goal of these measures was to try to mask the fact his forces were dealing serious blows to the Kurds' right to self-determination.

Around the world Kurds and their supporters have taken to the streets to protest the assault. Demonstrations in solidarity took place in the Kurdish region of Iraq, in the cities of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

Some 150 people demonstrated in Montreal Jan. 17, following the assault on the Kurdish neighborhoods in Aleppo.

Two days earlier hundreds of people rallied in Manchester, England, the largest action in solidarity with Kurds in that city in many years. Demonstrators rallied behind a banner reading "No peace without justice for Druze, Alawites and Kurds in Syria."

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books to prisoners at a 50% discount, plus \$2.75 shipping per order. For more info visit: pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Moscow attacks target Ukrainian working people

Putin's mid-winter airstrikes hit Ukraine's working people, power grid. His regime's invasion, now nearly four years old, is largely stalled. Kremlin's war aim is to conquer more territory. Workers worldwide need to support Ukraine's battle to defend its sovereignty.



State Emergency Service of Ukraine
Moscow missile strikes Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine Jan. 8, to try to demoralize working people.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

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

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

The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 4

Closing news date: January 21, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

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

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flight attendants at United rally in Chicago for contract

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

CHICAGO — “Winter is here, our contract is not,” read one of the many picket signs carried by over 200 United Airlines flight attendants and their supporters at a spirited picket line here Jan. 15. Airline workers flew in from around the country to join in demanding a contract. Their loud and spirited chants echoed in the frigid urban canyon in front of the Willis Tower, the tallest skyscraper in downtown Chicago and home to United’s corporate headquarters.

Fruitless negotiations have dragged on for more than four years. Another sign, playing on the bitter winter temperatures in Chicago, captured workers frustration: “Our pay is frozen. Our bills are not!”

“We’ve been working under this amendable contract since 2021! Management seems to think we are in concessionary bargaining. We are not,” Jennifer Ritter told the *Militant*. She’s a 28-year veteran flight attendant based in Newark, New Jersey. She pointed to other workers who bundled up and came out to march with them. “We have teachers with us here today, ALPA union pilots and Starbucks workers. People from Delta Air Lines are here supporting us, just as we support their fight to unionize Delta flight attendants.”

Laurie, who asked that her last name not be used, said that they are fighting to raise their pay to standards won at other airlines. “We also want to improve the

working conditions and pay for on-call flight attendants. The CEO wants to reduce our guaranteed minimum, essentially cutting our pay.”

Flight attendants, like railroad and other airline workers, including catering workers at Sky Chefs fighting for a new contract, are governed by the anti-worker federal Railway Labor Act. The red tape and restrictions in the law make it difficult or nearly impossible for unionized workers to legally strike against their employers. And if they are finally able to do so, the president and Congress can force them back to work and impose a contract on them.



Over 200 United Airlines flight attendants and their supporters picketed at United’s corporate headquarters in Chicago Jan. 15, part of their four-year-long battle for a new contract. Militant/David Rosenfeld

New York nurses strike is a battle for all of labor!

Continued from front page

to one woman giving birth,” she said. “But sometimes the lack of nurses means there’s only one nurse to two women giving birth. When a woman is at high risk, minutes and seconds can make the difference in the outcome. The hospitals need to increase staffing so that when there is a crisis it

can be all hands on deck.”

“In orthopedics here at Mount Sinai Hospital they are trying to change the ratio from one nurse per five patients to one nurse for eight or nine patients,” Voni Robinson said. “And sometimes, when they don’t have a bed in the right department, we get a patient who belongs on another floor,” like oncology

or cardiology. “Then you’re caring for someone who’s not in your specialty.” This happens more now since they’re shutting down other hospitals in the city, like Beth Israel, she said.

“We’re fighting for what’s right,” Kate Stevens said. “It’s not just the staffing. They’re trying to make us pay more for our health insurance. At the same time, they haven’t signed a new contract with the insurance company that provides our insurance. So now going to a doctor at Mount Sinai is out of network!”

Other unionists and some former patients are joining the nurses on the picket lines. Marina Meijer, a teacher at P.S. 139, walked the picket line at Mount Sinai West. She denounced the vile slander campaign by the hospitals that the nurses union protects nurses who come to work drunk. “People accuse the teachers union of protecting ‘bad teachers’ too,” she said. “But the unions make sure no one gets treated unfairly and everyone has due process.”

To join in supporting the nurses strike, get information on picket times, as well as special events, go to www.nysna.org/news/take-action-support-nyc-nurses-strike. To contribute to the nurses’ strike fund, go to <https://nysna.tfaforms.net/5110966>.



Thousands of members of New York State Nurses Association have kept spirited picket lines up at 10 outlets of three major New York hospitals since Jan. 12, demanding adequate staffing, safe working conditions and decent health care benefits. Above, at Montefiore Hospital Jan. 19. Militant/Sara Lobman

Reduced-rate subscriptions to the *Militant* for prisoners

We offer prisoners a six-month subscription for just \$6. They can also request a complimentary subscription. Donations to help fund prisoners’ subscriptions are welcome. Visit themilitant.com or send donations to:

The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

January 29, 2001

HAVANA — “The Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution (ACRC) was created during the most difficult moment Cuba has yet seen,” Brig. Gen. Harry Villegas pointed out. The ACRC brings together in a single mass organization more than 330,000 Cubans who have been on the front lines of revolutionary battles from the 1930s to today.

Villegas, a brigadier general of the Cuban armed forces, spoke of the efforts to pass that legacy of struggle on to new generations. In doing so “we link together the youngest and the not-so-young.”

April 2001 will mark the 40th anniversary of the victory over the U.S.-organized invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. In neighborhoods and schools across the country, those who fought in the historic battle of Playa Girón, as it is known here, will make that triumph over U.S. imperialism come alive.

THE MILITANT

January 30, 1976

Haunted for years by prospects of Dixie justice, Robert F. Williams, who turned himself over to North Carolina authorities to face a trumped-up 1961 kidnapping indictment, was freed of all charges Jan. 16 when the prosecution said its witness was too ill to testify. “They’ve never had a case,” Williams remarked on the decision to drop charges.

In its decision to unstrap the fourteen-year burden from the Black rights fighter, the court removed a torment under which the Williams family was forced out of their home into exile abroad and under which Williams was stigmatized as a fugitive from justice.

The charges grew out of Williams’ leadership role in the Monroe community during the early days of the civil rights movement. Williams was instrumental in organizing many of the struggles of Monroe Blacks against segregated public facilities.

THE MILITANT

January 29, 1951

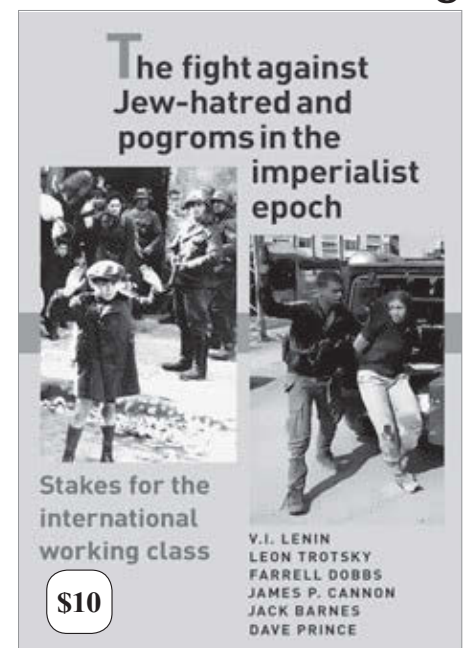
The President of the United States, members of the Congress and the State Department are violating the will of the American people by refusing to stop the Korean war now.

The Gallup poll of Jan. 23 reports that two thirds of the American people want to “pull our troops out of Korea as fast as possible.” Almost one half are sure it was a mistake to send troops to Korea in the first place. The American people want an end to the Korean atrocity, but the President and Congress scorn their pleas.

Let every man and woman 18 years and over vote on war and peace. The people have the right not only to vote for officials, but to vote on the issues of life and death.

Consult the people! Consult those who have to do the fighting. They are the ones who suffer. They are forced to kill and be killed. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

Recommended reading



“Jew-hatred and the slaughter of Jews — pogroms — like Hamas carried out Oct. 7, 2023, are not new. Fighting Jew-hatred is decisive for the working class and oppressed nations of the entire world.”

pathfinderpress.com

SWP campaigns against war

Continued from front page
ist system is provoking resistance on many fronts, drawing workers and young people into politics. Growing numbers of workers and youth are open to considering the need to break from all capitalist parties and make a socialist revolution, like working people did in Cuba in 1959.

Going door to door in working-class areas, Socialist Workers Party members in Dallas-Fort Worth have found that working people there want to talk about what to do to defend the interests of working people.

Originally from Mexico, one of six recent subscribers to the *Militant* there told SWP member Alyson Kennedy that he opposed the invasion of Venezuela. "What if some other country did the same thing here? This country doesn't have the right just to go into another country like this." He also said he didn't like Washington's threats against the Mexican government. He bought three books on revolutionary politics, including Pathfinder's newest title, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban combatant Victor Dreke.

Oppose U.S. attacks on Venezuela

At a busy transit stop near the party's headquarters on Chicago's southwest side in December, as the U.S. rulers were ramping up their attacks on Venezuela, Naomi Craine campaigned for David Rosenfeld, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois. She met a swimming pool cleaner originally from Colombia. Responding to the *Militant* headline "US hands off Venezuela! No to US economic war against Cuba!" he told her that Washington was also threatening the Colombian government.

After some discussion, including him disagreeing with Craine on the tremendous threat of new assaults on Jews by Hamas, he subscribed to the *Militant* and purchased *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia: The Example of the Cuban Revolution*

by Fidel Castro. He was also interested in politics in the U.S. and picked up *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Craine invited him to the Jan. 10 Militant Labor Forum celebrating the 67th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and protesting Washington's assault on Venezuela. He came with his roommate, another worker from Colombia, who subscribed to the *Militant* and bought several books.

Fight for amnesty for immigrants

On Jan. 10 SWP members Barry Fatland and Michele Smith joined a protest of more than 100 people in Bellevue, about 10 miles east of Seattle, against attacks by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on immigrant workers. They carried signs calling for "Amnesty for all immigrants" and "U.S. hands off Venezuela and Cuba."

They met a nurse who works at a nearby hospital and her husband, a Mexican American from Houston. Both said they felt compelled "to do something" after the fatal shooting of Renee Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis.

Fatland described how "major unions, including the AFL-CIO in Minnesota, are giving increasing support to the fight for immigrant rights." He said this was important as many ultraleft groups there threatened to derail the protests and lead to government repression. After a wide-ranging discussion, the young couple subscribed to the *Militant*.

In Montreal, Joe Young, Communist League candidate for the Quebec National Assembly, and CL member Annette Kouri joined an action of 150 people in the snow Jan. 17 calling for an end to attacks on the Kurdish areas of Syria and Iran, known as Rojava and Rojhelat. "Kurdish rights are human rights, protect Rojava and



Militant/Bernie Senter
Socialist Workers Party members Deborah Liatos, left, and Ellie Garcia, center, campaign with *Militant*, books by party leaders at Jan. 18 Los Angeles rally. Thousands came out in solidarity with mass demonstrations in Iran protesting the reactionary government in Tehran.

Rojhelat" read a banner in French. Kurds from Syria, Turkey and Iran chanted in Kurdish.

Young and Kouri spoke with many fellow protesters, expressing the Communist League's support for the fight for the national rights of the Kurdish people and giving out campaign leaflets. In discussions on the recent wave of protests throughout Iran, including in Kurdish regions, they pointed to the 1979 revolution in Iran and the subsequent counterrevolution there that showed the need to build a revolutionary working-class leadership.

One participant, who remembered the League from earlier actions in support of Kurdish rights, bought a *Militant*. Another got a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* in French.

Several participants expressed an interest in attending the Jan. 24 Militant Labor Forum "Solidarity with the Iranian people's freedom fight."

At a Jan. 18 protest of thousands against the repression in Iran, Los Angeles SWP members set up a campaign table for SWP candidates Norton Sandler for California governor

and Laura Garza for mayor of Los Angeles. The sign at their table called for "U.S. hands off Iran. Solidarity with anti-regime protesters."

Pro-monarchist forces calling for the return of Reza Pahlavi, son of the shah overthrown by the 1979 Iranian revolution, organized the action. SWP campaigner Bernie Senter reports there was almost constantly a lively debate at the SWP table. One young woman disagreed sharply with him on Israel's need to defeat Hamas in Gaza, but still subscribed to the *Militant*. Party members sold two *Militant* subscriptions, two books in Farsi and one in English, six single copies of the paper and received a \$20 donation.

To join in the campaigning, contact the campaign office nearest you listed on page 8.

New International A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934 to present

Articles, polemics and reports by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and world communist movement.

Online at themilitant.com

Boeing, gov't knew about flaw in Louisville plane that crashed

BY AMY HUSK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A damning Jan. 14 report from the National Transportation Safety Board documented that the United Parcel Service plane that crashed on takeoff at the Muhammed Ali International Airport here last November had a structural flaw that Boeing was aware of at the time. The company sent a 2011 service letter to UPS and all other owners of the airplane involved.

This flaw caused a stress fracture in the assembly holding the engine on the left wing of the MD-11F UPS plane. It broke completely off and burst into flames, causing the plane to crash. Fifteen people were killed, many more injured, and factories and other businesses in the area were damaged or destroyed.

Although this same part had fractured in similar fashion on at least four other occasions on three other aircraft, the letter from Boeing claimed it "would not result in a safety of flight condition." The plane was made by McDonnell Douglas, which was acquired by Boeing in the 1990s.

The letter told UPS and other airline companies flying these planes that Boeing had a replacement part that did not have the same flaw, but did not recommend the companies replace the part.

The Federal Aviation Administration had received copies of the correspondence between Boeing and UPS, but did nothing to investigate further.

The 34-year-old plane has "the second-worst safety record of any commercial aircraft still in service," the lawsuit filed against Boeing and UPS by those affected by the deadly crash noted. It was carrying some 38,000 gallons of fuel for a flight to Hawaii. The shops that were hit by the crashing plane in the nearby industrial area had 260,000 gallons of motor oil and antifreeze in storage. This caused a huge fiery explosion that sent smoke and debris into neighborhoods miles from the airport.

Thirteen people were killed immediately, including the plane's three pilots, as well as workers and customers at several small businesses in the area, including a 3-year-old child. Another person died a couple days later. Alain Rodriguez Colina, 50, a Cuban immigrant and employee of Grade A Auto Parts, died of severe burns seven weeks later on Christmas Day.

The NTSB report pointed to similarities between the Louisville crash and a 1979 American Airlines DC-10 crash in Chicago that killed 273 people. McDonnell Douglas issued a service bulletin

following that crash identifying the failure of a spherical bearing race — the same part that failed on the closely related MD-11 — as a "safety of flight condition," meaning it could lead to a disaster.

On Nov. 8 the FAA issued an order to ground all MD-11 and MD-11F planes, and a few days later updated it to include DC-10 planes. The order said, "The unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design."

"The deaths of these 15 people and the destruction of businesses and environmental disaster can't be called an 'accident,'" John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Senate in Ohio, told the *Militant*. "It's obvious that Boeing, UPS and the FAA knew enough about the dangerous flaw in these planes that they should have grounded and repaired years ago.

"Working people can't rely on the bosses, government regulatory agencies or the courts to keep us safe at work or at home. We have to use our unions to fight for workers control of all aspects of production and transportation. To eliminate disasters like this once and for all, we have to take political power out of the hands of the profit-driven capitalist class and establish a workers government."

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 — of all ages, skin colors, and both sexes — are saying, "Enough is enough!" They've begun to wield the collective power of the exploited producers in response.

pathfinderpress.com



Amnesty for immigrants!

Continued from front page

scenes of warrantless and strong-arm seizures of working people, and even high school students, on the street, at workplaces and people's homes — especially those thought to be Latino or Somali, regardless of their citizenship status.

Elizabeth Lugert-Thom, a resident of St. Paul, said two federal officers had asked her to identify the Hmong and Asian households in her North End neighborhood. “I don't know anything about that,” she told them. Lugert-Thom told the *Chicago Tribune* she was shocked about “what I was asked to do.”

Since the fatal shooting of ICE Watch activist Renee Good and a second shooting that injured someone ICE was trying to arrest Jan. 15, thousands of working people here have looked for ways to protest. Good was trying to block the road to stop a convoy of ICE agents.

This has also led to some ultra-left actions aimed at disrupting ICE operations nightly at the Whipple Federal Building and elsewhere. Led by Stalinists and others on the middle-class left, they aim to carry out provocations leading to violent clashes. Some launch fireworks and water bottles at ICE agents and local police. Others follow, film and scream at them.

Overwhelmingly these are the actions reported by the bourgeois media, which largely ignores the disciplined, peaceful protests that attract workers and their families, union members and others during the daytime.

“I would like to speak out against what is happening,” Gabe, a delivery driver whose family is originally from Kenya, told the *Militant*. “But I've never been to a protest and the ones I see on the news seem very dangerous. I don't think they will help.”

The destructive, anti-working-class course builds on the ultra-left course of Black Lives Matter and similar groups that orchestrated weeks of rioting in the wake of the death of George Floyd in 2020. Their thuggish actions set back prospects for organizing working people to fight cop brutality.

On Jan. 18 some 30 Black Lives Matter and other activists disrupted a service at the Southern Baptist Church in

St. Paul. Using the pretext that a pastor there is working for ICE, they marched into the church, chanting “ICE Out” and “Justice for Renee Good.” The Minnesotan-Wisconsin Baptist convention said the service “was forced to end prematurely.”

The Trump administration Jan. 19 ordered 1,500 U.S. troops on stand-by for possible deployment to Minneapolis and use against anti-ICE activists.

The Trump administration announced Jan. 6 that it was ending Temporary Protective Status for Somalis on March 17. The move has been accompanied by Trump's chauvinistic denigration of Somalis, who he claims “come from hell” and “contribute nothing.”

Dozens of walkouts at high schools protesting ICE actions have occurred throughout the state, culminating with a rally of several hundred students at the state Capitol in St. Paul Jan. 14. Socialist Workers Party members who participated reported it drew in forces new to the fight to defend immigrant workers. It was peaceful and marshaled by parents.

Speakers at a press conference there the same day included Minnesota Farmers Union President Gary Wertish. He said the stepped-up raids were hitting farmworkers. Some 3,500 holders of H-2A visas have legal authorization to work in Minnesota agriculture. But fear of being seized by ICE is keeping many from reporting to work.

Wilber De La Rosa, owner of a Mexican restaurant in Rochester, told the press he has been delivering food to immigrants who have nothing to eat, “who are afraid to travel outside.”

2006 mass protests set example

Thousands have joined similar church-run efforts, a sign of the widespread solidarity that exists among working people. But a headline in the *New York Times* “Volunteers in Minnesota Deliver Groceries So Immigrants Can Hide at Home,” shows the weakness of this approach. The goal can't be to help immigrants to “hide out.” What's needed is a mass movement they can safely join with clear demands to push government attacks back.

In 2006 and 2007 millions of immigrants turned out on May Day in cities

resolved, including wages, the bosses' use of subcontractors and staffing levels.

The 21 Pascan flight attendants have been on strike since Oct. 28. Wages are a central question in their fight too. Other issues include housing away from home and assignments and crew planning. Last week they had welcomed the port strikers on their picket line in front of Pascan's offices near the Saint-Hubert airport.

Strikers told the *Militant* they're waging tough fights. Both companies are using work by the bosses, scab labor, or subcontractors to undermine the strikes.

They need solidarity! Every honk or visit to their picket line is a boost to morale that strengthens their resolve to fight. The Montreal Gateway Terminals pickets are up from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the company's office at the Port of Montreal. The Pascan strikers picket from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the company's offices in Saint-Hubert.



Militant/Jorge Lértora

May Day action of 150,000 in Chicago in 2007 demands amnesty for undocumented immigrants. Millions turned out in cities and towns in 2006-07 demanding a halt to deportations.

and small towns all across the country to demand a halt to raids and deportations, proudly asserting “we are workers, not criminals.” They acted not in fear, but confident of the broad support that existed for their fight. In Minneapolis alone 30,000 demonstrated in 2006.

Actions like these are also the best way to force ICE to back off.

These historic actions and what they accomplished need to be more widely known.

Today the trade unions are increasingly speaking out in defense of immigrant workers. In the last week statements by the AFL-CIO have been endorsed by the United Food and Commercial Workers, the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers and other unions. Service Employees International Union Local 26's president said the current ICE attacks will lead to greater attacks on unions when they resist bosses in the future.

Geof Paquette, lead internal organizer for UNITE HERE Local 17, told the *Militant*, “A dozen of our workers have been arrested after passing through security heading to their jobs at the airport.” He said “that to work at the airport you must first pass a 10-year background check to get work authorization, so all these workers had documents to work. They have been sent to Texas where union lawyers are working on their cases.”

Growing numbers of working people are deeply disturbed by the all-out assault on their immigrant co-workers

and neighbors for the “crime” of being foreign born.

Socialist Workers Party member Joanne Murphy showed several co-workers pictures of herself carrying a sign demanding an amnesty for workers without papers at the Jan. 10 march and rally of 10,000 people for immigrant rights at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis. “La migra was nowhere around at this big action,” Murphy told workers at the bakery where she works.

Amnesty for all immigrant workers

She described how almost 3 million workers had won amnesty in 1986 when Ronald Reagan was president. She pointed to the possibility of winning amnesty now through a union-led fight. A worker from Ecuador, who had been translating the discussion for others, said that when she'd brought up amnesty at home, her uncle had said that was how he became legal.

Today there is no leadership coming from any Democratic or Republican politician that points to the need to fight for an amnesty. Gov. Timothy Walz tells people to “carry their phones with them so that when they see federal agents in their area, they can take out their phone and hit record.”

Robin Wonsley, the Democratic Socialist city council member in Minneapolis, calls for confrontations. “Officials and government won't try to stop ICE,” she says. “We are only ones who can do it.”

Continued on page 9

Solidarity actions in Montreal bring together striking dock, airline workers

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER

MONTREAL — A solidarity party with pizza was held in front of the Port of Montreal Jan. 14. It brought together striking workers from Montreal Gateway Terminals and Pascan Aviation. Workers at both places are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

The 40 participants also included delegations from the CUPE workers at the Montreal Casino, who were on strike in 2022, and from the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, who had gone on strike in 2019 and were locked out in 2024. Many drivers of passing cars and trucks honked in solidarity.

The 32 port workers at Montreal Gateway Terminals, who ship containers between Canadian companies and others around the world, have been on strike since Sept. 22. They had rejected the company's offers by 100%. Many questions in the negotiations remain un-

Anou Vongbandith sends solidarity message to Kilmar Ábrego García

Anovsack Vongbandith, known as Anou, who along with his wife Anh runs a restaurant in Philadelphia and is originally from Laos, was seized and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and imprisoned in the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Pennsylvania for three months. A popular campaign of protest succeeded in winning his release in October. While he was in Moshannon, Kilmar Ábrego García, a sheet metal apprentice and member of the SMART union, which is fighting for his freedom, was also held there. Below are excerpts from a letter of solidarity Vongbandith sent to Ábrego García Jan. 13.

Dear Kilmar Ábrego García and Family,
I write this letter in solidarity with Kilmar Ábrego García and with all families who are suffering under a system

that too often values punishment over humanity and due process is skipped. ...

Solidarity means refusing to be silent. It means recognizing that justice must include mercy, and that immigration enforcement should never come at the expense of basic human dignity. It means demanding that Kilmar Ábrego García be treated fairly, humanely and with full respect for his rights.

To Kilmar and his loved ones: you are not alone. Your fight is seen. Your voice matters. And there are many of us who will continue to stand beside you, speak your name, and call for justice until families are reunited and dignity is restored.

With respect, solidarity, and unwavering support, due process for all of us,
Anovsack Vongbandith
Philadelphia, PA
Former detainee at Moshannon,
community advocate and ally

'Cuba's socialist revolution is example for workers of the world'

NY meeting celebrates 67th anniversary of Cuban Revolution, condemns US assault on Venezuela

BY ROY LANDERSEN

NEW YORK — “There couldn’t be a more important moment to be celebrating the 67th anniversary of the Jan. 1, 1959, victory of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement over the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship that opened Cuba’s socialist revolution,” Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee, told some 80 people at a celebration held Jan. 11.

We’re celebrating “its irreplaceable vital example for working people everywhere, for the future of humanity.” This meeting is especially important after the “U.S. imperialist military assault a week ago on the people of Venezuela to kidnap President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. It is the most arrogant violation in decades of national sovereignty and the rights of oppressed nations.”

The event was sponsored by the New York and northern New Jersey branches of the SWP. It was co-chaired by Róger Calero from New York and Joanne Kuniansky, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey.

In opening the event, Calero said the meeting had been called to celebrate the centennial of the birth of Fidel Castro, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, and to mark the victory of workers and peasants in taking power in Cuba. It was also planned to feature the publication of a new book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban leader Víctor Dreke.

But today we must add in the loudest voice possible, Calero said, “a condemnation of Washington’s war drive in the Caribbean, and the demand U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!”

U.S. working people want peace

Waters pointed to the statement, “Condemn Washington’s Attack on Venezuela’s Sovereignty! US Out Now!” issued by the Socialist Workers Party the day of the assault. It denounces Washington’s imperialist ambitions “to run” Venezuela, she noted. It also condemns Washington’s actions as a “fla-

grant violation of the desire of working people in the U.S. to live in peace.” It’s a desire we must fight to conquer as a right, she said. “Something so decisive for the future of humanity can only be won in struggle.”

The course the propertied rulers are on, as they declare their “right” to “run” or “buy” the world, the SWP leader said, “doesn’t start with Venezuela, Greenland, the Panama Canal or Cuba. That assault on working people starts right here at home. Their foreign policy is an extension of the brutal methods they use against working people in the U.S., including immigrant workers, not the other way around.”

Their course is not driven by President Donald Trump. He may be a gross, egotistical character, but he “is an astute capitalist politician.” He is acting on U.S. imperialism’s vital interests by recognizing that the U.S. industrial base, which has over decades been “eroded by the workings of capitalism,” must be rebuilt and expanded.



Mary-Alice Waters told New York meeting Jan. 11 that U.S. imperialist assault on Venezuela “is the most arrogant violation of national sovereignty in decades.”

Finance capital had shifted to shore up sagging profits by slashing labor costs, moving manufacturing platforms overseas to China above all, but now to India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico and more.

The U.S. rulers no longer have “control of energy supplies, rare earths and other vital resources, technology and space, decisive for their military machine, economic domination and ‘na-



tional security.” They know they are currently in no shape to fight the rulers of China or Russia or a united Europe.”

Conflicts in imperialist alliance

“There has been much weeping and wailing, especially in the European liberal press, over the death of what they call ‘the West,’ referring to the post-World War II alliance between Washington and the western European imperialist powers,” the SWP leader said. “They claim this is based on common values of ‘democracy’ and ‘freedom’ etc., but now the components of the capitalist alliance are turning on each other.”

“Venezuela is simply the opening move for Washington,” Waters said. “Trump’s threat to take Greenland is no joke.” He says it’s the source of rare earths and site of strategic military installations “we” need and the U.S. is the only power that can prevent the rulers of China or Russia using the Arctic island “against us,” by which he means against the U.S. propertied rulers.

Washington’s fight over that Arctic island involves challenging Denmark’s colonial rule there. “Both Denmark and the United States are members of NATO, so what will happen to the ‘alliance’ in this confrontation?” Waters asked. Denmark is backed by the other European imperialist powers and members of the NATO alliance.

Stephen Miller, a top official in the Trump administration, openly asserted Jan. 5 that Greenland rightfully belonged to Washington. “Nobody’s going to fight the United States militarily over the future of Greenland,” he said.

The president of the U.S. has proclaimed that the Panama Canal was “foolishly” given to Panama and “we’re going to take it back.” When he “renamed” the Gulf of Mexico or claimed Canada should be the 51st state of the U.S., these were no laughing matters, the SWP leader said. Trump was speaking about a shift the U.S. rulers see as necessary to assert their threatened dominance.

Waters cited the Dec. 26 *Wall Street Journal*, which quoted German Chancellor Friedrich Merz as saying, “The normative West no longer exists.” He told Germans to put aside nostalgia for the past. “The Americans are now pur-

suing their own interests very, very aggressively,” as if that hasn’t always been true. He said the German rulers must do the same.

“This is not the result of a maniac in the White House,” Waters said, “but the evolution of the conflicting interests of capitalist classes and states. This is not the world of 1945. Nor is it the world of 1959, the anniversary we’re celebrating.”

Cuba’s example

This is the world in which the revolutionary example of Cuba’s working class is so necessary, she said.

Washington’s commando operation against Venezuela and declaration the U.S. rulers will “run” that country for the foreseeable future is also aimed at the long-sought goal of crushing Cuba’s socialist revolution. There, the working class *did* mobilize to take over the capitalists’ factories and plantations during the nationalizations led by the revolutionary government in the early 1960s, Waters said. Havana offered compensation for the owners’ declared tax book value of the properties. This was rejected.

Washington’s unbroken 66-year economic war against the Cuban people has taken its toll, however. Especially in the last few years, the U.S. rulers have increasingly strangled every source of currency and trade. The economic crisis in Cuba today is deep. “There are many hours of electricity cuts, with water out, phones out and transport paralyzed,” Waters said.

The Trump administration is escalating its efforts to economically strangle the Cuban population by its seizure of tankers carrying oil from Venezuela to Cuba. Trump has demanded Havana “make a deal” with Washington.

“Cuba is a free, independent and sovereign nation,” Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel responded to Washington Jan. 11. “No one dictates what we do.”

“Cuba does not attack; it has been attacked by the U.S. for 66 years,” he said, “and it does not threaten, it prepares, ready to defend the homeland to the last drop of blood.”

“None of this has anything to do with drugs,” Waters said, nor is it directed against the people and governments of Venezuela or Cuba alone. It is also directed against the growing economic weight and political influence of the rulers of China in Latin America. It is



Above, Cubans line the streets Jan. 15 as remains of Cuban combatants murdered during Washington’s assault on Venezuela are brought into Havana. Left, thousands march in Havana the next day condemning U.S. war moves and sending a powerful message they are ready to “defend the revolution with our lives.”

a blow to the Iranian regime, which has used Venezuela as an entry point on the continent for Hezbollah and its Jew-hating attacks. It is a blow against Moscow’s political and military influence. In short, it is part of the sharpening class conflicts worldwide.

Attack on Venezuela’s sovereignty

“It is hard to believe” that Washington’s assault and seizure of Venezuela’s president “is the will of the people of the

United States,” Venezuelan-born Fernando Hernandez told this reporter at the New York celebration. He and his wife, Gali, came to the SWP event, after he subscribed to the *Militant* at the Jan. 3 protest demanding “U.S. hands off Venezuela!” in New York. “This week has made me both sad and angry,” he said. “It doesn’t feel like Venezuela is a sovereign country anymore.”

Hernandez said he was only 12 years old when Hugo Chávez was elected to

United States,” Venezuelan-born Fernando Hernandez told this reporter at the New York celebration. He and his wife, Gali, came to the SWP event, after he subscribed to the *Militant* at the Jan. 3 protest demanding “U.S. hands off Venezuela!” in New York. “This week has made me both sad and angry,” he said. “It doesn’t feel like Venezuela is a sovereign country anymore.”

Hernandez said he was only 12 years old when Hugo Chávez was elected to

Gov’t attack on Ábrego García takes a beating, support grows

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Justice will face sharp questioning on the witness stand in Federal District Court in Nashville, Tennessee, Jan. 28. Federal Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. says he intends to dig into the facts of their transparently vindictive prosecution of apprentice sheet metal worker and SMART union member Kilmar Ábrego García.

After Ábrego García had been denied due process and illegally deported to El Salvador and suffered torture in the notorious CECOT prison there, his supporters mounted a public campaign that won his return. In response, top federal prosecutors in Washington began investigating a three-year-old traffic stop that ended without so much as a traffic citation in Tennessee to see if they could cook up a case.

They got prosecutors there to file trumped-up charges of human trafficking against Ábrego García, and threw him into detention. He has steadfastly maintained his innocence and refused to cop a plea.

Local prosecutors in Nashville have insisted repeatedly that filing the case against Ábrego García was their decision, and theirs alone.

But on Dec. 30, Crenshaw unsealed some 3,000 government documents that blow these claims out of the water. Doc-

ument after document shows top officials in the Justice Department in Washington pressing the Tennessee prosecutors to go after the young worker. An April 30 email from Aakash Singh, who works in the office of Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, tells the Tennessee lawyers that charging Ábrego García was “a top priority” for them.

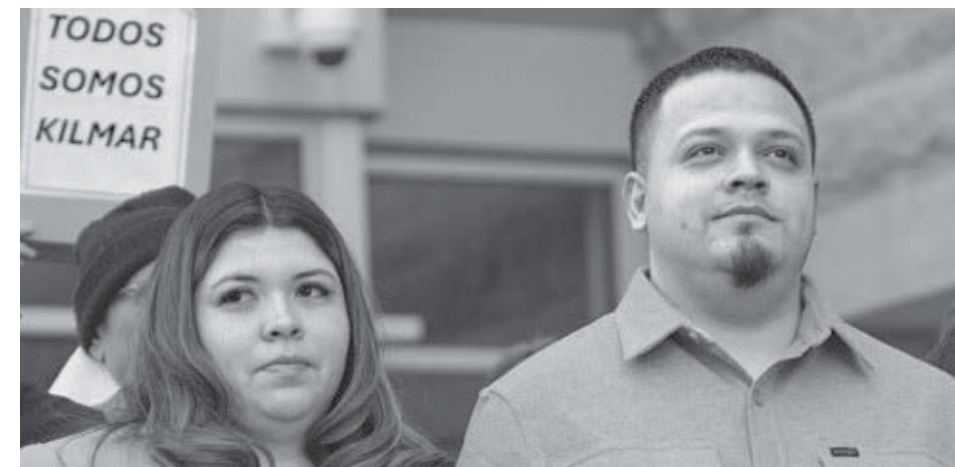
At the same time, they told Crenshaw the prosecution was their own idea. Even before he saw all this new evidence, the judge said there was “a realistic likelihood” the administration brought the case vindictively.

Ábrego García’s attorneys moved to dismiss the case on Aug. 19, saying it was filed to punish the young worker for challenging his deportation.

Since Ábrego García’s arrest in March, the government’s use of Immigration and Customs Enforcement cops to go after immigrant workers has accelerated across the country, from Los Angeles to Minneapolis. As of Jan. 15, ICE had 73,000 people in detention, an 84% jump from the same time in 2025 and the highest level ever recorded by the agency.

Ábrego García fight is an example

Ábrego García remains free because of the way he has conducted himself and the far-reaching support he has won. He is fighting for asylum and against gov-



Kilmar Ábrego García, freed from detention by widespread support, and his wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, leave court in Greenbelt, Maryland, Dec. 22. The sign says, “We are all Kilmar.”

Venezuela’s presidency in 1998. Some in his family said this was “the end of democracy,” while others supported Chávez. Venezuela’s history has swung between “dictatorship and moments of democracy,” he said. “There is so much propaganda,” he said, so he appreciated Waters’ talk, which will “help me make up my own mind.”

Greetings

In opening the meeting, Calero read fraternal greetings from members and supporters of the Sugar cane Workers Union in the Do-

minican Republic who were holding an event the same day to honor the 32 Cuban combatants who died fighting in Venezuela during the Jan. 3 assault by U.S. forces. They applauded the release of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*, saying, it is “through such publications that we sugarcane workers — the most exploited sector of the Dominican proletariat — have raised our class consciousness.”

The unionists have been part of pro-

ernment moves to deport him again.

In a separate immigration case the government filed before Federal Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland, she says she will rule by Feb. 12 whether the government can take him back into custody.

Like Crenshaw, Xinis has repeatedly reprimanded the government for its efforts to ignore her orders and avoid a straightforward review of the facts. So far she has barred the government from arresting Ábrego García again.

“The fight will continue. I will always stand against the injustice this government has committed,” Ábrego García told his supporters Dec. 11. “I am free. Remember me this way.”

They chanted back, “Ábrego García, the community is with you,” in Spanish.

CASA, the immigrant rights group that is leading his defense, has organized disciplined, well-marshaled protests at every hearing, in both Maryland and Tennessee, and outside the Moshannon Detention Center where he was incarcerated in Pennsylvania. A team of CASA members takes responsibility for him and his family’s safety.

Ábrego García is resolved to extend solidarity to other families facing persecution by la migra, urging them to “keep fighting.” His fight has opened political space for others detained and separated from their families. And more unions are speaking out, emulating his SMART union, which campaigned for labor solidarity for his fight from day one, especially his constitutional right to due process.

Ábrego García, his union and his supporters are an example of how to fight and begin to build a movement that workers and unions want to be part of. His case is a flashpoint in a broader struggle for amnesty for all workers without papers in the U.S., crucial to fight for the unity of the working class. Join his fight and help win solidarity!

CASA has a new website on the fight: “Demand Justice for Kilmar Armando Ábrego García,” in English, Spanish and French. Go to www.wearecasa.org.

tests to demand Washington’s forces get out of the Dominican Republic. These U.S. units joined warplanes based in the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico to aid the Jan. 3 attack on Venezuela.

Kuniansky read a greeting to the meeting from Olga Sanabria, a long-time fighter for Puerto Rico’s independence, who explained the mutual solidarity between the peoples of Cuba and Puerto Rico since the 19th century. She greeted the anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and saluted the centennial of “one of the world’s most outstanding revolutionaries and fighters for the working class and the dispossessed, Comrade Fidel Castro.”

“To several generations worldwide, the Cuban Revolution has given meaning and content to the word revolution, to workers’ rights, to transformation,” she said, “to sovereignty and independence, to anti-imperialism and to solidarity. What would be our understanding of these qualities without the Cuban Revolution?” She noted that the Cuban Revolution “has maintained its principles while enduring the unrelenting criminal blockade by the United States Government.”

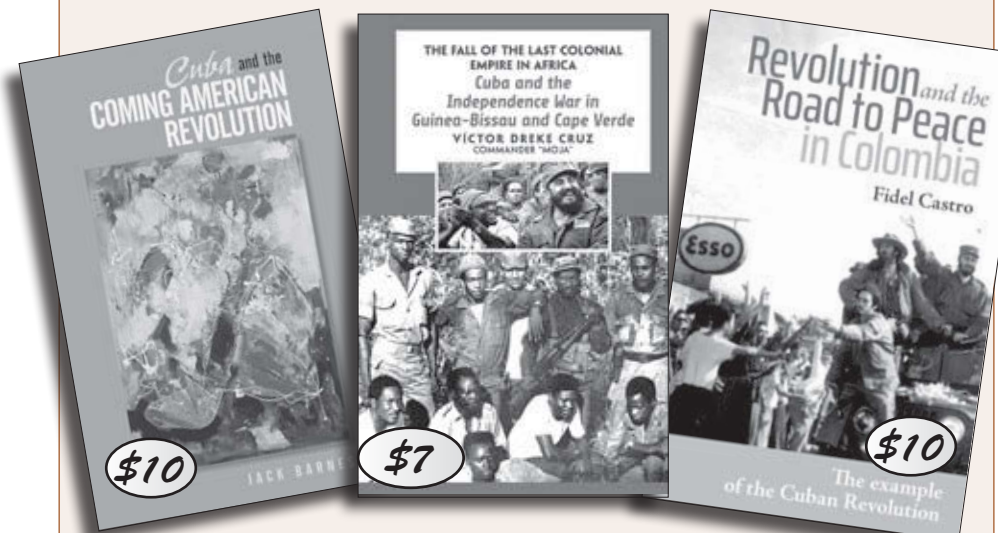
In closing the meeting, Calero highlighted two campaigns in defense of the Cuban government and people against the U.S. rulers’ intensifying economic, political and financial war. One is the “Let Cuba Play!” campaign against Washington withholding visas for Cuban athletes seeking to compete on U.S. and Puerto Rican soil in qualifying matches for the 2028 Olympics.

The other campaign, “Sutures Save Lives,” has a goal to raise \$75,000 by mid-February to send 60,000 sutures to hospitals in Cuba, where they are badly needed for life-saving surgeries. A collection at the meeting raised \$1,400 to go to Global Health Partners, which is spearheading the solidarity effort.

In closing, Kuniansky introduced her fellow SWP candidate from New Jersey, Craig Honts for U.S. Congress. She urged people there to join the SWP’s upcoming campaign that will be launched soon to put the party’s candidates on the ballot.

A lively informal discussion and tables of good food kept many participants engaged for a good hour more.

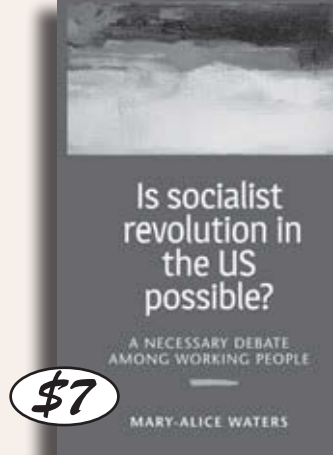
Read more on the example of the Cuban Revolution



Visit pathfinderpress.com for full catalog

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters



“The class battles ahead of us are inevitable, but their outcome is not. That depends on us. On our capacity to face the truth and speak with clarity to fellow combatants, to learn to rely on our own class solidarity and unity in struggle.”

pathfinderpress.com

Who was the Shah, what was the 1979 revolution in Iran?

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The view presented by capitalist politicians and the bourgeois press — echoing the claims by Iran Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei — is that the bourgeois clerical regime in power in Iran today is the defender and continuity of the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

That turns reality on its head. The reactionary regime in Tehran comes from a political *counterrevolution* that pushed back the gains of the 1979 revolution.

That revolution was a deep-going, modern, popular social revolution in city and countryside, not a religious jihad as it is falsely portrayed by bourgeois voices. It reverberated across the Middle East and the world.

For decades the shah — which means king — was a staunch ally of

U.S. imperialism throughout the region. After he was overthrown by a popular upsurge in the early 1950s, a CIA-organized military coup put Pahlavi back in power in 1953.

His regime — which claimed to be “modernizing” Iran — grew more and more hated. The capitalist “modernization” was carried out on the backs of Iran’s workers, farmers and oppressed nationalities.

In 1971, for example, the average per capita income was less than \$1 a day, and the average monthly consumption of meat was 2.7 pounds per person! Farsi, the language of the Persian majority, was made the only official language. Oppressed nationalities, including Kurds, Azerbaijanis, Baluchis and Arabs, faced widespread discrimination.

The shah resorted to brutal repression to maintain his rule. Trade unions and



Protest in Tehran against U.S.-backed Shah of Iran, Sept. 7, 1978. The next day Shah’s forces fired on the protesters, killing hundreds, in what became known as Black Friday.

almost all opposition parties and newspapers were banned. SAVAK, the secret police, trained and funded by the CIA and other U.S. agencies, was notorious for its torture chambers.

After a million people marched

against the shah in Tehran on Sept. 7, 1978, the regime declared martial law. The following day troops shot and killed hundreds, possibly thousands, of protesters across the country.

Continued on page 9

Brutal repression in Iran covers up truth — regime is weaker than ever

Continued from front page

began with merchants and capitalists in Tehran’s central bazaar Dec. 28. Then they spread across the country, drawing in workers and oppressed nationalities.

The protests began in response to the plummeting value of the Iranian currency and rising prices. But they soon took up opposition to the regime’s trampling on democratic rights as well as its efforts to extend its reactionary influence throughout the Middle East.

A popular slogan was “Not for Gaza, not for Lebanon; I give my life for Iran,” an expression of opposition to the regime’s drive to destroy Israel and eliminate the Jews there.

Some cracks are emerging in the regime’s facade. Alireza Rafiei, CEO of Irancell, Iran’s second-largest mobile phone company, was fired for “disobeying the order” to immediately shutdown internet access Jan. 8. The several-hour delay allowed initial videos of the massacre to reach the world.

The daily *Ham-Mihan* published articles about the protests and repression until Jan. 19, when the regime’s Press Supervisory Board closed the paper down. It objected to several articles, including a Jan. 17 editorial advising the regime to adopt the “skill of listening” and not confuse protesters with “rioters.” That was enough to get it banned.

Baluchis and Kurds join protests

As the protests grew larger and spread to small towns and universities across the country, the regime’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Basij paramilitary thugs and police attacked with tear gas, rubber bullets and live fire.

A coalition of Kurdish parties issued a call for a Jan. 8 general strike saying, “Kurdistan supports protests and popular uprisings.” One Baluchi party called on the people of Sistan-Baluchistan province to “act in unity” with protests elsewhere.

Seeing the growing participation by oppressed nationalities as a serious threat, the regime unleashed a massive assault on protesters Jan. 8. The repression fell especially hard in the Kurdish region, where there is a long history of opposition to the regime.

Some 40% of the Iranian people are from oppressed nationalities — Kurds, Baluchis, Azerbaijanis, Arabs and more.

They faced discrimination and denial of their rights under the U.S.-backed regime of the shah, which then continued and worsened under the repressive regime of the Islamic Republic.

Following the death of the Kurdish woman Zhina Amini after her arrest by the hated “morality” police in Tehran in 2022, actions by Baluchis began in the city of Zahedan in solidarity with the “Women, Life, Freedom” movement. They protested for over 30 consecutive weeks against the death penalty and for freeing political prisoners.

Prominent Sunni cleric and leader of the Baluchi people, Sheik Abdul-Hamid, spoke out at the weekly Friday prayer service in Zahedan Jan. 16. “We strongly condemn this killing and extend our condolences to each and every family that lost loved ones in these protests,” he said, calling for all those arrested to be freed.

More facts on crackdown emerge

More videos of the crackdown are now coming to light. Virtually nonstop semiautomatic weapon fire can be heard for long stretches as the thugs murder unarmed protesters. CCTV videos show large groups of Basij thugs armed with clubs breaking into apartment buildings

whose residents had given refuge to protesters fleeing the assault.

Other videos show family members looking for their loved ones among hundreds of slain protesters in body bags at the morgue in Tehran. Some bodies were still in hospital gowns, with catheters or breathing tubes attached, indicating that the regime kidnapped hospitalized protesters and murdered them in cold blood.

After the protest wave had been pushed back, President Donald Trump issued a statement Jan. 13 calling on the protests to continue and promising “help is on the way,” a threat to unleash military retaliation. That promotes the illusion that U.S. imperialism is on the side of the Iranian people. But the U.S. rulers’ only concern is in advancing their plunder of the resources and labor in the region.

Trump rapidly retracted his threat, saying the regime had promised there would be no executions. At the same time the *Wall Street Journal* reported Jan. 20 that the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and its strike group, including combat planes and jamming aircraft, are on their way the Persian Gulf.

The mass repression is a sign of the re-

gime’s weakness, not strength. Over the past two years, Israel has dealt big blows to Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, Tehran’s closest allies, which the regime is helping to rebuild. The Bashar al-Assad dictatorship in Syria, Tehran’s ally, was overthrown. Washington has kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, Tehran’s closest ally in Latin America, and is seizing millions of barrels of oil there.

Black-clad riot police are roaming the streets of Tehran and other cities. In Tabriz, regime thugs inspect cell-phones and search vehicles at checkpoints across the city.

But the show of force can’t prevent new actions from breaking out. Prior to the latest anti-regime protests, thousands of oil workers, as well as retirees from the steel, telecommunications and sugar industry, had been holding weekly protests. They will find a way to continue to fight.

Hundreds chanted anti-government slogans at the Jan. 19 funeral of 21-year-old Ahmad Khosravani at the Behesht Zahra Cemetery in Tehran. Khosravani, a well-known basketball player and student at Sharif University of Technology, was shot and killed during the protests in Tehran.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA

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

CANADA

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

FRANCE

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

UNITED KINGDOM

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

'Peace Board' aims to advance US imperialism

President Donald Trump has established what he calls a "Board of Peace" initially aimed at the Middle East, a region that is crucial for the U.S. imperialist rulers' interests. He is now seeking to extend its authority over bloody conflicts elsewhere in the world where the U.S. rulers seek to make gains at the expense of their rivals.

One key aim of Trump's Board is to block Israel from decisively defeating Hamas. The Tehran-backed group is several months into re-arming and rebuilding since Israel dealt it heavy blows. It's reasserting its hated dictatorial rule over Palestinians in Gaza.

Israel, the one country that offers Jews an unconditional refuge, is the only force that today will fight and defeat Hamas. Anything short of that will inevitably lead to more and more deadly pogroms.

Washington also aims to use this body to advance its influence with Arab and other governments, including Tehran and Ankara, across the Middle East.

First and foremost, the U.S. rulers seek to advance their own imperialist interests amid the accelerating conflicts among capitalist ruling classes that are inevitably leading to a new world war. This time between a growing number of rivals armed with nuclear weapons. The U.S. rulers are determined to reestablish their place as the dominant world power, especially against their chief rival in Beijing. Donald Trump's

tariffs are aimed at rebuilding U.S. industrial capacity, essential for war production in preparation for the wars to come. As is his push for Greenland.

Trump says his Board "might" replace the UN, further sidelining Washington's rivals and aiding its drive to reverse its declining place at the head of the conflict-ridden imperialist world order.

Like the misnamed "United Nations," the "Board of Peace" masks the reality of the imperialist epoch. It's an epoch driven by more and more violent conflicts among rival capitalist classes for markets, resources and labor to exploit. It's marked by Jew-hating violence, which the bosses will unleash in full force as a weapon against rising working-class battles for power.

None of this can be prevented by the Trump administration, some supra-national 'Board' or so-called 'international law' or anything else under capitalist rule.

The deep-going desire of working people for peace can only be realized by the working class taking political power into our own hands. To make that possible, workers need our own party, one that is uncompromising in its defense of our class interests against the bosses and the parties that serve them. With a tested leadership, workers are capable of organizing to take power here and join revolutionary struggles around the world.

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

Haitians mark 2010 earthquake, fight to keep TPS

Continued from front page

ment held its annual event Jan. 12 commemorating the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010. Some 200 people turned out, not only to remember the victims of that social disaster, but also to demand Washington extend TPS protection for Haitian immigrants.

Co-sponsored by Service Employees International Union 32BJ and UNITE HERE Local 355, the event drew unionists and others from throughout the Miami area.

"Sixteen years later, Haiti is 10 times worse than it was after the earthquake," Marlene Bastien told the Jan. 12 rally before participants marched to the Little Haiti Cultural Complex.

Bastien, now a Miami-Dade County commissioner, was the founder of the Family Action Network Movement

"Ninety percent of Haiti's capital is controlled by gangs," she said, "and 90% of their weapons of war with which they are killing their brothers and sisters come from here."

When she announced Haiti's TPS designation would end Feb. 3, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Haitians can relocate to other parts of Haiti that are outside the gang-ravaged capital.

But the brutal reality is that they would be returning to a country where more than half the population goes without enough to eat every day, where more than 1.4 million have been displaced by armed gangs, and where kidnappings and killings are rampant.

In addition to the earthquake, Haiti was hit by destructive hurricanes in 2008, 2012 and 2016, as

well as a cholera epidemic. This comes on top of decades of oppression and colonial plunder at the hands of the U.S. capitalist rulers.

In response to a wave of popular protests in the early 1900s, U.S. Marines invaded Haiti in 1915, occupying the country for the next 19 years.

The U.S. government backed the dictatorships of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and then his son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc," and their brutal Tonton Macoute thugs under every U.S. administration from 1957 until 1986, Republican and Democratic alike.

In 1986 Haitian workers and farmers rose up and overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the Duvaliers, and Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Catholic priest, was elected president in 1990. Seven months later he was overthrown by the military and driven into exile, leading tens of thousands of Haitians to flee the country, most to the U.S.

President Bill Clinton's administration returned Aristide to power in 1994, along with 20,000 U.S. troops. But his regime was marked by a wave of corruption, and he was deposed again, this time by popular protests. He was replaced by a U.N. occupation force of 13,000.

Decades of imperialist domination

These decades of U.S. control, violent factional war between rival groupings in Haitian ruling circles, and now the murderous rule of organized criminal gangs has created a power vacuum. A small troop of Kenyan soldiers under the flag of the United Nations backed by Washington has proved utterly incapable of providing peace.

Haiti has not had a president since President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in 2012 and hasn't had an election since 2016.

At the Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day Parade here thousands of working people, mostly Haitians, African Americans and Latinos, lined both sides of the streets in Liberty City. A union contingent led the floats, marching bands and dancers that took part. Marchers carried Haitian flags and handed out small signs calling for continuation of TPS, in both English and Creole, to enthusiastic onlookers along the parade route.

The crowd joined in as union organizers using bull horns called out chants, including, "What do we want? TPS! When do we want it? Now!"

Another protest, sponsored by SEIU 32BJ, UNITE HERE Local 355, local clergy, some elected officials and others, is set to take place at the airport in Fort Lauderdale Jan. 28, as an "Urgent call to action" to "Stand up for Haitian TPS!"

1979 Iran Revolution

Continued from page 8

The industrial working class began to play a more prominent role in the protests. Waves of strikes occurred over the following month, involving 40,000 oil workers, 150,000 textile workers, 40,000 steelworkers, 100,000 government employees and others. Peasants joined in, coming to demonstrations in the cities. The oil workers led a general strike for more than 100 days that brought the economy to a total halt.

The shah fled the country on Jan. 16, 1979, supposedly on an "extended vacation." Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — who had been exiled for publicly backing previous protests — returned to Tehran Feb. 1, fueling the popular upsurge.

Militant correspondents in Tehran provided eyewitness accounts of these momentous events. "The Iranian armed forces — with more personnel and weapons than those of British imperialism — crumbled in the face of popular defiance and a soldiers' rebellion," they reported.

Workers took the lead in setting up shoras — councils — in factories and neighborhoods and to fight for workers control over production and job conditions. Farmers fought for land. Oppressed nationalities fought for the right to speak their own languages and against discrimination in jobs, education and housing.

Bourgeois forces organized around Khomeini fought to establish a stable capitalist regime. They sought to get the protesters off the streets and to end the power of strike committees and neighborhood committees that were running many industries and some towns.

In 1980 Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Iran with U.S. backing, hoping to overthrow the revolution. Hundreds of thousands of Iranian workers and farmers volunteered for the military to defeat the invasion.

Khomeini, backed by the capitalist class, over time took advantage of the war to use the newly formed Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, its Basij paramilitary force and other thugs to go after workers and their vanguard. Opposition newspapers were closed down. Islamist thugs broke up political rallies and tried to shut down opposition party headquarters. Revolutionary workers were imprisoned.

Revolutionary workers party in Iran

Members of the communist movement in Iran in 1979 formed the Socialist Workers Party (HKS), later renamed the Workers Unity Party (HVK). They "were in the thick of the revolutionary class struggle," the *Militant* wrote. "They were workers in factories, refineries and other industrial workplaces, as well as volunteer soldiers combating the Iraqi invasion." Many of that party's cadres and leaders had been recruited by the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. while they were living there during the reign of the shah.

HVK members fought to extend and unify the factory shoras. The party called for land distribution under control of peasant shoras and self-determination for oppressed nationalities. They joined with women workers fighting for equal pay for equal work, child care and against compulsory veiling.

It was not until mid-1983 that the counterrevolution was able to consolidate its stranglehold, having forcibly shut down all working-class parties and other political opposition.

Since 2017 the regime's grip on power — including backing like-minded Hamas thugs in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon to eradicate Israel and the Jews — has confronted growing opposition and is coming apart.

A record of the HVK's proletarian internationalist course is presented in *New International* no. 7, which includes "Communism, the Working Class, and the Anti-Imperialist Struggle: Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War," which presents two of the party's documents.

Amnesty for immigrants

Continued from page 5

This is a course for disaster. What's needed here and across the country is a union-led fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers, a movement that would unify the working class. One that immigrant workers and others can participate in and help lead.

SWP members are discussing that perspective with fellow working people on their doorsteps, in their unions and at actions called to protest ICE actions.

A march co-sponsored by many unions and the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Coalition is set for Jan. 23. SWP members will attend the action to discuss a road forward for the working class.

Edwin Fruit and Helen Myers contributed to this article.

Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes
In *New International* no. 7
www.pathfinderpress.com

