

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

US imperialism and the catastrophe in Venezuela
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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JULY 13, 2026

Protests hit new Supreme Court blow to TPS for Haitians in US

BY TERRY EVANS

Hundreds demonstrated in defense of continuing Temporary Protected Status for refugees from Haiti in Springfield, Ohio, and other cities following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling June 25.

The decision says President Donald Trump's administration has the right, as the executive branch of the government, to overturn TPS protection from 350,000 Haitian and 6,100 Syrian immigrants, and from others in the future. It ends their right to live and work here and makes them liable to deportation. More protests are planned.

The 6-3 ruling by the court will affect "thousands of our union members from Boston to Miami who maintain everything from airports to downtown offices, plus countless others working in senior care, childcare, construction, food service and more," Manny Pastreich, president of Service Employees International Union 32BJ, told a rally outside the Massachusetts State House.

"It's deplorable that this country, which calls itself 'the land of the free,' treats people who come here for support

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US, Tehran seek Mideast deal as Israel defends its very existence

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After another round of drone and airstrikes and counterstrikes, the U.S. and Iranian governments sent representatives to Qatar to seek negotiations June 30. Having dealt big blows to Tehran's military in repeated missile and drone attacks beginning in February, the U.S. rulers are trying to force a deal on the Iranian regime that brings a measure of stability for U.S. imperialism to advance its plunder of the oil, gas and labor resources of the region.

Tehran's faction-ridden regime has chafed at Washington's key demands of unimpeded maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and restrictions on Tehran's nuclear enrichment program. And it says it will never allow Israel to destroy Hezbollah, Tehran's proxy in Lebanon. So far no lasting ceasefire has been reached.

In contrast, Israel is fighting a defensive war to prevent Tehran and its proxies from carrying out their longstanding threats to annihilate Israel and the Jews — and everyone else

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Protest in New York: 'US hands off Cuba!'

National Nurses union says No! to blockade



Militant/Roy Landersen

Over 60 people picketed Federal Post Office in New York June 27 demanding "U.S. hands off Cuba!" in action called by Cuba Sí NY/NJ coalition. Similar protests are taking place elsewhere.

Protests call for end to oil blockade, threats on Cuba

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — Some 60 people protested outside the main federal post office in midtown Manhattan here June 27 to demand the U.S. government end its brutal economic blockade of Cuba. This was the third picket this year organized by the New York/New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition and supported by several other organizations.

Hundreds of people walking by the

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Nat'l Nurses United union: 'We will not remain silent!'

BY KAITLIN ESTILL

WASHINGTON — Setting an important example for the entire labor movement, National Nurses United — the largest union of registered nurses in the U.S. — organized a press conference here June 30 to call for the U.S. government to end its punishing oil blockade against the people of Cuba.

The nurses' union called the public

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'We won!' Philadelphia Sheraton hotel workers strike makes gains



Militant/Abby Tilsner

UNITE HERE Local 274 members celebrate June 29 contract victory after nine-day strike at Sheraton Philadelphia won higher "pattern" pay, health, pension coverage, lower workload.

BY ABBY TILSNER

PHILADELPHIA — "We won! We won!" chanted UNITE HERE Local 274 members who work at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown hotel, after Local President Rosslyn Wuchinich announced a tentative deal for some 200 workers at their strike headquarters June 29. They had been on strike for nine days.

"When we said we were fighting for \$30 an hour at the beginning of this campaign, a lot of people told us we were asking for the impossible," Shafeek Anderson, a food and beverage worker and union steward said. "With this victory, we have shown the whole industry that nothing is impossible when the workers stick together."

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Lessons for today from the historic movement that overthrew Jim Crow

BY TERRY EVANS

One of the most important developments for working people in the U.S. over the last 75 years was the rise of the Black-led working-class mass move-

ment that exploded across the South in the 1950s and '60s and succeeded in overthrowing decades of murderous Jim Crow segregation. This victory transformed and mightily strengthened the working class in the U.S., opening the door for united class struggle. It can

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UN hearing backs independence fight in Puerto Rico

BY SETH GALINSKY

UNITED NATIONS — Tens of thousands across Puerto Rico have been without running water for weeks on end, on top of years of frequent electrical blackouts, Damara González told the United Nations decolonization hearing on the status of Puerto Rico June 22.

"People are unable to adequately bathe, prepare meals and store medicine," she said, speaking for Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora. The immediate

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SWP speech against Jew-hatred goes viral, is viewed by 32,000

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — A video of Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor of New York, speaking at a June 24 protest against Jew-hatred outside the Poetica Coffee shop in Brooklyn has been viewed more than 32,000 times. End Jew Hatred, the organizers of the action, had posted it on their Facebook and Instagram pages. Fox News aired part of Cotton’s speech as well.

The rally was called in response to anti-Jewish comments posted on the Poetica Facebook page by its owner, Parviz Mukhamadkulov, after Democratic Party Congressman Dan Goldman, who is Jewish, bought coffee there June 21.

“We see that you stopped by our shop today,” the post said next to a photo of Goldman inside the store. “We don’t serve racists, fascists, homophobes, genocide enablers or anyone in between. Too bad we didn’t recognize you right away, or we would have turned you away.”

Mukhamadkulov announced the shop had issued Goldman a refund, saying, “We don’t need your money (it’s probably coming from AIPAC anyways).” AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a lobbying group.

As word got out about the Jew-hatred post, the cafe owner took it down.

“No New Yorker should have to pass an Israel loyalty test to buy a cup of coffee,” Michelle Adoot, director of End Jew Hatred, said at the protest. “They don’t need to denounce Israel or AIPAC or Zionism in order to be served at this counter, just like everybody else.”

“The Jewish people standing up for civil rights won’t be silent,” she said.

The coffee shop “denied Goldman not because he was Zionist, but because he was Jewish,” Cotton told the protest. “Jew-hatred must be fought.”

End Jew Hatred printed an introduction to the video saying Cotton’s message “should resonate far beyond one coffee shop or one borough.”

The video rapidly went viral. “Drawing on his own family’s experience fighting anti-Black discrimination in Mississippi during the height of the civil rights movement more than 60 years ago, Willie reminded the crowd that the fight against hatred has always depended on people being willing to recognize injustice and refuse to look away,” the group’s introduction says.

“Willie also spoke powerfully about why Israel matters, not as an abstract political issue,” but as the only state where Jews are “protected from the violent hatred they’ve faced across continents and generations. In that context,



Militant/Elizabeth Lariscy

Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor of New York, speaks at June 24 protest, says, “Fighting Jew-hatred is life-and-death question for the working class.”

he referenced the horrific terror attack on Jews during a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach (in Australia) in December, underscoring the reality that anti-Jewish violence is not theoretical or isolated.”

Organizers of the protest had invited Cotton to speak after seeing him and a

campaign supporter with signs saying, “Fighting Jew-hatred is a life-and-death question for the working class. Socialist Workers Party.” Adoot introduced Cotton as “an ally with moral clarity.”

You can view the video at: www.instagram.com/endjewhatred/reel/DaAzeozqbHY/

‘We won!’ Philadelphia Sheraton strike makes gains

Continued from front page

Workers unanimously approved the contract, which included the newly established “citywide standard” wages. Pay for non-tipped workers goes up to \$30 an hour by 2028. It also includes an increase in the gratuity for tipped workers, expands healthcare coverage for families, increases the company’s contribution toward their pensions, and reduces each housekeeper’s workload from 16 rooms per shift to 15.

The strike won widespread union solidarity. International Transport Workers’ Federation sent a message to Local 274 June 26 saying, “Canada Rouge cabin crew are no longer staying at this hotel. Sending solidarity, and waiting for the notice of a win!”

A number of workers delivering linen and food to the hotel refused to cross the picket line. Construction stopped on the ballroom when members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades declined to cross. Members of the Association of Flight Attendants-Communications Workers of America, who often stay at the hotel, joined the strikers on their picket line instead.

Unionists from across the city donated food, water, rain ponchos and walked the picket line.

The hotel workers had been without a contract since May 31, 2024. They went on strike for four days last October, the first ever strike at Sheraton Downtown.

On June 24 the strikers rallied at the

Warwick Hotel Rittenhouse Square to put the hotel owners there on notice that “you are next!” Workers at the Warwick were set to strike June 26, but the bosses there agreed to settle.

Since the two strikes at the Sheraton Downtown, nine of 10 hotels organized by Local 274 in the Philadelphia area have won the “citywide standard.”

A rally in front of the Sheraton greeted workers as they returned to work June 30.

Abby Tilsner is a member of UNITE HERE Local 274.

The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. 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

THE MILITANT

Striking Michigan auto workers reverse concessions

Members of United Auto Workers Local 2093 returned to work at American Axle in Three Rivers, Michigan, June 15 after winning better pay, holiday and vacation days. They turned back concessions made in 2008 when management threatened to shut the factory.

United Auto Workers
Some 1,000 UAW members made gains on wages, schedules with two-week strike.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Ohio nurses rally in fight to win a union at children's hospital

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Some 100 nurses and their supporters rallied outside Nationwide Children's Hospital here June 24 to build support for their fight to win union representation. They began working with AFSCME-United Nurses of America last September.

"I've been a nurse for two years and this is my first nursing job," 25-year-old Samantha Patlin, who works in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, told the *Militant*. "The main reason I am supporting the union is the need for safe staffing ratios. It's not fair for us or for our patients, our babies especially, to have a 40-bed unit without enough nurses every single day."

The union staffs a coffee truck in Livingston Park across the street from the hospital. "It gives us an opportunity to talk to co-workers away from the job," Phil Streza, a nurse involved in the organizing drive at Nationwide, said. "Nurses get a free cup of coffee and the opportunity to sign union cards. We've gotten a lot that way and we're getting close to the threshold we need to call for a vote."

"I actually took a pay cut of 25% to come to work at Nationwide," Streza said, adding that he had worked at a union hospital before that. "It's the pay, the medical insurance, personal time off, retirement benefits and more we can win. But it's also because we are the people at the bedside, we are the advocates for the patients, the children, and we need the right to speak freely about their care."

— Betsy Farley

Seattle hotel workers go on strike as World Cup matches kick off

SEATTLE — Over 100 Embassy Suites Pioneer Square hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 8, went on strike here June 18. The next day a spirited rally marked Juneteenth — a holiday that began when Union soldiers entered Texas and ended slavery there June 19, 1865. Pickets at the Hilton-owned hotel were joined by members of the International Longshore and

Warehouse Union and other unionists as World Cup matches got underway steps away at the Seattle Stadium.

Picket lines are staffed daily beginning at 7 a.m. to noon and lasting into the evening on World Cup game days. "Support is really strong. The fight is really resonating with people. Half a dozen unions have shown up, even Gov. Ferguson," Jake Douglas from UNITE HERE told the *Militant* June 30.

Strikers told the *Militant* the hotel is charging thousands of dollars for special rooms during the Cup, while offering workers a measly 40 cents raise. Workers are also demanding year-around healthcare coverage and more staffing. After cutting the staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has loaded up workers with more work as business has picked up.

The union is also asking for a commitment by the company to inform workers if Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents show up at the hotel. "Immigrants work here and do all they can do to keep up on their papers. We want to know when ICE is here," said Nick Polson, a striker who has worked at the hotel for about three years and is a housekeeping supervisor. "Another big thing we want is workers shouldn't lose their health insurance in the winter slow season, when they're put on shorter hours. You have to work a minimum of so many hours to keep your insurance."

"We want to be treated with respect," he said.

Polson said they've been getting support from area workers, including Boeing workers, Teamsters and Amtrak workers. The hotel is across the street from the entrance to the Amtrak station.

Dom Kaur, 27, said she has worked at the hotel over a year on the front desk. She said management and temps are working seven days a week to try and cover jobs strikers usually do. "The front desk now has to cover what used to be three jobs," she said. "There's no bellman, no concierge, no one dedicated to answer calls from guests like there used to be. It's insane what they expect!"

Locked-out oil refinery workers rally in Chicago



Militant/Salm Kolis

CHICAGO — Roxanne Brown, international president of the United Steelworkers union, speaking above, led several hundred locked-out workers from the BP oil refinery and their supporters in a spirited picket and rally outside the company's headquarters in downtown Chicago June 26. The 800 USW Local 7-1 members voted down a union-busting concession contract March 19. They have been picketing outside the refinery in Whiting, Indiana, ever since.

The union is building a contingent to march in Whiting's July 4 parade, then holding a barbecue at the union headquarters.

The company refuses to negotiate. They say if the workers want to return to work, they have to accept the rotten contract they rejected by more than 98%.

Locked-out BP worker Carly Jones was at the rally with her toddler son Andrew. "This is real life," she told the *Militant*. "We are real people and our families are suffering. It's tough but it's worth it."

"They're trying to gut the union," said Latrell Hudson, who is locked out along with his father, "and we aren't going to let them."

"The support we have gotten is phenomenal," Local 7-1 President Eric Schultz said. "They picked the wrong battle against the wrong union."

To join the picket line, go to the Local 7-1 union hall, 2045 Schrage Ave. in Whiting. Send a contribution or a message of solidarity to that address.

— ILONA GERSH

This *Militant* worker-correspondent told pickets that co-workers on the railroad are following their strike with interest. Join the picket lines at 255 S. King St.! Donate to the UNITE HERE strike fund at <https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/4irgxeme6nod>.

— Rebecca Williamson

California sugar workers strike over bosses' takeback contract

CROCKETT, Calif. — Ninety-one warehouse workers, members of International Longshore and Warehouse

Union Local 6, went on strike June 15 at C&H Sugar here. They voted unanimously to turn down the bosses' insulting takeback contract and to authorize a strike. The factory refines over 750,000 tons of cane sugar yearly — 10% of U.S. production.

C&H Sugar is part of the American Sugar Refining Group, which says it's the largest sugar refiner in the world.

"I think this contract was a deliberate provocation," shop steward Otis Brown told the *Militant*.

"We are all united in turning down this contract," Asser Garcia, an autonomous forklift coordinator and union foreman, said. "They want to take away seniority in scheduling and job bidding. They want to take away our rest day and keep the plant running continually without paying overtime."

Because the bosses successfully maneuvered to have the Local 6 warehouse workers' contract end at a different time than the plant's production workers — who are members of Sugar Workers Union Local 1 — they are still on the job. "I know it kills them to keep working," Brown said.

A year ago the company pressed Local 1 until the unionists ratified a similar takeback contract. But it was never signed and the bosses change the rules every day, one Local 1 worker said. The company has threatened to fire them for "job abandonment" if they honor the warehouse workers' picket line.

The bosses are busing in scabs to work in the warehouse.

"I can't blame the Sugar Workers," Brian Dennison, a specialty forklift operator, said. "It's the company."

Support the strikers! To contribute to the strike fund, go to <https://square.link/u/ifFpgkRO>.

— Eric Simpson

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

July 16, 2001

Eight young people are among the first students from the United States to receive scholarships to attend the Latin American School of Medical Sciences in Havana. The more than 3,400 international students at the school come from 23 Latin American, Caribbean and African countries.

The Cuban government has offered full scholarships to up to 500 students from communities in the United States that lack access to good medical care. On returning to the U.S., they will be required to take three years of post-graduate, hands-on training and pass a national licensing examination in English.

In addition to training thousands of doctors from other countries, Cuba sends some 20,000 volunteer doctors as well as other medical personnel to work in rural areas in countries throughout Africa and Latin America, often in areas where other doctors will not work.

THE MILITANT

July 16, 1976

PHILADELPHIA — Thousands upon thousands of people marched through the streets of North Philadelphia July 4, chanting "For a bicentennial without colonies!" and "Independence for Puerto Rico — right now!" It was the biggest demonstration in support of Puerto Rican independence ever held in the U.S. Several banners called for the release of five Puerto Rican nationalists who have been in U.S. prisons since the early 1950s.

The rally after the march lasted three hours. The speech that seemed to capture the main theme of the rally best was that of Juan Mari Bras, general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

He concluded by urging North Americans to continue supporting the independence struggle. "You know very well that independence for Puerto Rico is a blow against imperialism and will be a victory for your people as well as us."

THE MILITANT

July 16, 1951

Ruins, starvation, disease and death — that is the condition of Korea, one year after Truman's "police action" began. Joseph Fromm of the U.S. News, who has followed the Korean war from the beginning, says that on North Korea alone "almost as many tons of bombs were dropped ... as on Japan during the whole of World War II." A similar treatment was accorded to South Korea.

Fromm estimates the number of civilian casualties at anywhere from one person in six to one in four out of a total population of 29 million. The list of casualties and refugees "could easily run as high as seven or eight million."

No people will ever accept as "liberators" those who have turned their country into a wasteland. The American imperialists have built up a record of "bitterness and ruin" it will indeed take years to wipe out from the memory of all the Asian peoples.

US, Tehran seek Mideast deal

Continued from front page
who lives there — a new Holocaust.

One indication of what the U.S. rulers want is the Donald Trump administration's announcement that it has established direct communication with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the real power in Iran. The Times of Israel reported that this "deconfliction channel," announced by Vice President JD Vance, "includes representatives from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the U.S. Army's Central Command (Centcom), who will sit together in Qatar." However, an IRGC official claimed it's not true.

Washington is demanding Tehran dilute the enriched nuclear material it possesses and agree not to enrich more over the next decade or so. It accepts the regime's claim it has no plans to produce nuclear weapons, despite its longstanding efforts to do so.

Vance and Trump say that Tehran has agreed to inspections from the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iranian officials say they agreed to this, but only after a final agreement is signed, and all the U.S. rulers' punishing sanctions on Iran are lifted.

U.S.-Israel 'friction' in Lebanon

The Trump administration sees Israel's efforts to defend itself from Hezbollah as an obstacle to its own goal of finalizing an agreement with Tehran. It keeps pressing Israel to wind down its military operations in Lebanon, which can only prolong the threat to Jews and other Israelis from Hezbollah.

In early March, days after the U.S. war against Iran began, Hezbollah began firing missiles and drones at northern Israel. To counter these attacks, the Israel Defense Forces occupied a wide swath of southern Lebanon and launched airstrikes targeting Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commanders based in Beirut.

In the western and southern areas occupied by Israeli troops, Israel's defense minister, Israel Katz, said almost all of Hezbollah's infrastructure, including tunnels and weapons stores, has been destroyed, and in the eastern areas, 73%.

"There will be friction" with Washington, Katz said. "I suggest people not hold their breath waiting for the area from which Israel will withdraw. It will not happen."

"If Iran fires missiles at Israel, Israel will strike Iran with force," he told reporters. "That is not conditional on anything."

"This has also been made clear to the Americans," he added. But that doesn't stop Washington from pressing to hold Israel back.

Israel drives against Hezbollah

Unlike in Gaza, where Tehran-backed Hamas exerts dictatorial control over the area it commands, in Lebanon Hezbollah is powerful but not unchallenged.

Hezbollah is better armed and financed and has more combat-hardened fighters than the official Lebanese army. But the Lebanese government is made

up of competing bourgeois forces — from the Sunni, Shia, Christian and Druze communities — many of which oppose Hezbollah and would like to see it weakened further.

After four days of talks, the Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. governments signed a "trilateral framework deal" June 26 recognizing Israel's right to maintain its troops in southern Lebanon. The deal says that in two small areas the Israel Defense Forces will pull back if the Lebanese army pushes Hezbollah out. Washington claims authority to verify and oversee the accord's implementation.

"We will maintain" IDF forces in southern Lebanon "until Hezbollah disarms and as long as there is a threat to the State of Israel," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement after the agreement was signed.

However, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem denounced the deal, declaring it "null and void," as did his allies in the Lebanese government.

Israel's death toll from the attacks by Hezbollah over the past few months includes at least 32 soldiers and four civilians. While Hezbollah does not release figures on its casualties, Reuters reported May 4 that several thousand Hezbollah fighters had been killed in the fighting, and 1 million people residing in Lebanon have been displaced.

Hamas rearms during Gaza ceasefire

Meanwhile, July 2 marks 1,000 days since the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom, where Hamas death squads, backed by the reactionary regime in Tehran, murdered 1,200 people, mostly Jewish civilians, and raped and mutilat-



Israel Defense Forces

Underground Hezbollah drone factory found by Israeli soldiers June 18 in southern Lebanon.

ed dozens of women.

The ceasefire imposed by the U.S. government in Gaza nearly nine months ago has prevented Israel from disman-

tlng Hamas. Taking advantage of the uneasy ceasefire, Hamas is rearming and tightening its dictatorial rule over the Palestinians living there.

Books that point a working-class road forward



from pathfinderpress.com

As protests for better pay, jobs and pensions increase, workers in Iran speak out against regime's war moves

BY SETH GALINSKY

New protest actions are now taking place almost every day in Iran, confronting attempts by the reactionary regime there to make working people pay for the deepening capitalist crisis and its foreign wars. Retirees, nurses, taxi drivers and textile workers increasingly taking to the streets to oppose layoffs, demand higher wages in the face of skyrocketing prices, or simply to get unpaid wages, have also been taking up broader questions.

"Leave Lebanon alone; do something about us," was one of the chants by dozens of retirees at their weekly protest June 21 outside the Social Security office in Shush, Khuzestan province. Another was, "A retiree's re-

frigerator is emptier than ever before."

"The wealth produced by us, the workers, has been plundered," the organization of retired workers from the Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers Union, said in their call for the action. "We want neither war nor bloodshed. We want prosperity and a secure future."

Retirees in Rasht, Gilan province, also raised opposition to Tehran's intervention for Hezbollah in Lebanon at their protest the same day. "In the shadow of a devastating war — which has been a 'blessing' for the ruthless capitalists in power — the working class has been crushed beneath its gears, both yesterday and today."

The capitalist economic and social crisis in Iran is exacerbated by U.S.-

imposed sanctions and the impact of the wars with Washington and Israel.

To expose the regime's use of working people as cannon fodder, Eterazebazar, an internet site connected to merchants in Tehran's bazaar, posted a flyer June 24 put out by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to recruit volunteers to join Hezbollah combatants in Lebanon, along with a note from a soldier. The flyer said that "committed and dedicated individuals" could earn \$1,000 a month if they signed up.

"Yesterday I received my service pay; it's an amount that doesn't even cover one week of living expenses," the soldier wrote. "Today I was looking at recruitment advertisements for Hezbollah in Lebanon, and I said to myself, how

is it possible that a young man serving his country is under such severe financial pressure, yet they pay such high salaries for Hezbollah?"

Eterazebazar posted a video June 30 of someone scavenging for food at a garbage dump in Lorestan province. He held up a similar recruitment flyer. "When our own people are facing so many hardships," he asked, "why should money and resources be spent on Lebanon and Hezbollah?"



Council for Coordinating Nurses' Protests

Nurses and other healthcare workers protest low wages and benefits, rising prices and poor working conditions in Tehran June 29. "Our rights are won only by taking to the streets," said the nurses' council.

New York march for the independence of Puerto Rico

Meet at 138th St. & Grand Concourse in The Bronx

July 18, 1 p.m.

Court blow to TPS for Haitians

Continued from front page
in the manner they do,” Sonya Munday, vice president of Local 57 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union, told the *Militant* after the ruling. The local organizes workers at Klosterman Baking in Springfield.

In recent years, Springfield’s 60,000 residents have included more than 10,000 Haitians. They work at Honda’s engine assembly plant, at the Amazon warehouse and in many other jobs in the area. A “Springfield Stands With Immigrants Rally” will be held at City Hall, 76 E. High Street on July 3, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Discussions about how to organize to meet this new challenge are taking place across the country, especially in cities with large numbers of Haitians, from Miami, Florida, to Greeley, Colorado, where hundreds work in packinghouses.

TPS allows the Department of Homeland Security to determine if wars, natural disasters or other circumstances call for allowing citizens from affected countries to live and work in the U.S. The department reviews whether to renew the status every 18 months. Today

1.3 million immigrants from 17 countries live in the U.S. under the program. As part of its drive to limit immigration, the Trump administration has cancelled the program for all 13 countries whose TPS has come up for renewal, including 600,000 from Venezuela. Many of these decisions have been challenged in federal court.

Writing for the Supreme Court minority, Justice Elena Kagan says the decision not to renew the program for Haitians is a result of racism, pointing to Trump’s bigoted comments during the 2024 presidential election about Haitians eating neighbors’ pets in Springfield. The court majority argued the decision isn’t driven by racism.

The ruling isn’t centered on this charge. The court majority says that according to the law that established TPS, the courts have no power to review whether or not the executive branch of the government can renew the program. The Supreme Court ruling now prevents immigrants from the 13 countries whose TPS has been abolished from challenging the move.

“The T in TPS stands for TEMPO-



Union-sponsored rally north of Miami Jan. 28. Protests also took place in Springfield, Ohio, elsewhere against Supreme Court ruling allowing government to end TPS for Haitians, Syrians.

RARY, yet many of these designations became de facto amnesty,” James Percival, the Department of Homeland Security’s chief attorney, claimed after the ruling. Far from granting an amnesty, however, TPS never provided a road toward gaining a green card, only further insecurity.

Moreover, the conditions that led previous administrations to offer and renew

TPS for Haitians and Syrians have been far from “temporary.” TPS was granted to Haitians in 2010 after a disastrous earthquake wrecked havoc there. Haiti is one of the world’s most impoverished countries, with limited political rights under governments imposed by Washington to advance the U.S. rulers’ plunder and domination.

Over the past 10 years criminal gangs have extended their control over growing swathes of territory in Haiti, including 80% of Port-au-Prince, the capital. They terrorize working people, with some 18,000 forced to flee their homes in the city’s Cite Soleil neighborhood in May. Nearly 1.5 million people are currently displaced across the country.

“The gangs just take over and the police are part of this much of the time,” Michele, a nurse from Haiti now living in northern New Jersey, told the *Militant*. “When you don’t have proper papers here you work under the table and you’re subject to abuse.”

Syrians got TPS in 2011 as a result of the bloody civil war there. While that conflict has ended, thugs loyal to the U.S.-backed government of President Ahmad al-Sharaa have carried out assaults and massacres of religious and national minorities, including Kurds, Alawites and Druze over the past 18 months.

“For many Haitian TPS holders, the United States is home,” a statement by the Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center in Miami said after the ruling. TPS recipients from some countries have worked legally in the U.S. for decades, forming families and building their lives here.

What’s needed is a union-led fight for amnesty for all immigrants without papers in the U.S., to remove their pariah status and the fear of deportation, and to advance the road toward working-class unity.

Betsy Farley in Cincinnati contributed to this article.

Lessons from the movement that overthrew Jim Crow

Continued from front page
only be rolled back by a bloody counter-revolution.

But woke middle-class academics and others on the left of bourgeois politics have stepped forward today to deny the powerful gains won by this Black-led working-class struggle and insist nothing fundamental has changed. Examples like *The 1619 Project*, a highly profitable joint venture by Nikole Hannah-Jones and the *New York Times*, make their way onto best-seller lists and are used to denigrate the working class as a whole. Similar arguments filled liberal media recently, claiming a narrow Supreme Court ruling on gerrymandering guts the Voting Rights Act.

Getting out the truth about the historic conquests in the fight to overturn decades of Jim Crow segregation helps working people learn more about what they accomplished. It arms us to see our capacity to come together and fight confidently against the bosses’ drive to put the capitalist crisis on our backs and to prepare for more wars. This article is the first in a series to recapture the historic gains won by the civil rights struggle in the U.S.

The Second American Revolution — the Civil War against slavery and a decade of reconstruction defending Black

rights afterward — opened the door to Black rights and working-class unity against the increasing class tyranny of emboldened capitalist bosses.

But, in their chase for power and profits, the expanding capitalist ruling class consented to the overthrow of reconstruction in the late 1870s. It was replaced with Jim Crow segregation in the South — the most serious defeat ever suffered by the U.S. working class. Black rights were systematically crushed by Southern bosses and planters using the Ku Klux Klan and other thugs. African Americans were driven into second-class status at all levels, denied land to farm, excluded from many jobs and blocked from exercising the right to vote.

The federal and state governments upheld this setup, along with both the Democratic and Republican parties, the cops and courts.

New winds began to blow with the rise of the CIO in the 1930s, along with Blacks’ experiences in the fight to desegregate the U.S. army in World War II. Black rights fighters drew inspiration from a wave of colonial independence struggles in Africa and elsewhere following the war.

At the same time, large numbers of Blacks in the U.S. migrated from rela-

tive isolation in rural areas of the South to northern cities, becoming part of the working class there and its struggles.

Beginning in the mid 1950s, courageous and disciplined struggles by Blacks across the South erupted against Jim Crow. They were backed by workers all across the country. This social revolution changed the attitudes of working people of all colors and nationalities toward one another.

The story of this historic struggle has largely been buried — or grossly distorted — by recent revisionist “scholarship.”

Hidden history of civil rights battle

One of the first expressions of the determination to end the murderous violence needed to enforce Jim Crow was the response in Chicago to the gruesome mutilation and murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Money, Mississippi, in 1955. His lynching was part of a wave of racist terror that swept the South following the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision outlawing public school segregation.

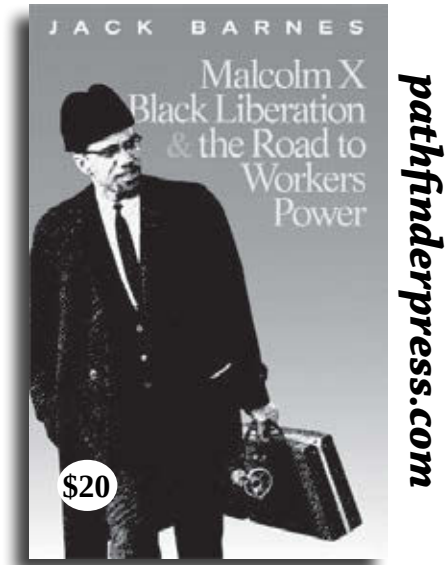
When Till’s body was returned to Chicago, his mother, Mamie Till, insisted the coffin be left open. “Let the people see what I’ve seen,” she said. More than 100,000 people filed past the casket over four days. At her urging, *Jet* magazine ran a photograph of Till’s body seen by millions. This led to protests of thousands coast to coast, backed by the NAACP, the United Steelworkers, other unions and the Jewish Labor Committee.

But the heart of the fight to dismantle Jim Crow would unfold in the South. It erupted with the momentous boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, that desegregated the city’s buses. Then with battles to desegregate public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas; Clinton, Tennessee; and elsewhere. These courageous struggles showed in practice the power of the Black-led working-class movement.

How the fight in Montgomery was led to victory and other key battles that brought down Jim Crow will be the subject of articles in future issues.



More than 100,000 people in Chicago filed past the casket of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American murdered and mutilated in Money, Mississippi, in 1955. Mamie Till, Emmett’s mother, insisted the coffin be left open. “Let the people see what I’ve seen,” she said.



Protests: ‘US hands off Cuba!’



Some 30 protesters joined Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable picket in Montreal June 30. Signs in French included, “Washington and Ottawa hands off Cuba, lift the blockade!”

Continued from front page
heavily trafficked location saw the picket line. Some stopped to pick up literature and find out more. There were many thumbs-up by passersby.

“This is great,” one young man said. “I’ve never seen a picket line like this. I’m Irish and we have a lot of respect for Cuba.” He pointed out that many revolutionary struggles get pushed back, “but the Cubans really did it,” he said.

Several pickets had participated in the June 22 United Nations decolonization hearing on the status of Puerto Rico, where many pro-independence speakers condemned Washington’s use of its Caribbean colony as a base for escalating U.S. aggression against Cuba.

Ben Ramos, of ProLibertad, spoke, reading greetings from Milagros Rivera on behalf of the Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico. “Cuba has always shown solidarity with all peoples. It is now important for the world to reciprocate and defend the hope that Cuba represents,” she said.

This was followed by an open mic where organizations and individuals who helped build the action spoke briefly.

OSLO, Norway — Some 125 people rallied outside the Norwegian parliament here June 11 demanding an end to Washington’s blockade of Cuba, for the Norwegian government to condemn the U.S. threat of an invasion and to provide immediate aid to the Cuban people. The

event was sponsored by the Oslo affiliate to the Landsorganisasjonen i Norge, the largest labor federation in Norway; Norwegian People’s Aid; the Latin-Amerikagruppene; and Norway’s Cuba solidarity organization.

Following the protest, there was a meeting to hear reportbacks from recent trips to Cuba, including a film interview with a doctor and nurses at the William Soler Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Havana. They explained the challenges they face today with frequent blackouts and the extraordinary efforts being made to care for babies who need special care under these conditions.

The Cuba solidarity group here has launched a campaign to raise funds to provide the hospital with solar panels to provide electric power.

— Greg McCartan

MONTREAL — Responding to a call from the Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable, some 30 supporters of Cuban sovereignty picketed in front of the busy Mont-Royal subway station during rush hour June 30. They carried signs in French saying, “No to the U.S. blockade,” “Long live the Cuban Revolution,” “No to U.S. aggression against Cuba” and “Washington and Ottawa hands off Cuba, lift the blockade.”

On the heels of Washington imposing its oil blockade against Cuba, Ottawa backed the decision of Canada’s main airlines to stop flights there — a serious

Cuban role in African liberation struggle discussed at Cape Verde museum, Rhode Island



Militant/Roy Landersen

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — Surrounded by exhibits on the history of working people of Cape Verdean origin in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, more than 40 people attended a discussion on the new Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke. The June 28 event was held at the Cape Verdean Museum here. Pawtucket is home to a large historic concentration of Cape Verdeans.

The panelists, from left, were Pathfinder’s Martin Koppel, Simmons University Professor Abel Djassi Amado, and moderator Joe DaMoura, president of the museum. They described the leadership capacity of Amílcar Cabral, who led the struggle that put an end to 500 years of Portuguese colonial domination in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, and the decisive role played by the 400 Cuban combatants and doctors who served alongside the African liberation fighters during their war for independence. The program was followed by a lively discussion.

The book is a firsthand account of this historic struggle told by Dreke, who headed Cuba’s internationalist mission in Guinea-Bissau and worked closely with Cabral.

The *Militant* will publish a more detailed report in the next issue.

— RÓGER CALERO

blow to Cuba’s tourist industry, a key source of hard currency.

Participants handed out leaflets to passersby calling for “Full support to the Cuban people! No to war against Cuba! End the criminal blockade of the United States against Cuba!” The leaflet included a link to a petition supporters of Cuban sovereignty can sign to say “Cuba is not alone.” Over 50,500 signa-

tures have been gathered to date.

Protesters carried clipboards asking passersby to sign the petition. Many did, expressing their outrage at Washington’s escalation of its political and economic war against Cuba, including its threat of military action to carry out “regime change” and overthrow Cuba’s socialist revolution.

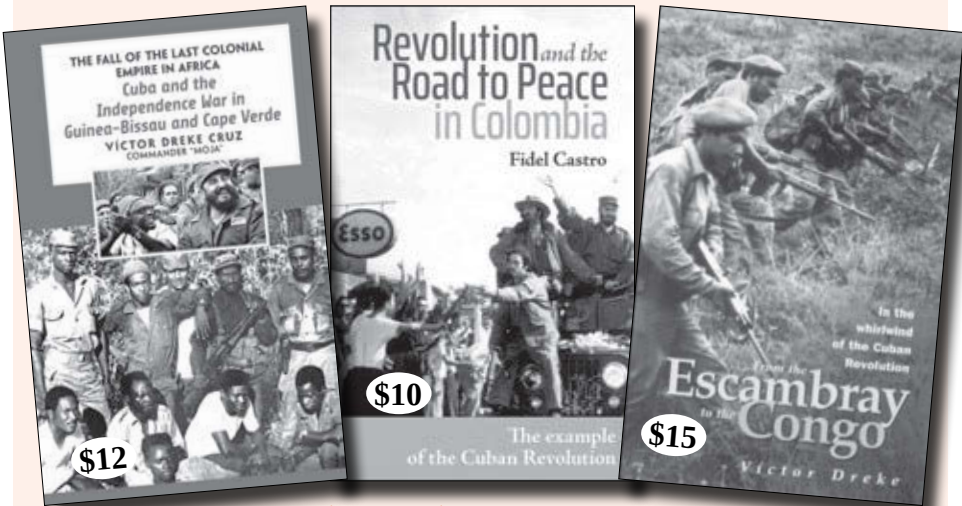
— John Steele



Militant/Roy Landersen

Cuba Sí coalition protest in New York June 27 demanded end to U.S. oil blockade of Cuba.

Read about example of Cuban Revolution



pathfinderpress.com



Some 125 people rallied at Norway’s parliament in Oslo June 11 calling for end to U.S. blockade of Cuba, demand Norway gov’t condemn U.S. threats against Cuba, provide immediate aid.

Nurses union: ‘No to Cuba blockade! We will not remain silent!’

Continued from front page
action along with Global Health Partners, an organization that has raised millions of dollars in medical supplies to donate to Cuba’s hospitals, including syringes, pacemakers and sutures. Also participating were a number of members of Congress and representatives of other groups.

This act of solidarity builds on a statement the union issued earlier this year calling on “the administration and Congress to end the blockade and allow full delivery of oil resources and other aid for the Cuban people.”

Jamie Brown, president of Nurses United and herself an intensive care unit nurse, opened the press conference. She explained why her union opposes the U.S. government’s policy of blockading vital healthcare supplies, fuel and food to try and impose its will on another country. “Tens of thousands of Cubans are affected by these policies, including older Cubans, cancer patients, pregnant women and infants. We’re here to call on the U.S. government to normalize relations with Cuba.”

In fact, Brown said, Cuba is an example, “a bastion of public health and international solidarity in healthcare.” She highlighted how during the COVID pandemic, Cuban medical volunteers treated over 1 million patients in 40 different countries. “The example of Cuba shows what is possible when healthcare is treated like a human right over a commodity.”

U.S. Reps. Delia Ramirez, Pramila Jayapal and Jonathan Jackson also spoke at the press conference. Jayapal and Jackson, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, both described what they learned on a recent trip to Cuba. Jayapal pointed to how Washington’s oil blockade is the latest in a decadeslong series of attacks against the Cuban people. “The economic sanctions have been going on for decades and amount to the economic bombing of the infrastructure of Cuba,” she said.

She described visiting a hospital there and seeing a room full of broken incubators and ventilators. When the effects of the oil blockade cause electricity surges, they blow out this life-saving medical equipment. Then the U.S. sanctions prevent Cuba from getting the parts they need to repair them. Despite these real challenges, “Cuba shows what a universal healthcare system looks like.”

The speakers thanked the National Nurses United union for its leadership in organizing the press conference. Others participating included Congressman Ro Khanna and Code Pink.



Jamie Brown, president of National Nurses United, speaking at June 30 press conference outside Capitol in Washington, D.C., calls for an end to the U.S. oil blockade of Cuba. Other speakers, from left, Bob Schwartz, executive director of Global Health Partners, and U.S. Representatives Jonathan Jackson and Pramila Jayapal.

The conference concluded with remarks from Bob Schwartz, executive director of Global Health Partners. “The infant mortality rate in Cuba is a good indicator of the healthcare crisis there. Before the Cuban Revolution it was 70 for every 1,000 births. After

the revolution, it was five for 1,000,” he said. “Today it has doubled, and it will continue to increase.”

He announced a new initiative by Global Health Partners to work with Cuba’s Ministry of Health to take steps to reverse the rising infant mor-

tality rate. They’re raising funds to launch a neonatal and maternal healthcare pilot project with two hospitals in Havana that treat the most complex pregnancies and neonatal cases.

“When I stand up, I have 225,000 members who stand behind me in solidarity with the Cuban people,” Jamie Brown told the *Militant* after the press conference. “We should be supporting Cuba — supporting all people, including those in the United States. We don’t have universal healthcare here, instead the kind of care you get is tied to your job. Cuba shows what’s possible with universal healthcare.”

To donate money to send urgently needed medical supplies to Cuba, go to the Global Health Partners website at <https://ghpartners.org/cuba-2026> or mail checks payable to “Global Health Partners,” writing “Maternal and Newborn Initiative” on the memo line, to 39 Broadway, Suite 1540, New York, NY 10006.

Supreme Court OKs lawsuits demanding money from Cuba

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In a controversial 6-3 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court held June 23 that a lawsuit by Exxon Mobil seeking more than \$1 billion for property nationalized by Cuba can go forward. It follows another decision in late May allowing a former U.S. firm, the Havana Docks Corp., to sue four major cruise lines for “trafficking in property” confiscated by the popular government led by Fidel Castro that came to power Jan. 1, 1959.

The decisions back the U.S. imperialist rulers’ efforts to strangle Cuba’s economy as the Donald Trump administration ramps up pressure on the Cuban people — including an oil blockade, criminal indictment of Cuban leader Raúl Castro and escalating military threats. Their goal is to force the Cuban people to accept Washington’s dictates.

The court cases relied on the 1996 Helms-Burton Act signed by Democratic President Bill Clinton. The court ruled that Cuba’s right to protection from lawsuits like these under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which generally prohibits lawsuits in U.S. courts against foreign governments, was voided by the 1996 law. Its intent was to weaken Cuba for defending its national sovereignty.

Before the revolution U.S. companies owned or controlled 90% of the island’s electrical network, its telephone system, most of its mining industry, its sugarcane fields and its oil refineries. U.S. bosses dominated trade with Cuba, putting more than \$1 billion into their own pockets between 1950 and the 1959 revolution. At the same time, half of Cuban working people had no access to electricity and more than half lived in huts, shacks or in slums, without sanitary facilities.

The new government mobilized workers and farmers in Cuba to take

greater and greater control over the country’s resources and its patrimony. In response, Washington accelerated its political, economic and military aggression, determined to overthrow the government. This has remained their course to today, whichever political party is in power in Washington.

Day after day, tens of thousands of Cuban working people occupied fields, utilities and factories and mobilized in the streets to guarantee that all the most hated symbols of exploitation and degradation organized and supported by Washington — from AT&T to Standard Oil and United Fruit — become the property of the Cuban people.

Revolution acts to end corruption

The revolutionary government also moved to end the widespread corruption endemic under the rule of U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. Cuba seized properties, putting the country’s resources and productive capacity under the service of the people. The U.S. rulers have never forgiven the Cuban people for disregarding their sacrosanct property rights.

A much-touted example of these “rights” championed in the capitalist media is that of José Ramón López, son of José López Vilaboy, a crony of Batista who faced 27 charges of embezzlement in the first year of the revolution. The family is now seeking compensation, claiming they “owned” what is today the José Martí International Airport, Cubana Airlines and various other properties run by the country today.

The U.S. capitalist rulers also lie when they claim the Cuban government never offered compensation to expropriated foreign companies. Even as Canada, U.K., France, Spain and Switzerland negotiated property settlements with Cuba during the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s, Washington instructed U.S. com-

panies not to negotiate with Havana. It insisted instead on holding firm to its goal of overthrowing the Cuban Revolution and restoring private property and capitalist order on the island.

Washington “never asked us how many died of starvation in our country, how many were suffering from tuberculosis, how many were unemployed,” Fidel Castro said in a speech to the United Nations in September 1960. “Did they ever express solidarity regarding our needs? Never.”

Instead, Washington demanded, “Pay this instant, in dollars, and whatever we ask,” rejecting the Cuban government’s proposal to pay for nationalized property over 20 years and at the value the companies themselves claimed on their tax returns, Castro said. “What alternative was there for the revolutionary government? To betray the people?”

“We do not have to apologize to anyone. What we have done we have done with our eyes wide open and, above all, fully convinced of our right to do it!” Castro said to prolonged applause.

The Supreme Court ruling opens the door to even more lawsuits under the Helms-Burton Act, furthering attempts by the U.S. rulers to bring the Cuban Revolution to its knees.

The growing economic and financial sanctions against Cuba, expanded again by Washington May 1, have led to a swath of foreign businesses backing off doing business on the island. On June 6 Visa and Mastercard both suspended operations in Cuba, further restricting access to credit to Cubans and the country’s collection of much-needed hard currency from international transactions.

Shipping giants Hapag-Lloyd, a German company, and CMA CGM from France announced May 17 they were suspending all bookings to and from Cuba until further notice.



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Mass movement against Vietnam War changed US politics

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June is Out Now! A Participant's Account of the Movement in the United States Against the Vietnam War by Fred Halstead, a leader of the anti-Vietnam War movement from the early 1960s to the U.S. withdrawal in 1975. By refuting U.S. government lies about the war, mobilizing growing numbers in protest and defending anti-war GIs, it deeply affected the working class in the U.S. The anti-war movement gained momentum from the fight for Black rights and helped spur other struggles for social justice. With the perseverance of the peoples of Indochina, it helped force Washington to withdraw its troops from Vietnam, changing the political face of the U.S. The excerpt is from the Afterword. Copyright © 1991 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FRED HALSTEAD

The Second Indochina War was the first in the epoch of American imperialism in which the United States went down to defeat. After emerging victorious from the Spanish-American War and two world wars, then encountering a stalemate in Korea, the Pentagon's military machine was ignominiously evicted from Vietnam, thanks to the persevering struggle of the Indochi-



Militant/Brian Shannon

Nov. 15, 1969, demonstration in Washington against U.S. war in Vietnam. Some 750,000 demonstrators were joined by 250,000 in San Francisco for one of the largest political demonstrations in American history. Only the massive April 24, 1971, demonstration in Washington was larger.

nese plus the antiwar resistance of the American people. This was the most sustained and, except for Russia in 1905 and 1917, the most effective antiwar movement within any big power while the shooting was going on. ...

U.S. intervention had a thoroughly imperialistic character. The colossus of world capitalism hurled its military might without provocation against a small and divided colonial nation thousands of miles away struggling for self-determination and unification. A series of American presidents sought to do what King George III's empire failed to do against the rebel patriots of 1776.

On one side was a state armed to the teeth promoting the strategic aims and material interests of the corporate rich on the global arena; on the other was a worker and peasant uprising heading toward the overthrow of capitalist power and property, despite the limited political program of its leadership. ...

The antiwar movement began with people who were already radicalized: pacifists, socialists, communists, rebellious students, and a scattering of morally outraged individuals. At the start these were a small minority, convinced of the justness of their cause and ready to face unpopularity for their stand. ...

Beyond their agreement in opposing the war, the initiators of the movement

held discordant views on many matters and advocated different, and even conflicting, methods. At every point along the road they had to thrash out their principled strategic and tactical differences in order to arrive at unified and concerted action. This was rarely easy and not always possible. ...

In the beginning, the movement came to grips with three internal policy problems that were interconnected: red-baiting, nonexclusion, and democratic decision-making.

Red-baiting had to be cleared away so that Marxists and revolutionaries of any persuasion would not be barred from openly participating on an equal footing in all the movement's activities and on its leading bodies. ...

The policy of nonexclusion came into effect along with the rejection of red-baiting. No "loyalty oaths" were demanded or restrictions imposed on anyone opposed to the war on any grounds. The sole requirement was a readiness to protest and act against the war. ...

The procedure of democratic decision-making was best exemplified at the periodic national and regional antiwar conferences, open to all. There the issues were publicly debated and reported. ...

The SWP was no newcomer. Among its older cadres were individuals who had been in the Socialist Party

of Debs's time and in the Industrial Workers of the World and who had been founders and leaders of the Communist Party until their expulsion for their anti-Stalinist ideas in 1928. SWP members had experience in opposing the three previous major imperialist wars, in countless labor struggles, and in party organization. Its younger cadres were educated in these traditions and in the revolutionary principles developed and practiced by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky. ...

On only two brief occasions — October 15, 1969, and early May 1970 — did the mobilizations attain the level of active participation by several millions, close to a mass force capable of vying for power. However, those millions were not reaching out for state power — the vast majority of them still considered themselves Democrats or Republicans. They were protesting the war.

A social and political revolution in the United States will necessarily involve a deepgoing break with the two-party system. It will no less require the active participation on a sustained basis of tens upon tens of millions of working people, not just challenging one or another government policy but democratically determining policies in mass organizations of their own while changing the basic structure of society.

June

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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US imperialism and the catastrophe in Venezuela

The overall number of deaths from two devastating earthquakes 100 miles west of Caracas, Venezuela, are not known, with close to 2,000 found dead and thousands more still missing. What is certain is the scale of the deaths and destruction were not inevitable.

Working people in Venezuela are bearing the brunt of the catastrophe, despite the initiatives and solidarity they have organized to help each other try to find relatives and friends. Large numbers of volunteers have come to join the rescue effort, grabbing whatever tools are at hand. Others donate or deliver food, water, tools and medical supplies.

“In their moment of direst need,” the *Washington Post* reported, “ordinary people have been leading the rescue and recovery themselves.”

In a cruel irony of fate, some of those killed had only reached Venezuela that day after being deported from the U.S. They were placed in state-run holding facilities that collapsed in the earthquake.

The drive for profit by Venezuela’s ruling capitalists, alongside decades of U.S. imperialist exploitation and crippling sanctions, ensured the people of Venezuela, a resource-rich country, were utterly unprotected when the disaster hit and unprepared to mount the rescue effort that’s needed.

Houses for the toiling majority, unlike for the ruling class, are not built to withstand earthquakes. They’re constructed from unreinforced brick masonry and adobe blocks. For years public services have been left to rot. Sporadic running water, periodic blackouts and poorly supplied hospitals all hamper the relief effort. Excavators and other heavy machinery to rescue survivors are in desperately short supply.

Years of crisis conditions for workers were made worse in the wake of the U.S. rulers’ invasion and seizure of President Nicolás Maduro. Washington’s openly stated goal is for the U.S. government and gi-

ant oil corporations to “run the country.” Since then the U.S. government has seized control of billions of dollars of revenue from Venezuela’s oil exports.

The Venezuelan government announced last week it will embark on a \$240 billion debt restructuring program, the largest in history. The plan, drawn up in collaboration with U.S. financial institutions, will be sure to put the burden of paying off the bondholders onto the backs of working people. What’s actually needed is the immediate and unconditional cancellation of the country’s debts.

Washington is seeking to use the social disaster following the earthquake to deepen its domination of Venezuela. U.S. officials say they’re planning to finance a “reconstruction” effort. But it will be organized as a boon for the U.S. banks that put up the loans, while deepening Venezuela’s dependence on the empire in the north.

The U.S. rulers are driving to reestablish their domination over the Western Hemisphere, to gain greater leverage as they contend with rivals worldwide, from Beijing to ruling classes in Europe. Cuba’s socialist revolution is a special target. Washington’s oil blockade, escalating sanctions, charges against Cuban leader Raúl Castro and threats against Cuba are aimed at reducing Cuba to colonial status once again.

It was against these conditions that workers and peasants in Cuba rose up, joining Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army in overthrowing the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959. Washington aims to wipe out the example the Cuban Revolution sets for working people in the face of today’s capitalist crisis and deepening drive toward world war.

Defense of the national sovereignty of both Venezuela and Cuba is in the interests of working people in the U.S. and worldwide. U.S. forces out of the Caribbean! U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!

Marathon workers fight union-busting lockout

BY BETSEY STONE

MARTINEZ, Calif. — For over two months, 120 oil refinery workers at Marathon Renewables here, members of United Steelworkers Local 5, have been fighting serious attacks on their union and working conditions. In the latest blow, the company locked out the workers.

The workers first walked out April 27 after the company refused to agree to a four-year contract expiring on the same day as fellow refinery workers in the USW’s National Oil Bargaining Program. The workers also demanded an end to forced overtime that can extend from four to six hours after a 12-hour shift. Five weeks into the strike the bosses said they were considering contracting out the jobs of 46 striking workers. In the face of this, a sizable number of workers told the union they were ready to return to work, even if their original demands weren’t met. The union proposed to the company to unconditionally return to work, with negotiations to continue. The company responded with the lockout and promises of future negotiations. Many workers have now filed for unemployment, which is available to locked-out workers.

Discussions on the picket line are deepening as workers seek to understand the ferocity of the company assaults, not only here, but also in Whiting, Indiana, where BP refinery workers have been locked out for months.

Carl Smith, a member of the negotiating committee, said they’re getting solidarity, including from striking warehouse workers at C&H Sugar in Crockett, California, and that he and strike leader Criff Reyes had visited their picket. But more solidarity is needed.

Visit the picket line anytime, 24/7, at the intersection of Solano Way and Arnold Industrial Way in Martinez. Messages of support and contributions can be sent to their strike fund at USW Local 5, PO Box 349, Martinez, CA 94553.

Speakers at United Nations hearing back independence fight in Puerto Rico

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cause of this crisis is deteriorating infrastructure and government inaction, but the “root cause is U.S. colonial rule.”

González was one of some 60 speakers at the annual hearing. The overwhelming majority called for independence for Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony since 1898, when Washington wrested control from Spain. Today the U.S. rulers claim the island is a self-governing “commonwealth,” but testimony at the hearing showed otherwise.

“Even though Puerto Rico has its own legal system, it remains under the authority of the U.S. Congress, which imposes laws and policies without the democratic consent of the Puerto Rican people,” said Vivian Godineaux, of the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

10 years of U.S.-imposed junta

Conditions have worsened in the 10 years since President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress imposed the Fiscal Oversight and Management Board, forcing the people of Puerto Rico to sacrifice to pay billions of dollars in debt to U.S. bondholders. The unelected board has veto power over all financial decisions of the island’s government.

The junta, as the board is commonly called, has “closed schools, reduced services, and accelerated migration from the island,” Jason Cruz, president of New York-based Victory in Puerto Rico, testified. “Our homeland is increasingly being treated as a commodity rather than a nation with a people, a culture and a right to determine its own future.”

Speaking for the National Network on Cuba, Miledys Guzmán pointed to the catastrophic closing of medical facilities across the island. “Puerto Rico’s public health crisis cannot be separated from its colonial condition,” she said.

These conditions are even worse in Vieques, a small Puerto Rican island where mass protests forced the closure of the U.S. naval bombing range in 2003. Six decades of U.S. bombings left much of the island’s waters and soil contaminated with uranium, lead and arsenic. Vieques has higher cancer rates than anywhere else in Puerto Rico.

“Our demand has always been clear — land return, demilitarization, development and decontamination,” Alexandra Connelly from Vieques Lives Matter said.

Many speakers denounced Washington’s recent reactivation of its military bases on Vieques, using them to carry out its deadly military attack on Venezuela Jan. 3 and now to threaten the people of Cuba.

“We are being used as a platform for military operations and strategies assaulting the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean,” said Iván Elías Rodríguez, for the National Hostosiano Independence Movement.

Washington has sent “military personnel and combat planes to Puerto Rico,” said Lydael Vega Otero from the Professional Social Workers Guild of Puerto Rico, violating “the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people” and opening the door to “military incursion on Cuban soil.”

“The U.S. is simply using our land and our people to carry out their endless wars,” said Davina Resto from the New York-New Jersey Diaspora Pa’lante Committee.

“Our people have the right to freely decide our destiny and to live without our territory being used for military ends against our will,” said Sonia Santiago from Mothers Against War.

A handful of speakers called for Puerto Rico to become a U.S. state. But in the latest plebiscite “only 33% of the total population voted” for statehood, noted Coco Pérez from Youth United for Independence. And even “these numbers do not accurately represent our people, let alone the millions of Puerto Ricans who have been forced to be a part of the diaspora.”

Opponents of independence claim “Puerto Rico could not survive economically as a sovereign nation,” said Walter Alomar from the Organization

for Culture of Hispanic Origin.

Despite having fertile land, Puerto Rico today has to import roughly 85% of its food, he said. The U.S. has created “a global manufacturing center” and a sought-after tourist destination there, but working people aren’t the beneficiaries. “The issue is whether the Puerto Rican people will finally be allowed to exercise their internationally recognized right to self-determination.”

Workers in U.S., Puerto Rico face the same enemy

“Workers in the United States are fighting against the same conditions” that face working people in Puerto Rico, said Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York. He called for “U.S. military out of Puerto Rico and all of the Caribbean! U.S. hands off Cuba!

“The fight for the independence of Puerto Rico, the struggles of U.S. working people and defense of Cuban sovereignty are more closely tied than ever. Neither in Puerto Rico, nor in the United States, can workers rely on the parties of the bosses,” he said. “We have to build revolutionary parties that will fight for workers power.”

The U.N. committee adopted a resolution introduced by the government of Cuba calling for independence for Puerto Rico. Cuban Ambassador Ernesto Soberón Guzmán noted that Washington’s refusal to work with the decolonization committee shows its “imperialist pretensions.”

“The worsening economic blockade, including the energy siege, collective punishment, and systematic public threats of military aggression against our country,” he said, “expose and reveal the historic criminal and blatant objectives of the U.S. government to restore neocolonial domination over the Cuban nation.”

The adoption of the resolution demanding the “inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is particularly significant in the current context,” Soberón said. “We reiterate to the people of Puerto Rico that they will always be able to count on Cuba and our firm solidarity with their legitimate cause.”

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