

Cuba celebrates anniversary of US defeat at the Bay of Pigs

BY RÓGER CALERO

Thousands of Cubans gathered in Havana’s Vedado neighborhood April 16 to mark the 65th anniversary of both their victory over the U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs — known in Cuba as Playa Girón — and the deepening of their socialist revolution.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and other speakers recalled the massive popular response to the bombings carried out by the U.S.-backed mercenary forces on the eve of the invasion. Thousands of armed workers had gathered on this same corner in Vedado in 1961 to honor those killed in the bombing. Addressing the crowd, Fidel Castro outlined the stakes in defending the unfolding revolution. (His speech, featured in the *Militant’s* “Books of the Month” column last week, is available at themilitant.com.)

In less than 72 hours, workers and peasants across Cuba mobilized in popular militia detachments, alongside Cuba’s revolutionary armed forces and police, and dealt a stunning defeat to the invading forces, marking U.S. imperialism’s first military defeat in the Americas. Their courageous actions inspired

Continued on page 2

US troops, ships, warplanes out of the Middle East now!



U.S. forces board, seize tanker M/T Tifani in Indian Ocean April 21. Washington says ship was carrying sanctioned Iranian oil, extending its blockade on shipping by the regime in Tehran.

Washington seeks plunder, markets and labor to exploit

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump announced an indefinite extension of the U.S. ceasefire with Tehran April 21, but said the U.S. blockade of ships to and from Iranian ports will continue. Washington’s war violates Iran’s sovereignty and is aimed at strengthening U.S. imperialism’s domination and plunder of the Middle East and pushing back inroads

Continued on page 7

The fight against Jew-hatred crucial for workers’ struggles

Assaults against Jews have spread worldwide since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel, underscoring the fact that Jew-hatred is an integral feature of the imperialist epoch we live in.

These attacks show the necessity

EDITORIAL

of the working class and our unions championing the fight against all expressions of Jew-hatred and taking the lead in defending Jews from assault. The civil rights movement that smashed

Continued on page 9

SWP candidates campaign against US rulers’ war drive at home, abroad



April 18 Militant Labor Forum in Union City, New Jersey, featured Socialist Workers Party candidates. From left, Willie Cotton for lieutenant governor in New York; Joanne Kuniansky for U.S. Senate from New Jersey; Lea Sherman, chair; and Tony Lane for governor of Pennsylvania.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Socialist Workers Party candidates and members are campaigning against the U.S. rulers’ drive to war at home and abroad with workers on their doorsteps, on union picket lines and at political events. They’re making steady gains in the eight-week campaign to sell 1,300 *Militant* subscriptions, the same number

of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, and raise \$165,000 for the annual Militant Fighting Fund.

Members of the Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom are part of the effort.

Minneapolis SWP member Joanne Murphy knocked on Mata Henderson-

Continued on page 5

Back NIPSCO, BP workers in fights against boss lockouts

BY ILONA GERSH

WHITING, Ind. — Bitter boss lockouts of workers at both the British Petroleum oil refinery here and the Northern Indiana Public Services Company across the northern part of the state continue.

United Steelworkers Local 7-1 leaders say the main concerns at BP are over safety and staffing. The union is fighting to keep the company from cutting union jobs, given the frequency of leaks and fires at the BP refinery, which was built in 1898. They say the bosses’ push to increase the number of outside contractors will make conditions even more unsafe.

The USW says it has lost 300 union jobs since the 2015 strike because the bosses don’t replace union workers who retire. Instead, they hire more outside contractors, who aren’t familiar with the refinery or how to operate the equipment safely or handle the almost weekly breakdowns that occur.

In a video shown to workers, refinery Manager Chris DellaFranco said the picture painted by the union is untrue. “Safety is our top priority,” he claimed. At the same time, he admitted BP initially proposed eliminating 200 union jobs at the refinery when contract talks kicked off in January. The company is now proposing to eliminate 65 union jobs, DellaFranco

Continued on page 3

Profit-driven Ohio nursing homes dump patients at homeless shelters

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Ohio’s nursing homes are dumping patients at homeless shelters,” headlined an April 13 Signal Ohio news story. The outrageous tossing aside of

a human life it describes is not something occurring just in Ohio, similar dumps have been reported elsewhere. They highlight the social and moral crisis of capitalism, where the drive for profit by “health” industry bosses takes precedence over providing care for those who need it most.

“A woman using a walker had shown up, incontinent and carrying ‘a large bag of medications,’” the Signal

Continued on page 9

‘Militant’ fights to end weeks of bans by Florida prisons

BY LESLIE DORK

In a victory for the *Militant* and its 135 readers behind bars in Florida, the Literature Review Committee of the state’s Department of Corrections overturned the ban on *Militant* issue no. 10. The *Militant* was notified of the decision April 16.

This issue was banned for a front-page article, “Fight to overturn Florida prison ban on coverage of rights of

Continued on page 9

Inside

- Montreal blue-collar city workers strike for higher wages 3
- Tale of two wars: Moscow attacks civilians, Ukraine targets military 4
- Rally April 29 to demand TPS for Haitians be extended! 6
- Appeals court ends judge’s probe into deportations 6

Cuba celebrates anniversary

Continued from front page
working people and youth around the world, not the least in the United States. Castro’s recognition of the socialist character of the revolution “changed history, and not only for Cuba,” Díaz-Canel said April 16. It marked “the definitive course of a revolutionary process started with the 1959 triumph, and that by 1961 had been deeply radicalized in favor of the dispossessed.”

Following the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista on Jan. 1, 1959, led by Castro, millions of working people mobilized to transform Cuba and themselves. They carried out a radical land reform, a mass campaign to wipe out illiteracy, outlawing racial discrimination, drawing women into the workforce on a large scale, and nationalizing the banks, basic industry and housing.

Leading up to the Bay of Pigs invasion, the U.S. media, taking its cue from the John F. Kennedy administration, projected the Cuban people as eagerly awaiting the arrival of the “freedom fighters.” The counterrevolutionaries “believed their own lies, but truth awaited them with guns at the ready,” said Díaz-Canel. They “expected fear,” but instead “found courage” among Cuban workers and farmers determined to defend their economic and political gains.

An account of these unfolding events in Cuba and the impact they had in winning workers and youth in the U.S. to support the Cuban people defending their own destiny can be found in *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

“History would be worth very little if we didn’t learn from its lessons,” Cuba’s president said at the event. He pointed to

the U.S.-organized bombings, the disinformation spread to confuse the Cuban population, along with the deepening economic war, diplomatic pressure, and constant threats against the revolution leading up to the Bay of Pigs invasion. Díaz-Canel said these were all “cunning methods that have not been abandoned” by those who attack Cuba today.

“These days, the U.S. government has stepped up its policy of strangulation” against the Cuban people, Leane Proenza, speaking for the Federation of University Students, told the crowd. She referred to the Donald Trump administration’s blockade of fuel shipments to Cuba, needed for energy production, transportation, food, basic services and many other necessities.

“Each day it becomes a bigger challenge, but the only thing they have achieved is to force us to reinvent ourselves,” said Proenza, describing the solidarity and ingenuity Cubans are using to confront the difficulties created by Washington’s blockade.

“Why are they doing this to us?” Proenza asked. As Castro explained in 1961, she answered, “They can’t forgive us that we have made a socialist revolution right under their noses.”

Today, 65 years later, “we reaffirm our conviction to continue building socialism as an alternative to barbarism,” Proenza said. We are a threat “because we have demonstrated that it is possible to build a more just reality,” she added, “where the people rule, not money.”

Events to mark the victory at Playa Girón were held all across the island. Cuban press articles featured interviews with combatants who fought in the historic battle. In Girón, “it was demonstrated that the moral values of a people are more important than

Rallies in Canada protest US oil blockade of Cuba



Militant/Ernest Mailhot

MONTREAL — Actions in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution protesting Washington’s monthslong criminal oil blockade and decades of economic war on the people of Cuba were held in cities across Canada April 19. The day of protest was called jointly by the Canadian Network on Cuba and the Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable. The actions marked the 65th anniversary of the Cuban victory at the Bay of Pigs, which stopped cold some 1,500 U.S.-funded, organized and trained mercenaries and their attempted invasion. Their goal was to overthrow the revolutionary government led by Fidel Castro. The events drew 50 spirited protesters in Montreal, above, 100 in Toronto and 40 in Vancouver.

— MICHEL PRAIRIE

bullets,” Atanasio Suárez told *Girón* newspaper. Suárez was a 27-year-old carpenter and militia member at the time of the invasion.

“What’s important is that even though 65 years have passed, it’s still the same enemy,” Ramón González, another veteran of the battle in Girón, told Cuban television. “Who is in charge has changed, but it has the same essence of hatred against our country.”

He was at an April 14-15 conference hosted by the Fidel Castro Ruz Center in Havana titled, “Girón: 65 Years since the Great Victory against Imperialism.”

“Girón was not only a military victory,” said Lizet Márquez in her report on the event for Cuban National News “It’s proof that an organized people, with arms and consciousness, can face imperialism. Sixty-five years later that lesson still stands.”



Reuters/Norlys Perez

Havana rally April 16 celebrates 65th anniversary of defeat of U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion.

THE MILITANT

Rail unionists fight lack of training, for safety on job

Cuts in training and crew size by the bosses have contributed to growing numbers of derailments, deaths of rail workers on the job. “A union fight to take control of conditions on the job is the only way to advance safety,” said Naomi Craine, freight rail conductor and SWP member.



Union Pacific/via National Transportation Safety Board
Derailed cars in Richmond, Texas, one of five Union Pacific derailments in March.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

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

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

The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 17

Closing news date: April 22, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

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

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BP, NIPSCO workers fight lockouts

Continued from front page

said. “Those employees impacted would receive a generous lump-sum payment, in many cases equivalent up to a year’s salary. Our proposal is to shift select work from BP employees to our third-party contractors who can provide better training and more efficiently deliver that work.”

The union explains this is a serious safety question. “Fires are common enough at the refinery, where flammable substances are everywhere all the time, that it has its own fire department so it does not have to rely on outside fire departments in Whiting and Hammond,” Eric Schultz, the president of United Steelworkers Local 7-1, said in a statement to the press. The BP Whiting Refinery has 70 to 80 firefighters, including 15 on full-time, who are specially trained and in a position at the refinery to respond faster than the city fire departments.

Safety, work demands at NIPSCO

The same key question of safety faces the over 1,600 members of USW Locals 12775 and 13796 locked out by NIPSCO. They do power and gas company repairs, installation and disconnection as well as clerical work.

At their picket line in Gary, a picket who works on the coal line in one of NIPSCO’s power generation plants spoke to the *Militant*. He asked that we not use his name for fear of boss retaliation. He said they work four 12-hour shifts, and the company is pushing to be able to force them to stay another four hours whenever needed, then come right back for their regular shift. “And they want us to take an additional 120 hours on callouts per quarter, outside our regular shifts.”

He said the issue of outside contractors is posed at NIPSCO also. “How much of our work will they take? NIPSCO won’t tell us how many they have.”

The overtime makes it impossible for workers to have a balanced life, Paul Noveroske, a lineman for 25 years, told us at the union hall. “As a lineman, I’m going to work long hours. I already work at least 30% of

the overtime they call for,” he said. “But now I have a newborn. How are you going to tell me I have to stay when I need to leave?”

“The narrative NIPSCO wants to give is that it’s about money, that we’re greedy,” Jon Grimley, Local 12775’s financial secretary who works as a dispatcher, said. “But money isn’t the issue. It’s the mandatory overtime and the holdovers. They don’t have enough people. There are just 14 linemen for the entire Gary district. There used to be 30.”

BP refuses negotiation

BP hasn’t negotiated with the union since the day the membership rejected by 94% the company’s “last, best, and final” offer.

Locked-out oil workers on the picket line say the company wants to gut the union. This is clear from their “offer” — a six-year contract outside the industry-wide pattern, cutting more than 100 jobs, slashing pay across most job classifications and giving up their bargaining and seniority rights.

Community support for the union continues to grow. When *Militant* correspondents got to the USW Local 7-1 union hall we were greeted by two locked-out operators who were setting up a huge smoker in the parking lot. They were smoking brisket, pulled pork, hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages to feed hungry pickets. Every day there is a big spread of lunch and dinner for pickets and their families. Signs supporting the union are everywhere, in area storefronts and home windows.

The union told the *Chicago Tribune* that BP security guards had provoked clashes on the picket lines that left union members injured, and they had filed reports with the East Chicago Police Department.

The union said a company security guard had “forearm-checked” a union member into a moving vehicle, and another picket was struck by a vehicle entering a gate to the refinery.

“Each of these violent incidents has left our members injured. That’s unacceptable,” a USW statement said.



United Steelworkers

Faced with BP bosses’ union-busting lockout, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 members at Whiting refinery in Indiana picket, win support in fight for job safety, more union staffing.

A BP representative said the company is “unaware of the incidents” reported by the union.

While there have been no negotiations between the oil workers and BP, the unions at NIPSCO held two days of bargaining last week that led to a contract proposal.

The situation at NIPSCO remains tough. “They keep cutting the manpower,” USW Local 12775 Vice

President Vern Beck told the *Times of North West Indiana*. “In Gary, we went from 30 linemen to 14 linemen. We have half as many workers but the same amount of work. Plus, now we have 70,000 more customers.”

The union says it will organize discussion sessions on the offer next week. Beck said the union agreed to company insistence they pull their pickets down until a vote is taken.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Montreal blue-collar city workers strike for higher wages

MONTREAL — Hundreds of striking blue-collar city workers rallied here April 16 on the second day of a three-day strike by the 6,200 members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 301. They gathered at one of the city’s busiest intersections near the Olympic Stadium, blocking traffic.

“Workers really do hold the balance of power, and I think the employer forgets sometimes because they take the work that these workers do every day for granted,” CUPE Local 79 President Nas Yadollahi told City News.

Workers are determined to win higher pay. “The only element blocking a settlement now is the City of Montreal obstinately sticking to its

wage offer of an 11% increase over five years. This would lead to impoverishing blue-collar workers facing a cost-of-living crisis,” CUPE Local 301 President Jean-Pierre Lauzon told the press April 15. He noted that blue-collar city workers in East Montreal and Dollard des Ormeaux have won 20% increases.

Claudine Herve, a chauffeur-operator who has worked for the city for 24 years, told the *Militant*, “The question of wages is the big question for us, our wages are already almost \$10 lower than other workers in cities around Montreal.”

The unionists have been without a contract since Dec. 31, 2024. After almost 50 negotiating and mediation sessions, they still face a wage proposal they consider insulting.

— Beverly Bernardo

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



April 30, 2001

NEW YORK — In a festive atmosphere, close to 200 people jammed a public meeting here April 14 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Cuba’s victory at the Bay of Pigs over a U.S.-organized invasion. It was one of the largest meetings in recent years sponsored by Casa de las Américas, an organization of Cuban-Americans in the New York area who support the revolution.

Luis Miranda, director of Casa, noted that apologists for Washington cannot explain how in April 1961 revolutionary Cuba was able to deal such a decisive blow to the most powerful imperialist government in the world. “They forget the numerous gains the Cuban people had made with the revolution,” such as wiping out illiteracy through a mass mobilization of young volunteer teachers and a sweeping land reform.

The new generations in the U.S. must learn the truth about these events, he said.



April 30, 1976

BOSTON, April 21 — In the face of rapidly escalating anti-Black terror here, leaders of the Black community have decided to postpone the national pro-busing march scheduled for April 24.

March coordinator Maceo Dixon told the media: “This city is hot. It is tense. The race polarization has escalated with the recent beating of two Black bus drivers in South Boston and the beating of a white man in Roxbury.

Government complicity with the racist antibusing forces has been decisive in creating the polarization that led desegregation leaders to postpone the national action. As Dixon told the news media, “It’s not possible to hold a peaceful, legal activity at this time. The government and the racists hate this march. They know that Blacks and the majority of whites are for a peaceful, legal march and rally in Boston.



April 30, 1951

Ten months have passed since Truman intervened in the Korean civil war. He called it a “police action” — implying that a brief display of American armed might would suffice to “restore order.” Gen. MacArthur gave the impression that all that was needed was for a couple of divisions of American troops to march in and the North Korean forces would scurry like scared rabbits.

But the North Koreans didn’t run. To remain in Korea at all, Truman and MacArthur had to commit nearly half a million personnel to the fighting. The U.S.-U.N. armies are again in retreat. The U.S. communiques are silent about the appalling toll being taken of U.S. and U.N. troops.

U.S. bombs have flattened almost all of Korea, slaughtered and maimed millions of Koreans. That has not stopped the war. Only the direct intervention of the American people can put an end to it.

Special Offer

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.”

\$16 each or all four for \$50

pathfinderpress.com

SWP presents working-class road forward at LA book fair

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

LOS ANGELES — As they have for years, supporters of Pathfinder books set up a booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books April 18-19. One of the largest book fairs in the U.S., an estimated 150,000 attended this year.

The attractive booth, festooned with placards and book covers reflecting Pathfinder's working-class titles, drew crowds looking for answers to today's deepening world economic crisis, the sharpening trade wars between capitalist powers that lead to shooting wars, the U.S. government's war against Iran and its growing threats against Cuba and its socialist revolution.

Many of the overwhelmingly young visitors at the booth were interested in discussing the U.S. rulers' drive to war and their attacks on Iran with members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party staffing the booth. Several left with an armload of books. A total of 415 books were sold, along with 107 subscriptions to the *Militant*, both a substantial increase from the previous year.

"I don't believe the U.S. should be going to war," Christian Pablo, a laid-off bookkeeper, told the *Militant* there. "It's causing U.S. oil prices to keep going up. President Trump had said we're not going to war, then he did."

Ray Parsons, who was staffing the booth, responded: "A big reason for the U.S. military moves is to undercut the influence of China, Washington's main rival for world domination."

Phil Walker, a writer and member of the Writers Guild of America, said

he had participated in recent strikes by his union as well as the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

"Trump's war is rank imperialism. It should be ceased immediately," Walker said. "He's a fascist and should be impeached. I was of the belief that one person can't drag down a system, but now I think it can happen."

"This isn't Trump's war, it's a war by and for the interests of the capitalist rulers in the U.S. Both their parties — Democratic and Republican — use their military to plunder the Middle East and dominate the region for their interests," this *Militant* correspondent said. "We should oppose Washington's war moves in Iran or anywhere in the world. They are an obstacle to the Iranian working people, who have been organizing against the reactionary government there."

Many were interested in discussing Israel and its war to defend itself from Jew-hatred and pogroms. Some decided to leave the booth empty-handed after hearing about the *Militant's* defense of Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews. In contrast, a number expressed strong agreement with Israel as a refuge for half the world's Jewish population in the midst of rising antisemitism worldwide.

Visitors bought 12 copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

Other top sellers included 27 copies of the newly published *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-*



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Pathfinder booth at Los Angeles Times Festival of Books April 18-19 attracted many looking for answers to today's wars, economic crises — with sales of 415 books, 107 *Militant* subscriptions.

Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Cuban combatant Víctor Dreke; 25 of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*; 21 of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*; and 20

of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Over 100 titles on Cuba were snapped up, reflecting the desire of many to learn more about the socialist revolution there and Cuba's efforts to defend that revolution in the face of increasing attacks by U.S. imperialism.

Tale of two wars: Moscow attacks civilians, Ukraine targets military

BY ROY LANDERSEN

More than four years into President Vladimir Putin's war to seize Ukrainian territory and deal blows to its people, Moscow is targeting airstrikes on civilians in Ukrainian cities. The Russian government's goal is to try to overwhelm Ukraine's air defenses and inflict deadly destruction on residential areas to punish and demoralize the country's civilian population.

However, far from intimidating the Ukrainian people, these attacks have only aroused a greater spirit of national pride and resistance. Working men and women, in and out of uniform, are the backbone of fighting and production to defend their country's sovereignty. They refuse to surrender their land, identity or future to Putin's attempt to reimpose Moscow's domination.

In stark contrast, Ukraine's increasingly effective drone attacks are defensive. They target Moscow's war-making capacities, not just near the front lines but increasingly far inside Russia itself. Airbases and warplanes, ammunition depots, fuel storage and other war-related infrastructure have been hit, not civilians.

These are two very different wars.

Moscow unleashed its deadliest attack so far this year on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities April 16, with drone and missile strikes killing at least 18 people, including a 12-year-old boy, and injuring more than 100.

During the past winter Moscow launched its heaviest aerial bombardment of the war, with Russian drones and missiles destroying or damaging half of Ukraine's electrical grid. Millions were left without heat and electricity in freezing conditions. But more than 14,000 energy workers, many volunteers from around the country, restored much of that.

Ukrainian forces, despite being outnumbered and outgunned, are more than holding their own on the front lines. They are now clawing back ground in key areas in Donbas.

Seeking to reset relations with Moscow, the Donald Trump administration has pulled back on aid and military supplies to Ukraine. This has meant supplies of Patriot and other air-defense missiles, crucial to protection from Moscow's onslaught, have been sharply cut back.

In response to these challenges, Ukrainian combatants have organized to develop and produce unmanned robots and drones as a cheap and effective answer. This has been reported worldwide. As of March, Ukraine's home-built drones downed 70% of all Russian attack drones aimed at Kyiv.

Unlike the Kremlin's brutal treatment of Russian workers in uniform as cannon fodder, Ukrainian forces organize to reduce casualties. Kyiv has developed ground robots, which, unlike aerial drones, can carry heavier supplies and evacuate the wounded, lessening the risks to its troops.

Moscow jails anti-war activists

As the war's toll on Russian working people, in and out of uniform, grows, the Putin regime fears an upsurge of opposition. It is tightening its repressive grip and looking for new ways to press workers into its army.

Six former members of youth organization Vesna, which staged anti-war rallies in cities across Russia after Putin's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, were sentenced to draconian prison terms April 8 in St. Petersburg. They were pronounced guilty of "extremism," spreading "false information" about the Russian military and inciting "social unrest."

The six activists, one woman and five men, had been detained since their arrests in June 2023. They were sentenced to between six and 12 years in prison. They are recognized by Memorial, the long-standing Russian rights group whose offices were closed down by Putin, as political prisoners. At least 15 other alleged Vesna members who were charged have left the country, but remain on police "wanted" lists.

Join May 1 protests!

Help get out the 'Militant'!

US out of the Middle East!
Washington hands off Cuba!
No deportations! Amnesty for undocumented workers!
Build solidarity with unionists on strike!
Unite working people in struggle for our class interests!

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

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS

Books workers need today

to learn more about the program of the Socialist Workers Party

20% OFF
ALL OTHER
PATHFINDER TITLES

Teamster Rebellion

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?

Cosmetics, Fashion and the Exploitation of Women

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

Also 3-pack of New Internationals #7, 10, 12 — \$30 with a subscription

SEE DISTRIBUTORS ON PAGE 8 OR VISIT PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

4 The Militant May 4, 2026

SWP candidates hit US war drive

Continued from front page

Combs’ door in Fridley, Minnesota, April 19. Murphy pointed to the *Militant* headline “End Washington’s war for plunder in the Middle East.”

“It’s chaotic, heartbreaking, to see what Israel and the U.S. are doing,” Henderson-Combs, a member of the Service Employees International Union, told Murphy. “We shouldn’t even be over there.”

Murphy said Washington is out to seize control of oil and other resources and riches in the region, extend its position as the dominant imperialist power worldwide and push back its rivals. But Israel’s goals, she said, are different. “Israel is fighting a defensive war against the Jew-hating bourgeois clerical regime in Tehran, and its allies, Hamas and Hezbollah,” Murphy said. “The rulers in Iran are out to destroy Israel.”

After looking at a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, Henderson-Combs asked, “What is a pogrom?”

It’s the organized massacre of Jews, Murphy explained, part of efforts by capitalist ruling classes to deflect blame from themselves at times of deepening crisis by targeting Jews. The book’s cover shows Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom. Its back cover explains “pogroms are now part of the permanent social convulsions and wars of the imperialist epoch.”

Henderson-Combs bought the book and decided to get a subscription to the *Militant*.

In Montreal, Communist League members Annette Kouri and Katy LeRougetel met over coffee with a United Steelworkers member on strike against Citadelle, a maple syrup company in Plessisville, Quebec, April 11. Workers there have been on strike since March 18, fighting for higher wages and better conditions on the job.

“Why are employers willing to risk their reputation by treating their employees so badly?” asked Thibaut, who requested his last name not be used.

“The bosses take the long view,” LeRougetel replied. “They’re preparing to survive the economic crisis, and they want to break our spirit, so they can drive us hard for years to come.”

“When they do that, they set uncontrolled forces into motion,” Thibaut said. “The unity we’ve created while on strike, that’s here to stay.” He got a subscription to the *Militant*.

Going door to door in the same area, LeRougetel and Kouri met Pierre Barilfiola, an unemployed metal worker who said he had friends on strike at Citadelle.

“The bosses’ answer to the economic crisis is to wage war on workers at home, and to wage war against each other abroad for markets and control,” Kouri said.

“Like the war on Iran,” Barilfiola said. “That’s a war for oil too.” He signed up to receive the *Militant* articles that are



Militant/Katy LeRougetel
Joe Young, left, Communist League provincial candidate in Quebec, shows *Militant* to demonstrators protesting government attacks on working people in Drummondville April 12.

translated into French each week.

SWP candidates around the country are continuing to extend the party’s reach. The California Voter Information Guide contains the platform of Margaret Trowe, the SWP candidate for governor, who is on the ballot. It’s now available

to the state’s 23 million voters in 11 languages, along with American Sign Language and audio versions of each language for the visually impaired.

To join in expanding the reach of the *Militant*, contact the distributor nearest you listed on page 8.

New Jersey SWP campaign nears goal in ballot drive

BY ROY LANDERSEN

UNION CITY, N.J. — Washington’s wars are part of “a deliberate course to advance the bipartisan state policy of the U.S. ruling capitalist families,” Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, told participants at an April 18 Militant Labor Forum here.

“They’re not a series of isolated events, nor the result of the actions of a deranged president,” Kuniansky said. The meeting took place during the closing weekend of a special three-week effort to win support to put on the ballot Kuniansky and Craig Honts, the SWP candidate for Congress in District 8.

Kuniansky and Honts were joined on the platform by Willie Cotton, SWP candidate for New York lieutenant governor, and Tony Lane, the party’s candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. They described the growing interest in the party among workers around the country.

By April 19, 2,633 people had signed to put Kuniansky on the ballot and 348 for Honts. The requirements are 2,000 and 250, respectively. SWP campaigners plan to gather 3,000 and 400 before filing the petitions next month.

“The capitalist rulers will perpetuate more wars,” Kuniansky told the meeting. “But workers will get our chance to take power out of their hands.

“The foundation for sweeping away the injustices inherent to this exploitive system can only be established when workers organize independently and fight to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government.” The SWP exists “to prepare for these class battles to come.”

At a grocery store parking lot in Hillside, New Jersey, April 15, campaigners Arlene Rubinstein and Lisa Rottach spoke with Tawan

Stephens. “With the soaring cost of gas, I couldn’t have picked a worse time to change careers!” Stephens, who is about to get his license to be a truck driver, told them. “Maybe the price will stabilize.”

“There is no stability in a system based on the unrelenting competition among ruling classes of rival capitalist powers,” Rubinstein said. This is also the source of their wars, she added.

“The war in the Mideast isn’t about bringing a brighter future to the people over there,” Stephens said. Washington “wants the resources and the oil.”

Rottach pointed out that Israel’s war to defend its existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms is different from that of imperialist Washington. “Capitalism is the source of the world’s ills, not the Jews,” she said.

Stephens subscribed to the *Militant*, got the book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* and signed to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

Honts introduced his campaign to Juan and Heidy Constanza in South Plainfield April 18. “We need a workers government to overturn a system based on exploitation of workers at home and the rulers’ wars abroad,” he said. “There is nothing in this war for us,” Juan said.

When he mentioned that he drove a garbage truck, Honts said he’d joined the picket line of striking garbage workers at Republic in Boston last year. “I work at Republic here in New Jersey,” Juan Constanza exclaimed. “I

know about that strike!

“After winning, workers in Boston now get paid \$10 an hour more than workers in New Jersey,” he said. “Our contract comes up in the coming year. We’re getting ready to fight for more, just like they did.”

The Constanzas subscribed to the *Militant* and got two books by SWP leaders, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by Mary-Alice Waters.

At a parking lot in Linden, Rottach talked with Joao Amaral, a construction worker whose family moved to the U.S. from Portugal when he was 6.

Rottach showed him *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke. This book will help you appreciate the working-class, internationalist outlook of the leaders of the Cuban Revolution, she said. It provides a first-hand account of Cuba’s decisive aid to the victorious struggle that brought down Portuguese colonial rule.

Amaral signed the petition, subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde; The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by Barnes, Waters and Steve Clark; and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Barnes.



Militant/Lisa Rottach
Craig Honts, SWP candidate for Congress, with Juan and Heidy Constanza in South Plainfield. “There’s nothing in the U.S. war on Iran for us,” Juan said. They signed to put SWP on ballot.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, Fighting Fund						
March 14 - May 12 (week five)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	26	40	27	\$9,500	\$4,388
Chicago	60	42	60	46	\$13,500	\$9,065
Cincinnati	30	20	30	28	\$5,000	\$2,000
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	51	70	48	\$5,000	\$3,374
Los Angeles	90	73	90	88	\$14,000	\$4,570
Miami	40	35	40	35	\$5,500	\$2,280
Minneapolis	65	41	65	52	\$6,700	\$3,045
N. New Jersey	70	47	70	67	\$7,500	\$4,573
New York	80	45	80	61	\$20,500	\$12,033
Oakland	80	53	80	88	\$15,000	\$13,231
Philadelphia	40	21	40	31	\$6,000	\$4,475
Pittsburgh*	45	25	45	37	\$7,500	\$2,240
Seattle	60	35	60	37	\$15,000	\$9,152
Washington	55	32	55	44	\$4,500	\$1,467
Other		58		375		\$650
Total U.S.	825	604	825	1,064	\$135,200	\$76,543
Prisoners		99				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	30	45	26	\$3,000	\$1,050
Manchester*	40	29	30	23	\$1,300	\$800
Total U.K.	85	59	75	49	\$4,300	\$1,850
Canada	80	42	90	60	\$11,000	\$6,825
Australia	30	29	30	35	\$4,500	\$3,100
Total	1,020	833	1,020	1,208	\$155,000	\$88,318
SHOULD BE	1,300	813	1,300	813	\$165,000	\$103,125
*Raised goal						

Rally April 29 to demand TPS status for Haitians be extended!

BY TERRY EVANS

Support is building for a rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., April 29, to demand a halt to the administration's drive to end Temporary Protected Status for some 350,000 Haitians and 7,000 Syrians. Elimination of this legal status and the right to work it provides would both lead to deportations and swell the number of workers in the U.S. who live and work in fear of being expelled.

The rally will take place as the Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a case where a federal judge had paused the decision ending TPS for Haitians.

The U.S. rulers offer TPS to toilers from countries who face brutal regimes, wars or social calamities. It can last for up to 18 months, before a government extension needs to be considered. The program offers no path toward a green card. It covers some 1.3 million immigrants from 17 different countries today.

"Haitians in Springfield are workers in medical institutions, the school district, factory and warehouse workers and business owners," Viles Dorsainvil, executive director of the Haitian Community Help and Support Center in Springfield, Ohio, told the *Militant* by phone. "If TPS is taken away, every single person will be affected — relatives, friends and co-

workers." Dorsainvil will be joining the April 29 rally.

TPS for Haitian immigrants was granted in 2010 after a devastating earthquake caused more than 200,000 deaths and widespread damage.

Since then conditions on the island have gotten worse. Criminal gangs have seized control of large areas of the capital, Port-au Prince, and beyond, terrorizing working people. At least a million people have fled their homes. In the first 11 months of last year alone, more than 8,000 people were slaughtered in gang-related violence.

Despite this, the Department of Homeland Security in November claimed, "There are no extraordinary and temporary conditions in Haiti that prevent Haitian nationals ... from returning in safety."

Yet the State Department urges U.S. citizens not to travel to Haiti! Last year Washington backed the deployment of a 5,550-strong, armed Gang Suppression Force there, an admission of the fact that stable capitalist rule has broken down on the island. The force is just beginning to be deployed.

On Feb. 2, U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes in Washington, D.C., indefinitely suspended the DHS decision to end TPS for Haitians, calling the order "arbitrary and capricious." Reyes says the DHS failed to adequately consult with



Workers rally for TPS status for Haitians at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood airport, north of Miami, Jan. 28. Action was organized by 32BJ SEIU, 1199 SEIU Florida, UNITE HERE Local 355.

other government departments about conditions in Haiti, as it was obliged to do, before issuing the termination.

If the Supreme Court overturns Reyes' ruling, Haitians would be subject to immediate deportation even as other legal challenges work their way through the courts.

The administration contends the DHS order ending TPS was carried out at the bidding of President Donald Trump, and the court ruling suspending it is an attack on the president's executive authority. U.S. Solicitor General John Sauer claims the administration has the right to make rulings on TPS without being subject to any court review. He insisted the DHS has

free rein to abolish protections contained in a program that was established by Congress.

Pits workers against one another

In her Nov. 28 order ending TPS for Haitians, Kristi Noem, then head of the Department of Homeland Security, tried to pit native-born workers against immigrants. She claimed Haitian visa overstayers "place an added strain on local communities by increasing demand for public resources, contributing to housing and health care pressures, and competing in an already limited job market."

Her comments aim to divert workers away from the actual source of the problems we face — the drive by the bosses to offload the capitalist crisis onto our backs — and to scapegoat immigrants instead.

The Trump administration has terminated TPS for every country whose designation comes up for review, attempting to remove protection from deportation for some 1 million people. Many of its decisions on TPS face legal challenges. If the administration overcomes these court cases, the only countries remaining under the TPS program will be El Salvador, Lebanon, Sudan and Ukraine. And their designations are set to expire later this year.

The April 29 rally and protests leading up to it are organized by the National TPS Alliance and other groups. Planned events and activities are listed on the Alliance's website.

Betsy Farley in Cincinnati contributed to this article.

Appeals court ends judge's probe into deportations

BY JANET POST

A ruling handed down by the U.S. District Appeals Court in Washington, D.C., April 14 dealt a blow to immigrants' constitutional right to due process and a hearing before being deported.

It also threw out an ongoing contempt case pursued by the chief federal judge in Washington, D.C., James Boasberg, against the Donald Trump White House for the way it ignored his court orders not to deport 238 immigrants, overwhelmingly from Venezuela, to the notorious CECOT maximum security prison in El Salvador.

In a 2-1 vote, the panel ordered Boasberg to end his efforts to investigate whether Trump administration officials illegally ignored his court orders. "The district court proposes to probe high-level Executive Branch deliberations about matters of national security and diplomacy," Circuit Judge Neomi Rao wrote in the panel's ruling.

Trump had relied on the rarely used 1798 Alien Enemies Act, which gives the president broad power to detain and deport citizens of other nations who are either at war with the U.S. or have launched an invasion of U.S. territory. It was passed by the John Adams administration to attack the free speech rights of opponents of his pro-British foreign policy.

The targets of the Trump administration were Venezuelan immigrants, who he claimed were dangerous members of the Tren de Aragua criminal gang — without giving the right to a hearing or presenting evidence against them. In a proclamation, the president said Venezuela was "a hybrid criminal state that

is perpetrating an invasion of and predatory incursion into the United States."

On March 15-16, 2025, the Justice Department forced these incarcerated Venezuelans onto three planes to deport them to El Salvador. American Civil Liberties Union lawyers representing five of them were able to get a case filed with Judge Boasberg challenging their deportations. He ordered a stop to any moves to deport them and rapidly set up a hearing, where he was incredulous at the arguments of the government lawyers and their refusal to answer questions. They claimed they couldn't do so for fear of passing on government national security secrets.

The ACLU attorneys reported that they had received word their clients and other Venezuelans were being loaded onto the planes.

Boasberg asked Deputy Assistant Attorney General Drew Ensign if deportations were imminent. Ensign claimed he didn't know. Boasberg gave him 40 minutes to find out. But the planes carrying the immigrants began to take off.

Boasberg then reconvened the hearing and told Ensign to "inform your clients" that "any plane containing these folks that is going to take off or is in the air needs to be returned to the United States." He said this order is in effect for the next 14 days.

Within the hour, his written order was released. By then all three planes are in the air, full of Venezuelans and one Salvadoran. U.S. agents had also thrown Kilmar Ábrego García aboard in direct violation of a court order.

They were all imprisoned at the notorious Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT) in El Salvador.

Boasberg initiated an investigation into who had made the decision to violate his orders, and was considering filing an order of contempt.

When the Justice Department moved to have his investigation annulled, it was successful, but not on the merits of the case. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the ACLU and its clients, who had been in immigration detention in Texas, not Washington, D.C., had not brought their case to the right court, so it was thrown out.

The justices, however, unanimously said the immigrants involved had the right to due process and a hearing.

Trump railed against Boasberg, saying, "This judge, like many of the Crooked Judges I am forced to appear before, should be IMPEACHED!!!"

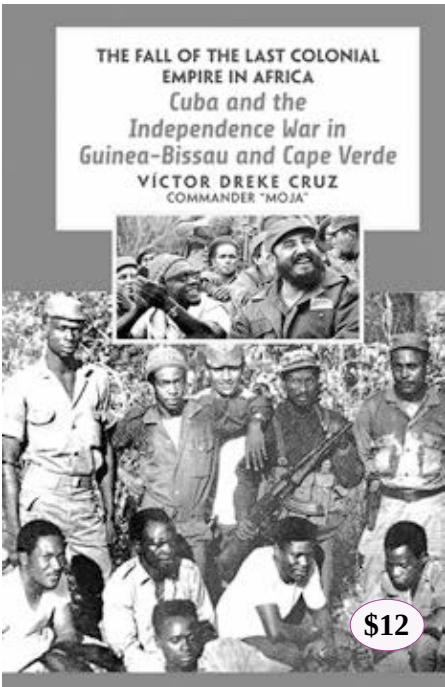
This led Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts to make an unusual public comment rejecting calls to impeach judges.

A few months later, Boasberg decided to restart his investigation into whether the administration had willfully violated his court order to stop the flights. This is the case the D.C. Court of Appeals decided. Speaking for the two-judge majority, Appeals Court Judge Rao wrote that Boasberg had encroached on "the autonomy of the Executive Branch" and was a "clear abuse of discretion."

In her dissent, Appeals Court Judge J. Michelle Childs said that the ruling stymied Boasberg "in a way that will affect not only these contempt proceedings but will also echo in future proceedings against all litigants."

An appeal asking for a rehearing by the full Circuit Court of Appeals is expected.

Essential reading



\$12

pathfinderpress.com

US out of the Middle East now!

Continued from front page
by its rivals, especially Beijing.

The attacks on Iran have “nothing to do with the U.S. administration’s pretext of promoting peace, prosperity and ‘freedom,’ for those who live in Iran or elsewhere in the region,” said a Socialist Workers Party National Committee statement March 1. “It is a blow to the aspirations for peace held by workers and millions of other oppressed and exploited people in the United States.”

Washington hopes that its shock and awe bombing of Iran and now its naval blockade will force a wing of the Iranian regime to become more subservient to U.S. imperialism, like what happened in Venezuela after U.S. forces kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Trump said he extended the ceasefire at the request of the government of Pakistan, which brokered past negotiations, to give time to the “seriously fractured” regime in Tehran to respond to U.S. demands. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced earlier that Tehran would not attend talks planned for April 22.

During the 40-day war Tehran’s navy was decimated, except for small speedboats, along with its air defenses and air force as well as most of its ballistic missiles and 40% of its missile launchers.

Already high prices for basic necessities in Iran have skyrocketed as a result of the war, and hundreds of thousands of workers have lost their jobs.

Tehran’s threats have kept most ships from attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, while the U.S. blockade in the Gulf of Oman of ships to and from Iranian ports is a serious blow to Tehran. Some 90% of Iran’s economy depends on international sea trade.

Under the terms of the April 7 ceasefire, the Strait of Hormuz was supposed to reopen. Instead, some 20,000 seafarers on 2,000 ships — including oil and gas tankers, cargo ships and six tourist cruise liners — are still trapped.

Iranian boats fired at two Indian-flagged ships near Oman April 18. The next day, U.S. Marines boarded an Iranian-cargo ship in the Arabian Sea after blowing a hole in its engine room.

Prior to extending the ceasefire, President Trump had threatened to restart the war and destroy Iran’s electrical generation plants and bridges — a move that would severely worsen the devastating conditions working people face.

The war has driven a wedge between the regime in Tehran and the governments of the nearby Gulf States — Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. During the war, Tehran directed significant attacks on oil and gas facilities and U.S. bases in these countries whose governments had tried to maintain a stance of neutrality.

Israel’s defensive war

Israel and Washington are not fighting the same war. Israel, a country of just 10.2 million that provides Jews with an unconditional refuge, faces attacks from all sides by forces allied with Tehran that share the goal of destroying it. For Israel, preventing Tehran from having ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons and defeating and dismantling its proxy forces is a life-and-death question. Washington doesn’t have these concerns. The U.S. rulers aim to ad-

vance their own imperialist interests.

While Israel’s defense systems shot down as much as 90% of the missiles Tehran and Hezbollah launched, some 66 missiles — many with cluster bomb-lets that strike over a wide area — hit the tiny country. More than 7,000 civilians were wounded and 20 killed.

Despite big blows dealt by Israel to Hamas since it carried out the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom that killed more than 1,200 people in Israel, Tehran’s “axis of resistance,” including Hamas, Hezbollah and Tehran-created militias in Iraq, still look to future massacres of Jews.

That’s what’s at stake in Lebanon, where Israeli forces have now occupied a swath of the southern part of the country to make it harder for Hezbollah to threaten Israel’s existence.

First protests in Iran since the war

Severely weakened, the reactionary regime in Iran fears the widespread opposition to its rule among working people more than it fears attacks from Washington. Despite the massacre of over 7,000 protesters nearly two months before the start of the war, working people and university students were beginning to organize new actions against the regime. The outbreak of the war pushed that movement off the streets.

The regime has arrested more than 3,600 people since the start of the war, including over 760 since the start of the ceasefire.

In an April 21 statement, the prisoner-

US rulers to rebuild industry to make weapons for war

BY SETH GALINSKY

“We are pivoting the Pentagon and our industrial base to a wartime footing,” War Secretary Peter Hegseth announced last November. The capitalist rulers in the U.S. know that they are far from ready for the wars that are inevitable as the crisis of capitalism deepens. The sharpening conflict between Washington and Beijing underscores the challenge they face. To defend Washington’s weakened imperialist domination worldwide, they need to transform their preparedness for battle.

“The Trump administration is pushing for the biggest upgrade in decades to the nation’s fleet of noncombat ships in a bid to boost U.S. shipbuilding and strengthen America’s ability to prosecute wars overseas,” the *Wall Street Journal* said April 10.

As part of this, U.S. agencies from the Navy to the National Science Foundation are requesting more funds in the 2027 fiscal year budget for cargo ships, vehicle carriers, cutters and a research vessel. These “noncombat” ships being built can easily be used to carry ammunition, for war transportation and to refuel and rearm warships at sea.

The Navy’s request is a 46% increase over last year’s shipbuilding budget, including for 18 new combat vessels. This is still far below what the U.S. rulers know they will need.

As part of this drive, the government is pressing the owners of U.S. shipyards to modernize and expand their facilities.

For years, the *Journal* notes, Democratic and Republican party politicians alike have been warning about the aging U.S. fleet. Many Navy ships have been in use for 40 years or longer. This



Iranian Labour News Agency

Laid off oil contract workers protest outside government offices in Ilam in mid-April, one of the first labor protests in Iran since the war between Tehran and Washington began Feb. 28.

based “Tuesdays Against the Death Penalty,” which has been organizing weekly hunger strikes in dozens of prisons for two years, noted that the regime has executed at least a dozen political prisoners in just one month. It is “desperately trying to accuse” the political prisoners of “ties to Israel, in order to justify its executions under wartime conditions.” These “baseless accusations,” the group says, “only intensify public outrage.”

One indication of the fear and weakness of the regime, the statement says, is that it refuses to give the bodies of those executed to their families. They fear the funerals will become protests.

The war has accelerated the capitalist economic crisis in Iran. The government-funded Iranian Labour News Agency has been running daily reports of workers complaining about rising prices, job losses, unpaid wages, and

poor working conditions. It reported April 21 that contract workers in the Tangeh Bijar gas field said that “since the start of the war, we have all been unemployed and there is no news of work, and apparently no one remembers us!”

Despite the regime’s increased repression and the destruction caused by Washington’s war, working people joined three modest protests last week. Applicants for teaching positions demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Education in Tehran April 19 to demand they be hired. The Retirees Unity Group reported April 21 on a recent protest by laid-off contract workers from the Ilam Gas Refinery at government offices in Ilam province.

Retirees in Shush in Khuzestan province protested the delay in a promised 60% increase to wages and social security benefits.

is in sharp contrast to China. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Beijing produced more commercial vessels, measured in tonnage, than the U.S. has built since the end of World War II. These vessels, however, are still far from a match for the firepower of the U.S. Navy.

The U.S. moves were a consequence of false conclusions the U.S. rulers drew from the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. They believed they had won the Cold War and reduced military spending.

Under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton active-duty U.S. military forces fell from 2.2 million to 1.4 million. The naval fleet shrank from 454 ships in 1993 to 341 by 2000. They called it the “peace dividend.”

At the same time, they continued shifting manufacturing overseas, content to let others, especially China’s rulers, become the dominant industrial powerhouses, while American industry, much of it unionized with higher wages, was allowed to atrophy. Steel mills shuttered, auto plants were put in mothballs, coal mines closed.

The boss class is now moving to reverse this — a big project.

Early stages of retooling for war

Over the last several months War Department officials have held meetings with executives from General Motors, General Electric, Ford and machinery maker Oshkosh to push them to repurpose their factories.

These “early-stage discussions,” *Business Today* noted April 16, appear “to be assessing how quickly existing automotive production lines

could be adapted for military use — ranging from transport vehicles to more complex defence systems.”

Business Today and the *Journal* point to the example of what the U.S. rulers did leading into the second imperialist world war, pushing U.S. industrial production to an all-time high. The program to transform U.S. industry to rapidly produce war material was euphemistically called the “Arsenal of Democracy.”

At its peak, Ford Motor Company’s Willow Run plant in Michigan was churning out one B-24 bomber every hour.

Today, crucial resources and products needed for war, motors, sensors, rare-earth metals and other key components are largely found or produced in China.

The U.S. rulers are looking to the Philippines, Indonesia, Angola and Mozambique to set up special “economic corridors” for war production.

On April 16 Washington signed a deal with the Philippine government to build an industrial zone on the island of Luzon. This would allow the U.S. to draw on nearby sources of nickel, copper, chromite and cobalt.

Manila agreed to give Washington unprecedented authority over the operation, providing a 4,000 acre site rent-free to the U.S. government. All activity there will come with diplomatic immunity, like what U.S. embassies receive, and be run under U.S., not Philippine, law — the first arrangement of its kind anywhere in the world. But it isn’t off the drawing board yet.

As part of this push, Hegseth directed the Pentagon to terminate union con-

Continued on page 9

Trotsky’s goal: To prepare a new generation of revolutionary leaders

Leon Trotsky’s *My Life* is one of *Pathfinder’s Books of the Month* for April. Trotsky was a central leader of the 1917 October Revolution in Russia, second only to V.I. Lenin. Written during his first year of exile in Turkey in 1929, it documents his political life, including his fight to defend Lenin’s internationalist course against the bureaucratic counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin. The selection is from the introduction, “With Trotsky in Coyoacán,” by Joseph Hansen, a young leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Trotsky’s secretary from 1937 until his assassination by Stalin’s secret police in 1940. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Printed by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JOSEPH HANSEN

Working with Trotsky was a serious matter — he was no dabbler in politics and he found dabbling intolerable in others; but it was also an extraordinary school for the young comrades on his staff. The way he responded to the March, 1938, Moscow trial served as a model demonstration of the importance of timing in meeting a deadly challenge and converting it into an opportunity. It meant pushing everything else aside with the utmost decisiveness, rising above personal problems, concentrating on the work at hand with



27-year-old Joseph Hansen, left, with Leon Trotsky and Natalia Sedova in Mexico in 1937. Trotsky worked to defend Marxist program, assure movement’s revolutionary continuity.

maximum energy and every resource available. It was a rare opportunity for those of us then in our twenties to see Trotsky in action as a political fighter in a very acute battle. ...

[Hansen quotes Trotsky:] “I think that the work in which I am engaged now, despite its extremely insufficient and fragmentary nature, is the most important work of my life — more important than 1917, more important than the period of the Civil War or any other.

“For the sake of clarity I would put it this way. Had I not been present in 1917 in Petersburg, the October Revolution would still have taken place — on the condition that Lenin was present and in command. If neither Lenin nor I had been present in Petersburg, there would have been no October Revolution: the leadership of the Bolshevik Party would have prevented it from occurring — of this I have not the slightest doubt! If Lenin had not been in Petersburg, I doubt whether I could have managed to overcome the resistance of the Bolshevik leaders. The struggle with ‘Trotskyism’ (i.e., with the proletarian revolution) would have commenced in May, 1917, and the outcome of the revolution would have been in question. But I repeat, granted the presence of Lenin the October Revolution would have been victorious anyway. The same could be said of the Civil War. ...

“Thus I cannot speak of the ‘indis-

pensability’ of my work, even about the period from 1917 to 1921. But now my work is ‘indispensable’ in the full sense of the word. There is no arrogance in this claim at all. The collapse of the two Internationals has posed a problem which none of the leaders of these Internationals is at all equipped to solve. The vicissitudes of my personal fate have confronted me with this problem and armed me with important experience in dealing with it. There is now no one except me to carry out the

“It is a question of measures to restore to the proletariat, under new and onerous conditions, its historical leadership.”
—Leon Trotsky

mission of arming a new generation with the revolutionary method over the heads of the leaders of the Second and Third International. ... I need at least about five more years of uninterrupted work to ensure the succession.”

Trotsky had just five more years to live, but it was not uninterrupted. During those five years he lived in constant insecurity, the target of reaction ranging from the Norwegian fascists to the implacable killers of Stalin’s GPU. Nevertheless Trotsky did what he could to pass on as much as possible

of his experience. Among the youngest of us who came to live with him and Natalia in the final years of their exile, L.D. did not speak directly of this problem. We felt it, however. Day in and day out, the life of the household was an engagement in building the Fourth International. The importance of continuity in program, in method, in succession of cadres, became part of our elementary thinking. All of us were committed, dedicated even, to this work as essential preparation for the coming revolutionary opportunities that history was certain to provide. Everything Trotsky himself did was directed toward this goal.

If a certain romanticism may be thought to attach to this, the impression is mistaken. In practice it amounted to hard work, learning how to handle details, following through efficiently without ever losing sight of the great ultimate objective. What separates this kind of party building from any other sustained and difficult enterprise is its purpose and goal which is to assure the survival of mankind and to make possible the expansion of civilization on a truly human basis.

In a short article on Rosa Luxemburg and the Fourth International, written in June 1935, Trotsky, arguing against the theory of the spontaneity of the masses and for the necessity of a Leninist party, put it like this: “Without the slightest exaggeration it may be said: The whole world situation is determined by the crisis of the proletarian leadership.”

This crisis, he continued, “cannot, of course, be overcome by means of an abstract formula. It is a question of an extremely humdrum process. But not of a purely ‘historical’ process, that is, of the objective premises of conscious activity, but of an uninterrupted chain of ideological, political and organizational measures for the purpose of fusing together the best, most conscious elements of the world proletariat beneath a spotless banner, elements whose number and self-confidence must be constantly strengthened, whose connections with wider sections of the proletariat must be developed and deepened — in a word: to restore to the proletariat, under new and highly difficult and onerous conditions, its historical leadership.”

April
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder
Readers Club
Specials

30%
DISCOUNT

MY LIFE

My Life
An Attempt at an Autobiography
LEON TROTSKY
A central leader of Russian Revolution led battle for V.I. Lenin’s proletarian internationalism against rising bureaucracy headed by Stalin.

\$27. Special price \$19

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs
1961: Washington’s First Military Defeat in the Americas
FIDEL CASTRO, JOSÉ RAMÓN FERNÁNDEZ

\$17. Special price \$12

The Great Labor Uprising of 1877
PHILIP S. FONER

\$17. Special price \$12

Speeches to the Party
The Revolutionary Perspective and the Revolutionary Party
JAMES P. CANNON

\$23. Special price \$16

Reform or Revolution
ROSA LUXEMBURG

\$10. Special price \$7

Malcolm X, la libération des Noirs et la voie vers le pouvoir ouvrier
(Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power)
JACK BARNES

\$20. Special price \$14

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year

ORDER ONLINE AT
PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL May 10

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

NEBRASKA: **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6272.

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

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

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

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

PENNSYLVANIA: **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 245. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA

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

CANADA

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

FRANCE

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

UNITED KINGDOM

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

Fight against Jew-hatred crucial for workers

Continued from front page

Jim Crow segregation led to a historic advance for the working class as a whole, breaking down barriers the employers and their government had used to divide and divert us from common struggle for decades. One consequence is the broad opposition among workers to Jew-hatred.

In contrast, Jew-hatred is growing among layers of the middle class. This is expressed not only in support for Hamas on the left, but by more open and direct hostility toward Jews. As the crisis of capitalism deepens, insecurity grips layers of the middle class who increasingly see their position coming apart. They fear being ruined and driven down into the working class and look for someone to blame.

As these crises grow, fascist forces will find support from sections of the ruling class that fear rising revolutionary struggles threaten their rule. They will unleash fascist thugs not only to target Jews, but working-class fighters and communists. This is what happened in Germany in the 1930s.

Workers can defeat fascist gangs

But with class-struggle leadership, workers can organize to defend ourselves. We can decisively defeat the fascist gangs, attract broader social layers to our side, and open the door to making a socialist revolution and doing away with the brutality of capitalism once and for all.

On the other side of the class divide, supporters of Hamas who call themselves “socialist” will find themselves drawn toward Jew-hatred and fascist forces, as also happened in Germany.

The U.S. imperialist rulers have never protected Jews from persecution. They never will. As World War II loomed, they closed their doors to Jews, as

did almost all other capitalist governments.

You can see this today in Washington’s war in the Middle East. Their goal is to advance their domination and plunder of the region, not to protect Jews or Israel’s right to exist as a refuge.

Tehran and its proxies, especially Hamas and Hezbollah, have not backed off one inch from their long stated goal of slaughtering Jews and wiping out Israel. The fight to prevent them from carrying out a new Holocaust lies in the hands of the working class, in the Middle East and worldwide.

Jew-hatred is a permanent feature of capitalist rule. But working people have proven capitalism can be replaced. In Russia in 1917, led by V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks, and in Cuba in 1959, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, workers and farmers took political power, opening the door to a new world — a socialist future.

From its founding, the Bolshevik Party made the fight against Jew-hatred central to its activity. “When the accursed tsarist monarchy was living its last days it tried to incite ignorant workers and peasants against the Jews,” Lenin explained in March 1919 on a record the Bolsheviks took all across the country. “It is not the Jews who are the enemies of the working people. The enemies of the people are the capitalists of all countries.”

“Shame on accursed tsarism, which tortured and persecuted the Jews,” he said. “Long live the fraternal trust and fighting alliance of the workers of all nations in the struggle to overthrow capital.”

The course of the Bolsheviks is central to the continuity of the Socialist Workers Party. Only by building a proletarian party to emulate their example can working people chart a course to end Jew-hatred for all time. To be part of that struggle, campaign with and join the Socialist Workers Party.

‘Militant’ fight to end bans by Florida prisons

Continued from front page

immigrants.” Similar bans on *Militant* issues nos. 8 and 9 were also reversed a couple of weeks earlier.

However, prison authorities recently impounded issues 11 and 12, citing front-page articles calling on readers to “Join ‘Militant’ fight to overturn ban by prison officials in Florida” and “Prison bans on ‘Militant’ escalate in Florida, help fight to overturn them!”

This monthslong fight began when authorities at Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, banned *Militant* issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 for reporting on labor-backed, disciplined protests against attacks on immigrant workers in Minneapolis and the paper’s call for amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers. The committee rejected without any explanation the appeal of these three impoundments filed by *Militant* attorney David Goldstein in mid-March.

Prison authorities claimed these issues were “dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules” and “presents a threat to the security” of the prisons.

Make weapons for war

Continued from page 7

tracts for War Department employees April 9. Thousands of workers there belong to the American Federation of Government Employees. The U.S. rulers want to make sure there will be no union interference with their future war moves.

Added to these steps, Washington announced that starting in December, almost all men in the U.S. between 18 and 26 —including immigrants without “papers” — will be automatically registered for the military draft. The capitalist rulers need to be assured not only vibrant production of the weapons of war, but also the cannon fodder to defend their system of exploitation and oppression.

To the contrary, “nothing in the cited articles is ‘inflammatory’ or advocates for any kind of violence,” Felix Vincent Ardea, president of division 89 of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, wrote to the Literature Review Committee. “On the opposite, the *Militant* champions a course of peaceful, lawful protesting led by the unions in order to fight for immigrant rights.”

‘Militant’ articles called for disciplined protests

Samuel J. Morley, general counsel for the Florida Press Association, explained in a Feb. 16 letter to the committee that “the justifications offered for the ban are unsupported by the article’s content. The news article strongly condemns ‘ultra-left actions aimed at disrupting ICE’ as well as any ‘provocations leading to violent clashes.’ It explains the need for large, peaceful, disciplined protests calling for amnesty for undocumented immigrant workers.”

PEN America’s Tim Richardson points out that Department of Corrections actions “must not come at the expense of prisoners’ First Amendment rights.”

“The *Militant* bans are a serious attack on the constitutional rights of freedom of the press and free speech, both for the newspaper and for the rights of subscribers behind bars who are denied the right to read what they choose and to form their own opinions,” John Studer, the *Militant*’s editor, said. “Keep the pressure on the Florida Department of Corrections to overturn the *Militant* bans. Talk to trade unionists, groups of co-workers, concerned or prominent individuals, churches, and Black rights, immigrant rights, civil liberties, or community organizations about letters opposing the bans.”

Send letters 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.

Patients dumped in shelters

Continued from front page

Ohio reported. “She was diabetic, managing a tibia fracture and alcohol-related dementia, and she was ‘dumped’ at the shelter.”

According to an Aug. 3, 2023, report on the nursing home’s actions by federal inspectors from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, this woman, described only as “Resident #83,” was discharged for the crime of drinking some beer by the Eastland Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Columbus. She had been living there less than two months.

The homeless shelter at first refused to admit her, forcing her to wait outside in the late summer heat, saying she would have to wait because there were about 100 people on the line before her. After awhile, shelter authorities allowed her to sit in the lobby with a glass of cold water, and told her they would try to find her a spot to stay.

“Committed To Excellence” is how the Eastland nursing home pitches itself on its website. It says the facility is “committed to delivering exceptional long-term care and short-term rehabilitation.

“We cultivate a caring atmosphere that mirrors the comforts of home,” it claims. But the horror of what Resident 83 experienced gives the lie to this.

“We are starting to deal with it more and more,” Chip Wilkins, who leads the Ohio city of Dayton’s Long Term Care Ombudsman program, told the media. Nursing home operators “try and send them to hospitals and not take them back. Or drop them off at homeless shelters. I would say, certainly over the last six months there has been an uptick.” In fact, in Ohio alone, some 13,000 individuals are discharged from nursing homes every month.

Forcing nursing home patients into homeless shelters is all too often a death sentence. Many of these older and sickly people have no family to care for them, are dependent on walkers or wheelchairs, and can’t begin to climb into the bunk beds common to overcrowded shelters today. And these shelters are not set up to help them take the 10 to 20 medications they often need daily.

Dumped after 22 years

In another Ohio nursing home, the Laurels of Hillsboro, a patient who had been there for more than 22 years was discharged last December and taken to a homeless shelter that only provides food and housing for a maximum of 90 days. The patient, who was diabetic with a history of glaucoma, cataracts and suspected autism, told federal inspectors who interviewed him that the nursing home staff never told him where he was going. But they wanted to get rid of him because his insurance company had stopped making payments to the home.

Nursing homes are notorious for high prices. At Laurels of Hillsboro the average cost is \$7,406 a month, nearly \$89,000 a year. And if you need additional or more personalized, services you have to pay more. This facility is owned by Ciena Healthcare, which operates 83 other long-term care facilities across the country.

Similarly, Signal Ohio reports, “at New Lebanon Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, a woman’s insurer sent her a termination letter for her treatment for a series of neural and spinal disorders, plus depression and arthritis.” New Lebanon is 10 miles from Dayton. “While she was entitled to 30 days’ notice, the facility gave her roughly 24 hours before discharging her to a homeless shelter.”

Care for the elderly in the U.S. is purely a profit-making enterprise. For the capitalist rulers, workers who can no longer generate income by their labor are no longer useful. The experiences documented here show they are prime candidates to be sloughed off and forgotten. This is a crime against humanity.

‘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