

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
John Benson: decadeslong leader
of the Socialist Workers Party
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 22

JUNE 8, 2026

US rulers seek Iran deal that provides more power, profits

BY SETH GALINSKY

The conflicting interests of Washington and Israel are clearer than ever as the Donald Trump administration pushes to reach a deal with the Iranian regime. Washington's war on Iran and its on-again, off-again negotiations with Tehran are both aimed at advancing the U.S. imperialists' own interests in the Middle East.

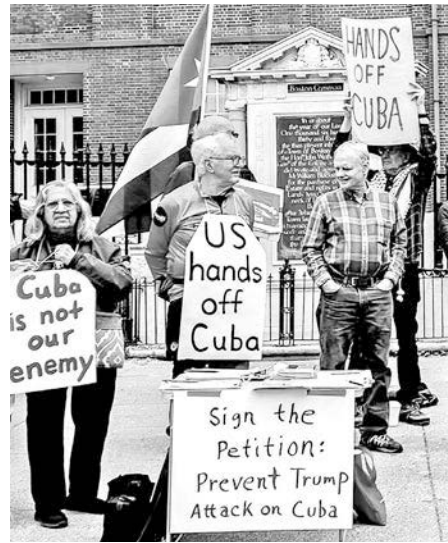
The U.S. rulers want stability so they can increase their plunder of the oil, gas and other resources in the region, deepen their exploitation of working people there and extend their domination of world oil markets. They seek to push back the rising influence of Beijing, their main capitalist rival on a world scale.

Unlike U.S. imperialism, Israel is a small capitalist country of just 10 million, compared to over 93 million people in Iran. It does not seek to dominate the Middle East, but is fighting to defend its existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms, in a world where violent assaults on Jews are rising sharply.

And it's no secret that the regime in Tehran wants to wipe Israel — and the Jews who live there — off the face

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Build protests now to defend Cuba's sovereignty! US hands off Cuba!



Right, 250,000 Cubans rally in front of U.S. Embassy in Havana May 22 to protest Washington's indictment of Raúl Castro, a central leader of Cuba's socialist revolution. Left, 100 people joined rally next day in Boston, among growing protests against U.S. war threats on Cuba.

Washington escalates attacks on Cuba, charges Raúl Castro

BY RÓGER CALERO

On May 20 the U.S. Justice Department filed charges against Cuban leader Raúl Castro and five Cuban pilots for murder, conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals and destruction of U.S. civilian aircraft. The case revolves around a 1996 downing of two planes belonging to the counterrevolutionary group Brothers to the Rescue.

The indictment, handed down by a grand jury in Miami nearly a month earlier, was kept sealed to be announced

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A Call to Action by the Socialist Workers Party

The following statement was released May 26 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the party's National Committee.

The Socialist Workers Party, in the strongest possible terms, condemns the U.S. rulers' accelerating acts of aggression against the Cuban people and their government. We condemn the total oil blockade designed to punish every man, woman and child on the island.

The SWP calls on working people in the United States and worldwide to organize emergency picket lines, rallies and other public protests now to demonstrate our rejection of the U.S.

government's decadeslong bipartisan attacks that are aimed at strangling the Cuban people and dismembering their socialist revolution.

Washington's sharply escalating economic and military measures against the Cuban people also target the working class and others among the oppressed and exploited in the United States. Our hard-won constitutional rights to organize, speak out and act against the U.S. rulers' policies, including their expanding war moves, are under assault.

Actions must be organized now to demand U.S. Hands Off Cuba!

- Withdraw the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, its accompanying

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Back Teamster meatpackers' battle against Cargill lockout in Colorado



Militant/Mary Martin

Some 1,700 Teamster packinghouse workers were locked out May 20 by Cargill bosses in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Above, one part of May 25 Memorial Day union picket line.

BY MARY MARTIN

FORT MORGAN, Colo. — Some 1,700 Teamsters union members who work at the giant Cargill meat processing plant here were locked out by the company May 20. The unionists had rejected the company's so-called

last and best contract offer by 85%. The proposal contained a miserly offer of a \$2.15 an hour raise over the next five years.

Lively picket lines are set up daily, either in front of the Cargill plant or

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Ukraine's blows to Moscow's forces open new strains in Putin regime

BY ROY LANDERSEN

For more than four years, Ukrainian working people have fought courageously to protect their country's sovereignty in the face of Moscow's

Join 'Militant' fight over bans in Florida, Tennessee prisons

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* is encouraging its readers to help win support for the paper's fight to reverse the monthslong banning of three issues by prison authorities in Florida. Letters have been sent by prominent civil liberties organizations, trade unionists and others backing this fight. More are needed.

In addition, the *Militant* is also challenging the ban on 10 issues by officials at the Trousdale Turner Correctional

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murderous assaults. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who claims Ukraine doesn't exist as a real country, is incapable of understanding their determination. The effects of the war are now inducing cracks in his regime, amid fears that opposition among working people in Russia will spread.

Moscow's war has now lasted longer than the Soviet Union's war to defeat German imperialism's invasion during World War II. The toll on Russian workers in uniform is well over 1 million dead or wounded. His invading army has lost territory in recent months.

Since the start of 2026 alone, Moscow has lost nearly 86,000 troops killed, with another 59,000 seriously wounded. That's seven to eight times the losses suffered by Ukrainian forces. Hundreds of Russian soldiers, some of whom looked to give themselves up, have been taken prisoner this year. For five straight months Putin's army has suffered more losses than the number

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Capitalist rulers in Canada back Washington's assaults on Cuba

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER

MONTREAL — Canada's capitalist rulers, along with Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party government, are backing U.S. imperialism's accelerating attacks on Cuba with the same goal — overthrowing Cuba's socialist revolution. At the same time, a growing number of unions here are speaking out against Washington's attacks and demanding Ottawa oppose them.

After the latest U.S. sanctions, Sherritt International, a Canadian-owned mining conglomerate and one of the

last foreign companies working in Cuba, announced May 4 it was suspending all mining on the island while it sells its properties. It has been the main foreign investor in the Moa nickel and cobalt mine there. Nickel is one of Cuba's key sources of hard currency. Sherritt's decision deals a serious blow to Cuba's economy.

Tourism, Cuba's most important source of foreign exchange, is also under attack. In 2017, it generated \$3.3 billion, 10% of Cuba's gross domestic product.

Canadian airlines flying to Cuba — Air Canada, WestJet, Sunwing and Air Transat — announced Feb. 9 that they suspended all flights to the island, claiming this was due to a shortage of aviation fuel in Cuba.

But that is just a pretext. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum offered the airlines refueling facilities Feb. 13. Many other international airlines have continued flights to Cuba, stopping in third countries to refuel. Air France is refueling in the Bahamas, Iberia in the Dominican Republic.

Some 750,000 Canadians visited Cuba in 2025, 40% of all tourists going there. But in March 2026 only 511 Canadians visited the island, a 99% plus drop from the same month a year earlier. Ottawa issued a warning to Canadians to avoid all nonessential travel to Cuba.

"Canada's travel advisories and airline cancellations have played an active part in the economic asphyxiation of the Cuban people," the Canadian Network on Cuba wrote to member organizations. "As Cubans brace for the possibility of invasion, the Canadian



Militant/Tony Difelice

Canadian Network on Cuba organized demonstrations against U.S. oil blockade and other attacks on Cuba in a number of cities across the country Feb. 21-22, including Toronto, above.

Network on Cuba must intensify our political campaigns."

The Canadian navy has worked hand in hand with the expanding U.S. armada in the Caribbean in its so-called anti-narcotics operations since 2006. It joined the U.S. Navy in surveillance missions there earlier this year. Ottawa permits the U.S. Coast Guard to operate directly from Canadian ships.

The Canadian government welcomed Washington's overthrow of the Nicolás Maduro government in Venezuela. It remained silent over the U.S. rulers' ending Venezuela's critical shipments of oil to Cuba, Washington's oil blockade of Cuba and its additional sanctions.

While the Canadian capitalists have taken advantage of the U.S. embargo of Cuba to expand their own trade and investments on the island, they've always looked to the overthrow of Cuba's socialist revolution.

They had major investments in Cuba before the 1959 revolution when the revolutionary government nationalized them. Ottawa, along with Washington, backed the murderous dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista against the Rebel Army led by Fidel Castro.

When former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2021 said that Ottawa stands "with the people of Cuba in their aspiration for democracy," he was not defending Cuba against U.S. imperialism's threats. Calls for "democracy" by

Washington, Ottawa and other imperialist powers are calls for overthrowing the revolution, which put workers and farmers in power in Cuba, and restoring capitalist exploitation. Canada's ruling rich share Washington's class hatred of the revolution and of the example it sets for workers worldwide.

While Ottawa backs Washington's attacks, a number of major unions in Canada have demanded an end to the U.S. oil blockade, including the United Steelworkers, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions. The USW contributed nearly 16,000 Canadian dollars (\$11,500) worth of medical supplies and equipment to Cuba.

The Canadian Labour Congress issued a statement adopted at its conference May 11 demanding that Ottawa oppose the "United States blockade on oil and other measures impacting the Cuban people," "support the people of Cuba through increased humanitarian and solidarity aid," and undertake "solidarity campaigns with Cuban workers and people."

THE FALL OF THE LAST COLONIAL EMPIRE IN AFRICA
Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde
VICTOR DREKE CRUZ
COMMANDER 'MOJA'

\$12

Speak the Truth
Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End
FIDEL CASTRO & CHE GUEVARA

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THE MILITANT

Walmart workers in Canada win union contract

On May 7, 800 members of Unifor Local 252 in Mississauga, Ontario, became the first workers to successfully win a union contract with Walmart anywhere in North America. This sets an example for working people everywhere, including 1.6 million Walmart workers in the U.S.



Unifor Walmart workers in Ontario vote for first union contract in North America May 7.

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The 'Militant' is taking a break

The next issue will be mailed out June 25

The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 22

Closing news date: May 27, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

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

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

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

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

Teamsters battle Cargill lockout

Continued from front page

in the public park in downtown Fort Morgan across from the Teamster hall. The city of Fort Morgan has refused to give the union a permit to set up portable toilets near the picket lines, in marked contrast to strong support for the workers shown by area residents and local businesses. The Cargill workforce is over 10% of the city's population.

One of the Teamsters iconic black 18-wheeler trucks is on hand at the picket line outside the plant, serving ice water and fruit, using its sound system to play music from African, Latino and other artists. Under the intense sun at this high elevation, many workers carried colorful parasols and danced to the music, between chants of "We are Teamsters!"

"The union has made clear to the company that we wanted to continue negotiations before they locked us out and we still do," Chris Suazo, a Teamsters Local 455 business agent, told the *Militant*. He said he heard negotiations will start up again May 27. "A central issue is wages. Their low hourly wage offer doesn't touch inflation. Also, we don't want a five-year-long contract like they proposed. And safety concerns are another big issue."

Dean Modecker, secretary treasurer of Local 455, told the media that bathroom breaks is another important issue. "I've got grown men and women who can't even go to the bathroom, their employer won't let them go."

Suazo explained the union also wants Cargill to pay for the mandatory company-issued safety boots. Currently the cost of the boots is taken out of workers' paychecks.

Solidarity is coming from fellow packinghouse workers in UFCW Local 7 at JBS in nearby Greeley, who won a strike there earlier this year. Local 7 President Kim Cordova and other UFCW officers spent a day on the Teamsters picket line in solidarity with their fight May 21. The Teamsters posted videos of them standing up in support.

"Meatpacking workers have had enough of substandard wages," Cordova told Colorado Public Radio. Regardless of whether you are a Teamster or a UFCW member, she said, "or a rancher trying to save a family farm, this fight is our fight."

Immigrants and native-born united

Like the UFCW members who struck JBS, the workforce at Cargill is heavily immigrant. When asked about some anti-immigrant comments that have been posted on the Teamsters local's public Facebook page, Suazo said, "I've seen those negative comments, which frankly are just based on ignorance about what these jobs are and who works them. We have a very diverse workforce with some 15 languages spoken in the plant. And I think it is very good to see everyone together in the union. In fact, community support for the union is strong."

Short videos the union put up on its Facebook page show workers explaining in different languages why they are fighting for a wage increase.

One worker explains all the workers are united in the union's conflict with Cargill. "We are all Americans here," he says, reflecting how foreign-born workers are thrown into class-struggle battles here, rapidly becoming integrated into the U.S. working class.

Pointing to the constant honking of passing cars in support of the union, Suazo said community support has been strong. "We're getting donations of food and water, and financial contributions as well. I think people in the community know how much these workers are a huge part of the local economy."

Cargill bosses are driving to boost profits, including implementing a new artificial intelligence technology called CarVe, which uses computer imaging to record every speck of meat left on bones in a section of the fabrication department. Then workers are pushed to get it all. The system also tracks the supposed exact work station where the leftover meat came from and sends that to the supervisors.

A fight worth joining

Chris Bell, a 66-year-old union shop steward, has worked in maintenance at the plant for 33 years. He said the night the union vote rejecting the contract was announced, the company put concrete barriers across the plant entrances. When union officers headed to the union hall to meet, they were greeted by hundreds of workers already there, ready to respond to the lockout.

"The company says cattle herds are low and they're not making enough profit, but why pinch pennies off our backs?" he said. "The community support is amazing. The small businesses know how important these 1,700 workers are in a town of 12,000. I'm going to retire soon, but this fight is for the next generation in the plant."

Bell said he finds it challenging to picket in the heat for four hours, but he finds inspiration from the younger workers, especially those from Haiti and Africa, who often dance throughout their shifts.

As a child growing up in a small town

Indiana refinery workers locked out by BP stand firm

BY ILONA GERSH AND NAOMI CRAINE

WHITING, Ind. — "This is going to be a long one. But we are united and we'll keep going as long as we need to," Michelle O'Shaughnessy told the *Militant* on the picket line outside the BP oil refinery here May 22. She is one of some 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 who have been locked out by the bosses for over two months.

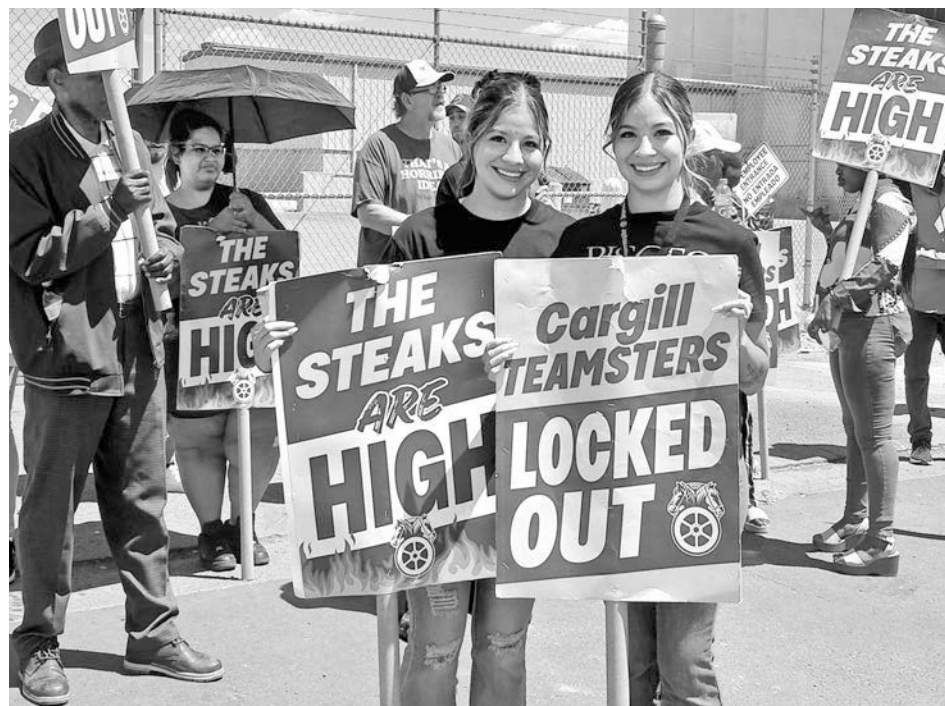
O'Shaughnessy is a board operator who brings crude oil into the tank field and then distributes it to various units for production. She also loads barges on the Chicago River and runs the Stiglitz tank field, which produces asphalt. She often staffs the union office, signing up members and supporters for picket duty.

But today she was on the picket line shouting out thanks to everyone who honked as they drove by.

There were brief talks between the company and union May 18 and 22, for the first time since the lockout began March 19. "But today we didn't see negotiations, we got an ultimatum," O'Shaughnessy said.

BP demanded the union accept the company's "last, best and final" contract proposal, which the Steelworkers already rejected overwhelmingly. The union is willing to negotiate, but says that it should do so while back at work with the lockout ended.

The company insists the workers have to make concessions "critical to the



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

Abby, left, and Bella Pacheco, 22-year-old twins who've worked two years on kill floor at Cargill in Fort Morgan, Colorado, picket outside plant May 24. "We're out here supporting our union," Abby told *Militant*. "We work our butts off. I don't feel we get the respect we deserve."

in Colorado, Bell said he had never even met a Black person. When he saw TV images of Blacks marching for voting rights and getting attacked in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, he decided to take a stand for civil rights and human rights.

Johnny Carrillo said he has worked on the kill floor at Cargill for 12 years. "The company needs to be fair, and their offer of a \$2.15 wage increase over five years is not that," he said. "Everything is so expensive. You can pay \$300 for a shopping cart of groceries at Walmart. My \$1,000 mortgage went up by \$200. We need the yearly \$1-an-hour increases we're asking for."

When our reporting team showed Judy Burgess, a restaurant worker in Greeley, our photos of the Teamster picket lines, she called other workers to our table, saying "Look Cargill has locked out the workers. They deserve our support. All human beings need a living wage."

Several workers on the picket lines

were glad to talk with members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist League in Canada who had come to support them. Beverly Bernardo from Montreal spoke with Abby and Bella Pacheco, 22-year-old twin sisters who've worked at Cargill for two years on the kill floor. "We work our butts off; it's very hot. I don't feel we get the respect we deserve," Abby, who opens hides, said. "So, we're out in the heat today supporting our union."

It's well worth coming and offering support for the union. The pickets are generous and like discussing what working people face today. As locked-out worker Anabel Hurtado told the media, they just "want to be respected as employees, as Teamsters and like we're human beings."

To support the strike, contact Teamsters Local 455 at 423 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701; Fax: 970-542-9596.

Joel Britton contributed to this article.

long-term sustainability of the refinery." These include the elimination of more than 100 jobs; an end to seniority in any layoff; that the union has to give 150 days' notice before calling a strike; accepting a six-year contract, which would take the union out of the established industry-wide bargaining; and management's insistence it has the right to settle all disagreements.

"Those last three demands will be the death of the union if they were implemented," Brian Davis, who runs an Operation Specialist Board at the refinery, said. "This is a long fight. The company wants to destroy the union and they chose to lock us out."

Davis was staffing the union hall on our visit, along with Estrella Rivera, 28, who has worked at the refinery for four years. She is an outside operator in the Cat cracker. She said she never worked a union job before.

"I wanted to work here all my life," she told the *Militant*. "It's the best job in town. They said you could support your whole family." Rivera has two children.

"Luckily, my husband is still working," she said, adding that when she was hired, BP said they were joining a happy family. "Is this how they treat their family? When we voted against the last, best, and final offer they gave us four hours and then walked us out like trash."

While we were there, people kept stopping by with donations for the

union's food drive, which Davis and Rivera put in a growing pantry. There are drop-off points at area coffee houses, a barbershop, a brewery and other local businesses.

"Giving up seniority rights would be huge," said crane operator Tom Orange. "Then the company could just move people wherever they want, advance who they're buddies with, instead of who's earned it. A lot of people think this is just over pay. But we're standing up for what people fought for years ago, we don't want to lose that."

"There is a deep solidarity in Northwest Indiana," USW International President Roxanne Brown told the *Chicago Tribune*. The refinery is 20 miles south of Chicago, part of a very industrialized — and unionized — area. There is a lot of solidarity between Steelworkers in nearby steel mills, autoworkers at Ford and the refinery workers.

"The refinery is not running in a way that is safe for the community, because our members are the ones with the knowledge and skills to run it," Brown said. The lockout "is a blatant disregard for our members who work at the refinery" and "a blatant disregard for the community as well."

The union hall and picket lines are staffed 24/7. Donations and volunteer pickets are welcome, just stop by the union hall at 2045 Schrage Avenue in Whiting. To learn more, visit www.stopoilworkers.com.

US rulers escalate attacks on Cuba

Continued from front page

on Cuba's "Independence Day," as the U.S. rulers mark a new stage in their economic, political and military moves against the Cuban government and people. Secretary of State Marco Rubio sent a "Message to the Cuban People" that day, in which he offered "a new path between the U.S. and a new Cuba." One in which "ordinary" Cubans "can own" a gas station, a bank, a television station, he said. He offers a Cuba where capitalism with its exploitation and oppression once again reigns supreme.

The announcement coincided with the arrival of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and its battle group in the Caribbean. Over the past months, the U.S. military has also ramped up intelligence gathering flights off the coast of Cuba. And to build up its claim that Cuba represents an "unusual and extraordinary threat," U.S. media outlets have leaked so-called classified intelligence about Havana furtively acquiring 300 drones.

These moves — alongside the ongoing strangulation of Cuba's economy with a total oil blockade — are part of Washington's drive to keep the Cuban government and people on edge, hoping it will force them to accept the U.S. rulers' conditions as initial talks between the two governments unfold.

In response, some 250,000 Cubans rallied in Havana May 22 to condemn the indictment of Raúl Castro, and to send a message that the Cuban people are ready to defend their sovereignty and socialist revolution.

Raúl Castro sent a message to the rally, "telling us that he is deeply grateful for the solidarity of our people and around the world, and assuring us that as long as he lives, he will continue to lead our people, defending the revolution with one foot in the stirrup," Gerardo Hernández, national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, told the crowd. Hernández was one of the Cuban 5, who came to the U.S. in the 1990s to identify and prevent violent attacks on Cuba by counterrevolutionaries operating here.

Baseless and dangerous charges

On Feb. 24, 1996, Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) shot down two of three Cessna aircraft flown by Brothers to the Rescue pilots who, despite several unambiguous warnings by Cuban air traffic controllers, invaded Cuban airspace on a course toward Havana.

The U.S. government accuses Raúl Castro, then minister of defense and head of the FAR, with authorizing and overseeing "a military chain of command that ended with Cuban fighter jets firing air-to-air missiles at civilian aircrafts over international waters." Those missiles "destroyed the planes without warning and killed all aboard," claimed Jason Reding, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, at a press conference in Miami.

The Cuban government called the accusations a "despicable" political manipulation of the incident. The U.S. government "distorts the historical truths."

Cuban leaders documented the real facts — as they did when it happened.

A record of violations

This invasion of Cuban airspace was the second hostile incursion that day, and the 10th such violation of Cuban territory over the previous 20 months. The group was led by well-known Cu-

ban American counterrevolutionary José Basulto, who has a long history of participating in armed activities against Cuba dating back to his participation in the failed April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion organized by the CIA.

Founded in 1991, Brothers to the Rescue made a name for itself — and a fortune through fundraising — as a so-called humanitarian outfit carrying out "search-and-rescue" flights to help Cubans on rafts toward Florida. At the time, the number of Cubans seeking to come to the United States had reached more than 1,000 a day, as Cuba was hit by an economic crisis precipitated by the sudden cutoff of trade as the Soviet Union imploded.

In 1994, the Bill Clinton administration decided to bar automatic entry to Cubans who reached the U.S., and instead sent them to the U.S. Guantánamo Bay Naval Base. The rising tide of rafters receded after that. Without that as cover, Brothers to the Rescue started its deeper incursions into Cuban airspace, dropping leaflets and other propaganda over Havana seeking to spur an uprising.

Hoping to take advantage of the economic crisis in Cuba, counterrevolutionary groups based in Florida organized attacks against Cuba, including bombing hotels, in conjunction with Washington's meddling.

Over the year preceding the shoot down Havana had sent 16 diplomatic notes to the State Department requesting action to stop these violations of Cuban territory, to no avail.

Declassified U.S. records back Cuba

Documents recently declassified by the National Security Archive detail these exchanges.

As far back as August 1995, according to a Federal Aviation Administration memorandum to Basulto, the Cuban government had "asserted its firm determination to take actions necessary to defend Cuban territorial sovereignty," warning that "any boats from abroad can be sunk and any aircraft downed."

One month before the Feb. 24 fatal incident, an FAA official commented on a



Cubadebate/Abel Padrón Padilla

Weaponry Cuban border guards seized from counterrevolutionaries who sailed to Cuba from Florida and fired on the Cubans Feb. 25. Ten of the intruders were killed or captured.

State Department memo about a Jan. 20 Brothers to the Rescue incursion. "This latest overflight can only be seen as further taunting of the Cuban government," it said. "Worst case scenario is that one of these days the Cubans will shoot down one of these planes and the FAA better have all its ducks in a row."

The Department of Justice claims Castro and others named in the indictment were part of a deliberate "conspiracy" involving Cuban "agents" who informed Havana about Brothers to the Rescue plans, including its Feb. 24 flight plans, which according to U.S. officials were used to ambush the planes. (See article page 8 on the Cuban Five.)

The indictment fails to mention, however, that this group had filed a flight plan with U.S. aviation authorities, as required, which they didn't follow.

Cuban authorities, using proper aviation channels, declared the airspace south of the 24th parallel an active danger zone on Feb. 24. An FAA chronology included in the declassified papers documents the exchanges between Brothers to the Rescue pilots and Havana's air traffic control.

Be advised that "the zone north of Havana is active. You run danger by penetrating that side of the 24th," said Havana air traffic control to the three approaching planes. "We are aware

that we are in danger each time we cross the area to the south of the 24th. But we are willing to do it as free Cubans," responded Basulto.

His reckless acts were responsible for the death of the four crew members, said René González, a Cuban revolutionary who had infiltrated Brothers to the Rescue to inform the Cuban government of its activities. Basulto would publicly mock the Cuban air force for not "having the means, or even fuel" to fly its MiGs, he said. González described how Brothers to the Rescue brought along news crews on its flights. In July 1995, a Miami TV news station crew videotaped the aircraft flying over Havana.

Part of the U.S. rulers' slander campaign against Cuba is calling the Brothers to the Rescue planes "civilian unarmed aircraft." But there is a long history of U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary forces using "civilian" planes and boats to carry out terrorist attacks on Cuban territory dating back to the first years of the Cuban Revolution. They set off incendiary bombs over sugarcane fields, fired cannons from offshore gunboats at the Havana shoreline and dropped weapons to terrorists on the island. The "civilian" Miami Opa-locka airport from which Brothers to the Rescue operated had

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

June 4, 2001

Hundreds of thousands of Berber people marched in Algeria May 21 demanding the removal of the police who have killed dozens of protesters. The mobilization comes on the heels of weeks of demonstrations involving tens of thousands.

Berbers, an oppressed nationality, comprise 30% of Algeria's 30 million people. The protest also demanded jobs, better housing and steps to end the rising impoverishment of growing layers of workers and farmers.

The ruling party today bears the same name, the National Liberation Front, as the powerful movement that led the battle for independence. France had as many as 500,000 troops occupying the country from 1954 to 1962. By 1963 a workers and farmers government had been established under the leadership of Ahmed Ben Bella, which existed until 1965, when Ben Bella was overthrown by a military coup.

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

June 4, 1976

CHICAGO — Supporters of Ed Sadowski, director of United Steelworkers District 31, have won overwhelming victories in local union elections in several of the district's big steel mills. Support for Sadowski in his home local in South Chicago was registered when John Chico decisively defeated incumbent president Frank Mirocha.

At Inland Steel in East Chicago, the largest mill local in the country, Sadowski supporter Jim Balanoff defeated incumbent president Hank Lopez. His slate won eight out of nine other posts open.

Norman Purdue, a Sadowski supporter who was elected president of the 10,000-member Local 1011 at Youngstown Sheet and Tube, said the victories are "sending a message to Pittsburgh." Steelworkers Local 1657 at Interlake Steel in Chicago voted in Richard Alexander as president, another Sadowski supporter.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

June 4, 1951

The April 23 *Militant* charged that U.S. casualties in Korea are "more than double the misleading figures given out by the Defense Department." This is now fully confirmed by the testimony of Gen. Omar Bradley before Senate hearings.

Bradley admitted that, in addition to 69,276 so-called "battle" casualties, the U.S. forces have suffered 72,679 "non-battle" casualties. Bradley tried to pass off the "non-battle" casualties as inconsequential. He used the example of a man "with a cold or something else." But a lot of these "colds" were pneumonia and virulent influenza contracted by men lying in open fox holes in the sub-zero Korean winter.

As Sen. Bridges, who questioned Bradley, observed: "If a man loses a hand by frostbite or frozen off or he is otherwise injured he is just as much a battle casualty as the fellow who gets a bullet in battle."

SWP campaigns discuss road forward for the working class

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

On actions demanding U.S. hands off Cuba, strike picket lines, and knocking on doors in working-class neighborhoods, members of the Socialist Workers Party find a growing interest in what the *Militant* has to say on the expanding threats of war, steep price hikes and other issues facing working people. And on what workers can do to build a party capable of charting a road toward working people taking political power into our own hands.

In Seattle, Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, participated in a meeting May 22 of over 75 people sponsored by the Seattle Cuba Friendship Committee titled “Let Cuba Live... Stand with Cuba!”

“The entire U.S. ruling class, from the Democratic Party to the Republican administration of Donald Trump, is behind the stepped-up offensive to destroy the Cuba Revolution,” Perasso said during the discussion. “What is needed now are public actions denouncing Washington’s attacks and defending Cuba.” SWP members sold the *Militant* and several books on revolutionary working-class politics, including four 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.

SWP members Janice Lynn and Marklyn Wilson met Tejon Stuart, an HVAC worker, as they went door to door May 23 on Atlanta’s westside. He took a few minutes off from repairing an air conditioning unit when he saw the *Militant* headline, “U.S. hands off Cuba!”

“I know all about that,” he said. “I’m from Jamaica and when the Cuban doctors were forced to leave, healthcare went down the drain. People are scrambling to find decent care. The government gave in to pressure from the U.S.”

Lynn explained that the *Militant* has been telling the truth about the Cuban Revolution since 1959 and calls for protests against Washington’s attacks today. “It’s the same U.S. rulers that are attacking Cuba who are also attacking workers here,” she said, point-

ing to several articles in the *Militant* on union struggles by workers fighting for higher pay, decent working conditions and respect. Stuart signed up for a subscription and said he’d like to meet with them again to get a copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*.

Communist League members in Canada, Australia and the U.K. are taking part in this work. John Steele and Steve Penner spoke to postal workers in Montreal on their way into a Canadian Union of Postal Workers meeting May 24. Two union members were attracted to placards that said, “Solidarity with the Postal Workers! Defend the Right to Strike!” Both bought subscriptions to the *Militant*. The union members met to discuss and vote on a proposed new contract as well as decide whether to authorize a strike if the contract is rejected.

“We need to fight for our rights otherwise they will be taken away,” Boris Andreev, one of the new subscribers, told the CL members. Andreev explained postal workers were also

Victory! Charges against Ábrego García thrown out

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — “I am grateful that today, justice has taken a step forward,” Kilmar Ábrego García said after U.S. District Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. dismissed criminal charges pressed by the U.S. Justice Department against him in Nashville, Tennessee, May 22. He thanked CASA, the immigrant rights group that defends him, and all of his supporters.

The International Association of Sheetmetal, Air, Rail and Transportation, the union Ábrego García belongs to, has stood with him all along.

Without these supporters, this latest win would not have happened. At a May 1 rally in Washington, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, Ábrego García’s wife, proudly said, “I stand here able to say that he is finally home, because the movement we are building has shown up time after time.”

The Nashville judge threw out the government’s “human smuggling” charges against Ábrego García, claiming he was conspiring to traffic immigrants between 2016 and 2025. They said that was what he was doing when he drove a carload of construction workers in Nashville Nov. 30, 2022, and was stopped by the police for a traffic violation. But the cops who stopped him let him go without even a ticket.

Crenshaw ruled that the charges were vindictive retaliation against Ábrego García for his successful fight against his deportation. “The Court does not reach its conclusion lightly,” Crenshaw wrote in a 32-page decision. “The objective evidence here shows that, absent Ábrego’s successful lawsuit challenging his removal to El Salvador, the Government would not have brought this prosecution.”

Top Department of Justice officials, including Todd Blanche, now the acting U.S. attorney general, made the key decisions in the case, not prosecutors in Tennessee.

Ábrego García, a 30-year-old union apprentice, had been taken into Immigration and Customs Enforcement



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Karla Jarquín, left, buys *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch* from Socialist Workers Party member Lisa Rottach in North Miami parking lot May 23.

fighting against “big cuts in postal services across Canada that are being imposed without any consultation with the people.”

The Canadian government forced 55,000 postal workers to end a nationwide strike in December 2024. In May 2025 the Canada Labor Board, on behalf of the government, forced the workers to vote on a contract they had already rejected. They voted it

down a second time by 70%. In September, workers went back on strike for two weeks, followed by six weeks of rotating walkouts.

The *Militant* encourages its readers to join in helping to get the paper into the hands of those looking for a way to stand up for Cuban sovereignty and a working-class road forward in the U.S. Contact the area nearest you listed on page 11.

Attacks on Cuba

Continued from page 4

been used as a base for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

“Cuba’s action at the time, with a big display of patience and tolerance, exercised its right to protect its airspace and the peace of the Cuban people,” Cuban Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations Carlos Fernández de Cossío told Cuban TV May 20.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told ABC News in Havana May 7 that the Cuban leadership takes President Trump’s threats “very seriously” and Cuba will “exercise its right of legitimate self-defense” if attacked militarily. He said the U.S. government is on a dangerous path that “could lead to unimaginable consequences” that could result in the “loss of Cuban and young American lives” and a bloodbath in Cuba.

custody in Beltsville, Maryland, while driving in his car with his son on March 12, 2025. Despite an explicit court order telling the government not to send him back to El Salvador, where he and his family had been threatened by gang members, ICE flew him there. He was caged in the notorious CECOT maximum security prison, beaten and tortured.

Vasquez Sura recognized him from a newspaper photo and a video posted of him being frog-walked by CECOT guards. She filed an appeal of his deportation on his behalf.

In Crenshaw’s decision, he documents how the government’s frame-up unfolded. On April 4, 2025, after U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland ordered the government to “facilitate” Ábrego García’s return from El Salvador, which was affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court after the government appealed, the Justice Department stalled for weeks.

Instead, the Department of Homeland Security launched an “investigation” April 17 into the 2022 traffic stop and had him indicted on May 21. Then Ábrego García was returned to the U.S. to face charges June 6.

“We have said from day one that

‘Militant’ fights Florida prison ban

Continued from front page

Center in Hartsville, Tennessee.

Officials at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, banned issues no. 4, 5 and 6, for reporting on labor-backed protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement attacks on immigrants in Minneapolis and the *Militant*’s call for amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers.

The Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee upheld these impoundments March 26 without any explanation. A month later *Militant* attorney David Goldstein filed a request that the committee convene a special meeting to re-

view and overturn its previous ruling. This is the first time the *Militant* has requested such a meeting since it became an option in 2022.

Michael Fitzsimmons, a recently retired nurse and former executive board member of the New York State Nurses Association in Albany, wrote the Literature Review Committee May 20 asking them to reverse the bans.

“At the hospital I worked at for 28 years in the ICU, I frequently took care of patients who were part of the NY State prison system,” he said. “Prisoners in the hospital are allowed to watch TV, which we know has a wide variety

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John Benson: a decadeslong leader of the Socialist Workers Party

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — Fifty-one people attended a spirited meeting here April 19 to celebrate the life and political contributions of John Benson, a member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party for 64 years. Benson died March 6 after a brief struggle with aggressive leukemia. He was 84 years old.

After joining the SWP in 1962, Benson helped build and lead 10 different party branches and organizing committees, served on the party's National Committee for 15 years, carried out responsibilities helping build the international communist movement and worked at numerous industrial jobs, where he worked to strengthen the union.

Along with party members, supporters and others interested in learning more about the party, members of Benson's family attended the meeting. This included his brothers Ken and Steve, with whom John shared a lifetime love of golf, a sport he mastered growing up in Crete, Illinois, some 30 miles south of Chicago.

Sam Manuel from the Atlanta SWP chaired the program. After welcoming everyone, he read a message from SWP National Committee member Mary-Alice Waters, who first met Benson in September 1959, when they were both freshmen at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and not that interested in politics. "More than anything else, it was the world-altering class struggle that exploded around us those years — combined with the luck of coming to know men and women who introduced us to Marxism — that changed the course of our lives," she wrote.

Benson joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1962 and the SWP later that year.

The program's speakers, the 28 messages received from around the country and internationally, and three attractive displays about the history of the SWP and Benson's contributions throughout his long life of party-building underscored the meeting's theme — that the fight for workers power and a socialist world is needed and realizable.

"It was while he was a student at Carleton that John was won to the Cuban Revolution," Betsey Stone, SWP National Committee member from Oakland, California, told the audience. "I was also a Carleton student, two years ahead of John, and was part of building what became a very large chapter

of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee on campus. A chapter that grew in size when Cuban revolutionaries defeated the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

"John was one of the supporters of the Cuban Revolution who went on to become a communist himself, to join the Socialist Workers Party, dedicating himself to building the leadership needed to make a socialist revolution here," Stone said.

"John's support for the struggle of Black people that tore down the system of Jim Crow segregation in the South began in high school," Stone said, "with the school desegregation fight in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. He felt a moral revulsion at the sight of racist mobs threatening Black schoolchildren who were determined to go to the formerly all-white high school. John saw the dignity and courage of those young people and chose what side he was on. He remained true to that his entire life."

Benson first joined the Minneapolis branch of the SWP, where he worked with and learned from working-class comrades who had long experience in trade union struggles and party-building, Stone said. Most important was Ray Dunne, a central leader of the Teamsters strikes in the 1930s who had gone to jail along with other party and Teamsters leaders for their efforts to advance opposition in the union movement to the U.S. war aims in World War II.

As a young party member, Benson went to Alabama in 1966 to cover the struggle of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization for the *Militant*. One of the poorest counties in the state, Lowndes was the site of a determined struggle by Black tenant farmers and other toilers to win the right to vote and advance their class interests. They formed their own organization, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, independent of the Democratic and Republican parties. Benson's articles in the *Militant* "answered the lies and slanders about their struggle by the capitalist politicians who hated and feared their example," Stone said.

Built the communist movement

A number of messages to the meeting pointed to Benson's work with comrades in the international movement.

Stone read from a message to the meeting from Mike Tucker, a leader of the Communist League in Australia,



John Benson protests U.S. blockade, growing threats against Cuba in Atlanta Feb. 17. He was won to support the Cuban Revolution as a student at Carleton College over 60 years ago.

lia, who said he first met Benson in New Zealand as he and others were looking to build a communist movement in association with the Trotskyist Fourth International in the early 1970s. "For many of us in this part of the world John has a special place in our memory," Tucker wrote.

"We were revolutionary-minded workers and students, most of us still in our teens. While we were very serious, there was no pre-existing party from which we could learn. But spending time meeting and discussing with John in person was a big help.

"As rebellious teenagers, we tended to rebel in our appearance and dress," wrote Tucker. "John set a different example. He was clean-cut and dressed in business-like attire, like a worker who expects to be respected and taken seriously. Despite our youthful inexperience, John discussed with us as equals."

"From John we gained a better understanding of the continuity of the SWP with Lenin, Trotsky and the Bolshevik Party, and the Leninist strategy of party building," Tucker said.

"Not every party in the Fourth International looked to the SWP and its continuity with Lenin and Trotsky as an example," Stone said. "Some began to look for shortcuts around building parties composed of workers with a working-class program, seeing street fighting against cops and other 'exemplary' actions by small groups as the way forward to spark the working class into action from the outside.

"John brought to the debates over these questions his thoughtful manner, his grounding in Marxism and confidence in the revolutionary potential of the working class," she said.

"Meeting John, a serious and humble worker and a leader of our world movement, made a deep impression on me," Dag Tirsén from the Communist League in the United Kingdom wrote in a message. Tirsén joined the revolutionary movement in Sweden in the early 1970s. "Even if I didn't agree with everything he said at the time, it increased my confidence in the SWP as a serious proletarian organization and helped keep my head cool during the period of faction fights raging in the world movement.

"Little did I know that more than 50 years later, I would see him as an inspiration and a refutation of the idea that old age prevents you from working at a union job," Tirsén wrote.

Party stalwart wherever he went

After several years abroad, Benson helped lead many SWP branches around the country over the next 40-plus years. He was always ready to take any assignment in a new city to build the party.

Benson was an experienced Marxist who helped recruit to the SWP, as several messages to the meeting described. He was often called on to give forums and lead classes, which he enjoyed and always prepared seri-

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Militant/Dave Wulp

Over 50 people attended meeting to celebrate the life and political contributions of John Benson in Atlanta April 19. Among the speakers, from left, SWP member Sam Manuel, meeting chair; Susan LaMont, organizer SWP Atlanta branch; Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida; and Joel Britton, SWP National Committee member.



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

John Benson, left, shows *Militant* to Leonard Childress in Metropolis, Illinois, Oct. 12, 2014. Benson was always eager to find out what workers thought and had a passion to discuss the party's program.



John Benson, left, marching in a protest against the war in Vietnam in Minneapolis on July 26, 1965. Benson traveled internationally, building support for the SWP and Pathfinder books.

Continued from page 6

ously. Benson also enjoyed going door to door in working-class communities, week in and week out, getting to know fellow workers and introducing them to the SWP's revolutionary world outlook.

Samir Hazboun, organizer of the Washington, D.C., SWP branch, spoke at the meeting. He recalled the impact of going door to door with Benson in Tennessee, and how it helped win him to the party.

Being new to the movement at that time, Hazboun was convinced they would run into hostility in an area where many people had voted for Donald Trump. One worker they met started to close the door on Benson, after learning they were from the Socialist Workers Party. He said he was in favor of Trump's "wall" to keep out immigrant workers. But as Benson and Hazboun talked to the guy, he said he worked in a factory with many Latino co-workers without papers and agreed that the bosses used their "illegal" status to drive down the wages of all the workers.

Following more discussion, he said he thought he could get behind the demand for amnesty. "In one doorstep, Benson had shattered my long-held anti-working-class prejudices," Hazboun said, "and won a new cadre to the SWP."

Benson "was totally at ease just talking, starting up a conversation," recalled Rachele Fruit, organizer of the Miami SWP branch, in her remarks to the meeting. "He would

approach any door, undifferentiated. Even at a house with a Confederate flag, he was ready to find out who lived there and what they thought without a lot of prejudgment."

SWP National Committee member Joel Britton described working with Benson in the Los Angeles branch in the 1980s and '90s. By then, Britton recalled, Benson "had learned the skills required to work safely and effectively as a process operator in a big Chevron oil refinery where both of us were members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union."

Along with fellow union members, they fought against the company's efforts to institute a 12-hour-shift schedule; successfully opposed Chevron's moves to implement unjust drug searches and harassment of workers; and fought to win back a young woman trainee's job," Britton said.

They collaborated with co-workers and union officials to win union backing for actions demanding an end to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean and to protest U.S. support for South African apartheid, Britton said. "We also mobilized union solidarity for labor strikes during those years, for meatpackers, coal miners and airline workers."

Benson helped lead an organizing committee in Carrollton, a small town of 25,000 in West Georgia, in 2007, where several immigrant workers from Honduras had joined the SWP. Maria Hernández, one of those workers, attended the meeting.

Steelworkers at Marathon in California in second month of hard-fought strike

BY ERIC SIMPSON

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Members of United Steelworkers Local 5 at Marathon Petroleum's Martinez Renewables plant here are holding the line as they enter the second month on strike. Their picket line was expanded on Memorial Day by strikers' families and members of other unions, organized by the Contra Costa Labor Council.

A coalition of East Bay public school teachers from 22 union locals provided fresh grilled tacos, while a representative of the California Federation of Labor Unions led the picket line outside the refinery. Special "Solidarity Monday" pickets are set to

continue every week until the union wins a new contract.

There had been no negotiations since workers walked out April 27, but Marathon has now agreed to meet with union representatives May 27.

Workers on the picket line say the plant is being run at a minimal level by managers and engineers.

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. Send contributions to the strike fund to USW Local 5, at P.O. Box 349, Martinez, CA 94553-0034.

At the same time, several workers from Guatemala had joined the party in the Atlanta area.

Led Atlanta branch for two decades

Benson helped lead the Atlanta branch over the past two decades, serving continually on its executive committee. For many years he organized the committee leading the branch's work campaigning with our books and the *Militant* in working-class communities, Atlanta SWP branch organizer Susan LaMont told the meeting. "He could often be seen pouring over the thick book of Atlanta-area maps that became dog-eared from use, trying to find new working-class communities where we could campaign."

Another responsibility Benson took on was leading efforts to get the SWP's presidential ticket on the ballot in 2016, 2020 and 2024. These efforts involved party supporters of all ages from around the country, lasting for several weeks.

"John inspired comrades on the campaign teams to get out the party's pro-

gram with elan and expect a positive response from the workers we were meeting," wrote Oakland SWP leader Maggie Trowe. "He made sure we were going to all kinds of different neighborhoods, talking to workers of different nationalities and different layers of our class," she said. "I loved being teamed up with John, because he made every outing memorable and won the respect of workers he talked to."

"Benson was an example of how to build the SWP," National Committee member Alex Huinil from the Dallas-Fort Worth branch said in a message, noting he first met Benson in Atlanta. "Together with him I campaigned on the doorsteps of all kinds of working people. He had a passion to explain the party program."

The meeting ended with a fund appeal to honor Benson's political life. Participants donated \$1,643 to build the party. Manuel thanked SWP supporters who prepared a delicious spread of food. Participants stayed for another hour, talking and browsing the displays and books of messages sent to the meeting.



John Benson, on the green looking to sink a putt, with brothers Ken and Steve. They all shared a life-time love of golf, a sport he mastered growing up in Crete, Illinois, south of Chicago.

Bus drivers rally in New Zealand, say 'Immigrants are not disposable workers'

BY TERRY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Behind a banner reading "Immigrants Are Not Disposable Workers," some 30 migrant bus drivers held a lively rally here May 22 to win support for their fight to stay in the country.

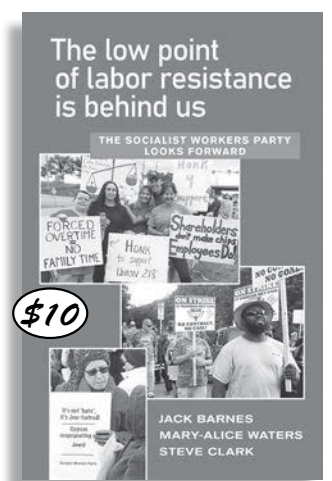
In 2023 hundreds of workers from the Philippines, India and Fiji were recruited by bus companies to fill a shortage of drivers in New Zealand. They were issued a category of entry papers known as an Accredited Employer Work Visa, which lasts for five years. Unless they are on a recognized pathway to residence by then, they and their families have to leave the country for a year before they can apply for a visa again. This is called "the stand-down period."

To qualify for residence migrants have to pass a stringent English language test. Ryan De Guzman, a bus driver at the rally who came from the Philippines in 2023, told the *Militant* that the English requirement is set at an "academic" level. "We speak English well enough to give our best to people and keep the city running," he said, not to graduate from college. Setting a more reasonable, non-discriminatory

English standard for drivers and suspending the stand-down period were central demands of the rally.

The rally was sponsored by the Union Network of Migrants, and the Workers First Union, which along with the Tramways Union, organizes bus drivers here. In 2025 both unions told the press that Filipino drivers were being told by bus companies that if they joined the union they would be sent back to their home country.

Terry Coggan is an Auckland bus driver and Tramways Union member.



pathfinderpress.com

New US indictment replays the frame-up of the Cuban 5

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington's April 23 indictment of Cuban revolutionary leader Raúl Castro and five Cuban air force pilots for "conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals" in the shoot down of two planes that invaded Cuban airspace in 1996 replays the frame-up that became known as the case of the Cuban Five.

That frame-up began Sept. 12, 1998, when FBI agents launched "shock and awe" predawn raids in South Florida and arrested 10 people, accusing them of being part of a Cuban spy ring.

But they weren't spies. They were carrying out undercover missions to protect the Cuban people from paramilitary and other counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups with a long history of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other violence against Cuba and against supporters of the Cuban Revolution inside the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

Five of those arrested took plea deals and disappeared from history, but Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando González refused to turn traitor to themselves and the socialist revolution they were defending. They proudly fought the frame-up, slanders and lies, including in prison, winning support and respect inside the U.S. and around the world.

In this new indictment two of the Five — Hernández and René González — are mentioned numerous times, accused of being part of the "conspiracy" to shoot down the planes flown by the counterrevolutionary Brothers to the Rescue outfit.

The bourgeois press today — just like 30 years ago — falsely portrays Brothers to the Rescue as a peaceful group. But in the 20 months preceding the shoot down, planes from Brothers to the Rescue brazenly violated Cuban airspace 26 times. The main leader of the group, José Basulto, had a long history of violent attacks on Cuba.

Of the Cuban Five, Gerardo Hernán-

dez faced the most serious charge, conspiracy to commit murder — the same charge the U.S. government has resurrected against Raúl Castro and the Cuban pilots. Prosecutors claimed Hernández knew in advance that Cuba would shoot down the planes.

Given the intimidating influence in Miami of counterrevolutionary Cuban groups and politicians, the Five requested a change of venue. The court denied their request.

Leading up to their trial, the Five were held in solitary confinement for 17 months, in an attempt to break them and prevent them from being able to meet to prepare their defense.

Hernández was convicted, and given two life sentences. Labañino and Guerrero were given life sentences for "conspiracy" to gather and transmit "information related to national defense." All five were convicted of "acting as an agent of a foreign government without registering with the Attorney General" and "conspiracy to act as an agent of a foreign government." The government is considering using the same charges to frame up supporters of Cuba today.

But the U.S. rulers couldn't break them. Instead, through their conduct in the frame-up trial and in prison, the five revolutionaries set an example for working people and youth in the U.S. and the world over. From inside prison they were on the frontlines of the class struggle in the United States.

They used the trial to explain how and why their actions were in the inter-



AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa

Cuban Five in Havana, Dec. 20, 2014, celebrate their release from U.S. prisons. From left, Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, René González and Ramón Labañino.

ests of the vast majority of the American people. The simple fact that the Five insisted on a trial and refused to "cop a plea" without a trial before a jury of their peers won them respect among fellow prisoners and helped them become known as people who could be trusted.

Three of the Five — Hernández, Fernando González and René González — had served in Angola as part of the Cuban mission there that helped defeat the South African apartheid regime and its invading army's attempt to block independence from Portugal. This also gained them respect, especially among African American prisoners.

Their conduct during the trial and in prison strengthened the international campaign being organized by the people of Cuba and their government to win their freedom. Meetings were held to win support across the

country and around the world. Pathfinder Press printed a number of books used to help get out the truth and advance the fight. After courts ruled that their punishment did not meet "federal guidelines" and their sentences were reduced, René González and Fernando González were released in May 2013 and February 2014.

The other three returned to Cuba in December 2014 in conjunction with the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba during the Obama administration.

Cubans poured into the streets across the island to celebrate their return, inspired by the firmness, dignity, courage and discipline of the Cuban Five. They are all serving in important positions in Cuba today.

That fight was something the U.S. rulers fear to this day.

Gov't targets supporters of Cuban Revolution in the US

BY TERRY EVANS

Side by side with its mounting attacks on Cuba, the U.S. government is stepping up probes against individuals and groups in the U.S. that promote solidarity with Cuba. It has begun issuing subpoenas to interrogate participants in the March "Nuestra América Convoy," which had delivered humanitarian aid to be distributed by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples.

The first two people targeted are Hasan Piker, an online commentator and supporter of the Democratic Socialists of America, and Medea Benjamin, a co-founder of Code Pink.

At the same time, Fox News Digital issued a hit list of 145 organizations in what it calls the "pro-communist Cuba ecosystem," including the Socialist Workers Party.

This witch hunt is a serious assault on constitutional freedoms.

There have been earlier probes preparing attacks on a number of groups, like the People's Forum, Code Pink and others, but this is a new stage.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control issued the two subpoenas against Piker and Benjamin May 23. Both were on the convoy, which delivered 20 tons of much-needed supplies collected by solidarity groups from some 33 different countries.

"Taking medical supplies to pediatric hospitals in Cuba is now a crime?" Benjamin wrote in response.

The government agency is looking for evidence of violations of U.S. sanctions on Cuba that it could use to try to impose fines or other sanctions by the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Unlike at a trial, this government office doesn't have to prove the accused had any intent to carry out a crime.

Media reports say a special interest of the government is what hotels convoy members stayed in. They claim staying in a hotel run by the Cuban government is a violation of U.S. sanctions.

The Fox News Digital report issued the same day targets groups it says "are mobilizing in support of the Cuban government and the Communist Party of Cuba."

It lists a number of unions, including the International Association of Machinists Local 1484, Service Employees International Union, Teamsters backing unionization efforts at Amazon, and the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 36.

Among the organizations targeted are the Venceremos Brigade, Pastors for Peace, National Network on Cuba and the National Lawyers Guild.

It lists groups that have organized humanitarian aid, from medical supplies to solar panels, like Global Health Partners.

Fox News Digital also singled out some political parties — the African People's Socialist Party, Communist Party USA, Democratic Socialists of

America, Peace and Freedom Party, Socialist Unity Party and the Socialist Workers Party. Whatever their broader politics are, there is no secret these organizations have extended political solidarity to the Cuban Revolution.

In a statement to Fox, a spokeswoman for the Embassy of Cuba said it has violated no U.S. laws. "It is neither extraordinary, nor a violation of any international or U.S. law for Cuban diplomats to engage with civil society," she said.

Fox News Digital says government snoops are also probing whether undisclosed organizations could be prosecuted for their ties to Cuba under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The law has been used to attack political organizations by claiming their views — like opposing Washington's assaults on Cuba — can be twisted to mean they are "foreign agents" of the Cuban government.

The law was adopted as part of the U.S. rulers' preparations to enter World War II. It was used to investigate the Socialist Workers Party, before party leaders were tried and imprisoned under the thought-control Smith Act.

Acting as "unregistered foreign agents" was also among the charges brought in 1998 against five Cuban revolutionaries. Known as the Cuban Five, they had come to the U.S. to gather information about groups who planned violent assaults on Cuba. (See article above.)

Read about the 'Cuban Five'

pathfinderpress.com

Protests spread against stepped-up US war threats against Cuba

BY JUDY FREIWIRTH
AND EMILY FITZSIMMONS

BOSTON — More than 100 people from across Massachusetts gathered here May 23 for an emergency rally and press conference protesting the Justice Department's indictment of Raúl Castro, the tightening U.S. blockade against Cuba and the threat of escalating U.S. military action.

The demonstration, organized in just three days by the July 26 Coalition and Massachusetts Peace Action, drew participants from labor, anti-war, solidarity and community groups from throughout the state.

They carried handmade signs, chanted, waved Cuban flags and listened to speakers over a sound system that caught the attention of tourists and passersby. Protesters carried signs reading “Hands off Cuba,” “No war on Cuba,” “No more sanctions: No oil blockade,” and “End the U.S. blockade of Cuba now.”

Speakers warned that recent U.S. actions represent a dangerous escalation toward direct military aggression against Cuba. They condemned the U.S. government's tightening blockade, which threatens punishing tariffs against any country and company that trades with Cuba. These policies have severely restricted Cuba's access to essential oil, medical supplies, food and other critical goods.

Others described the 250,000 Cubans who gathered at the José Martí Anti-Imperialist Tribune in Havana May 22 to condemn the unjust accusations against Raúl Castro, support their socialist revolution and affirm Cuba's determination to stand firm.

Mark Stern from the National Lawyers Guild explained that the indictment is based on a totally false narrative concocted by Washington in 1996 describing a cold-blooded shoot down of counterrevolutionary forces heading for Havana.

Among the featured speakers was José Alemán, a Cuba solidarity activist and former consul general of El Salvador in the New England Consulate, who was representing the July 26 Coalition. “It is not OK for the most powerful nation, the U.S.,” to go after Cuba, he said, “which more than 60 years ago decided on a different way of running a society, a socialist model that even now can tell everyone that it is doable. It is up to us to stand up.”

Sussen Gazal from the July 26 Coalition spoke about the importance of Cuba's internationalist doctors and scientists, and in particular the record of Cuba's medical team fighting the Ebola epidemic in West Africa in 2014 and 2015.

The rally attracted significant public attention and media coverage, with many people in the Boston Common stopping to ask questions, express support and seek information on how to engage in solidarity efforts with Cuba.

Paul Ott, an engineer and Navy retiree, took a copy of the editorial from the *Militant* headlined “Protest US war drive against Cuba!” He said, “the Cuban people deserve their freedom, their right to determine their destiny. It's not U.S. territory.”

Two tourists from Taiwan agreed that the U.S. is violating Cuba's sovereignty. One said that in Taiwan



Members of Sugarcane Workers Union in Dominican Republic say, “Women cane cutters demand end to blockade of Cuba” in protest outside the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo May 20.

they face war threats and aggression from China.

Protest organizers announced plans for a follow-up public educational and fundraising event June 14, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Church of Boston. The event will fea-

ture a new documentary “From Cuba to Calabria,” which highlights the impact and humanitarian work of Cuba's medical brigades.

Judy Freiwirth is a lead organizer with the July 26 Coalition.

SWP campaigners find interest in defense of Cuba in Miami

BY LISA ROTTACH

MIAMI — Socialist Workers Party members here are campaigning to discuss with working people why they should oppose Washington's escalating aggression against Cuba. The discussions are welcomed by many of those they're meeting.

“This government's policies are hurting the Cuban people,” Kenia, who asked that her last name not be used, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent at her doorstep in Homestead, a predominantly agricultural area in South Florida, May 23. She moved here from Cuba in 2014. “The U.S. has tried for over 60 years, but the leadership in Cuba is still in power. The blockade should be lifted.”

“Millions of Cubans refuse to give up,” I said, showing her the picture of the May Day march in Havana on the front page of the *Militant*. We discussed the indictment of Cuban revolutionary leader Raúl Castro.

“I definitely don't agree with trying to prosecute Cuba for the shoot down of the Brothers to the Rescue planes,” Kenia said. “I was in Cuba. What country would stand for their intrusion? Same thing with the speedboat that took off from Florida some months ago, loaded with arms, trying to get to Cuba's shores. Cuba had every right to stop them.”

She also described what she faces on the job from the deep cuts in programs for the autistic children she works with.

“The capitalists and their political parties aim to make the working class shoulder the effects of the crisis,” I replied. “What's the answer? Cuba shows that socialist revolution is possible. Workers right here in the U.S. need to take political power and organize society in our own interests.”

Kenia subscribed to the *Militant* and said she'd think about coming to a May 31 rally at the Miami airport demanding an end to the U.S. war threats against Cuba.

Not all her neighbors shared her opin-

ions. One man originally from Cuba told me he thought the Cuban military “pockets all of the money and leaves nothing to the people.”

“The U.S. government is the source of the problem,” I said. “It's trying to starve the Cuban people into submission.” He thanked me for the discussion but said he thought I was mistaken.

Rachele Fruit, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, and party member David Rosenfeld talked with Angélica López. She told them she and her husband work seven days a week picking 10-15 boxes of okra per day, earning only \$3.50 a box. “We have four children and pay \$1,200 for rent, plus utilities. So many people want to come here. They see the beautiful city of Miami. But once they arrive, they find out it's all work, work, work.”

She said that she didn't know much about Cuba, but bought a *Militant*.

Fruit and Rosenfeld also met retired nurse Liz Burger who now works as a crossing guard. She told them she grew up in Cordele, Georgia, picking cotton and other produce. She listened with interest when Fruit described the decades-long fight by Black farmers to keep their land in the face of the government's efforts to deny them credit.

“A number of them visited Cuba and were amazed to find that farmers there cannot lose the use of the land, even if they have a bad year,” Fruit said. “Those Black farmers became strong supporters of the Cuban Revolution.” Burger bought the *Militant* to learn more.

At a parking lot in North Miami, Dorys Delgado stopped by a SWP campaign car to talk with party members May 24. She said she agreed with a sign taped to the car, “US Hands off Cuba! Lift the Economic Blockade!”

Originally from Nicaragua, Delgado said, “I love everything about the Cuban struggle, how they have fought all of these years to stay independent. I learned about Cuba in my country, and also from my co-workers here. The Cu-

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Chanting “Hands off Cuba” and “No to the embargo, no to war on Cuba,” 30 people rallied here May 23 to condemn Washington's ruthless economic war against the Cuban people and its preparations for military aggression.

Protesters carried placards demanding, “End the [U.S.] oil blockade” and “Hands off Raúl Castro,” a reference to the U.S. Justice Department's frame-up indictment of the Cuban revolutionary leader. Another read, “Cuba's crime: carrying out and defending a socialist revolution — hands off!”

Speakers included Matt Robson, a minister in the 1999-2002 Labour Party government; Green Party Member of Parliament Ricardo Menéndez March, who is co-chair of the Latin America and Caribbean Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group; and Annalucia Vermunt of the Cuba Friendship Society, which organized the event. She urged participants to build solidarity with Cuba and be prepared for ongoing protests.

ban doctors are the best in the world.” She bought the Spanish edition of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban combatant Víctor Dreke and was glad to learn of the upcoming rally in defense of Cuba at the airport.

One man originally from Cuba said, “I'm not political, but I just want to get rid of the dictators,” referring to the Cuban government. Nonetheless, he bought the *Militant* to read its point of view.

Karla Jarquín told SWP members her co-worker is trying to bring her pregnant daughter to the U.S. from Cuba because of the worsening provision of healthcare there as a result of U.S. sanctions. Originally from El Salvador, Jarquín works in a factory making military pants, where production is increasing.

“The increase in military spending is tied to the U.S. rulers' cutthroat competition with governments around the world for markets and resources,” I said. “They're dragging humanity toward a third world war. The working class is the only force with the capacity to stop them. We have no interest in their system of exploitation.”

“I only make \$14 an hour. Look at the billions they spend on destruction,” Jarquín said.

“As capitalism spirals into deeper crisis, we're also seeing the rise of Jew-hatred,” I added. “Workers should support Israel's defensive war against Iran and its proxies to prevent another Holocaust.”

“I am a friend of Israel. But I need to know more about their struggle and history,” Jarquín said. She bought *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

SWP members campaigned at the Hialeah rail yard in Miami May 26. The six rail workers Rachele Fruit spoke to told her they opposed the U.S. rulers' assaults on Cuba. Two got the *Militant*.

US rulers seek deal with Iran

Continued from front page

of the earth. Israel is a “cancerous tumor” that must be removed, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said May 26, reiterating the course the reactionary regime there has acted on for decades.

Tehran’s so-called axis of resistance — Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen, Iran-created militias in Iraq — though greatly weakened by Israeli blows since Oct. 7, 2023, is still a deadly threat.

But the White House is determined to keep Israel from disrupting the U.S. rulers’ goal of imposing a new Pax Americana on the peoples of the Middle East.

To advance this, Trump says he wants the governments of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Turkey and others to join the Abraham Accords. These pacts normalized diplomatic and economic relations between the governments of Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and Kosovo in 2020 and 2021.

Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by phone May 23 amid press reports that Washington and Tehran were discussing a tentative accord that would not be to Israel’s liking.

The accord reportedly would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, impose a permanent ceasefire in Lebanon, and put off further discussions of Washington’s demand that Tehran hand over its store of enriched uranium that could be used to make nuclear weapons and promise not to enrich more for 20 years. Neither Tehran’s ballistic missiles nor its financing and arming of proxies that target Israel were mentioned.

Trump: Netanyahu must do as I say

Afterward Trump claimed Netanyahu will “do whatever I want him to do.”

Washington uses Israel’s dependence on U.S. weapons and some \$3.8 billion a year in military aid to pressure Israel to acquiesce to its demands. But Israel finds ways to defend itself.

The ceasefire imposed by the U.S. government in Gaza prevented Israel from dismantling Hamas. Trump claimed the ceasefire deal would lead to the disarmament of Hamas, the establishment of an independent police force and the reconstruction of Gaza, but none of this has happened.

Seven months later, while Hamas rebuilds its armed forces, the White House continues to claim that Trump’s

Board of Peace will somehow convince Hamas to disarm.

Tehran is demanding that any accord deny Israel the right to further combat in Lebanon, leaving Hezbollah free to continue its attacks. Under pressure from Washington Israel has ceased attacking Hezbollah in northern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah, aided by Iran, has built up its supply of drones, re-launching airstrikes on communities in northern Israel repeatedly from March 2. In one recent one-week period, Hezbollah fired hundreds of drones and rockets at both Israel and Israeli forces in southern Lebanon.

Worried that a U.S.-Tehran deal could force more restrictions on Israel, Netanyahu ordered the Israel Defense Forces to intensify its operations against Hezbollah May 25.

Israel will end dependence on U.S.

While Netanyahu says U.S. imperialism is on the side of Israel, he acts on the fact that Israel must be prepared to defend itself on its own. To cut back on the U.S. rulers’ ability to pressure Israel, Netanyahu seeks to cut back its reliance on U.S. military aid and weapons.

“I want to draw down to zero the American financial support” to Israel’s military over the next decade, Netanyahu told the CBS program “60 Minutes” May 10. In November he announced plans to advance Israel’s arms industry.

Netanyahu also pointed to the growing impact of the anti-Israel propaganda promoted by Hamas apologists. A year ago he told a reporter that “we’ve not been winning” the propaganda war. “There are vast forces arrayed against us.”

In fact, an array of Hamas supporters, Maoists and others on the middle-class left, reinforced by bourgeois liberals in the “democratic” imperialist powers, as well as rightist Jew-haters all promote the lie that Israel is an apartheid state guilty of genocide.

1948: founding of Israel inevitable

To do this they lie about the real history of Israel, claiming it is built on the dispossession of the Palestinians.

The establishment of Israel in 1948 had become inevitable in the wake of the Second World War.

The working class worldwide paid a terrible price for the betrayal by Stalin-led Communist Parties, which prevented working people from uniting



Koach La'Ovdim trade union

Jewish and Arab women, including childcare workers organized by the Koach La'Ovdim trade union, joined March 8 International Women’s Day action in Israel. “We will not be taken advantage of, power to the nannies,” says sign at left. Defense of Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms is strengthened by common struggles of Jewish and Arab workers there.

and taking political power into their own hands. In the 1930s these parties sabotaged revolutionary opportunities, from Germany to Spain. Had workers there been led to take power, the Second World War — and with it the Nazi’s slaughter of 6 million Jews — could have been prevented.

Before and during the Holocaust, imperialist ruling powers, including Washington, London and Ottawa, slammed their doors on the Jews, often sending them back to their deaths. After the war, they were still denied entry and forced into “displaced persons” camps. But they refused to accept their fate and made their way to Palestine. Where else were they to go?

Jewish organizations accepted the United Nations partition plan, which set aside a small part of Palestine for a state that would be a refuge for Jews. But reactionary, semifeudal leaders who dominated the Arab world refused. Armies from five Arab nations invaded the newly created state of Israel in 1948.

With heavy losses on both sides, Israel emerged victorious. Tens of thousands of Palestinians fled, told to do so

by reactionary Arab leaders or out of fear. Many were expelled by Israeli forces during the war. But thousands stayed.

During and after that war tens of thousands of Jews from Arab countries were attacked and expelled by reactionary regimes across the Middle East and moved to Israel.

Today some 20% of the population of Israel are Arab citizens. Jews and Arabs often work side by side and belong to the same trade unions.

Seeing Hamas kill not only Jews on Oct. 7, 2023, but Arabs who worked with Jews, and suffering attacks from Tehran and Hezbollah in the wars that followed, Arab citizens feel a growing connection to Israel today.

‘Militant’ Prisoners Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate or free subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant, earmarked “Prisoners Fund,” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

New strains open in Putin regime

Continued from front page

of new troops it has recruited.

Ukrainian forces have developed a technological advantage in drone warfare. Its drone strikes on command posts, ammunition depots, fuel storage and troop concentrations behind the lines are hindering Moscow’s preparation to mount a new offensive.

Ukrainian-built drones have successfully targeted oil infrastructure up to 1,000 miles inside the Russian Federation. At least 10 oil refineries, including some of the largest, were hit in May, with six forced to shut down.

Putin’s victory propaganda has worn thin. His decimated Black Sea fleet has been forced to withdraw to mainland Russian ports. His scaled-down May 9 Victory Day in Moscow’s Red Square had no tanks, missiles or significant foreign representatives.

Moscow’s war economy is weighing on working people, amid inflation and labor shortages. Factional divisions are widening in the Kremlin and Putin’s popularity has slumped.

Acclaimed Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev used his acceptance speech after receiving an award at the Cannes Film Festival May 23 to call on Putin to “put a stop to this carnage.”

“Millions of people on both sides of the line of contact now dream of only one thing: that the massacres finally stop,” he said.

His film, “Minotaur,” is set against the backdrop of Moscow’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine. A callous businessman has to choose which of his employees are to be drafted into the army to be sent to the front. It portrays the Kremlin’s voracious appetite for cannon fodder from Russia’s working people.

Zvyagintsev, who now lives in exile in France, doesn’t expect the Kremlin to release his film in his homeland. But he’s sure millions of Russians who want to see the film will easily find ways to circumvent the censors.

Moscow carried out one of its biggest aerial assaults of the war on Ukraine’s capital and surrounding region May 24, launching hypersonic ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

Moscow targets included not only civilian areas, to maximize deaths, but also Ukraine’s cultural institutions, including the National Art Museum, National Philharmonic, Kyiv Opera, and the new Chernobyl Museum dedicated to the world’s worst nuclear disaster and protests against Stalinist rule.

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SWP in World War II: 'No imperialist power can conduct a just war'

As the U.S. rulers and their capitalist rivals drag humanity down the road toward another world war — unless and until they are stopped by the working class — *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June* features *The Socialist Workers Party in World War II: Writings and Speeches 1940-43* by James P. Cannon. Cannon was then national secretary of the SWP. Excerpted below is "A statement on the U.S. entry into World War II," issued by the SWP on Dec. 22, 1941. Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

The considerations which determined our attitude toward the war up to the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and the Axis powers retain their validity in the new situation.

We considered the war upon the part of all the capitalist powers involved — Germany and France, Italy and Great Britain — as an *imperialist war*.

This characterization of the war was determined for us by the character of the state powers involved in it. They were all capitalist states in the epoch of imperialism; themselves imperialist — oppressing other nations or peoples — or satellites of imperialist powers. The extension of the war to the Pacific and the formal entry of



Militant
Members of SWP and Minneapolis Teamsters, targeted by the FBI, tried and convicted, on way to prison Dec. 31, 1943, for opposing U.S. rulers' drive to enter imperialist world war.

the United States and Japan change nothing in this basic analysis.

Following Lenin, it made no difference to us which imperialist bandit fired the first shot; every imperialist power has for a quarter of a century been "attacking" every other imperialist power by economic and political means; the resort to arms is but the culmination of this process, which will continue as long as capitalism endures.

This characterization of the war does not apply to the war of the Soviet Union against German imperialism. We make a fundamental distinction between the Soviet Union and its "democratic" allies. We defend the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is a workers' state, although degenerated under the totalitarian-political rule of the Kremlin bureaucracy. Only traitors can deny support to the Soviet workers' state in its war against fascist Germany. To defend the Soviet Union, in spite of Stalin and against Stalin, is to defend the nationalized property established by the October Revolution. That is a *progressive war*.

The war of China against Japan we likewise characterize as a progressive war. We support China. China is a colonial country, battling for national independence against an imperialist power. ...

None of the reasons which oblige us to support the Soviet Union and China against their enemies can be said to apply to France or Britain. These im-

perialist "democracies" entered the war to maintain their lordship over the hundreds of millions of subject peoples in the British and French empires; to defend these "democracies" means to defend their oppression of the masses of Africa and Asia. Above all it means to defend the decaying capitalist social order. We do not defend that, either in Italy and Germany, or in France and Britain — or in the United States.

"We told the truth about imperialist war. We go to prison not as criminals but because duty takes us."
—James P. Cannon, 1943

The Marxist analysis which determined our attitude toward the war up to December 8, 1941, continues to determine our attitude now. We were internationalists before December 8; we still are. We believe that the most fundamental bond of loyalty of all the workers of the world is the bond of international solidarity of the workers against their exploiters. We cannot assume the slightest responsibility for this war. No imperialist regime can conduct a just war. We cannot support it for one moment.

We are the most irreconcilable enemies of the fascist dictatorships of Germany and Italy and the military dictatorship of Japan. Our cothinkers

of the Fourth International in the Axis nations and the conquered countries are fighting and dying in the struggle to organize the coming revolutions against Hitler and Mussolini. ...

In the midst of the war against Hitler, it is necessary to extend the hand of fraternity to the German people. This can be done honestly and convincingly only by a workers' and farmers' government. We advocate the workers' and farmers' government. Such a government, and only such a government, can conduct a war against Hitler, Mussolini, and the Mikado in cooperation with the oppressed peoples of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Our program against Hitlerism and for a workers' and farmers' government is today the program of only a small minority. The great majority actively or passively supports the war program of the Roosevelt administration. As a minority we must submit to that majority in action. We do not sabotage the war or obstruct the military forces in any way. The Trotskyists go with their generation into the armed forces. We abide by the decisions of the majority. But we retain our opinions and insist on our right to express them.

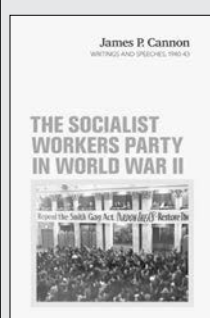
Our aim is to convince the majority that our program is the only one which can put an end to war, fascism, and economic convulsions. In this process of education the terrible facts speak loudly for our contention. Twice in twenty-five years world wars have wrought destruction. The instigators and leaders of those wars do not offer, and cannot offer, a plausible promise that a third, fourth, and fifth world war will not follow if they and their social system remain dominant. Capitalism can offer no prospect but the slaughter of millions and the destruction of civilization.

Only socialism can save humanity from this abyss. This is the truth. As the terrible war unfolds, this truth will be recognized by tens of millions who will not hear us now. The war-tortured masses will adopt our program and liberate the people of all countries from war and fascism. In this dark hour we clearly see the socialist future and prepare the way for it. Against the mad chorus of national hatreds we advance once more the old slogan of socialist internationalism: **Workers of the World Unite!**

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Build protests *now* to defend Cuba's sovereignty! US hands off Cuba!

Continued from front page

warships, and all other U.S. military forces from the Caribbean and South America.

- Throw out the "Justice" Department's May 20 trumped-up indictment of Cuban Army General and former President Raúl Castro and five other Cubans on charges of "conspiracy" to murder four U.S.-based counterrevolutionaries as they were dangerously violating Cuba's airspace. "It is a despicable and infamous act of political provocation," as Cuba's Foreign Ministry immediately responded. A provocation intended to be used as a pretext for U.S. military action in Cuba to capture a "wanted criminal."

- End the U.S. government's brutal oil blockade and *all* trade, banking and other commercial, financial and diplomatic measures enacted over decades to deprive every Cuban resident of the basic necessities of life.

- Withdraw the unconstitutional federal subpoenas served in late May by the U.S. "Justice" Department on organizers of activities in support of the Cuban people and their freely elected government.

As we organize and build the broadest possible actions in the streets, we also need to *get out the truth about Cuba*. We must clearly and effectively expose and refute the seven decades of poison targeting the minds of working people in the U.S., painting Cuba as a brutal "communist dictatorship," and today "a failed state."

The battle for those of us who live in the U.S. is first and foremost a *political* battle to win the hearts and minds of working people *here*. That's what we and only we can do to combat the lies we are fed daily by the U.S. capitalist media, including its "social media" format. Our job is to explain the real history and working-class roots of the Cuban Revolution and the stakes we have in defending that revolution against the U.S. capitalist class, which Cuban workers and farmers drove out of their country 67 years ago.

Talk with your co-workers, fellow unionists, students and others. Win their help in mounting opposition to Washington's course. Introduce them to books and pamphlets in which they can read for themselves the words of Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Vilma Espin and other Cuban revolutionaries, so they can make up their own minds.

Show them the tributes paid by leaders of working people and the oppressed the world over to the selfless internationalist solidarity of the Cuban people — from Malcolm X in this country, to Maurice Bishop,

to Amílcar Cabral, Nelson Mandela, Thomas Sankara and others across the Americas, Africa and far beyond.

The goal of the U.S. capitalist rulers in seeking to crush the socialist revolution in Cuba is to advance their imperialist interests at home and abroad. That's true of the Democratic and Republican parties alike. Aggression abroad, in fact, *begins* at home, with capital's drive to wring higher profits from exploiting our labor and plundering nature here. The bosses who this year locked out workers at British Petroleum in Indiana and Cargill in Colorado, who create ever-more-dangerous job conditions on the railroads, in the mines, factories and other workplaces — they are the same class that's trying to starve the Cuban people into submission.

That is the truth we have to bring to working people across the United States.

With imperial arrogance, U.S. President Donald Trump says he can do "whatever I want with Cuba," as if it's just another piece of real estate he owns.

And Secretary of State Marco Rubio claims that Cuba "has always posed a national security threat" to the people of the United States. That turns reality on its head.

A Call to Action by the Socialist Workers Party

As the Cuban Foreign Ministry pointed out, Washington's charge that Cuba poses a threat to peace is gross hypocrisy. Its allegations about the Cuban leadership are being "made by the same government that has murdered nearly 200 people and destroyed 57 vessels in international waters" in the Caribbean in recent months.

Washington picked May 20 to unseal its official indictment of Raúl Castro. That was the 124th anniversary of U.S. imperialism's imposition on Cuba — newly independent from Spain — of the infamous Platt Amendment. With U.S. armed forces occupying the island, this so-called amendment to Cuba's 1901 constitution declared Washington's "right," at will, "to intervene" in Cuba to maintain "a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty," and to prohibit the Cuban government from entering into any international treaty that in the U.S. rulers' opinion would "impair the independence of Cuba."

The Platt Amendment also permitted Washington to station troops on Cuban soil at any time, as well as to buy or lease "coaling or naval stations." In 1903 the

U.S. rulers compelled the Cuban government to grant, "in perpetuity," a 45-square-mile naval base at Guantánamo Bay on the island's southeastern coast.

The Platt Amendment, which was annulled in 1934, reads as a virtual blueprint for the sweeping demands Washington is making today: that the Cuban people must install a government that will carry out the wishes of U.S. imperialism or Washington will do it for them.

The U.S. government's May 20 frame-up of Raúl Castro and other Cubans was reinforced the next day by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing the former capitalist owners of a business in the port of Havana to sue the Cuban government for compensation when the shipping company leasing the piers was nationalized in 1960. The U.S. court ruled that Cuba is today using property "tainted by a past confiscation."

In fact, the nationalization was the action of workers and farmers who mobilized to take back control of Cuba's land, factories, banks, public utilities and resources in the early 1960s in order to use them to meet the needs of the Cuban people, not line the pockets of wealthy U.S. and Cuban capitalist families. The Cuban government offered compensation at the U.S. company's self-assessed tax valuation, an offer refused by the cruise-ship barons and other capitalist owners of vast properties on the island.

"What they cannot forgive is that we made a socialist revolution right under the very nose of the United States," Fidel Castro declared in 1961, a revolution "of the working people, by the working people and for the working people." He was speaking that truth just days before volunteer Cuban militias and Revolutionary Armed Forces defeated an invasion by U.S.-armed and -financed counterrevolutionaries at the Bay of Pigs ordered by Democratic Party President John F. Kennedy.

Working people in Cuba were transformed in the course of making a revolution. In the decades since, they joined internationalist volunteer missions across the world — from assisting anti-imperialist freedom fighters in Vietnam, to Angolans resisting repeated invasions by U.S.-backed South African apartheid forces. Cuba has organized thousands of volunteer medical missions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and elsewhere, even Europe! During the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa they provided what no other country would: medical volunteers on the ground, who put their own lives on the line to fight to eradicate the disease.

Today working people in Cuba face enormous difficulties produced by cumulative damage from decades of U.S. economic sanctions and other assaults, now topped by escalating military threats and five months of a near 100% naval blockade of oil deliveries.

Contrary to lies by the U.S. rulers and capitalist media, millions in Cuba are determined to fight Washington's brazen effort to *impose a new Platt Amendment* on their sovereign country. That was the message conveyed by the hundreds of thousands across Cuba who marched on May Day and again May 22. Cubans are working shoulder to shoulder, defying countless hours of daily electrical blackouts to use the scarce resources available to them today to meet the most essential needs of medical care, education and production.

Our job here and elsewhere the world over is to take action alongside them. To refute every one of Washington's lies. To mobilize the widest possible opposition in the streets.

Join us in building these actions.

U.S. hands off Cuba! Defend the Cuban Revolution!

'Militant' fight over Florida, Tennessee prison bans

Continued from page 5

of information about what's going on in the world.

"I strongly disagree with the Literature Review Committee's categorization that articles about protests in Minneapolis covered in February issues of the *Militant* regarding the fight for immigrants' rights are dangerously inflammatory or encourage riots, insurrection, or rebellion," Fitzsimmons wrote. "The *Militant* articles talk about the need for broad-based peaceful actions that can be the most effective to get political change."

The American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, Florida Press Association, PEN America, Amnesty International USA, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and Neighbors United in Minneapolis have sent letters requesting the demands be overturned.

Banning of 'Militant' in Tennessee

From the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center in Tennessee, the *Militant* has received four unopened envelopes addressed to subscribers with each containing an issue of the paper. The envelopes were stamped "Not Allowed Due to Content" or "unapproved vendor." Photocopies of six other envelopes containing impounded issues were also received.

In a May 18 letter to the Tennessee Department of Correction, Goldstein said the bans should be reversed because they violate the prison system's own rules. Authorities are required to inform inmates

and the publisher in writing of the reason that "specific issues or items" are being rejected and allow the publisher to file an appeal.

"Trousdale has violated the *Militant's* due process rights to notice and opportunity to be heard," Goldstein wrote, "so that it can contest such specific allegations."

The *Militant* is an "approved publication," a Tennessee prison official wrote to the paper in 2022 after an impoundment of the paper in the prisons was reversed that year.

Prisoners at the Trousdale facility "have received the *Militant* for several years without interruption or rejection," wrote Goldstein. "The *Militant* is delivered weekly to hundreds of inmate subscribers across the country without challenge. In those few instances where issues have been impounded, in one prison or another, the bans have always been challenged by the *Militant*, and the publisher has been overwhelmingly successful in having them reversed."

Send letters urging authorities to reverse the bans in Florida to the Literature Review Committee, via email to Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com and Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

In Tennessee, write to TN Department of Correction, Attn: L.R. Thomas, Assistant Commissioner Prison Operations, 320 Sixth Ave. North, 4th floor, Nashville, TN 37243.

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