

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Dave Prince: Marxist, revolutionary working-class leader of the SWP
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‘Militant,’ books, spring fund all are over the top!

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom brought home May 12 the eight-week spring campaign to win 1,300 *Militant* subscriptions and sell the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. During the successful effort they also raised \$170,498 for the Militant Fighting Fund.

A total of 1,319 subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold, along with 1,917 books, exceeding the goals set by party branches.

Thousands of working people spoke with party candidates on the issues facing our class, from building support for union battles and calling for amnesty for immigrants, to fighting Jew-hatred, opposing Washington’s wars and its blockade of Cuba. At the center of the discussion is forging the kind of leadership the working class needs to make a socialist revolution.

“Workers need our own party to fight in our interests. We are going to have to organize a movement of millions to take power away from them,” Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party

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Cuba’s people stand against escalating new US sanctions

BY RÓGER CALERO

While millions of people in Cuba demonstrated in defense of the country’s sovereignty and socialist revolution May 1, the U.S. capitalist rulers imposed a new round of punishing sanctions, intensifying their efforts to topple the government.

President Donald Trump’s administration issued an executive order that day broadening sanctions against Cuban entities, and for the first time threatened non-U.S. individuals, entities and affiliates conducting business in the “energy, defense and related materiel, metals and mining, financial services ... or any other sector of the Cuban economy.”

For nearly seven decades, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, the U.S. rulers have tightened brutal measures aimed at suffocating economic, political and social gains the Cuban people made through their socialist revolution. Washington has prohibited U.S.-owned businesses and their subsidiaries subject to U.S. jurisdiction from

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Hundreds of LIRR workers rally May 9, win solidarity

Five rail unions could go on strike May 16



Militant/Brian Williams

Rally by hundreds of rail workers in Massapequa, New York, May 9. Five unions under anti-labor Railway Labor Act have been tied up in red tape and barred from striking for three years.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. — Some 500 rail workers and their supporters rallied here May 9, as a strike deadline one week away approaches, in a three-year-long fight with Long Island Rail Road bosses for a new contract with wages that keep up with rising prices.

The workers are members of five rail unions: the Brotherhood of Lo-

comotive Engineers and Trainmen, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, International Association of Machinists, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Transportation Communications Union. These 3,500 workers comprise more than 50% of the LIRR workforce.

“All expenses are going up and our wages haven’t kept up with inflation,”

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Did the Supreme Court really unravel the gains of the civil rights movement?



March for voting rights on Edmund Pettus Bridge heads for Montgomery, Alabama, in historic 1965 action. Today Democrats, Republicans fight to gerrymander away rival’s voting districts.

BY TERRY EVANS

As the 2026 midterm elections near, both of the capitalist rulers’ central political parties — the Democrats and Republicans — are looking for every angle to boost their chances to come out on top in November.

In this context, the U.S. Supreme Court in an April 29 decision overturned congressional districts drawn up

in Louisiana that would have created a second Black-majority district. Writing for the 6-3 majority, Justice Samuel Alito called this “an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.” Democrats responded with furious protests across the country.

They claimed the court had eviscerated the very heart of the Voting Rights Act, which was adopted in 1965 on the

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US war in Iran is for plunder, Israel battles to prevent another Holocaust

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington has amassed a daunting military force in the Middle East tasked with enforcing a blockade of ships to and from Iranian ports to advance the U.S. rulers’ interests. Its aim is to force Tehran to agree to U.S. demands to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and limit Tehran’s nuclear program. Since April 13, U.S. operations have forced 58 ships to turn around,

and fired on four that ignored their warnings, disabling them.

The bourgeois press of all political stripes presents the 40 days of intense airstrikes on Iran as a joint U.S.-Israel war.

This isn’t true. It is two sharply different wars.

The U.S. rulers’ military and economic war is aimed at extending their imperialist domination and plunder of the Middle East by forcing a “deal” with a wing of the regime in Iran to

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Join fight against bans on ‘Militant’ in Florida prisons

BY JANET POST

The *Militant* won another round in its fight against a series of bans on the paper by prison authorities April 30, when the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee reversed the impoundment of issues nos. 11, 12 and 14 at the Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton, Florida.

These issues had been banned for articles on the fight against the ban of

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Supporters of Marathon strikers turn out for ‘Solidarity Monday’

Union win at FedEx in Canada protects immigrants

Greek unionists bring solidarity, needed medical supplies to Cuba

BY NATASHA TERLEXI
AND BOBBIS MISAILIDIS

ATHENS, Greece — Some 35 people packed the meeting hall of the Athens publishing house Diethnes Vima April 18 to hear a report from a union delegation returning from Cuba. The group of four was organized by unionists at Athens International Airport. They took with them much-needed medical supplies gathered through the local “Proyecto ¡Salud Cuba!”

Over 30 transport workers, teachers and students contributed funds to make the trip possible. Hundreds more, including several pharmacists, gathered nearly 450 pounds of donations to take to Cuba.

“We visited five hospitals to deliver medical supplies we brought, and what impressed us was that despite a severe lack of medicine and power interruptions, the staff was giving their all to save lives,” university student Lambros Katsaros said. “There is a real dynamism to these workers who are often quite young. They work their way around shortages as best they can.”

Panagiotis Katsaros, president of the union at DHL in Athens, told the meeting about the delegation’s meeting with Osnay Miguel Colina Rodríguez, general secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), as well as leaders of the National Energy and Mine Workers Union (SNTEM).

“Workers are facing the most challenging and complex situation since the beginning of the Cuban Revolution, Colina told us, and workers are at the vanguard of finding solutions and defending Cuba and the revolu-

tion,” Katsaros said. The CTC has been organizing workers whose factories aren’t working to capacity to cultivate plots of land near their workplaces. This is happening near the airport as well.

Efraín Benítez Machirán, from the secretariat of SNTEM, said the power cuts are not only due to the oil blockade, but to the fact that “for years we have not had access to spare parts and the opportunity to modernize” due to Washington’s longstanding sanctions against Cuba. “Diverse forms of energy are being combined to serve the national power grid, a demanding operation that requires workers’ ingenuity,” he said.

“The unionists we met with helped bring home to us what it means that workers are in power in Cuba,” Katsaros said. “Imagine, unions there are not fighting against the owners, the government and anti-labor laws. They make the laws!”

The delegation was welcomed to the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples by its president, Fernando González. Vice President Noemí Rabaza told them Cuba is getting international solidarity, but “the people of Cuba are preparing and organizing to resist with the resources that they have.” Rabaza outlined the government’s plan to increase domestic crude oil production and develop ways to refine it, repair old power plants and incorporate renewable forms of energy into the electrical grid.

The delegation met with Gerardo Hernández, national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the



Amado Riol Pirez

Delegation delivers medical supplies to Dr. Mirtha Miranda Ley, third from left, director of Manuel Fajardo Teaching Surgical Hospital in Havana, one of five hospitals that got donations.

Revolution (CDR), and participated in a Saturday morning neighborhood cleanup, organized by the CDRs in the Romerillo district.

“After the job was done, Estela, the local CDR president, invited us into her home to chat and clean ourselves up,” delegation member Natasha Terlexi, who had been a longtime unionist at the Athens airport, told the meeting. “She showed us her vegetable and herb garden and the cistern in the back of her house for water. Her message was: ‘Yes, things are hard, but this is more of the same. We survive day to day by helping one another. We have confronted our neighbors to the North before and won before, and we will do it again.’” This grandmother of two, like many others the delegation spoke to, said she’s determined to do her part to defend the revolution.

While Terlexi was talking with a working-class couple, Maite and Lino, from San Miguel, a few people in the area tried to start a pot-banging protest. The power in the Romerillo district had been off for over 17 hours. “Two or three people from a building across the street joined in, but most people just went about their business,” she said. “The visitors from San Miguel said they don’t deal with the outages that way in their neighborhood. People work together and help each other. And the CDR organizes impromptu cultural events.”

“Colina emphasized that in Cuba, the working class exercises political power,” Bobbis Misailidis, a longtime union activist at DHL cargo, said. “All developments — the imperialist blockade, the dire situation facing the Cuban people, and their resistance to the intensifying attacks by the imperialists — must be understood within this context.

“We didn’t see a ‘failed state,’ in Cuba,” Misailidis said, “We saw working people constantly finding ways to defend and improve the gains they made since 1959. It is this people that the imperialists fear and underestimate, just like bosses underestimate the working class here and in other capitalist countries.

“They fear we will follow the example of the Cuban Revolution, which shows that we can build a society based not on cutthroat individualism, but on dignity, selflessness, honesty, love and human solidarity,” he said. “These are the moral values of José Martí that influenced the generation of Fidel who led the revolution.”

A lively discussion followed. Cuban Ambassador Aramis Fuente Hernández closed the event by speaking more about what the revolution had accomplished, and how they have met the U.S. rulers’ attacks for 67 years.

He urged participants to reach out and strengthen solidarity with Cuba in every way we can.

THE MILITANT

May 1 actions back union battles, immigrants’ rights

Many May Day actions across the U.S. focused on the defense of immigrants, demanding an end to deportations. The Socialist Workers Party calls for amnesty for all immigrants, explaining unions should take the lead in this fight to advance unity in the working class.

Militant/Dean Hazlewood
SWP banner demands amnesty for all workers without papers in U.S., Chicago, May 1.

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Locked-out refinery workers at British Petroleum win support

BY ILONA GERSH

WHITING, Ind. — More than 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 have been on the picket line here since March 19, after voting to reject British Petroleum's "final, best, and last" offer by 98.3%. They're picketing 24/7 at the main entrances to the refinery to protest the lockout.

The 128-year-old facility typically processes 460,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Since the lockout, production is down. This is the only union-organized BP refinery.

The union is willing to negotiate, but BP "will not lift their lockout or resume negotiating unless we accept their demands to eliminate more than 100 local jobs, cut wages across nearly all job classifications and give up our bargaining rights," a union statement says. "That's not bargaining in good faith."

When you visit the Local's hall, it's a bustling organizing center. A large table on one side of the room offers food donated by local businesses and union supporters. Across the room, the locked-out workers distribute information to union members on available benefits and sign in members and volunteers for picket duty. A van drives out to the lines every 15 minutes, picking up and dropping off pickets and making sure all the gates are covered.

Chicago and northwest Indiana are heavily industrialized areas. Thousands of USW District 7 members live and work in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Steelworkers from Local 1010 at Inland Steel, Local 1066 at U.S. Steel, USW Local 9777 in Chicago at Allied Tube and Conduit, and Local 6787 at Cleveland Cliffs in Burns Harbor have all joined the BP picket lines.

UAW Local 551 at the big Ford Chicago assembly plant has sent several delegations. In addition, members of the Chicago Teachers Union, Indiana State Teachers Association, USW Decorators Union Local 17, Painters Union in District 91, UNITE HERE Local 1 and United Food and Commercial Workers

Local 881 have all joined in.

Matt Deering, a locked-out BP worker, told the *Militant* on the picket line that he really enjoyed meeting unionists from other places. "If you give solidarity, you will get solidarity. We are stronger together," he said. "And it's important to get out and support other strikes to show we're all in this fight together." He told the *Militant* he was especially impressed with some of the smaller unions that came to lend their support, like the Decorators Union, whose members work at the McCormick Place Convention Center.

NIPSCO workers support

On April 1, close to 1,000 members of USW Local 12775 and 13796 were locked out by bosses at the Northern Indiana Public Service Company. The day before they had rejected the bosses' "last, best, and final" offer. The company demanded job and wage cuts, to be made up with massive amounts of forced overtime. The locked-out NIPSCO and BP workers joined each



Militant/Dean Hazlewood

United Auto Workers Local 551 members from big Ford assembly plant in Chicago, others bring solidarity to locked-out BP refinery workers on picket line in Whiting, Indiana, March 29.

other's picket lines.

The two USW locals at NIPSCO, organizing both field and clerical workers, recently voted to accept contracts and are now back to work.

Pickets at BP welcome volunteers. "If you want to join a picket line, come to the union hall first," said President Eric Schultz of USW Local 7-1. The union

will drive you out to join the picketing, where tents and burn barrels are up 24 hours a day.

They also appreciate donations of food and beverages at the union hall. To make a financial contribution, drop it off or mail it to United Steelworkers Local 7-1, Inc. Strike and Defense Fund, 2045 Schrage Avenue, Whiting, IN 46394.

Hundreds of LIRR workers rally May 9, win solidarity

Continued from front page

Chris Macauley, a member of IBEW Local 589 who has worked at the Long Island Rail Road for 19 years, told the *Militant*. The unions had cost-of-living-adjustment clauses in their contracts in the 1980s, but the bosses took them away, he said. "Now we must fight for cost-of-living general wage increases."

Under the anti-labor Railway Labor Act, these unionists have been tied up in red tape for three years, with mediation, cooling-off periods, Presidential Emergency Board recommendations and more preventing them from going on strike. But at this spirited rally workers made clear they're united and ready to do whatever is needed.

"I am a homeowner with a 16-year-old daughter. How am I to do this with

no raise now going on four years," said Sandra Parker, a member of the Transportation Communications Union for more than 20 years. "Some people say you shouldn't strike, but they should put themselves in our position. What else can you do but fight?"

The company and union officials had agreed to yearly retroactive pay raises back to when the contract ran out — of 3% starting in June 2023, 3% in 2024 and 3.5% the following year. But with this projected three-year contract ending a couple of months from now, the unions proposed a fourth year with a 5% wage raise.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which owns and operates the Long Island Rail Road, countered with only 3%, which could rise by another 1.5% if the unions agree to give up long-

standing work rules. "These work rules are to protect jobs and safety," Rick Jordan, a retired engineer in the BLET for 22 years, told the *Militant*. This would mean speedup, pay cuts and contracting out union jobs. Even under the Railway Labor Act, two Presidential Emergency Boards, the last one reporting on March 16, backed the unions' position on both wages and work rules. The LIRR rejected it out of hand.

In their drive for profits the LIRR bosses have been piling a greater workload on fewer workers, affecting work schedules and the ability of workers to spend time with their families.

The March 16 Presidential Emergency Board report notes, "BLET observes that when the LIRR completed its East Side Access project which allows it to go direct to Grand Central Terminal, train service increased by 40%, but the number of Engineers increased by only 16%. As a result of this short staffing, the Carrier has changed Engineers' assignments, tours of duty are longer, and Engineers are moved around more."

"Workers are often forced to work overtime because LIRR cut down on staff," Gil Lang, BLET general chairman at the LIRR, said at the rally. "Then they use that overtime to say that we make too much money and don't deserve a pay raise."

The LIRR is the busiest commuter railroad in the nation. Its ridership in 2025 totaled more than 81 million. The last time the unions struck the railroad was 32 years ago.

"LIRR workers are tired of being told to sacrifice without getting anything in return," Lang told the rally. "Without us the railroad doesn't move. This region comes to a standstill."

Seth Galinsky contributed to this article.

West Virginia chemical plant explosion kills 2, injures dozens

BY DAVE FERGUSON

NITRO, W.Va. — "I was on my way to a doctor's appointment the day of the explosion at the Catalyst Refiners plant. Even with the AC on and my windows up, I could smell the strong rotten egg odor," *Militant* supporter Earl Christy, who lives nearby, told the paper. "In the doctor's office the TV was broadcasting a special report. A woman in the waiting room told me that the ER in the nearby WVU Medicine Thomas Memorial Hospital was packed with victims."

When a tank was being cleaned prior to being decommissioned, WGN-TV reported, a violent chemical reaction took place between nitric acid and the chemical M2000A, creating deadly hydrogen sulfide gas, which affected workers instantaneously. Two were killed, another was critically injured, and as many as 30 or more, including seven first responders, had to seek medical attention. Hydrogen sulfide is known for its rotten-egg smell. Everyone in a 1-mile radius, including the campus of West Virginia State University, was told to shelter-in-place.

The plant, owned by New York-based Ames Goldsmith Corp., uses caustic chemicals to reprocess silver.

"We have to stop poisoning the air," Elvin Campbell, an Iraq military veteran with a chemical disability from his experiences there, told the *Militant* outside his house. "It's a global problem."

Sumitra Ghale, a student at West Virginia State, told the *Militant* that a school emergency siren is tested the last Wednesday afternoon of every month. When the siren sounded April 22, she said, "We thought it was just a test, a few hours earlier than usual."

Nitro is in the Kanawha River Valley just west of Charleston, West Virginia's largest city and state capital. The Kanawha Valley is known here as "Chemical Valley," due to the high concentration of chemical plants and a history of deadly industrial incidents. "My co-worker has relatives who work in one of the chemical plants," Ghale said. "He told me that there are leaks all the time and they just cover it up. This time it got out of hand and they couldn't do that. It is a management problem."

"They need a stricter policy on the handling of chemicals," said another student, who asked not to be identified. "But the companies speed up production to make more money."

The last fatal explosion in the Kanawha Valley was in December 2020, when a blast at another plant left one worker dead and three others injured. The last reported chemical release at Catalyst Refiners was a nitric acid spill in August 2013, which injured two workers. Since then, the plant has been cited for numerous violations.

"This disaster highlights once again the need for working people to use our unions to win control over conditions where we work," said Tony Lane, SWP candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. "Government agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency, block the efforts of workers to uncover the truth of what the bosses are doing. Millions saw this in the February 2023 Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which led to a catastrophe for working people throughout the region. The fact is, these disasters are entirely preventable."

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Supporters of Marathon strikers turn out for ‘Solidarity Monday’

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Over 100 unionists, family members and other supporters of the 120 workers on strike at the Marathon refinery joined an expanded picket line here May 11. The workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 5, are in their third week on strike. They plan to continue these “Solidarity Mondays” as long as it takes to win.

UNITE HERE hotel workers, IBEW electricians, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the Bakery Workers union and others turned out. Contra Costa Labor Council members inflated a giant “Scabby the Rat,” a rodent that represents the anti-union, anti-worker bosses and anyone who supports them.

The workers are demanding a four-year contract that will expire on the same date as fellow workers in the USW’s National Oil Bargaining Program. They reject the company’s claim that since the diesel produced is made out of tallow and other renewable sources, not crude oil, they shouldn’t be eligible for the “national pattern” wage increase. They’re also demanding that overtime after their 12-hour shifts be voluntary, a safety issue.

Striker Frank Payon told the *Militant* he is very concerned with untrained managers and others running the refinery. Unsafe practices there have already been verified by Cal/OSHA, he said. “These units are very dangerous. Last week they had a fire at the PBF refinery next door.”

“It’s frustrating,” he added. “We work long hours, overtime, sacrificing time with our families and yet this company doesn’t give in even a little. They are making a killing right now with the high price at the pump.”

Like many of those on strike, this is Payon’s first strike. “This is a hard fight. But now I’m seeing that the only answer is our collectivity, standing together for what is right.”

Strikers warmly welcomed all

those who joined the line, many who brought food. More solidarity is needed! Build the “Solidarity Mondays” and visit the picket line any time 24/7 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.

— Betsey Stone

Union win at FedEx in Canada protects immigrants

MONTREAL — After a yearslong battle, 52 workers in Fort McMurray, Alberta, have succeeded in unionizing their workplace, becoming the first FedEx unit to win union certification in Canada. They’re now members of Teamsters Local 362.

The Canada Industrial Relations Board issued its union certification order May 1. They join thousands of other parcel delivery workers at UPS and Purolator who have been Teamsters union members for years. The union officials will now begin negotiating their first contract.

At the heart of the union recognition fight were the rights of the 31 workers in the FedEx unit who are temporary foreign workers or international foreign students. The FedEx bosses claimed they don’t have the right to join the union along with workers who are citizens or have permanent residency in Canada. But in an important victory for workers’ unity and solidarity, the certification order includes these workers.

Teamsters’ union officials charged that the FedEx bosses’ position is “morally indefensible.”

“FedEx tried to divide these workers along the lines of where they were born,” Francois Laporte, president of Teamsters Canada, said in a May 2 release. “Today, they stand together as Teamsters, and they will sit together at the bargaining table. This is a May Day victory in every sense of the word.”

The FedEx couriers earn approximately \$3 an hour less than UPS and Purolator workers. Also, 3% of their



Militant/Eric Simpson

Members of United Steelworkers Local 5 on strike against Marathon refinery in Martinez, California, mount expanded solidarity picket May 11 in fight for a raise, end to forced overtime.

wages are put into their pensions, while the pensions of the other package delivery workers are fully funded by their employer. FedEx workers are required to lift packages up to 100 pounds, whereas two workers would do the heavy lifting at UPS and Purolator.

Some of the FedEx temporary workers have “closed” work permits, meaning their right to stay in Canada depends on keeping their jobs. Because of their precarious status, they need union protection against abuses by the FedEx bosses.

Winning a first contract will need the solidarity of the labor movement as a whole, as well as all defenders of immigrant rights.

Solidarity messages can be sent to Christopher Monette, director of Public Affairs, Teamsters Canada at cmonette@teamsters.ca.

— John Steele

Strikers win new contract, gains at Chicago’s Brookfield Zoo

CHICAGO — On May 7 nearly 200 workers, including animal care specialists, craftworkers, custodians, groundskeepers, maintenance workers, aides and others, members of Teamsters Local 727, won a new contract after two days on strike

against the Chicago Zoological Society, which operates the Brookfield Zoo here.

“The big three demands were staffing, keeping our union healthcare, and fair wages,” John Coli Jr., secretary-treasurer of the local, told the *Militant*. “Staffing has been cut down to a level that is not safe. While we are on strike, some of our members have stayed in the zoo to take care of the animals because management claims they have no one who can do it. These brothers and sisters want to be on the picket line with us, but the zoo owners use our moral values against us to keep them working. There are 3,400 animals at the zoo and only 150 animal care specialists.

“The zoo had refused to pay \$800 a month for the union healthcare plan,” he added. “The premium is still less than the company plan. And they hadn’t offered any alternative.”

The union won its key demands, and not one member crossed the picket line. The same day the strike began, Local 727 filed in federal court to get an injunction holding the zoo accountable for any illness or injury to the animals.

“While it is unfortunate that it took a strike and injunction to get the zoo to see reason, today’s tentative agreement is a major win for our members,” said Coli. “The terms provide additional staffing, wage increases totaling 20% over the life of the contract, continuation of the 100% employer-paid union healthcare, and more.”

— Steve Warshell

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

May 21, 2001

Immigrant workers are taking an increasingly important part in fighting for the unity of the working class. In face of the brutality of the capitalist rulers and their stepped-up harassment of immigrants, immigrant workers are taking the moral high ground.

As the U.S. economic boom slumps into stagnation, and the speculative frenzy of stock investment contracts, the rulers’ assault on our wages, working conditions, and social benefits will deepen. They will work to pit different sections of our class against each other, to weaken and divide the labor movement.

The militancy of workers organizing unions in slaughterhouses, laundries, and other plants around the country and resisting the brutal conditions the bosses try to impose on them, and the growing boldness of the movement for immigrant rights are signs that the rulers have a problem.

THE MILITANT

May 21, 1976

As the *Militant* was going to press we learned of the dismissal of firearms and explosives charges against Dennis Banks and three other members of the American Indian Movement. This case was a political witch-hunt from the word go. It took the judge all of eighteen minutes to throw it out of court.

This victory was not a gift of the “American system of justice.” The dismissal was won through the rallies and demonstrations demanding that charges be dropped, and the glaring light of publicity these protests focused on the case.

The real criminals are the rulers of this country. For years they have carried out a war against Indian activists, using frame-ups, Cointelpro-style disruption, and even assassinations. The judge’s decision exposes what the government is doing. It also shows that the government’s drive can be fought and defeated.

THE MILITANT

May 21, 1951

After the end of World War II the people of the U.S. and the whole world hoped for an era of peaceful collaboration between nations — but the *Militant* warned on Aug. 18, 1945 that “There Is No Peace!”

After six years of World War II, and the emergence of the U.S. power as dominant in the world, there has not been a moment’s peace. Two ravaging world wars prove that capitalism cannot reorganize the world to live in peace. To establish a society which will enrich human life, a new system is needed.

It remains for the American people to draw the conclusion from the present impasse that the cause for war is the capitalist system. A socialist America, freely exchanging its gigantic production of goods with the rest of the world, exporting its science and knowledge and technique instead of guns and planes and bombs. That is the only road to peace.

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‘Militant’ drive is over the top!

Continued from front page candidate for U.S. Senate, told Eunice Adams while she campaigned outside the bustling International Longshoremen’s Association hiring hall in Miami May 9. Adams, 64, has worked on the docks for 35 years.

“You have my vote,” Adams replied. A friend with her asked about the recent Supreme Court decision and redrawing of the congressional voting districts in Florida.

“The Republicans are trying to manipulate things in their favor. Democrats do the same thing.” Fruit said. “This is an example of their two-party charade. The SWP explains workers must organize ourselves independently of them both and make a socialist revolution to put our class in power, as they did in Cuba. That was a ‘real revolution,’ as Malcolm X put it.”

Adams subscribed to the *Militant* and purchased a copy of the pamphlet *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. She wished Fruit well in her campaign.

Another longshoreman approached the campaign table with a dollar in hand to get the latest copy of the *Militant*. He told SWP member Lisa Rottach that he didn’t know much about the struggle in the Portuguese colonies in Africa when she showed him the new book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban combatant Victor Dreke. He was interested and bought a copy. Seven others bought copies of the *Militant*.

Over the eight-week campaign Kiera Fernandez, who works at a daycare center in Washington, D.C., began regularly taking part in campaigning with the SWP. “The campaign teams are a good way to participate,” she told the *Militant*. The paper supports working people’s struggles and “only through this can we learn

and continue to learn,” she added. Fernandez says she looks to the *Militant* for coverage on the Cuban Revolution. “When other groups’ coverage about Cuba died down, the SWP sent a reporting team to Havana,” she said. “That coverage reminds us of the revolution’s strength and resilience — why we defend it.” Fernandez said she liked the *Militant*’s 25, 50, and 75 Years Ago column. “I like being educated about the party’s continuity and that column makes it available.” She is currently studying *The Fight Against Jew Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* to learn more about the SWP’s continuity on this crucial question.

Margaret Trowe, the SWP candidate for governor of California, and SWP member Joel Britton campaigned May 7 at the afternoon shift change at the Ghirardelli chocolate factory in San Leandro where Trowe used to work. Many members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 125 stopped their cars to talk with her and take a flyer.

“I heard you’re running for governor,” warehouse worker Gabby Lemus told Trowe. “I’ll vote for you!” Trowe and Britton told workers about the oil workers who are on strike against Marathon, and found some who knew about it and were building solidarity. One worker who comes from a family of Portuguese immigrants bought *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*. About a dozen workers picked up a copy of the *Militant* or said they would renew their subscriptions.

Trowe was interviewed on Laney College KGPC radio’s “The Bottom Half” program by Brando Williams April 30. Williams asked Trowe about the campaign of Don J. Grundmann, who is running on a virulent antisemitic program. In the state’s “Voter Guide” he repeats Jew-hating conspiracies that Israel engineered the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“I am the only candidate for governor who mentions the fight against Jew-hatred and defends Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews,” Trowe said. “Jew-hatred is a rising problem under capitalism and it is being normalized in the Democratic and Republican parties.” At the same time, she told the program listeners she opposes “calls to censor people for expressing antisemitic ideas because that will ultimately be used against the working class.”

We’re happy to report the Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party was informed May 8 that Jacob Perasso is certified on the ballot for U.S. Congress in the 9th District.

To join in getting out the *Militant*, contact the distributor nearest you, listed on page 10.



Militant/Mary Martin Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for California governor, with strikers on picket line at JBS plant in Greeley, Colorado, April 2. The SWP uses *Militant*, its campaigns to support union fights.



Above, Paul Mailhot, left, SWP candidate for governor of New York, joined marchers on May Day in Manhattan. At similar actions across the country, SWP members called for amnesty for all immigrants, explaining unions should take the lead to unify the working class. The party campaigned for U.S. troops out of the Mideast and U.S. hands off Cuba. At right, Arlene Rubinstein, left, speaking with participant at April 29 action at U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to defend Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Syrians.



Militant/Mike Shur

Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, Fighting Fund March 14 - May 12 (final chart)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	41	40	40	\$9,500	\$10,678
Chicago*	65	67	65	67	\$13,500	\$14,115
Cincinnati*	35	37	35	38	\$5,000	\$5,652
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	71	70	70	\$5,000	\$5,044
Los Angeles	90	98	90	125	\$14,000	\$14,116
Miami	40	56	40	57	\$5,500	\$5,768
Minneapolis	65	70	65	74	\$6,700	\$7,540
N. New Jersey	70	70	70	77	\$7,500	\$8,454
New York	80	82	80	102	\$20,500	\$21,676
Oakland	80	89	80	128	\$15,000	\$16,016
Philadelphia	40	41	40	41	\$6,000	\$6,385
Pittsburgh*	45	53	45	60	\$7,500	\$7,547
Seattle	60	64	60	63	\$15,000	\$15,121
Washington	55	57	55	86	\$4,500	\$4,504
Other		63		633		\$5,825
Total U.S.	835	959	835	1,661	\$135,200	\$148,441
Prisoners		147				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	50	45	60	\$3,000	\$4,275
Manchester*	40	43	30	38	\$1,300	\$1,560
Total U.K.	85	93	75	98	\$4,300	\$5,835
Canada	80	83	90	105	\$11,000	\$11,022
Australia	30	37	30	53	\$4,500	\$5,200
Total	1,030	1,319	1,030	1,917	\$155,000	\$170,498
SHOULD BE	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	\$165,000	\$165,000
*Raised goal						

Join in building the Socialist Workers Party 2026 campaign

California Margaret Trowe, governor Laura Garza, mayor of Los Angeles

Florida Rachele Fruit, U.S. Senate Nelson Gonzalez, governor

Georgia Sam Manuel, U.S. Senate

Illinois Naomi Craine, U.S. Senate

Minnesota Kevin Dwire, U.S. Senate

New Jersey Joanne Kuniansky, U.S. Senate Craig Honts, U.S. Congress

New York Paul Mailhot, governor Willie Cotton, lieutenant governor

Ohio John Hawkins, U.S. Senate

Pennsylvania Ved Dookhun, governor Tony Lane, lieutenant governor Abby Tilsner, U.S. Congress Sergio Zambrana, U.S. Congress

Texas Alyson Kennedy, governor Dennis Richter, U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. James Harris, delegate to Congress Samir Hazboun, mayor

Washington state Jacob Perasso, U.S. Congress Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Congress

US war on Iran is for plunder

Continued from front page
advance Washington’s goals at the expense of its rivals, especially Beijing.

Israel is fighting a defensive war to prevent Tehran and its allies from launching more pogroms to eliminate the Jews in Israel, close to half of the Jews in the world. A new Holocaust. Israel’s defense requires it to end Tehran’s drive to acquire nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

The U.S. now has more than 50,000 troops in the region, including thousands of paratroopers and other combat forces, two aircraft carriers and associated strike groups.

It is working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran who are bearing the brunt of the war. Prices of basic necessities have skyrocketed. More than a million people have lost their jobs. If the blockade continues, Tehran could be forced to shut down oil wells, with further devastating consequences for workers.

Since consolidating a counter-revolution in 1983 against the mass popular 1979 uprising in Iran that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah, the reactionary rulers in Iran have used their state power to advance their goal of destroying Israel, a key part of extending their reactionary influence throughout the region.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran’s first Supreme Leader, called Israel “a usurper state” and “our enemy.” His successor Ali Khamenei repeatedly called Israel “a cancerous tumor” that must be cut out.

Tehran, ‘axis’ allies: Destroy Israel

Tehran put together its so-called axis of resistance — Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen, and armed militias in Iraq — to encircle Israel.

The Houthi flag says, “God is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse the Jews, Victory to Islam.” Hamas’ founding document says that Israel must be “obliterated.”

The 1985 “open letter” that serves as Hezbollah’s program says that “the Jew” is the biggest enemy Muslims face.

These are not just words.

Hamas, Hezbollah ready new attacks

Without Tehran’s funding, training and weapons, Hamas could not have carried out the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom, the biggest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust in World War II. Despite the serious blows Israel has dealt Hamas, Hezbollah and Tehran since

then, none of them have backed off from their long-range goal.

Hamas is reasserting its dictatorial rule in Gaza, torturing and killing opponents there and trying to rebuild its capacity to attack Jews in Israel.

Just days after the start of the war against Iran, Hezbollah began firing missiles and drones at Israel. To push back the assault, Israeli troops occupied a wide swath of southern Lebanon and targeted Hezbollah command posts and weapons stores in the north.

When President Donald Trump’s administration negotiated an initial ceasefire with Tehran, which began April 7, the Iranian regime demanded a halt to Israel’s offensive against Hezbollah. After first saying this was not part of the agreement, Trump announced April 17, “Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer.” He added, “They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the USA.”

While Israel did not completely halt its military operations, it scaled back, especially in northern Lebanon. The Trump administration continues to insist that Israel “show restraint.”

If President Trump asked Israel to end its war on Hezbollah, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was asked in an interview aired on CBS’ 60 Minutes May 10, would Israel accept?

Netanyahu replied that Trump “understands what I’m saying.”

“They [Hezbollah] rocket our cities all the time. They rocket our communities,” Netanyahu said. “We want to get rid of that danger.” In other words, the answer is, “No.”

In the latest confirmation of the serious threat, during a five-day operation near the Litani River in Lebanon, Israel Defense Forces troops found underground compounds with ammu-



Narges Mohammadi in December 2024 taken for medical treatment during previous imprisonment. Regime has jailed thousands, stepped up death penalty, hoping to prevent mass protests.



ZUMA Press/Abed Rahim Khatib

Hamas thugs in Khan Younis, October 2025. Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon are moving to rebuild, plan future attacks on Jews, Israel, as part of Tehran’s “axis of resistance.”

nition, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles that could rapidly reach Israel. “It was a full preparation for a raid,” one Israeli commander told Ynet News. “Their intention was clear: to

go up into our communities.”

For the U.S. rulers, the fight against Tehran’s proxies is just a bargaining chip. For Israel it’s a life-or-death question.

Release of Narges Mohammadi aids fight to free Iran’s political prisoners

BY SETH GALINSKY

The international campaign to free political prisoner Narges Mohammadi won an important victory May 10 when authorities in Iran transferred her to a hospital in Tehran. They had refused to relocate her for 10 days despite her deteriorating health.

Mohammadi, winner of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize, has been arrested 14 times since 1998 for her courageous opposition to the reactionary regime in Iran, speaking out against the death penalty, for freeing all political prisoners and for political rights.

She was rearrested Dec. 12, 2025, after addressing a memorial in Zanjan for

human rights lawyer Khosrow Alikordi, who died under suspicious circumstances. Despite her well-known heart condition, plainclothes agents beat Mohammadi during her arrest. She was then denied adequate medical care in prison. In the face of growing international calls to get her urgent treatment, prison authorities sent her to the hospital in Zanjan, but her lawyers and family insisted she needed care she could only get with her own doctors in Tehran.

Mohammadi’s “temporary transfer is not enough,” said Taghi Rahmani, her husband, who lives in Paris. “Narges must never be returned to the conditions that broke her health.”

Mohammadi’s release boosts the fight to free all of the thousands of political prisoners in Iran.

The bourgeois clerical regime has been stepping up the use of the death penalty in the face of deepening opposition to its rule by working people and oppressed nationalities. “In the shadow of war, [the regime] has executed 23 political-security prisoners since the beginning of the year,” said the “No to Execution Tuesdays” campaign in a May 12 statement. It organizes weekly hunger strikes by political prisoners.

Fearful that funerals could turn into mass protests against the regime’s brutal assaults, prison authorities have refused to turn many of the bodies of those it executes over to their families.

Kurds, Baluchis and other oppressed nationalities are disproportionately victims of the death penalty. Among those facing execution are at least 21 Baluchis, who authorities accuse of “corruption on earth” and “membership in opposition groups.”

All of these prisoners “have been tried through unfair and opaque judicial processes,” said the May 12 statement. Forced confessions extracted through torture are common.

“We call for the abolition of the death penalty from the country’s criminal laws in general,” said three Islamic student groups at the University of Tehran in a May 10 statement. Amid the “horri-fying” step-up in executions of political prisoners in the wake of the war, “we demand the immediate halt of executions connected to the recent protests.”

sion in Iran. Elsewhere synagogues have been targeted by arsonists as well.

The deadliest attack so far was the one at Heaton Park synagogue last October. A jihadist rammed his car into a Yom Kippur gathering there, then assaulted Jews with a knife, killing a Jewish man. A second defender of the synagogue was accidentally killed by police gunfire.

Responsibility for some of the recent attacks has been claimed by Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamia, a group reported to be linked to the regime in Tehran. The U.K. government seized on this to dismiss the attacks as coming from a foreign threat. “Our message to Iran, or

Continued on page 12

Protest demands action from gov’t after stabbings of Jews

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

LONDON — Thousands gathered outside the prime minister’s office at No. 10 Downing Street May 10 in response to a call by Jewish organizations and other opponents of antisemitism to show their determination to fight escalating Jew-hatred in the U.K.

The action was sponsored by the Campaign against Antisemitism and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Rally speakers included Pat McFadden, the Labour government’s Work and Pensions Secretary, and Kemi Badenoch, leader of the Conservative Party opposition.

On April 29 two Jewish men were stabbed in broad daylight in Golders

Green, a well-known Jewish area in north London. Moshe Shine, 76, and Shloime Rand, 34, had to be hospitalized with serious injuries.

“After the horrors of the terror atrocities in Heaton Park [in Manchester] and Sydney last year have come a succession of attacks on our community in the past few months,” the *Jewish News* and *Jewish Chronicle* said in a joint editorial building the protest.

On March 23 three masked thugs set fire to four ambulances belonging to Jewish charity Hatzola in Golders Green. Then there was an arson attack on a memorial wall in Golders Green covered with photos of victims of Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom and of repres-

Moscow's war threatens a new nuclear disaster at Chernobyl

BY ROY LANDERSEN

On April 26, 1986, an explosion and a 10-day fire destroyed reactor No. 4 of the Chernobyl power plant in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, unleashing the world's worst nuclear catastrophe to date. The bureaucratic Stalinist regime in Moscow was responsible for this deadly disaster and tried to cover it up, jeopardizing the safety and lives of millions.

Moscow's four-year brutal invasion of Ukraine has revived fears that this nuclear danger is far from over. Russian troops occupied the Chernobyl site briefly in 2022, churning up its radioactive dust. Despite a supposed ceasefire, two Russian drones crashed in a forest in the Chernobyl exclusion zone May 8, setting off a large wildfire. Ukrainian firefighters working to contain the blaze were impeded by Russian drones overhead and mines or munitions left behind four years ago, as Moscow's forces there were pushed out of Ukraine.

A Russian drone scored a direct hit on the reactor site Feb. 14, 2025. It punctured a sizable hole in the huge dome installed in 2019 to contain the radioactive remains. A serious fire blazed for days inside, compromising the protective outer shield. (See "40 years on, Moscow's war risks a new Chernobyl nuclear disaster" in April 20 *Militant*.)

"When the drone struck the arch, it felt like the world could return to 1986," Liudmyla Liubyva, 71, told The Associated Press as she attended a 40th anniversary vigil. It has been held annually in nearby Slavutych, where hundreds who still work at the Chernobyl plant live. Her husband, a former worker at Chernobyl, can no longer attend, having lost his ability to walk after heavy radiation exposure. "We all — young and old alike — must protect our land, because it is so vulnerable."

The Soviet design of Chernobyl's nuclear reactors lacked basic safety features, including a protective outer shell to contain any radiation leak, let alone an explosion. Moscow was callously indifferent as thousands of the plant's workers and all its volunteer firefighters, with little or no protection, selflessly fought to contain the radioactive fire. Scores died within months or in the following years, with many more suffering radiation poisoning. Forty years later, few of the first responders still survive.

About 600,000 other Ukrainian workers, mostly volunteers known as "liquidators," came to Chernobyl to try to clean up and bury the radioactive debris. Many of them were badly affected.

Volodymyr Yakubets told the April 27 *Kyiv Post* that in 1986 "we did not hear about the accident right away. Maybe on the third day ... but it was presented as just an accident, as if nothing serious. Then people began to feel it in their health ... people started getting sick a lot."

Until the radioactive cloud reached Sweden, 800 miles away, and triggered alarms, the Kremlin tried to cover up the disaster. Telling the whole truth about the scale of the disaster was illegal at that time and for years later. Moscow treated working people like cattle, or-

dering hundreds of thousands to leave with little planning or resources. Soviet doctors refused to diagnose, let alone treat, radiation sickness.

The one country that selflessly came to the aid of the victims of the disaster was Cuba. Fidel Castro responded to a request for help by the Communist party youth there. Cuba created special medical facilities at Tarara where thousands of Ukrainian youth were able to get treatment at no cost.

Efrem Lukatsky, a journalist whose pictures have catalogued four decades of the meltdown and its aftermath, told AP April 22 that small tentative protests began to develop as more of the truth about the disaster and its consequences leaked out. These "soon grew into larger demonstrations demanding answers — rallies that in turn formed the nucleus of Ukraine's independence movement."

The crisis accelerated the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It impelled rising struggles of working people in the former Soviet republics, especially Ukraine, which led to their independence in 1991.

2014: 'Militant' reporters in Ukraine

In 2014, a powerful working-class uprising, with thousands occupying the Maidan Square in Kyiv, overthrew the dictatorial pro-Moscow government of Viktor Yanukovich. Russian President Vladimir Putin responded by seizing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, despite mass protests by the indigenous Crimean Tatar people and other Ukrainians

Putin's Ukraine war is ruining Russian working people

BY ROY LANDERSEN

For the first time in almost two decades, Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual Victory Day parade celebrating the Soviet Union's defeat of Germany in World War II had no tanks or ballistic missiles in Moscow's Red Square May 9. And only a handful of foreign dignitaries attended the subdued ceremony, most from Moscow's few close allies.

Cracks are showing in Putin's regime as it becomes clearer that he isn't anywhere near victory in Ukraine, in a war already longer than the Second World War slaughter.

Putin has used the national holiday to try to build support for his war. But he has no recent victories in Ukraine to celebrate, in fact Moscow has lost ground.

Russian casualties are growing as Ukrainian forces have built an edge in drone warfare. In response, the Kremlin is stepping up its aerial barrage against civilians in Ukraine's cities in hopes of demoralizing the population. But Ukrainian working people are determined to defend their country's sovereignty.

In April Moscow lost over 35,000 troops killed or maimed, the highest toll in five months in a row where their casualties exceeded their ability to recruit replacement forces.

Russian soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces report that Moscow is sending disabled soldiers back to the front lines. The May 11 *Wall Street Journal* carried an interview with Vhacheslav Kudryashev, a Russian soldier captured by Ukraine. He described how he had been badly wounded in 2023, his skull cracked and part of his right



AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky

April 26, 1989, rally in Chernobyl, Ukraine, on third anniversary of nuclear meltdown. Signs say, "Down with secrets of Chernobyl!" and ask "Who is responsible?" These protests grew, joining with other struggles to forge Ukrainian independence movement.

there. The Kremlin infiltrated Russian soldiers to occupy parts of the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces in the east.

In June 2014, a reporting team to Ukraine led by the *Militant's* current editor, John Studer, visited the Chernobyl exclusion zone at the invitation of the ATOM Trade Union there. The team met with some of the liquidators, including union rail workers and coal miners, members of the Free Trade Unions of Ukraine.

"The town where we lived before, Pripjat, was uninhabitable because of the radiation," Viktoria Babek, vice chair of the union, told Studer. "After Chernobyl, people came from all over the former Soviet Union. They built Slavutych and joined in efforts to clean up the area after the disaster."

Recently Babek, who still works at

Chernobyl, shared her memories of living in Pripjat. She told the April 26 *Kyiv Post* that even though she wasn't from "a family of privileged party members," Pripjat wasn't like any other Soviet city. There were no shortages or queues. But "as soon as it became clear on the 26th that something was wrong," she said, her mother immediately put her and her sister on the train to Kyiv.

At the request of the nuclear workers union, the *Militant* team visited Slavutych in 2014 for the town's 26th anniversary.

The residents there, like elsewhere, were in good spirits because of "the big events in the Maidan," Sergey Akamovych, a leader of ATOM, told Studer. "Ukrainians are more conscious, more self-confident" as a result of the popular uprising against Moscow's domination.

forearm damaged.

But last year he was back to the battlefield, in a head-on infantry assault on Ukrainian positions. This type of assault favored by Moscow today, the *Journal* said, "is yielding meager gains and heavy losses for Russian troops."

Kudryashev said he and his one comrade lost their radio, and with no idea of where they were and no contact with their unit, they stayed put. "The Ukrainians could have killed us right there," he said, but took them captive instead.

The Kremlin is now trying to mount colossal pressure on Russian university students to join up.

Moscow is also pushing to con young men from abroad with false offers of high-paid work and Russian passports to try to entice them to sign up. From former Soviet Republics in Central Asia and across the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, thousands have been lured to Russia, then coerced into the army and off to Ukraine.

The Kremlin's high command treats these immigrants like it treats native-born soldiers, as cannon fodder. Kyiv has captured prisoners of war from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Yemen, the Republic of Togo, Morocco, Egypt, Brazil and China.

Cracks widen in Putin's regime

Ukraine's military has developed drones capable of reaching deeper into Russian territory, hitting key oil refineries and storage facilities, as well as arms manufacturing and military sites.

Since mid-April Ukrainian missiles have hit four times one of Russia's key

oil export hubs, the Tuapse oil terminal on the Black Sea coast. Fires near the Russian resort town filled the skies with heavy black smoke and oily rain, sparking angry recriminations from residents against the central authorities.

With the invasion of Ukraine stalemated, Russia's war economy shrank this year as the regime has burnt through its financial reserves. Labor shortages have grown while inflation spirals. After years of relying on military spending to boost economic growth, industrial production and construction declined in January and February.

The popularity of the Putin regime is falling. Those speaking out against the government and the effects of its war economy include people formerly connected to the regime.

"The scale of dissatisfaction is colossal," Ilya Romeslo, a former Kremlin lawyer who has turned on Putin, told the May 6 *Washington Post*. Romeslo was involved in Putin's prosecution of late opposition leader Alexei Navalny. He says he decided to speak out now because "it would lead other people to speak too."

"A very big battle for power is going on" in the deepest crisis in the Kremlin since the 1990s, Remeslo said. As Putin retreats to his bunkers, his political police are tightening repression and censorship, fearing protests may rock his regime.

Remeslo was briefly confined to a St. Petersburg, Russia, psychiatric ward after criticizing Putin in March. Freed, he spoke out again, saying, Putin "is doing everything to lead the country into an abyss."

Contribute to the
'Militant' online at
themilitant.com

Dave Prince: Marxist, revolutionary working-class leader of the SWP

New York meeting of 160 celebrated Prince’s life and political contributions over six decades

BY STEVE CLARK
AND JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — “Above all, Dave Prince was a Marxist, a working-class revolutionist,” Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, told participants at a March 22 event here celebrating Prince’s life and political contributions building a proletarian party in the United States. Sharing the platform were SWP leaders and co-chairs of the meeting, Mary-Alice Waters and Paul Mailhot, along with six other speakers.

The celebration, sponsored by the party’s Northern New Jersey and New York branches, was attended by 160 people.

Prince, who joined the SWP in Cleveland in 1965, died on Jan. 25 at age 82, after a long battle against cancer. A member of the party’s National Committee since 1977, he shouldered a wide variety of central leadership responsibilities for the SWP’s party-building activity and international work. He helped organize and lead the financing of the party nationally, as well as the editorial preparation, printing, and circulation of books on working-class politics and program.

Over his more than 60 years in the party, he was a cadre and leader of eight party branches in six states, as well as a member of the United Auto Workers, International Union of Electronic Workers, and Machinists union. He was a worker-correspondent for this news-weekly, the *Militant*.

“In carrying out any leadership assignment he took on,” Barnes said, “no one was more conscientious. But Dave never fell back on the excuse of a ‘division of labor’ when he spotted a political opportunity not being acted on, or some other challenge that had to be addressed. I’d get a succinct memo about the stakes for the party. And some ideas on what to do about it.”

Most mornings, Barnes said, he’d find an email from Prince in his inbox. According to Vivian Sahner, Dave’s companion for decades, it wasn’t unusual for him to have sent off one or two notes before even brewing the morning coffee.

Those memos, Barnes said, frequently drew on Prince’s broad reading of the Marxist classics: works by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Farrell Dobbs and other



Militant/Terry Coggan
Dave Prince, a central leader of SWP and its international work, speaks in Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 24, 2022, celebrating merger of Communist League forces in Sydney, Australia.



Militant photos by Samir Hazboun
Panel at New York meeting March 22 celebrating life and political contributions of Dave Prince. Inset, Jack Barnes, national secretary of SWP who collaborated closely with Prince in party leadership work for decades, with Mary-Alice Waters and Paul Mailhot, co-chairs of the meeting.

SWP leaders. The excerpts never came without a thought-out purpose. “It was pure politics with Dave,” Barnes said. “Pure practical politics.”

“Dave was always looking toward what was coming next in the class struggle.” More and more often today, Barnes added, what’s next are war moves and military threats by the U.S. imperialist rulers, Democrats and Republicans alike. That’s a product of the deepening capitalist crisis worldwide and sharpening competition among imperialist powers and other regimes of the exploiters, from Beijing and Moscow to Tehran. “It’s a product of their rivalry over the exploitation and control of sources of oil and other resources, profitable markets, and low-wage labor,” he said.

Barnes told the meeting that when he woke up Feb. 28 to news that Washington had launched a war on Iran, he knew right away that the SWP National Committee needed to issue a rapid statement demanding, “U.S. Out of the Middle East!” But for a minute or so, he said, he was still expecting a note from Dave in his email.

“‘There’s not going to be a note or a phone call this time,’ a comrade reminded me.”

“For Dave, the question was never just what’s coming next,” Barnes said. “It was *what should we do* next. He was a deadly enemy of procrastination.”

“Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin’s *What Is To Be Done?* wasn’t only one of Dave’s favorite books. From its title to its content, that 1902 work was the guide to working together as members of a revolutionary centralist party — a party whose members, in Lenin’s words, are professional revolutionaries, regardless of what they do for a living. That was where Lenin explained the kind of party needed by revolutionary-minded workers, as well as the responsibilities of its members.

“Dave worked at being objective with every party member, supporter, or

anyone else he worked with,” Barnes said. “There wasn’t a spiteful or gossip bone in his body.”

A movement, not a doctrine

Prince was a voracious reader. “He had some favorites he’d often refer to in his notes,” Barnes said. One from the early years of Marx and Engels’ collaboration was an October 1847 article by Engels titled, “The Communists and Karl Heinzen.” It was written as the two young revolutionists were drafting a program for a new working-class organization, the Communist League, that they’d been recruited to by a group of veteran revolutionary workers from Germany, France, and elsewhere in Europe. “I shall never forget the deep impression that these three real men made upon me, who was then still only working to become a man,” Engels wrote some 40 years later.

A bourgeois radical named Karl Heinzen was publicly slandering the communists, saying they were trying to impose sectarian principles on the broader struggle for political freedom, instead of joining in that fight. Barnes said that Prince was unshakably committed to Engels’ reply: “Communism is not a doctrine but a *movement*, it proceeds not from principles but from *facts*. ... [It is] the theoretical summation of the conditions for the liberation of the proletariat.”

Two months later, in December 1847, that line of march was formally adopted as the bedrock of the organization’s new program, what’s now known as the Communist Manifesto.

Prince also returned time and again to Lenin’s *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, written in 1916 amid the first imperialist world slaughter. As Prince was quick to remind us, it remains a crucial guide for class-conscious workers in responding to what’s unfolding in today’s world — whether Washington’s assault on Venezuela, its brutal energy blockade of Cuba, or its war against Iran for oil and plunder of resources and labor in the Middle East.

Whether during World War I or today, as the ruling class marches us toward World War III, imperialism is not and never will be — in Lenin’s words — a “policy preferred by finance capi-

tal.” It is not a *policy*. It’s not something that can be “reformed” by some “progressive” wing of the capitalists, as class-collaborationist “socialists” of that time or today try to hoodwink working people into believing.

Despite what Lenin called “the silly little fable” about a more “peaceful” capitalism, its wars are a result of “the violent struggles among the imperialist states” to divide and redivide the world. *Redivide* — that’s where the wars come from, Barnes said. “That cycle can only be broken by the building of revolutionary working-class parties that can lead the successful conquest of workers power in one country after another. That is, by advances of the world socialist revolution.”

Over the past year, Barnes said, Prince had been centrally involved with other party leaders in preparing a new edition of *In Defense of Marxism* — a collection of articles and letters by Leon Trotsky from 1939-40, as he led a decisive political struggle in the SWP at the opening of imperialism’s Second World War. Trotsky deals with the question of how to build a Marxist leadership in the U.S., a revolutionary proletarian party — *proletarian* both in its program and in its class composition, activity, and organizational norms.

Trotsky explained why the SWP and communists the world over had to call for the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist assault,

at the same time leading an uncompromising political battle against the counterrevolutionary course of the world Stalinist movement.

“In many ways, *In Defense of Marxism* was the founding document of the Socialist Workers Party,” Barnes said. SWP branches across the country are now doing classes, studying it from cover to cover. Prince had been a stalwart in his northern New Jersey branch in getting those classes off the ground as a political example for the entire party.

Prince was a convinced materialist, too, Barnes said. “He knew we are all ‘star stuff,’” as a popular TV science program put it in the 1980s. “Dave considered Mary-Alice Waters, one of our chairs today, as his partner in defending science from assaults from anti-working-class forces on both the right and the ‘woke left,’” Barnes said. “Mary-Alice does a lot of writing about that for the communist movement, often as part of explaining and advancing the fight for women’s emancipation.”

Integrity and character

Many points highlighted by Barnes in his closing remarks to the meeting had been touched on by others on the platform based on their own experiences with Prince.

“Anyone who knew and worked with Dave recognized his integrity and character,” said Waters. “Whenever there was a special challenge or opportunity facing the party,” she said, “Dave was the first to call and say, ‘Need any help?’”

“He was a revolutionary with a great breadth of interests, in the arts, science, literature, and different industrial skills,” she said. “These interests enriched his life and sealed his confidence in the revolutionary capacity of the working class to rise to its historic responsibility to take political power and open the road to a socialist world of human solidarity.”

Waters read from a message sent by Prince’s sister, Judith Beyer, and his brother, Daniel Prince. From his earliest years, they wrote, his “love of art, and his creations were linked to his view of history and the world. Even in high school he was a voracious reader of revolutionary political classics.” David, they said, “was many things in life, and skillful at all: artist, tool and die maker,



Dave Prince, lower left, with Young Socialist Alliance solidarity delegation to Cuba in 1969. Inset, Prince's article on their visit to Isle of Youth.

writer, organizer, and political leader.”

SWP leader Norton Sandler said that Prince looked at today’s world as part of history, knowing that “history is never static. The world is always changing.” Sandler said he had worked closely with Prince “when Dave was the party’s national financial director and when he led the party’s printshop and book distribution center on the West Side of New York City. Prince organized this work with the kind of proletarian professionalism that marked every aspect of activity undertaken by SWP leaders,” Sandler said. “He cared about the lives, health, and welfare of every cadre he worked with.”

With the advent of digital printing, Sandler explained, Prince was central in leading the transformation of both the production and distribution of books by communist and other revolutionary leaders. The aim was to make the best use of party cadres and financial resources, while maintaining the high political and printing standards Pathfinder Press was long known for. Among other things, that involved moving the international distribution center to a facility in Atlanta, whose day-to-day tasks are organized and carried out by an all-volunteer crew of party supporters.

War, Jew-hatred, revolution

A photo display illustrating Prince’s experiences and contributions to the party and working-class movement was a center of discussion during the reception and delicious hot meal prepared by party members and supporters in New York and New Jersey. After the speakers program, there was a dessert course.

The multi-panel display stretched from Prince’s participation in a 1969 Young Socialist Alliance delegation to Cuba during the early years of the socialist revolution there, through his party activity over the past year. Among other things, it pointed to Prince’s political leadership of the SWP’s activity in the fight against Jew-hatred the world over and defense of Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

That work has taken on special urgency since the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel carried out by Hamas and other death squads, with full backing by the capitalist regime in Tehran.

Within months after that reactionary action to launch a war to destroy Israel and initiate a new Holocaust, the SWP was on the streets, doorsteps in workers’ neighborhoods and at political events campaigning with the book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, edited and with an opening chapter by Prince. The book



collects writings by communist leaders Lenin, Trotsky, James P. Cannon, Dobbs, and Barnes. Some 5,000 copies have already been sold.

In one of the more than 30 messages written for the tribute to Prince, SWP 2024 presidential candidate Rachele Fruit underlined how important his political guidance on that and many other questions had been for her. “Whether he knew it or not,” she wrote, “Dave marched at my side throughout the 2024 presidential campaign.”

In clear and unwavering terms, Fruit said, Prince explained that in the imperialist epoch, “Jew-hatred is a world question, not just a Middle East question.” And that Jew-hatred “is not eternal but is a class question,” a *working-class* question. It has a permanent place in how the U.S. and other imperialist ruling families in the U.S. and worldwide defend capitalism’s dog-eat-dog social relations in face of challenges to them by the working class and other exploited producers.

Fruit pointed to Prince’s explanation of why Trotsky’s 1938 message to Jews remains as accurate today as when it was written. “Now more than ever,” Trotsky said, “the fate of the Jewish people — not only their political but also their physical fate — is indissolubly linked with the emancipating struggle of the international proletariat.”

These points were reinforced in remarks by Lea Sherman, who worked together with Prince in recent years as members of the SWP branch in Union City, New Jersey. Not only did he help lead branch discussions on political questions of all kinds to guide the branch’s campaigning and activity in the mass movement, she said. In addition, in presentations at annual international conferences organized by the SWP, including a class in 2021 presented together with Sherman, Prince

emphasized “the key place of the fight against Jew-hatred in building revolutionary parties capable of leading the working class and our allies to the conquest of political power.”

Leading international work

Presentations and messages to the celebration of Prince’s political life highlighted his collaboration with comrades in communist organizations in other countries.

Philippe Tessier, a leader of the Communist League in Canada, recalled that Prince, along with SWP trade union director Mary Martin, came to Montreal “to work with us during the November 2019 rail strike of 3,000 conductors at Canadian National Railway across the country.” Their collaboration, he said, helped the party “mobilize its entire membership to become part of that fight.”

“Whenever Dave came up for meetings,” Tessier said, “he always made a point of spending time with me and my workmates, as well as others interested in the communist movement. Always with an eye to recruitment. That sharing of experiences helped me and others of my generation keep acting on the more-than-century-long Marxist political continuity we’re part of.”

In a message on behalf of the Communist League in Australia, Linda Harris described the help Prince had given to efforts in that region of the Pacific in 2022 to fuse with communists in New Zealand into a single party based in Australia. Their goal was to take advantage of political openings in the Indo-Pacific region amid sharpening economic rivalries and the deepening conflict between Washington and Beijing. Along with Steve Penner from the Communist League in Canada, Prince was part of a couple of trips by leadership delegations that worked with comrades there to put the new fused organization on a strong footing.

Jonathan Silberman spoke at the New York event for the Communist League in the United Kingdom. The Socialist Workers Party leadership had helped in the League’s founding in 1988, Silberman said. Prince’s approach whenever he worked with us “was to bring Marxism’s living continuity to bear on party building,” Silberman said. The example he set in “the relation between program, party organization, disciplined functioning and human values was decisive.”

Lessons in working-class leadership

Among the political tasks Prince was involved in the last few months of his life were preparations for an SWP campaign to launch and promote Pathfinder’s most recent book: *Cuba and the In-*

Continued on page 10



March 24 meeting of Sugarcane Workers Union in Haina, near Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. “Dave Prince: Cane cutters honor his life and political contributions,” reads the banner. “His dedication to build a revolutionary working-class party is an example other workers should learn from,” Jesús Nuñez, the UTC national coordinator, said.

Marxist revolutionary leader

Continued from page 9

dependence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa, by Cuban revolutionary leader Victor Dreke. The book describes the fight for freedom from Portuguese colonial rule led by Amílcar Cabral, whose leadership qualities — ones highly valued by Cuban leader Fidel Castro — are rich in lessons for struggles by workers and the oppressed the world over. The book also recounts the solidarity of Cuban volunteer combatants who joined their struggle.

Sam Manuel, a longtime member of the SWP's Atlanta branch and its candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia, spoke at the New York meeting about his recent work with Prince to get this work off the ground at the annual African Studies Association conference last November. Manuel organized the team staffing the Pathfinder Press booth there, and Prince shouldered national responsibility for participation in such conferences. By focusing special attention on the book — still forthcoming at the time — party members and supporters ended up selling nine advance copies, even though it wasn't yet off the press!

From 1989 into the early 1990s, Manuel had been the party leader directing a large mural project depicting revolutionary leaders from around the world, many of whom were authors that Pathfinder Press put into print. The giant mural was painted on the side of the six-story Pathfinder Building, a few yards away from Manhattan's West Side Highway and the Hudson River. Eighty artists from 20 countries volunteered to make the mural a reality. The portraits included one of Amílcar Cabral by New Zealand artist John Walsh and one by Manuel himself of the Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba.

"Dave took a keen interest in the mural," Manuel said. And to reach out as widely as possible with the new book by Dreke, Prince and Manuel had discussed drafting a feature article for the *Militant* about the Pathfinder Mural and Cabral portrait, an article in the works for a coming issue. It will promote the full-color poster of the mural available on Pathfinder's website as well.

Also speaking on the platform was Holly Harkness, coordinator of Pathfinder's Atlanta distribution center. "I was involved when the SWP launched an auxiliary organization of party supporters in 1998 to help it produce and promote books and other needed material," she said, "as well as to help finance expansion of the party's work." Prince was key to helping supporters "establish and maintain the norms and standards for that work," she said. "He put those standards in the *political* perspective that made our work so important."

In a written message, Atlanta SWP branch organizer Susan LaMont pointed to a valuable by-product of Prince's frequent trips to work with the Atlanta Distribution Center. "He often volunteered to speak at the Militant Labor Forum" when he was in town. And, as with other branches, "Dave worked with us to clarify many political and party-building questions, too," LaMont said.

"We considered ourselves a pretty lucky branch."

'The apple of his eye'

In closing his remarks, Barnes briefly described a visit with Dave and Vivian at the hospital where he was receiving care.

As to be expected, Barnes said, before anything else Dave wanted to talk about a passage in Lenin's *Imperialism* that he correctly thought shed light on the U.S. government's military buildup in the Middle East. That was several weeks before Washington launched its all-out air war against Iran.

"We discussed the importance of Israel's fight to stop the rulers in Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and expanding their arsenal of ballistic



Prince often pointed to this *Militant* headline at the end of the second world slaughter, since it shows the real nature of imperialism in its death agony as the U.S. rulers emerged as top dog.

missiles and drones. And the party's unconditional demand, 'U.S. imperialism out of the Middle East!'"

Prince was also following with great interest the strikes by some 15,000 nurses for three large hospital corporations in New York City.

And, of course, Barnes said, Prince wanted to know how the work and campaigns of the party and world movement were doing.

"Dave was a peculiar patient in many ways," Barnes said. The doctors and nurses had never met people like Dave and Vivian. "The two of them had organized Dave's room to make space for a small but growing library. And space for Dave's pastels and other drawing tools. Less unusual, they set up the TV in the room to watch college football. Vivian is a dedicated University of Alabama fan. Roll Tide! Viva Vivian!"

Prince was interested in the exhibition of art by Cuban artist Wifredo Lam being shown at the Museum of Modern Art at that time. "It was related to some work he was doing," Barnes said, "so we got him a copy of the catalog. That went alongside writings on art and literature by Marx and

Engels, by Lenin, by Trotsky."

Barnes finished by recalling the introduction Prince wrote in 2020 for a new edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon — an account of the emergence and transformation of Jew-hatred from ancient times to the triumph of Nazism in Germany. The author was a young leader of the Revolutionary Communist Party in Belgium who was captured by the Gestapo in 1944 and killed in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

Ever since Leon's book was first published in French in 1946, and then in English in 1950 by Pathfinder's predecessor, it has contained a "biographical sketch" of the author by Ernest Mandel. Mandel was the one surviving RCP leader who had known and worked closely with Leon in the 1940s. For that reason, Barnes said, "Pathfinder decided to keep that piece as an appendix to the new edition."

Barnes said he was raising this because he had been struck by the contrast between the values and character traits Ernest Mandel held up as a model for revolutionaries, and those recognized and admired by anyone who knew and worked with Dave Prince.

In the closing paragraphs of the biographical sketch, Mandel wrote that many readers might ask why Leon and others like him — "among the most gifted European intellectuals," in Mandel's words — would "choose a movement that could promise them neither success nor glory nor honors nor even a minimum of material comfort, but which on the contrary demanded of them every sacrifice, including their lives, and which required long thankless work, frequently in isolation from the proletariat to whom they wanted to give everything?"

"That's *the opposite* of how Dave ever saw himself," Barnes said.

"For Dave, the party gave him and his comrades the most magnificent opportunity imaginable to be revolutionaries fighting for the interests of the international working class. The Socialist Workers Party was the apple of his eye, the living instrument that connected him with that revolutionary continuity, that Marxist course past, present and future.

"Far from being 'thankless work,'" Barnes said, "Dave saw it as crucial to building the proletarian party that workers in their tens and hundreds of millions need to wage the revolutionary struggle for political power and a socialist world."

The program concluded with an appeal Dave Prince would have considered essential to any such event: Contribute as generously as possible to the ongoing work of the SWP. More than \$23,000 was collected.



During 2019 Canadian National Railway strike, Dave Prince, behind burn barrel near center, and fellow SWP National Committee member Mary Martin, second from left, joined Teamsters Canada members at Quebec City picket Nov. 24. Fight over safety for workers and nearby communities was at the center of the strike.

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Cuba stands against new sanctions

Continued from front page

trading with Cuba. It has banned them from selling goods and services to Cuba, or importing goods from third countries to the United States that contain Cuban materials, like nickel used in machinery and equipment, pharmaceuticals and even sugar.

The May 1 executive order targets key sectors of Cuba's economy in which foreign investments have expanded in recent years, Ariadna Cornelio of Cuba's foreign ministry said on Cuba's national television May 5.

Washington imposed an oil blockade at the beginning of the year that has severely aggravated hardships on working people across the island, and "now, because of Cuba's decision to seek other ways to achieve energy self-sufficiency, they are going after the whole energy sector," said Cornelio.

The measure's extraterritorial effect was felt right away when Canada's Sherritt International Corp. decided to pull its operations from a nickel and cobalt mining joint venture with Cuba's General Nickel Company. The Canadian company is one of Cuba's top foreign investors, and the industry is a critical source of revenue for the Cuban state.

Cuba's Moa Nickel SA was one of the sanctioned entities targeted by Secretary of State Marco Rubio May 7, along with Grupo de Administración Empresarial (GAESA). GAESA is a business conglomerate with ties to Cuba's armed forces that runs many of the island's hotels and other businesses. It accounts for roughly 40% of Cuba's gross domestic product.

Rubio claimed the brutal sanctions do not affect the Cuban people. However, Cuba's earnings from sales of nickel and other products, tourism and compensation for medical cooperation with other countries are what pays for essential fuel and food imports, social spending and development investments. Without them working people will face even greater shortages of food, medical supplies and other essentials.

To face the crippling effect of the U.S. oil blockade, the Cuban government has taken measures to accelerate the development of solar power and increase domestic crude production. In addition to large-scale infrastructure, state institutions, farm cooperatives and private small businesses have turned to alternative energy sources at a rapid pace. One of Washington's aims in threatening

sanctions is to intimidate anyone from supplying or donating energy technology to Cuba.

Millions of dollars-worth of solar panels have been installed in clinics, homes for the elderly, radio and cellphone stations and other critical services. Solar-powered irrigation pumps are being deployed on tobacco and other farms.

A solar-powered charging station, or "solinera" (a play on the word "gasolinera," gas station in Spanish), opened in Santa Clara, in central Cuba, bringing relief to residents facing chronic blackouts caused by the oil blockade. The solinera, the first of its kind, offers a free charge for cellphones, power batteries, rice cookers, pressure cookers and an endless array of appliances that people bring. Rechargeable motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles can also be charged for a fee. While the gap between what's needed and what can be supplied remains large, local projects like this one are emerging everywhere. Renewable energy now accounts for 10% of the island's power.

US tramples on sovereign rights

Washington's measures "put the international community in a big dilemma," said Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez at a May 2 international solidarity event in Havana, the day after the massive workers' actions. "In the face of these acts no single state will be able to exercise the sovereignty of their peoples,

Join fight against bans on 'Militant' in Florida prisons

Continued from front page

three earlier issues, nos. 4, 5 and 6, at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida. Letters calling for the overturn of these bans have been sent to authorities by prominent civil liberties organizations, trade unionists and others.

To justify these impoundments, prison officials cite front-page articles reporting on labor-backed, disciplined protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement attacks on immigrants in Minneapolis earlier this year and the *Militant's* call for amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers.

In late March and early April, the bans on *Militant* issues nos. 8, 9, and 10 at Taylor were reversed. These issues had also been impounded for protesting the previous bans on issues covering the developments in Minneapolis. The fact



CMHW Radio

Solar-powered charging station, or "solinera," in Santa Clara, Cuba, the first of its kind in the country, provides free power to workers facing blackouts caused by Washington's oil blockade.

if today they don't take the side in favor of justice, in favor of Cuba." He pointed to the U.S. rulers' increasing use of its military and economic power around the world, including against Cuba.

The solidarity event — sponsored by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), and the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples — was attended by more than 750 trade unionists and members of political organizations from 36 countries. Among them were organizations involved in collecting donations for the purchase of solar panels, medical and other critical supplies for the Cuban

people. The gathering was also addressed by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and CTC leader Osnay Colina Rodríguez.

"In Cuba we are defending the sovereignty, independence and right to self-determination of the peoples," said the Cuban president. It is "the U.S. government that every day speaks of war and makes threats." He was answering Washington's charges that Cuba constitutes an unusual and extraordinary danger.

"It seems that the May Day demonstration bothered them," said Díaz-Canel.

that authorities have now reversed bans on six issues that were all impounded for reporting on the fight against the bans on issues 4, 5, and 6, undermines the argument they have claimed for those original impoundments.

With no explanation, the Literature Review Committee has upheld the prison officials' ruling that the articles in issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 are "dangerously inflammatory" and encourage "riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest." They also upheld the claim that nos. 4 and 5 are "a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system."

Call for special meeting

For the first time since it became an option in 2022, the *Militant* requested April 28 that the Florida Department of Corrections convene a special meeting of the Literature Review Committee to review and overturn its decision to uphold the ban on issues nos. 4, 5, and 6.

"The *Militant* requests the special meeting," wrote *Militant* attorney David Goldstein, "both because it believes that a full and fair review by the LRC will result in the approval of the three issues as they present no legitimate security concerns, and because the *Militant* strongly believes that inmates should have access to political reporting on one of the most important current domestic issues in the U.S."

"This is not a matter that affects a small handful of inmates, as the *Militant* has

approximately 135 subscribers in 31 state facilities in Florida."

John Studer, editor of the *Militant*, is urging readers to approach union officials, organizations that defend civil liberties, churches and others to write letters to the Literature Review Committee asking them to reverse the bans.

"What's at stake in this fight are the constitutional rights of prisoners to have access to developments in politics that affect them and all workers, and of the rights of the *Militant* to reach its readers behind bars," Studer said. "As working people across the country confront the impact of the worldwide capitalist crisis, it's important for prisoners to be able to form their own opinions."

Tell Florida prisons: Let the 'Militant' in!

The following are some of the organizations and individuals that have sent statements calling on Florida prison officials to lift the ban on issues nos. 4, 5, and 6.

ACLU - National Prison Project
American Civil Liberties Union - Florida
Amnesty International USA
Florida Press Association
La Resistencia
Neighbors United - Minneapolis
PEN America
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Felix Vincent Ardea, president of Division 89 of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference

Letters are needed now urging prison authorities to reverse the bans and cease further unconstitutional impoundments of the *Militant*. Send to: Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, or email Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com and Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Los Angeles meeting reports on Cuba solidarity trip

WILMINGTON, Calif. — More than 40 people gathered at the Machinists union hall here May 9 for a "No war on Cuba!" emergency speak-out. The event also drew attendees joining in online. It was organized to oppose Washington's oil blockade, escalating economic sanctions and stepped-up war threats against Cuba. Speakers included participants just returned from a solidarity trip to Cuba by youth and trade unionists organized by the LA Hands Off Cuba Committee.

David Ramírez Álvarez, second secretary at the Cuban Embassy in Washington, addressed the meeting by video. "If you want to have a discussion about how to help Cuba," he said, addressing claims made by the U.S. administration in Washington, "then drop the blockade, end the sanctions."

Ramírez also took questions from the audience. One asked about the pressure Washington is bringing to bear on governments, especially in Latin America, to end aid they are receiving from volunteer Cuban medical workers. "Washington's main objective is to cut any source of foreign income in the world," Ramírez said.

He noted this also has had a significant impact on the healthcare system in Cuba itself. It faces shortages of basic items, including painkillers, anesthetics necessary for surgery and other essential medications.

Members of the solidarity delegation had delivered medical supplies on their trip to Cuba.

— LAURA GARZA

‘Militant,’ Socialist Workers Party welcome new readers

The *Militant* extends a warm welcome to readers who subscribed during our successful eight-week campaign to expand the paper’s reach, as well as our other goals. Many of you were struck by the paper’s explanation that today’s spreading wars are aimed at enriching the same capitalist class that is stepping up exploitation of working people here at home.

Backed by both the Democratic and Republican parties, the bosses try to pit native-born workers against those attracted here from abroad. They push down the wages of all workers, impose life-threatening speedup and force us to work schedules that drain our strength and do damage to our families. Their cutthroat conflicts with rivals abroad for resources, markets and plunder are marching humanity toward fascism and a third world war.

None of these things are choices the capitalist rulers make. Their dog-eat-dog system drives them to expand or perish. The crises, runaway inflation and periodic depressions that mark capitalism will not cause it to collapse on its own accord. They will find ways to redive the Earth yet again on our backs.

Capitalist rule has to be overthrown by the con-

scious action of the working class in its tens of millions. That requires a Marxist party with leaders tested in the class struggle, capable of leading the toilers to take political power into our own hands.

Working people don’t have to start from scratch. The Socialist Workers Party has been forged and tempered over the past century in working-class battles and in response to big world developments. It has assimilated the lessons of the two great revolutions of our epoch — the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the 1959 Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro. The SWP learned in blood the deadly dangers of Stalinist and Maoist forces and their tendency to link up with fascist thugs.

The party acts on the fact that workers are capable of running society to meet the needs of the great majority.

Today you’ll find SWP members in the thick of union and political battles. They’re walking strike picket lines and building solidarity. They’re joining demonstrations against the explosion of deadly Jew-hating assaults. They organize and build actions to oppose Washington’s aggression against Cuba. The

U.S. rulers have never forgiven working people in Cuba for fighting to improve their conditions of life and work by making a socialist revolution.

Everywhere they go, SWP members chart a road to strengthen the unity, confidence and fighting capacities of working people, and our trust in and reliance on fellow workers. They champion struggles against racism and women’s oppression, and engage in discussion on the next steps on a line of march to power.

SWP members are working with others to promote the recently published book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke. His firsthand account of Cuba’s decisive aid to that struggle helped change the course of African history. The book is invaluable for showing what a socialist revolution makes possible. And that revolutionary leadership of the highest caliber will emerge from the ranks of working people as we fight to change the world.

To join in the rich life of building such a leadership, join the Socialist Workers Party.

Did Supreme Court unravel voting rights gains?

Continued from front page

heels of a yearslong hard-fought battle that culminated in the Selma to Montgomery march in Alabama. This victory was a conquest of the Black-led working-class movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation and transformed working people in the U.S.

Today, wherever either the Democrats or Republicans have a majority in the state legislature, they’re redrawing congressional voting maps to secure partisan advantage and wipe out districts that favor their chief rival.

Louisiana’s government had gerrymandered its six congressional districts in 2024 to create a second district with a Black majority, without showing this was needed to counter past discrimination. The Supreme Court ruling said this was improper, pointing to the Reconstruction-era 15th Amendment, which says the right of citizens to vote “shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

In a concurring opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas noted the court ruling overturned a previous interpretation of the Voting Rights Act that “systematically divid[ed] the country into electoral districts along racial lines.”

In her dissenting opinion, Justice Elena Kagan said, “Black residents vote heavily for Democratic candidates, while White residents vote heavily for Republicans.” Without Black-majority districts, she said, Black votes will be “wasted.” What she means, but won’t openly say, is that Democrats will gain fewer seats.

Historic changes resulting from the fight for Black rights are reflected in the fact that in 2023 there were 30 Blacks who had been elected to Congress from majority-Caucasian districts. Overwhelmingly, workers vote for who they hope will make life better for them, not on whether a candidate’s skin color is the same as their own.

The court’s April 29 ruling accurately describes the numerous ways Blacks were barred from voting before the powerful Black rights fight overturned Jim Crow segregation. These included poll taxes, literacy tests, property qualifications, Caucasian-only primary elections and racial gerrymandering.

Segregation was enforced, above all, with bloody Ku Klux Klan beatings and lynchings.

One example of racial gerrymandering was the redistricting by Alabama’s pro-segregation government

in Tuskegee. It removed all but five of the city’s 400 Black voters and put them in other districts, but didn’t move a single Caucasian voter. The aim of the measure, overturned by the Supreme Court in 1960, was to disperse Black voters and prevent them from affecting the city’s politics at the height of the fight for Black rights. Kagan asserts the April 29 court ruling will lead to “the largest reduction in minority representation since the era following Reconstruction,” when the capitalist rulers imposed Jim Crow.

Joining the chorus, former Democratic President Barack Obama claimed the court ruling “guts a key pillar of the Voting Rights Act.”

But this simply isn’t true. Only one small section of the act is altered. “Of course, no one’s *right to cast a vote* will be affected,” *Washington Post* columnist Jason Willick wrote May 3.

“For Kagan,” he says, “voting in a jurisdiction where your favored candidate will lose is next to meaningless.”

Lasting gains were won in Black rights fight

The ruling leaves intact the decisive measures adopted in the 1965 Voting Rights Act that registered the right of Blacks to vote. That law banned “qualification or prerequisite to voting,” directing the attorney general to take action against the use of poll taxes or other barriers.

Democrats are now on a crusade to gerrymander 2026 congressional districts to improve their chances. Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries vowed May 11 his party will “bury” Republicans “with a massive Democratic redistricting counteroffensive” for the 2028 presidential election.

Republicans are doing exactly the same thing.

In Virginia, the state’s Supreme Court struck down a gerrymander for its 11 districts May 8 that Democrats had pushed through to give them a 10-1 seat majority. The court ruled the legislature had rammed through the changes without getting them adopted by votes in two separate legislative sessions, as is required by law. Enraged, Democrats say they’ll retaliate by using their majority to purge all six Justices. They plan to do this by dropping the age requirement to sit on the state’s court to 54 or younger.

The heart of this dispute is the determination of the capitalist rulers to keep working people entrapped in their two-party shell game. But for the working class organizing independently of the capitalists’ parties is the only road forward. That question was at the center of the fight to end Jim Crow, with both the capitalist rulers’ parties upholding segregation until the mass movement that tore it down became too powerful.

Today one of the key ways the rulers maintain their political monopoly is through the bipartisan drive to keep the Socialist Workers Party and other working-class candidates off the ballot.

UK protest defends Jews

Continued from page 6

to any other country that might seek to foment violence, hatred or division in society, is that it will not be tolerated,” Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

In fact the Labour Party itself has promoted the growth of Jew-hatred. Starmer has suspended arms sales to Israel, supported the International Criminal Court’s arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and resumed funding the Hamas-ridden United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Antisemitism has become an increasingly central part of bourgeois politics in the U.K. The Green Party put the demonization of Israel at the center of its campaign in the May 7 local elections, winning 587 council seats, up from 146. Dozens of the party’s candidates came out with blatantly antisemitic, pro-Hamas statements. Less than a dozen were suspended by party leaders.

At the same time, the U.K. Labour government has used the recent violence to attack political rights and present the capitalist state as the protector of Jews. It has provided millions of pounds for more cops, made it easier to ban “pro-Palestine” — i.e. anti-Israel — protests and to charge people with “hate” speech.

Sara Kahn, the government’s former counter-extremism commissioner, and 11 other prominent Muslim academics, political figures and others spoke out against the attacks. “Antisemitism in the UK has worsened dramatically since October 7, 2023,” they wrote. Some forces are using legitimate protests to “normalize slogans, symbols and rhetoric that glorify violence.”

“No other community endures the indignity of private security outside almost all of its communal buildings, places of worship or, perhaps most appallingly, schools,” the letter says, calling on fellow Muslims “to both challenge and change such hatred wherever it exists in our communities.”

Some trade union leaders have also spoken out. Eddie Dempsey, the general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, condemned the knife attack in Golders Green. “Antisemitism must be confronted with the same vigour and steely determination as any other form of racism and our union will always be at the forefront of that fight,” he said.

“Jew-hatred is a poison which must be confronted and combated in all its forms,” Dag Tirsén and Julie Crawford, Communist League candidates in London in the May 7 elections, said in a statement they distributed at an emergency protest the night of the attack.

“It falls to the working class and our unions to take the lead in defending Jews from assault,” they said. “Jew-hatred is integral to the times we live in dominated by imperialist powers such as the United States and the U.K. that have never, and will never, act to protect Jews. Our campaign defends the right of Israel to exist as a refuge for Jews and to defend itself.”

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

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