

All US troops, weapons out of the Mideast!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Unable so far to bring down or to stop the reactionary regime in Iran from retaliating against the U.S. bombardment, the imperialist rulers in Washington are sending 5,000 additional Marines and sailors to the region. They are traveling on warships equipped with helicopters and landing craft, suitable for occupying parts of Iran.

Despite being badly battered by airstrikes, Tehran continues attacking ships in the Arab-Persian Gulf and launching missiles and drones — although at a rapidly declining rate as their arsenal is depleted — at military installations and oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, as well as targeting civilians in Israel.

Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is down from 3,000 a month to just a trickle. Just 21 miles at its narrowest, the strait carries some 20% of the world’s gas and oil traffic.

At least 16 vessels in the region have been struck by Iranian weapons since the war started Feb. 28. The strait “is only closed to the tankers and ships belonging to our enemies,” said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

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1965 battle in Selma helped transform US

BY TERRY EVANS

One of the high points of the struggle for Black freedom in the U.S. — the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama — took place 61 years ago in March 1965. It was a pivotal event in the Black-led proletarian movement for civil rights that would transform U.S. history, uprooting Jim Crow segregation and qualitatively strengthening the working class.

The action was led by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Martin Luther King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. When demonstrators first set out March 7 from Selma, they were viciously attacked by sheriff’s deputies and state troopers and beaten back off the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The brutality they confronted on what became known as Bloody Sunday was seen by millions on TV worldwide. Protests in solidarity with the struggle in Selma swept the U.S. Hundreds of volunteers responded to calls by march organizers to come to Selma to join the fight.

Facing another racist mobilization, some 2,000 demonstrators attempted

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US hands off Cuba! End Washington’s oil blockade



Militant/Henry Dennison

Seattle picket March 15 demands U.S. hands off Cuba! Actions against Washington’s escalating economic war on Cuba’s socialist revolution have taken place across country, around world.

NY conference to defend Cuba features Cuban ambassador

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — What is the “Cuba problem,” as the Donald Trump administration calls it, that Washington has sought to destroy for more than six decades?

“It’s the example that the Cuban Revolution represents for many in the world,” said Osmayda Hernández, a leader of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), addressing more than 200 people at the March 14-15 Action Conference for U.S.-Cuba Normalization.

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Stop US rulers’ assault on Cuba! Defend Cuba’s socialist revolution

Working people should oppose every assault by Washington on the sovereign rights of other nations, regardless of the character of their governments, from the

EDITORIAL

reactionary regime in Iran to the revolutionary government of Cuba.

The U.S. rulers’ blockade and threats against Cuba are different from their assaults anywhere else. Their decadeslong

Continued on page 10

Prison bans on ‘Militant’ escalate in Florida, help fight to overturn them!

BY JANET POST

Prison authorities at Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton, Florida, have denied an inmate there *Militant* issue no. 7. The paper received the

impoundment notice March 12, which cited the front-page article “SWP call to action: US hands off Cuba! End Washington’s economic blockade!” as the cause of the ban.

This article prints in full a statement by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the

Continued on page 10

Join drive to expand reach of the ‘Militant,’ books, Fighting Fund

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

The spring campaign to expand the reach of the *Militant*, books by Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary working-class leaders and win contributions to this year’s Militant Fighting Fund kicked off March 14 and runs through May 12. Members of the party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are discussing with fellow workers what our class can do in the face

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UFCW walks out at JBS in Colorado, first beef packinghouse strike in decades



Militant/Carole Lesnick

UFCW members on strike at JBS in Greeley, Colorado, March 18. Eisrael Mendez, with umbrella, is a trainer of new hires. “There are many injuries that can be prevented,” he said.

BY CAROLE LESNICK
AND KEVIN DWIRE

GREELEY, Colo. — Some 3,800 meatpacking workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7, went on strike at the big JBS plant here March 16. This is the first walkout at a U.S. beef slaughterhouse since 1985 when workers at Hormel in Austin, Minnesota, struck for over a year. Workers here set up mass pickets

all around the plant, winning support from workers driving by.

Workers said the conditions in the plant are terrible. “The company speeds up the chain to make us put out eight hours of meat in seven hours,” a worker named Eisrael Mendez told us. “That way workers only get seven hours pay.”

“It’s not safe in the plant, the conditions are dangerous,” Farah, a worker

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Steelworkers strike ArcelorMittal plant in Ohio

Refuse workers in the UK mark one year out on strike

Synagogues, Jews attacked in Canada as Jew-hatred spreads

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Three synagogues in the Toronto area and several Jewish-owned businesses in Montreal have been attacked by Jew-haters since the beginning of Washington’s military assault on Iran. Multiple rounds of gunfire in the middle of the night were fired at synagogues Emanu-El, Beth Avraham Yoseph and Shaarei Shomayim during the first week of March. In the case of Emanu-El, the rabbi and others were still in the synagogue at the time of the attack.

The same week Nazi swastikas were spray-painted on three neighboring businesses in Montreal. Synagogues have also been targeted in the U.S., Belgium, the Netherlands and elsewhere.

Many middle-class left forces laud the reactionary Iranian regime as “revolutionary” and blame Israel and “the Zionists” for Israel’s defensive war against Iran. Laith Marouf, the Syrian Canadian who runs pro-Hamas Free Palestine TV, predicted that “Jewish Temples, leaders and community spaces” will “come under attack around the world in the next few days.” He also says, “There is no group more hateful, vengeful and abhorrent on the face of this planet than the Jewish Supremacists Colonists in Palestine.”

Over 4,000 people rallied against Israel and the Jews outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto on Al-Quds Day March 14. This annual event began under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as part of his counterrevolutionary moves after the 1979 revolution in Iran. They are organized in Canada and internationally by a bloc of Is-

lamist fundamentalists and pro-Tehran leftists. They marched behind Iranian and Palestinian flags and banners such as “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” — free of Jews.

The goal of Al-Quds Day is to promote the destruction of Israel, which former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei called a “cancerous tumor” that “must be eliminated” as part of the “final solution,” echoing Hitler and the Nazis.

Attacks on Jews have spread since Hamas’ murderous pogrom in Israel Oct. 7, 2023, and provocative Jew-hating mobilizations worldwide organized under the pretext of protesting Israel’s supposed “genocide” in Gaza.

“Every day, Canadians are waking up to news of another shooting attack,” Noah Shack, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, said. “Multiple shootings at Toronto-area synagogues were not isolated incidents, but the latest in an escalating surge of hate, harassment and violence targeting Jewish Canadians.

“The level of security now required to protect Jewish Canadians,” he said, “is shocking.”

“These measures are necessary to ensure the safety of children going to school, families going to community centers, and people visiting their elderly parents.”

Violent attacks on Jews by Hamas supporters have become common on college campuses around the world. A Nov. 5 meeting organized by Students Supporting Israel at Toronto Metropolitan University was violently attacked by masked supporters of the pro-Hamas outfit Students for Justice



Swastikas painted on front of Kosher Pizza Gourmetti in Montreal March 4. That week, three synagogues in Toronto were hit with gunfire, Montreal businesses smeared with Nazi graffiti.

in Palestine. The meeting was called to hear two Israeli soldiers speak about defending Israel against Hamas.

Some 40 or 50 thugs forced their way into the building, smashed through a glass door screaming “Free Palestine,” and attacked Jonathan Karten, one of the Israeli soldiers, who had stepped up to try to defend meeting participants.

Attacks on Jews in Canada have more than doubled since Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom, where 1,200 Jews and others were killed and 250 hostages seized and hauled off to Gaza. Jewish schools have been shot at, physical attacks and vandalism has hit synagogues and Jewish businesses, and events featuring speakers from Israel have been attacked and shut down.

A survey of Jewish students in Canada found 84% said they had been the target of antisemitism in the past year, and 15% reported virtually daily abuse on campus just for being Jewish.

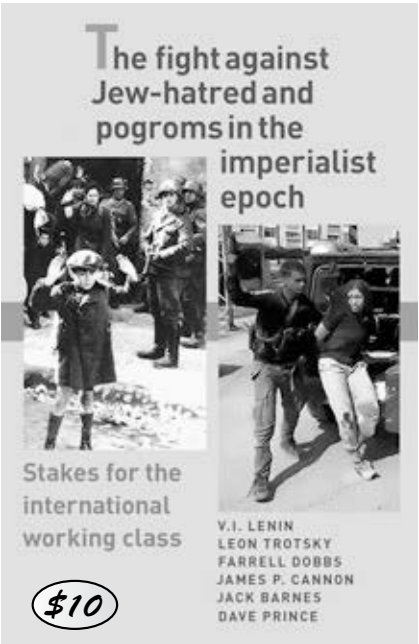
In Victoria, British Columbia, death threats against Jews were scrawled on the front door of Emanu-El synagogue in August, saying, “Palestinians will get their revenge against you child-killing Jew-monsters.”

Threats like this are being acted on. The most notorious example is the cold-blooded attack last December on a Jewish Hanukkah festival celebration at Bondi Beach in Australia by two radical Islamists, killing 15 people and wounding 40.

The Jew-hating attacks in Canada are

fueled by the campaign by Washington, Ottawa and other imperialist powers to impose an end to Israel’s unfinished battle to destroy Hamas. Carrying out this battle to the end is the only way to lift the threat of new, more deadly pogroms.

“These new attacks on synagogues and businesses, and hundreds like them around the world, pose a deadly threat not only to Jews, but to the entire working class,” Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in next October’s Quebec elections, tells workers he meets as he campaigns. “It’s essential that working people and our unions fight against all acts of Jew-hatred.”



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THE MILITANT

March 8 protest for women’s rights in Ukraine

Three thousand women in Kyiv protested against a government proposal that would set back women’s rights. They demanded better protections for the 75,000 women in Ukraine’s armed forces and the return of Ukrainian women prisoners held under harsh conditions in Russia.



The Women’s March International Women’s Day, Kyiv, March 8.

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Refuse workers in the UK mark one year out on strike

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN
BIRMINGHAM, England — “Stand up, fight back!” striking bin workers chanted outside the Atlas refuse depot here to mark one year on the picket line. Members of Unite the Union walked out March 11, 2025, after Birmingham City Council cut their wages by up to 8,000 pounds (\$10,590) a year — equivalent to a quarter of their pay — through lowering job grades and eliminating a safety-critical role.

The attack was one of a series of measures taken by the Labour Party-controlled council to make workers pay for the city’s budget crisis and debt burden. They’ve also cut special education needs and closed libraries.

Backed to the hilt by the Labour government in London, the council broke off talks with the union last July, sent in police against strikers and got injunctions against pickets.

“They’re not backing off,” striker Matt Reid told the *Militant*. “Twenty vehicles provided by Tom White Waste in Coventry are coming daily to collect rubbish to supplement work done by agency workers in Birmingham.” That’s a wholly owned subsidiary of the Labour-controlled City Council in nearby Coventry, set up to break a refuse workers strike there in 2022.

“The council has spent millions of pounds on such moves. It shows that what’s really at stake is their attempt

to break the union. But over the 12 months, we’ve got stronger,” Reid said. He pointed out that the vote in the most recent ballot strikers are obliged to take for legal protection was 100% in favor of staying out. “In addition to the 260 striking workers employed by the council, 52 agency workers there have joined the strike.”

“No way are we going to be rolled over,” said Mike Masters, a shop steward at the Perry Barr depot. He pointed to the support the strikers have received from workers across the country, who’ve invited them to speak at meetings, joined their picket lines and protests and contributed to their strike fund. “A year out on our strike and you learn how important such solidarity is.”

“We’re outraged, we’re angry,” striking Perry Barr depot worker Penny Robbins said, “but we’re not just fighting for ourselves but for all workers.”

“Councils across the U.K. are all looking at this dispute,” co-worker Paul Jackson said. “If Birmingham Council gets its way, thousands of other workers will be in the firing line.” Councils across the country are facing 4 billion pounds of debt. A quarter of all local authorities are on the verge of bankruptcy, and eight went bankrupt between 2018 and 2023. Other major cities facing crisis include Leicester, Sheffield, Nottingham, Liverpool and Leeds.

Unite has announced that it’s cutting funding to the Labour Party by 40%, and consulting union members over ending its affiliation with Labour.

Steelworkers strike ArcelorMittal plant in Ohio



Richland Source/Hannah Martin

SHELBY, Ohio — Some 450 United Steelworkers members at the ArcelorMittal Tubular Products plant here have been on strike since Jan. 13 fighting demands by the company to limit health care for workers’ spouses and change their work schedule in ways that would disrupt their lives.

Striking steelworkers and their supporters marched from the union hall through the town to the plant March 13 where they held a rally.

Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, spoke at the rally. “As a third-generation steelworker, I can assure you the Ohio AFL-CIO has your back.

“Who are the ones who make this place go?” Burga asked the strikers. “We do!” they shouted back. “We are the ones that create the wealth,” Burga responded. ArcelorMittal, the second largest steel company worldwide, reported a net profit of \$2.33 billion in 2024.

“We had 70 to 80 people turn out yesterday in a tremendous show of solidarity,” USW Local 3057 member Josh Sengstock told the *Militant* the next day. He is a picket captain and a grievance representative on the job. “We already work seven days a week, eight hours a day,” Sengstock said. “But the company is demanding a 12-hour workday with no guarantee of how many days we would have to work.” The bosses are also insisting on starting overtime pay after 40 hours a week, instead of after eight hours a day.

“Spouses would be required to accept whatever their employers offer as their primary insurance,” Sengstock said.

Messages of solidarity and donations can be sent to USW Local 3057, P.O. Box 6, Shelby, OH 44875 or sent to uswlocal3057shelby@gmail.com.

— BETSY FARLEY



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First packinghouse strike in decades at JBS in Colorado

Continued from front page
from Ethiopia with seven years at JBS, told the *Militant*. “They care for beef, but not the people. They don’t respect us.”

The plant slaughters 5,000 to 6,000 head of cattle a day, 6% to 8% of the entire beef production in the U.S.

This labor battle deserves solidarity from workers everywhere!

Strikers on first shift told the *Militant* they meet every day at Island Grove Regional Park at 5 a.m., then go together to picket at the plant. “There are two shifts of pickets each day,” Ramon Zuniga, Local 7 secretary treasurer, said.

During the workweek leading up to the strike deadline, bosses in the

plant stopped the line to have workers brought to meetings to try and browbeat them from joining the strike, the union reported in flyers. UFCW stewards were barred from participating.

The majority of workers in the plant are immigrants. The union flyers were printed in English, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Burmese (for workers from Myanmar) and Somali.

Then many individual workers were called into one-on-one meetings with supervisors, who told them they would be disciplined, possibly fired, if they missed any time by going on strike.

The workers aren’t the only targets of the JBS bosses. “Make no mistake, JBS chose this strike in an effort to lower worker wages nationwide,” Local 7 President Kim Cordova said in a statement to the press when the strike started. “Just as the company has squeezed entire communities of ranchers across the country.”

The company has a long history of exploitation of its workers. The Department of Labor ruled last year that JBS relied for years on migrant children to work there.

Children as young as 13 were hired through an outside sanitation outfit to staff the overnight cleaning shift, including cleaning dangerous powered equipment.

The company agreed to pay \$4 million for what they did.

A spokesperson for the company told the Denver Gazette they’re standing by their contract offer, describing it as “fair.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 26, 2001

NEW YORK — Some 270 people gathered here to celebrate the 40th anniversary of U.S. imperialism’s first military defeat in the Americas: the victory of the Cuban people in crushing a U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary invasion at the Bay of Pigs and defending their socialist revolution.

The meeting celebrated the publication of Pathfinder’s newest book, *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington’s first military defeat in the Americas*. Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary and author of the foreword, noted that in Cuba, 1961 was the Year of Education.

Many people are impressed with the fearlessness of the Cuban toilers in the face of death, he said, but what is different about those who were transforming themselves was their attitude toward life. The conquests workers and farmers made with the literacy campaign and other steps to broaden culture were at the heart of what the Cuban people defended at the Bay of Pigs, Barnes said.



March 26, 1976

OVEN FORK, Ky. — The greed of the coal profiteers has claimed the lives of twenty-six men from this cluster of small communities in southeastern Kentucky.

On March 9, one day after a federal inspector cited the company for three explosion-related safety violations, a blast killed fifteen miners. Two days later, a team of miners accompanying federal inspectors met a similar fate. Eight miners and three inspectors died. It is the worst mine disaster in the U.S. since a 1970 explosion killed thirty-eight men.

Company and federal officials refused to speculate about what caused either explosion. The miners and their families already know: “I’ll tell you what’s happened,” one miner said. “This bunch sent my brother into a hot mine and got him killed. They knew this mine was hot. They knew it before it blew out, and they knew it would blow again.”



March 26, 1951

Delegates to the 13th annual CIO United Auto Workers convention in Cleveland meet at a time of political crisis for the American labor movement.

The major question before the convention is how to protect the living standards, working conditions and organizations of labor against the Big Business politics of the Truman administration.

The main problems are political. First, the economic position of labor can no longer be protected by pure and simple trade union methods. This fight can only be fought on the political plane.

Labor does not have a single genuine spokesman in Congress. The unions have no independent political voice.

The burning need is the formation of an independent labor party, which can mobilize the potentially gigantic political strength of the working people.

As the UAW delegates gather, all labor listens: it is time to speak out boldly for a new program!

1965 Selma battle helped change US

Continued from front page
to march again two days later. They turned back rather than face a second assault.

President Lyndon Baines Johnson, a long-standing supporter of racial segregation, refused to step in to defend the right to protest. But the outcry across the country forced him to reverse course. He addressed a joint session of Congress March 15 announcing he was going to introduce a bill “guaranteeing the right to vote” for all.

Johnson ordered the Alabama National Guard to protect a third attempt to cross the bridge March 21. It reached Montgomery March 25 and had grown from a few thousand to 25,000-strong.

The Voting Rights Act was signed Aug. 6.

U.S. politics changed forever

The march and what it helped to accomplish was just one part of the civil rights movement that had erupted nine years earlier with the Mont-

olent assaults by white supremacists, who were backed up by cops, courts and governments at all levels.

SNCC was formed out of desegregation battles in Tennessee and North Carolina. In 1963 the nationwide organization sent members to scout out Selma for a voter registration drive. But “the white folks are too mean and the Black folks are too afraid,” the SNCC scouting team reported, and the city was pushed off its list of targets.

Nonetheless, Bernard LaFayette convinced SNCC leader James Foreman to let him and his wife take on the task. He was under no illusions about what he would be up against. The Dallas County White Citizens’ Council, the founding chapter of the white-supremacist movement, had advertised in June in the local *Times Journal* for volunteers “to prevent sit-ins, mob marches and wholesale Negro voter registration efforts in Selma.”

LaFayette and his wife Colia “went to Selma to make a frontal attack on one of the most vicious and oppres-



AP Photo

Malcolm X addresses mass meeting in Selma, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965, organized to build fight for right to vote. He spoke alongside Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and Coretta Scott King.

LaFayette describes being assaulted by thugs, arrested on frame-up “vagrancy” charges and other attacks. Workers attending meetings organized by SNCC and the Dallas County Voters League would be fired from their jobs the next day. Businesses supporting the voter registration drive were subject to boycotts.

But the civil rights fighters were making progress in building a serious campaign. Within weeks they were holding mass meetings in churches in the Black community to discuss what was next. The first one was held June 17, drawing over 700 people. The next day LaFayette wrote to Foreman, “You could see the new hope and smiles.”

The next meeting drew over 500, “more enthusiastic” yet, LaFayette wrote. By February 1965, 3,400 Black residents had been arrested in Selma for marching to the County Building demanding to sign up to vote.

Malcolm X joins in

“Those people down there aren’t afraid,” Malcolm X told a meeting in New York Feb. 15, 1965, after returning from speaking in Tuskegee and in Selma.

He had gone to Selma to ask to speak at one of the mass meetings there Feb. 4, saying he wanted to show his support for the fight they were waging. LaFayette and other SNCC leaders were for

it, while Southern Christian Leadership Conference members there weren’t sure. Coretta Scott King said why not, LaFayette says in his book, *In Peace and Freedom: My Journey in Selma*.

The speakers that afternoon were Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth from Birmingham, Malcolm X and Coretta Scott King. Malcolm X “spoke powerfully,” LaFayette wrote. He said Malcolm pointed to the press as he started to speak, “You had better listen to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or you’ll have to listen to me. Dr. King wants the same thing I want — Freedom.”

LaFayette said word about Malcolm’s speech had spread throughout the Black community in Selma the next day, electrifying people. It helped steel people for the struggles to come. Malcolm X was assassinated Feb. 21 and didn’t live to see the Selma to Montgomery march.

One of the youngest participants on the historic Selma-Montgomery march was 15-year-old Lynda Blackmon Lowery from Selma. She worked with LaFayette and already had been jailed nine times at previous protests.

“If you are determined you can overcome your fears. And then, you can change the world,” Lowery told interviewers at the Library of Congress in 2015.

Bernard LaFayette died March 5 at age 85. A generation of fighters is passing away. Lowery died Dec. 24 at her home in Selma.



Library of Congress

March in Harlem of 15,000 in solidarity with civil rights marchers in Selma, Alabama. The bloody attack in Selma, March 7, 1965, seen by millions on TV, sparked protests across the U.S.

gomery bus boycott. For more than a year, some 40,000 Black bus riders boycotted the city’s buses until they were desegregated. Solidarity from unions and working people around the country ensured vehicles were available for carpooling so workers could get to work.

In the years that followed, freedom rides to desegregate interstate transport, sit-ins at lunch counters at Woolworths and much more were organized, along with growing efforts to register Blacks to vote. Each faced vi-

sive places in the Deep South,” Foreman wrote in *The Making of Black Revolutionaries*.

LaFayette wrote that when he got to Selma “there was just a small handful of Black registered voters in Dallas County” and “I’m proud to say that more than nine thousand were registered when I left.”

To get a picture of the fight LaFayette and SNCC waged in Selma, Foreman reprints the reports LaFayette sent to him on their work for the month of June 1963.

For further reading



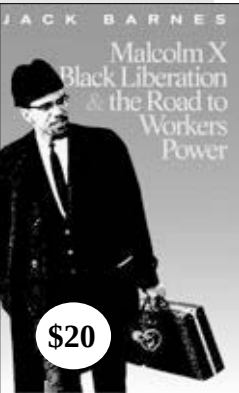
February 1965: Malcolm X: The Final Speeches

Malcolm X brings a revolutionary internationalist outlook to young civil rights protesters in Selma, Alabama and speaks out against U.S. military intervention in Africa, Vietnam.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Jack Barnes

“The revolutionary conquest of state power will provide working people with the mightiest weapon to wage the battle to end Black oppression and every form of exploitation and human degradation.”

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A celebration of the life and political contributions of Dave Prince: six decades of building the Socialist Workers Party



Speakers:

Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party
Norton Sandler, Los Angeles SWP
Lea Sherman, Northern New Jersey SWP
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Holly Harkness, Pathfinder Distribution Center
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Join ‘Militant,’ books, fund drive

Continued from front page
of the increasing capitalist rivalry and march toward another world war.

The campaign will go side by side with introducing workers and youth to SWP candidates for office, as well as efforts to win ballot status in California, Minnesota and New Jersey.

Communist League members Katy LeRougetel and Lynda Little knocked on the door of Ramina Kamani and Meysam Majdi, two Iranians living in Montreal, March 14. Kamani and Majdi said they supported President Donald Trump’s war on Iran, hoping it would end the repression facing the Iranian people and lead to the fall of the regime.

Little explained why the Communist League opposes the war and calls for the U.S. imperialists to get their forces out of the Middle East. “Washington’s aim is to advance the interests of the U.S. ruling class,” she said, “not to aid Iranian working people.”

Right of Israel to defend itself

Kamani and Majdi said they supported Israel’s right to defend itself. “In elementary school, they forced us to go into the streets to shout ‘Death to America, death to Israel.’ They painted Israeli and American flags on the ground at school so we would walk on them,” Kamani said. “We were children and we didn’t understand.”

Little agreed. The Communist League supports Israel’s war to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews.

Kamani signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*, saying she’d like to meet again over coffee to continue the discussion.

In Minneapolis, Socialist Workers Party member Joanne Murphy spoke with Elijah Jackson, a retired press operator and member of the Teamsters union, while campaigning for Kevin Dwire, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Minnesota, March 14. When Jackson saw the *Militant* headline “Get all U.S. bombers, troops, warships out of the Mideast!” he said, “We got into this mess and have to get out. We need peace on earth!”

Murphy said that there isn’t a “we” but a “them.” It’s the U.S. ruling class, not workers, that are pushing more wars. She contrasted Washington’s wars for domination and plunder with Cuba’s working-class internationalism, pointing to the hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers who joined battles to help liberate African nations from colonial rule.

Jackson bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. The book contains Malcolm’s speeches where, over time, he speaks more and more directly about the capitalist roots of racism, exploitation and oppression.

“Young people need to read more books like this,” Jackson said.

In Birmingham, England, Mike Masters, a Unite shop steward at the Perry Barr refuse depot, met Communist League campaigners at a

March 11 demonstration to mark one year of their strike.

“I was brought up as a union fighter in the spirit of solidarity,” Masters said. “My parents worked at the Longbridge car plant and told me that during the 1972 coal miners strike, thousands of Birmingham car workers and others in the city walked out to join the picketing. They forced the closure of the Saltley coke depot — a major step in the strike’s victory.

Support for Cuban Revolution

“I began to get interested in broader politics and history,” he said. “I spent six weeks in Cuba in 2005 and learned about the Cuban Revolution and the people who made it.” Masters got a subscription to the *Militant* and bought a copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke.

Outside Farmer Joe’s Marketplace in Oakland, California, Joann Yoshioka, a strong supporter of immigrant rights, signed the petition to get Margaret Trowe, the SWP candidate for governor, on the ballot Feb. 28. “Declaring a city a sanctuary for immigrants is not going to stop raids and deportations,” SWP member Betsey Stone told her. “What we need is a fight for amnesty for workers without papers.”

“More has to be done,” Yoshioka agreed. “‘Sanctuary City’ is a joke.”

She explained that her family members were among the Japanese interned in concentration camps by Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration during World War II. Yoshioka purchased *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, two books on the Cuban Revolution and a subscription to the *Militant*.

U.S. out of the Middle East

While campaigning March 9 for the Socialist Workers Party at a Walmart parking lot in Forest Park, outside Chicago, SWP member Dan Fein spoke with Alexander Rodriguez, a painter. “I agree with the headline of the *Militant*, ‘US out of the Middle East!’” Rodriguez said.

“The U.S. aims to establish its Pax Americana there, its political and economic domination,” Fein said.

“The war is about oil,” Rodriguez said. “The workers are the ones that get killed in the bosses’ wars.”

After Rodriguez filled out a subscription form for the *Militant*, Fein introduced him to Naomi Craine, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Rodriguez said he was glad to meet her and told Craine he participated in nearby weekly demonstrations against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The first chart, with quotas adopted by local areas for subscriptions, books and the Militant Fighting Fund will appear in next week’s issue.

To join in campaigning for the SWP candidates and to help get the *Militant* around, contact the area nearest you on page 7.

Support fight by Haitians for TPS protection!



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein

WASHINGTON — At a press conference and rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building here March 17, Faith in Action Executive Director Bishop Dwayne Royster, above, called for the court to uphold Temporary Protected Status for some 350,000 Haitians. Haitian community activists, religious leaders, Socialist Workers Party members and others joined the action.

Since the Donald Trump administration asked for an expedited ruling, the Supreme Court announced it will hear arguments over the removal of protected status in April. The Justice Department called for a ruling, even though two federal courts — in New York and Washington, D.C. — have ruled the TPS program for Haitians and Syrians in the U.S. should be continued. Hanging in the balance are the lives and status of 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians.

The Justice Department argues that the executive branch has the sole authority to decide the status of TPS programs. In an earlier ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the government’s cancellation of TPS protection for some 600,000 Venezuelans in the U.S.

“It’s a question of life and death because Haiti is not safe for people,” said Viles Dorsainvil, executive director for the Haitian Community Support Center who came from Springfield, Ohio. “My goal coming here is to send a message that human dignity should be upheld.”

Dorsainvil had spoken at a rally in Springfield of 75 March 16, introducing the contingent going to the Washington rally. There are some 15,000 Haitians there, a quarter of the city’s population.

If Haitians lose their legal status they could be forced to leave the U.S. They will face a brutal reality in Haiti. The country is in a long-standing crisis, with no effective government. Half the population goes without enough to eat every day, more than 1.4 million have been displaced by armed gangs, and kidnappings, rapes and killings are rampant. Here in the U.S., tens of thousands of families will be broken up.

The administration is pressing to end TPS protection for tens of thousands of others in the U.S., including immigrants from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Yemen, South Sudan and nine other countries.

— ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

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NY conference defends Cuba

Continued from front page

It's Cuba's "example of solidarity and internationalism in face of a destructive capitalist system that represents the opposite," she said. "The fact that we continue to withstand the attempts to strangle us, that we don't give in, is something the imperialists cannot comprehend."

The conference was a rare opportunity to hear speakers from Cuba in person. The visiting delegation included Hernández, a member of the FMC's national secretariat; Maybel González, regional coordinator of the Women's International Democratic Federation; and Alexis Ginarte and Yamila González Ferrer, president and vice president of the National Union of Cuban Jurists. They were joined by Ernesto Soberón and Yuri Gala López, Cuba's ambassador and deputy ambassador to the United Nations.

The Cuban delegation was in New York to participate in the 70th annual meeting of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

Openings to tell truth about Cuba

The conference took place in the wake of the U.S. government's Jan. 3 military assault on Venezuela and kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, followed by its imposition of a total oil blockade on Cuba. The Trump administration has escalated its threats, declaring its aim is to "take Cuba."

In response, over the past two months opponents of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba have held protests, small but visible, in numerous U.S. and Canadian cities. They are finding that, with Cuba now prominently in the news and many people asking why Washington is so hostile toward it, there are greater openings today to tell the truth about the Cuban Revolution.

The Action Conference was sponsored by a range of Cuba solidarity groups in the U.S. and Canada. Most participants were from New York and New Jersey, and others came from Seattle, Los Angeles, Chicago, Vancouver and other cities, or watched online.

"The objective of the criminal policy of the United States is to exacerbate the suffering of a people subjected to an inhumane blockade and to force a social uprising that would fulfill the longstanding desire to destroy the revolution," said Ambassador Soberón at the opening conference session.

The Cuban government, he said, has always been willing "to engage in serious, responsible dialogue with the U.S. government, based on sovereign equality, mutual benefit, noninterference in internal affairs, and absolute respect for the independence and sovereignty of states."

Impact of U.S. economic blockade

At a conference workshop on women's health care in Cuba, Maybel González noted that Cuba's socialist revolution

has made possible enormous advances in the fight for women's equality and the integration of women into all aspects of social, economic and political life.

At the same time, she said, the impact of the U.S. economic blockade — which makes it extremely difficult for Cuba to import needed fuel, food, medicine and equipment — falls disproportionately on women and children. Survival rates for childhood cancer and kidney disease are down. Without power and equipment it's difficult to do ultrasounds for pregnant women. Without gas, ambulances aren't available.

Yamila González noted that the frequent blackouts caused by the oil blockade disrupt everything from cooking and refrigerating food to access to drinking water. In some areas, she said, people are cooking with charcoal.

In face of these conditions, "Cuba is not standing with arms crossed," Hernández said at the opening session. "We are taking steps to prioritize essential services and accelerating projects for sustainable, renewable energy." That includes connecting solar panels in social centers for the elderly in cities as well as in isolated rural homes, installing solar-powered water pumps to irrigate crops, and using wind and hydroelectric power.

Activities projected

Other conference workshops focused on different ways to defend Cuba's sovereignty, from organizing solidarity trips to Cuba to collecting material aid.

Bob Schwartz, the executive director of Global Health Partners, reported they have helped organize campaigns providing millions of syringes, sending 60,000 surgical sutures and raising money to send pace-makers to the island.

Protests in Montreal, Seattle hit US oil blockade of Cuba

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — "As a labor union, we must support the Cuban people," said Chantal Ide, general secretary of the Montreal Metropolitan Council of the National Trade Unions Confederation (CSN), at a conference to support Cuba at the union's offices here March 13. Some 45 people participated.

Organized with the support of the Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable, the meeting protested the devastating oil embargo imposed on Cuba by Washington since the beginning of the year and its escalating threats against Cuba's socialist revolution.

In her remarks, Ide was particularly critical of the Canadian government, which "has only weakly condemned the new U.S. sanctions against Cuba." She pointed out that at the same time unions are under attack in Quebec, pointing to a series of anti-union and anti-working-class laws passed by the provincial government. "We must build connections between these two struggles."

Colette Lavergne, spokesperson for the Roundtable, described the solidarity campaigns with Cuba the organization has led since its founding in 2002. She invited conference participants to join their efforts to send medical aid to Cuba.

Jennie-Laure Sully of Solidarity Quebec-Haiti highlighted the importance of the medical aid Cuba provides to the Haitian people, and reported her organization had raised 7,000 Canadian dollars (\$5,100) to send generators to Cuba



Cuba's Ministry for Foreign Relations

"The Cuban Revolution represents an example for many in the world," Osmayda Hernández, leader of the Federation of Cuban Women, told participants at the March 14-15 conference.

Today, he said, the group is funding a project to provide equipment and diagnostic tests for two maternity hospitals in Havana that treat complicated neonatal and maternal cases, and to strengthen maternal care at local clinics.

The final conference session discussed an "action program" for 2026 to win broader support to the fight to end the U.S. blockade against Cuba. It projected stepping up a range of activities that local groups across North America have been carrying out. These include street protests against the U.S. economic blockade on Cuba; campaigns to send material aid to Cuba; lobbying efforts in the U.S. Congress; and organizing brigades and other solidarity trips to the island.

One projected theme of this work is to counter Washington's lies about the Cuban medical brigades that have provided health care to hundreds of thousands around the world. The U.S. government, which falsely claims these medical volunteers are "slaves," has been pressur-

ing many governments, especially in Central America and the Caribbean, to end their medical cooperation agreements with Cuba.

The conference included a Saturday evening program to celebrate the centennial year of Fidel Castro's birth. The featured speakers were Yuri Gala and Maybel González. Gala highlighted Castro's leadership role in the Cuban revolution's long record of internationalist solidarity. "We sent 380,000 volunteers to Africa to help defeat the South African apartheid regime and other colonial empires," he said. "Fidel always taught us that internationalism means paying our debt to humanity."

Addressing Washington's attacks on Cuba today, Gala said, "The U.S. blockade is imposing on us a high level of austerity. But it's also generating a high level of creativity. The Cuban people have shown their willingness to defend our sovereignty. And we will continue to defend it."

in response to the current energy crisis.

Susana Malmierca Benitez, Cuba's consul general in Montreal, described the impact of the oil blockade on life in Cuba. Many schools are being taught remotely, surgeries have been disrupted, transportation has been significantly affected and productivity is declining.

She confirmed that discussions were underway between the Cuban and U.S. governments. "Our government is transparent. Our principles will never be compromised," she said.

Andres Fontecilla, a member of the Quebec Solidaire party in the Quebec National Assembly, emphasized the "absolute necessity of solidarity with Cuba." Alexandre Boulerice, a member of the New Democratic Party in the federal Parliament in Ottawa, sent a video message of solidarity with the Cuban people.

Returning from a three-week solidarity trip to Havana as part of a reporting team for the *Militant*, Katy LeRougetel described the spirit of resistance and struggle among the Cuban working people she met. She also invited conference participants to join a leafleting effort to get out the truth about Cuba organized by the Quebec-Cuba Roundtable March 16 at a busy Montreal metro station.



SEATTLE — Over 25 people rallied outside the busy Pike Place Market here March 15 demanding an end to the U.S. oil blockade against Cuba.

Sponsored by the Seattle Cuba Friendship Committee, protesters from the Democratic Socialists of America, Socialist Workers Party, Workers World Party and others got a positive response from people there.

"We have a lot to learn from the Cuban Revolution," Jennifer Villanueva, representing the DSA in Seattle, told this *Militant* correspondent before the rally. "My hope is for people to have an open heart and an open mind, especially when we're struggling in our own country, to know that there are solutions."

Villanueva also spoke at the rally, explaining, "My father-in-law is 95 years old and lives in Havana. He has asthma and only has to walk a short distance to his doctor where the treatment is free."

Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 9th District, read an excerpt from a statement by the National Nurses United calling on the administration and Congress to end the blockade and allow full delivery of oil resources and aid to Cuba.

"Depriving the Cuban people of essential resources needed to sustain life and health is an unconscionable violation of human rights," NNU President Mary Turner said Feb. 27. "As nurses, we will not be silent when our nation's policies cause immense suffering for any people, whether at home or abroad."

"It is long past time for a complete reversal in the regime-change policies of the U.S. in Cuba," Perasso quoted

Continued on page 9

Hit the streets for Cuba!

Saturday, March 21

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Thomas Sankara: 'We are the heirs of the world's revolutions'

Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87 is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March*. In one of the poorest countries in the world, Sankara led an uprising in Upper Volta, a former French colony, in 1983, bringing to power a popular revolutionary government that organized workers, peasants, women and youth to take their destiny into their own hands. Assassinated in a counterrevolutionary coup in 1987, Sankara was an outstanding communist who stood on the shoulders of Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. His speech, "Freedom must be conquered," at the United Nations General Assembly on Oct. 4, 1984, is excerpted below. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

I come here, finally, mandated by the National Council of the Revolution of Burkina Faso, to express the views of my people concerning the problems on the agenda — consisting of the tragic web of events that are painfully cracking the foundations of our world at the end of the twentieth century. A world in which humanity has been transformed into a circus, torn apart by struggles between the great and the semi-great, attacked by armed bands, and subjected to violence and pillage. A world in



UN Photo/Milton Grant

Thomas Sankara, leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, speaks to the press after addressing the U.N. "on behalf of the 'great disinherited people of the world,'" Oct. 4, 1984.

which nations, eluding international law, command groups of outlaws who, guns in hand, live by plunder and organize sordid trafficking.

Mr. President:

I make no claim to lay out any doctrines here. I am neither a messiah nor a prophet. I possess no truths. My only aspiration is twofold: first, to be able to speak on behalf of my people, the people of Burkina Faso, in simple words, words that are clear and factual. And second, in my own way to also speak on behalf of the "great disinherited people of the world," those who belong to the world so ironically christened the Third World. And to state, though I may not succeed in making them understood, the reasons for our revolt. ...

No one will be surprised to see us associate the former Upper Volta, today Burkina Faso, with that hodgepodge held in such contempt — the Third World — invented by the other worlds as many countries became formally independent in order to better ensure our intellectual, cultural, economic, and political alienation.

We want to place ourselves within this world. ... [W]e want to assert our awareness of belonging to a tricontinental whole and, with the force of deeply felt convictions, acknowledge, as a Nonaligned country, that there is a special relationship of solidarity uniting the three continents of Asia, Latin America, and Africa in a single strug-

gle against the same political traffickers, the same economic exploiters.

Therefore, recognizing that we are part of the Third World means, to paraphrase José Martí, "asserting that our cheek feels the blow struck against any man in the world." Up to now we have turned the other cheek. The blows increased. But the wicked-hearted were not moved. They trampled the truth of the righteous. The word of Christ was betrayed. ... They Westernized it, whereas we had understood it as one of universal liberation. Then our eyes opened to the class struggle. There will be no more blows. ...

This is what we glimpsed — we, the Burkinabè people — during the evening of August 4, 1983, when the first stars began to sparkle in the skies of our homeland. We had to take the leadership of the peasant revolts, signs of which were visible in a countryside that is panic-stricken by the advancing desert, exhausted by hunger and thirst, and abandoned. We had to give meaning to the brewing revolt of the idle urban masses, frustrated and weary of seeing limousines driving the elites around, elites that were out of touch, succeeding one another at the helm of state while offering the urban masses nothing but false solutions elaborated and conceived by the minds of others. We had to give an ideological soul to the just struggles of our popular masses as they mobilized against the monster of imperialism. The

passing revolt, the simple brushfire, had to be replaced forever with the revolution, the permanent struggle against all forms of domination.

Others have explained before me, and others will explain after me, the extent to which the chasm has widened between the affluent peoples and those who aspire only to eat their fill, quench their thirst, survive, and preserve their dignity. But no one can imagine to what extent "the poor man's grain" in our countries "has fattened the rich man's cow"! ...

We chose to risk new paths to achieve greater well-being. We chose to apply new techniques. We chose to look for forms of organization better suited to our civilization, flatly and definitively rejecting all forms of outside diktats, in order to lay the foundations for achieving a level of dignity equal to our ambitions. Refusing to accept a state of survival, easing the pressures, liberating our countryside from medieval stagnation or even regression, democratizing our society, opening minds to a world of collective responsibility in order to dare to invent the future. Shattering the administrative apparatus, then rebuilding it with a new kind of government employee, immersing our army in the people through productive labor and reminding it constantly that without patriotic political education, a soldier is only a potential criminal. Such is our political program. ...

Our revolution in Burkina Faso embraces the misfortunes of all peoples. It also draws inspiration from all of man's experiences since his first breath. We wish to be the heirs of all the world's revolutions and all the liberation struggles of the peoples of the Third World. Our eyes are on the profound upheavals that have transformed the world. We draw the lessons of the American Revolution, the lessons of its victory over colonial domination and the consequences of that victory. ...

The French Revolution of 1789, which overturned the foundations of absolutism, taught us the connection between the rights of man and the rights of peoples to liberty. The great revolution of October 1917 [in Russia] transformed the world, brought victory to the proletariat, shook the foundations of capitalism, and made possible the Paris Commune's dreams of justice.

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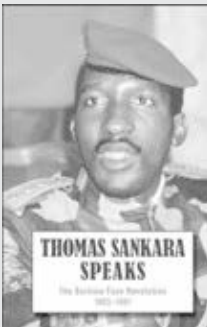
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March
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Moscow bombs Ukraine miners, uses its troops as cannon fodder

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Ukrainian working people are determined to continue fighting to defend their country’s sovereignty, despite Moscow’s airstrikes causing blackouts in cities across Ukraine during the depths of winter.

Four years after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his war of conquest, Moscow is unleashing drone attacks to target miners and their union in eastern Ukraine. The office of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine in the Dnipropetrovsk region was hit by a drone March 10. A unionist who appeared in the window was targeted and injured.

The same day a bus was attacked after it had just dropped off a group of coal miners to start their shift. This followed a “double tap” drone strike — designed to maximize casualties — by Moscow’s troops on a bus in the same region Feb. 1. It killed 12 and injured 16, both miners and rescue workers.

After devastating airstrikes on mining towns in the Donetsk region, Putin’s forces “are targeting the mining outskirts of Pavlohrad in the Dnipropetrovsk region,” Mykhailo Volynets, chairperson of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, told the union magazine. This coal mine complex is the largest in the country.

Miners’ work is constantly interrupted by airstrikes and shelling, Volynets noted. Power disruptions cause dangerous gas accumulations and flooding of some mines. His union is seeking extra compensation from the mine bosses for the risks union members face “not only at their workplaces but also during transportation to and from their shifts.”

Russia casualties exceed recruitment

Despite Putin’s bluster, Moscow is facing mounting difficulties against both Ukrainian resistance and the growing sentiment across Russia against his war including among workers in uniform. Heavy losses suffered by Moscow’s forces from its “human wave” assaults on Ukrainian front lines have exceeded the number of new recruits who have signed up in the last three months.

The actual number of Russian casualties — deaths and severe injuries — is estimated to be over 1.2 million, “more than any major power in any war since World War II,” says the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

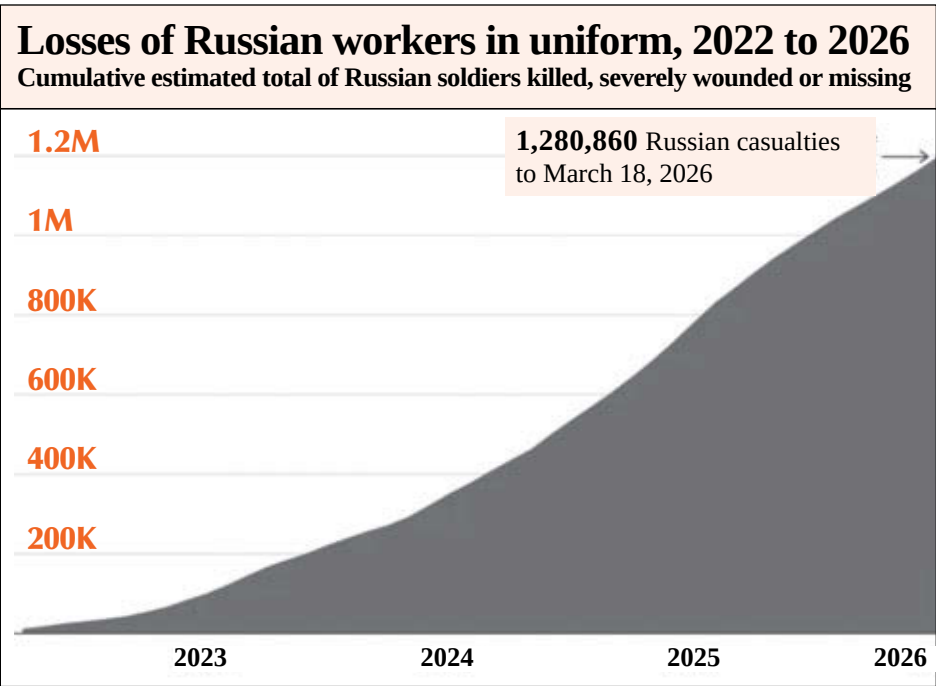
The names of over 200,000 Russian soldiers killed in battle or dying later from combat injuries were confirmed Feb. 24 in a joint study by the research group Mediazona, the BBC Russian Service and others.

The death toll reflects “stark social stratification,” with the largest, wealthiest cities mostly untouched, the report says. Casualties fall disproportionately on the poorest regions of the Russian Federation, with high numbers of volunteer recruits coming from southern Siberian territories near Mongolia or China. Bashkortostan, the predominantly Muslim region in the southern Ural Mountains, is the territory with the greatest losses.

Moscow “relies heavily on men from these economically depressed areas, where the financial incentives of military contracts offer a rare, if potentially fatal, lifeline,” the report concludes.

The Kremlin has also recruited tens of thousands out of its jails. If they join the military, convicts can have their criminal records expunged. Others facing criminal charges can have them dropped if they enlist. As a result, Russia’s prison population has plummeted by 70% to just over 300,000, a historic low.

More Russian soldiers are finding ways to surrender. Calls intercepted by Ukrainian military intelligence show collapsing morale in the ranks of the Russian army. With minimal training, Moscow’s soldiers are pushed into so-called meat assaults facing near-certain death or maiming. Some refuse to respond to radio commands to join these



Toll on workers, oppressed nationalities in uniform in Russian army since all-out invasion by Moscow began Feb. 24, 2022. Casualties now regularly outstrip recruitment efforts.

attacks, to try to avoid getting killed. Profanity-laden tirades by Russian commanders reveal their utter contempt for the troops. In one, a Russian officer reports to his superior that his soldiers are leaving forward positions where they are pinned down. The chief screams that he will brand the entire group as deserters.

‘I Want to Live’ hotline

The battlefield in Ukraine has become dominated by drone warfare. Kyiv is now using unmanned aerial vehicles and even ground robots to encourage Russian soldiers to surrender. A March 11 video shows Russian soldiers who survived a drone attack surrendering after being confronted by another

drone with a camera and loudspeaker. Its operator broadcast instructions for the soldiers to raise their hands and follow. Four soldiers trail the drone until Ukrainian forces arrive to take them into custody.

Ukraine’s minister of digital transformation, Mykhailo Fedorov, said drone units have induced more than 100 Russian soldiers to surrender during the winter months alone.

“I Want to Live” is Ukraine’s surrender hotline, helping Russian soldiers make contact and surrender safely.

Workers in uniform in the Russian army are the most important potential allies of Ukraine’s fight to prevent Putin’s bloody attempt to conquer the country.

Beijing moves to impose ‘Chinese culture’ on all peoples

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

China’s National People’s Congress, a rubber-stamp for President Xi Jinping, passed sweeping legislation March 12 that further attacks the rights of tens of millions of the country’s residents. It mandates Mandarin as the primary language in schools and official communications and imposes strictures on the use of other languages in China.

Under the new law authorities will guide citizens to have “correct views” on history, culture and religion, and reject “outdated customs.” It requires parents to “educate and guide children to love the Chinese Communist Party.”

Taking effect July 1, the order codifies Xi’s long-running ambition to force the assimilation of the country’s 56 officially recognized ethnic minorities that make up 8.9% of the population — some 124 million people. Together, China’s ethnic minorities are concentrated in regions that cover roughly half of the country’s land area, much of it rich in natural resources.

Han Chinese, most of whom speak Mandarin, make up more than 90% of the country’s 1.4 billion people.

The passage of the law comes in the wake of Beijing’s inability to reverse a yearslong slowdown in economic growth and subsequent widening class inequality. At the National People’s Congress, China’s premier, Li Qiang, announced an economic growth target of 4.5%, the lowest in decades.

This crisis is driving working people to look for ways to change the worsening conditions they face, something Beijing is preparing to try to stamp out. The new law seeks to build a single na-

tional identity molded by China’s ruling Communist Party.

Beijing fears the impact that unresolved struggles for national rights will have on broader layers of the working class. It has already moved to crush political rights in Hong Kong.

The new law replaces 1980s legislation that mandated some autonomy for regions with large ethnic-minority populations, continuing the long retreat from the party’s original promise that the country’s different nationalities could manage their own affairs.

Mandarin has already been imposed as the primary language of instruction in Inner Mongolia, Tibet and Xinjiang, areas with large ethnic minority populations. Massive demonstrations and classroom walkouts broke out in several cities in Inner Mongolia in 2020 — where some 17% of the population is Mongol — after authorities required textbooks to be in Mandarin and announced plans to phase out local history, literature and ethnic textbooks. Police swarmed in, using pepper spray and arresting protesters.

Today students there can only study Mongolian as a foreign language for at most an hour a day in school.

In the mainly Buddhist region of Tibet, Beijing has imposed restrictions on Tibetan religion, education and language, all monitored under the watchful eyes of a network of police surveillance posts. Authorities have sent Tibetan children to state-run boarding schools, separating them from their families, to teach Mandarin and “Chinese” culture.

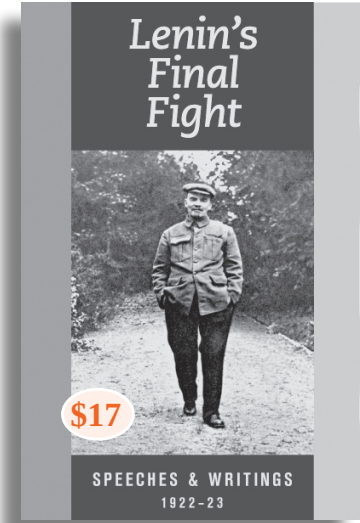
In Xinjiang, home to millions of Turkic-speaking Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities, au-

thorities set up mass internment camps as part of their forced assimilation drive, claiming they were carrying out a “people’s war on terror.” After growing international protests, the government backed down, closing most of what they called “reeducation centers” saying everyone has completed their “studies.” By 2020 what remains of the camps contained hundreds of discarded metal bed frames with red stickers on them saying, “Recognize your mistakes, admit your mistakes, repent.”

Beijing’s drive to foist a single national identity on the country’s different peoples isn’t stopping at its borders. In 2025, Chinese officials pressured a museum in Thailand to remove the names and works of Uyghur, Tibetan and Hong Kong artists.

The law also says that organizations and individuals outside China that carry out acts “that undermine ethnic unity” can be detained. Zhang Yadi, a student in Paris since 2022, was detained under suspicion of “inciting separatism” by Chinese authorities when she returned home for a visit in 2025. She is part of the group Chinese Youth Stand for Tibet, which says it aims to “foster a deeper understanding of Tibetan culture within Chinese-speaking communities, challenge and deconstruct Han chauvinism, and address ethnic conflicts and prejudices.” Zhang could face 10 years in prison.

The bill says people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait should be encouraged to identify as Chinese, in line with Beijing’s assertion that the people of Taiwan are really citizens of China. Beijing is determined to impose its control over Taiwan.



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US troops out of the Mideast!

Continued from front page

The U.S. military has not attempted to block ships carrying Iranian oil from sailing.

U.S. ‘allies’ say no to joining war

President Donald Trump appealed to his imperialist allies — including London, Sydney, Paris, Berlin, Athens and Tokyo — to send warships to protect vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz. All turned him down.

That’s another indication of the deepening rivalries between capitalist powers as each competes and maneuvers to gain the most for their respective ruling classes. They don’t support the bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran, but they don’t want to see U.S. imperialism strengthen its domination in the Middle East and better able to ice them out of the plunder of oil, gas and the region’s other resources.

“We will protect them, but they will do nothing for us,” Trump complained March 17, before declaring “we no longer ‘need,’ or desire the NATO countries’ assistance — WE NEVER DID!”

On March 13 U.S. forces destroyed military posts on Kharg Island, Iran’s main oil terminal, taking care not to damage its oil facilities. A key goal of the U.S. rulers is to convince a wing of the Iranian regime to cooperate with Washington to advance its political, economic and military goals in the region, while at the same time preventing working people from defending their own interests.

The goal of Israel’s capitalist government is counterposed to Washington’s. It’s defensive, seeking to eliminate Tehran’s capacity to produce or deploy a nuclear weapon to carry out the Iranian rulers’ decadeslong threats to destroy Israel along with the Jews and all who live there. It’s a life-or-death question for Israel.

U.S. strike killed 168 students

While the U.S. rulers were careful to safeguard their future oil profits on Kharg Island, they are not as scrupulous with other targets. It was a U.S. Tomahawk missile that struck an elementary school in Minab, Iran, Feb.

Cuba protests

Continued from page 6

from the NNU statement. “The Cuban people — not politicians in Washington — ought to decide their own leaders and their own future.”

Perasso explained that every U.S. president since Cuban workers and peasants took power in 1959, Democrat and Republican alike, has tried to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

“Workers, unionists and others in the U.S. have an interest in demanding, ‘U.S. hands off Cuba! End Washington’s oil blockade and economic war!’” he added.

“The U.S. rulers have underestimated Cuban working people many times. The example of the Cuban Revolution is something working people in the United States and around the world can emulate.”

Jim McMahan, from Workers World Party, also spoke.

— Barry Fatland

28, killing 168 children and 14 teachers. The school used to be part of a nearby base of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, but was separated from it a decade ago. U.S. official say they are investigating what the *New York Times* called an “accident.”

The reactionary Iranian regime deliberately places its bases in residential neighborhoods, stationing troops inside schools. That doesn’t stop the regime from claiming the U.S. military deliberately targeted the school in Minab. In January the regime itself slaughtered more than 7,000 protesters who it slandered as “terrorists.”

Along with targeting Tehran’s ballistic missiles, rocket launchers, drones and nuclear sites, Israel has been bombing the paramilitary Basij and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces, which were at the forefront of the slaughter and are widely hated by working people in Iran.

The attack killed Gholamreza Soleimani, the head of the Basij, March 16, as well as Ali Larijani, who was the regime’s central leader after the death of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Iran’s chief of police announced March 15 that 500 people had been arrested, accused of “collaborating with the enemy.” They join the more than 50,000 protesters arrested in January. The top cop warned that anyone who dares protest will be dealt with “the same way we deal with our enemies. All our forces are ready, with their hands on the trigger.”

Tehran regime determined to destroy Israel, kill the Jews

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Since it came to power, the dictatorial bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran has promoted Jew-hatred and planned for the destruction of Israel, where nearly half the world’s Jews live. This reactionary regime consolidated its power through a counterrevolution in the early 1980s that dealt blows to gains won by millions of working people who rose up and overthrew the U.S.-backed Shah of Iran in a popular revolution in 1979.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a Shiite cleric who gained support for his opposition to the shah, was promoting anti-Jewish conspiracy theories well before he came to power as the country’s Supreme Leader.

“We must protest and make the people aware that the Jews and their foreign backers are opposed to the very foundations of Islam and wish to establish Jewish domination throughout the world,” Khomeini declared in 1970.

Khomeini founded international Quds (their name for a Jerusalem without any Jews) Day — on Aug. 7, 1979, ostensibly in “solidarity” with the Palestinian people. “We shall reject Israel and shall have no relations with it, for it is a usurper state and is our enemy,” he said.

This has been the fervent course of the Iranian regime ever since. Israel is a “cancerous tumor that should be cut, and will be cut,” Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in 2012. After Khomeini’s death in 1989, Khamenei was appointed Supreme Leader, a position he held for 37 years until he was killed at the start of the U.S. war on Iran Feb. 28.

To extend its reactionary influence throughout the region the regime in Iran



Thousands attend Friday sermon by Sheik Abdul-Hamid in Zahedan, Iran, March 13, in middle of the war. The Sunni and Baluchi leader called for freeing all political prisoners in Iran.

But the regime has been unable to crush the opposition.

Sheik Abdul-Hamid, a prominent Sunni cleric and a leader of the oppressed Baluch nationality, continues to speak out every week at the Friday prayer service at the main mosque in Zahedan.

“I have said this many times and I repeat it again: release the political prisoners,” Abdul-Hamid told thousands March 13. “Those who protest or express opinions about what they believe is the right path should not be imprisoned.”

The Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Unions, one of the few unions that have found a way around the regime’s internet blackout, reported on unrest among soldiers March 13. Soldiers in the Iranian army are mostly draftees

and unlike the regime’s main repressive apparatus — the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, its voluntary Basij paramilitary thugs and the police — are not used to attack protesters.

The report said that after the bombing of an army base in Sanandaj in the Kurdish region, a low-ranking officer told some 40 soldiers under his command that they could leave the base, even after warning them such an action was illegal and he could not take responsibility for the consequences. The soldiers left.

On March 17 the Coordinating Council reported that union leader Masoud Farhikhteh, who was arrested when police raided a union meeting in Isfahan last year, has gone on a three-day hunger strike to protest conditions he and fellow prisoners face.

organized what became known as the “axis of resistance.” This included creating, training and funding Hezbollah in Lebanon and pro-Iranian “militias” in Iraq, and backing the Houthis in Yemen.

Hamas in Gaza had a different origin, coming out of the Muslim Brotherhood and the tradition of Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem who had collaborated with Adolf Hitler and the Nazis in targeting Jews during the Holocaust. But over time Hamas began closely collaborating with the rulers in Tehran, especially on the murderous Oct. 7, 2023, anti-Jewish pogrom in Israel.

The goal of the Tehran-led alliance is to be able to attack Israel from all sides and lay the basis for eliminating the Jews who live there.

Extending its operations to Latin America, Hezbollah, supported by Tehran, bombed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1994, killing 85 people. Two years earlier it killed 29 people in an attack on the Israeli Embassy there.

By the 1990s the Khamenei regime had succeeded in restarting Iran’s nuclear program. He repeatedly claimed it was intended to generate power. “We do not need weapons and have decided against nuclear arms,” he said. But it rapidly became clear its main purpose was to build nuclear weapons to use against Israel.

“The use of one atomic bomb in Israel leaves nothing left,” Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president of Iran, declared in a 2001 speech, “but in the Islamic world, there will only be damage.” Just “one atomic bomb” would be enough to obliterate the Jew-

ish population of Israel and destroy the only state dedicated as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms in the world. As far as the effects of such a bomb on the region — the slaughter of millions of Palestinians in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, immigrant workers and Arabs in surrounding countries would just be “collateral damage.”

Echoing the same theme in 2010, Khamenei advisor Mohammad Hassan Rahimian boasted, “We have manufactured missiles that allow us, when necessary to replace Israel in its entirety with a big holocaust.”

Holocaust denial

The regime also champions Holocaust denial. The fact that the Nazis killed 6 million Jews during World War II is an “unprovable and mythical claim,” Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared in 2010, after he had won election with Khamenei’s support.

In 2006 Ahmadinejad organized a Holocaust denial cartoon exhibition that drew 1,200 submissions from over 60 countries. Some were put on display at the Palestine Museum in Tehran. A similar exhibition was organized by Iranian authorities in May 2016.

Despite the regime’s efforts, there is little Jew- or Israel-hatred among working people in Iran, outside of the regime’s organized thugs and supporters.

Increasingly unable to convince working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran to back the regime and its goal of eliminating Israel and the Jews, the regime has arrested or killed thousands of its opponents, accusing many of being agents of Israel.

US hands off Cuba! End the blockade!

Continued from front page

economic and political war and other attacks on Cuban sovereignty are aimed at overturning a socialist revolution. They have gone to unprecedented lengths, including the failed invasion by Cuban counterrevolutionaries at the Bay of Pigs in 1961; numerous assassination attempts against Fidel Castro, the revolution's central leader; brutal sanctions against Cuba; and their escalating threats of "regime change" today.

The Socialist Workers Party Call to Action — printed in the February 23 *Militant* and featured on our website today — explains that "workers in the United States have no interest in the rulers' brutalization of a small nation and its people simply for exercising their sovereign right to make a socialist revolution to improve their conditions of life and work."

The statement points out the U.S. rulers fear the "political and moral example and attraction among working people and the oppressed the world over of Cuba's socialist revolution."

Washington's drive against Cuba is backed up by the liberal and conservative press. They lie about the root cause of the worsening conditions Cubans face today, saying not a word about Washington's relentless efforts to try to economically strangle working people there. Instead they turn reality on its head, blaming the revolution itself and the Cuban government.

Under Washington's blockade and bullying, no oil has reached Cuba for three months. A total electrical grid shut down hit the island March 16. Shortages of basic necessities of life are becoming more severe.

The Justice Department says it's considering filing charges against Raúl Castro and other leaders of the revolution, in order to provide yet another pretext for U.S. military intervention.

Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean are bowing to Washington's demands to expel Cuban medical workers who the U.S. government falsely claims are victims of "human trafficking." This has ended much-appreciated health care programs, while also shutting down a valuable source of income for Cuba.

Driving home the goal of the U.S. imperialist rulers, President Donald Trump says his goal "may be a friendly takeover, it might not be a friendly takeover. It wouldn't matter."

Washington can't stand the fact that working people in Cuba took their destiny into their own hands. They were led in their millions by Fidel Castro and the July 26th Movement to take political power. They mobilized to take the factories, fields, docks and banks from U.S. and Cuban capitalists. Tens of thousands of youth went into the countryside and the barrios to bring an end to illiteracy. The revolution expanded the participation of working people in all aspects of social and political life. Working people joined struggles against imperialist domination around the world. And they were transformed in the process. This is a socialist revolution to emulate.

In the U.S., workers have the opportunity and responsibility to take to the streets and speak out against Washington's assaults and demand an immediate end to its blockade of Cuba. Actions demanding U.S. hands off Cuba! have been held in several cities.

More are urgently needed. Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with working people in Cuba in a common fight against the U.S. rulers' unrelenting assaults on Cuban sovereignty. Defend the first socialist revolution in the Americas. U.S. hands off Cuba!

Prison bans on 'Militant' escalate in Florida

Continued from front page

party's National Committee. "There's a pressing need today for a call to action by working people to oppose the US rulers' tightening economic squeeze of the Cuban people and escalating military threats against Cuba," it says.

"In face of Washington's brazen lies to rationalize its assaults on Cuban sovereignty, working people in the United States have both an obligation and an opportunity right now to get out the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution."

The article includes photos of recent demonstrations by working people in Miami, Minneapolis and Havana opposing Washington's punishing oil blockade and economic sanctions against Cuba.

Prison authorities claim this coverage "is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules." And that it "presents a threat to the security, order, or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person."

The ban is a blatant violation of the constitutional rights of prisoners to read a newspaper of their choice and form their own political opinions, and the right of the *Militant* to reach its subscribers.

The impoundment is pending review by the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee. The *Militant* is preparing to appeal.

Escalation of attack on rights

This fight is part of a recent escalation of unconstitutional bans on the *Militant* in Florida prisons.

The *Militant* is winning wide support for its fight to overturn bans of issues nos. 4, 5 and 6, dated Feb. 2, 9 and 16, at the state-run Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida. Authorities there targeted front-page articles in each issue that reported on labor-backed, disciplined protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement attacks on immigrant workers in Minneapolis and the paper's call for supporting amnesty for immigrant workers in the U.S. *Militant* attorney David Goldstein has filed an appeal for all three issues.

Now prison authorities at Taylor have banned two more issues, nos. 8 and 9, citing front-page articles reporting on the *Militant's* fight to overturn the earlier impoundments. The articles report on support for the *Militant's* fight from the Florida Press Association, PEN America, Amnesty International USA and more.

Officials at Taylor base their first three impoundments on the same claim that these *Militant* articles are "dangerously inflammatory."

Prison authorities have so far not specified what it found objectionable in any of the material.

Dustin Saunders, a rail worker in Vancouver, British Columbia, sent the *Militant* a copy of a letter he wrote to the Literature Review Committee challenging this censorship. "The *Militant* is one of the oldest and most widely respected periodicals dedicated to providing readers with a worker class perspective on worldwide labour news," he said.

"The issues under scrutiny in fact implore workers to organize into a unified movement of Union-led fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers. Seeking to change the law rather than violating it.

"This overreaching censorship of the *Militant* deprives inmates of an uplifting, healthy and hopeful perspective on a concern that many likely consider to be frightening," Saunders said. "Knowing that the labour movement has the power to provide hope for undocumented workers will only serve to pacify inmates and will also help serve to educate them on lawful ways to engage with other workers to struggle against government policy.

"Please reconsider your decision to restrict access to the *Militant*."

To support this increasingly important fight for the constitutional right of the *Militant* to be read by prisoners at the Correctional Institutions in Perry and Trenton, help get letters from unions, churches, organizations and prominent individuals defending workers' rights and free speech.

Please send them to the Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, or email to Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com and Saritza.Legault@myflorida.com, with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Cuban architect speaks on respect for culture

BY CANDACE WAGNER

PITTSBURGH — Cuban architect Wendy Perez Lora spoke at several events here on a tour initiated by the Pittsburgh-Matanzas Sister City Partnership March 10-14. She discussed their collaboration on restoration of a museum and creation of a community center called "Triunvirato" in Matanzas, one of the "most sacred places in Cuba for African descendants," the tour publicity explained. Her talk at the Duquesne University Center for African Studies was titled, "Discover Africa — from experience to form."

Gerald Boodoo, director of the center, introduced her. Several years ago he led a group of students to Cuba to learn about their health care system.

"Triunvirato" is the name of the sugar mill where the first slave rebellion in Cuba was organized in 1843. The uprising was led by Carlota, a young slave. "Operation Carlota" was the name the Cubans gave their internationalist mission to aid Angola's fight against apartheid South Africa's invasions beginning in 1975.

Perez Lora said they seek to involve the whole community in the design and construction. "All people are coming together, including kids and teenagers, to have a more beautiful city," she said.

She explained that in Cuba they take advantage of what they have, since they all face the effects of Washington's punishing economic war on their revolution. This includes teaching young people to make paint from natural substances. This way of working is "taking hold with teachers and doctors, all of us," she said.

Perez Lora also spoke at Carnegie Mellon University. "The students seemed to appreciate Wendy's visionary work that is preserving respect for Afro-Cuban culture," Professor William Bates told the *Militant*.

Perez Lora described her work on projects in Guinea-Conakry and Equatorial Guinea, both countries in western Africa. She described working within the cultures of those countries, for example, building a place for Muslims to pray with a view of the sky.

She also spoke at the Franco Harris Pittsburgh Center at Penn State where she described the role of Cuba's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. "They involve the people in looking out for each other, central to what Cuba is today." At the end of the discussion, Lisa Valanti, vice president of the Pittsburgh-Matanzas Sister City Partnership, called for a March 21 rally against the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Perez Lora spoke about the blackouts taking place in Cuba, a result of the U.S. oil blockade. "If you live near a hospital, you have electricity because the hospitals get top priority. But others have three hours with electricity and then six without, some even less."

In her last couple of days in Pittsburgh, many residents lost electricity from a strong storm, including at an evening reception held for her. "My husband couldn't believe it when I told him, 'I'm in a blackout in the United States!'" Perez Lora told those gathered outside by a fire pit. "For me, I'm used to this."

'Militant' banned in Texas federal prison

An across-the-board ban on the *Militant* — on all issues of the paper — has been imposed by the Federal Correctional Institution Three Rivers in southern Texas, located between San Antonio and Corpus Christi. On March 2, the *Militant* received an impoundment notice on an inmate who subscribed in December, along with five returned issues.

Signed by Warden Richard Luna, the notice says, "A publication is rejected if it is determined detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution or if it might facilitate the continuation of criminal activity." It also says that the *Militant* "contains information that will hinder the safety operations of the prison."

But the notice does not cite a single headline, article or photo to justify the ban. This is a violation of the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons own regulation, which says any impoundment "must contain reference to the specific article(s) or material(s) considered objectionable."

Another federal prison rule says, "The Warden may not reject a publication solely because its content is religious, philosophical, political, social or sexual, or because its content is unpopular or repugnant."

The *Militant* is appealing the ban.

— JANET POST