

Crisis facing working-class families grows as prices soar

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Working-class households are being hit hard by the deepening crisis of capitalism today, squeezed by the lack of a good-paying job as well as high prices for basic necessities, from groceries to electricity, healthcare, housing, car payments, fertilizer for family farmers and more.

The consumer price index rose by 3.3% in March from a year earlier, the highest increase in two years. As Washington’s war against Iran has unfolded, gasoline prices jumped 18.9% and fuel oil surged by 44.2%, sinking the buying power of workers’ paychecks even further. Meanwhile, average weekly wages are up a measly 0.2% from a year ago.

Under this pressure, workers have to pick and choose what they can afford to buy. They “are spending less on goods like clothing, furniture and sports equipment, which have risen in price over the past year,” the *Wall Street Journal* noted April 28, focusing instead on just trying to cover ba-

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May Day actions back union battles, rights of immigrants



Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, and Moises Cruz, supporter of Puerto Rican independence and Cuban Revolution, carry party’s banner in Chicago May Day march.

Protests point to potential to unify the working class

BY LESLIE DORK

Hundreds of thousands of workers in the U.S. and around the world turned out for marches, rallies and other actions called by unions and others on May Day.

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SWP, ‘Militant’ get strong hearing at national actions

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Samuel Nava, a farmworker for more than 20 years and now a landscape designer, met Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, at the May Day action of 250 people in Coral Gables, Florida. Agricultural workers came on buses from Homestead. They were joined by some 40 members of UNITE HERE and the Service Employees International Union at the rally.

Nava told Fruit that farmworkers
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Defend Cuba from stepped up attacks by Washington

BY RÓGER CALERO

“Cuba is fully entitled to trade for fuel with any country, without restrictions, conditions, or questioning that contravene freedom of international trade,” Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez said April 14.

Rodríguez condemned the U.S. rulers’ economic strangulation of Cuba,

**U.S. hands off Cuba!
Defend Cuban sovereignty!**
—Editorial, page 9

intensified by the Donald Trump administration’s Jan. 29 executive order imposing a blockade on oil imports to the island. Washington threatened tariffs on any country that sells or provides oil to Cuba without U.S. permission.

After more than three months of no fuel coming from any country, Washington permitted a Russian tanker to dock March 31 and unload crude, which Cuba used to generate electricity and for key production operations, hospitals and other essential services.

The Russian shipment gave a brief reprieve to millions across the island, who have borne hourslong rolling outages that have aggravated every aspect of their lives. Eight similar-sized boatloads would be needed each month to meet
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US forces out of the Middle East! Bring the troops back home now!



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tajh Payne
World’s largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford, in Mediterranean Sea March 22. U.S. Navy says its “warfighting effectiveness, lethality” is to defend U.S. rulers’ “interests in the region.”

BY SETH GALINSKY

Uncertainty about what will happen next in the Strait of Hormuz and in Washington’s war on Iran continues against a backdrop of deepening rivalry and shifting alliances between capitalist powers worldwide, each looking

to defend their own conflicting interests. The U.S. imperialist rulers aim to prevail and advance their plunder and domination of the region.

Two U.S.-flagged ships, protected by a U.S. Navy escort, exited the Arab-Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz May 4. Only a handful of the 1,600 ships trapped since the start of the war Feb. 28 have risked attack by Tehran, which asserts its “right” to

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‘Militant’ calls for ‘special review’ of Florida Dept. of Corrections bans

BY JANET POST

For the first time since it became an option in 2022, the *Militant* on April 28 requested the Florida Department of Corrections convene a special meeting of its Literature Review Committee. The paper is asking the three-member committee to reconsider and overturn its decision to uphold a ban on three issues impounded by prison authorities.

The review committee upheld a ban imposed on *Militant* issues nos. 4, 5, and 6 by the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, March 26, despite appeals from the *Militant* and letters of support from civil liberties organizations and others.

This special hearing means all three ranking members of the committee must be present. They are the Bureau Chiefs of Security Operations, of Policy Management and Inmate Appeals, and of Education. The Florida Department of Corrections rules also state that if a publisher’s appeal is rejected, it cannot request another special meeting for five years.

In the three issues Taylor authorities banned, they cited front-page articles reporting on labor-backed, disciplined protests against attacks on immigrants in Minneapolis and the *Militant*’s call for amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers.

With no explanation or justification, the Literature Review Committee upheld the prison officials’ ruling that the articles are “dangerously inflammatory” and encourage “riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest.” They also upheld the ruling that two of the issues, nos. 4 and 5, are “a threat to the
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Why we support Israel’s fight against Iran’s rulers, Hamas, Hezbollah
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Unions joining Ottawa, bosses in trade war ‘team’ is a deadly trap

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Canada’s ruling rich and their government in Ottawa are calling on workers and our unions to support and collaborate in their trade war with Washington. But this class-collaborationist course is a deadly threat to the labor movement and must be rejected.

AS I SEE IT

On April 21 Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney appointed some of Canada’s top bosses, capitalist politicians and union officials to a new “advisory committee.” It was set up to back the government in its sharpening trade conflict with the U.S. rulers during negotiations over adjustments to the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement.

The committee includes the CEOs of Canadian National Railway, the Bank of Montreal and steel giant ArcelorMittal Dofasco; top capitalist politicians from the Liberal and Conservative parties, such as Erin O’Toole, former Conservative Party leader, and Jean Charest, former Quebec Liberal premier; plus Magali Picard, president of the Quebec Federation of Labour and Lana Payne, president of Unifor.

Carney celebrated formation of the bloc, claiming “Canada is strongest when governments, workers, businesses and industry leaders pull in the same direction” as part of “Team Canada.”

Payne expressed her agreement, saying Canada needs “workers, employers and government at the table” together to “sustain and grow our

country’s industrial base.”

The idea that this is good for workers and strengthens our unions is a deadly illusion. Canada, like all capitalist countries, is a class-divided society. The bosses can only thrive off our labor.

Workers whose labor power creates the profits for the billionaire families who control Canada and its economy have no common interests with the bosses and their governments. The ruling rich always act to resolve the crisis of their profit system at our expense. It’s *their* industries; not “ours.”

Over the last two years Ottawa has issued back-to-work orders against every major strike that has broken out in federal jurisdiction, including by rail workers, port and postal workers, and Air Canada flight attendants.

The provincial governments have joined the assault on our right to strike and other democratic freedoms we need to defend our class against their efforts to drive down workers’ wages and working conditions to defend their profits.

Class against class

The executives of Canadian National Railway and their investors have led the assault of the rail bosses against safe working conditions on the railroads, livable schedules that allow workers to have a family life, and wages that keep up with rising prices. Over 20 railway workers have died on the job since 2013 as a result of the rail bosses’ drive to prioritize their profits over workers’ safety.

Every corporate boss on Ottawa’s new trade committee acts exactly the same way — to defend their profits against workers’ demands for better



Militant/Tony Difelice

After Ottawa used anti-labor laws to block three major union strikes, 10,000 flight attendants at Air Canada defied government back-to-work order Aug. 16, 2025, and won important gains.

wages and working conditions.

At the same time as the bosses and their government are waging war against workers and farmers at home, the rulers are preparing for wars against working people abroad. Ottawa plans to quadruple military spending over the next decade to 150 billion Canadian dollars (\$110 billion) a year. Rival capitalist countries are doing the same, as they all march us toward another world war.

Today, as in the period before World Wars I and II, trade wars are a precursor to shooting wars. The capitalists relentless assaults on workers at home flow from the same dog-eat-dog thirst for profit that drives their wars abroad.

Working-class solidarity

The idea that workers and our unions should support Canada’s capitalist rulers either in their trade wars or their shooting wars is a deadly trap.

It puts working people in Canada up against our class brothers and sisters in the U.S. — potentially our most important ally — as well as the exploited and oppressed worldwide who are fighting growing attacks by the capitalist rulers.

Richelle Stewart, secretary treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401 in Alberta, issued a strong and instructive statement of support for 3,800 striking JBS meatpacking workers in Greeley, Colorado, last month. She explained that working people in the U.S. and Canada face common working

conditions and challenges.

From “Brooks [Alberta] to Greeley we share a commitment to safe workplaces, fair wages, and protecting the rights of every member. Solidarity is our most powerful tool,” the statement said. Union President Thomas Hesse added, “When workers unite across borders, we are strongest together.”

Joining with the bosses and their governments in conflicts with their capitalist rivals deals a body blow to that working-class solidarity, as well as to the need for the unions on both sides of the border to join together in fighting against the rulers’ attacks and charting a course independent of their governments and political parties.

Instead of joining Carney’s “Team Canada” in its trade war, the unions should mobilize working people and our unions to defend our right to strike, fight to unify the working class by taking on Ottawa’s deportation of thousands of immigrant workers each year, and stand in solidarity with working people across Canada and around the world who are fighting for their rights.

This course points us in the direction of breaking with the bosses’ lesser-evil scam of capitalist politics, and building a mass working-class party that will lead the fight in defense of our class interests to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers. And replace it with a workers government that will join the worldwide fight for socialism.

THE MILITANT

Event honors Cuba’s role in African freedom struggle

Meeting on Pathfinder’s newest book, ‘Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa,’ by Cuban leader Víctor Dreke, was held in Oslo April 22. It points to the need for similar meetings around the world.



Courtesy of Víctor Dreke
Amílcar Cabral, left, leader of independence fight in Guinea-Bissau, and Víctor Dreke.

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Minnesota small businesses petition state over losses during ICE raids

BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Neighbors United, set up by Somali small-business owners that now includes Latino, Hmong and African American vendors, held a press conference at the state Capitol in St. Paul April 28. The group turned in petitions signed by 1,000 vendors and their supporters to Gov. Tim Walz demanding compensation for losses they suffered during the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency's recent Operation Metro Surge targeting area immigrants.

The monthslong operation resulted in assaults, arrests and deportations of immigrant working people here. Frightened by the attacks and admonitions from middle-class radicals that they should stay at home, many did, and stopped coming out to shop.

Even when large, union-led protests in January finally led the White House to pull many of the ICE agents from the Twin Cities, the small-business owners had been devastated.

The Neighbors United delegation's petition demands direct relief from the state to make up for losses to their livelihoods, as well as a halt to resulting eviction proceedings both on where they live and on their shops.

The governor has proposed a relief bill, but it would cover only business owners that make at least \$200,000 a year, far more than vendors with kiosks at the Somali community Karmel Mall, Plaza Mexico and Hmong Village take in.

Kia Lor, who sells tea, herbs and other items at a kiosk in Hmong Village, told the *Militant* that her son, Xue, was arrested by ICE last December. His computer repair booth

was next to her kiosk. He is still in detention, threatened with deportation to Laos, a country he left as an infant and where he has no relatives.

After the Vietnam War, she and other Hmong women whose fathers and husbands had fought with U.S. forces, fled retaliation from Pathet Lao soldiers. She swam across the Mekong River at age 14 with baby Xue on her back, ending up in a Thai refugee camp, then relocated to Minnesota in 1980. She is now a U.S. citizen.

Khadijo Warsame, a leader of Neighbors United, closed out the press conference saying, "Neighbors United will keep fighting."



Militant/Mary Martin

Zahra Abdalla, a founder of Neighbors United, speaks at news conference at state Capitol in St. Paul April 28 seeking relief from damages small-business owners suffered in ICE reign of terror.

May Day appeal by Ukraine unions blasts Moscow's war

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Frustrated by recent losses on the battlefield, Moscow is intensifying its missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities, targeting homes, apartment buildings and workplaces, as well as energy, transportation and other civilian infrastructure.

In a statement released for International Workers' Day, May 1, the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) said working people in the mines and hospitals, on the railroads and at other workplaces are risking their lives while keeping the economy running. At the same time, "thousands of our union members are defending Ukraine at the front with weapons in their hands." Through their work and their struggle, the Ukrainian toilers are defending their country's sovereignty.

The union pointed to the high price of Moscow's war paid by "the lives of our fallen brothers and sisters." Of the 556 civilians killed and 2,731 injured in the first three months of this year alone, 53 workers were killed and 240 injured on the job.

Trade unionists in the Dnipropetrovsk province, near the eastern front, including coal miners, are a deliberate

target. A Russian drone hit a miners' union office in Pavlohrad, injuring a unionist March 10, while another struck a bus transporting mine workers to their shift. A "double tap" drone strike on another busload of miners Feb. 1 killed 12, both miners and rescue workers, and injured 16.

Members of the Free Trade Union of Medical Workers in Nikopol and Marhanets report regular shelling from Russian forces as they care for victims of earlier strikes. In just two months — March and April — Moscow attacked

rail lines 352 times.

"At the same time, Ukrainian workers continue to defend" union rights. This includes resisting anti-union laws pushed by capitalist parties in Ukraine's parliament that seek to roll back job protections, wages and working conditions.

The KVPU called for international solidarity, including support for Ukrainian demands on Moscow for "the release of civilians and trade union activists held in captivity in Russia" and in the temporarily occupied territories.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

4,000 hotel and restaurant workers on strike in Norway

OSLO, Norway — Striking workers in the hotel and restaurant industry mobilized for the May Day march here. They are part of an expanding nationwide walkout by over 4,000 members of the Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions and the Parat union.

Spirited picket lines and marches have marked the walkout here and in Bergen, Trondheim and elsewhere.

Among the lowest-paid section of the

workforce, strikers say they are fighting for a living wage. "Without an offer of a real wage increase, we see no alternative to striking," Dag-Einar Sivertsen, chief negotiator for the union, said when the strike began April 19.

Union member Jesper Bergesen proudly held up a picket sign at the May 1 march. A receptionist at the Scandic Go Hotel, he said both a wage increase and better sick leave payment system were important for him. "We are already low-paid," he said, "so people have to borrow money to get by when they get sick."

Many companies cover sick leave until government payments kick in, which can take time, but not employers in the hospitality industry. They refuse to budge, saying it is the government's responsibility to pay for this. Union representative Sivertsen said this doesn't match the reality, and "for a low-paid hotel or restaurant worker it becomes difficult to pay the bills in the event of long-term illness."

Bergesen said they will strike "for as long as it takes."

— Greg McCartan

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— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

May 14, 2001

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The decision of the U.S. Navy to resume its military exercises and bombings on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques has touched off protests in Puerto Rico, in the United States, and as far away as Italy. Thousands of people rallied at the capitol here April 26. Since World War II, Washington has used the island as a training base until recent protests forced the government to make some concessions.

Following the protests, Martina Rodríguez from the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan told the *New York Times*, "This is the Vietnam of my generation. We want to stop the mayhem."

Farrique Pesquera, who supports independence for Puerto Rico, added that people "have been brainwashed to think that they can't survive without America, that all our air comes from the north. Struggles like this one will change that."

THE MILITANT

May 14, 1976

WASHINGTON — Prompted by the NAACP's support for Black rights in the navy, the FBI began a spying operation on the civil rights group in 1941 the government admits continued for twenty-five years. These details were made public by the Senate Intelligence Committee in its final report.

The report also summarized operations against numerous other groups, including the Socialist Workers party, the Business Executives Move for Peace, National Organization for Women, and the Communist party.

The FBI began choosing sides against the NAACP near the end of 1940. Europe was embroiled in World War II, and President Franklin Roosevelt was carefully preparing the United States' entry. Begun ostensibly to determine if there was "Communist infiltration" of the group, it continued and escalated, even after informers attested to the "anti-communism" of the NAACP.

THE MILITANT

May 15, 1951

"The political climate has changed." This observation by Grace Carlson, Vice-Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party in the 1948 elections, is the first general conclusion from the current campaign to increase the circulation of *The Militant*.

During the height of the Truman witch-hunt, workers felt intimidated. Now things are changing. Workers are irritated by mounting prices and taxes, worried over the growing danger of atomic war and outraged at Truman's insistence on continuing the slaughter in Korea. People are beginning to think that it's time to do a little housecleaning in Washington. There's increased willingness to listen to the program of socialism.

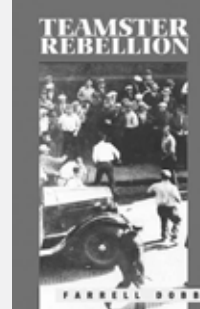
"It has been very easy indeed to obtain renewals to *The Militant* even from workers who declined to renew their subscriptions a few months ago," Carlson said.

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle. — \$16

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Defend Cuba from US attacks

Continued from front page

the country’s electrical needs, Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy said on Cuban national television April 24.

Washington’s blockade and recent war threats are a sharp escalation of the decadeslong bipartisan course of the U.S. capitalist rulers, who are determined to destroy Cuba’s socialist revolution.

The policy “to exert economic pressure through energy supplies to provoke political destabilization” was not invented by Trump, Harvard professor Rainer Schultz said in an April 10 article on the Cuban website CubaDebate. It was titled, “The eternal strategy: Cuba’s current blackout began in 1960 in the Washington archives.” Trump just “intensified it,” said Schultz.

He explains that as early as March 1960 the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration had planned to cut off Cuba’s oil supply as part of its plans to overthrow the young revolutionary government that came to power on Jan. 1, 1959, under the leadership of Fidel Castro. Schultz said the plan was “as simple as it was brutal.”

Robert Anderson, then secretary of the treasury, told the National Security Council, “If we succeed in depriving the Cubans of their oil supply, the consequences would be devastating within five to six weeks.”

For seven decades, the U.S. rulers have used all available means to shut down revenue sources for the Cuban people — banning trade, financial transactions and investment, systematically cutting off access to international credit, restricting U.S. travel to Cuba, pressuring governments worldwide to terminate medical cooperation programs with Cuba — with the stated goal of provoking “hunger, desperation, and the overthrow of the Cuban government.”

Imperialism, not a ‘policy’

Prior to the popular overthrow of the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in January 1959, Washington did in Cuba what it tries to do everywhere. Working with compliant governments — whether “democratic” or military dictatorships — Washington uses its power to impose the “order,” “tranquility,” and “favorable investment climate” demanded by U.S. bosses.

In addition to having a subservient government in the Batista regime, U.S. capitalists had dominant control over Cuba’s land, ports, mines, banking and all of the country’s exports and imports. Cuba was a virtual appendage of the

U.S. bosses, which meant the country’s economic and social development was sacrificed in pursuit of profits.

Upon taking state power, Cuban workers and peasants mobilized to take control of and run the country’s resources for the benefit of the vast majority. The U.S. rulers moved to block their progress.

Attempting to implement Anderson’s plan, Standard Oil, Texaco and Shell, the three foreign monopolies controlling Cuba’s oil production, allowed their crude oil inventories to fall in order to create scarcity. At the same time, their refineries refused to process crude that Cuba obtained from the Soviet Union.

In response, the new Cuban government, exercising its sovereign right, nationalized the U.S.-owned refineries in June 1960. This was followed by a wave of nationalizations of other foreign-owned banks and industries.

For U.S. imperialism, the example of a small Latin American nation standing up to Washington could not be tolerated, and every U.S. administration has sought to erase it ever since.

The recent oil blockade has had a crippling effect on Cuba’s economy. Without electricity, tourism has plummeted. The sugar harvest was halted as the mills were at a standstill.

In the face of this onslaught, the Cuban government has accelerated moves to develop solar and other ways to generate electricity.

By the end of 2025, 34 solar farms with a capacity of 1.2 gigawatts had been constructed. But importing more solar panels and batteries to store and dispense energy would take a major capital investment, which Cuba simply can’t afford.

Cuba has had to resort to offering concessions to foreign capitalist investors to acquire technology and supplies. Mariel Solar, the island’s first privately owned, large-scale energy project in Cuba, opened in 2022 as a joint venture with U.K.-based Hive Energy and the Chinese multinational Shanghai Electric Group Company.

Chinese companies shipped \$117 million worth of solar panels to Cuba in 2025, up from \$48 million in 2024, the

Hundreds of thousands march in Cuba May 1



Juventud Rebelde/Roberto Suárez

Hundreds of thousands marched and rallied in Havana, above, May 1, International Workers’ Day, under the slogan “The Homeland must be defended.” Led by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), Cuba’s trade union federation, huge crowds of unionists, students and members of Cuba’s armed forces also took to the streets in provincial capitals and towns across the island to condemn Washington’s escalating aggression against the Cuban people and their socialist revolution.

Leading up to the annual celebration, over 6 million Cubans over the age of 16 — out of a total population of 9.7 million — signed a petition reaffirming their commitment to defend the country’s sovereignty, and condemning Washington’s stifling oil blockade and threats of military attack.

The same day, President Donald Trump signed a new executive order imposing more sanctions, targeting — in Washington’s language — “entities, persons, or affiliates that support the Cuban regime’s security apparatus, are complicit in government corruption or serious human rights violations, or are agents, officials, or material supporters of the Cuban government.”

At an event in Florida later that day, Trump said with imperialist arrogance that “we” will take over Cuba “almost immediately.” On the way back from Iran, “we’ll have one of our big aircraft carriers come in, stop about 100 yards offshore, and they’ll say, thank you very much, we give up.”

“Our enemies have tried everything” against us, CTC leader Osnay Miguel Colina said at the Havana event. “They thought we’d be suffocated, defeated; yet here we are, committed and strong, with our foot in the stirrup, still fighting.”

“Cuba, a defiant island, continues to stand as a moral beacon,” said Colina. “Our greatest weapon is not a missile, it’s a consciousness, the conviction that a better world is possible.”

— RÓGER CALERO

Financial Times reported.

In addition to large-scale solar energy infrastructure, some 15,000 solar kits have been installed in homes and medical centers across the island. The govern-

ment has advanced measures, including tax exemptions and other incentives, to both state-owned and private enterprises to import and install solar panels and other renewable energy sources.

Support oil refinery workers on strike at Marathon!

BY ERIC SIMPSON

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Workers walked off the job at Marathon Petroleum Corporation’s renewable fuels refinery here at 12:01 a.m. April 27. The company announced it was going to impose its “final” proposed contract on the 120 members of United Steelworkers Local 5 after negotiations reached an impasse. Instead, the workers went on strike.

Marathon claims the plant isn’t covered by the terms of the National Oil Bargaining Program because it doesn’t refine petroleum, but waste vegetable oils and tallow. This creates a fuel functionally identical to petroleum-derived diesel. Marathon bosses’ goal is to chisel out concessions not included in the national pattern. Known as Martinez Renewables, this is one of the largest renewable fuel refineries in the world, owned jointly with the Finnish company Neste.

Marathon also claims safety rules covering petrochemical refineries don’t apply here. The union says the national pattern should be implemented.

Marathon runs the operation understaffed, piling overtime on top of four 12-hour shifts, pushing workers to the point of fatigue. “Instead of hiring people and making it fair for everybody, and giving us the amount of people we need, they just want more out of us,” striker Greg Belcher told KQED radio on the picket line April 28.

The company is pushing to change the overtime rules to their advantage, Cliff Reyes, a wastewater head operator and Marathon Local 5 union chair, told the *Militant* May 1. They want to save money by holding workers over whenever a ship pulls up to be off-loaded, rather than calling in a new crew. Striker Marwin Reyes, Cliff’s brother, said, “We want any overtime after the 12-hour workday to be by choice, not mandatory. People have family, loved ones and responsibilities.”

“We do dangerous work,” Local 5 President Nick Plurkowski told a crowd of unionists at a rally in downtown here May 1. “We are fighting for safety.”

When the plant was being brought into production in 2023, a process pre-

heater caught fire and temperatures climbed to 1,710 degrees Fahrenheit. Operator Jerome Serrano was engulfed in flames as he attempted to shut down the heater. Doctors gave him a 10% chance to survive and he spent seven months in a hospital burn unit. He lost fingers, an eye and his mobility, but has survived and is rehabilitating.

“Marathon says we don’t belong in the NOBP because we are not in fossil fuels. Do you think Jerome Serrano cares about the difference between being burned by corn oil or crude oil?” Cliff Reyes said on the picket line May 1.

The strike is 100% solid. The plant is being run by engineers and managers, inexperienced and untrained, even by company standards. “Training normally takes months of direct instruction from a senior operator to qualify,” Cliff Reyes told the *Militant*.

Solidarity

“We are getting a lot of support from the community,” he said. One woman

Continued on page 7

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA Oakland

Why Cuba Is Under U.S. Attack. Why It Should Be Defended! Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 17, 4 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

GEORGIA Atlanta

May Day Rallies Across Cuba! Response to Washington’s Tightening Economic Embargo, War Threats. Speaker: Marklyn Wilson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 17, 4 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

'Militant' gets hearing at actions

Continued from front page don't always get paid for the hours they work and women workers face sexual harassment. "When they resist they're threatened with being reported to immigration," he told her. "We are demanding just wages and a safe workplace."

"The SWP organizes solidarity with all workers' struggles, and calls for a union-led fight for amnesty for immigrants in the U.S. to unify the working class. We defend the Cuban Revolution," Fruit said, as she showed Nava several books. "Do you know anything about the Cuban Revolution?" she asked.

"I know a lot about Cuba, as if it were my own country," he said. "I believe the profits that a country makes should go to benefit the people." Nava subscribed to the Militant and bought the book In Defense of the US Working Class, a presentation by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters at a May Day event in Havana in 2018.

"This is very important," he said, pointing to the book's title.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom joined the thousands of working people at May Day actions, backing the fight for immigrant rights and presenting a road forward for

working people to build parties of our own that can lead millions to take political power from the capitalist rulers and into our own hands.

Interest from participants in May Day actions in the Militant and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries gave a big boost to the international campaign to sell 1,300 subscriptions, the same number of books and to raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund by May 12.

Hundreds of people in San Bernadino, California, turned out for a May Day rally and march organized by the Inland Empire Labor Council and the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice. Utility workers, Teamsters, transit workers and members of the SEIU joined, with many young people protesting the arrest and deportation of immigrants and the deteriorating living and working conditions they face.

The SWP literature table was swarmed by rally participants. Many wanted to learn more about the history of the Cuban Revolution and snapped up books by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other Cuban leaders. Books on the fight for women's emancipation and by Malcolm X and leaders of the SWP were among the 27 titles sold. The Militant front-page headline "A call for action: Unite the working class! Amnesty for immigrants!" captured what a lot of people were thinking, and a dozen people signed up for a subscription.

In London, Julie Crawford, Communist League candidate for Southwark Council, spoke to Michale Lawal, a retired worker, on his doorstep May 3.

"Building unions is key," Lawal told Crawford. "That's important here and in Nigeria where I'm from."

Crawford agreed. "It's part of forging a revolutionary movement of millions to wrest political power from the billionaire rulers — the only way to prevent their march to another world war and a new Holocaust," she said.

"The prospect of another world war hangs over the next generations," Lawal said. "There's been nothing like the Holocaust in history — before or since! And Jews are still being attacked today. Why?"

"The ruling rich and their supporters scapegoat Jews in an attempt to turn workers and middle-class layers away from the real source of our problems, the capitalist system itself," Crawford said. She said Communist League members joined protests against the anti-semitic stabbing of two Jews, Moshe Shine and Shloime Rand, in Golders Green in London the previous week. Both were seriously wounded.

Lawal signed up for a Militant subscription, bought a copy of The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class and made a contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund.

Dozens of people stopped by the SWP table



Militant/Jonathan Silberman "Building unions is key," Michale Lawal told Communist League member Julie Crawford in London May 3. He got a Militant subscription, made contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund.

at the Little Haiti Book Festival May 3. Fruit, the party's candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke for a few minutes from the stage, encouraging participants to read the books that contain the history of working-class struggles in the world. She said the fight for amnesty for all immigrants was critical to uniting workers to fight together to defend our interests.

In all, 37 books were sold, including 11 titles by Thomas Sankara, leader of the 1983-87 Burkina Faso Revolution, and four copies of Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Victor Dreke.

A number of people expressed opposition to Washington's attacks on Cuba. Participants also got four subscriptions to the Militant and gave \$25 towards the Militant Fighting Fund.

Several hundred defenders of the rights of immigrants, trade unionists and others rallied outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., April 29 to protest moves by the federal government to terminate Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from Haiti and Syria.

SWP campaigners sold 10 subscriptions to the Militant and 32 books on revolutionary working-class politics there.

Help take 'Militant' campaign over top!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As we go into the final week of campaigning in the international 2026 spring drive, members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom are organizing to go over the top in selling more than 1,300 subscriptions to the Militant and a similar number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders. We also need to raise over \$165,000 to keep getting this paper, a socialist newsweekly published since 1928, into interested hands.

Nowhere else can you find an explanation of why the capitalist rulers

are deepening their assaults on working people at home and abroad. No other paper points to the only solution to today's wars and crises — the working class finding the road to political power and the building of the Socialist Workers Party and its sister parties to help lead that course.

Join in this effort. Spread the word about SWP and CL election campaigns. Encourage your friends and co-workers to subscribe, take advantage of the generous book offers, and give whatever you can toward the Militant Fighting Fund.

Contact supporters nearest you listed on page 8.

Discounted books for prisoners Pathfinder offers books to prisoners at a 50% discount. Shipping is \$2.75 per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to Pathfinder Press PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767 Friends and families can order for them or view the catalogue at: pathfinderpress.com

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, Fighting Fund						
March 14 - May 12 (week seven)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	34	40	37	\$9,500	\$9,098
Chicago*	65	62	65	64	\$13,500	\$11,438
Cincinnati*	35	28	35	33	\$5,000	\$3,627
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	64	70	63	\$5,000	\$4,937
Los Angeles	90	94	90	122	\$14,000	\$5,656
Miami	40	49	40	52	\$5,500	\$5,323
Minneapolis	65	60	65	68	\$6,700	\$6,295
N. New Jersey	70	64	70	76	\$7,500	\$6,362
New York	80	69	80	96	\$20,500	\$16,798
Oakland	80	74	80	124	\$15,000	\$15,011
Philadelphia	40	28	40	39	\$6,000	\$5,275
Pittsburgh*	45	43	45	56	\$7,500	\$4,162
Seattle	60	51	60	48	\$15,000	\$12,496
Washington	55	55	55	83	\$4,500	\$3,118
Other		59		404		\$1,495
Total U.S.	835	834	835	1,365	\$135,200	\$111,091
Prisoners		130				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	42	45	43	\$3,000	\$1,400
Manchester*	40	39	30	35	\$1,300	\$1,320
Total U.K.	85	81	75	78	\$4,300	\$2,720
Canada	80	63	90	84	\$11,000	\$9,725
Australia	30	34	30	41	\$4,500	\$4,100
Total	1,030	1,142	1,030	1,568	\$155,000	\$127,636
SHOULD BE	1,300	1,138	1,300	1,138	\$165,000	\$144,375
*Raised goal						

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

SEE DISTRIBUTORS ON PAGE 8 OR VISIT PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

US troops out of the Middle East!

Continued from front page

control all maritime traffic there.

Before the war some 20% of the world's oil and liquefied gas — and other key commerce — passed through the strait.

President Donald Trump says the war on Iran, which he called “Epic Fury,” is over for now, as the U.S. rulers concentrate on tightening the economic noose around Tehran and enforce their blockade of ships heading to or leaving Iranian ports. Trump said May 6 he thought a deal was imminent, but threatens to restart the war if the Iranian regime does not accede to U.S. demands.

The U.S. rulers are using the crisis in the Middle East to bolster their leverage over world oil trade. Empty tankers from Europe and Asia headed to U.S. ports — instead of the Arab-Persian Gulf — to fill up with U.S. crude and liquefied gas.

Imported oil is key to China's economy, despite the fact that most of its energy comes from domestically mined coal. Beijing buys similar amounts of crude oil from Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — but because of U.S. sanctions, the Iranian oil comes at a steep discount. Before the U.S. blockade of Iran's ports, Beijing was the buyer of 90% of Iranian oil.

U.S.-Beijing tensions heat up

Before the Iran conflict Beijing had lost another source of cheap oil from

Venezuela when the U.S. invaded and toppled Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Venezuela went from exporting about 80% of its oil to China, with most now going to the U.S. and India.

The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned five Chinese oil refineries and said April 24 that any financial institution that aided them would be locked out of the U.S. dollar financial system. Beijing retorted that it would take action against any institution operating in China that obeyed the U.S. prohibitions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited China May 6, where Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made it clear to him that Beijing's main concern is “restoring normal, safe passage” through the strait.

In another shift, the government of the United Arab Emirates announced that it was pulling out of the OPEC oil trade bloc. Formed in 1960, OPEC sought to unite Arab rulers and others with significant oil reserves to counter the domination of Washington and other imperialist powers by adjusting production to keep the price of oil high.

The UAE's decision was “the opening bell for the new geopolitical order that the war with Iran is ushering in across the Middle East,” the *Wall Street Journal* wrote April 29. In reality OPEC, like NATO, had already been coming apart amid growing rivalries. The UAE and the government of Saudi



Retired steelworkers in Tehran and Isfahan, Iran, above, April 29 demand extension of health insurance. Despite reactionary regime's internet blackout, stepped-up use of death penalty and arrests of union activists, workers are increasingly raising demands and protesting.

Arabia — “allies” in OPEC — have backed opposite sides in the wars in Yemen and Sudan. By leaving OPEC, the UAE rulers are tying their future closer to U.S. imperialism, as well as deepening their ties with Israel.

The U.S. war on Iran has also deepened rifts between Washington and its “allies” in NATO. The German government refused to back the U.S. war and has complained that Washington has abandoned NATO.

Germany's economy — like most of Europe — depends on oil transported through the Strait of Hormuz.

Tensions escalated April 27 after German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

said that Washington has “no strategy” and that “very skillful” Iranians had “humiliated” the U.S. In retaliation, Trump announced that he would pull 5,000 of the 35,000 U.S. troops stationed in Germany out of the country.

Israel defends right to exist

With Tehran's air force, air defenses, rocket launchers and arms factories decimated during the war, the most immediate threat to Jews in Israel is coming from airstrikes by Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israeli troops have occupied a swath of southern Lebanon, up to 5 miles from the Israeli border, to prevent Hezbollah — trained and armed by Tehran — from launching attacks on civilians in northern Israel. Israeli troops there face daily drone, rocket and anti-tank missile attacks.

Israeli officials know that whatever deal Washington agrees to with Tehran, it will not be aimed at advancing Israel's defense from deadly Jew-hating assaults by Tehran and its proxies, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis.

Protests in Iran

With much of the central leadership of the reactionary regime in Iran killed during the war, officials of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have become the dominant faction there. The Guard Corps are not only the capitalist rulers' main repressive force, but are also the owners themselves of a significant portion of industry in Iran. They're infamous for their brutality against opponents of the regime, unionists and members of oppressed nationalities.

Despite a continuing internet blackout, stepped-up executions of both political and “common” prisoners and arrests of union activists, there is a modest but significant rise in protests by workers, retirees and political prisoners around the country since the start of the U.S.-Iran ceasefire.

“No to Execution Tuesdays” reports that seven women political prisoners at Evin Prison are being denied family visits for three weeks in retaliation for their participation in the groups' weekly prison hunger strikes and protests. Prison authorities reportedly took the action to punish the seven for singing and chanting as part of the protest.

Railworkers in Lorestan province held four consecutive days of protest against delays in getting paid and other demands. Retired steelworkers demonstrated in Isfahan and Tehran April 29 over expiration of their health insurance.

Support Israel's fight against Tehran, Hamas, Hezbollah

BY SETH GALINSKY

Well before Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom, the *Militant* explained working people must oppose Jew-hatred and why. Hamas, backed by the reactionary regime in Tehran, slaughtered 1,200 people in Israel that day because they were Jewish or worked side by side with Jews, shattering illusions that Jew-hating pogroms were a thing of the past.

As today's crisis of capitalism unfolds — amid sharpening rivalries and deepening class struggle, similar to what happened leading up to the last two world wars — Jews are used as scapegoats by reactionary forces, from the “right” and “left” of bourgeois politics, in an attempt to derail struggles by working people.

“We often see the capitalists fomenting hatred against the Jews in order to blind the workers, to turn away their attention from the enemy of working people, capital,” V.I. Lenin said in 1919 on a phonograph recording played throughout Russia for workers and peasants. Lenin was the central leader of the Bolshevik Party, which led the fight to overthrow the reactionary czarist regime in Russia and brought the working class to power.

Israel came to be in 1948 because the imperialist powers turned away Jews fleeing the Holocaust leading up to, during and after World War II. And because after Lenin's death the Stalinized Communist Parties from Russia to Spain, Germany and beyond betrayed opportunities for working people to take political power into their own hands, paving the way for Adolf Hitler and his capitalist-financed Nazi party and its “Final Solution.” Where were the Jews to go?

In today's world, if Tehran had nuclear weapons, there is no doubt it would

use them to wipe Israel off the face of the earth and with it half of the Jews in the world, along with the Arabs, Muslim and Christian, who live there.

Class divisions in Israel

Israel is the only place in the world where Jews are defended arms in hand. Israel's defense as a continuing refuge from pogroms requires dismantling Hamas and the group's command structures. Hamas will not voluntarily disarm, nor is there any force, other than Israel today, that is willing to fight to defeat it.

At the same time, Israel is a class-divided country in a capitalist state that undermines the fight against Jew-hatred.

Arab citizens of Israel — some 20% of the population — face discrimination in housing, jobs and access to public services.

As a result of Israeli control, millions of Palestinians in the West Bank face restrictions on working their farmland, lack of water, and abuse by some Israeli settlers and army units.

At a time when opposition to the death penalty is growing among working people in Iran — and the regime in Tehran has stepped up executions in a bid to silence opposition — the Israeli parliament approved a law mandating the death penalty for Palestinians from the West Bank who commit murder with the aim of “negating the existence of the State of Israel.”

These actions by Israel's capitalist government are attacks on the interests of the entire working class.

Another way Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu weakens Israel is by sowing illusions in the need for collaboration with U.S. imperialism. “America is fighting *with* Israel for a common

goal: to protect our future, to protect civilization against these barbarians,” he said March 19.

“The US ruling families, their political parties, and their government have *never* lifted a finger to defend Jews in Israel, Europe, North America, Australia, or anywhere else,” noted a March 1 statement from the Socialist Worker Party National Committee. “Nor have the US rulers *ever* acted to advance the interests and aspirations of the some two million Palestinians in Gaza, and millions more Palestinians and Arabs in Israel itself and across the region.”

“Washington has been and remains the biggest obstacle to Israel obtaining a decisive defeat of Hamas,” the statement points out. And of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Haaretz, a daily newspaper in Israel that makes excuses for Hamas' Jew-hatred, admitted in an article May 1 that support for the existence of Israel has been increasing among Palestinians.

“Israel's legitimacy in the eyes of” Arab Israelis rose in the wake of Oct. 7, professor Sammy Smooha, who has studied Jewish-Arab relations in Israel for 50 years, told the paper. “They felt more of a connection with Israel.” That's the opposite of what he expected.

Somaya Bashir, a Muslim woman and well-known bourgeois politician, told *Haaretz* about discussions she's had with other Arab citizens of Israel on the road forward.

Following an anti-Jewish terrorist attack in Hadera in 2022, “we talked about what it means for us to live in Israel, that we have no other land, and the Jews don't either, and that we need to get along together.”

In fact, defending the rights of Arab

Continued on page 9

May Day actions show potential

Continued from front page

In the U.S. many of the actions focused on the defense of immigrants, following the stepped-up targeting of workers without papers by President Donald Trump's administration. Raids and deportations have escalated, aimed at heightening the fear of expulsion among millions of undocumented workers and deepening divisions among working people. The White House has also moved to end Temporary Protected Status for more than a million refugees.

Socialist Workers Party members participated in actions around the country calling for an amnesty for all immigrants, and explaining that unions should take the lead in this fight to advance unity in the working class.



WASHINGTON — Jennifer Suarez Sura, the wife of Kilmar Ábrego García, marched in the May 1 action here. A thousand people rallied at the Washington Monument, then marched through downtown to rally at Franklin Park.

Speaking at a solidarity rally at Franklin Square, Suarez reminded the crowd that she spoke last year on the same stage. At that time Ábrego García, a SMART union apprentice sheet metal worker, had been denied due process and illegally deported to El Salvador where he was tortured in the notorious maximum security CE-COT prison. "I stand here able to say that he is finally home," she declared, "because the movement we are building has shown up time after time."

She read a message from Ábrego García in English and Spanish thanking CASA, the immigrant rights group that leads his defense, and SMART, his union that has defended him from the beginning. "On May Day, this international day, I want to remind people of the working class of the world to hold your head up high for justice and dignity no matter who tries to bring you down. Keep fighting."

Ábrego García is still battling the U.S. government's efforts to deport him to Liberia. His next hearing is May 12.

His fight shows the potential that exists for winning widespread support from working people and our unions in the fight for immigrant rights. Native-born workers have lived and worked side by side with immigrants for decades and hate to see their co-workers and neighbors threatened with deportation.

— Arlene Rubinstein



CHICAGO — Thousands of workers joined in the May Day march and rally here, many participating with immigrant rights groups or their unions. SWP members marched with a banner calling for "Amnesty for immigrant workers!" "U.S. troops out of the Midwest!" and "U.S. hands off Cuba!"

"My husband was detained by ICE in October," Jasbledi told this *Militant* correspondent. She was part of a contingent from Casa DuPage, which organizes around immigrant workers' rights in the western suburbs of Chicago.

"He's being held in Michigan. They don't give him medical care. The food is bad," she said. "They tried to deport him to Honduras, even though we're from Colombia. I'm working and trying to support our three kids while we try to get him released."

A contingent of Amazon workers who are trying to win union recognition by the Teamsters participated in this year's march. Carlos Herrera, an organizer for the campaign, said that when delivery drivers in Skokie joined the union, Amazon canceled the contract for the company they worked for.

"They claim the delivery drivers work for third-party contractors," Herrera said. "But Amazon makes all the rules, controls the hiring process and can fire them. We're now trying to organize more broadly among drivers and warehouse workers."

In 2006 some 400,000 rallied in this city, part of a wave of actions involving 2 million immigrants in over 140 cities across the country. These actions defeated the Sensenbrenner bill, which would have made it a felony to be in the U.S. without papers,



Militant/Glova Scott

Jennifer Suarez Sura, wife of Kilmar Ábrego García, read message from him to Washington, D.C., May Day action. "Hold your head high for justice and dignity and keep fighting," he said.

and helped reconquer May Day as a day for labor actions and rallies in the U.S.

— Naomi Craine



NEWARK, N.J. — "This is a 140-year battle for workers' rights," Ramon Quinones, an organizer for District Council 21 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, told the *Militant* at a celebration of International Workers' Day at the Lincoln statue here May 1.

Quinones pointed out that May Day was born in the U.S. in 1886 in the midst of a wave of labor struggles for the eight-hour day. "Today it's important that undocumented workers know they have rights and unions stand with them," he said.

Some 120 people joined the rally, sponsored by the New Jersey AFL-CIO, several area unions and the People's Organization for Progress.

"At a time of turmoil and war, it's important to march for workers' rights," retired postal worker Cliff Arrington said. "I was on the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and I'm still in the struggle!"

His friend, Wade McAllen, was also at the 1963 action. It drew 250,000 people, reflecting the growing strength of the Black-led working-class movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation. "We were fighting to get justice. Everyone was there in solidarity, including many Jews."

Both Arrington and McAllen signed to help put Joanne Kuniansky, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, on the ballot.

— Terry Evans



MONTREAL — Strikers from the Montreal-area warehouse for the Metro grocery store chain, the Lavo cleaning-products plant, and from the maple syrup products plant in Plessisville joined several thousand other union members in a May 2 march here. Quebec Hydro workers, Teamsters member railworkers, Montreal blue collar workers, postal workers and many others involved in contract battles took part.

Nine Quebec union federations and provincewide unions chartered buses from around the province for the action, built on the theme "Our rights are being trampled, we must resist."

The Quebec government recently adopted laws allowing it to severely limit the right to strike and dictate how union funds are spent and audited. In the past two years the federal government has made strikes by flight attendants, railworkers, and postal and port workers illegal.

Sylvain Champagne, on strike at Lavo against contracting out and for better wages, told the *Militant*, "There are a lot of strikes right now because people are fed up."

— Katy LeRougetel



Militant/Marie-Claire David

Striking workers, drivers at Metro supermarket chain, fighting for a better contract, joined with several thousand rail, postal and other workers at May Day action in Montreal May 2.

The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us

The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward

The global order imposed by victors of the inter-imperialist slaughter of World War II is shattering with explosive ramifications for workers and farmers worldwide. A decadeslong retreat by the working class and unions has come to an end. More and more

workers are saying, "Enough is enough! They've begun to wield the collective power of the exploited producers in response."

pathfinderpress.com

Marathon strike

Continued from page 4

came while I was there bringing bottled water for the strikers. A man came with two huge bags of sandwiches from a deli across the street.

William Normington, a worker at the Chevron refinery in nearby Richmond, joined the picket line April 29, along with his wife and daughter. "These companies are attacking us," he told the *Militant*. "They are big money. We need to build solidarity against them." Chevron negotiations are coming up, he said, and he's on the bargaining committee.

USW Local 5 contacted workers locked out by British Petroleum at their Whiting, Indiana, refinery to offer support, and to learn from their fight, Normington said.

To bring solidarity, visit the picket line at the intersection of Solano Way and Arnold Industrial Way in Martinez. Send contributions to the strike fund to USW Local 5, PO Box 349, Martinez, CA 94553-0034.



\$10

Workers and farmers in Cuba proved socialist revolution is possible

The First and Second Declarations of Havana: Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas adopted by the Cuban people is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. Between the 1960 and 1962 declarations, both given by Fidel Castro and approved by millions in assemblies across Cuba, the mass struggle deepened into a socialist revolution. The excerpts below are taken from "The Second Declaration of Havana." Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Cuba rose up. Cuba redeemed itself from the bastard tutelage. Cuba broke the chains that tied its fortunes to those of the imperial oppressor, reclaimed its wealth, reaffirmed its culture, and unfurled its sovereign banner of Free Territory and People of the Americas.

Now the United States will never again be able to use Cuba's strength against the Americas. Conversely, the United States, dominating the majority of the other Latin American states, today attempts to use the strength of the Americas against Cuba.

What is the history of Cuba if not the history of Latin America? What is the history of Latin America if not the history of Asia, Africa, and the Pacific? And what is the history of all these peoples if not the history of imperi-



The Second Declaration of Havana, delivered by Fidel Castro, was adopted by mass assemblies of workers, peasants across Cuba. In Santiago de Cuba, above, 100,000 marched Feb. 10, 1962.

alism's pitiless and cruel exploitation throughout the world?

At the end of the last century and the beginning of the present one, a handful of economically developed nations had finished partitioning the world among themselves, subjecting to their economic and political domination two-thirds of humanity forced to work for the ruling classes of the economically advanced capitalist countries. ...

Cuba affronts the imperialists in a special way. What is it that is hidden behind the Yankees' hatred of the Cuban Revolution? ...

What unifies them and incites them is fear. What explains it is fear. Not fear of the Cuban Revolution, but fear of the Latin American revolution. ... [F]ear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free peoples of the Americas.

By crushing the Cuban Revolution they hope to dispel the fear that torments them, the specter of revolution that threatens them. By eliminating the Cuban Revolution, they hope to eliminate the revolutionary spirit of the people. They imagine in their delirium that Cuba is an exporter of revolutions. In their sleepless merchants' and money lenders' minds lives the idea that revolutions can be bought, sold, rented, loaned, exported and imported like a piece of merchandise. Ignorant of the

objective laws that govern the development of human societies, they believe that their monopolistic, capitalistic, and semifeudal regimes are eternal. Educated in their own reactionary ideology — a mixture of superstition, ignorance, subjectivism, pragmatism, and other mental aberrations — they have an image of the world and of the march of history conforming to their interests as exploiting classes. ...

[A] great ideological battle unfolded between the Cuban Revolution and Yankee imperialism. Who did each side represent, for whom did each one speak? Cuba represented the people; the United States represented the monopolies. Cuba spoke for the exploited masses of Latin America; the United States for the exploiting, oligarchic, and imperialist interests. Cuba for sovereignty; the United States for intervention.

Cuba for the nationalization of foreign enterprises; the United States for even greater investments by foreign capital. Cuba for culture; the United States for ignorance. Cuba for agrarian reform; the United States for great landed estates. Cuba for the industrialization of the Americas; the United States for underdevelopment. Cuba for creative work; the United States for sabotage and counterrevolutionary terror practiced by its agents — destruction of sugarcane fields and factories, bombing by their pi-

rate planes of the work of a peaceful people. Cuba for the murdered literacy workers; the United States for the murderers. Cuba for bread; the United States for hunger. Cuba for equality; the United States for privilege and discrimination. Cuba for the truth; the United States for lies. Cuba for liberation; the United States for oppression. Cuba for the bright future of humanity; the United States for the past without hope. Cuba for the heroes who fell at Girón to save the country from foreign domination; the United States for the mercenaries and traitors who serve the foreigner against their own country. Cuba for peace among peoples; the United States for aggression and war. Cuba for socialism; the United States for capitalism. ...

To the accusation that Cuba wants to export its revolution, we reply: Revolutions are not exported, they are made by the peoples.

What Cuba can give to the peoples, and has already given, is its example.

And what does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible, that the peoples can make it, that in the contemporary world there are no forces capable of halting the liberation movement of the people.

Our triumph would never have been feasible if the revolution itself had not been inexorably destined to arise out of existing conditions in our socioeconomic reality, a reality that exists to an even greater degree in a good number of Latin American countries. ...

The duty of every revolutionist is to make the revolution. It is true that the revolution will triumph in the Americas and throughout the world, but it is not for revolutionists to sit in the doorways of their houses waiting for the corpse of imperialism to pass by. The role of Job does not suit a revolutionist.

Each year that the liberation of Latin America is speeded up will mean the lives of millions of children saved, millions of intellects saved for culture, an infinite quantity of pain spared the people. Even if the Yankee imperialists prepare a bloody drama for Latin America, they will not succeed in crushing the peoples' struggles; they will only arouse universal hatred against themselves. And such a drama will also mark the fall of their greedy and Stone Age system.

May

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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US hands off Cuba! Defend Cuban sovereignty!

Protests are needed now in the U.S. and worldwide against suffocating new sanctions Washington has imposed on Cuba, and to demand an immediate end to the U.S. rulers' oil blockade. These new measures intensify Washington's relentless economic and political war aimed at humbling the Cuban people and overturning the Cuban government.

President Donald Trump issued an executive order May 1 with broad new sanctions on any "people, entities and affiliates that support the Cuban government's security apparatus or are complicit in corruption or serious human rights violations, as well as agents, officials or supporters of the government," the White House told Reuters.

These wide-ranging measures come on top of the administration's oil blockade of Cuba, imposed Jan. 29, that has severely aggravated hardships on working people across the island. And the U.S. rulers' despicable campaign to pressure other governments to expel volunteer Cuban doctors and medical missions from their countries. They follow decades of attacks by every U.S. administration — Democrat and Republican alike.

Washington aims to advance the profit-driven interests of the U.S. capitalist rulers, the same class that puts the crisis of their system on the backs of workers here at home.

Working people in Cuba are determined to defend their country's sovereignty. Hundreds of thousands marched on May Day to show this. They don't wish to live again under the rule of dog-eat-dog capitalist exploitation and the dictates of the imperialist rulers in Washington.

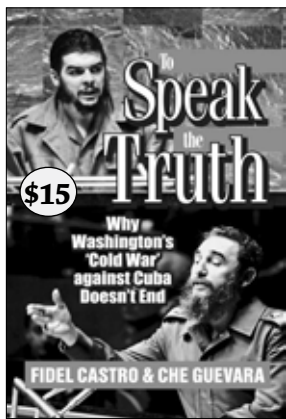
"Every show of international support, every expression of solidarity, is a seed that strengthens our conviction," explained Roberto Morales Ojeda, a member of the Cuban Communist Party's Political Bureau.

Washington does not reveal the names of those "to be designated under this punitive measure, precisely to amplify the effect of intimidation and fear on everyone else," Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla said May 2.

Building broad, public actions against the U.S. rulers' assaults is an important act of working-class solidarity. Urge your co-workers, fellow unionists and others to join you.

The roots of the U.S. rulers' assaults on Cuban toilers lie in their class hatred for the socialist revolution working people made there 67 years ago. Led by Fidel Castro, they brought down the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and took political power into their own hands.

As working people in Cuba mobilized in the streets to take control of the country's industries, banks and land, Castro made a forthright defense of the right to revolution at the United Nations in September 1960. His speech can be read in *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*.



What he describes — how working people overturned capitalist exploitation and oppression — is a powerful example for workers in the U.S. and elsewhere today as they seek a road forward in the face of the financial crises, social upheavals and spreading wars generated by the workings of capitalism.

'Militant': 'special review' of Florida prison bans

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security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system."

In the request for the meeting, *Militant* attorney David Goldstein wrote that the *Militant's* coverage of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's arrests and the protests against them in Minneapolis came as the events "dominated mainstream newspapers, television news, and social media for several weeks."

"Unless FDOC institutions banned most news media during this period (highly unlikely), inmates would have been regularly exposed to reporting on the events in Minneapolis, much of which was much more sympathetic to the confrontational tactics of the protesters than the *Militant*."

These *Militant* articles criticized confrontational actions targeting ICE personnel, instead pointing to the importance of disciplined labor-led protests that were effective. "And if the *Militant's* coverage was singled out for censorship, then the censorship would be unconstitutional," Goldstein said.

He resubmitted and asked the Literature Review Committee to consider the many letters of support the *Militant* has received, including from the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, Florida Press Association, PEN America, Amnesty Interna-

tional USA, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, La Resistencia in Washington state, and Neighbors United in Minneapolis.

Leading up to the special LRC meeting, John Studer, editor of the *Militant*, is encouraging readers "to step up efforts to talk with trade unionists, co-workers, concerned or prominent individuals, churches, and Black rights, immigrant rights, civil liberties, and community organizations and ask them to write letters opposing the ban.

"This is a serious attack on the constitutional rights of freedom of the press and free speech, for the *Militant* as well as other newspaper and book publications," Studer said. "It denies those who are behind bars the right to choose what they read and form their own opinions."

The *Militant* is currently mailed to some 360 subscribers in 168 federal, state and local prisons in 35 states.

'Needless cycle of censorship'

The Literature Review Committee overturned the impoundments of subsequent issues that had been banned for articles reporting on the fight against previous bans. In late March and early April it reversed the bans on issues 8, 9 and 10. It also overturned the impoundment by officials at Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton, Florida, of issue no. 7 for an article calling for "US hands off Cuba!"

But then authorities at Lancaster banned issues 11, 12 and 14 for exactly the same reasons given for 8, 9 and 10 — writing about the fight against the bans!

This "needless cycle of reporting, censorship appeal, review, reporting, censorship appeal, review, reporting, etc., can be laid to rest," wrote Goldstein in the *Militant's* April 23 appeal against the ban on issues nos. 11, 12 and 14.

Letters are needed now urging prison authorities to reverse the bans and cease the unconstitutional impoundments of the *Militant*. Please 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

Crisis grows as prices soar

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sics like healthcare, food and other essential needs.

Food company bosses are moving to profit from the media hype surrounding new weight-loss drugs like Wegovy. The Magnum Ice Cream Company, which makes Ben & Jerry's, for example, is now selling bite-sized, individual portions, at nearly the same price their larger packages used to go for. The bosses claim it's healthier.

And the latest scientific reports indicate the weight-loss drugs only keep working if you take them for life, otherwise you put the weight back on. Costco just began offering a "discount" plan for those people who aren't covered by insurance, only \$499 for a four-week supply. That's \$6,487 a year. For life.

If under the pressure of monthly bills you fall behind paying for utilities, you can expect an unforgiving response. These companies shut off power to 13.4 million households and gas to 1.7 million in 2024, a federal report released at the end of April said. At the same time, electricity prices nationwide last year rose more than 11% on average, and much more in some states.

The report says that "final notices" demanding immediate payment of outstanding bills were sent to customers almost 95 million times in 2024 and 27 million times to residential natural gas customers. That's fully two-thirds of all households that got electricity in 2024 and over one-third that used natural gas!

The bosses' don't care what your problems are. "Nadia Hasan, 36, has had her power disconnected at least three times in Detroit, for at least a week each time," the *Washington Post* reported April 26. "Hasan was born with cerebral palsy and has been mostly confined to her bed for a decade, since an accident in which she fell off a lift in her wheelchair, breaking her spine."

More owed on cars than they're worth

More and more workers who purchased a car find themselves sinking deeper into debt. In the first quarter of this year about 30% of those who traded in a car to buy a new one had what is called "negative equity." That is, they owe more to cover the outstanding loan and interest payments on their old car than it is worth. The gap is now as high as \$7,200 on average, a 42% jump from five years ago.

Those trying to get another car, new or used, must continue paying these old debts on top of a new loan. Monthly "car payments in excess of \$1,000 are no longer uncommon and can stretch out more than eight years," reported the *Wall Street Journal*. Default rates on car loans in March rose to the highest level since 2010, alongside more and more visits by the repo man.

Rise in 'cheap' housing

In an effort to maximize their profits, some of the largest home construction companies, like D.R. Horton and Lennar, are using cheaper materials and shoddier designs in their homes in working-class communities. These so-called no-frills homes include particleboard cabinets instead of hardwood, thinner countertops, smaller and fewer windows, cheaper doors and, well, you get the idea.

Grabbing onto the lingo of liberals today, they pitch these moves as a step toward "affordability." A spokeswoman for D.R. Horton told the *Journal*, "We have expanded the availability of smaller floor plans in some communities," using "alternative products and materials," to help people out.

This stands in sharp contrast to how real estate moguls treat the capitalist class and their upper-middle-class hangers-on looking for new digs. To find out more, just go to the *Wall Street Journal* online and visit their "Mansions" section.

'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

Support Israel's fight

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citizens of Israel — who are essential to the defense of Israel as a refuge for Jews — also strengthens the fight against Jew-hatred.

Twenty years ago there were 500 young Arabs or Bedouin who volunteered for Israel's National Service, a companion force to its army. "There are currently 4,138 Arab Israelis doing National Service," *Haaretz* reports. That's up from 3,300 before Oct. 7.

There is no party in the West Bank or Israel today that is organizing Jews, Arabs, immigrants and others to advance a course to bring the working class to power. Defending Israel today, as a refuge from Jew-hatred, is central to building that kind of party in Israel, the Middle East and throughout the world.