

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Indiana oil refinery workers locked out by BP stand strong
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 14

APRIL 13, 2026

End US rulers' war on Iran! Bring all of the troops home now

BY SETH GALINSKY

With the arrival of 2,000 soldiers from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, the U.S. rulers now have over 50,000 troops in the Middle East, poised to escalate the war against Iran.

How they will be used will unfold over the next days. However, this is far less than the close to 250,000 troops deployed in the U.S.-led "coalition of the willing" that invaded Iraq in 2003, a country with half the population of Iran and one-quarter its size. But the U.S. rulers — this time without the backing of their imperialist "allies" in Britain, France or Germany — have far more advanced and deadly weapons than existed in 2003, as does the regime in Tehran, although to a lesser degree. For instance, there was no drone warfare then.

While the U.S. forces confronted a demoralized conscript army in the brutal Saddam Hussein-ruled Iraq in 2003, Tehran's main military force is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It is a hybrid composed of both conscripts and volunteers — including some with combat experience in

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Join 'Militant' in winning support for union battles at JBS and BP

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

"Everywhere I campaign I will tell working people about your courageous strike at the JBS meatpacking plant and how your fight for dignity and respect, higher wages and safety, is an example for working people and all unions," Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Texas, told Morgan Robinson, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7, on the picket line in Greeley, Colorado, March 24.

"We voted 99% to strike," Robinson said. "This is about the abusive conditions in the plant." She told Kennedy that many workers don't get proper training as it is only done in English and Spanish.

"Any worker, no matter where they are from, should have equal rights," Kennedy said. "The labor movement must fight for an amnesty so bosses can't use your immigration status to pay lower wages or impose abusive conditions." Robinson agreed, taking a campaign flyer on the need for amnesty.

"I have never seen anything like this movement," Carlos Gallegos, who has

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US hands off Cuba! Protest Washington's war moves!



Cuban TV

Engineer Iraldo Pérez Cardoso told Cuban TV in Matanzas that Cuba will use fuel being unloaded March 31 for "critical facilities like hospitals, educational centers to temporarily alleviate the strain we are confronting." Behind him, Russian tanker Anatoly Kolodkin delivers oil.

Oil tanker unloads in Cuba

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

A Russian tanker carrying 730,000 barrels of oil docked in Matanzas, Cuba, March 31. It was the first shipment of oil to arrive there since the administration of President Donald Trump imposed a blockade in January, threatening tariffs on any country that provides oil to the island.

Despite the crisis caused by the blockade, the Cuban people continue to demand respect for Cuba's sovereignty and self-determination. The oil blockade is "a sign of the brutal siege Cubans

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Defend Cuba's socialist revolution, example for all

Since making the first socialist revolution in the Americas more than 67 years ago, Cuban workers and farmers have held U.S. imperialism at

EDITORIAL

bay. They continue to do so, despite Washington's blockade since January that has severely increased the damage from the U.S. rulers' decadeslong drive to strangle Cuba's economy,

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1,000s of strikers picket at JBS in Greeley, win widespread solidarity



UFCW Local 7

March 25 meeting of thousands of striking workers, mostly immigrants, members of UFCW Local 7 at JBS in Greeley, Colorado, one of the biggest beef processing plants in the U.S.

BY BETSEY STONE

GREELEY, Colo. — As the 3,800 workers at the JBS packinghouse here end their third week on strike, the company is stonewalling their just demands.

Workers maintain strong picket lines, with well over 1,000 pickets outside the plant on each of the two shifts. The overwhelming majority of the workers are immigrants, with 57 languages spoken on the picket line. There

is chanting, boom boxes with music in many different languages, and dancing. Almost all the members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 are on strike for the first time.

At the heart of the strike is the workers' desire to fight decades of abuse by Brazil-based JBS, the largest beef and pork producing company in the world. In order to maintain superexploitation

Continued on page 3

Defend right of workers behind bars to read the 'Militant,' reverse Florida bans!

BY JANET POST

The *Militant* continues to win support for its fight against bans imposed by prison officials on the paper reaching its readers behind bars. Seven is-

issues of the paper have been barred at two Florida prisons, starting in January. Each is a serious assault on freedom of the press and the rights of prisoners, and each is being fought by the *Militant*.

On March 26, the paper appealed

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Capitalist rulers get richer as workers go to the wall today

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The deepening worldwide capitalist economic crisis is bearing down hard on the working class, with decent jobs in the U.S. increasingly hard to find and prices for basic necessities continuing to rise, from groceries to electricity, housing, health care, child care, elder care, fertilizer for family farmers and more.

At the same time, the wealthy rulers and their upper-middle-class

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AS WE GO TO PRESS ...

On April 1 the *Militant* received the results of our appeals to the Florida Department of Corrections of bans in Florida prisons. With no explanation, its Literature Review Committee upheld three of the bans, all issues that reported on the importance of disciplined, union-led protests against ICE attacks on immigrants in Minneapolis. They overturned three other impoundments, two on issues that reported on our fight to overturn those bans, and one that ran a feature article, "Socialist Workers Party call to action: US hands off Cuba! End Washington's economic blockade!" Next week's *Militant* will have a full report on the next stage in this fight.

Canada's Supreme Court hears debate on anti-worker Law 21

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — On March 26 the Supreme Court of Canada concluded a four-day hearing, one of the longest in its history. It focused on challenges to Quebec's use of the "notwithstanding clause" of the 1982 Canadian Constitution to prevent legal challenges to Law 21. The Quebec law prohibits many public workers from wearing religious clothing or symbols, such as Muslim women wearing head scarves, Jewish men wearing kippahs or Sikhs wearing turbans.

The "notwithstanding clause" was introduced by then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau because the Constitution's protections of basic freedoms in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms were "too powerful." The clause allows the federal and provincial governments to vote to set constitutional rights aside, supposedly only to be invoked in the most unusual circumstances.

The Quebec government of Premier Francois Legault's Coalition for the Future of Quebec passed Law 21 in 2019, claiming elementary and secondary school teachers and other municipal employees wearing religious clothing undermines "secularism."

After what became Law 21 was introduced in Quebec's National Assembly, several thousand people protested in the streets of Montreal calling for the bill's withdrawal. The Autonomous Federation of Education, Quebec Federation of Women, Montreal Labor Council of the Quebec Federation of Labor, English Montreal School Board and others opposed this attack on democratic and religious freedoms.

In 2021 Judge Marc-Andre Blanchard of the Quebec Superior Court ruled that even if Law 21 does violate several "fundamental rights" in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the government has the legal right to invoke the "notwithstanding clause" to override them. In 2024 the Quebec Court of Appeal upheld Law 21 on the same basis.

In January 2025 the Supreme Court agreed to take up a challenge to Law 21 led by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and included the Canadian Labour Congress, Public Service Alliance of Canada and the Quebec League of Rights and Freedom.

Meanwhile, the Quebec government expanded its legal assault on democratic freedoms. Its Law 94 in 2025 extended the ban on wearing religious clothing to all school support staff and volunteers, including janitors, secretaries and cafeteria workers, as well as parents picking up their children. And public institutions like the Jewish General Hospital would no longer be allowed to offer menus based exclusively on religious tradition, for example, halal or kosher meals.

Last November the government introduced Bill 9, which would extend discriminatory restrictions to day care centers and private schools. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association denounced this as "another assault on religious freedoms, equality, and basic human dignity."

Debate over 'notwithstanding clause'

On the Supreme Court hearing's opening day, the English Montreal School Board; World Sikh Organization; National Council of Canadian



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

Montreal protest of 50,000 Nov. 29 against new anti-worker laws. Unionist Nawal Chi carried sign reading, "No to Law 94 and Law 21. My veil, my choice, my dignity, my freedom of dress."

Muslims; Lord Reading Law Society, which speaks for Jewish lawyers; and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association all argued Law 21 violates fundamental democratic freedoms.

The Autonomous Federation of Education union said that provinces have been increasingly implementing the "notwithstanding clause" in recent years in ways it was never intended to be used.

Isabelle Brunet, representing the Quebec government, told the court that Quebec can use the "notwithstanding clause" however it wants, since it effectively shields government laws from court scrutiny. Brunet also argued a previous Supreme Court ruling in 1988 confirmed that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows the government to invoke the clause without restrictions. Those challenging Law 21 have asked the court to revisit that decision.

Government imposition of the "notwithstanding clause" has been used in Alberta to pass an anti-strike law against 51,000 teachers in 2025.

CL against attacks on rights

In fall 2022 Communist League leader Steve Penner submitted a paper to the federal Public Order Emergency Commission arguing for rejection of the government's use of the Emergencies Act against truckers and their supporters protesting in Ottawa the previous February.

"The dictatorial powers embedded in the Emergencies Act" are in harmony with the "notwithstanding clause," Penner wrote. "The Communist League calls for the repeal of the Emergencies Act."

Fifty thousand school workers in Ontario, organized in the Canadian Union of Public Employees, won a major victory in 2022 by defeating an anti-strike law, despite the provincial government's attempt to use the "notwithstanding clause" to shut down their strike. With the support of the entire labor movement in Ontario, they defied the government, setting up picket lines throughout the province and holding a 15,000-strong rally in Toronto.




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THE MILITANT

Farmworkers protest against boss, gov't assault

March 18 rally in Fresno, California, demanded end to stiff wage cuts Washington imposed on workers with H-2A visas, cuts used by the bosses to lower all wages. The 'Militant' calls for a union-led fight for amnesty for immigrants, uniting working class to defend our interests.



Militant/Joel Britton
Over 100 farmworkers and supporters protest wage cuts, Fresno, California, March 18.

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The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 14
Closing news date: April 1, 2026

Editor: John Studer
Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
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E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

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

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

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Thousands picket in JBS strike

Continued from front page

of workers' labor, the company foments divisions between employees based on nationality and language. Company collusion in recruiting immigrant workers from Africa and Haiti with false promises and inadequate housing has been challenged in court by the workers.

Union demands include a wage raise to keep up with inflation and for the company to stop moves to garnish workers' wages to pay for very expensive protective gear when it gets worn out or needs to be replaced. The protective metal mesh aprons they're required to wear can cost \$1,000 or more.

Dangerous working conditions are a threat to workers' lives and limbs. While picketing on March 25 Maria Reyes told the *Militant* that after working 37 years at JBS one of her hands is crippled because of the repetitive motions. "I am on light duty now," she said, "but I'm here for my co-workers. The line is moving faster than in the past."

"A lot of people here have deformed fingers," Solange, who has worked almost seven years in the plant, added. "They've had operations but then afterward they have to go back to their same job."

Jose Hernandez told the *Militant*, "They care more about the cattle than they do the workers." He described cramped quarters during the COVID epidemic that led the disease to spread through the plant. Six JBS workers died of COVID.

Workers report that when the line is speeded up, the work is completed in under eight hours. Then they are sent home, cutting their pay.

We asked picket Viviana Loya what was the most important issue for her in the strike. Her answer: "We want to be treated as human beings."

Fight brewing for a long time

"This fight has been a long time coming," Local 7 President Kim Cordova told the *Militant*. "It runs deep." Cordova was part of the fight to unionize workers at the plant in the early 1990s and was a union representative in the plant in 2006 when government

immigration raids descended there.

Last December a number of Haitian workers filed a federal lawsuit against JBS for discriminatory and abusive treatment.

Uber driver Luce, a former JBS employee originally from Haiti, said the second-shift crews that Haitian workers were placed on faced faster line speeds than first shift — 370 or more cows an hour as opposed to 300. He joined the picket line in solidarity with friends on strike, saying, "I have to support my compatriots."

Rosalio Villarreal, with 15 years in the plant, emphasized the importance of workers coming together in the strike. "A union is about unity," he said. "I'm out here for all the workers."

JBS charges Local 7 with making unreasonable demands and is paying Google to run a long JBS statement that comes up first when anyone Googles "JBS strike in Greeley" or anything like it. JBS argues Local 7 should settle for the terms in the national contract signed by the UFCW International in 2025 covering other JBS packinghouses.

Cordova points out that most communities where workers agreed to the national contract have a significantly lower cost of living than Greeley, which is home to the University of Northern Colorado and an hour's drive from Denver.

The UFCW International Union is backing Local 7's strike against JBS, and its officers have joined workers on the picket line.

As for the bosses, the March 29 business section of the *Greeley Tribune* carried a banner headline, "JBS posts \$2B in 2025 net income." Yet JBS is offering workers less than a 2% annual wage increase, half the inflation rate today, which is rising.

Eben, a worker originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has worked at the plant 13 years. He says, "When I began, I could pay my rent with one paycheck. Now for new hires it takes three. People with families have to do another job, Uber or something."

Solidarity has begun to build. UFCW



Militant/Betsy Stone

Demanding wages that keep up with inflation, safety on the job, end to abuse, members of UFCW Local 7 mount mass pickets in third week of strike at JBS in Greeley, Colorado.

Local 401 in Alberta province in Canada came out in support of the Colorado fight on March 20. Local President Thomas Hesse said, "UFCW Local 401 stands shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Greeley, and we know when workers unite across borders, we are strongest together."

"This strike is also a particularly important moment for the food processing sector, as we approach upcoming bargaining cycles with Sofina, Olymel, Cargill, and JBS here in Alberta," the union statement says. "UFCW 401 members may face potential labour disputes, and the lessons and solidarity demonstrated in Colorado strengthen our strategy, resolve, and unity."

"This strike is not a small or routine action."

Support the strike!

Members of UFCW Local 431 from the JBS plant in Beardstown, Illinois, have visited the picket line.

Workers from two JBS plants in Minnesota, members of UFCW Local 663, filmed solidarity clips in English and Spanish now posted to the strikers' social media pages. Support has come from the national officers of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union in the U.K. "When migrant workers are targeted, all workers are under attack," they wrote in a letter. "From

food workers across the UK, we recognise your courage." The Brazilian labor federation CSP-Conlutas sent a solidarity video in Portuguese.

Workers and representatives from other unions in the area, including the Teamsters, Service Employees International Union, Transport Workers Union, Iron Workers and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees have joined the line.

Mike Callicrate, an independent rancher and beef producer, addressed the picket line the first week of the strike. "Today, you all have a union," he said. "Stand strong."

"What do cattle producers and union workers, workers in general in the meat industry have in common? We're against abusive corporate power."

Since 1995 "we've lost over half of our ranchers by the same abusive power that's being applied to workers, being applied in the supply chain to the very people who produce the cattle that you have to have in order to have a job," he said.

The monopolistic grip the "Big Four" beef meatpackers — JBS, Tyson, Cargill and National Beef — exerts over the market means profits for them while the smaller ranchers can't make a living.

"Since mid-March, and despite JBS's efforts to deceive workers and the media as to the plant's status, the plant has been almost entirely idled with only a miniscule fraction of normal production occurring," the union reports.

Spread the word! More solidarity is needed for this fight. To contribute to the JBS strikers' fund, go to <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/solidarity-fund-for-striking-jbs-workers/items>. Solidarity messages can be sent to UFCW Local 7 at 1006 9th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631 or to union@ufcw7.com.

Come out and join the picket line!

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

April 9, 2001

MIAMI — The trial here of five men accused by the FBI of spying for the Cuban government in southern Florida during the 1990s is nearing its fifth month. Recent testimony by witnesses called by the defense has shed further light on Washington's policy of providing a base of operations on U.S. soil for counterrevolutionary forces carrying out provocations against Cuba.

In 1998 the FBI announced the arrests of 10 people in Miami, whom it accused of spying for Havana. One defendant, Gerardo Hernández, is also charged with conspiracy to commit murder. Hernández is accused of being the main leader of what the government calls the "Wasp Network."

For the last two years, statements by U.S. authorities, articles in the big-business press, and the prosecution case have been used by Washington to further its unrelenting "cold war" against Cuba.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 9, 1976

Documents from supersecret FBI files forced into public view by the SWP's lawsuit have revealed that the bureau repeatedly broke into offices and campaign headquarters of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party. Similar operations have been aimed at other political groups, Black organizations, and trade unions.

The government claims that the burglaries were halted in mid-1966. However, FBI Director Clarence Kelley admitted that didn't eliminate "foreign counterintelligence operations where there was a grave impact on the security of the nation." The FBI has never explained precisely which groups fall under the "foreign counterintelligence" category.

It is obvious that the full truth about these crimes won't be known until all the files of the government's secret police bodies are opened.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

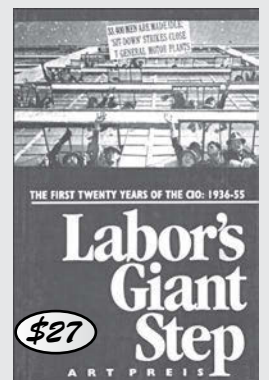
April 9, 1951

After three months of the "Great Debate," the Senate adopted a resolution approving the shipment of four U.S. army divisions to Europe. The American people are being flim-flammed, their expressed wishes brazenly flouted. The latest Gallup poll shows that the majority are convinced "that the Truman administration is not doing as much as it should to head off" war.

The attempts to stampede the American people were underscored last week by the deliberately timed "warning" of Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn that the U.S. is already faced with "maybe the beginning of World War III."

Neither the administration nor the Republican opposition will protect the people's interests. An aroused people must assert itself and demand that it settle through a national referendum the whole issue of peace and war, including the sending of troops abroad.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



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Indiana oil refinery workers locked out by BP stand strong

BY ILONA GERSH

WHITING, Ind. — One week after being locked out at the British Petroleum's refinery here, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 stands strong, committed to fighting against BP's union-busting takeover contract offer. Over 800 union members were locked out March 19 after overwhelmingly voting down the company's "last, best, and final" offer.

BP management "continues to propose eliminating more than 100 local union jobs," Erik Schultz, president of USW Local 7-1, said in a union statement. "They only recently offered to withdraw their proposal to transition over 100 more union jobs into management roles, but only if we agreed to their plan to cut wages across most job classifications, waive our bargaining rights and limit our ability to strike. They have proposed eliminating maintenance and environmental jobs, while also reducing headcount in the remaining crafts. This comes after they've already eliminated more than 300 union jobs in the last 10 years."

The company, which has now eliminated retroactive pay and reduced the signing bonus from its contract offer, wants a six-year contract with a 150-day notice before any strike.

On March 27, the union held a news conference at the union headquarters attended by hundreds of members, their families and supporters and representatives of other unions, including at least 10 members of USW Local 1010 who work at the nearby U.S. Steel mill.

"The full weight and support of the entire international unit of Steelworkers stands with our members here at 7-1," said Roxanne Brown, international president of the USW. "The company made a profit of \$8 billion at this refinery last year. For years, we worked to establish a bargaining pattern, which sets the basis for our contracts. BP has chosen not to honor it. Instead, they chose to go down a path that tries to cut our members' wages, cuts jobs and tries to weaken our rights and collective bargaining agreements."

This year the national union reached agreements with most of the oil companies for a four-year contract that included a 15% wage increase.

"I was going to retire this year but I want one more day in the plant after

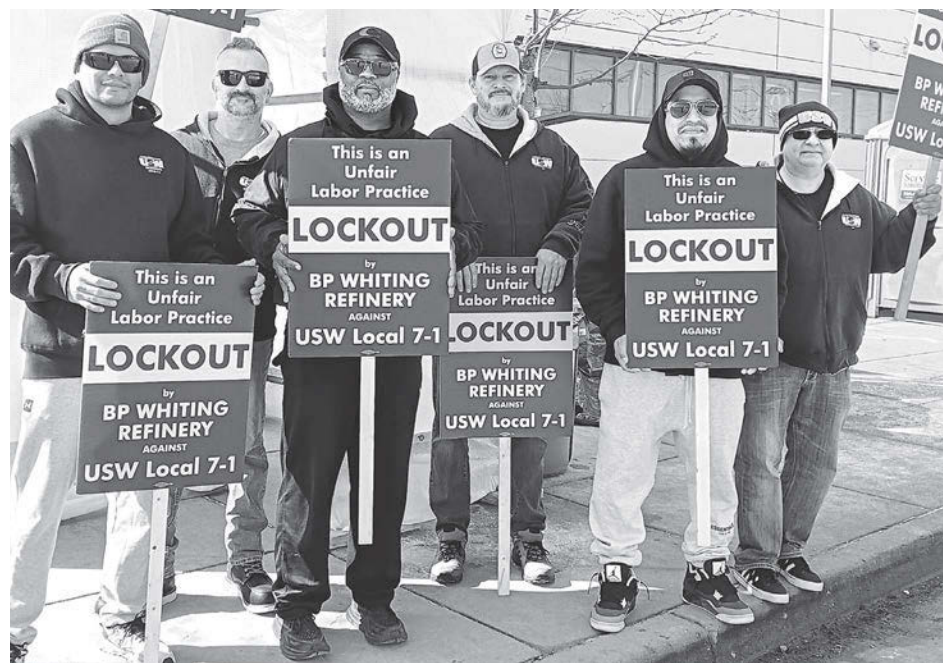
this lockout!" Brian Good, who has worked at BP for 20 years, told the *Militant*. "They want to decide who works overtime and when we take vacations. We won seniority a long time ago, and we're not going to let BP replace it with favoritism."

The refinery, founded in 1889, needs skilled maintenance to operate safely. In a risk to workers and the nearby community, those jobs are now being covered by managers, engineers, former employees and other salaried workers. BP is also bringing in nonunion scabs from other states.

Members of most of the USW locals in northwestern Indiana, United Auto Workers from Local 551 at the South Chicago Ford plant, teachers, members of International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 460, and other trade unionists have been stopping by to join the picket lines.

Hugo Gil, a member of Local 460, brought his son with him. "I'm trying to teach him about unions," he told the *Militant*. "And that being in a union is not like a job, it's a lifestyle. Solidarity with other workers is how we should live our lives." Many pickets bring their whole families, some in strollers.

The oil workers have broad commu-



Militant/Ilona Gersh

Members of Steelworkers Local 7-1 in Whiting, Indiana, picket March 19 after 800 workers were locked out by BP. The union is united, determined to overcome BP's union-busting moves.

nity support. Nearly 150 businesses have put up signs in their windows protesting the lockout. Several restaurants have volunteered to provide dinners in the union hall. The hall is a busy place, bustling with locked-out union members, their families and supporters. Many bring something to help. The family of one locked-out union member who raise cattle on their farm donated 100 pounds of ground beef. "That's a great start to our food bank," a unionist said.

Pickets are organized at four plant gates at the sprawling refinery. The union welcomes volunteers, "especially

on night shift," said one picket organizer. "If you want to join a picket line, come to the union hall first," said President Schultz of USW Local 7-1. The union staffs big vans that circle the refinery every 15 minutes, dropping off and picking up union members who are assigned four-hour shifts. Picket lines, with tents and burn barrels to warm them, are up 24 hours a day.

Financial donations can be dropped off or sent to United Steelworkers Local 7-1, Inc. Strike and Defense Fund at the union hall, 2045 Schrage Avenue, Whiting, IN 46394.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Refuse strikers remain defiant despite fine on union

BIRMINGHAM, England — "We will not be pushed aside," strike leader Danny Taylor told an enthusiastic crowd of hundreds of striking refuse workers at the Atlas depot here March 19. The workers, members of the Unite union, have been on strike for over a year against wage cuts. The bosses' "union-busting tactics have failed. We are not going away, we're determined and united," Taylor said.

He spoke alongside Unite General Secretary Sharon Graham just days after a high court judge imposed a fine totaling 435,000 pounds (\$582,000) on the union.

The workers' employer, the Labour-run City Council, brought the court action claiming union members had breached a court order that prevented workers from interfering with the bosses' strikebreaking operation, by "slow-walking" at the entrance to refuse depots. This picketing had given a powerful boost to the strike.

"They tried to break you with agency workers, but agency workers have joined the picket line," Graham told the crowd. More than 50 agency workers have joined the strike, a mark of its strength.

She reported that the union's executive had cut its annual contribution to the Labour Party by 40%, a cut of 580,000 pounds. "As for the fine, every single penny will be paid out of the union's Labour affiliation," she said, pointing to the Labour government's backing for the council bosses' assault on the union.

Several strikers described how they're now organizing to distribute leaflets and posters about their fight door to door throughout the Birmingham area.

Some 50 strikers protested outside a meeting of the nearby Labour-led City Council in Coventry March 25. A company named Tom White Waste,

which is owned by the council there, has been sending up to 25 scab refuse trucks a day to Birmingham.

"A Labour council is sending crews over to Birmingham to help another Labour council break a strike," Matthew Reid, the Unite convenor for the Birmingham strikers, told the BBC.

— Pete Clifford

Airport workers in Australia march for safety on the job

SYDNEY — Chanting "What's outrageous? Swissport wages!" some 40 airport workers, members of the Transport Workers Union, marched through the international terminal at the airport here March 24. Protests demanding better wages and conditions for workers at Swissport were held in a number of other state capitals the same day.

Workers at Qantas, Australia's largest airline, are outsourced to three different contractors — Dnata, Menzies and Swissport. Swissport is nonunion, while workers at Dnata and Menzies have union contracts, with higher wages and better conditions.

TWU New South Wales Secretary Richard Olsen addressed the media outside the Sydney airport terminal, where TWU members, many workers with Dnata, rallied. He said that the workload that Qantas is placing on workers is leading to "unsafe working conditions on the tarmac."

"It's not unusual, in the heat of the day, to see it reach 50 degrees [122 F]," he said. "It's a very dangerous position to place workers in, and they need protection. We want to ensure workers' safety."

Mustapha Bayad, a trainer with 33 years at the airport, said conditions at Swissport are going backwards. "We need industry-wide safety, not company by company." One example, he said, is a truck license is no longer required for new hires, who are towing

loads of 20 to 30 tons.

At the rally, unionists told this reporter that in December 2024 a young Swissport worker operating baggage machinery at Brisbane airport almost lost his leg. "There are a lot of young new hires at Swissport with no experience," Bayad said. "They need better training."

In September 2025 a worker in his 40s died at the Qantas freight terminal, crushed by a towing vehicle. He was employed by the labor hire company Wymap People.

"Workers are standing up today," said a March 24 TWU media release, "to say enough is enough of risking their lives, their time with family and their health to do a job that doesn't recognize their value."

— Linda Harris

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Oppose Washington's Wars Abroad and Attacks on Working People at Home! Speaker: Betsey Stone, member of Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Reported on Colorado meatpackers strike for the *Militant*. Fri., April 10. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: Dinner, \$15; program, \$5. 4750 S. Pulaski Road. Tel.: (312) 792-6160.

NEW JERSEY

Union City

U.S. Troops, Bases, and Warships Out of the Mideast! Support Israel's Defensive Battle to Prevent a Nuclear Holocaust! Speaker: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 11, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 3600 Bergenline Ave., 2nd Floor. Tel.: (551) 240-1512.

Teamster Series

Lessons from U.S. labor battles of the 1930s

by Farrell Dobbs

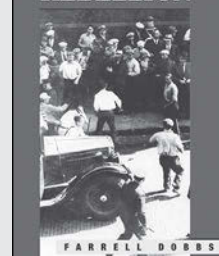
"The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership, they can overcome."

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'Militant' supports union battles

Continued from front page

worked at JBS three times, told Kennedy the next day, describing how he and his co-workers stood up for their rights.

"We are seeing more struggles by working people in the U.S. and throughout the world," Kennedy said. "The war that Washington is waging against Iran is part of the same war against working people in the U.S. to increase profits for the owners of the factories and the capitalist rulers." Gallegos got a subscription to the *Militant*. When he saw a group of his co-workers he yelled, "Hey, come over here and meet the candidate for governor of Texas."

SWP member Joel Britton visited a JBS striker and his companion at their home in Greeley March 27. After discussing Washington's war in Iran and the stakes for working people in blocking the capitalist drive toward another world war, as well as the much needed union-led fight for amnesty, they signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* and got the Spanish editions of *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

In discussions on picket lines, on doorsteps, on the job and at demonstrations, members of the Socialist Workers Party across the country have found a real interest in the fight in Greeley, in the party's election campaigns, the *Militant* and books by SWP and other revolutionary working-class leaders. Along with members of Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, they are campaigning to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant*, the same number of books and raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund by May 12.

Locked-out refinery workers

Iona Gersh and Amy Husk, two SWP members in Chicago, joined a rally to support members of Steelworkers Local 7-1 locked out at the British Petroleum

refinery in Whiting, Indiana, March 27. Hundreds of workers turned out — locked-out refinery workers, those from area steel mills and other workplaces. After looking over articles in the *Militant*, five bought subscriptions.

SWP members Dean Hazlewood and Leroy Watson joined the BP picket line in solidarity a few days later. Several United Auto Workers members from the Ford assembly plant in South Chicago were there at the same time. "I've been looking for an unbiased source of information," one of them told Hazlewood when he showed her the *Militant*. They talked quite a while, and she decided to subscribe to the paper and bought *Teamster Rebellion* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Hazlewood and SWP member Naomi Craine campaigned door to door and in the parking lot of a JBS pork plant in Beardstown, Illinois. "I'm glad they're on strike! They need to do that here. JBS doesn't care at all about the workers," said a woman at one door. She had retired a couple years ago, after working at the JBS plant for 34 years.

At the plant, workers were interested to learn more about the Colorado strike. They face the same issues, especially line speed and safety. Several bought copies of the *Militant*. One



Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for governor in Texas, shows *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde* to Jacquelin Prevarice, a JBS striker in Greeley March 24.

worker from Togo also got a copy of the French edition of *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara, who led the popular 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso.

The "No Kings" rally in Minneapolis March 28, billed as the "flagship" event because of recent brutality by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents there, drew over 100,000 people.

Many marchers were attracted to signs at the table set up by members of the Socialist Workers Party: "U.S.

hands off Cuba," "U.S. out of the Middle East," "Oppose Jew-hatred and defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews," and others.

Some 30 copies of the *Militant*, 13 subscriptions, and four Pathfinder books were sold there, part of the many dozens of books and *Militant* subscriptions sold at "No Kings" events across the U.S.

To campaign for SWP candidates and help get the *Militant* around, contact the distributor nearest you on page 10.

SWP kicks off drive to get on the ballot in New Jersey

BY ROY LANDERSEN

UNION CITY, N.J. — "World politics more and more inserts itself into every election campaign," Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, told 37 people here at a March 28 Militant Labor Forum. The meeting kicked off the campaign to put the SWP candidates in New Jersey, Joanne Kuniansky for U.S. Senate, and Craig Honts for U.S. Congress in district 8, on the ballot.

"We're no longer asked, 'what's the war got to do with us?'" Mailhot said. "The connection between the U.S. rulers' wars abroad and their war against working people at home presents itself to workers at every turn."

Workers see the rulers are heading toward a third world war, Mailhot said, "not because of President Trump, but because of what's happening with the capitalist system he and all other Democratic and Republicans uphold.

"Over the past couple of months, the SWP has issued several calls to action demanding 'U.S. hands off!'" Mailhot said. "The first was over Washington's assault on Venezuela, then over its oil blockade and war threats against Cuba, and now its bombing of Iran. All U.S. troops, warships and bombers should get out of these regions."

Israel's war "is very much a different war," Mailhot said, "a defensive war to ensure Tehran does not develop a nuclear

weapon" to threaten Israel's existence.

The U.S. rulers' wars, Mailhot said, "serve the very same interests as the war against working people in this country — to protect their profits at the expense of the needs of the vast majority." A key part of the meeting was the campaign's efforts to win support for today's union struggles against the bosses' deepening assaults on workers.

Honts asked supporters to join in solidarity with the strike by 3,800 meatpackers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, at JBS in Greeley, Colorado. Their fight for better pay and conditions in defense of the largely immigrant workforce and for an end to abuse and disrespect by the bosses has important stakes for all workers and our unions, he said.

Honts described the fight by the United Farm Workers in California against government moves to slash the pay of immigrants on H-2A visas.

The conditions the UFCW and UFW members are fighting show why "the SWP calls for an amnesty for all undocumented immigrant workers," to end their second-class status, Honts said, and to unify the working class. SWP campaigners are collecting 3,200 signatures for Kuniansky, well over the requirement of 2,000, and 400 for Honts, more than the 250 required, Honts added, urging participants to join the effort.

A road to end imperialist war

"Secretary of War Pete Hegseth led prayers this week at the Pentagon calling for 'overwhelming violence of action against those who deserve no mercy'" in Iran, Kuniansky told the meeting. This is "the course of an imperialist government to advance and defend the interests of the ruling capitalist families."

In contrast, the SWP "presents a way forward that starts from the interests of workers worldwide," she said. "We have confidence in the capacities of the work-

ing class to act in our own interests."

Kuniansky pointed to the Pathfinder title *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke, a firsthand account of Cuba's decisive aid to that struggle. The book provides a prime example of the proletarian internationalism of those who made the Cuban Revolution, led by Fidel Castro. And of the revolutionary leadership of Amílcar Cabral who led the independence movement in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, she said.

Kuniansky cited a 1948 speech by Farrell Dobbs, the SWP national secretary who was running for U.S. president. "Working people need a party they can trust," Dobbs said. SWP members are to be found "wherever the going is tough, wherever extra energy and devotion are needed to defend labor against the employers." The SWP builds on the example that Dobbs' campaign set, Kuniansky said.

In New Brunswick, March 28, Kuniansky met Terri Rossee, a dental assistant, who explained that a rent increase had forced her to move out of her own apartment. The economy has slowed down, she said, and "jobs are so limited. A change has to be made."

"It's getting tight now," Kuniansky agreed. "But there are struggles by working people" to change these conditions, she added, pointing to today's labor struggles and the need for solidarity. To make lasting gains, "working people need to take power into our own hands and change the system. That's the only road to preventing a third world war."

Rossee agreed. She signed the petition and bought a subscription to the *Militant*. By March 31, 574 people had signed up to put Kuniansky on the ballot and 91 for Honts. And 21 people got subscriptions to the *Militant*, 23 got books and 105 got the latest copy of the paper.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, Fighting Fund

March 14 - May 12 (week two)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	18	40	20	\$9,500	\$3,049
Chicago	60	26	60	26	\$13,500	\$1,582
Cincinnati	30	14	30	19	\$5,000	\$0
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	29	70	33	\$5,000	\$700
Los Angeles	90	34	90	62	\$14,000	\$0
Miami	40	11	40	13	\$5,500	\$100
Minneapolis	65	15	65	17	\$6,700	\$650
N. New Jersey	70	11	70	34	\$7,500	\$370
New York	80	16	80	30	\$20,500	\$1,507
Oakland	80	26	80	34	\$15,000	\$5,300
Philadelphia	40	9	40	24	\$6,000	\$2,025
Pittsburgh	45	10	45	15	\$7,000	\$1,900
Seattle	60	18	60	14	\$15,000	\$500
Washington	55	17	55	33	\$4,500	\$0
Other		0				\$0
Total U.S.	825	254	825	374	\$134,700	\$17,683
Prisoners		52				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	10	45	12	\$3,000	\$185
Manchester	30	17	30	5	\$1,300	\$200
Total U.K.	75	27	75	17	\$4,300	\$385
Canada	80	16	90	27	\$11,000	\$1,100
Australia	30	14	30	13	\$4,500	\$800
Total	1,010	363	1,020	431	\$154,500	\$19,968
SHOULD BE	1,300	325	1,300	325	\$165,000	\$41,250
*Raised goal						

'No Kings' boosts Democrats, seeks to trap workers in capitalist politics

BY TERRY EVANS

Protests against President Donald Trump were held across the country March 28, organized by the "No Kings" coalition. The intent of the organizers was to whip up support for the Democratic Party, one of the U.S. capitalist rulers' two main political parties, in the midterm elections and 2028.

Some workers and young people joined the protests seeing them as an opportunity to voice their opposition to Washington's war on Iran and the administration's assaults on immigrants.

"No Kings" organizers say 8 million people took part, calling Trump an "oligarch" planning an "authoritarian power grab." Many echoed the insistence of the Democrats and the middle-class left that Trump is a "fascist." Like the notion he wants to be "king," this is aimed at presenting him as fundamentally worse than any other politician.

It's dangerous to use "fascist," like it was an epithet without meaning. Capitalist rule in the U.S. under Trump is nothing like Adolf Hitler's Nazi rule in the 1930s and during World War II and the Holocaust.

Democrats and the left say the road to ending Washington's wars, defending immigrants and protecting workers' living standards, is by removing the "tyrant" in the White House, not through organizing the working class to fight against all the bosses' parties for its own interests.

This U.S. president — however abhorrent some of his policies are — is in fact a shrewd politician defending the cutthroat class interests of the ruling capitalist families. He's using the White House to manage their affairs in today's increasingly conflict-ridden world. He sees the inevitable wars coming as the crisis of capitalism deepens. And he doesn't bother with niceties other capitalist politicians spout to veil the ruling-class interests that guide their actions.

Under either Democratic or Republican administrations, the capitalists are driven to fight at the expense of their rivals to grab markets, maximize profits and extend their clout. The current bombardment of Iran, the murderous assault on Venezuela and Trump's push to acquire Greenland are all aimed at securing long-term foreign policy goals of the U.S. ruling class and shoring up their supremacy over the "imperialist world order."

Trump champions the need for the rulers to rebuild industry in the U.S., without which they will not be able to produce the warplanes, battleships, deadly missiles and other weaponry needed for an all-out war with their rivals. Today's conflicts are harbingers of a nuclear-armed world war in the making.

Trump openly points to the reality of Washington's decline and talks about reasserting the U.S. rulers' domination, starting from the Western Hemisphere.

This is why his administration inter-

vened in Venezuela and why he's intensified Washington's decadeslong economic and political war against Cuba, imposing a blockade. Ever since Fidel Castro led working people there to take power and uproot capitalist exploitation, the U.S. rulers under both parties have tried all means to try to starve the Cuban people into submission and to overturn their socialist revolution. The "No Kings" organizers are noticeably silent about Washington's assaults on Cuba. In fact, the tone and editorial line on Cuba of the liberal *Washington Post* and conservative *New York Post* are starkly similar.

Washington targets its rival, Beijing

Key to the goals of the current administration are preparations to push back the Chinese rulers, given Beijing's economic growth, military buildup and expansionist Belt and Road foreign policy in recent decades.

The capitalist rulers in Beijing are highly reliant on imported oil for their economy. The Trump administration's bloody assault on Venezuela earlier this year took aim at this. Trump has also pressured the Panamanian rulers into replacing the Beijing-linked company that controls ports on either end of the Panama Canal with one more subservient to Washington.

The U.S. rulers' interest in Greenland is strategic, to position U.S. forces to stop Beijing — and Moscow — from making inroads through Arctic waters into the Atlantic.

The U.S. rulers' bombardment of Tehran is aimed at extending their domination and plunder of the oil and other riches in the Middle East, and at undercutting Beijing. In 2021 Beijing negotiated a "strategic partnership" with Tehran. Then Beijing strengthened its hand by brokering a deal between the rulers of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The administration's war prepara-



Reuters/Tim Evans

"Independent" Sen. Bernie Sanders at "No Kings" rally in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 28, promoting liberal Democrats as the only alternative to President Trump, who they call a "fascist."

tions and its moves in the Western Hemisphere and Middle East, and against Beijing, are integral parts of the preparation for wars to come. They go hand in hand with the bosses' deepening drive against working people at home.

The class struggle at home

Striking meatpackers at JBS in Greeley, Colorado, are fighting against life-threatening speedup, for better wages and to unite workers of a multitude of nationalities in the plant. Oil giant BP has locked out refinery workers in Whiting, Indiana, trying to impose deep wage cuts and eliminate collective bargaining. Millions more workers across the U.S. struggle to provide necessities for their families, as they did under the Joseph Biden administration.

Trump's expanded use of Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids is aimed at dividing the working class and instilling fear into workers who don't have "proper" papers. Trump's vilification of undocumented workers goes hand in hand with strengthening chauvinistic appeals for an "American First" foreign policy. When he says America First he means U.S. ruling class first.

The "No Kings" backers of the Dem-

ocrats promote the subordination of everything else to getting rid of Trump. This masks the reality that Washington and its capitalist rivals are marching humanity toward a third world war, and will continue doing so whichever capitalist party is in the White House.

As the crisis of imperialism deepens and workers' struggles grow, threatening capitalist rule, working people will confront real fascist gangs. They'll be unleashed against our unions and to target Jews as the enemy, not the bosses and their government. Organizing the defense of all who are threatened when fascist assaults spread is a life-and-death question for the workers movement.

Like all capitalist politicians, Trump fantasizes he can control the unintended consequences of the wars he sets in motion and prevent the recurring financial and economic crises that are built into the workings of capitalism.

At the same time, those same laws work to generate class struggle, bringing workers together. In the course of these battles we will have opportunities to build a party of our own that can lead working people by the tens of millions in the fight for political power.

Ábrego García fight against deportation hits one-year mark

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — March 12 marked one year since Kilmar Ábrego García, the 30-year-old Maryland union apprentice sheet metal worker, was picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and illegally deported to El Salvador's notorious CECOT mega-prison days later.

His wife, Jennifer Vásquez Sura, family and supporters fought the deportation with support from his union, the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, winning his return to the U.S. in June. From the start they appealed for, and won, solidarity from unions and others.

CASA, the immigrant-rights group that Ábrego García is a member of, held press conferences and rallied in the streets, at federal court hearings, on May Day and outside the White House. Participants chanted, "Todos somos Kilmar!" (We are all Kilmar). Still, Ábrego García continues to face a blatantly vindictive government prosecution and ongoing efforts to deport him to Africa.

Federal Judge Paula Xinis issued a temporary order March 23 keeping in place previous decisions preventing the Department of Homeland Secu-

rity from deporting Ábrego García to a third country.

Her ruling came after a March 20 filing from the government requesting Xinis dissolve her previous injunctions and let it go ahead with plans to deport Ábrego García to Liberia. Todd Lyons, acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, told the court the government rejected Ábrego García's request to go to Costa Rica, arguing the law does not allow immigrants to designate a country of removal.

"These are mostly reheated arguments that have already been rejected on several occasions," said Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Ábrego García's lawyer.

The government has "made one empty threat after another to remove him to countries in Africa with no real chance of success," Xinis wrote Feb. 17. It has "done nothing to show that Abrego Garcia's continued detention in ICE custody is consistent with due process."

When Ábrego García was brought back from El Salvador in June he was immediately thrown into a Nashville, Tennessee, jail on frame-up charges of human smuggling.

Ábrego García insists he is innocent

and has refused to take a plea deal. Federal Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. in Nashville is considering dismissing the charges against him as retaliatory and vindictive.

Ábrego García spent 275 days in jail — in CECOT, in Nashville and in ICE custody in Moshannon Valley, Pennsylvania. When he was freed Dec. 11, he began to speak out against his treatment by the government.

"The fight will continue," he told supporters Dec. 12 before attending an ICE check-in in Baltimore. "I will remain standing. I will not bow my head to anyone. I will always stand against the injustices this government has committed."

The brutal treatment of Ábrego García is part of a broader drive by the Donald Trump administration against immigrants. The aim is to intimidate millions of workers in the U.S. who have no papers, reinforce their second-class status and intensify their exploitation. This is a bipartisan policy aimed at dividing the working class and meeting the profit-driven needs of the employers.

Ábrego García's fight remains a flashpoint. Join the fight against his deportation!

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Bring all the troops home now!

Continued from front page
the regime's expansionist military operations in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq — along with specialized fighters who are used to terrorize working people.

The Guard Corps owns key industries, including telecommunications, construction companies and oil contractors, profiting off the exploitation of labor. Their paramilitary thugs known as the Basij — which plays a big role in assaulting protesters — are especially hated by working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran. The corps' cadre are schooled in the regime's ideology of Jew-hatred and demonization of Israel.

Washington is waging war not to defend the Iranian people or to aid their challenges to the reactionary regime, or to defend Israel as a refuge for Jews, but to ensure U.S. imperialism's dominant position in the Middle East, to be able to continue to plunder the oil, gas, labor and other resources there.

Battered by U.S. and Israeli strikes on its bases, weapons stores and military factories, the daily number of missiles and drones Tehran has been able to launch at Israel and Arab regimes in the region has dropped dramatically since the start of the war Feb. 28.

Some of those strikes still caused serious damage. On March 27, Iranian missiles and drones hit a U.S. base in Saudi Arabia, destroying an E-3 Sentry plane, a key part of the U.S. surveillance system warning of incoming projectiles.

Donald Trump and his administration have given contradictory statements on what they plan to do next.

On March 30, President Trump claimed that "great progress" had been made in negotiating an end to the war, then threatened that if Tehran does not accede to his demands, "we will con-

clude our lovely 'stay' in Iran by blowing up and completely obliterating all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island."

These are not military targets. Their destruction would be disastrous for working people in Iran, who have been fighting for years to get the boot of the reactionary bourgeois-clerical regime off their necks. Two months before the U.S. launched its attacks, Iranian workers, youth and members of oppressed nationalities joined a new wave of mass protests across the country.

Tehran has targeted ships that enter the Strait of Hormuz without its permission, sending economic shock waves worldwide. Some 20% of the world's gas and oil passes through the strait, along with some 30% of chemicals needed to produce fertilizer. This is already having a significant impact on farmers in many parts of the world as planting season opens.

The U.S. imperialist rulers are once again learning that it is easier to start a war than to end it, as uncontrolled forces are set into motion.

Israel fights to defend its existence

Israel, while coordinating with U.S. forces, is fighting a qualitatively different war. Israel's goal is not the plunder of the natural resources of the Middle East, but defending the existence of Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms.

Since Hamas murdered 1,200 people in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in the largest anti-Jewish pogrom since the Nazi Holocaust in World War II, Israel has been fighting a war on multiple fronts against Tehran's so-called axis of resistance. This includes Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and Tehran-organized terrorist groups in Iraq.

Israel has dealt blows to Tehran, Hezbollah and Hamas over the last two years. But when Washington imposed a ceasefire and pressured Israel to back off further attacks, Hamas and others have been rebuilding and dealing blows to anyone who challenges them. They are planning new attacks aimed at destroying Israel and eliminating the Jews



Israel's Fire and Rescue Service

Damage to homes in Rosh Haayin, Israel, after April 1 attack by Iranian missile carrying a cluster bomb, which sends out shrapnel. Reactionary regime targets civilian neighborhoods.

who live there.

Tehran's main targets in Israel have been civilian neighborhoods, favoring missiles with cluster bombs, which explode, sending deadly bomblets over a wide area, to maximize the number of casualties.

Iran workers face war, repression

The biggest fear of the bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran isn't Washington, it's the deep opposition to its rule among working people.

As soon as the war began, Basij thugs set up checkpoints to stop and interrogate passersby. Unable to find enough volunteers to staff the checkpoints, an indication of declining support, Fars News announced the organization will now accept volunteers as young as 12 years old.

The police and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps continue to arrest union activists. The Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Unions denounced recent arrests of union leaders in Aligudarz, Kermanshah and Tehran. On March 28 Siamak Sadeghi Chehrazai, a member of the Khuzestan Teachers' Union, was arrested. The charge? Trying to bypass the regime's blocking of internet access.

"Construction workers are penniless during wartime; we don't even have in-

surance," was the headline on a March 30 article in the government-funded Iranian Labour News Agency.

It quotes Davood Keshvari, head of the Qom Plasterers' Association. Construction workers have always faced dangers from "falls from heights, structural collapses, and tool-related accidents, and the lack of proper insurance coverage," as well as inflation, he said. The war has added new problems.

Because "workers have no alternative source of income" there should be a guaranteed minimum income when there are shutdowns due to wartime conditions, Keshvari said, but government officials just make empty promises.

The Council of Retirees of Iran is circulating an "urgent call" about the "necessity of protecting workers' lives in wartime conditions." The Islamic Republic has "launched attacks on energy infrastructure in the region," meaning "workplaces have turned into a direct battlefield of this conflict."

"Protecting human life must be an immediate and nonnegotiable priority," the council said, despite bosses' demands for workers to keep working. "In any workplace or industrial center where there is a risk of military attack, explosion, or contamination," they said, "work must not continue."

While the bombing and drone attacks make it difficult for Iran's toilers to protest these conditions, opposition to the regime continues to spread.

Key reading

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



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Court upholds gov't move to bar bonds to immigrants

BY TERRY EVANS

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled March 25 to uphold a move by President Donald Trump's administration that allows the government to detain workers without papers indefinitely. The ruling deals a blow to the constitutional due process protections of thousands of immigrants caught up in the government's stepped-up raids and deportations.

Last July the administration had announced a new policy that denies immigrants facing deportation proceedings the right to win release by posting a bond. Previously, workers without papers were able to win release by convincing a judge they would turn up for future hearings and were not a threat to others.

The new policy makes it much harder for those facing deportation orders to fight their expulsions. The share of detained immigrants who were released on bond or under parole or supervision dropped from 26% in October 2024 to 3% by September 2025. At the same time the number

being detained has soared.

The federal court ruling came in the case of Joaquin Herrera Avila, who has lived in the U.S. for nearly 20 years. Department of Homeland Security officers arrested him in Minneapolis after a traffic stop last August and began deportation proceedings against him. He challenged his detention and won release, but the government appealed and the federal court ruling reversed his discharge.

Bipartisan attack on immigrants

The Trump administration's measures build on anti-immigrant policies adopted under Democratic President Bill Clinton. He signed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act in 1996, giving greater power to the immigration agency to deport immigrants without appeal or judicial review. It restricted eligibility for bond hearings only to those immigrants who lived in the U.S. for more than two years.

In Herrera Avila's case, Judge Ralph Erickson issued a strong dis-

sent, citing an earlier U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said the Constitution's "Due Process Clause applies to all 'persons' within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary or permanent."

The Constitution's 14th Amendment says no state can "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of the law." Any person, regardless of immigration status.

The question being fought over here is an important part of the class struggle today. In several cases where Immigration and Customs Enforcement cops have seized undocumented workers, their families, friends, neighbors, unions and co-workers are fighting for their release and raising funds for their legal costs. Millions of workers across the U.S. are outraged at the increasing moves by the government to detain fellow workers who they've worked, lived and fought alongside of, and are determined to push back the government's assaults.

Rulers richer, workers go to the wall

Continued from front page

hangers-on are doing extremely well, a reflection of the increasing class differentiation intrinsic to the workings of the capitalist system. They're enriching themselves through stock market speculation, buying and selling luxury housing, and many other perks offered exclusively to them.

The bosses have put a clamp on hiring, seeking instead to boost profits through speeding up production with fewer workers at the expense of workers' lives and limbs. In 2025 bosses laid off 1.2 million workers. In February jobs declined by 92,000.

They've also stepped up assaults on union workers, pushing hard to speed up work, lower wages, and attack benefits, schedules and safety at the huge JBS packinghouse in Greeley, Colorado, the BP refinery in Whiting, Indiana, United Farm Workers union members in California and elsewhere.

Long-term unemployment rises

At the same time, the number of workers unable to find a job long-term is on the rise. In February 1.9 million people, about 25% of those on the government's unemployment rolls, have been without a job for 27 weeks or more. With unemployment benefits running out after 26 weeks or less in almost every state, nearly 37% of workers who've been getting unemployment checks were cut off in Feb-

ruary. But they're still without work.

The government's official unemployment figure, at 4.4% in February, does not include many who it counts as having "dropped out" of the labor force because they've been unable to find a job for so long. This figure has risen sharply over the past two years, with 3 million more workers eliminated from unemployment figures.

Things are no better at the store. The price for ground beef has risen 51% since 2020, going up 15% in 2025 alone. Electricity rates rose 6% and natural gas nearly 10% over the past year, making the cost of heating your home or apartment over the past winter unsustainable for 20% of the population.

Diesel fuel now costs over \$5 a gallon, 40% higher than before the U.S. rulers' war on Iran began. This is a crushing blow to owner-operator truck drivers, who have to cover their gas and repair bills themselves.

Working farmers are also being driven deeper into debt by the rising cost for diesel, which powers their machinery, and especially for fertilizer. Nitrous fertilizer shot up 22% from February 2025 to February 2026, and by 40% in just the past month.

The government tries to blame rising prices for food on the farmers, but that's a lie. "The farmer's really not seeing an increase in our goods sold, but everybody's seeing the increase at the grocery stores," Josh Boxell, who

Cargill AI forces workers to speed up while cutting off every speck of meat

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

As beef plant owners, like the bosses at JBS in Greeley, crank up line speeds, they turn a blind eye to the inevitable injuries to their workers. But they keep looking for new ways to prevent leaving any profit-generating meat on the bone.

Cargill, one of the other major beef processors in North America, is using artificial intelligence to guarantee they can oversee workers and get every speck of it. They've developed a computer system — oh so cleverly named CarVe — that spots "red pixels," tiny bits of meat left behind on the carcasses as they go down the chain. Cutting table stations light up under the bosses' eyes with a red, yellow or green signal, rating each worker's performance.

While workers are pushed to scramble even harder to keep up, Cargill bosses expect the technology to recover 0.5% more meat. They gloat this will let them pocket an extra \$2 million each year.

Last year, as the price of ground beef soared 15%, the profits at

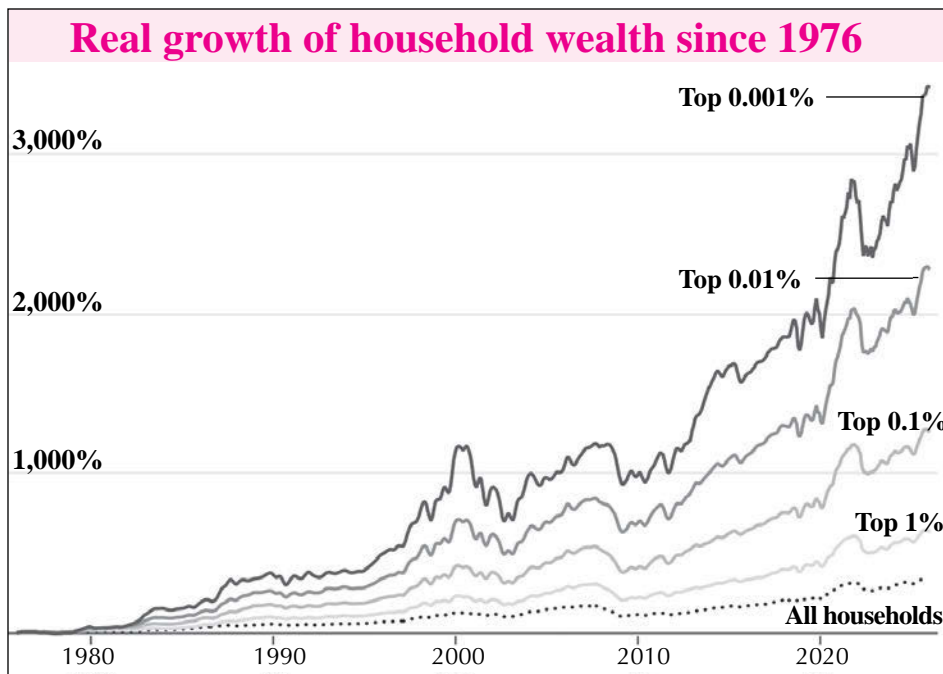
Cargill, the largest privately held company in the U.S., climbed to the highest level in the company's 160-year history. Shareholders reveled in the extra \$1.5 billion made off the backs of the workers.

They're also using AI to predict how many workers will show up every day, calibrating variables like weather conditions, holidays, and of course the local high school football teams' schedules.

The bosses insist all this has nothing to do with exploitation. Rather, they say, CarVe "improves resource efficiency" and "empowers" staff, but is not designed to "monitor or replace people." Really?

On Feb. 17 the Department of Agriculture announced proposed new "updates" to federal line speed regulations in poultry and pork to "reduce outdated regulatory barriers for processors." That's bureaucratese for speedup.

The move was blasted by Mark Lauritsen, an international vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, who said the "proposed rule endangers hard-working union and non-union workers alike, all in the service to the bottom line of big meatpackers."



Graph shows soaring wealth for four layers of capitalist families, but not the working class. Source: Realtime Inequality

grows corn and soybeans in Indiana, told CNN.

Meanwhile, health care costs are soaring. Over 100 million people are in debt due to medical expenses, forcing many workers to go without needed care.

Older workers, who have to turn to assisted-living facilities or nursing homes for housing and care, are unable to cover the huge costs imposed by the giant real estate investment trusts that profit from operating many of these facilities. The median cost for a shared room in nursing care today is \$115,000 per year.

With an average of 10,000 people turning 65 every day, many workers try to get by with help from family and friends while living at home. "Americans are now providing more than \$1 trillion in unpaid family caregiving a year," a March 26 MarketWatch report said.

Record credit card debt

Increasing numbers of working-class families who find themselves unable to cover their bills are using their credit cards to get by. A record 111 million people in the U.S. could not pay off their credit-card bills in full at the end of last year, MarketWatch said, owing more than \$1 trillion. This is a huge profit bonanza for the giant

banks, which charge an average annual interest rate of over 22%.

There's a sharpening class differentiation in the U.S. today, with workers finding it harder and harder to get by versus the capitalist ruling class as well as their well-remunerated upper-middle-class supporters making out like bandits.

"They're Rich but Not Famous — and They're Suddenly Everywhere," headlined a March 24 *Wall Street Journal* article describing part of this development. "There are about 430,000 U.S. households worth \$30 million or more," the article states. "Over the past few decades, the growth in the number of very rich households has surpassed general population growth."

The *Journal* gloats over record-high bonuses that average nearly \$250,000 each paid out to Wall Street's New York City investment bankers.

Those at the top end of the profit class live in a completely different world. The *Financial Times*, which follows such matters closely, ran an article titled "Ferrari flies personalised supercars to super-rich Middle East buyers" March 26. These cars are loaded with special perks meant to meet the needs of each individual billionaire. Despite obstacles imposed by the war raging in the region, luxury-car producers find a way to deliver.

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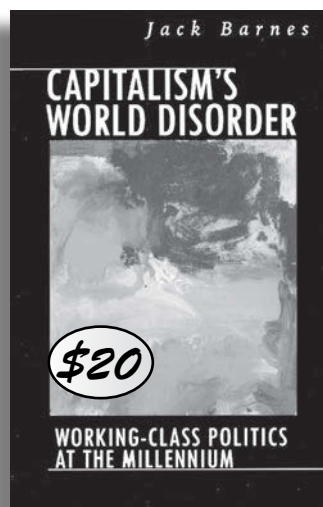
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In midst of US blockade, Cuba advances drug for Alzheimer's

BY RÓGER CALERO

In the midst of Washington's economic and political war against Cuba, working people and medical and scientific institutions on the island are not only fighting to preserve the gains made through their socialist revolution, they're finding ways to develop vital new medical treatments and advance social development for themselves and the rest of humanity.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and scientists involved in research and development of NeuralCIM, a treatment that alleviates Alzheimer's disease, met March 24 to take stock of the results so far. This could mark a turning point in combating a disease that robs the memory, independence and quality of life for millions of elderly people in the world. And they're ready to share their discovery with others.

Developed by Cuba's Center for Molecular Immunology (CIM) over the last 15 years, the drug, also known as NeuroEPO, has been through several years of clinical trials with extraordinary results.

A video produced by journalists for *Belly of the Beast* shows some of the 52 patients being treated by Bill Blanchet, a physician in Colorado. They travel to Cuba to receive the medication. Each describe their improvement. Another soon-to-be released video, "Teresita's dream," follows the work of Cuban scientist Teresita Rodríguez in finding the treatment.

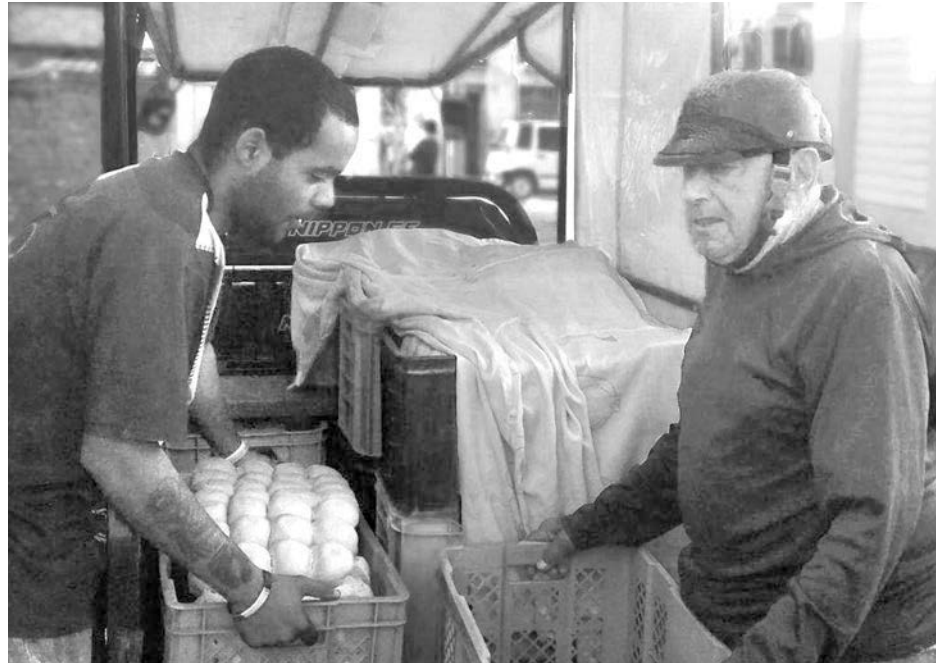
Blanchet says that before taking the drug one patient "could not name her grandchildren. She could not tell me what day of the week it was." Six months later, he spoke to the patient's daughter about the impact of the treatment. Now "she's so good," the daughter said. "She dances, she's socializing, she's her old self again."

The results of the first clinical trial are available on the U.S. National Institute of Health website. They show 54% of the people treated with the drug showed improvement and 30% were stable at the end of the first year. Blanchet said at the end of three years, the same groups still showed no advance of the disease. No other medication for Alzheimer's has had similar results.

Alzheimer's is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. In Cuba, some 160,000 suffer from dementia, with 70% caused by Alzheimer's disease. Last year NeuralCIM was approved by Cuba's Ministry of Health for use in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's.

"The production of NeuralCIM implies a big challenge," Dr. Eliseo Capote said at the meeting. The key obstacle is the stepped-up economic sanctions the U.S. government has imposed on Cuba that prevent imports of equipment and materials for the development of medications. "It's a dream we will try to make possible, finding all the mechanisms to guarantee the product to all the Cuban patients that need it," Capote said.

Since the revolution overthrew capitalist exploitation, Cuba has made historic advances in the field of medicine, as well as medical research. It was the only underdeveloped country to develop, not one, but five vaccines against COVID-19, and to have vaccinated virtually its entire population. It has



Gerardo Díaz, 92-year-old retired truck driver, right, uses his electric scooter to transport bread, supplies to the José Martí Pediatric Hospital in Sancti Spíritus province in Cuba.

developed products like Heberprot-P, a treatment for healing diabetic foot ulcers, sharply reducing the number of patients who have to undergo amputations, among others. Because of Washington's trade sanctions, however, none of the medicines produced in Cuba can be exported to the U.S., denying access to those who need it.

How has a small country like Cuba been able to make these achievements?

Working people in Cuba took political power in 1959 and set out to make the first socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere. The abolishment of

the profit-over-all operation of capitalism has opened the door to important cultural and scientific accomplishments. Cuba's research and medical institutions collaborate with each other to produce treatments needed by millions.

U.S. rulers target Cuba's example

Over the last seven decades, the U.S. capitalist rulers — under both Democratic and Republican administrations — have constantly pushed to discredit and destroy the example of Cuba's socialist revolution. In their latest attempt, President Donald Trump's administra-

Cane cutters in Dominican Republic mark Int'l Women's Day

BY RÓGER CALERO

Women organized by the Sugarcane Workers Union (UTC) in the Dominican Republic held an International Women's Day celebration March 8 on the outskirts of Batey Palo Blanco, in La Romana province. The meeting was marked by their growing involvement in fights against attacks by sugar bosses and the government on their rights and livelihoods.

Two weeks before, 21 women from Batey Palo Bonito, some 35 miles away from Palo Blanco, reported to work one morning and downed their tools, demanding a wage increase. Fifty more from nearby bateyes joined the stoppage when they got to the field.

"They organized themselves," Jesús Núñez, UTC's national coordinator, told the *Militant*. "Leaving their machetes on their hip, they went to the field supervisor." They complained that an agreed-on 6-to-11 a.m. workday kept creeping up with no additional pay. On top of that, they have to wait for the bosses' tractor-pulled wagon to take them back, and often get home late in the afternoon. Following the protest, the company conceded and raised the women's daily wages from 400 Dominican pesos (\$6.66) to 500, Núñez said.

A batey is a small community of homes in the middle of cane fields where sugarcane workers and their families live. The fields where Palo Blanco and Palo Bonito are located belong to the Central Romana Corporation, a giant sugar conglomerate and the largest exporter of Dominican sugar to the U.S.

Some women work cutting cane when they're assigned to do so by field supervisors, but these jobs are usu-

ally given to men. Most of the time the women work in the fields, planting and removing barbojo — the sugarcane tops and leaves left on the ground after harvesting. This work is necessary to prepare for fumigation and the next planting. With picks and shovels, they also fix uneven spots and holes left by harvesters. These are among the lowest-paid jobs, despite being essential to the cultivation process. Many also join their spouses in cutting and loading cane, to boost their piecework pay.

While not recognized by Central Romana bosses, the UTC has been leading a yearslong fight to win pensions, health care and better working and living conditions for thousands of cane cutters, in their majority Haitians.

More women joining the fight

More women are participating in the UTC's protests, and other activities, said Núñez.

The fight for pensions and residency documents for Haitian cane cutters is one of the UTC's central activities. Tens of thousands of workers, contracted by the Dominican government to cut cane, were brought from Haiti going back to the 1950s. As part of the deal, pay deductions were taken for future pensions.

Now retired, after working decades in the fields, they find the promises are empty. Changes in the national social security system in 2001, combined with notorious anti-Haitian discrimination by government institutions, have blocked them from receiving any benefits.

In recent years, cane cutters and their families have come under additional pressure from Central Romana, which demands all adults living in its settle-

tion has imposed an oil blockade that is causing severe shortages of fuel, food and medication aimed at forcing the Cuban people and government to bow to Washington's demands.

"The embargo, and then the most recent, I don't even want to call them restrictions," said Ralph Gregory, one of Blanchet's patients, "it's just cruel."

Working people in Cuba, however, are utilizing their creativity and solidarity to protect the most vulnerable from the effects of the brutal oil blockade. One example is Gerardo Díaz, a 92-year-old retired truck driver, who volunteers to help out at the José Martí Pediatric Hospital in Sancti Spíritus province. Riding his electric scooter he helps transport supplies and medical personnel.

"I bring the bread every day" to the hospital, Díaz told Radio Sancti Spíritus. He wakes up at 5 a.m. to go to any bakery that has bread that day. "Because of the situation we're confronting," Díaz says he has to travel to different ones. He volunteers for several hours at the hospital picking up whatever else is needed. Afterward, he "picks up a few fares to make a little money."

"Gerardo does not work for glory or nostalgia," wrote journalist Yosdany Morejón for Radio Sancti Spíritus. He does it because he feels useful. "He's conscious that every bag of bread he delivers to the kitchen is part of a hospitalized child's care." He does it, and "doesn't demand recognition. He just goes on doing it."

ments must work in the fields or face eviction. Enforcement of this rule has been stepped up by the company's need for more labor as it expands cultivated areas, said Núñez. Before this, the company turned a blind eye to women who took outside jobs as domestic workers or in other industries, while they could be drawn on in times of need, a ready-made reserve pool of labor.

The bosses cut costs as they demolish housing units after expelling anyone who can no longer work in the fields. These workers are replaced by younger ones, preferably without a family.

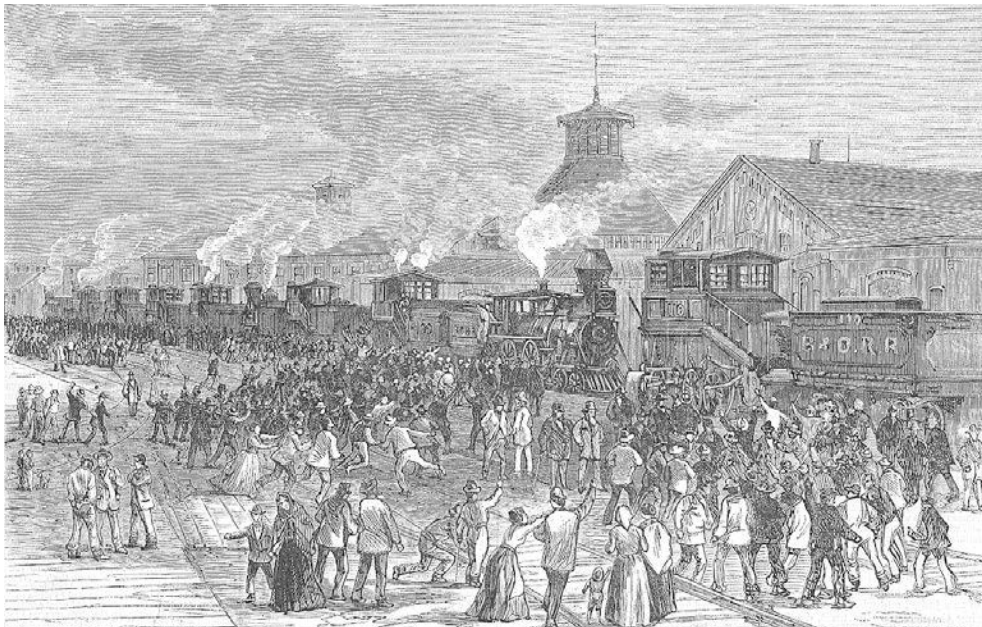
From the beginning of the capitalist sugar industry in the Dominican Republic, bosses set up bateyes as an extension of production, not as a social benefit. Most lack running water, and little electricity or access to other basic services. Often they don't even appear on the country's maps.

Government moves to deport Haitian immigrants lend a hand to the bosses by instilling fear in workers in the bateyes so they don't leave the settlements to find work elsewhere. As a testament of resistance today, however, workers refuse to give up on having a social life, and a family, and they fight for better conditions for themselves and others.

In the last year, the sugarcane workers' movement has taken steps to draw retired workers from other industries who have also been denied pensions into their fight. Barely 11% of older workers in the Dominican Republic have a pension — whether they were born there or are immigrants. And the number of those forced to keep working past 60 years old grew by 70% between 2014 and 2024.

1877 rail workers' walkout sparked first general strike in US

The Great Labor Uprising of 1877 by Philip S. Foner is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. After five years of economic depression, railroad workers in Martinsburg, West Virginia, went on strike against yet another wage cut. Despite state militia and U.S. army intervention, the strike rapidly spread to other rail lines and sparked support from workers and the unemployed in cities across the country. Within days, 100,000 workers were involved in a nationwide strike — the first in U.S. history. The excerpt is from the Preface and the Epilogue. Copyright © 1977 by Philip S. Foner, Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



D. Bendann/Harper's Weekly

Blockade of engines at Martinsburg, West Virginia, during the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. Firemen walked off job July 16, 1877, shutting the trains down, winning support from other workers.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY PHILIP S. FONER

In 1876, as the nation prepared to celebrate the centennial of American independence, an economic depression was entering its fourth year; millions of Americans were unemployed, and for those who were still working, wages — already at starvation levels — were being cut in half. In New York City, where one-quarter of the work force was without jobs, meetings of the unemployed, called to “consider how we are to get work, food, clothing, and shelter,” were brutally attacked by the police. ...

According to the *Chicago Workingman's Advocate*, the centennial

pointed up the need for “another revolution, as essential today as that inaugurated in 1776.”

In the hot mid-July of 1877, exactly one year after the celebration of America's one hundredth birthday, with the nation prostrate, a general railroad strike developed into a national conflagration that brought the country closer to a social revolution than at any other time in its century of existence except for the Civil War.

On Tuesday, July 16, 1877, railroad workers at Martinsburg, West Virginia, went out on strike against still another wage cut imposed by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

As the militia was mobilized and violence broke out, the strike extended up the B & O line and spread rapidly to other lines. Other workers came to the support of the railroad strikers, and by the weekend angry crowds of workers were attacking the railroads and fighting with militia in the cities of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The local militia generally sided with the strikers, and, for the first time since Andrew Jackson's administration, federal troops were called in to suppress a strike.

Almost before the public was aware of what was happening, the huge contagion had spread as far as Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, and then on to San Francisco. Within a few days, one hundred thousand men were on strike in the first nationwide labor upheaval in his-

tory. All the main railway lines were affected, and even the employees of some Canadian roads joined the strike. ...

The railroad strikes served as a fuse, carrying the spark of rebellion to other workingmen, who, if they were working, were suffering from wage cuts, and to the unemployed multitudes in the great cities. In several cities, the original strike on the railroads expanded to many other industries, and in St. Louis it spread into such a systematically organized and complete shutdown of all industry that it became the first truly general strike in history.

Although the Great Strike was spontaneous and unorganized — it had

“the first uprising against the oligarchy of capital which had developed since the Civil War.”
—Karl Marx, 1877

nothing in the nature of central leadership and direction — this first nationwide rebellion of labor frightened the authorities and the upper classes as nothing before in our history. ...

During the Great Strike, the major part of the country's transportation system and thousands of industries dependent on it were brought to a halt. ...

It is becoming widely accepted that in most cases these actions were not mindless riots, but rather reflections

of the economic, political, and social grievances, needs, and aspirations of the particular group of participants. ...

[A] tendency that one must avoid is that of viewing the Great Strike as a full-blown insurrection which, but for a quirk of fate, would have produced a socialist America; or to insist that 1877 was a “mass strike” leading to virtual insurrection and with revolutionary potential. That there were distinct insurrectionary and revolutionary elements in the Great Strike will become abundantly clear below. But it will also become evident that this characteristic did not apply in many areas affected by the strikes, and that at no point did the workers have either the power or the leadership to have transformed the strikes into a revolutionary seizure of the economy or the state. ...

Once the strikes were over, the Marxists insisted that the next immediate task was to create such a national federation of trade unions, with the eight-hour day as the unifying issue. Executive committees set up during the struggle, and scattered mass meetings were not enough, they argued. Strikers with hungry families to feed required swift relief payments, and hastily established committees could not meet this need. The strikes had demonstrated the indispensability of trade unions capable of holding out against the combined employer-government offensive.

The Marxists also maintained that the strikes had also proven that skilled and unskilled, employed and unemployed, Black and white, American- and foreign-born, men and women — all could join together in a common struggle against the common enemy. Thus, it was possible to build a labor movement that would unite these different sections of the working class for the first time in American history. ...

Writing to Friedrich Engels, Karl Marx called the Great Strike “the first uprising against the oligarchy of capital which had developed since the Civil War,” and predicted that while it would be suppressed, it “could very well be the point of origin for the creation of a serious workers' party in the United States.”

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Moscow's 4-year war on Ukraine drains Russian farmers, soldiers

BY ROY LANDERSEN

After four years of trying to conquer Ukraine, Moscow's forces have recently lost a total of 150 square miles of territory to Kyiv. They have launched a spring offensive but were stopped cold with mounting losses as working people in Ukraine are determined to defend their country against Russian President Vladimir Putin's attempt to erase their nation's sovereignty.

Since Washington began its assault on Iran, rifts have deepened between the U.S. rulers and rival imperialist governments in Europe over Moscow's war.

President Donald Trump's administration is continuing to push Kyiv to concede significant parts of eastern Ukraine to make a deal with Moscow to end the conflict. Washington seeks to advance its goal of weakening Beijing by pulling Moscow away from the closer ties it has established with the Chinese rulers. Allowing Moscow some control over its "spheres of influence" was part of the White House's 2025 National Security Strategy document.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky says the White House is pressuring his government, by making any U.S. security guarantees for Ukraine conditional on allowing Moscow to take over the rest of the Donbas, the country's mining and industrial region.

Putin continues to insist on his central war aim of seizing Donbas. He told Kyiv it had two months to cede Donbas or face more deaths. Most Ukrainians are strongly opposed to ceding territory.

Moscow's forces, despite numerical superiority, have barely advanced in two years with over a million dead or wounded. Countless more would have to be sacrificed on the battlefield for Moscow to try to conquer all of Donbas, which includes cities heavily defended by the Ukrainian military.

In contrast to Washington, the rulers in France, Germany, the U.K. and elsewhere in Europe are opposed to any outcome of the war that would strengthen Moscow. They're concerned much more with their own vulnerability to attacks by Putin's regime than with Ukraine's independence and are moving to rebuild their run-down military forces. The German rulers plan to convert several Volkswagen and Rheinmetall car plants to manufacture armaments.

Moscow continues to bombard Ukraine's cities to try to demoralize working people. Kyiv's anti-missile protection system is stretched thin but downs hundreds of missiles each night. Some inevitably get through to deadly effect.

Ukraine has begun producing its own long-range missiles and drones, which can now hit military and infrastructure sites deep within Russia. Ukraine's focus on military targets is in marked contrast to Moscow's airstrikes which are aimed at maximizing civilian casualties.

Small farmers protest in Siberia

At home, Putin's regime faces resistance by working people trying to defend their livelihoods. In early March small farmers in the Novosibirsk region in eastern Siberia protested against the arbitrary slaughter of their livestock by local authorities who said they were culling herds infected with an unspecified "animal disease."

Over 90,000 head of cattle and many pigs and sheep were slaughtered. Farmers from five different regions went to Moscow March 31 to demand that Putin stop the mass culling. Over 31,000 people signed a petition demanding he act.

Villagers were furious not only at the officials' high handedness, but also over paltry compensation for their livestock, often their sole source of income. They obstructed the vehicles of veterinarians sent to kill their animals. Several farmers were detained for blocking roads and seven were fined.

Svetlana Panina, a farmer from Novoklyuchi, returned home March 14 to find all her 200 animals slaughtered. "We were basically left homeless, without anything, without any means of existence," she told the press. She demanded an explanation from local authorities but they refused.

Stanislav Sankeyev, head of the People's Farmer Association, suggested authorities were hiding foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks to protect Russia's livestock export trade. In February, the government in Kazakhstan banned imports of livestock, meat, and milk from four Siberian regions in Russia, including Novosibirsk. In mid-March, the rulers in Belarus imposed a broader ban.



Russian farmers protest in Moscow March 31, delivering petition with 31,000 signatures demanding President Vladimir Putin stop local officials' mass slaughter of their livestock.

The herds of large agricultural companies, such as Miratorg, Russia's largest pork and beef producer, haven't been culled at all.

The farmers' fight captured national attention. "What kind of a mess are we being led into?" popular commentator Victoria Bonya said. "We won't stay silent." Her call for Russian people to "stand up and rebel" was echoed widely, including among some soldiers.

The Kremlin has a long history of callous disregard for working people on the

land, regardless of their nationality.

Every year, Ukrainians commemorate Moscow's genocidal Holodomor — "extermination by hunger" — carried out by Joseph Stalin's regime in Moscow. Millions of Ukrainian peasants were deliberately starved to death in 1932-33 while their grain rotted in Soviet warehouses after being requisitioned by the government.

The Ukrainian people's best ally is working people in Russia who also face assault from Putin's regime.

Serious interest in Pathfinder books at Paris book fair

BY HUGO WILS

PARIS — Over the weekend of March 21-22, 174 books by and about African revolutionary leaders like Thomas Sankara and Amílcar Cabral, as well as Cuban leaders like Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, were eagerly picked up at the Pathfinder booth at the fifth Paris African Bookfair. Over 400 authors and 150 publishers took part.

Youth, workers and other visitors who came by the table wanted to learn more about the record of Cuba's internationalist missions in support of African liberation struggles, part of why the U.S. government is targeting the Cuban Revolution. The country of honor this year was Angola, where thousands of Cuban volunteer fighters helped defeat invasions by apartheid South Africa.

This interest was reflected by the 31 copies sold of Pathfinder's newest title, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa*, by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke.

A handful of passersby were also interested in learning more about the fight to build revolutionary working-class parties by the Communist Leagues in the U.K., Canada and Australia and the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S.

Antoine Akodogbo, a young forklift driver in a pharmaceutical plant, picked up a copy of *The Communist Manifesto*. "Our generation needs to think how we can change society, capitalism isn't working," he said. "We need to change what's happening in the world, these wars don't stop. I

don't know much about communism but I want to learn more."

Akodogbo explained there are debates on the job over Washington's war on Iran, but "most workers want to see peace." Pathfinder volunteer Jacques Salfati explained that there are two different wars going on there. One is U.S. imperialism's drive to expand its domination and plunder of the Middle East, another is Israel's fight to defeat Tehran's drive to eliminate Israel and the Jews. Akodogbo gave his contact information to stay in touch.

"Why is it always the Jews who are scapegoated?" asked Ina Kuhn, a young woman from Germany who subscribed to the *Militant* at the fair last year.

"It's because of their history as a people-class of traders and money-lenders under feudalism that today they are at the center of conspiracy theories used to divert the struggle of working people to take political power with — if successful — devastating consequences for workers and Jews alike," Pamela Holmes replied. Interested, Kuhn bought a copy of *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon and said she wanted to keep in touch.

"I want to understand the roots of women's oppression. I don't like it that people in power use religious scripture to justify women's oppression," said Oumy Dieye, explaining why she bought a copy of *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*. Opposed to the U.S. war against Iran, she also subscribed to the *Militant*.

Books by Thomas Sankara, leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, were top sellers. This included 48 copies of *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*, 19 of *Thomas Sankara Speaks* and eight of *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions*.

A total of six subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold.



Interest in Pathfinder books was high at the Paris African Bookfair March 21-22, reflected in sale of 174 books, including 31 copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*. Pathfinder volunteer Arnold Lesort-Pajot, above left, introduces books, *Militant*.

Defend Cuba's socialist revolution

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crush its people and topple their government.

The Cuban Revolution changed world history. Led by Fidel Castro, working people not only ended capitalist exploitation, setting an example for workers in the U.S. and worldwide. They transformed themselves, joining historic independence struggles in Africa that ended colonial domination and opened the door to the overthrow of apartheid in South Africa. Their actions remain a powerful example of what the working class is capable of accomplishing when it wields political power and has the leadership it deserves.

Today, emboldened by its intervention in Venezuela and war against Iran, the U.S. imperialists are threatening military action against Cuba.

"I built this great military," President Donald Trump boasted March 27, "sometimes you have to use it. And Cuba's next, by the way."

The U.S. government blatantly lies about Cuba and its revolution. "Their system doesn't work," declared Secretary of State Marco Rubio March 30. He claimed, "We've done nothing punitive against the Cuban regime."

But ever since 1960, the U.S. government has attempted to punish the Cuban people and their government. A memo for U.S. President John F. Kennedy by State Department official Lester Mallory said that Washington is "denying money and supplies to Cuba to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government." A year later the U.S. rulers orchestrated the failed mercenary invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, before

imposing their brutal trade embargo in 1962.

Today the Trump administration is escalating that course. It hopes that by tightening its squeeze on Cuba it can pave the way for the revolution's overthrow. The U.S. rulers have never forgiven working people in Cuba for making a revolution and nationalizing their country's patrimony. Nor will they.

Washington's attacks against Cuba are driven by the same capitalist class that is stepping up its assaults on working people at home to defend their dog-eat-dog profit system. Bosses are assaulting wages, conditions and unions and trying to set native-born and foreign-born workers against one another. You can see this clearly in their attacks on workers at JBS in Colorado and the BP refinery in Indiana.

"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," explains a statement released by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee on the heels of Washington imposing its blockade.

"Instead, workers, unionists, and others among the exploited and oppressed in the US have an interest in demanding, 'US hands off Cuba! End Washington's economic blockade!'"

Join with Socialist Workers Party members who are building protests against the U.S. rulers' blockade and war threats, and answering Washington's slanders about Cuba by getting out the truth about its socialist revolution and the example it sets for a road forward for all toiling humanity.

Asian Studies conference goes buy Pathfinder titles

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Pathfinder was one of some 70 publishers and other exhibitors at the Association for Asian Studies conference here March 12-15. More than 3,900 professors, graduate students, librarians and others attended — the organization's biggest conference in its 85-year history.

There were more than 600 panel discussions held over the four days. Topics included "China and Global Capitalism: Interventions and Engagements from the 1950s to the 1980s" and "Transnational Mobility and Global Entanglements in 20th Century East Asia."

A keynote address, "A Feminist Redefining of Democracy in Post-Developmental South Korea" by Hyun Mee Kim from Yonsei University in Seoul kicked off the conference. It described the crisis of the capitalist economy in South Korea and its impact on working people. She said that South Korean unemployment for young people in their 20s is growing; the birth rate of 0.8% of women is the lowest in the world; and a suicide rate of 29.1 per 100,000 people, one of the world's highest.

"I am studying history in the university, but I am also interested in ongoing issues," Xinghan Ma, a Chinese student at Keio University in Japan, told Pathfinder volunteers when he stopped at the booth. "I am looking at how Maoism became global in the 1960s, presented as a solution to social problems around the world." He bought one of the three copies of *Maoism vs. Bolshevism* sold. Many other partici-

pants were eager to look at books that address the big political questions in the world today from an international working-class perspective.

Participants from China, Japan, Germany, Korea, Taiwan, Finland, Denmark, Indonesia and the Netherlands, as well as those from the U.S. and Canada, were among those who stopped by the Pathfinder booth.

Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution was the top seller, with nine sold in English and five in Chinese. Participants also bought seven copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa*, Pathfinder's newest title, by Víctor Dreke, a leader of Cuba's combatants who aided the revolutionaries in Guinea-Bissau.

"We need books like these that aren't readily available in today's world," Emily González, a professor at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill, Massachusetts, said after buying the book. Born and raised in Jamaica, González visited Cuba and admires the Cuban Revolution. "Cuba used to be a playground for the rich and famous, but the people never benefited — of course there was a revolution!" she said.

There was widespread interest in the Cuban Revolution. Thirty-eight of the 81 books sold were on that topic, including five copies of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and three of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*.

Other best sellers included *Cosmetics, Fashion and the Exploitation of Women; Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity; Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle; The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class; The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation; and Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning under Capitalism* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Ling Zhang from SUNY Purchase College in Westchester County, New York, and some other participants remembered Pathfinder from last year's conference. She bought another three Pathfinder titles this year, all on the Cuban Revolution. "I am interested in international struggles, and your books help my research," Zhang said. "See you next year."

The 2027 Association for Asian Studies conference will be held in Boston March 18-21.

Tanker unloads in Cuba

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endure with heroism and stoicism," remarked Carlos Fernández de Cossío, Cuba's deputy foreign minister. "It's a demonstration of the criminal cruelty of imperialism against a nation that refuses to be dominated."

Trump has made clear that allowing one shipment of oil doesn't mean any change to his threats to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution. "Cuba's finished," he said. "Whether or not they get a boat of oil, it's not going to matter."

As the Russian ship approached Cuba March 30, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said that her country, which regularly sent oil to Cuba before the U.S. blockade, was considering doing so again.

Reverse Florida bans

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the denial of issue no. 7, dated Feb. 23, to an inmate at the Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton, Florida.

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 article is a statement by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the party's National Committee. It calls for "action by working people to oppose the US rulers' tightening economic squeeze of the Cuban people and escalating military threats against Cuba."

Like all the other banned issues, prison officials claim the issue is "dangerously inflammatory," encourages "riot, insurrection, rebellion" and "presents a threat to the security" of the prison.

Militant attorney David Goldstein appealed to the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee.

"The SWP statement is consistent with the SWP's long-standing opposition to the U.S. embargo and other aggressive policies directed against Cuba and its people," Goldstein writes. "Nothing in the statement advocates or encourages violence, uprisings, rioting, or illegal conduct of any kind, either in the U.S. or Cuba."

The impoundment notice "does not identify any specific material in the Article that Lancaster found to justify" its ban on that issue, he writes.

Further, Goldstein points to widespread reporting on Cuba today, particularly in Florida, and provided links to 68 articles on Cuba and Washington's oil blockade of the island from the *Miami Herald* since Feb. 1. Goldstein points to a 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Turner v. Safley*. It says, "Prison walls do not form a barrier separating inmates from the protections of the Constitution."

Letters protesting the impoundment of the *Militant* at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, continue to be sent by supporters of free speech to the Literature Review Committee.

At Taylor, prison authorities refuse to allow issues nos. 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 to be given to prisoners under the same "rule violations" as the Lancaster impoundment.

They claim the basis for the rejection of issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 are front-page articles reporting on labor-backed, disciplined protests calling for the rights of immigrant workers to be protected in Minneapolis and calls for amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S. Officials say that issues nos. 8 through 10 were impounded because they had articles on the support the *Militant* received in its efforts to have the impoundments of issues nos. 4, 5, and 6 overturned.

To date letters have been received from Samuel Morley, general counsel of the Florida Press Association; David Lefrancois, a professor at the University of Quebec; Tim Richardson, PEN America's program director for journalism and disinformation; Felix Vincent Ardea, president of division 89 of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference; Deputy Director Corene Kendrick and Director David Fathi of the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project; Daniel Tilley, legal director of the ACLU in Florida; Justin Mazzola, deputy director of research at Amnesty International USA; and others.

To join the campaign against the banning of the *Militant*, help get letters from unions, churches and prominent individuals. 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.

'Militant' Prisoners Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com