

Help advance ‘Militant,’ book and fund drive

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

James Harris, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for delegate to Congress from Washington, D.C., brought solidarity to the fight of Haitian immigrants at a March 17 press conference and rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court. The action was organized in defense of continued Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, which the Donald Trump administration is seeking to end.

“I like that sign for amnesty,” Medelinda Charles, a Haitian law student, told Harris.

“The fight for amnesty for workers without papers helps unify and strengthen the entire working class,” Harris said. “It’s a class question with a history here in the U.S., despite efforts to erase it.”

“My parents were farmworkers in Belle Glade, Florida. My father still is,” Charles said. “I don’t know anything about that history.”

Harris told Charles, “In 2006, a million people marched in Los Angeles demanding rights for immigrants and chanting, ‘We are workers, not criminals.’ I lived there at the time, it was the biggest protest I’ve ever marched in.

“Today history is being written. Nearly 4,000 union meatpackers at the JBS packinghouse, mostly immigrants, **Continued on page 5**

Join fight to end US rulers’ punishing assault on Cuba

Expose bipartisan smear campaign against Cuba



Militant/Bob Aiken

March 21 rally in Sydney demands “End U.S. blockade of Cuba!” Protests are continuing worldwide against Washington’s brutal attempts to overturn Cuba’s socialist revolution.

Cuban toilers’ ingenuity confronts US blockade

BY RÓGER CALERO

There are countless examples of how workers and farmers in Cuba are coming together to organize to meet the brutal effects of Washington’s stepped-up economic war and defend the gains of **Continued on page 7**

Havana: Cuba’s sovereignty is not up for negotiation

BY RÓGER CALERO

In the last three months President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have been either talking about a “friendly takeover” of Cuba, or that they’re “ready to bomb and destroy” it, Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, Cuba’s ambassador to the United Nations, told **Continued on page 7**

End US war in Mideast! Bring troops home now!

BY SETH GALINSKY

“We are getting very close to meeting our objectives” and ending the fighting, President Donald Trump claimed March 20, but then ordered another 2,500 Marines to the Middle East. This is on top of the 2,500 Marines sent the week before. On March 24 the Pentagon ordered some 3,000 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division to the Middle East.

All three groups are trained for landing parties to take coastal areas.

Trump’s objectives have nothing to do with defending Israel as a refuge from Jew-hating violence or with supporting the courageous struggles of the peoples of Iran.

Trump announced March 24 that his envoys had convinced key Iranian officials to agree to joint control of the Strait of Hormuz and to surrender Tehran’s stock of enriched uranium. He also said Tehran had renounced building nuclear weapons.

But the Iranian regime has always told lies about its nuclear program, claiming it’s only for peaceful purposes.

Tehran says it has rejected Trump’s proposal but are open to more discussion.

Washington has allowed Tehran to **Continued on page 4**

Farmworkers rally in Fresno against boss, gov’t assault on wages and jobs



Militant/Joel Britton

Over 100 farmworkers and supporters rallied at federal courthouse in Fresno, California, March 18 to oppose stiff wage cuts imposed by government on workers with H-2A visas.

BY JOEL BRITTON

FRESNO, Calif. — Over 100 farmworkers, members of the United Farm Workers union, and supporters from throughout the Central Valley converged on the federal courthouse here

EDITORIAL:

Capitalism’s wars at home, abroad are intertwined
— see page 9

March 18 to demand an end to stiff wage cuts imposed by the government for workers on H-2A visas.

They were joined by a few farmworkers from Georgia, Washington and Oregon. Workers carried signs and banners reading, “Protect my wages” and “Stop the annual \$2.4 billion wage cuts.” Drivers passing the courthouse honked **Continued on page 3**

Victory ends Texas prison ‘Militant’ ban! Ban fights continue in Florida prisons

BY JANET POST

Support is growing for the fight to overturn prison bans on six issues of the *Militant* by Florida officials.

Issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 were impounded at the Taylor Correctional Institution in

Packinghouse workers strike at JBS, seek safety, end to boss bigotry

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

GREELEY, Colo. — Going into their second week on strike, hundreds of members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 picketed outside the giant JBS meatpacking plant here March 24. Fed up with unsafe and abusive conditions in the plant and wages that don’t keep up with inflation, 99% of the big majority who voted, voted to strike. **Continued on page 3**

Perry, Florida. Officials targeted front-page articles in each issue that reported on labor-backed, disciplined protests against attacks on immigrant workers in Minneapolis and called for amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S.

They claim this coverage “is dangerously inflammatory,” encourages “riot, insurrection, rebellion,” and “presents a threat to the security” of the prisons.

Militant attorney David Goldstein **Continued on page 9**

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Indiana oil workers fight BP lockout, defend jobs, union

BY NAOMI CRAINE

WHITING, Ind. — Members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 hit the picket lines outside the sprawling BP refinery here March 19, after the company locked them out in the midst of a contract dispute. The union represents over 800 operators, maintenance workers and others at the refinery. They're fighting to defend their jobs, pay, as well as their union and bargaining rights in the face of management's demand for union-busting concessions.

These include eliminating 100 unionized maintenance positions. Already in the last decade the company has contracted out 300 jobs that used to be held by USW members. BP also wants to reclassify jobs and cut the base pay for most workers by up to \$8 to \$10 per hour.

"It seems all along their intent is to eliminate the union," Eric Schultz, president of Local 7-1, told reporters at a picket line news conference the first day of the lockout. "The company is going after bargaining rights in several ways," he said, including demanding a clause requiring the union to give 150 days' notice before any strike, providing the company months to prepare. "The union's biggest leverage is our ability to withhold work."

This comes alongside more and more battles today where bosses are demanding sharp cutbacks and challenging the unions — like 3,800 United Food and Commercial Workers members at JBS in Greeley, Colorado, and United Farm Workers union members in California, where workers on H-2A visas have had their wag-

es cut from \$19.97 an hour to \$16.90. These fights deserve all-out labor solidarity.

The union members also oppose the company's demand for a six-year contract, which would put the expiration date out of line with the national pattern agreement between the union and many other major refineries.

On March 12, Local 7-1 members voted down the company's proposals by 98%. BP immediately responded with an "offer" that was essentially the same, except with an even smaller lump-sum "bonus," and announced it is locking out the union members until they concede. They plan to operate the refinery with management staff and nonunion workers brought in from other states.

Many of the locked-out workers are veterans of the 101-day strike here in 2015, which was part of a nationwide oil workers strike over safety and working conditions. This year the USW and most of the major refineries agreed to a four-year contract without a strike after the national contracts expired Jan. 31. But management at BP in Whiting, the largest inland refinery in the U.S., declared they were "in no way obligated to follow the 'pattern.'"

Schultz told the *Militant* that the current plant manager, Jordan Marks, previously oversaw the 2021-22 lockout of USW members at the ExxonMobil refinery in Beaumont, Texas, and is now trying to copy that playbook here. In 2015 the bosses at Beaumont got their contract removed from the national pattern bargaining. Then, when it expired, they imposed a 10-month lockout to force through major concessions.



Members of USW Local 7-1 picket BP refinery in Whiting, Indiana, March 19, on first day of lockout of 800 workers by bosses demanding union-busting concessions in their contract.

Workers on the picket line are preparing for a hard fight. Many say they learned a lot from the 2015 experience. They've already been reaching out for support, getting neighbors and local businesses to put up signs supporting the USW. Hundreds of people took part in a Feb. 14 union rally before the lockout.

Members of Local 7-1 have also been mobilizing support for USW members at Nipsco facilities, a natu-

ral gas and electrical utility, who have been holding protests as part of their own contract fight.

USW District 7 has called for other unions and workers to spread the word and show their support. They need donations of food and other items brought to the union hall at 2045 Schrage Ave., Whiting, IN 46394. Financial donations can be sent to United Steelworkers Local 7-1, Inc. Strike and Defense Fund at the same address.

Celebrate John Benson's six decades building the SWP

ATLANTA — John Benson, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died here March 6 after a brief struggle with aggressive leukemia. He was 84 years old.

Benson, speaking here at 2015 SWP conference, joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1962 while a student at Carleton College in Minnesota, and the SWP later that year.

During his 64 years building the party, Benson served on the SWP's National Committee for several decades. He helped lead many branches around the country, carried out responsibilities for building the international communist movement and worked in several industrial jobs, from an oil refinery in California to a chicken processing plant in Carrollton, Georgia, always as a union builder.

A celebration of his life and political contributions to the party will be held in April in Atlanta and covered in the *Militant*. Details will be forthcoming.

— SUSAN LAMONT



Militant/Betsy Stone

THE MILITANT

1965 battle in Selma helped transform the US

The brutal attack, 61 years ago, on marchers demanding the right to vote in Selma, Alabama, was a pivotal moment in the Black-led proletarian movement for civil rights. Outrage swept the U.S., forcing the government to pass the Voting Rights Act five months later.



Library of Congress
Harlem protest in solidarity with marchers beaten in Selma, Alabama, March 7, 1965.

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The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 13

Closing news date: March 25, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

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

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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.

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Packinghouse workers strike

Continued from front page

“JBS only wants to give us a \$1.20 raise over three years,” Morgan Robinson, 29, told the *Militant*. “They also want to increase the line speed, more than they are already doing. It’s a struggle to keep up with the line. A lot of people are getting hurt.”

Although a majority of workers in the plant are immigrants, speaking different languages, she said training is only given in English and Spanish. “Everyone deserves a job, no matter where they are from,” she said. “But these workers are not getting proper training.” Union flyers are printed in English, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Burmese (for workers from Myanmar) and Somali.

“We get no respect and there is much abuse,” striker Catalina Andriana told the *Militant*. “There is no time to go to the bathroom. The bosses yell at us, ‘Work, work, work!’”

Lulia, a striker from Eritrea who didn’t want to give her last name, said she had worked at the Cargill meatpacking plant in Fort Morgan and recently moved here to get a job at JBS. “Everyone voted for the strike. My parents worked here for 10 years. They told me about what it’s like to work here. It’s horrible, especially for the workers who don’t speak English.

“I speak English and can understand the supervisors,” she said, “but most of the workers can’t understand them.”

Another big issue for the strikers is that they are responsible for buying the new protective gear when their old ones wear out. The metal-mesh aprons that prevent cuts from the knives they use can cost over \$1,000. Another issue is the bosses’ lack of concern for keeping workers supplied with sharp knives.

JBS, headquartered in Brazil, is the largest beef and pork meatpacking company in the world, and one of the largest meatpacking companies in the U.S. The plant slaughters about 6,000 head of cattle a day, some 8% of the total beef production in the country.

With the strike, production at the plant is minimal. JBS has been shifting cattle deliveries from its feedlots, where the livestock are fattened, to its other processing plants in Nebraska and Texas.

Support for the strike in the area is strong. The economy of Greeley depends on the plant. Although he doesn’t work there now, Carlos Gallegos said he had worked at JBS three different times since he was 18. He comes to join the picket line in solidarity. “I have never seen a movement like this,” he said. “Standing up for your rights like is happening here is a big thing for this union.”

This battle needs and deserves solidarity from workers everywhere. Help get out the word and build support.

To contribute to the JBS strikers’ fund, go to UFCW7.org, click on “JBS Strike 2026,” scroll down to “Stand with JBS workers/Donate to supporting striking workers.” Solidarity messages can be sent to UFCW Local 7 at 1006 9th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631.

Strikers welcome solidarity visits to join them on the picket line.



Picket line in UFCW Local 7 strike at JBS meatpacking plant in Greeley, Colorado, March 24. Support in area for strikers is strong as fight by more than 3,800 workers enters second week.

Militant/Joel Britton

Farmworkers rally in Fresno against boss, gov’t assault

Continued from front page

support for the protesters lined along the sidewalk waving signs and union flags.

Inside the courthouse, the first hearing took place on a lawsuit filed in November by the union and the UFW Foundation challenging new U.S. Labor Department regulations, asking that they be blocked, and a cap be placed on the number of H-2A visas issued, to protect jobs for area workers.

Of some 800,000 farmworkers in this state, 40,000-45,000 are workers from Mexico and other countries who have government permission to work in agriculture on a temporary basis. While the wages vary by state, the impact of the new rules and wage rates has meant an across-the-board wage cut. In a further boon to capitalist growers and packinghouse bosses, they can now deduct up to \$3 an hour to cover a worker’s housing and transportation.

Before the new rules, workers in California with H-2A visas “were guaranteed a wage of \$19.32 per hour *with their housing and transportation paid for*,” the UFW said on their website. “After the wage cuts, that wage was lowered to \$17.13 per hour *with housing and trans-*

portation deducted from that wage.”

UFW President Teresa Romero addressed the rally outside the courthouse. The cut in a H-2A visa-holder’s wages is an attack not just on farmworkers, or on immigrants, but on the entire working class, she said.

“According to the government’s own estimate, the wage cuts transfer at least \$2.46 billion annually from workers to employers and would represent one of the largest wealth transfers from workers to employers in U.S. agricultural history,” the union website explains.

Isabel Panfilo works picking strawberries near Oxnard in Southern California and is one of 18 individual farmworker plaintiffs in the union’s lawsuit. “It’s important for all farmworkers to know that this wage cut doesn’t just impact workers on H-2A visas, it impacts all of us,” she said at the rally. Last year “I made over \$19 an hour at the company. This year, I went back to the same job. I’m doing the same tasks picking strawberries I did last year. But this year, they are paying us \$16.90 per hour, the state minimum wage.” Panfilo, a U.S. citizen, added, “This makes it very difficult for me to make ends meet.”

Marta Montiel from McFarland works picking mandarin oranges and other products. She told the *Militant*, “We used to get paid \$50 a bin for mandarin oranges and now we are getting \$35,” blaming competition with workers the bosses are bringing in at lower wages. She said the agencies that hire workers for the large Halo mandarin packing plant “stopped hiring anyone 55 or older.” She worked there for over five years, but they won’t take her back now.

“We’re fighting for those with papers and those without papers,” UFW Secretary Treasurer Armando Elenes said. “They want to divide us but we won’t fall into that trap.” He cited a company where workers make “over \$21 an hour because they have a UFW contract.” This “is the result of a fight by those workers and that’s what others must do.”

Many workers said that their hours have been cut or they are unable to find work. Andres Godoy Tamayo took the mic from Elenes at the end of the rally. “In Mendota 50% of us are unemployed,” he said. “I’ve worked picking almonds, pistachios, melons, and tomatoes. I’ve been working 45 years in the area and it’s the worst situation ever.”

He explained the greater competition has allowed the bosses to push for speedup, saying at the last place he picked watermelons workers used to try to fill five pallets, now they were pushing to do 10. “They didn’t want to take breaks, get water, go to the bathroom,” he said, for fear that the foreman would not bring them back. He said the pace became too much for his wife, who had to stop working. Many workers described similar experiences.

Like others from Fresno and the surrounding area, Jose Luis Zorrilla, a supporter of the UFW’s fight to block the new H-2A regulations, joined the rally. He told the *Militant* he worked in fruit crops and almonds for two years and now tutors Chicano youth studying Spanish. “Until farmworkers are truly respected and able to work with dignity,” he said, “nothing will change.”

During the court hearing the union’s attorney, Kuntal Cholera, asked Judge Kirk E. Sherriff to issue an injunction to stop this “massive and unprecedented transfer of wealth” from farmworkers to their employers. A decision is pending.

Laura Garza, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 2, 2001

SEATTLE — A West Coast-wide meeting here celebrated the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban people in defending their socialist revolution by routing a U.S.-backed invasion at Playa Girón. The gathering was an opportunity to celebrate the publication of Pathfinder’s book, *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington’s First Military Defeat in the Americas*.

The final speaker was Jack Barnes, author of the foreword and SWP national secretary. One of the central lessons of the events, Barnes said, “is a tendency for us to underestimate what we can accomplish and what we will be capable of doing.”

In the “missile crisis” of 1962, President Kennedy took the U.S. to the brink of nuclear war. When advisors told the president and his colleagues that a U.S. invasion would cost the lives of as many as 18,000 GIs in the first 10 days, they decided against it, Barnes added.



April 2, 1976

[The following open letter to Communist parties worldwide was issued by Ukrainian fighter Leonid Plyushch. He was imprisoned in a “psychiatric hospital” in the Soviet Union for defending Ukrainian national rights. After a worldwide outcry he was released and allowed to emigrate.]

The Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will soon begin. Your representatives will be there. I want to remind you that the Stalinist Gestapo liquidated virtually all the figures in the October revolution and the civil war. The party of the Bolsheviks was physically and morally destroyed.

Many peoples of the Caucasus, Crimea and the Volga region were exiled. The Crimean Tatars have been waging a struggle for many years to return to their ancestral lands. Active participants in this struggle are prosecuted and jailed. The CPs have discredited the ideals of communism.



April 2, 1951

Gen. Douglas MacArthur renewed last week his unceasing efforts to extend the war in Korea to the Chinese mainland. MacArthur has tried to palm off his statement as an “offer” to discuss “a truce” with Beijing’s military commander in the field. Actually, this was no “truce offer” at all, but an arrogant demand for surrender.

MacArthur and his associates are seeking at all costs to prevent a peaceful solution of Korea and are acting more and more recklessly. The State Department and the Pentagon, it is reported, want curbs placed on MacArthur.

Curbs are needed — not alone on MacArthur but on all the militarists and their political co-plotters, from Truman down. And the best of these curbs is for the American people to decide themselves in a national referendum to put a halt to the “police-action” in Korea. Bring the U.S. troops back home!

End US war in the Mideast!

Continued from front page

sell more oil, stating it was necessary to bring down the cost of crude oil, which has skyrocketed since the start of the war.

Despite attacks by U.S. and Israeli forces that have severely degraded the reactionary regime's military capacity, Tehran is still launching large numbers of missiles and drones at Israel and nearby Arab nations, and threatening shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Some 20% of the world's gas and oil pass through the strait. Tehran's attacks are affecting not just fuel, but urea and ammonia, crucial for fertilizers, with a disastrous impact on working farmers who depend on its timely delivery. Some 2,000 ships with 20,000 seafaring workers on board, are stuck in the area, with nowhere to go.

Tehran's missiles struck Shell oil's liquefied gas facility in Qatar March 2 — the largest in the world — knocking out 17% of its capacity. It could take years to repair. In mid-March Tehran struck oil and gas facilities in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Since the war began, the Saudi government has reversed course, ending its refusal to let U.S. forces use an air base in the country. The *New York Times* reported March 25 that the rulers there are urging Washington to continue attacking Iran, calling this "a historic opportunity" to remake the region.

Israel has been focusing on military targets and the Iranian rulers' repressive apparatus. In contrast, many of Tehran's missiles — armed with cluster munitions that spread shrapnel over a wide area — are aimed at indiscriminately killing Jews and others in Israel. One missile landed on a salon in the Palestinian West Bank March 18, killing four women and wounding nine other Palestinians, including a 4-year-old girl.

If, instead of a cluster bomb, the missiles carried a nuclear weapon? That would be a new Holocaust.

Divisions among imperialist powers

While the war has pushed the capitalist monarchies of the Gulf states into a more open alliance with Washington, it has widened divisions between U.S. imperialism and its "allies" elsewhere. Trump has complained repeatedly that governments that are part of the U.S.-led NATO bloc are "COWARDS" for refusing to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz from Iranian attacks.

The U.S. rulers' goal is strengthening Washington's own economic, political and military domination of the region. They want to expand their profits by plundering the gas, oil and labor of the Middle East.

"This is not our war, we did not start it," German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said March 16. The French foreign ministry said that its navy was staying where it was in the eastern Mediterranean. And British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that the United Kingdom "will not be drawn into the wider war."

However, fearful of being cut off from

getting a share of the oil and other resources in the region, London and Paris are now saying they plan to send minesweepers to the Strait of Hormuz, but only after the war ends.

The cost of 'riding with' Trump

Trump's announcement that he was in "productive" talks with the regime in Tehran, was not welcomed in Israel. "As Trump steers away from war with Iran, Israel rediscovers cost of riding with him" was the headline on a March 23 article in the *Times of Israel*.

Israel's war with Iran is not the same as Washington's. For Israel it's a life-or-death question. The bourgeois clerical regime in Iran openly states it intends to destroy Israel — and expel or eliminate the Jews there.

Over the last year Tehran has helped Hezbollah in Lebanon rebuild its forces to attack Israel. By March 19 Hezbollah had fired more than 2,000 missiles at Israel.

The current war demonstrates why Israel has no choice but to destroy Tehran's ballistic missile and nuclear capability and to try to defeat its proxy forces like Hezbollah.

The *Times of Israel* article notes that this is not the first time that the U.S. rulers have "undermined" Israel's interests.

In May 2025, the Trump administration reached a deal with Houthis in Yemen that ended "attacks on US vessels, but allowed the Houthis to keep shooting at Israel."

As Israel was preparing new strikes after Tehran broke a ceasefire ending the 12-day war last year, "Trump's response was to berate Israel and publicly force it to turn its planes around."

While Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu relies on Washington's aid — sowing deadly illusions about the character of U.S. imperialism's intervention — he has also repeatedly shown that Israel will do



Defying the Iranian regime, over 100 people joined funeral for Saleh Mohammadi, executed by the government March 18 for participating in January anti-regime protests in Qom. Despite ongoing repression, war conditions, working people continue to find ways to protest.

what is necessary on its own to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews.

New protests in Iran

Amid the war, Iran's capitalist rulers have stepped up their brutal attempts to intimidate working people, oppressed nationalities and others, hoping to prevent a repeat of the massive anti-government protests that swept the country in January. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, paramilitary Basij thugs and cops slaughtered over 7,000 protesters, ending the demonstrations.

The regime has set up checkpoints manned by the Basij, sent convoys of armed thugs chanting pro-regime slogans through cities and towns, and arrested hundreds of people it accuses of being Israeli agents.

On March 19, the eve of Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, Tehran executed Saleh Mohammadi, Medhi Ghasemi and Saeed Davoudi in Qom, after accusing them of killing two police officers during the January protests.

Their families reject the accusations, saying the three were forced to

confess "under pressure and torture," the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Unions reports.

Defying the regime and the additional challenges caused by Washington's war, over 100 people joined the family of 19-year-old Mohammadi, a wrestling champion, at a funeral procession and ceremony at his graveside.

That same week, there were graveside commemorations for two young men who were killed during the January actions — 21-year-old Kurdish lawyer Mahan Rostami in Kermanshah and 16-year-old Alireza Seidi from Abadan, who was killed in Tehran.

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Protest hits arson attack outside synagogue in London

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

LONDON — "Stop the Jew hate" and "Jewish and proud" were among the slogans and signs at a spirited protest march and rally of hundreds of Jews and other opponents of Jew-hatred in Golders Green here March 23. They gathered to condemn an arson attack hours earlier outside the nearby Machzikei Hadath synagogue. The assault destroyed or badly damaged four ambulances belonging to the Jewish

charity Hatzola. CCTV footage shows three thugs setting fire to the vehicles and fleeing. Minutes later the gas canisters in the ambulances exploded, shattering windows in nearby residences and in the synagogue.

Neighbors helped each other evacuate and find shelter in two local community centers. Forty firefighters were required to put out the blaze.

"Golders Green has one of the largest Jewish communities in the U.K., with more than 30 synagogues. Nearly half of residents in the ward identify as Jewish," reports the *London Times*.

Linda Kettare, a local resident who is not Jewish, joined the rally organized by campaign groups Stop the Hate and Our Fight.

"This was a serious attack on all of us," she told the *Militant*. "I slept through it, but a friend who lives in Fortune Green [two miles away] didn't just hear the blast, but felt it, it was so powerful."

"We won't be beaten by thugs," Yossi PinCUS a volunteer senior

paramedic for Hatzola told the *Daily Telegraph*. "We can't let fear dictate our lives,"

Hatzola is a worldwide charity staffed by volunteers. It works with the National Health Service to provide an emergency service for Jews and others, irrespective of religion or national background.

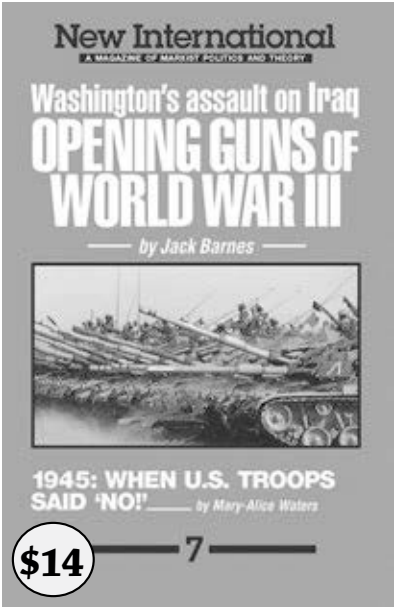
A terrorist group, Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamia, claimed online it was responsible for the attack. The same group claimed it carried out recent Jew-hating attacks in the Netherlands, Belgium and Greece.

Members of the Communist League joined the rally. They distributed a statement, "Condemn Jew-hating attack in Golders Green!" by Dag Tirsén and Julie Crawford, the CL candidates in the Southwark and Enfield council elections.

"The scourge of Jew-hatred has been on the rise since the 7 October 2023 pogrom organised by Hamas in collaboration with the Iranian regime," the statement says. "Jew-hatred is not a Middle East question. It is a life-and-death question for working people in the U.K. and worldwide."

"At the forefront of our election campaign is the fight against the poison of Jew-hatred and the defense of Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews," Tirsén told the *Militant*.

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Advance ‘Militant,’ books, fund

Continued from front page
confidently went on strike in Greeley, Colorado.”

Charles got a subscription to the *Militant* to learn more.

Campaigns by SWP candidates in 13 cities and Washington, D.C., and drives to win ballot status in Minnesota and New Jersey, on top of the successful one earlier in California, are important for expanding the reach of the SWP. Only by breaking with the Democrats and Republicans, the two parties of the bosses, can working people move toward solving the problems our class faces.

The election campaigns run alongside the Spring effort to increase the readership of the *Militant*, books by SWP and other revolutionary working-class leaders and win contributions to this year’s Militant Fighting Fund. From March 14 through May 12, members of the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom are campaigning to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant*, the same number of books and raise \$165,000 for the fund.

John Hawkins, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Ohio, traveled to Shelby, Ohio, March 13 to join the picket line of United Steelworkers Local 3057 on strike against ArcelorMittal. “We support the workers’ fight to defend their living standard, safety, and rights on the job,” Hawkins told picket captain Josh Sengstock. “The U.S. rulers’ war drive is just an extension of their drive to beat down workers here at home.” Sengstock said he agreed.

Hawkins told Sengstock that the SWP calls for the U.S. out of the Middle East. “We are the peace party,” he said.

“I’ve heard a lot of the oil to China passes through the Hormuz Strait or Venezuela,” Sengstock said.

“In the dog-eat-dog capitalist system, which the U.S. capitalists dominate, it’s not enough for them to have an abundant supply of oil, they also want to

have a chokehold on their competitors’ supply,” Hawkins said. “Their competition is the root cause of war. Only our class — through the strengthening of our unions and the construction of our own revolutionary party — can end these conflicts, by taking the power to make war out of their hands.”

On March 21, after 67 days on strike, the union members approved a proposed agreement with ArcelorMittal. Details haven’t been released.

At a March 18 informational picket line organized by SWP members in Cincinnati to demand “U.S. hands off Cuba! End the blockade!” Hawkins met Brian Render. On his way home, Render had stopped to join the picket.

“End the blockade of Cuba?” Render asked, “I’m for that.”

After discussing U.S. imperialism’s war drive with Hawkins and other participants, Render bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein
“I like that sign for amnesty,” Medelinda Charles, a Haitian law student, told James Harris, SWP candidate from Washington, D.C. She bought a *Militant* subscription to learn more.

Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Víctor Dreke. He asked to

be informed about any future actions.

To join with SWP campaigns, contact the distributors nearest you, listed on page 8.

SWP on ballot in California! Next up is New Jersey

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, was informed March 21 that she will be on the ballot this June. Supporters of the campaign collected well over the 65 signatures of registered voters required and raised close to \$5,000 to pay the filing fee.

In addition, they collected another \$3,000 needed to get a statement by Trowe into the Voters Guide, which will go out to every registered voter in the state.

“Working people see the war in the Middle East, high prices at the grocery store and all the attacks on our wages and job conditions and are looking for answers,” Trowe told the *Militant*. “We explain that the only way forward is to organize the power of the working class. To stop the wars and to end the threat of another world war, workers need to take power out of the hands of the war makers.”

Trowe is a hotel worker and member of UNITE HERE. She’s using her campaign to build solidarity with union struggles. Socialist Workers Party campaigners traveled to California’s agricultural Central Valley March 18 to join a rally of the United Farm Workers union protesting a new attack by the bosses and their government on the wages of farmworkers who have H-2A immigrant visas, which allow them to work in the U.S., but with few rights.

Trowe is spreading the word about the fight of Miguel Lopez to return to this country after he was deported to Mexico just hours before a judge issued an order barring his expulsion. “The unions need to support the fight to defend immigrant workers, as they did in the fight to bring Kilmar Ábrego García back from deportation to El Salvador,” Trowe told supporters of Lopez as they rallied March 17.



UNION CITY, N.J. — The fight to put the Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot in New Jersey — Joanne Kuniansky for U.S. Senate and Craig Honts for Congress in District 8 — kicks off March 28. A rally that evening will launch the campaign, featuring the two candidates

and Paul Mailhot, the SWP candidate for governor of New York.

The Democratic Party led a move last year to increase petitioning requirements to try to make it more difficult for working-class candidates to run.

SWP campaigners will fan out across the state through April 26 to introduce the party’s program and activities to working people and collect 3,200 signatures for Kuniansky, well above the 2,000 required. They’ll also gather 400 for Honts in his district, above the 250 that’s needed.

“Today there’s more interest among workers in a party that stands up to the assaults we increasingly face on jobs, wages and basic freedoms, and that opposes the U.S. rulers’ wars abroad,” Kuniansky told the *Militant*. “Workers are excited to find out their choices are not restricted to the bosses’ parties, and there is a party that says the working class can fight to defend our own class interests and take political power into our own hands.”

“The petitioning drive will be an opportunity to extend the party’s reach to cities, small towns and rural areas all across the state,” Honts added. “We’re asking people who like what they hear to introduce the campaign to their co-workers, friends and family — and to join in putting the SWP on the ballot.”

The SWP has been on the ballot in New Jersey since 1948.

— Terry Evans



Militant/Roy Landersen
Joanne Kuniansky, New Jersey SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, at March 8 picket to demand U.S. hands off Cuba.

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Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, Fighting Fund			
March 14 - May 12			
Country	Sub quota	Books quota	Fund quota
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	40	40	\$9,500
Chicago	60	60	\$13,500
Cincinnati	30	30	\$5,000
Dallas - Ft. Worth	60	60	\$5,000
Los Angeles	90	90	\$14,000
Miami	40	40	\$5,500
Minneapolis	65	65	\$6,700
N. New Jersey	70	70	\$7,500
New York	80	80	\$20,500
Oakland	80	80	\$15,000
Philadelphia	40	40	\$6,000
Pittsburgh	45	45	\$7,000
Seattle	60	60	\$15,000
Washington	55	55	\$4,500
Other			
Total U.S.	815	815	\$134,700
Prisoners			
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	45	45	\$3,000
Manchester	30	30	\$1,300
Total U.K.	75	75	\$4,300
Canada	80	90	\$11,000
Australia	30	30	\$4,500
Total	1,000	1,010	\$154,500
SHOULD BE	1,300	1,300	\$165,000

Australia ‘US hands off Cuba’ protest; new convoy brings aid

BY JANET ROTH

SYDNEY — “What do we want? End the blockade! When do we want it? Now!” chanted participants at a March 21 protest here to oppose Washington’s escalating threats and economic stranglehold on Cuba. Up to 70 people rallied outside the Town Hall in the action organized by the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society.

No oil has reached Cuba for three months because of the blockade imposed by the U.S. government, and Cubans are facing greater difficulties in accessing necessities of life. The rally was timed to coincide with the arrival of humanitarian aid to Cuba from the Nuestra América convoy. Protests were also held in Brisbane and Canberra.

Speaking at the rally, Abigail Boyd, a Greens member of the New South Wales state Parliament, condemned what Washington imposes against Cuba “as not just an economic policy but an act of sustained aggression against the self-determination of a people.”

Paul Keating, Sydney branch secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, called out the federal and state governments for not standing up against Washington. “The politicians,” he said, “send working-class people into war. Our children are killed. Our union stands for humanity. We stand with the Cuban Revolution.”

The economic damage from Washington’s six-decades-long economic war against Cuba “is estimated to be \$130 billion,” said Larissa Payne, speaking for Progressive International, one of the organizers of the Nuestra América convoy. She explained the embargo is part of Washington’s ongoing efforts since the 1959 revolution to overthrow the Cuban government.

Supporters of the Communist League built the protest and carried placards demanding “Hands off Cuba! End the U.S. economic blockade!”

Bob Treasure, president of the Sydney Australia-Cuba Friendship Society, said it is a lie “that Cuba is an imminent threat to the United States.” He pointed to the collaboration between the U.S. and Cuban coast guards to prevent drug trafficking. Treasure ended the rally by stressing the importance of international solidarity with Cuba.



More than 600 representatives from some 33 countries, across Europe, the U.S. and Latin America, traveled to Cuba as part of the Our America to

Cuba convoy, bringing sorely needed material aid to the Cuban people. They were received outside the headquarters of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). A number of central leaders of the Cuban Communist Party and government attended, including President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

The centerpiece of the convoy was a 75-foot fishing trawler from Mexico that arrived in Havana. It carried aid from Brazil, Colombia, the U.S., Uruguay and Mexico, including medical supplies, food, school kits and other essential items.

Hundreds of volunteers from political, labor and solidarity organizations around the world assembled and transported more than 20 tons of supplies. About half a million dollars were raised in the U.S. to buy solar panels and related equipment for Cuban hospitals. Others flew in with suitcases stuffed with medicine or on charter flights loaded with food.

Fernando González Llort, now president of ICAP and formerly one of five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly imprisoned by Washington for up to 16 years for gathering information on planned attacks on the revolution, spoke to the gathering.

“Under no circumstances will we renounce the defense of the just causes of the people nor our aspirations to continue fostering solidarity, internationalism and collaboration, which have been pillars of our foreign policy,” he said.

“You represent the certainty that no

NY meeting celebrates political life of Dave Prince



Militant/Samir Hazboun

NEW YORK — One hundred and sixty people crowded into a midtown New York hall March 22 to celebrate the life and political contributions of Dave Prince, who was a member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party for 60 years. The featured speaker at the meeting was Jack Barnes, the national secretary of the SWP, speaking above, who worked in close collaboration with Prince for decades. One either side are the meetings’ chairs, Socialist Workers Party leaders Mary-Alice Waters and Paul Mailhot.

As an attractive display at the meeting noted, in everything Prince did over these decades — in unions and other mass work; forums and classes; circulating and writing for the *Militant*; leading party finances — he led a life dedicated to forging revolutionary working-class parties able to lead millions in the U.S. and the world over to fight for workers power, uproot capitalist exploitation, end all national oppression and build a socialist world.

For Prince, Marxism’s living revolutionary continuity was the guide to a lifetime.

An article on the meeting will appear in the next issue of the *Militant*.

— JOHN STUDER

imperial siege can ever imprison the dignity of our peoples,” he told the members of the Our America convoy. This is “because the homeland we defend, the homeland of Martí, Fidel, of those who have fallen and of those who resist, is not a strip of land under siege, it is a piece of humanity that refuses to surrender.”

Building the convoy was part of

winning broader solidarity with Cuba in the face of Washington’s assaults. This is as important as the material contribution from the convoy. Since January the U.S. government has imposed an energy blockade, escalating its drive to economically strangle the Cuban people and overturn their socialist revolution.

— Roy Landersen

Fight against Alberta gov’t attacks against immigrants

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Canada’s capitalist rulers are stepping up their attacks on immigrant workers, including record-high deportations by both the federal government in Ottawa and provincial governments, as well as a series of new anti-immigrant laws.

The Alberta government of United Conservative Premier Danielle Smith has called a referendum to be held in October on proposed moves to cut government services in health and education for new immigrants. The government’s goal is to deepen divisions between those who have papers and those who don’t have immigration documents acceptable to authorities.

In a televised address Feb. 19 Smith said that immigration was “out of control,” resulting in the Alberta government’s budget deficit. She blamed immigrants for the crisis in the province’s education and health systems.

“Immigrants are our co-workers, our neighbors, and essential members of our communities,” Candace Renick, national secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, responded the next day. “They work in our hospitals, our schools, our municipalities and our social services. They are the backbone of our economy. Scapegoating newcomers will not fix overcrowded classrooms or emergency room waiting times. Properly funding public services will.”

If passed, the referendum would impose a one-year residence in the province requirement before immigrants could qualify for any government social programs, and require payment of a “user fee” for any health or education services. It also proposes “means testing” for eligibility to access social services.

Another measure in the referendum would mandate that only Canadian citizens, permanent residents or those with an Alberta-approved immigration status would be eligible for province-funded programs. When pressed by reporters, Smith wouldn’t explain how her government will define what an “Alberta-approved immigrant” is.

Jumping on the bandwagon, Federal Conservative Party Official Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre said his party planned to put forward a motion in the federal Parliament to “cut back deluxe benefits for fake refugees and deport noncitizens and foreign nationals who do crime.”

“Here’s the issue that we have,” Smith said March 7 in her regular call-in radio show. In addition to the fact “we have to provide support programs for any Canadian citizen, or permanent resident,” the province will be burdened “with the recent Supreme Court decision that just came out in Quebec” to provide services to “anyone who shows up in Alberta.”

On March 6 the federal Supreme Court overturned the Quebec govern-

ment’s law excluding asylum seekers from using the provinces’ subsidized day care network for their children. The court ruling also extended day care eligibility to those without work permits.

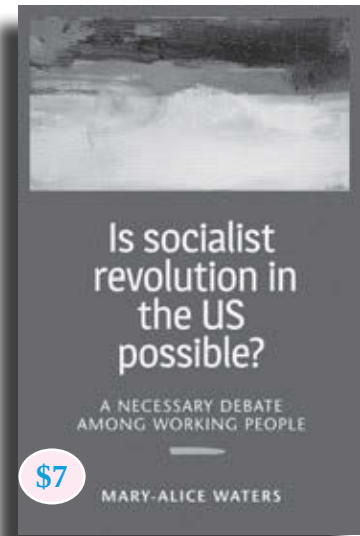
Growing working-class resistance

The court ruling reflects working-class resistance in Canada to government attacks on working people as the rulers seek to put the growing crisis of their capitalist system on our backs. This includes attacks on the rights of workers without papers, as they look to divide the working class and set us against each other.

Last fall the Alberta government ordered 51,000 Alberta teachers back to work after a two-week strike, imposing contract terms they had already rejected. That strike, backed by a Common Front of unions, fought against overcrowded classrooms and the erosion of public education, and for wages that would allow teachers to keep up with inflation.

Their struggle won support from the vast majority of the population in an inspiring show of working-class unity.

“The unions need to build a broad campaign in defense of immigrant rights to undercut the Alberta government’s efforts to divide us and to ensure the defeat of this anti-working-class referendum,” Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in October’s Quebec provincial election, tells workers as he campaigns.



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Cuban workers' ingenuity

Continued from front page
their socialist revolution. They are doing it with the ingenuity, creativity and solidarity spawned by that revolution.

Rail workers building and maintaining a system of railbuses to serve rural neighborhoods, many of which have no other reliable mode of transportation, is one example.

With public transportation virtually at a standstill due to the lack of fuel and spare parts for buses, Cubans across the island are turning to bicycles, electric scooters, even horse carriages, to get around and keep production and essential services going. The transportation crisis was accelerated by the Donald Trump administration's Jan. 29 executive order threatening tariffs on any country that sells or gives oil to Cuba.

Defending gains in rural areas

The steps by rail workers today are built on the gains made after the Jan. 1, 1959, overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Carahatas — buses that have been adapted to run on rail tracks — played an important role then in closing the gap in conditions of life between workers in cities and countryside, a goal of their socialist revolution.

The railway network whose primary purpose had been to connect the sugar mills with cane fields and workers' settlements — to feed the mills with sugarcane at harvest time, and the coffers of its owners in the process — now had a social purpose, to provide transportation to these historically abandoned sectors of the population, alongside other advances like access to electricity, health and education. For the first time, workers and peasants had the chance to participate in social and political activity in a meaningful way.

Over decades, this essential service has dwindled drastically, as Cuba's ability to purchase new equipment, spare parts and other materials to maintain the tracks and equipment was increasingly blocked by Washington's economic, trade and financial sanctions imposed as part of its drive

to overturn the socialist revolution.

Starting in 2010, Cuba's Transportation Ministry launched a major project to rebuild the rail industry. It included the Birán Project, named after the small rural town in the hills of Holguín province where Fidel and Raúl Castro's family was from. It was set to repair the tracks leading to these rural towns and replace the old carahatas with a fleet of modern Russian-made railbuses.

The U.S. embargo and other obstacles, however, made purchasing the Russian railbuses impossible. Nonetheless, workers at Cuba's national railway company were determined to press ahead.

With workers' ingenuity

Workers' "intelligence is stronger than technological obsolescence and the lack of resources," said a May 2021 TV Camagüey news report on their work taking old buses that had been taken out of service for lack of parts and transforming them into a new version of carahatas. One of the buses, a Chinese-made Yuton, was named "El Mayor" — the biggest — by the workers, both because of its size and the degree of commitment involved in making it run.

The project — being carried out simultaneously in several of the country's provinces — often involves retired rail workers with their technical skills working alongside younger workers with less experience. Many of them are part of the National Association of Innovators, a movement initiated in the 1960s by Cuban leader Ernesto Che Guevara. This group grew out of Guevara's efforts to lead the Ministry of Industry in drawing on workers and farmers to resolve crippling shortages of parts and raw materials after the John F. Kennedy



Adelante/Eduardo Labrada Rodríguez

Cuban rail workers pose with "El Mayor," big bus they adapted to run on tracks from old sugar plantations to the cities, using creativity and determination, opening travel from rural areas.

administration began the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba in 1962.

"The people in the town itself take part in the restoration of the tracks," Camilo Chávez Molina, an engineer in one of the ministry's workshops in Holguín province, told Cuban TV. "When the equipment arrives and enters service, it's practically a fiesta," he said.

"I'm very proud of having worked hard on this railbus," Carlos Hernández, a train engineer in Holguín, told Canal Caribe TV in February 2025 as he drove out of the shop in a completed railcar. "We do it for the children, the university students, for those going to medical appointments in the province capital."

Solidarity overcomes adversity

The carahatas "have gone beyond their initial purpose," wrote Germán Veloz, Holguín correspondent for the Cuban daily *Granma* Feb. 23. They are used as ambulances for the ill, or women in labor, for instance. Since Washington's move to cut off oil sup-

plies to Cuba, agricultural cooperatives and other institutions are increasingly relying on the railbuses to move everything, from medications to basic food supplies in remote areas.

Because it is considered an essential service, the government provides the railbuses with a certain amount of diesel regularly. But when that proves impossible, "solidarity becomes the battering ram that demolishes adversities," says Veloz. Agricultural cooperatives and other local institutions come to the rescue, offering some of the sparse fuel they have "because the benefit will spread to many people."

The stops along one of the routes in Holguín were made famous around the world by the song "Chan Chan," performed by the Buena Vista Social Club band. They sing, "De Alto Cedro voy para Marcané; llego a Cueto voy para Mayarí" — "From Alto Cedro I head for Marcané; I reach Cueto, then head for Mayarí." It is easily accessible online for your enjoyment.

Havana: Cuba's sovereignty is not up for negotiation

Continued from front page

Bloomberg News March 19.

He was commenting on speculations by U.S. officials and the capitalist media that promote the imperialist rulers' stepped-up campaign of threats against the Cuban people and their socialist revolution.

Making clear that Havana is open to talks with Washington, "about everything," Cuban government officials have rejected these threats and said what they won't give up is the country's sovereignty and independence. "This is not a new position" for Cuba, said Soberón. This means that "friendly takeover," "regime change," or "removal" of Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel "are completely out of any talks."

The U.S. rulers and their mouthpieces have been working overtime to paint a picture of an imminent collapse of Cuba's economy and the death agony of its socialist revolution. They rarely report on organized efforts by working people in Cuba and their government to defend their social and political gains as they protect the population — especially the most vulnerable — from the brutal toll of Washington's escalating economic war.

Cuba's power grid collapsed March 21 for the third time this month, leaving the entire country without electricity after months of Washington choking off oil shipments to the island, threaten-

ing to impose punishing tariffs on any country that dares to sell or provide oil to Cuba. A ship carrying Russian fuel on its way to Cuba changed course March 20. A second ship, a Russian tanker, is expected to arrive in Cuba by April 4. This could become the first test of how far Moscow is willing to go to aid Cuba and how far the U.S. rulers are willing to go to prevent it.

'Answering U.S. rulers' lies'

"Cuba is going to fall on its own volition," said President Trump Jan. 3 after the U.S. military assault on Venezuela and kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro — and his wife, Cilia Flores. "It is a very bizarre statement," said Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío in an interview with NBC's Meet the Press March 22. "What does on its own mean?" when the U.S. economic assaults are being imposed on us, he said.

The capitalist media's reports of piles of garbage accumulating in city streets, long widespread blackouts severely affecting economic production and the operation of hospitals, schools and basic services put the blame almost exclusively on the Cuban government or its socialist economy, hiding the brutal effects of the U.S. blockade.

"Imagine, which country in this world could work without receiving a single liter of oil in the last three months?" said

Soberón. There are some 96,000 patients waiting for surgery because there is no electricity or oil to provide electricity in the hospitals, the Cuban ambassador said. "We have more than 30,000 pregnant women waiting for an ultrasound, also because of lack of electricity."

The Cuban diplomat described the escalating measures the U.S. rulers have used — under both Democratic and Republican administrations — to suffocate the Cuban people. Washington's stated aim is to destroy the socialist revolution. Imagine running a country blocked from having access to international credits; your tourist industry choked off by threats of canceling U.S. visas to European tourists if they visit Cuba; or strong-arming third countries to end crucial health cooperation programs with Cuba that also bring much needed revenue, he said.

"What developing country has been submitted to such an onslaught from the most powerful nation in the world, and yet been able to carry solidarity to over 100 countries" around the world, said Fernández de Cossío. We are fighting to save "our people from being overtaken by a foreign power" that wants to take us "back decades to a Cuba that we overcame a long time ago." The Cuban people are fighting to protect the peace, tranquility, social justice and sense of solidarity that exist among our people, he said.

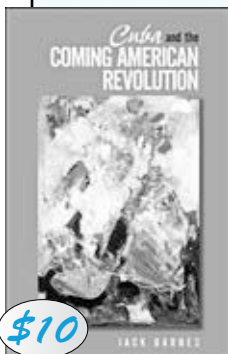
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Fighting Jew-hatred is crucial for the entire working class

This special feature is to mark the life and political contributions of Dave Prince, a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party, celebrated March 22 in New York. The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class is by V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Jack Barnes and Prince. The excerpt below from the first chapter was written by Prince. Copyright © 2024 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

SPECIAL FEATURE

BY DAVE PRINCE

The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class is published as hundreds of millions are being drawn into world politics by the unfolding crisis of the imperialist system and its ramifications in every corner of the globe. The rise in Jew-hatred and violence that has marked the opening decades of the twenty-first century — from the Middle East to North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific — is deeply rooted in this global crisis. Jew-hatred is a world question. The fight against it is decisive to every working-class battle today against the brutal consequences for humanity of imperialism and its convulsions.



U.K. Home Office

March in Manchester, England, Jan. 21, 2024. Union movement needs to take lead in protests against Jew-hatred and attacks on Jews as part of unifying and advancing the working class.

This book presents the political foundations and continuity of the Marxist program and course — in history and in action — on these questions. Jew-hatred is not eternal; it is rooted in class-divided society and the class struggle. And the authors answer the all-important question: *What is to be done to end it* — for all time.

The pages that follow include excerpts from articles and speeches by V.I. Lenin, the central builder of the Bolshevik Party and leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution. Lenin addresses the decisive place of the battle against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the fight for the socialist revolution necessary to overturn the tsarist empire. Under Lenin’s leadership, the Bolshevik Party placed itself on the front lines of that battle, from its formation in 1902-03 to Lenin’s death in 1924.

The battle against persecution of Jews was intertwined with the fight for the right of all oppressed nations to self-determination. It was intertwined with the fight against reactionary bourgeois nationalism and chauvinism — in the young Soviet republic and in other lands where revolutionary struggles inspired by the victorious October 1917 revolution exploded.

The book includes Leon Trotsky’s international fight in the 1920s and 1930s to defend Lenin’s communist continuity against the political counterrevolution in the Soviet Union and

Communist Party led by Joseph Stalin. The articles and interviews by Trotsky excerpted here were written during the years when mounting Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence were harbingers of what was to be the second inter-imperialist world war and the Holocaust.

There are writings by central leaders of the Socialist Workers Party from its founding onward — James P. Cannon, Farrell Dobbs, and Jack Barnes — presenting the course of action that guides the SWP to this day.

The persecution of Jews goes back two millennia.

But with the dawn of the imperialist epoch in the final years of the nineteenth century, the weight and place of Jew-hatred in social relations changed. It became an *international* question, an expression of the intense virulence of the capitalist economic and social convulsions that erupted in the imperialist First and Second World Wars.

The “international Jewish conspiracy” became the common banner of fascist movements. Under that banner, they sought to justify attacks on the working class and its political vanguard, as well as other toilers, and to smash their unions and parties. The triumph of fascism across much of Europe, intertwined with the advancing Stalinist political counterrevolution in the USSR, guaranteed the conflagration to come. Over these decades there was a sharp rise of pogroms — the

brutal slaughter of Jews — and then the intensified assault with Adolph Hitler’s “Final Solution,” the mass extermination of six million Jews, in the final years of the war.

So long as the dictatorship of capital remains — based on class exploitation and capitalist control of production and exchange — there is no solution to imperialism’s recurring march toward fascism and war. Modern capitalism’s international domination, and the fight among the main imperialist powers and their ruling families to partition the world, makes recurring social crises and wars inevitable. And it also makes inevitable resistance and revolutionary upsurges by the working class and all the exploited.

The Jewish question itself is a class question.

As we are seeing again today, Jew-hatred has a permanent place and function for the propertied ruling families in the imperialist epoch.

The way forward for the international working class is through building revolutionary proletarian parties, communist parties, in the countries where we live. Revolutionary leaderships that have unshakeable confidence in the working class and oppressed to take their destiny in their own hands. To organize along the working-class line of march toward engaging the propertied ruling classes worldwide, taking state power, and transforming society.

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Capitalism’s wars at home, abroad intertwined

Hard-fought labor battles at JBS in Greeley, Colorado, at the BP oil refinery in Whiting, Indiana, and by the United Farm Workers in California focus on matters that are vital for the working class as a whole, as the just-ended strike at ArcelorMittal in Shelby, Ohio, did.

Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union at JBS are fighting against speedup that threatens workers’ life and limb, for better pay and health care benefits, and to defend its largely immigrant membership. Bosses have locked out members of the United Steelworkers at BP in a move to cut union jobs, sharply slash workers’ pay and eliminate collective bargaining. USW members at ArcelorMittal walked out to oppose boss attempts to impose 12-hour shifts, cut overtime pay and limit health care for workers’ spouses.

Each of these struggles highlights the increasing severity of the employing class’s offensive against working people, and the crucial need for union solidarity. These assaults go side by side with the government’s drive against workers without papers, carried out to try to deepen divisions in the working class and to advance the bosses’ exploitation of all workers.

The capitalists’ assaults on workers at home — through intensifying speedup, lack of steady jobs and declining real wages — flow from the same thirst for

profit that drives their wars abroad. Both are a product of the dog-eat-dog competition of national ruling classes to partition the world and maximize their plunder of resources and labor power. The U.S. imperialists are determined to shore up their world domination at the expense of their rivals, and to extend their exploitation of working people worldwide.

Democrats and Republicans talk about “our country’s wars.” There are none. These conflicts are fought to serve the same U.S. ruling class that is offloading the capitalist crisis onto workers’ backs at home. Workers are the one truly international class with no interest in exploitation or oppression of any kind, and a deep desire to live in peace.

Wars of conquest and growing Jew-hating violence are a permanent part of the imperialist epoch. They also breed deepening struggles by working people, opening the possibility for workers to chart a way forward.

The road to ending the horrors of imperialist war lies in workers building a party of our own, a revolutionary party with a tested leadership that can advance the working class in its tens of millions to take political power from the capitalist war makers, end capitalist exploitation and join the fight for a socialist world. To be part of that struggle — join the Socialist Workers Party.

Join fight to reverse ‘Militant’ prison bans!

The rapid overturn of the across-the-board ban on the *Militant* at the Federal Correctional Institution in Three Rivers, Texas, strengthens the paper’s fight to overturn bans at state prisons in Florida. The suppression of the *Militant* is a serious attack on the constitutional right of freedom of the press and free speech both of the paper and of our prisoner subscribers.

Help defend these rights — codified in the Bill of Rights — by talking to union locals and officials; community, church, immigrant rights, Black rights and other organizations; prominent individuals; and groups of your co-workers and convincing them to send letters requesting prison authorities overturn the bans.

Florida Department of Corrections officials have banned six issues of the *Militant* since January for printing articles about immigrant rights, a call to action to oppose Washington’s economic war on Cuba, and then for articles reporting on the fight against the bans! Prison officials claim that the articles are “dangerously inflammatory,” encourage “riot or insurrection,” and other supposed threats to order at the prisons.

The victory in overturning the ban at FCI Three Rivers is more proof that these and similar accusations

are false to the core. “Literature is not what causes disruption,” a prisoner at Santa Rosa, Florida, wrote to the *Militant* during a similar flurry of impoundments of the socialist newsweekly in 2016. “Nowhere do I recall literature causing physical violence.”

Prisoners have the right to read literature of their choosing, to form their own opinions on the big questions facing the world today. The *Militant* has the right to reach its subscribers behind prison walls with a working-class road to oppose attacks on immigrants, or Washington’s war in the Middle East, or to put an end to racism, Jew-hatred and more.

Over decades we have succeeded in overturning the overwhelming majority of attempts by prison authorities to suppress the *Militant*.

Whenever the U.S. capitalist rulers go to war they look for ways to stamp out dissent and to keep working people from speaking out. It’s no surprise amid today’s war drive and deepening capitalist economic crisis that prison authorities, like other government officials, are once again testing the waters to see how far they can go in shutting down political views they disagree with.

Join the fight! Getting letters to the Florida Department of Corrections soon is crucial to winning the appeals the *Militant* is filing to overturn the bans.

Rally says: ‘Bring Miguel Lopez home to the US’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

SAN FRANCISCO — Sixty people rallied outside the Phillip Burton Federal Building here March 17 to demand the U.S. government return Miguel Lopez to the United States. Lopez was deported to Mexico June 7, 2025, just hours before U.S. District Judge Trina Thompson issued a restraining order barring his expulsion from the country.

Lopez is a welder who worked at Wente Winery in Livermore for nine years.

Now 47, he was brought to the U.S. by his parents when he was 18, and he had been here since. He married Rosa Lopez, a U.S. citizen, 25 years ago, and is the father of their three children and a grandfather of one. Julian, his oldest son, is a senior at Granada High School, where he is a member of the football team.

Miguel Lopez has been fighting for legal status since 2001, attending immigration hearings several times a year. He was on his way to one such hearing when he was arrested and deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Granada teachers Betsy Wilson and Laura Bertoli Brown, who have taught two of the Lopez children,

spoke at the March 17 rally. They’ve helped organize protests and fundraising seeking Lopez’s return. Further speakers included Rosa Lopez, who read a moving statement by Julian on how hard the last year has been; Ward Kanowsky, an activist in Indivisible Tri-Valley; and Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California.

After the protest, participants, including more than a dozen high school friends of Julian, packed the courtroom, where Judge Thompson heard arguments by Miguel Lopez’s attorney, Saad Ahmad, on why he should be returned to the U.S. and allowed to resume his effort to regain permanent residence. Ahmad explained Miguel Lopez was never given due process, the right to a hearing to contest his deportation. And he was never given the opportunity to argue before the Board of Immigration Appeals that his permanent residency should not be stripped away. If the judge rules in his favor, he will be returned and granted a hearing before the immigration appeals board.

The protest and hearing were covered by several local media outlets, including on the front page of the *East Bay Times*.

Florida prison bans

Continued from front page

filed an appeal March 18 to the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee.

“Like *virtually every news organization in the U.S.*, the *Militant* has regularly reported on the protests in Minneapolis related to the current Administration’s immigration enforcement,” he wrote.

Goldstein asked whether prison officials are “objecting to some or all of the *Militant*’s viewpoints: not supporting ICE? Advocating for amnesty for immigrant workers? Advocating for peaceful union and worker-led organizing and protests? Believing in working-class solidarity?”

Deputy Director Corene Kendrick and Director David Fathi of the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, and Daniel Tilley, legal director of the ACLU in Florida, wrote to prison authorities March 19. They have appealed “improper censorship of the *Militant* multiple times before,” they write. “Regrettably it appears this constitutional violation has occurred once again.”

“Nothing in these articles advocates violence, insurrection, or disruption of prison operations,” they say. “Rather, the reporting describes public demonstrations and debates about immigration policy in the United States. The articles repeatedly emphasize the importance of peaceful and organized protest.”

The *Militant* received a letter from two prisoners in Oregon supporting the reversal of the ban. “No agency or government has the authority to limit any right which the U.S. Constitution bestows upon its citizens, with minor exceptions,” they explain.

The administration at Taylor then banned two more issues, nos. 8 and 9, citing front-page articles reporting on the *Militant*’s efforts to overturn the earlier impoundments! In addition, Lancaster Correctional Institution authorities in Trenton, Florida, denied an inmate *Militant* issue no. 7. The impoundment notice cites the front-page article “SWP call to action: US hands off Cuba! End Washington’s economic blockade!” as the cause of the ban. The *Militant* is appealing.

Support the fight to reverse the bans in Florida. Help get letters from unions, churches and prominent individuals defending workers’ rights and free speech.

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.

Victory! Ban on ‘Militant’ in Texas prison retracted

The *Militant* and its readers scored a victory March 23 when the open-ended ban on the paper at the Federal Correctional Institution Three Rivers in southern Texas was reversed!

Only a few days after *Militant* attorney David Goldstein filed an appeal, prison officials said they would “allow delivery of the rejected issues to the subscriber.” They added, “We apologize for the inconvenience.”

When Timothy Richardson, program director of journalism and disinformation for PEN America, heard the news he messaged the *Militant*: “That is fantastic news! I’m hoping for the same in Florida.”

On March 2 the *Militant had* received a notice from authorities at Three Rivers saying an inmate there who subscribed in December would be denied the paper, and five issues were returned. In violation of Federal Bureau of Prisons regulations, the notice did not cite a single headline, article or photo to justify the ban.

“Even when courts have held that inmates’ First Amendment rights are more limited than those of non-inmates,” Goldstein wrote, “they have upheld the rights of inmates to receive publications in the mail, particularly political news.”

“Great news!” Justin Mazzola, deputy director of research for Amnesty International USA, another group that had sent an appeal, wrote when he got the news of the victory.

— JANET POST