

THE MILITANT

From Cuba's revolutionary underground to supporting int'l freedom struggles—
interview with a participant
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Join 'Militant' in fight against weeks of bans in Florida prisons

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In victories for workers behind bars to get the news they need, the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee has overturned recent bans on four issues of the *Militant*. These victories can now be used to win support for the fight to overturn the suppression of six other issues of the *Militant* by Florida prison authorities since January.

The impoundments of the *Militant* are blatant violations of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which protects "freedom of speech" and of the press for both the *Militant* and its readers behind bars. This is especially true because prison authorities refuse to give even one example to justify their charges that the banned articles are "dangerously inflammatory."

This fight began when authorities at Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, banned issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 for reporting on the controversy over the large-scale deployment of ICE agents in Minnesota, the arrests and deportations of immigrant workers and the confrontations.

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US out of the Middle East! Bring all the troops home!

BY SETH GALINSKY

As part of their blockade of Iranian ports, the U.S. rulers continue to build up their military forces in the Middle East, threatening Tehran with renewed bombing and military assaults, alongside a collapse of the Iranian economy, if it doesn't give in to Washington's demands.

The USS George H.W. Bush, carrying some 6,000 troops, arrived April 23, joining two other U.S. aircraft carriers and tens of thousands of troops in the region. The Marine Corps Boxer Amphibious Ready Group with 4,200 more troops is on its way.

"U.S. forces aren't there in support of the Iranian people or to defend Israel's existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred and the threat of another Holocaust," Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York governor, explains to workers as he campaigns. "They are there to advance U.S. imperialist domination and plunder of the region. Working people the world over should be calling for all U.S. troops, bases and warships out of the Middle East,

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A call for action

Unite the working class! Amnesty for immigrants!



Militant/Rolande Girard

UNITE HERE union contingent in 2006 Chicago May Day rally of 400,000. Call for amnesty for all immigrants was part of mass mobilizations of millions advancing unity of working class.

The labor movement needs to take up a crucial challenge today — to champion and help lead a fight for the 11 million workers in the U.S. without "proper papers." This is central

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to prevent deportations and overcome divisions the bosses seek to foster between native- and foreign-born workers, to drive down the wages, working and living conditions of all workers. Their divide-and-conquer strategy

aims to convince U.S.-born workers that immigrants are responsible for the worsening conditions we all face, not the bosses' drive for profits.

Protests across the country on May 1, a day set for working-class mobilizations, are an opportunity to champion this struggle, as well as fights across the country by workers under assault by the bosses and their government.

There is a powerful precedent for this. In 2006 more than 2 million immigrant workers and others in over

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Oslo meeting honors Cuba's role in African independence struggle



Courtesy of Víctor Dreke

Amílcar Cabral, left, leader of independence fight in Guinea-Bissau, and Víctor Dreke, who led Cuba's internationalist military mission, collaborate in 1967 meeting in Conakry, Guinea.

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

OSLO, Norway — "On behalf of the Cape Verde Organization here in Oslo — Welcome!" Danny Venancio Soares said as he opened a meeting here April 22 to present Pathfinder Press' newest book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke.

Among the 40 people present were six teachers from Hellerud High School, where the meeting was held, members of the Education Union and 10 young workers who attend evening classes there.

"The liberation of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau was a fight for our dignity, identity and to shape our own

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SWP campaigns against US rulers' war on workers at home and abroad

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In cities, towns and rural areas, Socialist Workers Party candidates and members are campaigning against the U.S. rulers' wars in the Middle East

and their assaults on workers at home. Discussion about how working people can fight against these attacks is at the heart of 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.

"I support what Trump is doing

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BP, NIPSCO unions continue fight against bosses' lockouts

BY ILONA GERSH

WHITING, Ind. — Two groups of workers, both members of the United Steelworkers union, have been fighting boss lockouts in Indiana — refinery workers at British Petroleum here and utility workers at the Northern Indiana Public Services Company. They continue to win support from unions, community groups and churches.

The 800 locked-out BP workers are fighting boss demands for cuts in both

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Free Narges Mohammadi, all political prisoners in Iran! 8

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world! This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers’ struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We’ll work together to ensure your story gets told.

Chicago school lunchroom workers rally for a contract
CHICAGO — Hundreds of Chicago Public Schools lunchroom workers and their supporters rallied downtown here April 23 protesting the lack of progress toward a new contract after 11 months of negotiations. Along with lunchroom workers, organized by UNITE HERE Local 1, there were many school support workers, organized by Service Employees International Union Local 73; hotel workers, organized by UNITE HERE Local 1; and others.

Local 1 represents some 1,800 lunchroom attendants, cooks and porters who are among the lowest paid workers in the Chicago Public Schools system. The main issues are wages and staffing. Evette Coleman told the *Militant* that she has worked in the schools for nine years and still makes just \$17.50 an hour. “Even people who have worked there for 20 years don’t make much more than that,” she said. And lunchroom workers don’t get paid over the summer and winter breaks, when the schools are closed. Workers have also faced working with severe staff shortages. Over the past decade the workforce has been slashed by 39%. Last summer CPS wiped some 250 vacant kitchen positions off the books. They claimed they had no choice, pointing to a \$734 million budget deficit.

“Sometimes I’m the only one in the kitchen trying to feed hundreds of children,” Miss Venus, head cook at Sheridan Elementary, told the *Militant*. “We care about the children and want to make sure they are well fed, but the school system doesn’t care about us.” — Dean Hazlewood

SEIU nursing home workers in Minnesota strike for higher pay
ROSEVILLE, Minn. — Some 300 nursing home workers here, members of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, went on a three-day strike April 20-22 at five Monarch Healthcare Management facilities in the Twin Cities area. The action included a rally April 21 at the state Capitol in St. Paul. They’re demanding higher pay, improved benefits and higher staffing levels to provide better care for the patients. This *Militant* worker-correspondent joined the picket line at the Estates of Roseville and Yona nursing home April 22. “They offered us a 2% yearly pay raise,” said Kylie Chang, a culinary aid who has worked here for three years. “Workers at some other nursing homes accepted this with a different collective bargaining contract, but we said no. And we were willing to go on strike for what we needed.” Workers said management only gives them two uniforms a year, which is far from enough if you’re a full-time



Militant/Amy Husk
Chicago Public School lunchroom workers rallied April 23 for more staffing and higher wages. From left, Evette Coleman, kitchen worker at Pershing Elementary school; David Smith, porter at Sheridan Elementary school; and Miss Venus, the head cook at Sheridan Elementary.

worker. “They talk rudely and sometimes threaten workers. We want more respect,” Chang said. Yankuba Fadera, Service Employees International Union’s lead organizer for nursing home workers’ bargaining teams, told Minnesota Public Radio News that a key issue for employees at each facility is addressing staffing shortages. “They are left working by themselves, and the workload is definitely too much,” Fadera said. “Each of these nursing homes has its own pool of temporary workers who are paid way more than regular staff. So that doesn’t sit well with their permanent employees.” Workers told us that they got support not only from the community, but from patients’ relatives. They were glad to see the workers fighting for more staff. To send solidarity, write to SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, 345 Randolph Ave., Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55102. Email: mac@seiuhealthmn.org. — Edwin Fruit

cleaning products such as Comet and Arctic Power. “We’ve had more than 65 bargaining sessions and 10 days of strike actions,” Sebastien Sylver, the local union president, said on the CSN website. “Last January we unanimously rejected what the employer called its ‘final’ offer and we are still arguing to conclude a contract that contains our legitimate demands.” Wages are a key issue in the strike, like they are for nearby headquarters and warehouse workers, as well as for truck drivers at the Metro supermarket chain who have been on strike since March 30. “But there are other issues here, such as the contracting out of our jobs,” one Lavo worker told this *Militant* worker-correspondent April 23 when I joined their picket line. Workers said that unionists from other CSN locals came by to show solidarity with them, including some from two Beton Provincial plants in Quebec, who joined their picket line April 9. They have been locked out since Dec. 5, 2024, after refusing to accept a four-year wage freeze. They wore orange T-shirts that proudly proclaim, “You won’t break us.” Join the picket lines! They’re up at the Lavo plant on 11900 Boulevard Jean Baptiste, Monday to Friday from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Beverly Bernardo

Montreal cleaning products workers strike over wages, jobs
MONTREAL — Some 130 workers at the Lavo plant here, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) voted by 97% March 26 to go out on strike the next day. The plant makes well-known

THE MILITANT

SWP presents working-class road at LA book fair

Interest in discussing the U.S. rulers’ drive to war and their attacks on Iran attracted a crowd to the Pathfinder booth at the L.A. book fair. The overwhelmingly young visitors bought 415 books and 107 ‘Militant’ subscriptions, both a substantial increase from the year before.

Militant/Carole Lesnick
Pathfinder booth at Los Angeles Times Festival of Books drew crowd, April 18-19.

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

Fight to defend TPS for Haitians, Syrians debated at Supreme Court

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

WASHINGTON — Several hundred defenders of the rights of immigrants, trade unionists and others rallied outside the U.S. Supreme Court here April 29, protesting moves by the federal government to terminate Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from Haiti and Syria. Under this program, immigrants can work and live in the U.S. However, they are subject to periodic review by the Department of Homeland Security.

The court heard oral arguments in two combined cases — one concerning some 350,000 Haitian immigrants and the other for about 6,000 Syrians. Appeals courts had earlier ruled against the government in both cases, and the Department of Justice had asked the Supreme Court to hold an expedited hearing to argue those rulings should be overturned.

In ruling against the government Feb. 2 U.S. District Judge Ana C. Reyes said, “Kristi Noem [then DHS head] has a First Amendment right to call immigrants killers, leeches, entitlement junkies, and any other inapt name she wants. Secretary Noem, however, is constrained by both our Constitution and the APA [Administrative Procedure Act] to apply faithfully the facts to the law in implementing the TPS program. The record to-date shows she has yet to do that.”

The rally was called by the National TPS Alliance, and backed by the Northern Virginia AFL-CIO, Casa de Maryland, African Communities Together, and Rebirth Inc., a Haitian group based in Salisbury, Maryland. Several unions sent delegations.

Keisha Holder, a member of Service Employees International Union Local 1199 who works at Brooklyn Hospital, said she came with 43 others on a bus from New York. “I am American born, bred and fed,” she said, noting she is African American. “But I am here because I have Haitian co-workers, fellow hospital and healthcare workers, who have been here for years. Why

can’t that be permanent?”

“I was a teacher and trade union leader in Cameroon, and in 2016 teachers and lawyers organized strikes opposing the forced assimilation of the English-speaking western part of the country,” Austin Asahtong, an organizer with CASA de Maryland, told the *Militant*. “Workers and students joined the protests, and the military responded with brute force and arrests. I spent three months in a U.S. detention center before I was released and then I joined the fight for TPS. Cameroonians received TPS status in 2022.”

“Whatever they decide will also affect all 17 countries under TPS,” Arnoldo Díaz, a coordinator of the National TPS Alliance, told the *Militant*. “Most cases seeking to defend TPS have been denied so far.”

Immigrants from Syria won protection under TPS due to the murderous war carried out by the Bashar al-Assad regime there. Haitians had fled a series of disastrous storms, outbreaks of disease, and rampant and uncontrolled gang violence and social breakdowns that make living in Haiti dangerous.

The State Department says people from the U.S. shouldn’t travel to Haiti because of “crime, terrorism, kidnapping, unrest and limited health care.”

Those who sat through the hearing, including reporters for both the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, said it appears the decision will be a close one.

The government argues the DHS head has total authority over the decision, and it cannot be challenged in court. But if this is true, why was the Supreme Court holding a hearing at all?

Justice Amy Coney Barrett seemed open to arguments by Ahilan Arulantham, an attorney for the Syrians, who said, “The bottom line is the secretary can terminate TPS but he must turn square corners and follow the rules Congress has set.” The lawyers defending TPS say then DHS Secretary Noem was pursuing a political agenda and did



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Some 200 Haitians and supporters rally in North Miami, Florida, April 26 to demand extension of Temporary Protected Status that could affect ability of 350,000 Haitians to remain in U.S.

not perform the required reviews of the situation in the two countries required to make a fair decision.

Chief Justice John Roberts, the *Journal* reported, also “seemed more skeptical of the government’s claims.”

A decision is expected in late June or early July.



BY DAVID ROSENFELD

NORTH MIAMI, Fla. — Three days before a U.S. Supreme Court hearing April 29 on a case that could affect the ability of 350,000 Haitians to remain in the U.S. under Temporary Protected Status, some 200 Haitians and their supporters gathered here to demand its extension. Carrying blue and red signs, the colors of the Haitian flag, the protesters chanted, sang, danced and listened to speeches.

The Department of Homeland Security, which had moved to cancel that protection, is fighting a legal challenge filed by five Haitians covered by TPS on behalf of all those threatened with deportation.

There are large concentrations of Haitians in Florida, New York and Boston, as well as smaller communities, like Springfield, Ohio, and Greeley, Colorado.

“It is cruel to threaten to deport

those protected by TPS to Haiti, which is in an extremely uncertain situation right now where their lives would be at risk,” Paul Namphy, the lead organizer of the Family Action Network Movement, the primary sponsor of the protest, told the crowd.

Namphy recognized several area politicians, immigrant rights organization leaders, as well as UNITE HERE and the Service Employees International Union for their support to the fight to extend TPS for Haitians.



BY JANICE LYNN

LILBURN, Ga. — Close to 50 people, most originally from Honduras, rallied here April 26 ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing on the government’s push to end Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Syrians. Some 72,000 refugees from Honduras and 4,000 Nicaraguans won the right to TPS in 1998, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch.

In February the Federal Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled the U.S. government could proceed with ending TPS for people from Honduras and Nicaragua, even though the legal challenge to that will proceed. This means they could lose their work permits and face deportation.

“We have been here working hard, raising a family and paying taxes,” Brenda Munoz told the rally. “That’s why we are here fighting.” Several speakers said they are nearing retirement and will lose their retirement benefits if they’re deported. Kevin Cruz described how his father, a construction worker, had been stopped for a minor traffic violation and deported. “We’re fighting to keep families together,” he said.

Jacques Laurent of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce spoke on behalf of Caribbean Georgia Votes. “Keeping TPS is a matter of humanity. We are asking the Supreme Court to see this is a question of saving lives.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 7, 2001

The grotesque spectacle being prepared by the Bush administration for the execution of Timothy McVeigh, the man convicted of the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, is part of the rulers’ effort to divide the working class, to erode democratic rights, and to prepare the ground for more attacks on the toilers here and in other countries.

This takes place at a time when opposition to the death penalty is growing and resistance by workers to attacks on unions and the social wage is increasing. The ghoulish march to the death chamber also comes in the wake of protests against street executions by the cops — part and parcel of how the death penalty is used in capitalist society.

Bush is building on the accomplishments of the Clinton administration in dramatically expanding the number of crimes covered by the death penalty.



May 7, 1976

“We bought it, we paid for it,” says presidential candidate Ronald Reagan about the Panama Canal in his appeals for votes. Negotiations over the control of the canal have been going on since 1964, following the uproar when U.S. forces fired into a crowd of high school students who tried to raise their country’s flag in the Canal Zone. The U.S. never “paid for” the canal. It stole it through treachery and threat of brute force.

Today, there are 10,000 U.S. troops in fourteen military bases in Panama. Their mission is to safeguard U.S. wealth and profits throughout Latin America. American soldiers embarked from Panama in 1954 to invade Guatemala, and in 1965 to invade the Dominican Republic.

The people of Panama are indignant that the main natural resource of their country — its geographical location — has been usurped. U.S. Out of the Canal Zone!



May 7, 1951

A Letter to President Truman and the Members of the Congress
By James P. Cannon
Gentlemen:

My purpose in addressing you for the third time since the Korean war began is to present three concrete proposals on foreign policy as an alternative to the policies of the Democratic Truman administration on the one hand and the Republican opposition on the other. Your differences are merely tactical. My differences are fundamental.

American troops have no business in Korea. The way to peace in Asia is to get out and let the peoples of Asia run their own affairs.

My three proposals:

1. Withdraw all American troops from Korea.
2. Recognize the government of New China.
3. Let the issue of war and peace be voted on in a national referendum of the entire American people!

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CANADA
Montreal

Union Support for Ottawa in Negotiations with the United States Is Deadly Trap for Working People. Speaker: Steve Penner, organizer, Communist League. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Support builds for striking Metro workers in Montreal

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Striking workers at the giant Metro supermarket chain here continue to win support for their fight for a better contract. The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), their union, has condemned Metro bosses for using contract drivers as strikebreakers making deliveries to 670 supermarkets throughout Quebec.

The 550 strikers include drivers, warehouse and head office workers. They're represented by the Grocery Workers Union, part of the CSN, one of

Quebec's main labor federations. They have been on strike since March 30.

Workers are demanding a 20% wage increase in the first year of a three-year contract and 5% in each of the next two. Under the last six-year contract, which expired in September, workers received an 11% increase, less than 2% a year, well below the rate of inflation.

Safety is also an issue with workers facing a lot of shoulder and lower back injuries due to lifting heavy boxes.

"In addition to using every possible tactic to circumvent the law, Metro violated it by hiring strikebreakers to do the work of its employees," said CSN President Caroline Senneville.

Metro denies using strikebreakers.

Meanwhile, morale is high on the picket line at the massive Metro warehouse in Laval, north of Montreal. Working people driving by honk their horns in support. A delegation from Division 89 of the Teamsters union who



Militant/John Steele

Striking Grocery Workers Union members at Metro supermarket chain in Montreal welcome solidarity delegation of rail conductors at Canadian National, members of Teamsters, April 15.

work as rail conductors at Canadian National came to the line April 15 to express their solidarity.

"The Metro workers are waging an important fight and deserve our

support," CN rail conductor Christopher Giroux told the *Militant*. Messages of solidarity can be called in to the union at (514) 714-0878 or email Info@stteumr.ca.

Indiana lockouts

Continued from front page

jobs and wages. They were locked out March 19 after voting to reject BP's "last, best and final" concession offer.

"I was impressed by how well prepared they were," Chicago hotel worker Gabby Arzabe told the *Militant*, after visiting the picket line along with co-worker Dean Hazlewood April 12. "You can tell that this is serious. These big corporations keep attacking workers' rights. It has to stop."

There are two USW locals at NIPSCO, Local 12775, representing the 800 field workers, and Local 13796, 80% to 90% women, representing clerical workers. Just like the BP workers, they were locked out after rejecting increasingly worse contract offers.

After another offer was made, Local 12775 members on April 24 voted to accept it. Local President Ryan Baker told the *Militant* they're all back at work. Details of the contract aren't yet publicly available.

Members of Local 13796 voted to reject the offer, and were locked out again. They have now received a new tentative agreement and have again been forced to take down their pickets while they consider it. A membership vote is set for May 1.

You can send messages of solidarity to NIPSCO Local 12775 at 216 Lincoln St. in Porter, or call (219) 929-1068.

To visit the BP picket line, go to Local 7-1 union hall at 2045 Schrage Ave. in Whiting.

As immigration soars in EU, rulers seek to exploit new labor

BY TERRY EVANS

The number of immigrants living in the European Union hit a total of more than 64 million in 2025, a record high, as millions of working people seek a better life in the face of the wars and social disasters shaking the world and look for a new start.

A large proportion of new arrivals have headed to Germany and Spain where birth rates are declining. The capitalist rulers there are trying to take advantage of the influx of what they consider cheap labor to fill jobs in their industries and to drive down wages.

Spain's government rolled out a "regularization" program April 20 to give immigrant workers who have already moved there a one-year permit to live and work. Applicants must have lived in the country for the past five months and prove they have no criminal record. Immigrant workers rapidly joined long lines outside post offices to submit applications. Estimates of the numbers eligible range from 500,000 to 840,000.

The capitalist class in Spain has boasted the highest economic growth

rates in Europe for the last three years. The new work permits ensure bosses a supply of exploitable labor to take advantage of this capitalist expansion. Immigrants fill jobs at the bottom of the pay scale, under worse conditions.

They "work at small and large companies, harvest the food that's on the table," social-democratic Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told the *New York Times* Feb. 4. Without immigration, he said, countries in Europe "will experience a sharp demographic decline that will prevent them from keeping their economies and public services afloat."

The work permits are temporary and subject to annual renewal, which ensures the employing class needed flexibility to cut back or enlarge the number of immigrants whenever they deem it necessary.

Bosses in Spain complain they face a labor shortage, especially in agriculture. They hope thousands of foreign-born workers living and working in uncertain conditions will offer them a tool to drive down the wages and conditions of all workers.

The scheme is billed as an "am-

nesty" by many in the media. But it provides neither citizenship, voting rights, nor permanent residency. Only after five years on the program are immigrants permitted to apply for permanent residency.

Similar measures have been adopted on six previous occasions by governments in Spain since 1986. The new "regularization" scheme is at odds with the growing restrictions on immigrants adopted by some rival ruling classes elsewhere in Europe, whose economies are stagnating, like in Italy.

Berlin widens attacks on immigrants

Beginning in 2015, Germany's government substantially expanded the number of immigrant workers in the country from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, where the toilers face devastating conditions as a result of the rulers' wars. Berlin approved 1.5 million asylum requests between 2015 and 2024.

In the face of recent years of economic stagnation, however, the government is now targeting immigrants. Last year Berlin ended fast-track citizenship that allowed immigrants to apply for naturalization after three years. The government has also expanded the grounds for expelling immigrants. Deportations topped at 21,311 between January and November in 2025, a 16% rise over the same period the year before. At the same time, 30,000 more left "voluntarily" after being served notices they must go.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced March 30 he wants 80% of the more than 1 million Syrian refugees in Germany to leave.

Berlin's goal is not to expel all immigrants, but to increase the difficulties they face, providing the employers with a layer of the working class that live in fear of being thrown out of the country and who the bosses look to super exploit. As in the U.S., these attacks highlight the necessity of the labor movement leading a fight to end the second-class status of workers without "papers."

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SWP campaigns against US war

Continued from front page
against Iran,” said Mike Wagner, a sales-
man and installer of window treatments,
when Tony Lane, the SWP’s candidate
for governor of Pennsylvania, and party
member Candace Wagner knocked on
his door in the Beechview neighborhood
of Pittsburgh April 22.

“Washington’s war comes as com-
petition is heating up with rival capi-
talist countries, most importantly
China,” Lane said. “The U.S. rulers
are marching us toward World War
III. What our campaign points out is
that the working class is the only force
powerful enough to stop this by taking
power ourselves and building a society
based on human needs.”

“But we can’t get together, it won’t
happen. We’re too divided,” Mike
Wagner replied. Lane showed him the
Militant’s coverage of the recent suc-
cessful strike by 3,800 JBS slaughter-
house workers, members of the United
Food and Commercial Workers, in
Colorado. With members from coun-
tries around the world and speaking
57 languages, these workers came to-
gether and used union power to change
the conditions they faced.

“That is impressive,” Mike Wag-
ner said.

Candace Wagner explained that along
with the U.S. war for plunder and domi-
nation in the Middle East, Israel is wag-
ing a defensive war against the Iranian
regime, which vows to destroy Israel
and kill the Jews there. Mike Wagner
said he agreed and bought a copy of *The
Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms
in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the
International Working Class*.

SWP joins fight to defend TPS

“We work hard and deserve re-
spect and to keep our Temporary
Protected Status,” Kenson Pierre, a
house painter originally from Haiti,
told Nelson Gonzalez, SWP can-
didate for governor of Florida, at a

rally in North Miami April 26.
“The SWP demands an amnesty for
all immigrants in this country,” Gon-
zalez said, “to unify our class as the
crisis of capitalism bears down on us
around the globe. The working class
has every interest in overthrowing a
system that is dragging humanity to-
ward a third world war.”
Gonzalez said that the SWP is build-
ing a party capable of leading working
people to take political power. Pierre
bought a subscription to the *Militant* and
a copy of *The Low Point of Labor Resis-
tance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Work-
ers Party Looks Forward* to learn more.
In Lilburn, Georgia, Sam Manuel,
SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke at
an April 26 rally to defend TPS. “This is
not just an attack on immigrants,” Man-
uel told some 50 people there, mostly
workers from Honduras. He pointed to
the need to build a fighting movement
that unites all workers, native- and for-
eign-born alike.
Manuel held up a copy of the book
*Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the
Road to Workers Power*. “It’s important
to learn the lessons of the fight for Black
rights. They said we would never end
segregation. We proved them wrong.”
“I need to get this book,” Kevin
Cruz, whose father was deported to
Honduras, told Manuel after he spoke.
He and his mother also signed up for a
Militant subscription.

Cuba aids anti-colonial struggles

“I’m interested in this,” Don Precieux,
a warehouse worker, told Joe Young,
Communist League candidate in Que-
bec’s provincial election, and party
member Katy LeRougetel, when they in-
troduced him to the *Militant* April 25 as

Pathfinder booth at Bogotá book fair draws attention



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — A Pathfinder Press booth was set up here at the Bogotá International Book Fair, one of the largest in Latin America, being held April 21-May 4. Last year’s book fair drew some 570,000 visitors.
Popular titles in the first few days include *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara; *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke; *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* by Mary-Alice Waters, Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed; and *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* by Ernesto Che Guevara. We also found keen interest in the *Militant*.
A meeting here April 25 presented a discussion on the fight against colonial rule in Africa and Cuba’s role. Full coverage on the fair will appear in future issues of the *Militant*.

— REBECCA WILLIAMSON

he changed his tires outside his friend’s
house in Ottawa. They explained why
the CL calls for U.S. and Canadian
troops to get out of the Middle East.
Young showed Precieux, who is origi-
nally from Burundi, photos in *Cuba
and the Independence War in Guinea-
Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the
Last Colonial Empire in Africa*. The
book provides a firsthand account of
Cuba’s aid to that anti-colonial struggle.
It “shows the kind of leadership the Cu-

bans built. That’s why the imperialists
are blockading Cuba today, to try to de-
stroy its example,” Young said.
“Africans also went to other African
countries to participate in liberation
fights too,” Precieux said. He bought
a *Militant* subscription along with the
book and kicked in a few extra dollars
for the Militant Fighting Fund.
To join in expanding the reach of the
SWP and the *Militant*, contact distribu-
tors nearest you listed on page 4.

Militant Fighting Fund indispensable for putting paper out

BY ROY LANDERSEN

With \$111,741 collected toward the
annual Militant Fighting
Fund, supporters of the
fund are stepping up ef-
forts to take the \$165,000
goal over the top in the re-
maining two weeks of the
campaign.
The *Militant* accepts no
paid advertising and is fi-
nanced solely by working
people. Contributions come
from workers attracted to
the paper’s intransigent
defense of the interests of
working people worldwide
against the bosses, their
parties and governments.
SWP campaigners in Se-
attle met a carpenter who
got a year’s subscription to
the *Militant* and two books
when they knocked on his
door in early April. Rebec-
ca Williamson reports he
paid with a \$100 bill. When
campaigners explained that
the paper is funded by con-
tributions from its readers,
he said to keep the rest as a
donation.
Dennis Richter reports
from Dallas-Fort Worth
that SWP members there
received \$37 in donations to
the fund from two workers
they met at an apartment
complex in Grand Prairie

in mid-April. So far, some \$80 has come
in from contributions by working people
in the area that SWP members met as
they introduced the party and its pro-
gram to workers on their doorsteps.
“We got a total of \$111 at the Los An-
geles Times Festival of Books in dona-
tions for the Militant Fighting Fund,”
reports Bernie Senter. “One person
came by the table and pulled out \$20
and put it in the can. I said that he should

look around and select a book he might
be interested in. He came back with a
couple of books and I said we could ap-
ply the \$20 toward the books. He said,
‘No, that was for the cause,’ as he paid
for the books.”
To contribute to the fund visit www.themilitant.com, contact campaigners in
the area nearest you listed on page 4 or
send a check to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th
St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, Fighting Fund						
March 14 - May 12 (week six)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	29	40	29	\$9,500	\$6,568
Chicago*	65	47	65	49	\$13,500	\$10,638
Cincinnati*	35	25	35	30	\$5,000	\$3,627
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	54	70	54	\$5,000	\$4,312
Los Angeles	90	79	90	88	\$14,000	\$5,606
Miami	40	43	40	41	\$5,500	\$4,949
Minneapolis	65	43	65	54	\$6,700	\$4,695
N. New Jersey	70	49	70	70	\$7,500	\$5,656
New York	80	47	80	61	\$20,500	\$16,177
Oakland	80	56	80	93	\$15,000	\$14,511
Philadelphia	40	22	40	34	\$6,000	\$4,875
Pittsburgh*	45	32	45	47	\$7,500	\$3,162
Seattle	60	43	60	41	\$15,000	\$9,302
Washington	55	36	55	44	\$4,500	\$3,118
Other		59		377		\$650
Total U.S.	835	664	835	1,112	\$135,200	\$97,846
Prisoners		117				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	38	45	27	\$3,000	\$1,050
Manchester*	40	37	30	33	\$1,300	\$1,320
Total U.K.	85	75	75	60	\$4,300	\$2,370
Canada	80	57	90	70	\$11,000	\$7,425
Australia	30	31	30	41	\$4,500	\$4,100
Total	1,030	944	1,030	1,283	\$155,000	\$111,741
SHOULD BE	1,300	975	1,300	975	\$165,000	\$123,750
*Raised goal						

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The Militant May 11, 2026 5

Oslo meeting honors Cuba's role

Continued from front page

culture,” Soares said, as he and two others from the organization, Tiffany da Silva Lopes and Dionick Lopes Morias, turned the meeting over to moderator Rahwa Tilahun Yohaness, deputy chief of the Norwegian Council for Africa, the other sponsor of the meeting. Yohaness gave a special welcome to Hugo Ramos Milanés, Cuba's ambassador to Norway.

“This book speaks to working people resisting the effects of today's crisis-driven world disorder and wars,” said Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books in London and a leader of the Communist League there, to open the program. “Millions are weighing if

New book by Cuban leader Víctor Dreke launched in Norway

it is possible to prevent another world war. The book emphatically says — yes we can! If the independence struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde waged by impoverished peoples could overcome national and tribal enmities encouraged by Portugal's colonial empire's 500 years of domination and brutality and win — so can we!”

Cabral was central leader of struggle

Speakers spoke in front of a slide show put together by the organizers with photos and quotes from the book, prominently featuring Amílcar Cabral, the central leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC).

“In Amílcar Cabral, and Cuban leader Fidel Castro, the book shows the sort of leadership that is needed. They shared confidence in the capacities of ordinary men and women to change the world in which we live and change ourselves in the process,” Silberman said. “They also shared the importance of drawing women into political leadership. That's what Cuba's socialist revolution shows.

“There are no better examples of this transformation than Víctor Dreke and the other combatants interviewed

in the book,” he added.

Christopher Lillehagen Hansen, editorial member of the Norwegian Council for Africa's online magazine Afrika.no, spoke about Cabral's character. “Hide nothing from the masses of our people,” Cabral had said. “Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories.”

Cabral said he became a guerrilla leader only because the Portuguese colonialists repressed all peaceful opposition, Lillehagen pointed out.

‘Liberation of humanity’

Before the meeting began, António Barbosa da Silva, born in Cape Verde, told the *Militant* he was forced into the Portuguese air force at the age of 17 and spent five years in the Portuguese military, including two in northern Angola. “They sent the Angolans to Cape Verde and us to Angola,” he explained.

The liberation struggle was not a war against the Portuguese people, Cabral insisted, nor against white people, but against colonial oppression, part of achieving the “liberation of humanity.” Cabral advised people in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde to learn Portuguese well, Barbosa said, “as a tool of communication at home and internationally.” The guerrillas treated the Portuguese prisoners of war with dignity and respect and released them to the Red Cross.

He stressed Cabral's view that to win independence is one thing, “but it is difficult to preserve true independence.”

Barbosa pointed to the major contribution revolutionary Cuba made to several of the liberation movements in Africa in the 1960s and '70s. Some 425,000 Cuban volunteers joined Angola's struggle against successive invasions by U.S.-backed apartheid South Africa.

Cuban Ambassador Ramos had been part of Cuba's Angola mission and became Cuba's deputy ambassador there in 1991. In 2024 he joined Dreke as part of a Cuban delegation to Guinea-Bissau to celebrate its 50-year anniversary of



Militant photos by Margrethe Siem

Meeting April 22 on *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke. Above, from left, Hugo Ramos Milanés, Cuban ambassador to Norway; Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books in London; and António Barbosa da Silva from the Cape Verde Organization. Inset, Christopher Lillehagen Hansen, editorial member of Norwegian Council for Africa magazine, Afrika.no.

winning independence.

He opened his remarks by reading a message from Dreke. “More than 400 Cubans participated as volunteer combatants and doctors between 1966 and 1974,” Dreke wrote to the meeting. “This book tells an important part of that history, a history that should be known by young people all over the world.”

‘Fidel and Amílcar’

“Cuba has been linked to the African liberation movement as a way of paying our debt — an unpayable debt — resulting from the historical events that have bound our peoples together since the times of slavery,” Dreke said. “During the historical moments in the 1960s we had the opportunity to participate as volunteers in the independence and liberation struggles of the African peoples.” This was done “at the request of the movements or governments that sought our cooperation.”

“Africa and Cuba became united through the figures of two outstanding leaders: Fidel and Amílcar. That relationship has continued throughout all these years.”

Ramos traced Cuba's internationalism and its connection to Africa back to Cuba's own struggle for independence. “People talk about solidarity today and it is often reduced to humanitarian aid. But internationalism goes far beyond,” he said.

Quoting Fidel Castro, Ramos said, “We share what we have, not what we have left over.”

In a lively discussion following the presentations, several participants raised the importance of culture. “We have to create a new culture, also based on our traditions, but respecting everything that the world today has conquered,” Silberman said, quoting Cabral. That was also Castro's standpoint, who emphasized, “We don't tell the people: ‘Believe!’ We tell them: ‘Read!’”

Over 20 copies of the book were sold both to participants in the meetings and as part of its preparation. After the program many people stayed to talk further. The next step, they agreed, is to stay in contact and work to get the book around further, in Norway and beyond.

Nuns defend hospice against ‘woke’ NY gov’t legal attack

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Catholic nuns at the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, New York, run Rosary Hill Home, a 42-bed hospice care facility for the poor there. On April 6 they filed a lawsuit because New York state officials are violating their constitutional rights.

Since March the state's Health Department has sent three letters to the nuns warning them they had to come into compliance with New York's woke LGBTQ Long-Term Care Facility Residents' Bill of Rights. Under the law, if a biological man said he was a woman and demands to room with biological females, the nuns would be forced to comply, even over objections from the women patients.

The 57-page state guideline advises caretakers to ask patients questions “to help you better understand how they self-identify” that “stresses the importance of pronouns.” It even says the caretakers — in this case the nuns — should share their pronouns.

“We Sisters have taken care of patients from all walks of life, ideologies and faiths,” Mother Marie Edward,

general superior of the Hawthorne Dominicans, said in a statement. “We treat each patient with dignity and Christian charity. We have never had complaints. We cannot implement New York's mandate without violating our Catholic faith.”

Transgender medicine can't alter sex

“Transgender medicine can change surface appearance but never sex. And Scripture forbids lying to another about reality,” the nuns' lawsuit says. “It would contradict the teachings of the Bible concerning God's creative sovereignty, contradict reason and truth, and betray our sacred obligation not to knowingly harm other persons, particularly the most vulnerable.

“People who struggle with their gender identity deserve compassion, sensitivity, and respect,” it says. But the state's mandate prohibiting segregation of rooms and bathrooms by biological sex is something the nuns can't agree to without violating their constitutionally protected religious beliefs and their scientific convictions.

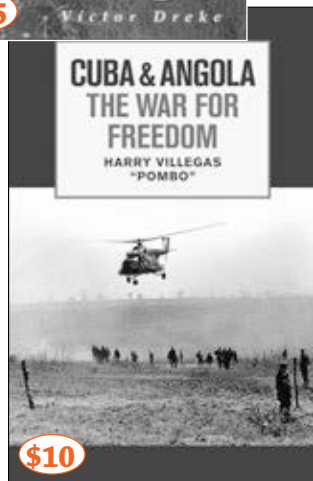
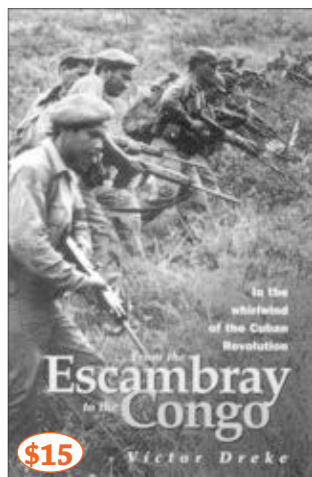
Along with the state's violations of

those rights, the lawsuit explains the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause is also being abrogated. Before filing the suit, the Dominican Sisters wrote to the state asking for an exemption to the law. It was met with silence. Yet Christian Scientists, who believe disease and illness are mental problems and that their followers should rely on prayer rather than medical care, have been given an exemption.

The nuns, who have cared for people with incurable cancer for more than 100 years for free, without any insurance requirement and without government funds, now face fines, injunctions, potential loss of licensing, and even jail time.

In a letter to the *Wall Street Journal*, Maureen McGrath Svoboda describes how her father, a dentist, used to bring boxes of toothpaste and brushes to the Rosary Hill home, a small token of gratitude for the sisters' work. “It's heart-wrenching” to learn what these nuns now face, she wrote. The state's mandate “places an absurd burden on a ministry that asks only for the right to serve the dying.”

For further reading



pathfinderpress.com

From Cuba's revolutionary underground to supporting int'l freedom struggles — interview with a participant

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — I first met Eulogio Rodríguez Millares in 2008 when he was Cuba's consul in Monterrey, Mexico. He was accompanying Armando Hart, one of the historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution, on a weeklong speaking tour. Hart addressed hundreds of people at several meetings in Monterrey and Zacatecas.

In between events I had the privilege of spending some time with Rodríguez. I learned that, in addition to representing Cuba as a diplomat in several countries over the decades, his political activity goes back to the beginning of the revolution. His life is an example of how millions of working people in Cuba became different human beings in the battle to overturn capitalist rule and make a socialist revolution, while extending solidarity to freedom struggles around the world.

Last February I had an opportunity to meet up with Rodríguez during a trip to Havana. He agreed to sit down and tell me more about his life.

Rodríguez grew up in the 1940s and '50s in the rural town of Güira de Melena, a center of the sugar industry southwest of Havana. "My father was an agricultural worker. He worked cutting cane or harvesting potatoes and other crops — wherever he could get a job. My mother was a washerwoman," he said. "I started working in the fields when I was 8."

In 1953, when he was 13, Rodríguez joined the revolutionary struggle against the Batista dictatorship.

What led him to join? "It wasn't ideas," he said. "It was because I was tired of being hungry. I was tired of discrimination because we were poor. I didn't like seeing my mother unable to get medicine for her asthma."

"It was only later I understood why we needed a social revolution."

Cuba had been ruled by a U.S.-backed dictatorship since 1952, when military strongman Fulgencio Batista overthrew the elected government of Carlos Prío. In response to the coup, Fidel Castro, who had graduated from law school two years earlier, set out to organize a movement to overturn the hated regime. On July 26, 1953, he led 160 young revolutionaries in an attack on the army garrisons in the eastern cities of Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo.

Although it was brutally put down, the attack had an electrifying impact on working people and youth across the island. It was the beginning of a revolutionary war that cost 20,000 lives —



Working people greet Rebel Army as it crosses Cuba after revolutionary uprising that overturned Batista dictatorship Jan. 1, 1959. Fidel Castro is standing in jeep, top right.

most killed by Batista's thugs — and triumphed with the overthrow of the tyranny on Jan. 1, 1959.

In the revolutionary underground

In Güira de Melena, supporters of what became the July 26 Movement had become active after Batista's coup. Rodríguez would sometimes be assigned as a lookout for their clandestine meetings. "The police paid no attention to me. They saw me as just a boy playing in the street," he said.

He eventually got a job as a pharmacist's assistant and was able to supplement the family income, especially during the long months between sugarcane harvests — the "dead season" — when there was no work. But soon Batista's thugs arrested him for "subversive" activity.

"Fortunately, members of my Masonic lodge, who also were part of the revolutionary movement, helped get me out of prison," he said. He had joined the Masonic youth when he was 13. They approached one of the landowners on whose farms Rodríguez's father worked who happened to be a Freemason. "He was part of the bourgeois elite in the town," and used his connections to get Rodríguez sprung.

"When the warden came to my cell and told me to go with him, I was sure they were going to kill me," he recounted. "I told a cousin who was locked up with me, 'If I disappear, get out the word that I've been murdered.' To my surprise, I found the landlord waiting for me, and he told me to get into his fancy car."

"He asked, 'Are you OK?' He didn't even notice I could barely walk from

the torture that had left my testicles all swollen up."

The landlord turned Rodríguez over to his parents. The next day, he returned and handed him a brand-new passport along with a one-way plane ticket to Venezuela.

"Look, I know you're going to end up in jail again, and that's going to create problems for me," the landlord said. "So you'd better get out of the country now."

Rodríguez said nothing, but thought to himself, "I'm the son of a guajiro [rural worker]. I'm 15. What am I going to do in Venezuela? So I went underground and continued my work with the July 26 Movement in Güira."

By the end of 1958, under Castro's leadership, the Rebel Army and the July 26 Movement had defeated the dictatorship's army. As Batista fled the country, millions responded to their call for a revolutionary general strike and popular insurrection on Jan. 1, 1959.

The July 26 Movement led working people to take control of Güira de Melena, as they did in towns and cities across the island. Rodríguez was one of the rebels who took over the barracks of the army's Rural Guard.

After the Jan. 1 victory, he became part of the local leadership of the July 26 Movement. He joined the popular militias that were created to defend the new revolutionary government. He helped organize participation in the 1961 campaign in which more than 100,000 young volunteer teachers across the island wiped out illiteracy within a year.

Defending Che Guevara

In 1960 Rodríguez was elected to the leadership of the Association of Young Rebels, a fusion of the youth groups of the July 26 Movement, the student-based Revolutionary Directorate, and the pro-Moscow Popular Socialist Party (PSP). The organization subsequently became the Union of Young Communists (UJC).

A few years later the UJC leadership asked him to take an assignment in the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), made up of Communist Party youth affiliates and national liberation groups. He served as one of the WFDY vice presidents in the organization's headquarters in Budapest, Hungary.

Rodríguez was one of three WFDY



Eulogio Rodríguez

delegates to the 1966 Tricontinental Conference in Havana. The following year he participated in the Organization of Latin American Solidarity (OLAS) conference, also in Havana. These initiatives were part of the Cuban revolutionary leadership's efforts to support struggles against colonialism and imperialism around the world.

The debates unfolding then within the international workers movement and national liberation forces were deeply marked by the sharpening Sino-Soviet split, as Moscow and Beijing each fought for predominance.

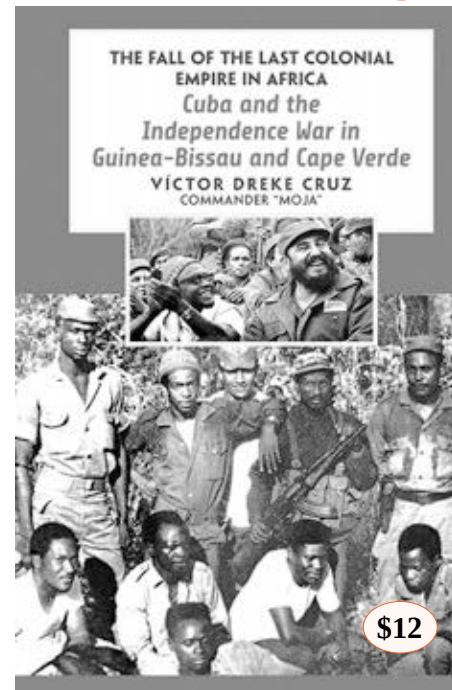
In addition, Rodríguez explained, the pro-Moscow CPs leading WFDY opposed the Cuban leadership's revolutionary internationalist course, and instead pursued "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism and a "peaceful road to socialism," a goal to be reached far in the future.

For example, he said, "the Bolivian Communist Party leadership betrayed Che." He was referring to the fact that they sabotaged the efforts of the guerrilla forces in Bolivia led by Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara that were battling the military dictatorship there. In October 1967 Guevara was captured and murdered by the Bolivian regime with the assistance of Washington's CIA.

Rodríguez took part in the debates in the WFDY leadership and in gatherings they organized. "I remember when, one day, a representative of the Argentine CP youth walked into my office in the WFDY headquarters. He began bad-mouthing Che, calling him

Continued on page 9

Essential reading



Vietnamese combatants coming to cut sugarcane in Cuba are greeted at Havana airport, 1970. Cuba promoted international solidarity with Vietnamese struggle against U.S. rulers' war.

pathfinderpress.com

US out of the Middle East!

Continued from front page
and for the defense of Israel as a refuge for the Jews.”

The bourgeois press, from the *New York Times* to the *Wall Street Journal*, portray Tehran’s small speedboats as a serious threat to U.S. imperialism, despite the fact that Washington devastated Tehran’s navy, air force, air defenses, missile launchers and arms factories during its 40-day war. They imply that the Trump administration’s extension of the ceasefire shows that the reactionary regime in Iran has come out stronger.

The reality is much different. U.S. naval forces have forced dozens of oil tankers and other ships involved in trade with Tehran to turn around. Washington has also interdicted tankers carrying Iranian oil thousands of miles away from the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Some 90% of Iran’s economy depends on international sea trade. With the blockade preventing empty tankers from docking at Iranian ports to pick up oil, Iran’s oil industry is running out of storage space.

If that happens, Tehran will have to start shutting down oil wells. Even doing this for a short time risks permanently damaging the oil fields and the profits of Iran’s capitalist rulers.

Looking for allies to pressure Washington to end the blockade, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with officials in Pakistan and Oman April 25-26 and then with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin told Araghchi that Moscow will do what it can “so that peace can be achieved as soon as possible.” That’s a way of saying Moscow doesn’t plan to do anything more.

While both Moscow and Beijing have been key trading partners with Tehran and have provided some military aid, neither is looking to provoke a major confrontation with Washington, nor jeopardize their relations with the other Gulf governments.

Tehran doesn’t hold the ‘cards’

Nonetheless, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, speaker of the Iranian parliament, claims Tehran still holds significant “cards” to play.

But the only “card” it has, short of starting a new round of missile and drone attacks across the Middle East, is its small speedboats, which threaten ships trying to cross the Strait of Hormuz without Iranian permission. The strait has been largely blocked since the war began. Little changed with the ceasefire. Iranian forces have boarded and taken possession of several container ships. This most directly affects the U.S. rulers’ competitors.

President Donald Trump warned April 23 that U.S. forces will blow out of the water any Iranian ship involved in placing mines in the Strait of Hormuz. His warning didn’t order Iranian forces to stop taking possession of ships from other nations.

That’s not an oversight. Only 7% of the oil used in the United States passes through the Strait of Hormuz. But China imports some 70% of the oil it consumes, half of it from the Middle East, especially Iran. Japan, India and South Korea among other countries are especially dependent on shipping through the strait.

Beijing has been forced to resume purchases of U.S. liquefied natural gas and crude oil, as Washington has ex-

tended its control over world oil markets in the course of its war in Iran and its military intervention taking control of Venezuela’s oil in January.

US oil companies’ superprofits

The U.S. is the world’s biggest producer of crude oil. U.S. exports of crude and other petroleum products rose from about 11 million barrels a day at the start of the war to 12.9 million by mid-April. U.S. refineries are operating close to capacity. With oil at over \$100 a barrel that’s a big boost in profits.

Araghchi presented new proposals saying Tehran would end its attacks in the Strait of Hormuz in return for guarantees of no more U.S. or Israeli military operations against Iran or Hezbollah in Lebanon. Next would be discussions on “the management of the Strait of Hormuz,” a euphemism for Tehran’s control of maritime traffic. Only later would Tehran discuss its nuclear program.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio responded for the U.S. April 27, saying that “the nuclear question is the reason why we’re in this in the first place.” He said Washington would not allow Tehran to “decide who gets to use an international waterway and how much you have to pay them to use it.”

Neither Rubio nor Trump have said anything about Tehran’s demand that Israel stop attacking Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israel fights to prevent new Holocaust

That’s because while Washington and Israel coordinated their military operations against Iran, they were carrying out two different wars. Washington seeks to use U.S. military might to force a wing of the faction-ridden Iranian regime to be more subservient to U.S. imperialism.

Israel is fighting for its existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms and to prevent another Holocaust. The bourgeois clerical regime in Iran — and its proxies, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis — have as a central goal destroying Israel and eliminating the Jews

Despite Tehran’s repression, protests are beginning again

BY SETH GALINSKY

Tehran is continuing to arrest union activists and impose its strict internet shutdown, in a doomed attempt to prevent working people and oppressed nationalities from organizing to defend their interests amid the lull in the war. Opponents of the reactionary capitalist regime are finding ways to get around the online restrictions and to take to the streets.

Dozens of workers from the Yazd



Workers at health center in Yazd province, Iran, April 25, protest over working conditions, wages. Since U.S. war began, a million people have been laid off and prices have skyrocketed.

Free Narges Mohammadi, all political prisoners in Iran!

NEW YORK — Narges Mohammadi has spent more than a decade in Iran’s prisons, Karin Deutsch Karlekar told a meeting at the Rizzoli Bookstore here April 22. Karlekar is the director of Writers at Risk at PEN America and co-chair of the Free Narges Coalition steering committee. The meeting of some 100 people called for freeing Mohammadi and thousands of other political prisoners in Iran, and publicized her book, *White Torture: Interviews with Iranian Women Prisoners*.

Mohammadi is well-known for speaking out against the death penalty in Iran, for freeing all political prisoners and for an end to discriminatory treatment against Kurdish prisoners. “Narges has also become an advocate for women in Iran’s prisons,” Karlekar said.

Mohammadi was the winner of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize. She has been arrested 14 times since 1998, most recently in December 2025 after addressing the crowd at a memorial ceremony of hundreds (above) for human rights lawyer Khosrow Alikordi, who died under suspicious circumstances. During the arrest plainclothes agents beat Mohammadi on the head and neck with their batons. They also arrested 38 others. Her family reports she is being denied adequate medical treatment for a heart condition, putting her life in danger.

“White Torture” refers to the practice of submitting political prisoners to sensory deprivation, including solitary confinement, blindfolds, and denial of family contact. The publication of this book led to her 12th arrest in 2021.

Other panelists included Mona Armande, a lawyer from France; Bahar Ghandehari, from the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran; and Fatemeh Jamalpour, a journalist banned from working in Iran.

— SARA LOBMAN



who live there.

Since Feb. 28, Israeli troops have occupied a swath of southern Lebanon along a ridge about 5 to 6 miles from the Israeli border. This makes it harder for Hezbollah to attack towns in northern Israel.

Like Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah created a far-reaching network of tunnels, including along the border near Israel. Israel Defense Forces April 28 destroyed over a mile of tunnels in southern Lebanon meant to be a launching pad for attacks on Israel.

Soon after a two-week ceasefire was announced in the war with Tehran the White House pressured Israel to agree to a ceasefire in Lebanon.

“Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer,” Trump declared April 17. “They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the USA.”

But Hezbollah, which is better armed than the Lebanese Army, has said it will not abide by any agreement between the Lebanese government and Israel.

Hezbollah continues to launch rockets at towns in northern Israel. Israel continues airstrikes against Hezbollah’s bases and combatants in southern Lebanon, despite Trump’s order, while holding off targeting Hezbollah in Beirut and the Bekaa Valley.

Amid rising tensions across the Middle East the threat of a new round of fighting is a real possibility.

prosecutor’s office in Tabriz. They had paid Global Euro Asia for imported trucks to replace their old ones, but the trucks were never delivered and their money never returned.

The week before, teachers protested in Tehran demanding the government hire them for open teaching positions, retirees protested in Shush for an increase in pension benefits, and laid off oil contract workers demanded they be brought back to work.

An estimated 1 million people have been laid off as a result of the 40-day war, exacerbating an already deep capitalist crisis and debilitating inflation.

“When a government resorts simultaneously to poverty, fear, censorship and repression to control society, it shows its weakness more than its strength,” said an internet report connected to small merchants at Tehran’s bazaar. Merchants there had helped kick off countrywide protests last December.

One sign of the regime’s weakness is that it stopped sending its hated “morality” police onto the streets to enforce the reactionary dress code for women. It is not uncommon to see women with and without the mandatory hijab headscarf walking together.

Unite the working class! Amnesty for immigrants!

Continued from front page

140 cities and towns took to the streets all across the country on May Day, marching behind banners saying, “We are not criminals! We are workers!” They took off work and went into the street, backed by neighbors and co-workers. They inspired workers from all walks of life to join in and succeeded in beating back the notorious Sensenbrenner bill, which would have made it a felony to be in the U.S. without “papers.” They dealt blows to anti-immigrant prejudice.

Our unions taking the lead in a fight for amnesty would strengthen today’s strike struggles. It would advance workers’ understanding that we all have common class interests — wherever we were born. Our interests are sharply counterposed to those of the capitalist rulers and their political parties. Such a movement will advance the unity of working people and our capacities to act in our tens of millions, to make gains against those who seek to exploit and oppress us and lay the groundwork for taking political power into our own hands.

The bosses’ superexploitation of immigrant workers — a fact of life worldwide today — is vital for their profits. Governments serve the bosses by turning immigration on and off to meet their production needs. The anti-immigrant prejudices the U.S. rulers promote echo the chauvinistic appeals they make to drag workers to serve as cannon fodder in Washington’s imperialist wars abroad.

Raids and deportations under both Democratic and Republican administrations are not intended to stop bosses from hiring immigrants. Their aim is to create a pariah layer of the working class with less protections from exploitation, and that works and lives in fear. They’re aided by liberals, who tell immigrant workers to stay at home and lock the door, while they appeal to Democrats for help. This weakens the building of a movement like the one that exploded in 2006, one that pointed to the fighting

capacity of a united working class.

Earlier this year, disciplined, union-backed protests to defend immigrants drew thousands in Minnesota. Rallies in several cities in the past month have demanded a halt to the administration’s drive to end Temporary Protected Status for refugees from Haiti, Venezuela and over a dozen other countries living and working in the U.S.

Tens of millions of workers — native-born and immigrants — have lived, worked and sent their children to school together for decades. We bristle at those who tell us workers without “papers” are our enemy.

The stakes in the political battle against government and boss attacks on immigrants involve the future of the labor movement, “much like the fight against Jim Crow segregation did in the 1950s and 1960s, and as the ongoing fight against all forms of racism and discrimination still does,” Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters explains in the book *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?*

The fight for an amnesty will also transform social relations and prospects for advancing working-class struggles. Join and use the actions on May Day as a step to turn this into an ongoing battle!



Militant champions immigrant workers’ revival of May Day.

‘Militant’ fights weeks of bans in Florida prisons

Continued from front page

tations that took place there — like almost every other newspaper across the U.S.

The *Militant* called for amnesty for immigrant workers without papers. The articles opposed the confrontational and provocative actions by some of those who opposed ICE and counterposed the need for disciplined, peaceful, trade union-backed protests.

The review committee upheld the ban on those three issues on March 26, with no explanation.

Officials at Taylor also banned issues nos. 8, 9 and 10 for articles reporting on the fight against the impoundments. The Literature Review Committee reversed those three impoundments in late March and early April. It also overturned the impoundment by officials at Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton of issue no. 7 for an article calling for “US hands off Cuba!”

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

New bans for fighting earlier bans

Lancaster authorities then banned issues nos. 11, 12 and 14 for exactly the same reason given for 8, 9, and 10 — writing about the impoundments — even though the review committee had overturned those earlier bans!

This “needless cycle of reporting, censorship appeal, review, reporting, censorship appeal, review, reporting, etc., can be laid to rest,” wrote David Goldstein, the *Militant*’s attorney, in the paper’s appeal of the latest three bans.

The *Militant* is currently mailed to some 360 subscribers in 168 federal, state and local prisons in 35 states, including 135 in Florida. “No other state

or federal facility outside of Florida” has banned those issues of the paper or claimed the cited articles “as constituting a threat to prison security,” Goldstein noted.

Under Florida prison rules, any time officials at one prison impound a paper, other Florida prisons are supposed to ban that issue. A prisoner at Columbia Correctional Institution in Lake City, Florida, wrote to the *Militant* April 1 reporting that his copies of those issues had been blocked. “This makes 4 in a row they have stopped. When I asked them why they were impounding my paper, they only said ‘because we can.’ I have received the *Militant* for almost 10 years,” he wrote.

“I know you have stopped this from happening quite a few times,” he wrote a week later, after another issue was withheld. “Please help stop this illegal and unconstitutional impounding of my papers.”

The bans by Florida prison authorities have drawn strong protests from prominent political rights groups in Florida and across the country. These include the Reporters Committee for Freedom for the Press, the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International USA, PEN America, and the Florida Press Association.

The American Civil Liberties Union Florida and its National Prison Project noted in their letter to the committee that they have written about similar “improper censorship of the *Militant* multiple times before.” The *Militant* has confronted bans by Florida prison authorities dozens of times since 2013, succeeding in overturning most of them.

More letters are needed now to urge prison officials to reverse the bans and to ensure that the unconstitutional impoundments cease. 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.

Participant’s interview

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an ‘adventurer.’ I finally lost my cool and punched the Argentine down the stairs. Later I apologized. But I got no more nasty comments about Che,” Rodríguez said with a smile.

1965 world youth festival

As WFDY vice president, Rodríguez spent six months in Algiers as part of the International Preparatory Committee organizing the Ninth World Youth Festival scheduled for the summer of 1965. However, just weeks before the festival was to begin a military coup overthrew the revolutionary workers and farmers government in Algeria headed by Ahmed Ben Bella. The festival was postponed. It was then planned for Accra, Ghana, but was canceled once again after the government of Kwame Nkrumah was overthrown in a 1966 coup.

“Then, at Fidel’s initiative, the UJC leadership proposed the youth festival be held in Hanoi, because the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people needed to be the axis of anti-imperialist solidarity worldwide,” Rodríguez said. The Vietnamese were fighting against Washington’s war of occupation and for the reunification of their country.

“The UJC assigned me to make that proposal at the meeting in Prague of the International Preparatory Committee. It was like a bomb dropped in the room,” Rodríguez said. Representatives of pro-Moscow Communist Party youth groups “said it was too dangerous to hold the festival in Hanoi in the midst of the war.” But their real political objection was opposition to the Cuban leadership’s campaign to make active solidarity with the Vietnamese struggle — not just words — the central priority. In the end, the world youth festival was held in 1968 in Sofia, Bulgaria, on the basis it was a more “stable” location.

Support to Guinea-Bissau struggle

Another sharp controversy took place at an April 1967 WFDY-sponsored youth conference in Conakry, Guinea. Its theme was solidarity with the independence struggles in Portugal’s African colonies.

On behalf of the Cuban youth delegation, Rodríguez said, “I spoke in favor of a resolution supporting the liberation war in Guinea-Bissau against Portuguese colonialism” led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), headed by Amílcar Cabral.

“The resolution was adopted with the support of all the African delegates,” he said. “The only delegate voting against it was the WFDY president,” a leader of the Italian CP youth. He opposed a paragraph in the document declaring that armed struggle was “the only road to liberation.” The WFDY leadership couldn’t overturn the vote, so “they simply shelved the resolution as though it had never been adopted.”

In response, the PAIGC leadership canceled a planned visit by a WFDY delegation to the liberated areas of “Portuguese” Guinea. Instead, the PAIGC invited the Cuban delegation — Rodríguez and Jesús Pérez Othon of the UJC — to visit the Southern Front.

“On the way there, we stopped in the border town of Boké, Guinea, where the PAIGC had its rearguard base,” Rodríguez said. “There Amílcar Cabral invited us for lunch, and he thanked us for Cuba’s support.

“We spent a few weeks with the PAIGC guerrillas. They gave us each a rifle and took us from village to village, walking for hours through the jungle and rivers. It gave us an idea of what life was like during the war.”

During that 1967 trip, Rodríguez met Victor Dreke, then head of the Cuban internationalist volunteers fighting alongside the PAIGC guerrillas.

Nearly six decades later, Rodríguez, now retired, joined a well-attended meeting this past February at Casa de África, a cultural center in Old Havana. The event launched a new book by Dreke, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa*.

Rodríguez felt right at home. “I was very happy to see Dreke again, along with so many other combatants,” he said. “It’s important for people to hear the story he tells.”

The same can be said about Eulogio Rodríguez’s story.