

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Cuban women protest against US rulers' assaults
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 90/NO. 16 APRIL 27, 2026

JBS strike wins better contract, stronger union in Colorado

BY MARY MARTIN

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 members who work at the JBS flagship beef slaughterhouse in Greeley, Colorado, voted to ratify an improved new two-year contract by 93% April 12.

UFCW Local 7 President Kim Cordova said in a statement that the contract registered significant gains and no concessions. She said their victory is “a testament to the workers who stood on the picket lines for three weeks through extreme weather and refused to be disrespected. This is what union power looks like.”

Some 3,800 workers work on two shifts at the plant. The vast majority are immigrant workers. The union notice on the strike vote — like many local union materials — was distributed in six languages, English, Haitian Creole, Spanish, French, Urdu and Somali.

The union reported the contract calls for an immediate 70 cents an hour raise, then two 40-cent raises, in July 2026 and July 2027. In addition,

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Cuba's doctors fight to counter the effects of US blockade

BY RÓGER CALERO

A Russian-flagged tanker with 730,000 barrels of crude arrived in Cuba March 31. After nearly three months of imposing an across-the-board oil blockade on Cuba, President Donald Trump said his administration had “no problem” with the delivery of the Russian crude.

The capitalist media, however, failed to mention that Washington's blockade was a flagrant violation of Cuba's national sovereignty, with the right to buy or receive oil. Washington threatened to impose punishing tariffs on any country that had the temerity to sell or donate oil to Cuba. The government of Mexico, for instance, has been one of the main sources of oil for Cuba, after Venezuela, but backed off because of the U.S. threat.

While the Trump administration allowed the delivery from Moscow, it also said there is no change in the blockade, which is being imposed with bipartisan support. “Humanitarian” oil shipments to the island will be decided on a case-by-case basis, it said.

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End Washington's war for plunder in the Middle East

Bring troops, bombers, warships home now!



U.S. Navy/Seaman Apprentice Zoe Simpson

USS Abraham Lincoln, above right, leads one of three U.S. carrier strike groups in Middle East as Washington blockades boats from Iran's ports, threatens escalation, seeks new negotiations.

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Donald Trump administration is alternating between arrogant threats to restart bombing and flattery of current Iranian officials — calling them “smarter” and more “reasonable” than their predecessors, who were assassinated in the U.S. war — to try to reach an agreement with the Iranian regime that would advance U.S. imperialist interests in the Middle East. That's also why Washington is pressuring Israel to halt its defensive war against Hezbollah, Tehran's proxy, in Lebanon.

After 21 hours of negotiations in Islamabad, Pakistan, U.S. and Iranian negotiators headed home April 12 with-

out an agreement. They are set to meet again, with the White House saying it could happen soon. The tenuous two-week ceasefire that ended the 40-day war expires April 22.

SWP candidates: Tribunes of the people
 —Editorial, page 9

Tehran threatened to attack nearby Arab states and to keep the Strait of Hormuz shut down, but still sent a 70-person delegation to the talks in Pakistan, including Speaker of Parliament.

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Rail unionists look to take on bosses' attacks on training, safety on the job



Union Pacific via National Transportation Safety Board

Some two dozen rail cars derailed in Richmond, Texas, March 18, one of five Union Pacific derailments in March, putting over 100 cars on ground. Jump in derailments shows boss push for profits.

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — Increasingly frequent derailments and deaths of rail workers on the job, along with less and less training for new hires, point to the need for a union fight to take control of conditions on the job. This is the only way to advance safety for rail workers and those who live near the tracks.

This comes on top of bosses reducing

crew size in all railroad crafts — from operating crews to track repair — and running ever longer trains that are harder to control. At the same time, the bosses of the Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern are pushing for a merger, which will create the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S. in hopes of boosting profits further.

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SWP candidates, 'Militant' explain roots of US imperialist drive to war

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Washington's war on Iran and threats against Cuba's socialist revolution, along with bosses' attacks on workers and our unions, are at the cen-

ter of discussions Socialist Workers Party members are having.

The party is in the middle of an eight-week campaign to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant*, the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, and to raise \$165,000 for the annual Militant Fighting Fund. The fund is crucial for the paper to continue

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'Militant' steps up fight against bans in Florida prisons

BY JANET POST

Support continues to build from unionists, civil liberties groups and others demanding authorities overturn the unconstitutional ban on six issues of the *Militant* in Florida prisons.

On April 1 the paper received notice from the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee that the *Militant's* appeal on issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 had been rejected. Authorities had banned those issues, claiming

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Hungarian voters reject Orban, Moscow, as capitalist crisis grows

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and his Fidesz party, in power for 16 years and backed by both the Kremlin and the Donald Trump White House, were heavily defeated in elections April 12. Peter Magyar's moderate conservative Tisza party won over two-thirds of seats in parliament.

The vote reflects deepening opposition to Orban's support for Moscow's war against Ukraine and the worsening economic conditions faced by working people under his government as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

Magyar spoke to thousands of cheering supporters. The vote was a "choice between East and West," he told the media, that is between the Vladimir Putin regime in Moscow or the bloc of capitalist governments in the European Union, dominated by the rulers of Germany and France. Hungary, a landlocked central European country, has a population of less than 10 million. Magyar pledges to replace Hungary's currency with the euro by 2030.

"Everyone in Hungary knows that Ukraine is the victim in this war," Magyar told a press conference the day after the elections. "I say to them what would you do if Russia invaded Hungary? What counties would you give up?" He said no one has the right to decide peace terms on behalf of Ukraine's citizens, adding he would tell Putin "to end the killing after four years and end the war."

During his 16 years in office Orban entrenched his power by tightening his party's control of state and media

institutions. He drew closer to Moscow as he sought access to cheap Russian petroleum.

Magyar, a former Orban insider, tapped into Hungarians' discontent over soaring living costs, poor health care and the decline of other public services. Inflation hit 17% in 2023, with food price hikes outstripping those faced by workers in other countries in Europe. Magyar targeted corruption and patronage under Orban, which, he said, enabled "a few families to own half the country."

Magyar's victory was hailed by leaders of most governments in the EU, relieved that Orban's attempt to obstruct their policies is over. Orban blocked EU loans to Ukraine after Moscow's invasion and stalled EU sanctions on Russia.

Trump, Putin backed Orban

Both the White House and the Kremlin openly tried to influence the elections. Just days before the polls, Vice President JD Vance visited Budapest to campaign with Orban.

Magyar says Hungary will continue to be reliant on Russian energy "for some time."

For years, Orban relied on support from people in rural areas to consolidate his grip on power. Party supporters handed out pre-election gifts of food or even cash, helping cement four electoral victories.

A recent documentary, "The Price of a Vote," revealed how hundreds of thousands of impoverished Hungarians took up money-for-vote schemes,



AP photo/Darko Bandic

Election eve opposition rally in Hungary April 11. Voters overwhelmingly rejected Viktor Orban's pro-Moscow ruling Fidesz party, as workers, youth look to end economic, social crisis.

like offers of government jobs and access to everything from firewood to health care and prescription medicines, all dependent on voting for the Fidesz party.

But as conditions worsened the bribes had less effect.

"They hand it out so we vote for Fidesz," retired factory worker Ibolya Csiki told the *Financial Times* three days before the polls. She lives on \$140 a month and was headed to a truck giving out food parcels to get a packet of ham, bread and Easter staples. "In 16 years Orban could not help me," she added.

Asked about whether she would allow a Fidesz "helper" to accompany her to the booth on voting day,

she responded, "No way. My vote is mine alone."

"Russians go home!" Tisza supporters chanted during Magyar's victory celebrations.

Hungary won its independence from Austria during the uprisings that swept Europe after World War I. Decades later the country was dominated by the Stalinist regime in Moscow, which crushed the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, the working-class uprising against the Stalin-backed regime in Budapest.

Today working people of Hungary are being drawn more deeply into world politics as they look for ways to defend themselves.

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THE MILITANT

Moscow's war on Ukraine risks new Chernobyl disaster

Since a Russian missile punctured the dome covering the destroyed reactor at Chernobyl in Ukraine, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, only a metal plate covers the hole. The risk of a new radioactive release is another cost of Moscow's war on Ukraine.



Militant/John Studer

Monument at Chernobyl, dedicated to Ukrainian firefighters who died fighting fire.

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

Exhibit shows Japanese Americans' internment during World War II

BY PATTI HIYAMA

"Am I an American or Am I Not?" is the title of a traveling exhibit currently on display at the public library in Temecula, California. It has been showing in big cities like Boston and small ones like Clarksdale, Mississippi, and San Leandro, California, where this *Militant* correspondent saw it. The title of the exhibit is a quote from Fred Korematsu, a U.S. citizen who was one of over 120,000 Japanese Americans rounded up and herded into concentration camps in the U.S. during World War II.

President Franklin Roosevelt claimed internment of all Japanese in the U.S. was a military necessity. But that was nothing but a lie. It was a blatant use of racism to whip up support for Washington's war against Tokyo to decide which set of capitalist rulers — those in Washington or Tokyo — would control the wealth of the Pacific region.

The exhibit is a good place to learn about the forced imprisonment of Japanese Americans. You can find where it is scheduled to be exhibited or view it in digital format online at amianamerican.org.

In 1942 Japanese Americans on the West Coast, where most of us lived, were forced into 10 concentration camps in remote deserts or swamps, surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by soldiers in towers with machine guns. The Japanese Americans were

given 72 hours to dispose of their homes, cars and other property and could bring only what they could carry in two bags per person. They lost their farms and crops, fishing boats, small businesses, homes, pets and personal possessions. When they were released after the war, many found their belongings and livelihoods gone and their lives shattered.

Two-thirds of the evacuees were U.S. citizens. The others were immigrants who, by a 1922 Supreme Court decision, were barred from becoming citizens of the United States. The last camp wasn't closed until March 1946, seven months after the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the second imperialist world war.

Fred Korematsu was one of three Japanese Americans who challenged the mass incarceration. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government on the grounds of military necessity, based solely on the defendants' race. Their convictions were later overturned.

In the 1970s, inspired by the victory of the powerful civil rights movement that dismantled segregation in the South, Japanese Americans organized a campaign for redress of the injustices they had faced and reparations for all they had lost. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1988, officially apologizing to Japanese Americans and providing a modest cash payment to those still alive.

But the exhibit has a serious weakness. It argues that the underlying cause of the U.S. government's mass incarceration of Japanese Americans was racism, pure and simple. Was racism involved? Of course. But a more decisive factor was the U.S. capitalists' need to build support among working people for their entrance into World War II, which became the deadliest conflict in human history, with total deaths estimated over 60 million.

World War II was, at its heart, an inter-imperialist conflict for control over markets, labor and natural resources.

NY building workers rally, authorize strike



Militant/Martin Koppel

NEW YORK — Thousands of apartment building workers, members of 32BJ Service Employees International Union, turned out for a boisterous strike-vote rally in the Upper East Side of Manhattan April 15. By a large show of hands they authorized the union to strike if an agreement isn't reached. The contract for the 34,000 workers expires April 20. A strike would affect some 1.5 million tenants in 3,300 buildings here.

The union is fighting for wages that keep up with inflation, improved working conditions and better pension benefits. And they want to protect their family health care insurance, which currently is fully paid by the building owners.

That's something the landlords, who are negotiating as a group, want reversed.

The building owners also want to establish a new "Tier II" for all future hires, with lower pay and worse benefits, and to expand the use of non-union temporary workers.

The union says these are strike issues.

— SARA LOBMAN

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

April 23, 2001

HAVANA — "The anti-aircraft gunners who fought at Playa Girón were almost all 15, 16, 17 years old. At 22, I was one of the oldest," said Enrique Dorta, a colonel in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, who took part in the March 22–24 conference here on "Girón: 40 Years Later."

Participants discussed the Cuban victory over a U.S.-organized counter-revolutionary invasion. Cuba, in less than 72 hours, was able to crush a mercenary invasion financed and organized by the mightiest imperialist power in the world.

In 1973 Dorta was part of a mission to Vietnam to study the Vietnamese anti-aircraft units, whose effectiveness and courage during the U.S. war were legendary. In 1983–84 he joined with other Cuban volunteer combatants in Angola to help defend the African nation from the U.S. imperialist-backed attack by the apartheid regime in South Africa.

THE MILITANT

April 23, 1976

We're matched one to one in New York City. About eight million people against eight million rats. But the battle for dominance in this center of world finance and culture could tip dramatically in favor of the rats. The federal government is considering a cutback of \$500,000 in aid to New York's pest-control program which would reduce the exterminator staff by 57%.

The results would be devastating in those areas of the city where poverty is enforced by unemployment, slumlords, and segregated schools. Already in 1,900 blocks of depressed ghetto areas rats may outnumber people 25 to one, according to health department estimates. And in just a year, each female rat can breed up to 54 of its disease-carrying progeny.

Is Congress concerned about this crisis for millions of New Yorkers? Probably not. The only rats on Capitol Hill are the ones who can vote to provide the cuts.

THE MILITANT

April 23, 1951

We are celebrating this May Day, 1951, amid one of the gravest political crises that has ever struck the American ruling class. This crisis is the direct result of the debacle of U.S. military intervention in Korea. The American people do not support this war.

The conscience of the decent people of this country — all those who work honestly for a living and have nothing to gain from war profiteering — cries out at the horrors U.S. imperialism has inflicted on the people of Korea. More than a million civilians dead — a whole land gutted by U.S. bombs and shells.

Our most urgent message to American labor on this May Day is: Declare your political emancipation! Break with all capitalist politics and build your own party! Armed with its own party, the laboring millions can strike mortal blows at imperialism, its wars and its profiteering.

or Am I Not?" is more than worthwhile viewing for any worker interested in a better understanding of the incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II.

Meet Leslie Dork, new on 'Militant'



Militant/Roy Landersen

Joining the *Militant's* writing staff of full-time volunteers is Leslie Dork, a member of the Socialist Workers Party branch in Northern New Jersey.

Dork joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1970 in Cleveland, and the party later that year. She worked in the YSA's national office in New York from 1971–72.

In the early 1980s Dork was a garment worker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in New York. From 1984 to 1986 she volunteered as a secretary in the party's national office.

In the 1990s Dork moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she continued to build the party, helping to organize support for the Cuban Revolution and joining campaign efforts in several states. She worked there as a nurse practitioner for 25 years.

— Vivian Sahrner

End Washington's Mideast war

Continued from front page
ment Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Ali Akbar Ahmadian, secretary of the Iranian Defense Council. This is an indication both of Tehran's desire to reach an agreement and of divisions within the bourgeois-clerical regime.

The U.S. delegation was headed by Vice President JD Vance, along with Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff.

Trump later told Fox News that "we got just about every point we needed except for the fact that they refuse to give up their nuclear ambition," and to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

An Iranian official reiterated Tehran's oft-told lie that "Iran is not seeking to acquire nuclear weapons," that it just wants "the right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes." In fact, until Israeli strikes set their program back, the reactionary capitalist regime in Iran had been enriching uranium to 60% purity, a level that has no use for electric generation.

The Trump administration says that Tehran "will never have" nuclear weapons. That "right" is reserved for the U.S. rulers who have more than 3,700, and other regimes that already have nuclear weapons.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Washington is demanding that Tehran agree to a 20-year "moratorium" on nuclear enrichment. In exchange, Washington would "unfreeze" hundreds of millions of dollars of Iranian funds and relax sanctions.

The U.S. attacks that started Feb. 28, accompanied by defensive strikes by Israel, likely destroyed more than 60% of Tehran's missile launchers and at least 1,500 of the 2,500 ballistic missiles it had before the start of the war. U.S. strikes took out most of the ships in the Iranian navy, but not smaller speedboats capable of attacking ships as well as laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. and Iranian blockades of strait

In response to Tehran's threat to keep the strait closed unless ships pay hefty tolls to Iran in bitcoin, Trump began a U.S. blockade April 13 that will bar all ships from docking at Iranian ports. Tehran threatened to retaliate.

Since the ceasefire began, Washington has made no mention of earlier demands on Tehran to end production of ballistic missiles capable of wreaking destruction on Israel, and that Iran's rulers stop financing, arming and training

Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen and anti-Israel militias in Iraq.

It's clear that nothing the U.S. government is doing is aimed at defending the existence of Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms or at aiding the working people of Iran to get the terror regime there off their back. The Trump administration's goal is to advance the U.S. imperialist rulers' plunder of the oil, gas and other resources in the region, while sidelining U.S. rivals.

Tehran's expansionist course

Though militarily and economically battered, the bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran is determined to rebuild its military capability and its proxy forces throughout the region. That's because this regime comes out of the counter-revolution that dealt serious blows to the popular revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the Shah of Iran in 1979. Its rule is threatened if it can't extend its reactionary course outside Iran's borders.

Its goal is to destroy Israel — and eliminate the Jews who live there. This is why Israel's war — unlike Washington's — is a defensive one aimed at not just eliminating Tehran's ballistic missiles, but also the factories that produce the missiles and rocket launchers and its nuclear-processing facilities.

The biggest obstacle to Tehran

The biggest obstacle to Tehran's reactionary course are the working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran.

Despite the massacre of 7,000 anti-regime protesters in early January, work-



AP/Hassan Ammar

Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon in 2023. Washington is pushing Israel to halt attacks on Hezbollah, seeking stability to advance U.S. rulers' exploitation of resources, labor in region.

ing people and students renewed public protests, from significant at-graveside actions of those gunned down to marches on university campuses. The opening of the war on Feb. 28 shut down the protest movement — for now.

To try to prevent a new rise of struggles by workers and oppressed nationalities — its biggest fear — the regime has restricted internet access to 1% of pre-war levels, keeping most unions, student organizations and others from getting out more than an occasional message.

During the war, it brought in hundreds of thugs from the Popular Mobilization Forces, its proxy force in Iraq, and from the mostly Afghan Fatemiyoun Division of the Quds Force, which fought for the Bashar al-Assad regime in the civil war in Syria, to parade through the streets of Tehran and other cities to intimidate opponents of the regime.

According to human rights groups, in the past year the regime has executed more than 1,600 prisoners, the highest number since 1989. These executions continue daily.

But this has not prevented opponents of the regime from finding ways to continue to discuss, debate and look for new opportunities to organize.

The Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Unions reported April 10 that Manouchehr Aghabigi, a leader of the union in Kermanshah, was released on bail after three days in jail. While welcoming his release, the union called for "an immediate end to unlawful actions against teachers, the dismissal of court cases, and the recognition of the right to organize and engage in free union activity." Aghabigi is just one of numerous arrests of union activists in the last several months.

Israel fights to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews

BY TERRY EVANS

Since March 2 Israel has launched airstrikes and ground attacks dealing blows to Hezbollah, after the Tehran-backed group unleashed missiles from Lebanon at civilian populations in Israel. Like its patrons in Tehran, and fellow "axis of resistance" forces in Iraq, Yemen and Gaza, Hezbollah's goals center on killing Jews and destroying Israel.

It's the largest and best equipped of the proxy forces the Iranian rulers use to extend their reactionary influence in the region and to attack Israel from all sides, as they did during and after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom. Almost daily airstrikes by Hezbollah targeted towns in northern Israel until the terror outfit was substantially cut down as a result of Israel's military response. Hezbollah signed a ceasefire on Nov. 27, 2024.

President Joseph Biden's administration pushed Israel to agree to that deal. Under its terms Hezbollah was to withdraw from southern Lebanon and security was handed over to the Lebanese army, which was supposed to prevent Hezbollah from returning. In fact, the Jew-hating terror group never went away and Israel continued to conduct airstrikes against its positions.

The conflict in Lebanon accelerated with Washington's war against Iran, exposing the scope of the vast firepower in the hands of Hezbollah, which had used the 2024 "ceasefire" to substantially rebuild its forces and armories. The conflict has also laid bare the lies of the Lebanese government, which claims that Hezbollah's military operations has been dismantled south of the Litani River.

Between March 2-30 Hezbollah targeted communities in Israel with at least 3,000 rockets, missile and drone attacks, including a long-range missile strike toward Ashkelon and surface-to-air missiles targeting Israeli airplanes. Hezbollah says it launched the assaults in retaliation for the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The terror group also claims to have destroyed several Israeli Merkava tanks using anti-tank guided missiles. Eleven Israeli soldiers have been killed.

Hezbollah makes sham claims that its deadly assaults are part of the defense of Lebanon's sovereignty. "Together as a state, army, people and resistance, we protect our country," Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem declared April 10. But in fact Hezbollah unleashes airstrikes at Israel while hiding its forces and arms caches in hospitals, schools and other infrastructure, using civilians as human shields. The Israeli military reported it had "eliminated terrorists as they were exiting the hospital in Bint Jbeil" in southern Lebanon April 13.

Israel moves to push back Hezbollah

The Israel Defense Forces said it has dismantled almost 4,000 Hezbollah military bases over the past month where some 1,250 weapons were stored in southern Lebanon. The IDF now occupies a swathe of territory and the main high ground points there.

Israeli airstrikes hit 50 locations in Lebanon April 9, including in Beirut. The IDF says it targeted Hezbollah command centers, offices, rocket and naval units. Israel has issued evacuation orders for 15% of Lebanon, mostly in

the south, and some 1.2 million people have left their homes.

Hezbollah responded to the April 9 airstrikes with rocket attacks on towns in Israel near the border.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps threatened military action against Israel. The French and U.K. governments — the former colonial powers in the region responsible for the sectarian form of government in Lebanon — also condemned Israeli operations there.

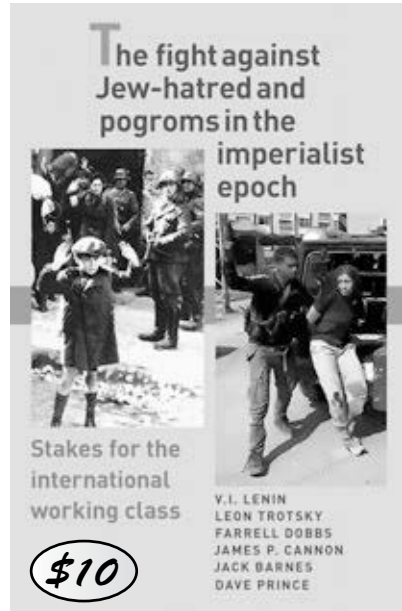
Under U.S. pressure, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he will seek a ceasefire with the Lebanese government while the IDF continues "to strike Hezbollah with force, precision and determination." President Donald Trump called on Israel to be "a little more low-key."

Washington is pursuing its own national interests in the Middle East, including trying to reach an accord with the Iranian rulers that advances U.S. domination of the region. It views Israel's efforts to defend itself against Hezbollah as an obstacle in this effort.

Hezbollah was created in Lebanon in 1982 by the bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran after it carried through a counter-revolution against the popular revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Shah of Iran three years earlier. Modeled on its counterrevolutionary thugs at home, Hezbollah was used by Tehran to extend its reactionary sway across the region and beyond. In 1994 Hezbollah bombed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85 people.

As long as Hezbollah endures it will be a direct threat to Israel's existence and to the lives of millions of Jews.

Essential reading



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SWP explains US drive to war

Continued from front page coming out each week. SWP members are explaining that capitalism is the source of the problems workers face and discussing the kind of political party workers need to lead the struggle to replace capitalist rule with workers power. Members of the Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom are part of the effort.

“We’re campaigning against the war and explaining the importance of the meatpackers strike in Greeley, Colorado,” Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, told Dougera Illarion in North Miami, Florida, April 12. “Workers need to break from the Democratic and Republican parties and support a party that defends the interests of our class.”

“Now you’ve got my attention. I’ve never heard anyone say that before — a party for the workers,” Illarion, a mechanic, said. “Do you think our government is messed up?”

“The government is the government of big business, the ruling class, no matter which of the bosses’ two parties is in the White House,” SWP member David Rosenfeld added. He asked Illarion what he thought about the war.

“The war is about the minerals and the oil. We pay for the war and they make the money,” Illarion replied.

As Illarion looked over a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, Fruit said, “Malcolm was attracted to the Cuban Revolution.”

“Fidel lived by the rules of life — the life of working people,” Illarion said. “These books look good, but I’m going to first read the *Militant* to find out what’s going on in the world.” He signed up for a subscription.

In Sydney, Australia, Manuele Lasalo, a member of the Communist League, and CL supporter Baskaran Appu spoke with Clara Flemming on her doorstep April 4. Lasalo described the growing

competition between rival capitalist rulers for resources, markets and profits. “In my opinion the competition is about the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. I’m with the workers,” Flemming said. “Working people face a world of spreading wars,” Lasalo said. “The war against Iran is really two wars, the U.S. rulers are waging a war for their own class interests, but Israel is fighting a defensive war.” “I’m not a Jew, but I support Israel’s right to defend itself,” Flemming replied. She signed up to get a subscription to the *Militant*.

‘U.S. is grave of medical certificates’ While campaigning door to door in Euless, Texas, April 12, Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for governor, met Ismail, a Sudanese Uber driver.

He said he came to the U.S. two years ago because of the civil war in his country and couldn’t find a job in health care, even though he arrived with a degree in radiology. For immigrant workers “the U.S. is the grave of medical certificates,” he said.

“The bosses discriminate and exploit immigrant workers as part of driving



Militant/David Rosenfeld “I’ve never heard anyone talk about a party for workers,” mechanic Dougera Illarion told Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, in Miami April 12. He got a *Militant* subscription.

down the conditions and wages of the working class,” Kennedy said. “There is a war against working people both here and abroad so the wealthy class can make a profit.”

Ismail got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke.

SWP NJ ballot drive finds real interest in party, program

BY TERRY EVANS UNION CITY, N.J. — Two and a half weeks into the campaign to win ballot status for the Socialist Workers Party in New Jersey, SWP campaigners are finding serious interest in the party’s program and candidates as they speak out against Washington’s war against Iran and the bosses’ assaults on workers at home. They explain workers need and are capable of building a revolutionary working-class party in the U.S. to lead the fight to overturn capitalist rule.

As of April 13, there were 1,994 signers to put Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, on the ballot, and 233 for Craig Honts for U.S. Congress.

“We’re going to go well over the requirements of 2,000 for me and 250 for Craig,” Kuniansky told the *Militant*. Workers’ interest in the party is reflected in the sales of 88 *Militant* subscriptions, 92 books by SWP and other revolutionary working-class leaders and 324 copies of the paper during the ballot effort.

“Things are so, so bad,” Noe Pérez, an appliance installer, told SWP member Lisa Rottach at a parking lot in Saddlebrook April 9. “Taxes, prices, bad wages, rough work. But it seems like nobody cares, nobody wants to fight to change things. I don’t understand why. How bad does it have to get?”

“For the first time in several decades workers are fighting through their unions for better wages, safer conditions and respect on the job,” Rottach said.

“You can follow these struggles in the *Militant* and find ways to support them, including the meat-

packers at JBS in Greeley, Colorado, who struck for nearly four weeks,” she said. “They stood firm, demanded to be treated with dignity on the job and to be paid higher wages. Fights like this show the power of the working class.

“The Socialist Workers Party says workers must wage a struggle in our millions to take political power,” she added. Rottach pointed to Cuba “where they made a socialist revolution over six decades ago. That is the aim and purpose of our party in the U.S.” She showed him the book, *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

“It’s great to see you out here,” Pérez responded. “We need to build a big movement” to do just what Rottach described. Pérez bought the book and subscribed to the *Militant*.

“Cuba is standing up because they don’t want to become another Puerto Rico,” Headstart worker Edgar Ayala told Rottach at a store parking lot in North Bergen April 11. He was referring to the devastating impact of decades of U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico. Ayala said he supports the SWP’s demand to end Washington’s brutal economic and political war against Cuba.

“The U.S. wants to keep them on a leash, just like they do to my country. They have every right to defend them-

The book provides a firsthand account of Cuba’s decisive aid to that struggle and is invaluable for understanding the working-class internationalism that guides those who led the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

To join the effort to expand readership of the *Militant* and books by revolutionary working-class leaders, contact the area nearest you listed on page 8.

US troops, warships out of Mideast

“The U.S. war against Iran is a war for the plunder of resources and domination of the Middle East. It’s not in the interests of workers,” this reporter and SWP member told Teamster Donald Vandyk, as he signed the SWP’s petition in a parking lot in Franklin April 12.

“How much money do they need? It never seems to be enough,” Vandyk added. He described the spiraling cost of supplying fuel for his oil-heated home.

“The bosses and their governments compete for profits against rivals or go under. That’s the source of their wars,” I said.

“Trump says we’ll get more money when the price of oil goes up,” Vandyk added. “Who is the ‘we’ he’s talking about? It’s not us.”

“It’s the capitalist class. Their rule is upheld by both the Democrats and Republicans,” I said. Vandyk said he was unhappy his union president, Sean O’Brien, had endorsed Trump in 2024.

“What’s needed is a break from the lesser evil politics of both capitalist parties,” I said, describing the work of the SWP today to build the kind of party that workers need.

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

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, Fighting Fund						
March 14 - May 12 (week four)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	24	40	25	\$9,500	\$3,608
Chicago	60	35	60	41	\$13,500	\$2,742
Cincinnati	30	17	30	22	\$5,000	\$2,000
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	42	70	42	\$5,000	\$1,674
Los Angeles	90	38	90	67	\$14,000	\$4,120
Miami	40	28	40	24	\$5,500	\$1,210
Minneapolis	65	27	65	44	\$6,700	\$1,650
N. New Jersey	70	41	70	60	\$7,500	\$3,293
New York	80	36	80	50	\$20,500	\$9,160
Oakland	80	35	80	50	\$15,000	\$11,841
Philadelphia	40	19	40	29	\$6,000	\$4,025
Pittsburgh	45	21	45	26	\$7,000	\$2,140
Seattle	60	30	60	29	\$15,000	\$7,402
Washington	55	25	55	41	\$4,500	\$1,467
Other		0				\$500
Total U.S.	825	418	825	550	\$134,700	\$56,832
Prisoners		91				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	24	45	25	\$3,000	\$400
Manchester*	40	23	30	13	\$1,300	\$400
Total U.K.	85	47	75	38	\$4,300	\$800
Canada	80	34	90	57	\$11,000	\$4,760
Australia	30	27	30	23	\$4,500	\$2,800
Total	1,020	617	1,020	668	\$154,500	\$65,192
SHOULD BE	1,300	650	1,300	650	\$165,000	\$82,500
*Raised goal						

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For more information, contact the nearest branch of the Socialist Workers Party or Communist Leagues listed on page 8.

Cubans fight effects of US blockade

Continued from front page

The use of the term “humanitarian” provides cover for further U.S. intervention in Cuba’s internal affairs, and hides the primary cause for the lack of fuel and basic resources in Cuba: the U.S. rulers’ brutal assault on its economy. For over 60 years, Washington has waged this economic war against the Cuban people, with the goal of bringing down Cuba’s socialist revolution.

Cuban authorities have gone into high gear to process the crude, but it will not be ready for distribution until the second half of April. It will be used for “electricity generating plants and to produce liquefied petroleum gas for cooking in critical facilities, like hospitals and other in-patient facilities,” and “for some gasoline, to alleviate temporarily the strain we are confronting,” Irenaldo Pérez, deputy director of the Cuba Petroleum Union, said.

Washington’s oil blockade has crippled public services in the country, aggravated persistent blackouts and increased food shortages.

“Health care is one of the sectors most affected” by the U.S. assault, said Julio Guerra, Cuba’s deputy health minister, on the popular “Mesa Redonda” (Round table) television program March 27. He described the impact of Washington’s relentless financial and commercial war against Cuba. Directors of Cuba’s flagship medical institutions also spoke on the panel about the dire impact of the U.S. rulers’ punitive measures.

The damage is “tangible and objective,” said Guerra. Because of U.S. sanctions, Cuba’s medical system has faced severely restricted access to buying vitally needed medicines and products produced only by U.S. firms, including treatment for pediatric leukemia, specialized X-ray machines for detecting breast cancer, respirators and pacemakers. Cuba has to pay an estimated 30% more for medical products from outside the United States, with a 50% to 400% higher shipping cost than if they were bought 90 miles away in Florida.

The financial damage inflicted by the U.S. embargo in just 25 days is equivalent to the cost of producing a year’s supply of Cuba’s basic pharmaceutical products, he said. In less than a day, the damage from the sanctions is equivalent to the cost of buying a one-year supply of insulin to treat all of the country’s patients in need.

“It was already a challenge for Cuba’s public health system to function, because we have always had constraints with access to medications, equipment and replacement parts,” Eugenio Selman, director of the William Soler Pediatric Cardiology Hospital, said on Mesa Redonda. “All of that has worsened since January,” when the oil blockade went into effect.

Cuba is still standing

With the blockade bringing public transportation to a standstill, health authorities have organized for patients with chronic illnesses, on dialysis, and women expecting childbirth to stay in medical centers.

“We’re working very hard not to cancel visits or close hospital wards, and to keep beds open,” Guerra said.

“Imagine a hospital not only without electricity, but without water,” whose supply depends on the electri-

cal grid, said Selman. Then the U.S. hypocritically says that Cuba is “a ‘failed state’” and is to blame.

The U.S. rulers portray the crisis in Cuba as a direct result of its socialist revolution and planned economy. They never explain that Cuba’s cradle-to-grave health care system — including the highest doctor-to-patient ratio in the world, as well as a life expectancy and infant mortality rate on par with the United States — is a conquest of that revolution. Nor that in Cuba health care is a right, not a commodity.

To face the effects of the oil blockade, the Cuban government is stepping up efforts to install solar panels in hospitals and clinics, but it’s far from covering the need today. When blackouts hit, hospitals rely on emergency generators, which sometimes can take a few crucial minutes to come online. Doctors and nurses have to dash to respirators to hand-pump air to keep babies breathing until the generators kick in. Outages sometimes hit in the middle of surgery, with equipment monitoring vital signs going dark and patients under anesthesia.

The determination and commitment of the Army of White Coats, as Cuban health workers are known, is inspiring. “We continue practicing medicine,” a surgeon at the Calixto García Hospital told the *Militant*, “even when we have to do surgery under the light of our cell-phones, painstakingly charged at home during the few hours when we get electricity in the middle of the night.”

“The arrival of a ship with oil to Cuba is not what’s news,” Miguel Cruz, a jour-

Cuban women protest against US rulers’ assaults



AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa

Hundreds of Cuban women, answering a call by the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), demonstrated at the Mariana Grajales Park in Havana April 7 in defense of Cuba’s socialist revolution and to demand an end to Washington’s blockade against the Cuban people.

“Our people remain on the side of the revolution. We made a revolution bigger than ourselves and we continue on its side,” said Delsa Esther “Tete” Puebla, a brigadier general in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, who joined the rally. “We’re guerrillas of the Mariana Grajales women’s platoon,” she said, referring to the first women’s platoon formed during Cuba’s revolutionary war under the leadership of Fidel Castro.

“Our struggle is against imperialism, against capitalism, against the blockade,” Teresa Amarelle Boué, secretary general of the Federation of Cuban Women, told reporters, “because presidents change, but the blockade remains. And imperialism remains. That’s why this anti-imperialist spirit will always be part of who we are.”

Washington’s economic war is “the most comprehensive, and longest-lasting system of coercive measures ever imposed against an entire people,” said Josefina Vidal, deputy foreign minister, who was also present at the rally. “It must stop. This abuse cannot continue.”

— VIVIAN SAHNER

nalist for the Cuban daily *Granma* wrote April 6. “What is news is that despite the extraterritorial laws, threats and persecution of the superpower, Cuba is still

standing, exercising its right to exist.”

Claudia Kaiser-Lenoir in Boston contributed to this article.

Rail unionists fight bosses’ attacks

Continued from front page

There were at least nine major derailments on the two railroads between Feb. 6 and April 9. They blocked highways, damaged an interstate bridge, and disrupted freight and passenger trains in seven states. A Union Pacific train that derailed in Arizona April 4 was 14,500 feet long — nearly 3 miles.

Three crew members were injured in an April 9 derailment in Franklin, Ohio. One of the cars that didn’t derail — a matter of luck — was filled with argon, a colorless, odorless gas that poses a major risk of asphyxiation by displacing oxygen in confined spaces.

The threat of what can happen in a serious derailment was shown in the disaster that befell the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, on Feb. 3, 2023. Fifty cars were put on the ground, including 20 containing hazardous material. Some cracked open, polluting area streams that flow into the Ohio River. In their drive to get profitable traffic moving again, Norfolk Southern bosses got government officials’ permission to pierce and set on fire five cars containing highly volatile vinyl chloride, which exploded and burned, sending toxic chemicals for miles around.

A year later, the Federal Railroad Administration ruled that railroads need to provide and train their employees to carry and use an emergency escape breathing apparatus if exposed to chlorine or other toxic inhalants following a derailment.

But rail workers told the *Militant* the apparatus only provides 15 minutes of protection and that the training they received consisted of watching one 30-minute video. When this worker-correspondent was in the military, I was trained for weeks in how to properly use a gas mask.

The railroad bosses are on a drive to increase income and payouts to their investors. Central to this course is reducing the number of workers, with the remainder forced to do more. The workforce on the six Class 1 railroads in North America was 13.7% lower

in November 2025 than a year earlier. Overall rail employment is at its lowest point in decades. This, along with cuts in training, is a key cause of the increasing number of derailments.

On Feb. 23, Jeremy Charles, 39, an Amtrak maintenance worker and member of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, was killed when he was struck by a train near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Charles’ union says he was using a jetpack to clear snow out of switches, which meant it was most likely he didn’t hear the approaching train.

“Before the bosses eliminated so many railroad workers, track maintenance crews were large enough to help keep each other out of harm’s way, to warn fellow workers of oncoming trains,” Paul Swanson, a retired track worker and union member in Colorado, told the *Militant*.

Dangerous cuts in training

A U.S. railroad conductor, who declined to give his name for fear of retaliation by bosses, told the *Militant* his recent engineer training class “lasted only three weeks, cut from five weeks, and classes so large, so short of simulators, that half the class had to share.”

By way of contrast, retired Amtrak engineer Jack Krueger, with over 40 years’ experience on freight and passenger trains in Iowa and Nebraska, told the *Militant*, “I was in a classroom for months learning the diesel and mechanical workings of a locomotive and then years of working with an experienced locomotive engineer to learn how to be aware of the train’s weight and speed, the track territory ascents and descents, speed on curves, signal systems, weather and many other factors, as any error can cause a derailment.”

JBS strike wins better contract, strengthens the union

Continued from front page

workers will get an immediate \$750 bonus and another \$500 payout in April 2027. Cordova said this adds up to a 33% larger gain than bosses had insisted on in their “last, best, final” offer that provoked the strike.

Important gains were won on another key strike issue. JBS bosses had forced workers to pay for required worn-out or broken protective equipment — like mesh gloves and aprons that can cost hundreds of dollars. If workers didn’t pay, the cost was taken out of their paychecks.

The new contract ends this. The company will now provide without

cost the equipment that is crucial for workers’ safety.

Other gains, Cordova said, include more sick time, longer bereavement leave, a capped health care contribution to the company’s 401(k) plan, and only two years to get back to the bargaining table.

Leticia Avalos, a worker at JBS, told Denver’s TV 7 how bosses showed their disdain for employees with personal protective equipment. “I see a lot, members that they get equipment, sometimes it’s already used and it’s not new,” she said. “The company sometimes charges them the full price, like if it was brand new.”



Militant/Joel Britton

March 25 picket line of workers originally from Mexico and Cuba during three-week strike by 3,800 meatpacking workers, members of UFCW Local 7, at JBS plant in Greeley, Colorado.

Since the disaster in East Palestine, a discussion has continued among rail workers on what needs to be done to meet the attacks of the rail bosses and their deadly consequences. A bipartisan coalition of capitalist politicians is pushing for passage of a Railroad Safety Act, which would add more regulations on train operation.

On March 8, the liberal *Washington Post* ran an editorial against it. The paper’s editorial board says the act’s mandate for a railroad operating crew of two, adding sensors to detect overheated wheel bearings every 15 miles, and increased inspections of railcars by certified mechanics is too expensive to impose on the rail bosses.

What needs to be done

But the real question is deeper. Government regulations have proven to be ineffective in defending rail workers’ safety. They’re passed after some disaster, but under pressure from the rail bosses, fall into disuse as time passes.

“Working people and their unions do

not need more laws and regulations that tie workers to a government that takes the side of the bosses, and where the next administration can overturn any laws,” Lance Anton, a SMART-TD conductor with 15 years’ experience here, told the *Militant*. “We need to use our union power to organize and fight for safe working conditions and to support working people like in East Palestine, where people are still fighting for guaranteed health care for life.”

“Our unions need to demand the bosses hire thousands of workers, with control over their jobs, to run the trains and maintain and inspect equipment and trackage safely,” Naomi Craine, a freight rail conductor who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, told the *Militant*. “Trains should have a maximum of 50 cars and a crew of four, two on the head-end and two on the rear. These demands would extend protection both to rail workers and to those living, working or driving near the tracks — all in the interest of the working class.”

“The strike worked,” Cordova said. “Had we not struck, they never would have replaced that unsafe equipment. It was a life or death situation.”

The company tried to dismiss the extent of the gains workers won. “The company expressed disappointment that UFCW Local 7 leadership chose to eliminate the historic pension benefit that was part of the national agreement negotiated last year.”

But Cordova pointed out this simply wasn’t true. There has never been a pension in the Greeley plant. And workers there had decided not to opt into it, because it was a worse plan than the 401(k) they already have, to which bosses are required to contribute.

The victory at JBS helped make the union there more united and stronger. The strike in Greeley was watched closely by packinghouse workers across the country, as well as defenders of the rights of immigrant workers. Packinghouse and other unionists came from JBS plants and other places in Colorado and across the country to show their solidarity.

Cordova said the outpouring of support was felt every day on the picket line.

Some 2,500 Teamster-organized workers at the Cargill packinghouse in Fort Morgan, Colorado, 50 miles east of Greeley, are in negotiations over a new contact today.

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Bay of Pigs: Washington's first military defeat in the Americas

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs 1961: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas by Fidel Castro and José Ramón Fernández is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. This year is the 65th anniversary of this victory by Cuban workers and farmers in defending their socialist revolution against U.S.-backed mercenaries. The excerpt is from Castro's April 16, 1961, "Speech to ceremony honoring those killed in imperialist assault on Cuban airfields." Copyright © 2001 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

Yesterday at 6:00 a.m., as everyone knows, three groups of bombers penetrated the national territory from abroad and attacked three points of the national territory. At each of these points, men defended themselves heroically. In each of these points, the courageous blood of the defenders was shed. In each of these points there were thousands, or at least hundreds, of witnesses to what happened.

It was something that was expected. It was something that had been expected every day. It was the logical culmination of the burning of canefields, of the hundreds of violations of our airspace, of the pirate air incursions, of the pirate attacks on our refineries by ships that penetrated at dawn.



Granma

Cuban militia members celebrate after April 1961 victory over U.S.-sponsored mercenary force, helping transform their country, themselves as they set example for workers worldwide.

It was the consequence of what everyone knows. It was the consequence of the plans of aggression that have been brewed in the United States with the complicity of the lackey regimes in Central America. It was the consequence of the air bases that everyone knows about, because they have even written about it in the U.S. newspapers and news agencies themselves, and these news agencies and newspapers are tired of speaking of the mercenary armies that are being organized, of the airfields that have been prepared, of the planes that the U.S. government has supplied, of the Yankee instructors, of the air bases established in Guatemalan territory.

All the people of Cuba knew this; all the world knew this. Yesterday's attack was carried out in the presence of thousands and thousands of men. What do you think the Yankee rulers have said about such an incredible thing? Because it's no longer a case of the explosion of *La Coubre*, which was carried out as a cunning undercover act of sabotage. It's now a question of a simultaneous attack on three points of the national territory with machine-gun fire, bombs, missiles, and warplanes that everyone saw. We're talking about a public act, an anticipated act, an act that the world knew of even before it was conducted. ...

Here we have, as other peoples have seldom had, the opportunity of knowing what imperialism is — inside and out, on every coast, top to bottom. Here

we have the opportunity of appreciating how its whole financial, propaganda, and political apparatus works, as well as its mercenaries, secret bodies, and officials, who, with such tranquility and in an almost unheard-of manner, are tricking the world. Try to imagine how we would have known what's happening in the world. How we would have been able to know what's happening in the world, if this were the only version

“What Washington cannot forgive is that we have made a socialist revolution right under the very nose of the US.”
— Fidel Castro

and the only explanation that countless people around the world are getting!

In other words, they organized the attack, prepared the attack, trained the mercenaries, supplied the planes, supplied the bombs, prepared the airports — everyone knows it. The attack occurs and they calmly state before the world that it's not so. This is a world that they know would rise up in indignation in face of such a monstrous, cowardly act that violates the rights of the peoples and is a violation of peace! [Applause]

And these miserable gringo imperialists, after shrouding seven homes in mourning, after murdering a handful of

young people who were not millionaire parasites — because those we've come here to bury were not millionaire parasites, they were not mercenaries who sold themselves for foreign gold, they were not thieves. They are true sons of our people! [Prolonged applause] ...

What the imperialists cannot forgive is that we are here. What the imperialists cannot forgive is the dignity, the integrity, the courage, the firmness of ideas, the spirit of sacrifice, and the revolutionary spirit of the people of Cuba. [Applause]

That is what they cannot forgive, that we are here under their very nose. What they cannot forgive is that we have made a socialist revolution right under the very nose of the United States! [Applause and shouts] That we defend this socialist revolution with these guns! [Applause] That we defend this socialist revolution with the same courage shown yesterday when our antiaircraft artillery riddled the aggressor's planes with bullets! [Applause and shouts of "Vencemos!" and other revolutionary slogans.]

This revolution is not defended with mercenaries. This revolution is defended by men and women of the people. ...

Compañero workers and peasants, this is the socialist and democratic revolution of the working people, with the working people, and for the working people. [Applause] And for this revolution of the working people, by the working people, and for the working people we are prepared to give our lives. [Shouts] ...

Compañero workers and peasants of the homeland: yesterday's attack was the prelude to the mercenaries' aggression. Yesterday's attack, which cost seven heroic lives, aimed to destroy our planes on the ground. But the mercenaries failed; they did not destroy our planes, and the bulk of the enemy planes were damaged or shot down. [Applause]

Here, in front of the graves of our fallen comrades; beside the remains of the heroic youth, children of workers and children of ordinary working men and women, we reaffirm our determination. Just as they faced the bullets, just as they gave their lives, we state that no matter when the mercenaries come, no matter who we face, that we are all proud of our revolution, proud to defend this revolution of the working people, for the working people, and by the working people. And we will not hesitate to defend it to the last drop of blood. [Applause]

April
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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SWP candidates: Tribunes of the people

The candidates of the Socialist Workers Party are the only voice in the 2026 elections that champion workers' struggles for a better life in the face of the rulers' attacks at home and speak out against their bloody wars abroad. Everywhere they go SWP candidates act along the lines explained by Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin in *What Is To Be Done?* A socialist, Lenin wrote, is a "tribune of the people, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears."

The SWP spreads the word about union struggles and organizes solidarity. It condemns and campaigns against all restrictions on workers' ability to defend ourselves, like the April 14 editorial in the *Washington Post* calling for a nationwide ban on the right of public school teachers to strike.

SWP candidates join actions to defend Jews from violent assaults, which are on the rise today. They explain that Jew-hatred is used by the ruling class to point away from the real roots of the crisis we face — dog-eat-dog capitalism. The poison of Jew-hatred will be the banner of reactionary forces the capitalists unleash to try to crush the working-class movement when they fear their rule is threatened.

SWP candidates join actions against the deportation of workers without papers and champion the fight for an amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S. The bosses and their government use the pariah status of immigrants to impose lower wages, worse conditions and other indignities on them. Then they turn around and move to inflict those same conditions on all of us. The fight to defend immigrant workers is a life-and-death battle for the unions.

SWP campaigners explain that capitalist rule is the root cause of racial oppression, another tool for the bosses to divide the working class. Mighty gains were won in the civil rights battles of the 1960s, but Blacks still face discrimination and racist attacks.

Women's oppression has been a key feature of every society in human history since the birth of private property, including capitalist rule today. It's reflected in the lower wages that bosses pay wom-

en, the lack of affordable child care and the highly profitable drive by the owners of the "beauty" industry to lure women into undergoing "rib remodeling" and other surgeries.

SWP campaigners explain that workers have common class interests with working people worldwide. And that Washington's wars are carried out for plunder and domination to further enrich the very same class that is putting the capitalist crisis on our backs at home.

At the center of the party's 2026 campaigns is explaining the SWP is the peace party. As the crisis of capitalism deepens, the propertied rulers are driven to rearm, compete and prepare for new wars to redivide the world. This is behind Washington's war in the Middle East, the latest step in the capitalist rulers' march toward a third world war and nuclear catastrophe.

SWP candidates explain this can be stopped. All political questions are *class* questions. To advance our class interests and of all those victimized by capitalist exploitation, workers need to break from the capitalist parties — the Democrats, Republicans and any others that pop up — and build a party of our own. A party that organizes and educates the working class for our historic task, to replace capitalist rule with a government of our own. A party that is working class in program and composition. A tested leadership must be built out of today's struggles to lead working people in their millions to take political power into our own hands.

With the working class holding political power, we can take control of the factories, fields and banks and reorganize society from top to bottom to meet the needs of the vast majority. That's what workers and farmers in Cuba accomplished under the leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement.

That's why Washington has been determined for over 65 years to overturn the Cuban Revolution. But working people in Cuba are ready to defend their revolution, arms in hand. SWP candidates build protests to demand, "U.S. hands off Cuba!"

Join the SWP's 2026 campaign!

'Militant' steps up fight against Florida prison bans

Continued from front page

the paper's coverage of demonstrations for immigrant rights in Minneapolis "encourages riot, insurrection" and "rebellion" and were "a threat to the security of the prison."

"We find nothing in the articles you have banned to be as you say 'dangerous, inflammatory or encouraging insurrection,'" Neighbors United, an organization of Somali small-business owners at Karmel Mall in Minneapolis, wrote to the Literature Review Committee April 13. "In fact, these articles continuously advocate for peaceful, union-led protests."

The letter, signed by 23 members of the organization, pointed out, "We were personally affected by the recent ICE operations in Minneapolis. We are familiar with the *Militant* Newspaper coverage of the peaceful protests.

"We ask that you deliver the issues of the *Militant* nos. 4, 5, and 6 in 2026 that you have withheld."

On April 10 the *Militant* received new impoundment notices on issue nos. 11 and 12, citing front-page articles "Join 'Militant' fight to overturn ban by prison officials in Florida," and "Prison bans on 'Militant' escalate in Florida, help fight to overturn them!"

The ban on the *Militant* "is a blatant violation of the constitutional rights of prisoners to receive and read a newspaper of their choice and form their own opinions, and of the right of the *Militant* to reach its subscribers," Bill Beaulieu, a member of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 4016 in Illinois, wrote to the Literature Review Committee April 1.

"Characterizing the front page articles as 'dangerously inflammatory' and posing a security risk to the institution is a misrepresentation," Rufina Reyes, the executive director of La Resistencia, wrote to the LRC April 7. La Resistencia is an immigrant rights organization in Washington state.

August Nimtz, a professor at the University of Minnesota, wrote the Literature Review Committee opposing the ban on the *Militant*'s coverage of the "anti-ICE protests in Minneapolis where I live and which I've witnessed.

"I've shared, in fact, the articles with students in a course I teach here," he said. "If my students have the right to read the articles, inmates should have the same constitutional right to do the same."

Prisoner sends appreciation

The *Militant* received a letter from a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution Three Rivers in southern Texas April 6 saying that he had been given a backlog of issues that had been withheld from him since last December by prison authorities.

"I'm up to date and I did receive other issues from December 25. Thank you so much!" the prisoner wrote. "I appreciate the *Militant* newspaper staff and the lawyer. Please continue to send me more and I look forward for the support you provide."

The impoundment notice from Three Rivers sent to the *Militant* March 2 had not cited a single headline, article or photo to justify the ban, which was a violation of Federal Bureau of Prisons regulations. Days after *Militant* attorney David Goldstein filed an appeal against the ban, prison officials said they would deliver the past issues and "apologized for the inconvenience."

The fight against the unconstitutional bans in Florida continues! Help get letters from unions, political rights groups and prominent individuals. Send them to the Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, or email Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com and Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Court: Vindictive prison transfer unconstitutional

BY JANET POST

In a legal victory based on the constitutional right to due process, U.S. Federal Judge Timothy Kelly in Washington, D.C., blocked the Department of Justice from transferring 20 former death row prisoners to the only federal "supermax" prison in the country, the ADX in Florence, Colorado.

"The Constitution requires that whenever the government seeks to deprive a person of a liberty or property interest that the Due Process Clause protects — whether that person is a notorious prisoner or a law-abiding citizen," Kelly, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, wrote. "The process it provides cannot be a sham."

Former President Joseph Biden commuted the death sentences of 37 of the 40 prisoners then on federal death row at the end of his term. When Trump took office he issued an Executive Order directing these same prisoners be housed "in conditions consistent with the monstrosity of their crimes and the threats they pose."

Kelly wrote that the Justice Department "was transparent about seeking to punish Plaintiffs by sending them to ADX Florence," publicly promising "that Plaintiffs will spend the rest of their lives" there.

But Federal Bureau of Prisons officials had already determined that based on their conduct in prison none of the inmates were appropriate for imprisonment in the ADX. Nonetheless, the Justice Department transferred 10 of them to Florence.

A lawsuit was filed by 20 of the prisoners currently held at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, stating that their transfers would violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishments." It was filed by the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Some of the 10 already sent to Florence argue that they, too, should have transfer rights, either because they do not have serious disciplinary records or because of physical and mental health needs that cannot be met at the ADX.

Prisoners sent to supermax 'to punish them'

Kelly ruled that his order will stay in place while the lawsuit winds through the courts. "Officials with authority over BOP [Bureau of Prisons] made it clear that they had to be sent to ADX Florence to punish them, no matter what result the ordinary BOP process might have yielded," he wrote.

"It was like the joy of clemency all over again," the lead plaintiff, inmate Rejon Taylor, told *Newsweek* the day after Kelly's ruling. "It was just like, yes, I can breathe again. I can relax." Taylor had previously told *Newsweek* he dreaded going to the ADX. "There's no hope for me if I end up there."

"We would prefer to be in solitary confinement on federal death row than the ADX," he said.

Judge Kelly pointed to things he had heard about prison conditions at Florence, including from a former prisoner who said he went 13 days "without hearing another human talk."

Prisoners' lawyers told the *New York Times* that ADX inmates "spend 22 to 24 hours a day locked alone in small cells built expressly for severe sensory deprivation and to minimize any human contact, including contact with prison staff."

They're confined to soundproofed 7-by-12-foot darkened concrete cells with poured concrete beds and one 4-inch slit window. In ADX's most restrictive wing, meals are delivered without physical contact. Prisoners are given only one hour of phone calls each month. Suicide attempts are common.

The Justice Department is also moving to put on trial again in state courts as many of the 37 prisoners as possible, prioritizing those whose crimes were committed in states that have the death penalty.

'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