

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Left backing for Luigi Mangione shows infatuation with thuggery
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 21

JUNE 1, 2026

As Israel fights to defend its right to exist, Hamas rebuilds

BY SETH GALINSKY

While Israel has dealt major blows to the reactionary, Jew-hating capitalist regime in Tehran and its key allies in the so-called axis of resistance — Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen — nothing is settled.

Israel continues to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews on multiple war fronts. This includes Iran, where the regime boasts that it is rebuilding its ballistic missile capacity; Lebanon, where Hezbollah has introduced more advanced drones in its war against Israeli forces; and Gaza, where Hamas is reestablishing its dictatorial grip.

None of these groups are interested in “peace” with Israel. They openly seek its destruction and the expulsion or elimination of the Jews who live there.

When the Donald Trump administration forced Israel to agree to the ceasefire in Gaza, which began Oct. 10, 2025, Israel maintained control

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US hands off Cuba!

Defend Cuba’s sovereignty, socialist revolution



Alina López Ochoa

May Day rallies defended Cuba against Washington’s threats. In Pinar del Río province, Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution banner read, “Here, no one surrenders!”

Cuba: ‘Washington has created the crisis we face’

BY RÓGER CALERO

“No economy in the world, not even the most developed one, could have resisted what this small island has been able to resist,” Ariadna Cornelio Hitchman, head of legal affairs

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US rulers escalate their attacks against Cuba

BY RÓGER CALERO

Over the last week, the U.S. rulers launched a dangerous escalation of threats against Cuba. CIA Direc-

A call to action! Protest US war drive against Cuba!
—Editorial, page 10

tor John Ratcliffe went to the island “to deliver a message” to the Cuban government; U.S. spy planes have

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LIRR workers end strike, look to vote on new contract offer

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — After 3,500 rail unionists on the Long Island Rail Road had been on strike for three days, officials from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and union negotiators announced May 19 that an agreement had been reached and ended the walk-out. The tentative agreement will be voted on by the union memberships. As we go to press, the terms of the contract have yet to be publicly announced. The LIRR is the largest commuter railroad in the country.

The strike, which began May 16, was the first on the Long Island Rail Road in 32 years. The workers’ contract had run out in 2023, but they were prevented from striking since then by the red tape in the notorious anti-union Railway Labor Act.

The workers are members of five unions — the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, International Association of Machinists, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Transportation Communications Union.

Their fighting spirit and determination marked the lively picket lines set up during the walkout. Chanting “New York is a union town. No contract, no trains!” dozens of rail workers picketed

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Join the SWP in campaigning for a road forward for the working class



Militant/Roy Landersen

Paul Mailhot, SWP candidate for New York governor, and Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, join action to defend Cuba’s sovereignty Feb. 22 in New York.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Members of the Socialist Workers Party are encouraging readers of the *Militant* who subscribed during the party’s recent spring campaign to join them in building solidarity with union strike struggles and in organizing actions to defend Cuba from Washington’s growing threats and oil blockade.

And join them to learn more about the SWP and the working-class road

forward it presents against the capitalist class and their twin Democratic and Republican parties — a road for workers to take political power into our own hands.

Working people are looking for an explanation about the root cause of the U.S. rulers’ spreading wars and the upsurge of deadly Jew-hating assaults here and worldwide and what can be done to end them.

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Ukraine marks 82nd anniversary of deportation of the Crimean Tatars

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Tens of thousands of people in Ukraine and around the world marked the 82nd anniversary May 18 of the savage deportation of the Crimean

Tatar nation by the Stalinist regime in Moscow as the end of World War II neared. And after more than a decade of the Kremlin’s seizure and occupation of Crimea in 2014, the Crimean Tatars continue to resist. They are part of Ukraine’s battle against more than four years of Russian President

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‘Militant’ fights prison bans in both Florida and Tennessee

BY JANET POST

Following a monthslong fight by defenders of free speech and the rights of workers behind bars, the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee has reversed prison bans on seven of the 10 *Militants* denied to inmates there this year. But the *Militant* is still fighting to overturn the unconstitutional ban of issues nos. 4, 5 and 6.

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800 Walmart workers in Ontario win a contract, \$5 an hour raise

Quebec Steelworkers fight lockout at Siemens — join their picket line!

800 Walmart workers in Ontario win a contract, \$5 an hour raise

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — In a historic first, over 800 workers at Walmart’s Mississauga, Ontario, warehouse voted by 93% to approve their first union contract May 7. The members of Unifor Local 252 became the first workers to successfully win a union contract with Walmart anywhere in North America.

Over the past decades, workers at several stores in Quebec and Ontario have won certification but none succeeded in getting a contract or keeping the union.

Hundreds of Walmart fleet drivers in Alberta and British Columbia won union certification in late 2024 and early 2025, and will be buoyed in their ongoing contract battles by Local 252’s victory.

Products for Walmart stores all over Ontario are packed and delivered out of Mississauga.

“This is a siren call for the Canadian labor movement and union movement worldwide,” Justin Gniposky, Unifor’s national director of organizing, told

the *Militant* in a phone interview. The two-year contract provides a wage raise of up to \$5 per hour in the first year and a 3% raise in the second. It also says that union members won’t be left behind by wages offered to other Walmart warehouse workers in Canada.

In September 2024, the day after the Mississauga warehouse workers had voted for the union by 56%, Walmart gave all logistics chain employees in Canada a substantial raise — except for these 800. As a result, nonunion Walmart workers had been earning up to \$4 an hour more than those union members. This contract will eliminate the gap.

The contract also provided a lump sum payment ranging from four thousand two hundred and fifty Canadian dollars (\$3,090) to CA\$8,750 to compensate for the past wage increases denied union members.

Two ratification meetings were held May 7, attended by close to 700 union members.

“The loudest applause,” said Gniposky, “was for the limiting of contracting out. This is about job security.

“All these gains are a reflection of the bargaining committee’s work,” he said. “These folks work in the plant. Many were the very first card signers. They walked through a two-and-a-half-year fight to get this.” The unionists leafleted the parking lot with information in multiple languages, spoke up in company-organized meetings in the plant and wore union T-shirts to work.

“I think it’s great news. We have been waiting for this for over 28 years,”



Unifor Local 252 members at Walmart warehouse in Ontario became first Walmart workers to win a union contract in North America when they voted 93% to approve agreement May 7.

a longtime worker at the warehouse wrote to the *Militant*.

“While we continue to believe third-party representation is not in the best interest of our associates, we respect their decision,” a Walmart

spokesperson told the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette*.

The Unifor members in Mississauga have set an example for working people everywhere, including the 1.6 million Walmart workers in the U.S.

Quebec Steelworkers fight lockout at Siemens – join their picket line!

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TROIS RIVIERES, Quebec — When members of United Steelworkers Local 8396 showed up for work at Siemens Canada’s two factories across the street from each other here April 15, they learned the bosses had locked them out.

The 105 unionists at the German-owned company make electrical energy transformers. The have not had a wage increase in 29 months. Their last contract expired in December 2024. Despite 16 months of negotiations, Siemens and the USW had not even begun to discuss wages when the company imposed the lockout.

“Siemens prefers to close its doors rather than sit down and negotiate. A preventative lockout sends the message to workers that their rights end where the interests of the bosses begin. We don’t accept it,” USW representative Luc Laberge said in a press release posted on the union website. “It’s a

cynical decision and our members feel it’s a slap in the face.”

That anger toward the company was palpable on the picket line. “We’re angry at management because they pushed us to work harder to get out more production so they could lock us out,” Yiani Comeau, who has worked in quality assurance for three years, told this *Militant* reporter on the picket line May 15.

“The lockout came as a surprise,” machine operator Pierre Charette said. “We only gave the union a mandate to call a strike after they locked us out. The last strike here was in 1986.”

After Quebec’s Ministry of Labour revealed that Siemens was using replacement workers, the union called for a hearing before the Administrative Labour Tribunal to compel the employer to stop doing so, as it’s a violation of Quebec’s Labour Code.

Picket lines are up 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Stop by and show your support at 3400 Bellefeuille St.

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Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
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The low point of labor resistance is behind us

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY LOOKS FORWARD

FORCED UNEMPLOYMENT IS A FACT OF LIFE

THE LOW POINT OF LABOR RESISTANCE IS BEHIND US

THE LOW POINT OF LABOR RESISTANCE IS BEHIND US

JACK BARNES MARY-ALICE WATERS STEVE CLARK

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THE MILITANT

Supreme Court didn’t gut gains of Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act is a mighty conquest of the Black-led working-class movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation in the U.S. Today’s gerrymandering by Republicans and Democrats is about boosting their partisan ends, neither party represents the interests of working people.

1965 voting rights march on Edmund Pettus Bridge heading to Montgomery, Alabama.

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LIRR workers to vote on contract

Continued from front page
outside Penn Station here May 17.

“I’ve been working without a contract since I’ve been on the job,” Adrian Thomas, a member of the Transportation Communications Union who has worked on the LIRR for three-and-a-half years, told the *Militant* picketing at the station. “We’ve had no wage raise over this time while the prices of everything is going up, including medical care. It’s a struggle to keep up.”

The MTA — which owns and operates the LIRR as well as the city’s subways and buses — and union officials had earlier agreed on the terms of the first three years of a contract, with a retroactive annual pay raise starting in 2023 at 3%, then 3%, then 3.5%. But the bosses refused the unions’ demand for a 5% raise for a fourth year, to start in a few months.

The bosses countered with just 3%,

and said it could be increased by another 1.5% if the unions agreed to the changes they were demanding in longstanding work rules. What the bosses wanted is an attack on workers’ jobs and safety protections that would involve speedup and contracting out union jobs.

The unions said no. And they also rejected the MTA’s proposal that the 1.5% “raise” would be a lump-sum bonus, not a wage raise. This means it wouldn’t set a precedent for future wages.

Then at the last minute the bosses added a new demand, calling for new hires to pay substantially more for healthcare coverage. The union negotiators said no to that as well and went on strike. The unions set up joint picket lines at a number of stations, from the Penn Station hub, other stops in the city, and in a number of towns on Long Island.

At the picket line at Jamaica Station May 17, several UPS workers, members of the Teamsters union, came to join the LIRR strikers in solidarity. “We came here to support our union brothers and sisters, to stand in unity,” UPS worker Jodi Kipping told the *Militant*.

Many other workers stopped by to show support, including members of Transport Workers Union Local 100, whose 44,000 members work on the New York City subways and buses. Their contract also expired May 16, but New York state’s anti-union Taylor Law says it’s illegal for them to strike, period.

Capitalist politicians and the big-business media lined up against the strike. Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul denounced rail workers’ fight for higher wages and safe working conditions as “unacceptable” and “reckless.”

The liberal *Washington Post* and the conservative *New York Post* both ran editorials slandering the striking unionists, seeking to turn public support against them. This ignored the fact that two Presidential Emergency Boards called to deliberate on the dispute by President Donald Trump had both recommended the LIRR meet the unions’ proposals on both wages and work rules. The bosses refused.

While the bosses claimed they couldn’t afford a 5% raise for the workers, they say nothing about the huge



Militant/Brian Williams

Long Island Rail Road workers on picket line at Jamaica Station May 17. Many workers stopped by to show support. We’re here “to stand in unity,” a Teamster member at UPS told the *Militant*.

interest payments they make yearly to the MTA’s wealthy bondholders on \$40.9 billion in long-term debt. These bonds are a lucrative investment for area capitalists. “When debt servicing costs are paid from the operating budget,” notes a June 2025 report from the Office of the New York State Comptroller, “it can potentially crowd out operating spending of other types.”

‘Capitalism at its finest’

The MTA’s debt service — at some \$3 billion this year — is expected to more than double over the next decade.

“This is capitalism at its finest,”
Transportation Communications

Union member Thomas told the *Militant* on the picket line. The rail bosses “are trying to play us against others who work for the MTA. They say we’re rich from working on the railroad. But that’s not the case.”

“Our members stood together for a fair agreement that recognizes the dedication and sacrifices railroad workers make every day while keeping pace with the rising cost of living,” said a statement released by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen announcing the tentative agreement. “We appreciate the support and patience of the riding public, and now the final decision rests with the membership.”

Tens of thousands of ex-students, farmers demand jobs from Iraq

BY TERRY EVANS

Tens of thousands of former students and their supporters took to the streets in Baghdad and other cities across Iraq May 18 to demand the newly formed government provide them jobs. While the unemployment rate in the oil-rich country is 13.5%, youth unemployment stands at 32%.

“We are told there are no jobs available,” Khalil Mohammed told Rudaw.

“Yet hundreds and thousands of people have been hired in [government] institutions. How is that? Through money and bribery.”

Successive governments have utilized public-sector hiring to try to buy political loyalty and soften the impact of the ongoing capitalist crisis there. Government workers now make up 37% of the country’s workforce.

Hussein Ali, a graduate from Mosul University College of Agriculture and Forestry, has been without a job since graduating in 2021. “Every time we are told to wait for a new round of hiring without knowing when it will come,” he told Shafaq News. Similar protests have taken place in past years.

Farmers held protests in several areas a week earlier against government moves to cut the price it pays for wheat by up to a third, while the prices farmers are paying for fuel, fertilizer and seeds are soaring. They also demanded the immediate payment of government funds owed them from the last season.

A bloc of parties based among Shiite Muslims designated Ali al-Zaidi as prime minister April 27. Under the country’s sectarian constitution, cooked up under pressure from Washington after the 2003 U.S. war against Iraq, the prime minister must be a Shiite, the president Kurdish and the speaker of parliament a Sunni Muslim. Al-Zaidi’s appointment comes after President Donald Trump threatened to cut U.S. ties with Iraq if its parliament again selected former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who the U.S. rulers view as too closely aligned with Tehran.

Cargill workers are locked out in Colorado

Cargill, one of the largest beef processors in North America, locked out 1,700 members of Teamsters Local 455 in Fort Morgan, Colorado, May 20. The lockout came hours after the union voted 1,388 to 252 to reject a five-year

AS WE GO TO PRESS ...

contract that offered a measly total of \$2.15 an hour in raises and little to alleviate dangerous working conditions.

“The company has held its employees — many from Haiti, Somalia and Central and South American countries — hostage to a substandard contract offer that provides little change or improvement,” Local 455 Secretary-Treasurer Dean Modecker told the media.

“We will be out here every day making our voices heard,” maintenance worker Chris Bell said in a union press release. To find out more or to join the picket line, contact Teamsters Local 455 at 423 Main Street, Suite 100, or email LMelentijevic@teamster.org.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

May 28, 2001

A demonstration of 100 in Salinas, California, May 13 grew in size as it marched there. Workers drove to the action from Fresno, Palo Alto, and San Mateo. Members of the Indigenous Oaxacan Front of Mexico participated in the action.

Signs in the rally demanded, “Amnesty for all,” “No taxation without legalization,” and said, “Braceros no, Amnistía sí,” referring to proposals by the U.S. and Mexican governments to set up an expanded “guest worker” program, similar to the Bracero program that ended in the 1960s. The program is aimed at providing the capitalist class with a massive, low-paid, and temporary workforce of mainly Mexican immigrants who would have no option to stay in the United States.

The march was sponsored by The Citizen Project, an organization founded by members of Teamsters Local 890.

THE MILITANT

May 28, 1976

The Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance have expanded their suit against the government. The amended complaint charges that the conspiracy to disrupt and persecute the SWP goes back to 1938.

These measures were taken at a time when the U.S. ruling class was preparing for intervention into the impending world war. To accomplish these ends President Roosevelt took steps to move the FBI more directly into the role of a political police force. One of the first assignments handed to the bureau was to launch an attack on the Teamsters union in the North-Central states.

Among the leaders of this union effort was Farrell Dobbs, a member of the SWP. These attacks culminated in the 1941 conviction of Dobbs and 17 other members and leaders of the SWP and the Teamsters under the notorious Smith “Gag” Act. The revised suit adds Dobbs as a plaintiff in the case.

THE MILITANT

May 28, 1951

The lies which the American people are being fed in connection with the Iranian crisis are as fraudulent as those connected with the Korean atrocity. The British are claiming that their oil supply is in danger of being cut off. The British can get all the oil they have bought previously and are in addition granted priority in the event of any surplus.

Rather than yield their lush profits, they are ready to ravage Iran and incur the risk of precipitating general war in the Near East. And in all this they are receiving the support of the Truman administration.

The natural resources of Iran belong to the Iranian people. It is the duty of their government to take back the oil fields which the British have expropriated from the rightful owners. The British have no more right to exploit Iran today than they had to dominate America before 1776.

‘Washington created the crisis’

Continued from front page

for U.S. relations in Cuba’s foreign ministry, said on television May 5.

The U.S. government deliberately “causes the situation that Cuba is facing” with a blockade on oil delivery and other sanctions, “so they can then blame the Cuban government,” she said, refuting claims made by White House officials that Cuba is a “failed state.”

“It’s a false argument,” she said.

The cumulative impact of the decadeslong U.S. trade and financial restrictions on Cuba, including the oil blockade imposed in January, has a devastating effect on all aspects of life for millions of Cubans and on the country’s industrial and agricultural production.

“If we are a failed state, let us fail on our own, and lift the blockade,” is a widespread sentiment expressed by working people in Cuba who defend the country’s sovereign right to decide their own social and political system.

There are some in Cuba who look to Washington’s efforts to bring capitalist relations back to the island as a road to relieve the crisis. The big majority understand that there is no future for working people in Cuba without fighting along a course of working-class solidarity against the U.S. rulers’ attempts to reimpose its domination and plunder of the country.

This attitude was captured when a boatload of humanitarian aid from Mexico arrived May 18. Niurvis Fabre, a 52-year-old teacher, told the Associated Press she celebrated its arrival. She doesn’t expect to receive any of it, given her younger age, but said she is content “as long as the aid goes to the people who really need it.”

The sugar industry is one of the pillars of Cuba’s economy that has been severely battered by Washington’s suffocating measures in recent years. Workers have been engaged in a titanic effort to stop the decline of the country’s sugar production, which has registered the lowest production levels in decades.

State companies are unable to purchase the fuel, steel, fertilizers, herbicides, spare parts and other materials needed. The effect has rippled throughout the country, especially hitting the lives of people in communities reliant on local sugar mills.

Due to the lack of fuel, the Melanio Hernández sugar mill, in Sancti Spiritus province, shut down its boilers in March after processing only just over 40% of the projected harvest for this year. The Melanio was one of the few — and most efficient — sugar mills still operating on the island.

Sugar workers not sitting idly by

As the mills are forced to close, sugar workers are not sitting idly by to “see what happens.” They are seeking ways to find useful alternatives they can work on.

Thousands in mills and on sugar-growing farms where production had to be cut back have been temporarily redeployed to food, tobacco and charcoal production, without giving up on restarting sugar production when conditions allow.

Azcuba, Cuba’s state sugar monopoly, along with the National Union of Sugar Workers, the Association of Sugar Technicians of Cuba and other organizations are working together to find alternatives for the affected workers. Their goal is that workers remain employed and producing to help counter Washington’s stranglehold.

US rulers escalate their attacks against Cuba

Continued from front page

reportedly increased flights near Cuba; and the U.S. Department of Justice announced it was considering the indictment of Cuban leader Raúl Castro. All this, as the White House widened sanctions and continues to strangle the Cuban people with an oil blockade.

At Washington’s request, Ratcliffe met with Cuba’s interior minister and other officials in Havana May 14, and, according to “unnamed” CIA officials cited in the U.S. press, told them the Donald Trump administration would only “seriously engage” in talks if Havana “makes fundamental changes.” The U.S. rulers, however, are not looking for “changes,” they are seeking to overthrow Cuba’s socialist revolution.

Washington then ratcheted up its threats of military action further, leaking an “exclusive” story to Axios May 17, claiming Cuba has acquired some 300 military drones from Iran and Russia and is preparing to use them to attack “the U.S. base at Guantánamo Bay, U.S. military vessels and possibly Key West, Fla.”

“Without any legitimate excuse, the U.S. government is building, day after day, a fraudulent case to justify the ruthless economic war against the Cuban people and eventual military aggression,” responded Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez. “Specific media outlets are playing into their hands, promoting slander and leaking insinuations from the U.S. government itself.”

“The U.S. is the aggressor,” added Carlos Fernández de Cossío, Cuba’s deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The Cuban government released a statement after the meeting with Ratcliffe saying Cuba “is not a threat to



Granma photos by Ortelio González Martínez

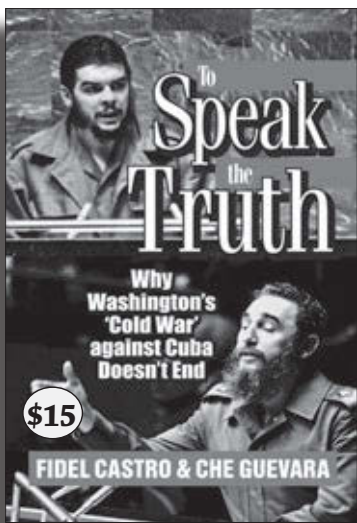
Charcoal, produced to export for barbecuing in southern Europe, reaps much-needed hard currency for Cuba. Made from marabú, left, an invasive shrub on uncultivated land, its production creates jobs and clears land for agriculture. And it’s used for cooking during blackouts.

“We have thrown ourselves into charcoal production,” Reidel López Santana, Azcuba’s director in Ciego de Ávila province, told the Cuban daily *Granma* March 21. In recent years, charcoal exports to countries in Europe have become a growing source of foreign revenue for Cuba. The charcoal is made from marabú, an invasive shrub that has spread over large areas of uncultivated lands.

While not a solution to the consequences of Washington’s blockade, this charcoal production is helping bring in hard currency, provide employment and clear agricultural land for use.

Before the latest escalation of sanctions, workers in sugar mills were already organizing brigades to farm and process food for the mills’ employees and their families to combat chronic shortages and reduce reliance on imports, and now are stepping up their efforts.

With the shutdown, workers at the Ciro Redondo sugar mill in Ciego de Ávila province “have found an original alternative,” said *Granma*. “They are applying their skills to the restoration of recreational areas for the community,” said López Santana. They are using their workshops to fix domestic appliances for the community.



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Join SWP in campaigning

Continued from front page

When SWP members in Minneapolis set up a literature table in front of their headquarters May 7, Jon Lenihan stopped to talk. “I’ve passed by your window and meant to see what you are all about,” he told SWP member Edwin Fruit. In the window is a sign, “Oppose Jew-hatred; Defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.”

Lenihan is Jewish and said he has a hard time talking to his “radical” friends on the topic of the Middle East. After a discussion, the retired teacher decided to get a six-month subscription to the *Militant*.

An Ecuadorian worker walking by chose to get a Spanish-language copy of *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia: The Example of the Cuban Revolution* by revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

“With the *Militant*, you help me stay more in touch with the world,” Amina Ali, a subscriber, told SWP members in Minnesota when they stopped by for a visit. She renewed her subscription and picked up a copy

of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke.

This book is Pathfinder’s latest title. It tells the little-known story of Cuba’s participation in this historic struggle and the revolutionary capacity of its leader, Amílcar Cabral.

Nate Stackhouse, an information technology worker, was one of hundreds at a May 17 picnic in Lindstrom, Minnesota, sponsored by Teamsters Local 320, in support of striking Chisago County public workers. After talking with SWP member Joanne Murphy, he subscribed to the *Militant* and bought a copy of *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*. He wanted to learn more about the Cuban Revolution and why Washington’s drive to destroy it is accelerating today.

In California the *Sacramento Bee* ran a column May 18 on candidates running for governor. It describes some of them, including saying, “Then there are candidates here for



Tony Lane, left, SWP candidate for Pennsylvania governor, shows Mike Wagner *Militant* article on strike by 3,800 JBS packinghouse workers in Colorado. “That’s impressive,” Wagner said.

the larger struggle, like Margaret Trowe of the Socialist Workers Party. Trowe, who works in housekeeping at a hotel in Berkeley, has spent decades in the labor movement.”

“The working class is really getting hammered,” Trowe says in the article.

“I believe there will be a socialist revolution — a mass movement of millions of workers.”

To help make that possible get involved! To join in getting the *Militant* to more people, contact the area nearest you listed on page 7.

Pathfinder books find interest as over 560,000 flock to Bogotá book fair

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — Pathfinder Press had its books on display for the first time at the Bogotá International Book Fair from April 21 to May 4. This major Latin American book event was attended by over 560,000 participants, with more than 2,000 events, ranging from book readings to children to a debate by presidential candidates. India was the country of honor.

Many participants were interested in Pathfinder’s display of books on revolutionary working-class politics from a publisher in the U.S.

Pathfinder shared a section of the booth of Bibliotecólogo, the company that distributes Pathfinder books in Colombia.

“When I saw these books, I was like ‘Oh my god!’ you exist!” Juan Diego Ochoa Chávez, a 17-year-old high school student, told volunteers at the booth.

“The powerful people want to keep the power, and kill off people like Jaime Garzón,” he said. Last year

the Colombian government acknowledged the role of its forces in the 1999 assassination of Garzón, who had been a negotiator seeking the release of hostages seized by guerrillas.

Ochoa decided to buy *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon. The book explains the history and class roots of Jew-hatred and why there is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism.

Over 230 Pathfinder titles sold

Over 230 Pathfinder books were sold. Top sellers included over 40 copies of titles by Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso in West Africa. Seventeen copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke were sold, as well as 11 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Titles on women’s liberation, the

Cuban Revolution, and the works of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and V.I. Lenin were also popular.

“I didn’t know Pathfinder was here,” Aiden Cassiani, a Venezuelan who now lives in Bogotá, told volunteers.

He said he first came across Pathfinder books in 2005 at the World Festival of Youth and Students, an anti-imperialist gathering held in Caracas, Venezuela.

Here he bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. He had read the book before and enjoyed the debate between Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky and Trinidadian-born writer C.L.R. James about which class forces should be looked to to lead the fight for Black liberation and workers power.

Pathfinder’s newest title, *Cuba and the War for Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde* was presented by Laura Garza, an SWP leader from Los Angeles. It was held in a busy corner opposite the Bibliotecólogo booth April 25. About a dozen people stayed for the program, while many others stopped by and listened to some of the presentation.

The book describes how the people of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde put an end to 500 years of Portuguese colonial exploitation in 1974-75. Led by a political party and an independence movement forged by Amílcar Cabral, their struggle triggered the collapse of Portugal’s colonial empire and brought down the 40-year eroded fascist regime in Portugal itself.

The firsthand account by Dreke, the leader of Cuban combatants, brings to life the decisive military aid provided by Cuba’s revolutionary government. Samir Condía, a 34-year-old bus fabrication worker, asked about the situation Cuba faces today. “Now with all the left-wing governments in Latin America, it must be easier for Cuba, but things are getting more complicated.” He pointed to Washington’s oil blockade of the island.

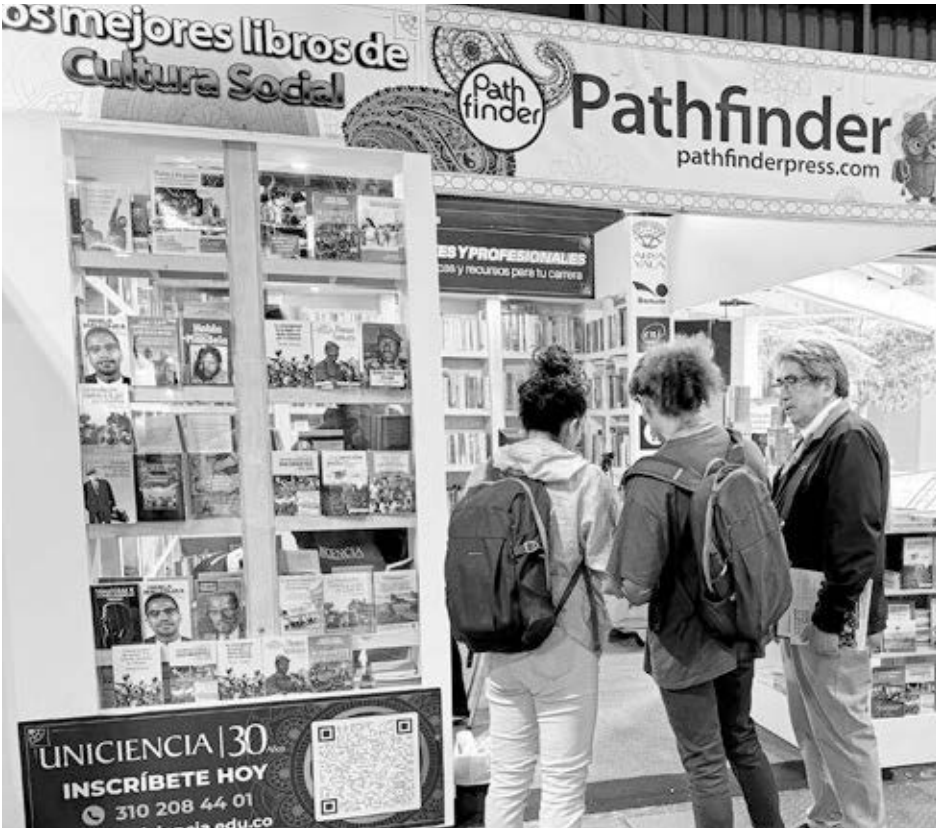
“The U.S. rulers have tried to

overthrow the Cuban government since 1959,” Garza said. “Because they don’t want to have an example for humanity that there’s another way to organize society. They want us to believe that capitalism will always exist.”

“I’ve always looked to people who stood up against oppression,” Javier Orobio said. “I first heard about Guinea-Bissau from a friend who told me about Amílcar Cabral. Cuba aided the most oppressed people and gave them value and dignity.”

Running up to the book fair there had been an uptick in bombings and attacks by guerrilla groups in Colombia, despite the signing of a peace deal between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia 10 years ago.

The book *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia* by Fidel Castro caught the eye of many of those who stopped by the Bibliotecólogo booth. Castro,, drawing on his experience leading working people in Cuba to take political power, describes his efforts in 2008 to end the six-decades-long armed conflict and guerrilla war in Colombia. The book was among Pathfinder’s top sellers.



Attractive Pathfinder book display at Bogotá book fair, held April 21 to May 4 in Colombia.

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Left backing for Luigi Mangione shows infatuation with thuggery

BY TERRY EVANS

Forces on the middle-class left, echoed by the liberal media, are increasingly infatuated with the use of violence against political opponents, as shown by their fascination with Luigi Mangione’s alleged slaying of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Their sugar-coating of such killings was thrown into sharp relief following the third attempt to assassinate President Donald Trump in the last two years.

Cole Allen sprinted past a security checkpoint in the hotel where the White House Correspondents’ Association Dinner was being held in Washington, D.C., April 25. He carried a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun and a pistol. Al-

AS I SEE IT

len fired one shot toward the ballroom where Trump was due to speak, before being caught. He is charged with attempting to assassinate the president.

Although the aim of the assault seems obvious, the *New York Times* April 27 said investigators are still “searching for a motive,” describing Allen as a “completely average guy.”

But an email from Allen explaining his goals had been released the day before. “I am no longer willing to permit a pedophile, racist and traitor to coat my hands with his crimes,” Allen wrote, speaking of the president. He said he was targeting administration officials, but would try not to kill hotel security “if at all possible.” He added, he “would still go through most everyone here to get to the targets,” claiming all participants in the event are “complicit.”

Allen, a 31-year-old teacher from Torrance, California, contributed to Kamala Harris’ 2024 presidential campaign. He took part in a “No Kings” anti-Trump march and previously denounced Trump as a “fascist convicted felon.”

In the following days, Democrats and Republicans issued perfunctory condemnations of Allen, before quickly moving on to blame each other for the increase in political violence.

This latest attempt by a politically motivated radical to settle differ-

ences with a gun reflects a growing trend on the left.

A debate over the use of violence for political ends was featured in a *Times* podcast April 22 titled, “The Rich Don’t Play by the Rules. So Why Should I? Why petty theft might be the new political protest.” One participant was Hasan Piker, a supporter of Chinese leader Mao Zedong. Mao’s regime had nothing to do with Marxism or advancing the interests of the working class. Instead, it orchestrated the bloody repression of the toilers and its political opponents on a massive scale.

The left’s love of political violence

Piker says he’s opposed to the murder of Thompson, but added, “many people immediately understand why this death had taken place.” He pointed his finger at the “for-profit, paywalled system of health care,” in effect providing a justification for Mangione’s attack.

Piker claims to be a Marxist and says no less than Frederick Engels, Karl Marx’s key collaborator, backs up his view. “Engels wrote about the concept of social murder,” Piker says, and CEO Thompson “was engaging in a tremendous amount of social murder.”

What Engels was referring to in his 1845 book, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, was the death of workers from starvation. The “workingmen call this ‘social murder,’” Engels wrote, “and accuse our whole society of perpetrating this crime.”

Later in the book Engels explains a Marxist outlook. “It does not occur to any Communist to wish to revenge himself upon individuals, or to believe that, in general, the single bourgeois can act otherwise, under existing circumstances, than he does act.”

“The more the English workers absorb communistic ideas, the more super-



Tribune-Democrat via AP/Thomas Slusser

Leftist backers of Luigi Mangione, charged with murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, celebrate him outside hearing in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, Dec. 19, 2024.

fluous becomes their present bitterness, which, should it continue so violent as at present, could accomplish nothing.”

What Engels actually wrote refutes any idea that the cold-blooded killing of Thompson should be “understood” by working people.

Piker’s response to the killing of Thompson is consistent with the views of Stalinist-trained groups that express extreme intolerance toward political opponents and glorify violence against those they label “oppressors.”

Piker is on record declaring his support for Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom against Jews in Israel. “It doesn’t matter if rape happened on Oct. 7,” Piker said. “It doesn’t change the dynamic for me.” The fact that he and other radicals identify with Hamas and its murderous Jew-hating assaults points to the fact that these forces can easily find themselves allied with fascist thugs in the future. That’s what happened to similar Stalinist forces in Hitler’s Germany.

Side by side with the left’s backing of political violence, is its deepening involvement in one of the bosses’ two main parties, the Democrats. Piker is

speaking on platforms to promote anti-billionaire Democrats in the 2026 elections and has spoken at tax-the-rich rallies alongside Bernie Sanders.

Others who identify with Mangione also seek to emulate him. “Luigi popped that motherf---r,” Chamel Abdulkarim said proudly after he filmed himself setting fire to and destroying a 1.2 million square foot warehouse in Ontario, California, April 7. Some 20 people were inside at the time, but none were injured. The six-alarm fire took 175 firefighters to extinguish. Abdulkarim is charged with arson.

In statements afterward, he denounced the “1%,” the middle-class left’s term for the capitalist ruling class. “All you had to do was pay us enough to live,” he said.

Such destructive acts set back the struggles for better wages and conditions and provide a pretext for the government to accelerate its use of cops and spies against working people. The left’s use of violence against political opponents is also aimed at silencing exactly the kind of discussion working people need in order to chart a road forward. It should be unequivocally condemned.

Indiana aluminum workers fight for union, higher pay

BY BETSY FARLEY

LAWRENCEBURG, Ind. — Workers at the Batesville Products aluminum casting and finishing foundry here went out on strike May 11. The workers — machinists, polishers, and shipping and receiving workers who are members of

Teamsters Local 135 — are fighting for union recognition. Their key demands are higher wages, less forced overtime and better workplace conditions.

“We’re in a dirty environment, very hot, and we’ve been working a mandatory 60-hour week since February,” Jeff

Vogt, a machinist who has worked for 12 years at the plant, told the *Militant*.

“Sixteen out of the 17 workers signed cards for the union,” Vogt said. The workers requested the bosses recognize the union, but they refused. The union filed for a National Labor Relations Board election, but the company has tried to delay the vote and weaken support for the union. “That’s why we voted unanimously to strike,” Vogt said.

“We had a good show of solidarity out here yesterday, with members from Teamsters Locals 100 and 89 turning out,” Tina Olinger, a union steward at Horseshoe Casino in Indianapolis, told the *Militant*. She spent the whole day on the picket line May 15.

Ethan Turner, 21, has been on the job for three months. “Of course I signed for the union,” he said. “My previous job was union and the more senior guys working, who’ve been here a decade or more, said we need the union. I agreed.”

“This is about workers standing together and demanding a voice in their workplace,” Teamsters Local 135 President Dustin Roach told the media. The workers are prepared “to stand together on the picket line for as long as it takes to win the dignity, respect and representation they deserve.”

Come show solidarity! Join the picket at 434 Margaret Street.

Health services workers in Minneapolis strike for contract

BY EDWIN FRUIT

CENTER CITY, Minn. — Chanting, “What do we want? A contract! When do want it? Now!” striking Chisago County workers, members of Teamsters Local 320, marched in front of the Government Center here May 5. The strike began May 1.

The 170 workers in the bargaining unit, the majority of whom are women, work in the Administrative and Health and Human Services and Government Center for the county. Chisago County is about an hour northeast of Minneapolis.

“The county health care plan has a family deductible of \$10,000. We want to switch to the Teamsters plan, where the deductible is \$1,500,” Amy Perusse, a business agent for Local 320, told the *Militant* on the picket line. And we want the county to contribute their share to this plan.”

“Our contract expired last year, but the county commissioners aren’t moving toward a resolution for a contract,” she added.

Workers on the picket line, including the social workers, told the *Militant* that one of their branch offices was abruptly closed by the county last month. Now employees working out of the Government Center have almost no private space to meet with their clients.

“Support from the community is awesome and one of the strengths of this strike. There are signs up around town urging the county to ‘Do the right thing by these workers,’” Perusse said. “Unfortunately, the county government shows no concern for the clients, the children and families we serve. And our health care plan will expire at the end of May if workers don’t go back by then. The county is hoping this will help force us to end the strike.”

‘The world party of the toilers, the oppressed, and the exploited’

This week's *Book of the Month* is Writings of Leon Trotsky (1939-40). The selection is from the 1940 “Manifesto of the Fourth International on the imperialist war and the proletarian world revolution.” It was adopted at an emergency conference of the international communist movement in New York in May. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

The Emergency Conference of the Fourth International, the World Party of the Socialist Revolution, convenes at the turning point of the second imperialist war. The stage of probing for openings, of making preparations, and of relative military inactivity has been left far behind. Germany has unloosed all the furies of hell in a major offensive to which the Allies are replying in kind with all their forces of destruction. From now on the life of Europe and all of mankind will be determined for a long time by the course of the imperialist war and by its economic and political consequences.

The Fourth International considers that now is the time to say openly and clearly how it views this war and its participants, how it evaluates the war policies of various labor organizations, and most important, what is the way out to



The Socialist Workers Party campaigned to win unions to oppose the U.S. rulers' drive to drag workers into the second imperialist world war over resources, markets, colonial plunder. Above are 1940 headlines from the *Socialist Appeal*, then paper of the SWP.

peace, freedom, and plenty.

The Fourth International turns not to the governments who have dragooned the peoples into the slaughter, nor to the bourgeois politicians who bear the responsibility for these governments, nor to the labor bureaucracy which supports the warring bourgeoisie. The Fourth International turns to the working men and women, the soldiers and sailors, the ruined peasants and the enslaved colonial peoples. The Fourth International has no ties whatsoever with the oppressors, the exploiters, the imperialists. It is the world party of the toilers, the oppressed, and the exploited. This manifesto is addressed to them.

Technology is infinitely more powerful now than at the end of the war of 1914-1918, whereas mankind is much more poverty-stricken. The standard of living has declined in one country after another. On the threshold of the present war, agriculture was in worse condition than at the outbreak of the last war. The agricultural countries are ruined. In the industrial countries the middle classes are being ravaged economically, and a permanent sub-class of unemployed — modern pariahs — has been formed. The domestic market has narrowed. The export of capital has been reduced. Imperialism has actually shattered the world market, breaking it up into spheres dominated by powerful individual countries. ...

The colonial countries are suffering from their own internal crises, and from the crises of the metropolitan centers. Backward nations which yesterday were still semi-free are today plunged into slavery (Abyssinia, Albania, China ...). Every imperialist country must have its own sources of raw materials, above all for war, that is, for a new struggle for raw materials. In order to enrich themselves further, the capitalists are destroying and laying waste to everything created by the labor of centuries.

The world of decaying capitalism is overcrowded. The question of admitting a hundred extra refugees becomes a major problem for such a world power as the United States. In an era of aviation, telegraph, telephone, radio, and television, travel from country to country is paralyzed by passports and visas. The period of the wasting away of foreign trade and the decline of domestic trade is at the same time the period of the monstrous intensification of chauvinism and especially of anti-Semitism. In the epoch of its rise, capitalism took the Jewish people out of the ghetto and utilized them as an instrument in its commercial expansion. Today decaying capitalist society is striving to squeeze the Jewish people from all its pores; seventeen million individuals out of the two billion populating the globe, that is, less than 1 percent, can no longer find a place

on our planet. Amid the vast expanses of land and the marvels of technology, which has also conquered the skies for man as well as the earth, the bourgeoisie has managed to convert our planet into a foul prison.

On November 1, 1914, at the beginning of the last imperialist war, Lenin wrote: “Imperialism has placed the fate of European culture at stake. After this war, if a series of successful revolutions do not occur, more wars will follow — the fairy tale of a ‘war to end all wars’ is a hollow and pernicious fairy tale.” Workers, call this prediction to mind! The present war — the second imperialist war — is not an accident; it does not result from the will of this or that dictator. It was predicted long ago. It derived its origin inexorably from the contradictions of international capitalist interests. Contrary to the official fables designed to drug the people, the chief cause of war as of all other social evils — unemployment, the high cost of living, fascism, colonial oppression — is the private ownership of the means of production together with the bourgeois state which rests on this foundation.

With the present level of technology and skill of the workers, it is quite possible to create adequate conditions for the material and spiritual development of all mankind. It would be necessary only to organize the economic life within each country and over our entire planet correctly, scientifically, and rationally, according to a general plan. So long, however, as the main productive forces of society are held by trusts, i.e., isolated capitalist cliques, and so long as the national state remains a pliant tool in the hands of these cliques, the struggle for markets, for sources of raw materials, for domination of the world, must inevitably assume a more and more destructive character. State power and domination of the economy can be torn from the hands of these rapacious imperialist cliques only by the revolutionary working class.

That is the meaning of Lenin's warning that without “a series of successful revolutions” a new imperialist war would inevitably follow. The different predictions and promises which were made have been submitted to the test of events. The fairy tale of the “war to end all wars” has been proved a lie. Lenin's prediction has become tragic truth.

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Israel defends its right to exist

Continued from front page
of some 53% of the territory. All but 20,000 of the 2 million Palestinians there are on the other side of the “yellow line” living under Hamas rule. In the face of ongoing provocations by Hamas, Israel has recently expanded its control to about 64% of Gaza.

Some 600 trucks with food, fuel, generators and other humanitarian aid are now entering Gaza every day — the same number or more than before the war.

Because of the sheer volume, *Israel Hayom* newspaper reports that “dual-use materials,” and some weapons, are being smuggled in. Hamas is taxing merchants, seizing goods and stockpiling food in its warehouses to exert control over distribution and finance its operations.

Firmly in control of the governmental apparatus and with its “police” walking the streets, Hamas continues to threaten, kidnap, torture and kill its opponents, as well as those who stand up to its extortion racket.

Despite the brutal repression, some residents of northern Gaza took to the streets the evening of May 12 to protest the murder of civilian Momen Abu Morseh. They demanded Hamas “get out!”

According to the so-called peace plan Washington negotiated with Hamas as part of the ceasefire, Hamas is supposed to be “demilitarized” and a new police force, trained outside Gaza, would come in to take the place of the Hamas-run force.

No new force has been formed and Hamas refuses to disarm.

“What do you need more than an AK-47 to crack down on people, scare me and scare many other people and to coerce people?” one man from Gaza told Washington, D.C.-based Realign for Palestine. In fact, the main weapons Hamas used to massacre 1,200 people in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, were light weapons.

Conflict over future of Gaza

So far the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been willing to give Trump’s Board

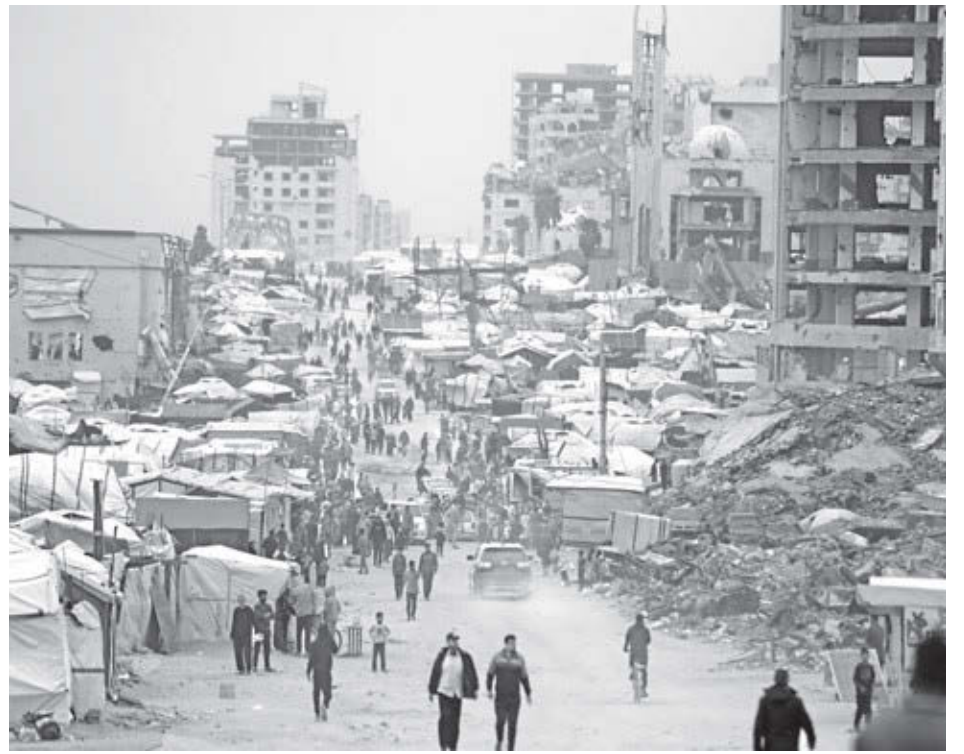
of Peace for Gaza the opportunity to convince Hamas to turn over its weapons. But months have gone by with no action. In reality the only force willing and capable of disarming Hamas is the Israel Defense Forces.

Hamas apologists and complicit United Nations bodies claim that Israel wants to remove Palestinians from Gaza and carry out “ethnic cleansing.” They seize on statements by Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir, two rightist ministers in Netanyahu’s ruling coalition, who want the Israeli government to “encourage” Palestinians to leave and build Israeli settlements in Gaza.

But Netanyahu has repeatedly said he opposes this course.

Instead, the Israeli government is looking for ways to get Palestinians in Gaza out from under Hamas’ boot.

One sign of that is the Israeli government’s collaboration with plans to build new housing for tens of thousands in Rafah, which is under Israel-



Nur photo via AP/Majdi Fathi

Palestinians walk through Gaza City during sandstorm Feb. 13. Millions of Gazans were displaced as a result of Hamas’ practice of placing command posts, weapons, inside hospitals and in tunnels underneath people’s homes. Now Hamas thugs are preventing workers in Gaza from building apartments for tens of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Rafah.

li control, funded by the government of the United Arab Emirates.

Workers who live in Hamas-dominated parts of Gaza were set to begin

work in mid-May. But Hamas thugs threatened the contractors at gunpoint when they were heading to the site and forcibly turned them away.

‘Times’ pushes lie that rape is ‘state policy’ in Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

The *New York Times* featured a scurrilous article by long-time opinion columnist Nicholas Kristof May 11 that promotes the lie that sexual violence against Palestinians is “widely practiced as part of an organized state policy” by the Israeli army, Shin Bet internal security agents, prison guards and West Bank settlers.

The article appeared one day before the release of *Silenced No More: Sexual Terror Unveiled: The Untold Atrocities of October 7 and Against Hostages in Captivity*. Based on 400 testimonies and abundant photographic and video evidence, the new report documents the rapes, sexual abuse and torture systematically carried out by the Hamas thugs who invaded Israel Oct. 7, 2023, murdering 1,200 people. It was the worst anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust.

The timing of the publication of Kristof’s article was not accidental. The *Times* had been given a copy of *Silenced*

No More before its official release.

It’s clear from the article and accompanying video that Kristof’s purpose is to undercut the impact of *Silenced No More*, help bury the truth about Hamas’ pogrom and shift the blame for the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel onto Israel.

“Think of it this way,” Kristof says in the final paragraph of his column, “the horrific abuse inflicted on Israeli women on Oct. 7 now happens to Palestinians day after day.”

Perhaps Kristof needs to be reminded of what actually happened on Oct. 7. There is no comparison.

Hamas’ rapes were not isolated acts. They were part of Hamas’ plans from the beginning, taking place at the Nova Music Festival, on kibbutz farm towns and military bases overrun by Hamas that day, and other locations. The rapes, gang rapes and sexual abuse were part of a deliberate Hamas strategy to instill fear and dehumanize Jews — and Arabs and immigrants who worked with Jews.

Videos of the violence that day were filmed by Hamas operatives themselves, many proudly posted on their own websites, including one showing them parading the partially naked body of Shani Louk through the streets of Gaza Oct. 7.

The *New York Times* itself ran a Dec. 28, 2023, article that confirmed the brutality. The bourgeois liberal paper interviewed several eyewitnesses, and its reporters viewed the photo of a woman’s corpse from a kibbutz “with dozens of nails driven into her thighs and groin.” At the time, the *Times* concluded that “the attacks against women were not isolated events but part of a broader pattern of gender-based violence on Oct. 7.”

Kristof says he interviewed 14 Palestinians in the

West Bank for his column. A majority of his sources are anonymous, making them uncheckable. When the Israeli government challenged the story’s accuracy, pointing out that some of those he quoted have ties to Hamas, the *Times*’ editors doubled down, saying that the article had been “extensively fact-checked, with accounts further cross-referenced with news reporting, independent research from human-rights groups.”

Outlandish charges

One of the most outlandish charges by Kristof speaks volumes about the *Times*’ fact-checking. He bizarrely claims an anonymous male Palestinian journalist was anally raped by a dog and that Israel trains dogs for that purpose. If Kristof and the *Times* editors take that fiction for good coin, is there a single fact in the article that can be trusted?

Kristof creates a modern-day version of the ancient blood libel that Jews drink Christian blood, this time to smear Israel. But that doesn’t mean that abuses have not been or will not be committed. Israel is a capitalist, class-divided country. The Israeli government itself has prosecuted some soldiers, prison guards and settlers for abusing Palestinians in the West Bank and elsewhere. But they’ve also turned a blind eye to brutality there.

In February 2025, an Israeli military court sentenced a soldier to seven months in prison for striking detainees with his fists and weapons while they were bound and blindfolded.

Thoroughly investigating charges of sexual abuse by Israeli forces against Palestinians and prosecuting the perpetrators strengthens the fight to defend Israel’s existence as a refuge for Jews.

In contrast, Hamas leaders boast to this day that they plan to carry out Oct. 7 “again and again.” Kristof’s column slandering Israel will be welcomed by Hamas apologists and Jew-haters everywhere.

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Deportation of Crimean Tatars

Continued from front page

Vladimir Putin's war targeting civilians as part of Moscow's attempt to conquer the country.

In 1944 Joseph Stalin smeared the entire indigenous Tatar people of the Crimean Peninsula, claiming they had been collaborators with the Nazis while they were under the boot of the German imperialist occupation. Tatar families, including recently demobilized Red Army soldiers, were given minutes to gather whatever they could carry.

Over 200,000 men, women and children were rounded up, herded onto cattle cars, and taken far across Russia and dropped in the Urals, Siberia and Uzbekistan. Tens of thousands perished from starvation, disease and inhuman conditions in one of the largest mass deportations in history.

Some never made it into Russia. Residents of Arabat Spit, a remote fishing area, were pushed onto a barge that was taken out into the Azov Sea and sunk. Russian machine gunners nearby made sure no one survived.

The Crimean Tatars struggled to return to their homeland after the war. Finally, as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and Ukrainians won their independence, the Tatars were able to move back. But they found their homes and property had been seized by Moscow and distributed to new residents to "Russify" the population. As part of newly independent Ukraine, the Tatars' culture flowered and their identification as Ukrainians grew.

"Overcoming enormous difficulties, we began to return to our homeland and restore the remnants of our destroyed culture," Mustafa Dzhemilev testified last Sept. 25 at a Summit of the Crimea Platform held in New York. "I am one of the few still surviving representatives of the generation of Crimean Tatars who survived the total deportation and genocide of their people in 1944," he said in his native language.

Dzhemilev is the longtime head of the Mejlis, the Crimean Tatars' elected self-governing national council. His talk was called "Crimea's liberation is a question of survival for Crimean Tatars."

Crimean Tatars' battle for survival

Dzhemilev was less than a year old when his family was deported to Uzbekistan. He became a leading voice for Crimean Tatar rights and an outspoken opponent of Stalinist repression in the Soviet Union. He was repeatedly imprisoned, serving 15 years in the Gulag, where he carried out a 303-day hunger strike. The *Militant* was part of the international campaign that successfully fought for his freedom.

Tens of thousands of Tatars mobilized in 2014 against the seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine by the Putin regime. Under Russian occupation, they faced intensified persecution. Russian political police raided their homes, mosques and schools. Tatar-language newspapers and the only Tatar-language TV channel were shut down. Some 30,000 Tatars left Crimea for mainland Ukraine.

Dzhemilev and other Mejlis leaders were expelled again from their homeland. In 2014 and 2015, as part of reporting trips to Ukraine, John Studer, now the editor of the *Militant*, interviewed Dzhemilev to help publicize the struggle of the Crimean Tatar people.

After occupying Crimea, Moscow "began to rapidly transform the entire peninsula into a powerful military base with the clear goal of further expansion into mainland Ukraine," Dzhemilev testified at the New York meeting. "Representatives of the indigenous people and ethnic Ukrainians were the first to be subjected to large-scale repressions.

"About 50,000 Crimean Tatars — some 15% of the entire population — and up to 100,000 ethnic Ukrainians have left Crimea," Dzhemilev said. "And the number of Russian citizens resettled in Crimea already exceeds 1 million people."

"Today, Ukraine is bleeding, fighting off the aggressor and trying to liberate its occupied territories, to liberate millions of our fellow citizens who have



On May 18, 1944, Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin carried out mass deportation of 200,000 Crimean Tatars he accused of being Nazi agents. Cattle trains took them across Russia to Siberia and Central Asia. Close to half died during the trip or after they arrived in exile.

fallen into the hands of cruel occupiers."

Dzhemilev rejected any idea of "peace" initiatives floated at times by the Donald Trump administration, which "largely coincide with the plans of the aggressor" by demanding "recognition of Crimea and some other occupied territories of Ukraine as territories of Russia." He said that such a settlement, signed under the duress of military force, "will be a very short break before a new, even bloodier war."

Decades of struggle

The Crimean Tatar people have fought for centuries to defend their national rights as a people, since they were conquered and subjugated by Czarina Catherine II of Russia in 1783. The

Ukrainian commemorations of the victims of the Crimean Tatar genocide are also a celebration of the resilience of an indigenous people whose history is part of shaping Ukraine today.

The memory of the past is vital to strengthen the Crimean Tatar people's struggle today for their national rights and identity, including being able to live freely on their land.

"If for Ukraine in general the liberation of Crimea is primarily a question of restoring its territorial integrity and ensuring its security," Dzhemilev said, "then for the indigenous people of Crimea, it is also a question of survival and further development or complete disappearance as an original nation."

Lynn teachers union: 'Stop deportation of our member'

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

With help from her union, students at the school where she works, and their parents and other community members, Mariola Perez, an immigrant from Guatemala, is fighting moves by Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport her.

Sixteen years ago Perez fled to the U.S. to escape the poverty, discrimination and abuse she faced as an Indigenous Mayan in her home country. Now a member of the teachers' union in Lynn, Massachusetts, Perez has built a life for herself and her U.S.-born son working as a paraprofessional at Cobbett Elementary School. She is also trained as a medical interpreter and volunteers her services to community members.

Perez has been tracked by Immigration and Customs Enforcement since being arrested for a traffic violation in 2013, a charge that was dismissed when she paid a \$140 fine. Since then she has appeared at yearly check-ins with ICE officials in their Burlington, Massachusetts, office. But this year was different. ICE agents told her to report on May 11 and be prepared for detention or deportation.

As soon as the word got out, her union, co-workers, friends and others rallied to her defense. On May 6, Jessica Tang, president of the Massachusetts American Federation of Teachers; Lynn Teachers Union President Phil O'Connor; and Jared Nicholson, Lynn's mayor, organized a rally in front of City Hall to demand that ICE let Perez stay.

"Deporting her only separates her from her son," Nicholson told the crowd, "and deprives students and families of the work she does for this community."

Tang said that many families told her they wanted to speak out on behalf of the longtime educator but feared coming to the rally, afraid they'd also be targeted by ICE.

On May 10, the community held a picnic for Perez in Red Rock Park. The event was titled "This Mother's Day, keep Mariola home." It was built by the American Federation of Teachers. Even her boss, Lisa Cullivan White, the principal at Cobbett, showed up. She spoke of the impact of Perez's work "helping students learn, grow and believe in themselves."

Perez told them she wondered if one day she'd be forced to say goodbye to her son. This is not something a "human being should go through," she said.

More than 5,000 people have signed a petition demanding ICE and state officials "Stop the deportation of Mariola — keep this mom and educator in her community."

Thousands fight deportation

"Mariola has told us again and again this isn't just about her," said Isaac

Hodes, executive director of Lynn United for Change, the group circulating the petition. "It's also about the thousands in Massachusetts and the millions around the country fighting similar threats of deportation."

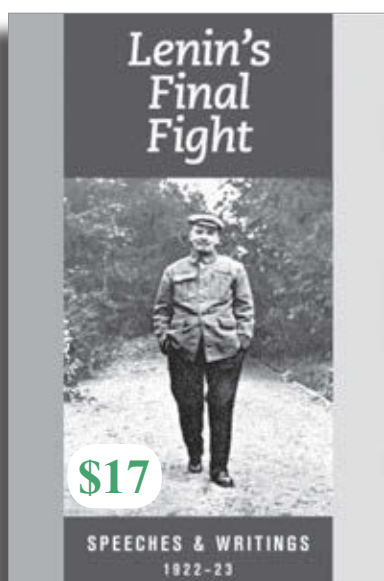
On May 11 Perez arrived at the ICE offices in Burlington with a crowd of supporters. And she walked back out free, at least for now. "Today, DHS [Department of Homeland Security] made a decision not to detain Mariola," Alec Larson, her attorney, said. A new "check-in" date is set for November and Perez has finally been granted a "reasonable fear interview," which could lead to her being considered for asylum, something she has sought for years.

"To this day, she has not been provided an opportunity to tell her story and to pursue the relief we believe she's eligible for," Larson said.

"I am so, so grateful for you being here, for your presence, for all your support, and your help," Perez told supporters after leaving the ICE interview. "And for showing this country that we are human beings."



Mariola Perez, center, member of Lynn, Massachusetts, teachers union fighting deportation, at May 6 rally with union President Phil O'Connor speaking, Mayor Jared Nicholson, right.



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A CALL TO ACTION

Protest US war drive against Cuba!

Demonstrations against the U.S. rulers' mounting assaults on Cuba are needed as Washington seeks pretexts for military intervention, including filing frame-up charges against Cuban revolutionary leader Raúl Castro.

Defense of Cuba's sovereignty is an elemental defense of the national rights of all peoples against interference by Washington and other imperialist powers. Widely sponsored protests should condemn the U.S. rulers' most recent war moves and demand an end to their decadeslong economic and political assault against Cuba.

The Justice Department's May 20 indictment of Raúl Castro for conspiring to kill U.S. nationals 30 years ago is aimed at laying the basis for further incursions by Washington under the banner of defending its "national security." Five Cuban jet pilots are also charged.

The case is entirely based on the slander that Castro ordered the shooting down of two planes flown by members of Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue over international waters. The Cuban government has long exposed these claims, showing the planes' pilots had frequently and deliberately violated Cuban airspace to drop flyers on the island and ignored repeated warnings to cease their attacks on Cuba's sovereignty.

José Basulto, the head of that counterrevolutionary outfit, was a former CIA operative and combatant in the Washington-organized Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. The following year he fired a cannon from an offshore boat at a Cuban hotel.

Recent unsubstantiated and anonymous allegations

"leaked" to government-favored U.S. media claim Cuba is acquiring hundreds of drones to target Guantánamo and cities in the U.S.

CIA Director John Ratcliffe says Cuba must make "fundamental changes." What he means is the Cuban people must renounce their sovereign decision to make a socialist revolution and open up the country, once again, to the exploitation of its resources, land and labor by U.S. capital.

The U.S. rulers' dog-eat-dog drive for profits lies behind both their war moves abroad and their unending assault on workers' wages and conditions at home.

Cuba is a special target. Working people there threw off Washington's imperialist domination over six decades ago. Under the leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement they took political power into their own hands. They ended capitalist exploitation, transforming themselves and setting an example for toilers worldwide.

Ever since, the U.S. rulers have been determined to overturn the Cuban government. But the dedication of the Cuban people to defend their sovereignty has stayed Washington's hand. "What bothers them is Cuba's dignity. Cuba's courage in never giving up," Cuban leader Víctor Dreke told a meeting in Havana earlier this year.

"Working people in the United States have both an obligation and an opportunity right now to get the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution to the broadest layers of the population," Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, said in a call to action in February. Join us in answering that call!

'Militant' fights prison bans in Florida, Tennessee

Continued from front page

And there is now another ban to take on, at the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center in Hartsville, Tennessee.

Prison officials at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, had banned issues nos. 4-6 for reporting on labor-backed 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.

The Literature Review Committee has upheld that prison's claim that the articles in these three issues are "dangerously inflammatory" and encourage "riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest," without any explanation. They also maintained the accusation that nos. 4 and 5 are "a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system." Officials there never identified a single sentence they claimed justified their action.

On April 28 the *Militant* requested the Florida Department of Corrections convene a special meeting of the Literature Review Committee to review and overturn their decision to uphold the Taylor bans.

The *Militant* "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," wrote *Militant* attorney David Goldstein, "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."

The *Militant* has yet to receive a reply about the hearing. This is the first time the *Militant* has requested a special meeting since it became an option in 2022. The hearing must be convened with the three ranking Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee members participating.

Civil liberties groups, trade unionists and others have written letters requesting authorities reverse these bans. More letters are needed.

'Militant' banned in Tennessee

It recently came to the attention of the *Militant* that 10 issues of the *Militant* have been banned at the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center in Tennessee. Trousdale is managed by CoreCivic, a private for-profit prison management company.

Issues nos. 7, 10, 11 and 12 sent to a prisoner subscriber there were returned to the *Militant* in March

and April. Prison stampings on their envelopes, which hadn't been opened, read, "Return to Sender, Unapproved Vendor" or "Not Allowed Due to Content."

Also, on April 10, the *Militant* received difficult-to-read photocopies that showed only parts of envelopes of another six impounded issues, making it impossible to know which papers had been banned.

After *Militant* attorney David Goldstein wrote to the Tennessee Department of Correction requesting the reason for the impoundments, he received a letter from Trousdale Warden Stanley Lovett.

"Please be advised that these materials were rejected because the contents were determined to reasonably present a threat to the security and good order of the institution," Lovett wrote. "While you may have received envelopes with varying notations, such as 'unapproved vendor' or 'RTS,' please accept this correspondence as the formal written notification required by our guidelines."

But the prison's impoundments do not follow their "guidelines." In fact, they violate the State of Tennessee Department of Correction's own policies. Its Administrative Policies and Procedures states, "Rejection notices regarding magazines or similar publications must contain information to identify the specific issues or items being rejected."

And if the prison warden "determines that mail sent to an inmate could reasonably present a threat to the security, order, or programs of the institution" the warden must notify both the prisoner and the publisher in writing, including the reason that the mail was rejected, and allow an appeal to be made within 14 days to the assistant commissioner of prison operations.

When the *Militant* was impounded in Tennessee prisons in 2022, a prison official wrote to the paper saying the ban had been reversed precisely because the *Militant* is, in fact, "an approved publication."

"Because Trousdale's censorship of the *Militant* violates TDOC regulations and is unconstitutional, the rejections and returns must be reversed," Goldstein wrote to L.R. Thomas, assistant commissioner of prison operations, May 18, "and all rejected issues must be delivered to the inmate subscribers forthwith."

Letters urging authorities to reverse the bans should be emailed to: Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com and Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Free Ahmed Douma, Egyptian poet, activist



AP Photo/Sarah Carr

Ahmed Douma at 2011 march in Tahrir Square, Cairo. A poet and political activist, he was arrested, imprisoned on frame-up charges of "publishing false news" April 6.

BY LESLIE DORK

Ahmed Douma, an Egyptian poet, writer and fighter for political rights, was imprisoned yet again April 6. He was accused of "publishing false news and statements inside and outside the country with the intent to disturb public peace and spread panic."

The charges are all based on things he's written, including an article published in *Al-Araby Al-Jadeed* (The New Arab), a London-base news outlet, entitled "From the Prison Inside the State to a State Inside the Prison," where he describes the years of detention and oppression he's faced and argues this destabilizes the state. He has also been charged with "disseminating false news" in relation to online posts about an assault on imprisoned activist Mohamed Adel.

Douma was a central leader during the heroic 2011 mass occupation of Tahrir Square in Cairo that drew widespread working-class involvement and brought down the repressive regime of President Hosni Mubarak.

He was arrested and imprisoned in 2012 for participating in a sit-in and again in 2013 after the Egyptian government passed draconian laws against protests. In 2015 he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison for political activity.

He served nearly 10 years behind bars, including four years and eight months in solitary confinement, and faced torture and mistreatment.

He won release in 2023 on a presidential pardon, but was continually harassed by government prosecutors. The latest charges are just more of the same.

Much of his poetry was written in prison. One poem was exhibited at the 2021 Cairo International Book Fair, until security forces ordered its removal. It describes his imprisonment:

*My cell sings you a song
Whose melody opposes return
Whose lyrics grant me
Spaciousness
A little song that, in hope, resembles
A homeland's embrace
An embrace wide enough for all
A homeland
That is not merely a collection of graves.*

The fight to win his freedom is backed by many international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, PEN International, the Committee to Protect Journalists, International Federation for Human Rights and a number of political rights groups in Egypt.

Douma was tried April 29. The court declined the defense's request for testimony from several prominent figures previously held in the same facilities or expert testimony on the difference between news reporting and opinion pieces.

The New Cairo Summary Court said it will issue its verdict June 3. If convicted, Douma faces another five years in prison.

Amnesty International urges supporters of political rights to spread the word and send letters of appeal demanding Douma be "immediately and unconditionally released as he is arbitrarily detained solely for exercising his rights to freedom of expression." Letters should be sent to Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Madinat al-Rehab, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. Or email: m.office@ppo.gov.eg.