

THE MILITANT

INSIDE:

**Springfield rally: 'Defend
TPS protection for Haitians!'**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 25

JULY 20, 2026

US rulers' war in Mideast aims at more sway over resources, labor

BY SETH GALINSKY

The unstable ceasefire between Washington and Tehran that began April 8, after 40 days of U.S. airstrikes and Iranian drone and missile attacks on Israel and its Arab rivals in the Middle East, was broken yet again when Tehran attacked three ships in the Arab-Persian Gulf July 6-7. U.S. forces retaliated, hitting more than 80 sites in Iran, and Tehran says it then counterattacked.

President Donald Trump said he would probably hit targets in Iran again, but that he didn't anticipate a new war.

This takes place as the regime in Tehran, weakened by attacks by both Washington and Israel, tries to assert its "right" to control oil traffic and collect fees from ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Washington threatens further military action if Tehran doesn't back off and insists the Iranian government must give in to other U.S. demands.

Half or more of the ships and seafarers trapped by the war have now exited the Gulf. According to Bloomberg News, oil tanker traffic through the

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Protests: 'End US blockade, war threats against Cuba!'

Actions win support from working people, unions



Militant/Mary Martin

Minnesota Cuba Committee contingent in St. Paul July 4 parade. Nationwide actions called for that week included banner dropping on bridges, meetings protesting U.S. assaults against Cuba.

BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — As part of nationwide actions called by the National Network On Cuba to protest U.S. aggression against Cuba, the Minnesota Cuba Committee, Solidarity Committee on the Americas, the Socialist Workers Party and others carried out a week of actions in the area June 28-July 4.

These actions included banner drops with the message "No War on Cuba" displayed from highway overpasses in several locations across the Twin Cities; a reportback meeting at the Eastside Freedom Library in St. Paul, with three speakers who had visited Cuba on solidarity brigades in recent months; a contingent in the July 4 parade in St. Paul; and a Militant Labor Forum featuring a talk, "Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution," by Kevin Dwire, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Minnesota.

At the July 4 march many bystanders
Continued on page 6

Support C&H workers strike to stop bosses' takebacks

BY ERIC SIMPSON

CROCKETT, Calif. — C&H Sugar bosses have stepped up their attack on the three-week-old strike by 91 warehouse workers at its plant here, members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6.

On July 2 C&H moved the Tai Herald, a ship laden with raw sugar from the Philippines, from anchor in San Francisco Bay to a terminal in Port Richmond to unload. The company intends to truck the raw sugar from there through the picket line into the plant.

The Tai Herald has been unable to berth at the plant since June 15, as longshoremen from ILWU Local 10 who dock and unload the ships are honoring the Local 6 picket line.

The Crockett sugar refinery normally processes 25 shiploads of raw cane sugar a year, about two ships a month, processing and shipping out 6 million pounds of refined sugar a day. Without raw sugar, production will stop.

Two more sugar ships are headed to the area, due to arrive later in July.

Local 10 is picketing the facility in Richmond. The local's president, Mike Villeggiante, denounced the fact this food product is being handled in a mixed-use facility contaminated by airborne cement, recycled metal, coal, sand and gravel.

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Rhode Island event discusses Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau freedom fight



Militant/Lisa Hickler

Panel discussion on *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde* by Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke June 28 in Rhode Island. Abel Djassi Amado speaks in front of photo of Amílcar Cabral, leader of independence fight, and Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro.

BY RÓGER CALERO

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — Surrounded by exhibits about the immigration of Cape Verdeans to the U.S. and their rich history of struggle, some 40 people attended a June 28 discussion at the Cape Verdean Museum here on Pathfinder's new 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.

Pawtucket and other cities in Rhode Island and neighboring Massachusetts are home to a substantial population of people from Cape Verde, going back to the early 1800s. Run by volunteers, the museum regularly hosts educational and cultural activities.

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Montgomery movement dealt blow to Jim Crow, strengthened working class

BY TERRY EVANS

The victorious Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott in 1956 marked a new stage in the mighty battle against Jim Crow and brought it to national attention. It demonstrated the unwav-

ering courage of the Black population and the resourcefulness of a working-class political leadership that advanced the struggle against brutal retaliation and won the admiration and support of millions across the U.S.

The civil rights movement didn't come out of nowhere. Its roots lay in

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Toilers in Ukraine fight to back their nat'l sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The indomitable people of Ukraine and their battle to defend their country's sovereignty have fought far larger Russian forces to a standstill on the front-line after almost four and a half years of war. Ukraine's use of drone warfare is increasing the challenges Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime faces at the front and at home, while Moscow accelerates its own deadly missile as-

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Sconza Chocolate workers rally against bosses' cutback demands

Locked-out BP oil workers' fight wins new support

Quebec forum panel discusses new book on Cuba and Africa

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — Thirty-four people attended a special June 28 Militant Labor Forum here to celebrate the publication in French of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke.

The speakers were Idris Diallo, a leader of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (of Guinea-Conakry), and Katy LeRougetel, who had participated in the launch of the book in Havana earlier this year and is a member of the Communist League.

Among the forum participants were eight people from Africa, many of whom had already read the book.

Dreke had been the commander of the Cubans who fought alongside the independence fighters in Guinea-Bissau and led the Cuban volunteers who helped train newly formed militias in neighboring Guinea-Conakry.

Diallo described Amílcar Cabral, the central leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), who was assassinated in 1973 by an operation led by the Portuguese intelligence service just months before the independence forces were victorious.

“Seeing firsthand the suffering of Portuguese working people while he was studying in Portugal,” Diallo said, “Cabral learned that the oppressor was the same in Europe, in America and in Africa.

“In 1964 Cabral met Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban Revolution,” Diallo said. “The Cubans didn’t come to

Africa to impose their domination but to listen and to help.

“Cabral understood the importance of working with all the different ethnic communities. He said we are all Africans, with varied languages and cultures. The Portuguese try to divide us. We have to overcome these divisions,” Diallo said. “The Portuguese prisoners played football together with their Guinean captors. Cabral understood they were peasants forced to make war.”

“Before the fight began, women had practically no social role. The PAIGC combatants abolished forced marriage and the dowry. Women were a full part of the independence struggle.” Like Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, Cabral understood there could be no successful revolution without the involvement and mobilization of women.

LeRougetel stressed the importance of ongoing public actions to defend Cuba today, under attack by Washington with the complicity of Ottawa. Michel Prairie, the forum’s chairperson, urged everyone to join a June 30 picket line in Montreal against these attacks.

“In May delegates of the Canadian Labour Congress, the biggest union organization in the country, met and adopted a resolution condemning the U.S.-led blockade and demanding action by the Canadian government to support Cuba,” LeRougetel said.

“When I was in Cuba in February, we saw the effects of Washington’s criminal blockade, and it’s worse now — blackouts at any time, food going bad, people walking everywhere because lack of fuel stopped all public transpor-



Militant/Guy Tremblay

Montreal event June 28 on French edition of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde* by Víctor Dreke. Panel from right: Idris Diallo, National Front for Defense of the Constitution; Katy LeRougetel, Communist League; Michel Prairie, chair.

tation, the devastating effect on health care,” she said. “The Canadian government participates fully in the blockade. All flights from Canada to Cuba are cut off, hotel chains are closed. These are very big and deliberate blows to tourism from Canada, a key source of hard currency for Cuba.

“In 1970 the only colonial empire still standing in Africa was the oldest, that of Portugal, which lasted nearly 500 years. In Dreke’s book we learn how working people there made it fall, and about the decisive support of the Cuban revolutionaries. The struggle not only triggered the fall of Portugal’s empire in Africa but also the end of the fascist dictatorship at home,” LeRougetel said.

“We learn what kind of leadership it takes to win. This is what has allowed the Cuban Revolution to survive and contribute to the victories described in these pages. And this is what we seek to do in building the Communist League, forging the revolutionary party that workers need to take political power in Canada.”

Cuba’s role

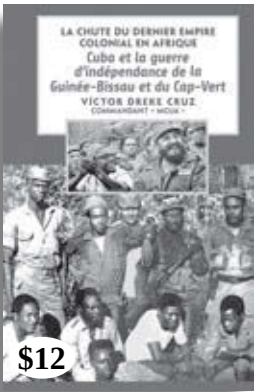
“The participation of Cubans in the liberation of Africa was totally voluntary,” Anna Ramirez, coordinator of the Association of Cubans Resident in Montreal, said in the discussion. “They came not to exploit, but because it was their duty.”

Diallo said Cuba sent 425,000 volun-

teers to Angola to participate in the fight against the invasions by the U.S.-backed South African army. “The Cubans were not looking for plunder and wealth, and left only with their dead and wounded.”

He said Cabral opposed committing atrocities in the name of the struggle. “We don’t want a bloodthirsty people, shedding blood for the sake of it. If blood is to be shed, it is for a political reason, to serve the future of our country,” Cabral had said.

“Today workers around the world are defending ourselves from attacks by the bosses and their governments, as they march humanity toward a third world war,” LeRougetel said. “Cuba’s socialist revolution is an example for working people everywhere fighting for a better world, built on humanity and solidarity, not dog-eat-dog capitalist competition and war. We need to build more meetings like this to discuss the lessons this book provides as a guide for action in today’s world.”



French edition available now! pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Iran: workers protest over pay, regime’s war moves

Almost daily actions in Iran oppose reactionary regime’s efforts to make working people pay for the capitalist crisis and its foreign wars. Retirees, nurses, drivers and workers protest layoffs, poor or unpaid wages and oppose Tehran’s interventions in Lebanon, Iraq and more.

Council for Coordinating Nurses’ Protests
Nurses and other healthcare workers in Tehran June 29 protest low wages, benefits.

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

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Sconza Chocolate workers rally against bosses' cutback demands

OAKDALE, Calif. — As part of their fight for a better contract, some 50 Sconza Chocolate factory workers rallied here June 27 backed by family members and other supporters. The rally was organized by their union, Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 125. Protesters stretched down a main street in this agricultural town east of Modesto. They were greeted with honks and waves from passersby.

Fellow BCTGM Local 125 members from Ghirardelli Chocolate in San Leandro joined them in solidarity, as did representatives from the North Valley Labor Federation.

Sconza bosses proposed a takeaway contract that raises medical insurance premiums 10%, eliminates overtime pay for weekend work, and proposes union members waive their right to sue the company for any violations of California labor laws.

"Sconza Chocolate is proposing changes that would make it harder for workers and their families to get ahead during these difficult times," a union statement said. "These workers are standing together for respect and dignity."

An online petition to win community support for the Sconza workers can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/261715611578158>.

— Ellen Brickley

Chisago County workers strike enters its third month

CENTER CITY, Minn. — Some 170 workers in Chisago County Health and Human Services and its government center have been on strike since May in a fight over wages and health insurance.

"The county healthcare plan has a family deductible of \$10,000 yearly," Amy Perusse, a business agent for Teamsters Local 320, told the *Militant* on the picket line June 30. "We want to switch to the Teamsters plan, where the deductible is \$1,500. And we want the county to contribute their share to this plan."

The union provides strike pay and has set up a Strike and Defense Fund to help workers with expenses. Other Teamster locals and unions, including the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, have contributed.

"I'm from a union family," Ashley Klein, who has worked for the county's Health and Human Services division for 10 years, told the *Militant*. "My father was a meat cutter, my mother a nurse. My companion is in the Carpenters union. I think unions are important to defend the rights of workers. I had thought of quitting, but I'm proud of my co-workers and can't leave them until we win what we deserve."

"And with our strike, I have become more interested in seeing what workers around the country are going through," she said. Klein has been following the Cargill lockout of Teamster packinghouse workers in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

This is one of the longest public workers strikes ever in Minnesota, but Klein said most strikers are hanging tough, less than 20 have crossed the picket line.

The union reported that in a vote on the county's latest proposal June 30, "there was a 98% rejection by

Locked-out BP oil workers' fight wins new support



USW Local 7-1

WHITING, Ind. — Close to 200 locked-out BP oil refinery workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1, and their families and supporters formed a contingent and marched in the July 4 parade here. Whiting is a working-class town and they got a rousing response from hundreds of bystanders, who clapped and shouted support. Afterward, the union held a cookout at the union hall. The oil workers were locked out by BP March 19, after they voted overwhelmingly against the bosses' union-busting contract proposal.

— ILONA GERSH

our sisters and brothers in Chisago County Health and Human Services and a unanimous rejection by the Chisago County Government Center Professionals."

Chase Burnham, the county administrator heading up their negotiating committee, didn't respond to the *Militant's* request for a statement.

— Edwin Fruit

Support C&H workers strike to stop bosses' takebacks

Continued from front page

"We are not after gold-plated work shoes," Kendra Sparks, who operates a mechanical sweeper and has 24 years' seniority, told the *Militant*. "We just want to keep what we have," Charles Uoo added.

"C&H refused to engage in good-faith back-and-forth negotiations while at the table," the *Dispatcher*, the ILWU's magazine, said. It has "cut negotiations short by declaring premature impasse, and unilaterally implemented its full list of takeaways."

The bosses' demands include eliminating overtime pay after eight hours work — when the company routinely forces people to work 12 — and replacing it with overtime pay only after 40 hours worked in a week; discon-

tinuing medical care for retirees and their spouses; cutting sick days from 10 to California's legal minimum of five; and getting rid of the current union-controlled job-dispatch system based on seniority.

"The company's proposal gives management the power to handpick employees for advancement and overtime," Sparks told the *Dispatcher*. Up to now, "'manning' is controlled by the company, but job assignments are controlled by a union clerk," Cesar Garibay, Local 6 business agent, told the *Militant*.

Solidarity is crucial

A truckload of welcome food and supplies for the strikers arrived from Labor Community Services in Los

Angeles June 30. Harold Daggett, president of the International Longshoremen's Association on the East and Gulf Coasts, pledged the ILA's full support, as did Tom Doran, president of the ILWU in Canada. Support has come from other unions as well.

"Every letter makes a difference in giving strength to the workers out on strike and letting the employer know that Local 6 has support up and down the West Coast, across the United States and around the world," ILWU International President Robert Olvera wrote.

C&H Sugar is part of the American Sugar Refining Group, which owns 53% of the U.S. cane refining capacity with refineries and plantations around the world.

Solidarity is needed! Send a letter from your union local, your co-workers or your organization to ILWU Local 6, 99 Hegenberger Road, Oakland, CA 94621. Join the picket line in front of C&H in Crockett! Contribute to the strike fund at square.link/u/ifFpgkRO.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

July 23, 2001

Today there is an opportunity for working people to take stock of the class character of what the medical industry is all about under capitalism.

Unlike many problems that still need to be solved by humanity, there are the resources available today to provide every person with high-quality cradle-to-grave medical attention. The capitalist profit system itself is the only obstacle in the way of achieving this goal.

An example of the possibilities of transforming health care is the Cuban Revolution, which recently announced it would send 4,000 volunteer doctors, needed supplies and drugs, and teachers for 20 medical schools to Africa to help combat the spread of the AIDS epidemic.

Health care in the United States is a capitalist industry whose goal is not to cure people but to make money for a handful.

THE MILITANT

July 23, 1976

NEW YORK — As the Democrats convened in Madison Square Garden, thousands of striking hospital workers rallied outside to dramatize their demand for a new contract that gives them a living wage. Some 40,000 members of District 1199 are taking part in a strike against voluntary (private nonprofit) hospitals and nursing homes. The walkout began July 7.

When the strike began, Democratic Mayor Abraham Beame's administration joined the fray on the side of the bosses. City officials took workers from the unstruck city hospitals and sent them to take the place of striking workers at the voluntary hospitals.

Nevertheless, the strike holds firm. It started against thirty-three hospitals — two-thirds of the private hospital capacity in the city — then extended to fourteen nursing homes and some employees of ten city hospitals three days later.

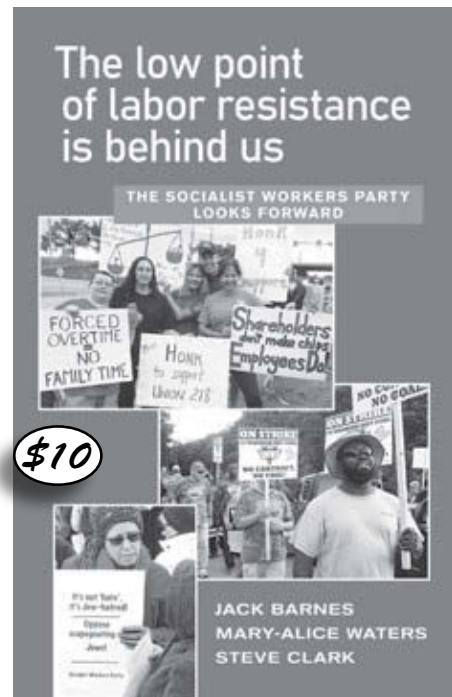
THE MILITANT

July 23, 1951

CHICAGO, July 17 — A crowd of 2,000 angry Chicago citizens gathered in the Metropolitan Church to hear the NAACP report on the case of the young veteran whose rental of a Cicero apartment set off the anti-Negro riot in that suburb last week.

On July 10 Clark and his wife supervised the moving of their new furniture and personal possessions into the flat. When they arrived, they found a hostile mob of 500 already there. By nightfall the mob had grown to 3,000.

Events were climaxed when a gang broke into the building, wrecking as they went, concentrating on the Clark apartment. Everything moveable was thrown out the windows; everything not moveable was smashed. A funeral pile of the Clark possessions went up in flames, while the Cicero police, fire department, the Cook County sheriff's force and the state police stood by.



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US seeks sway over Middle East

Continued from front page
strait now averages more than 10 million barrels a day.

There are two different wars taking place in the Middle East:

- An imperialist war by the U.S. rulers to advance their military, economic and political interests in the region and to push back rival powers worldwide, especially Beijing.
- A defensive war by Israel to prevent Tehran and its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah from pursuing their decadeslong goal of destroying Israel and eliminating the Jews there. This war takes on even greater importance for working people amid a rise in violence and threats against Jews around the world.

It's clearer than ever that the U.S. rulers are not defending Jews in Israel — or anywhere — or defending the demonstrations and strikes by Iranian toilers. Tehran, Hezbollah and Hamas remain a deadly threat to Jews and Israel's existence and this is of no concern to the White House.

The U.S. rulers have made it clear they will not abide by Israel doing anything that could disrupt their plan to get some wing of the regime in Iran to aid them in imposing the stability they need to increase U.S. imperialist domination and exploitation.

President Donald Trump told Axios July 4 that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "knows who the boss is."

But on June 24 Netanyahu, speaking to a conference of municipal governments, walked through the many times the Israeli government has refused to bow down to White House dictates under the presidencies of both Joseph Biden and Donald Trump since the watershed Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led pogrom.

Hamas — financed, trained and armed by Tehran — murdered 1,200 people in Israel and wounded thousands, the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. The rape, mutilation and murder of women was an integral part of the assault.

To prevent Hamas from replenishing its weapons and ammunition, Israel needed to take control of the area around Rafah, part of Gaza that borders Egypt.

Israel 'will fight with our fingernails'

Biden threatened to cut off weapons supply to Israel. He "told me, 'Do not enter Rafah,'" Netanyahu recalled. Netanyahu said he told Biden, "We have no choice, we will enter — and if we must, we will fight with our fingernails."

Though delayed because of U.S. pressure, Israeli troops did take Rafah, de-

stroying key Hamas tunnels and command posts, severely weakening the Jew-hating group.

The Trump administration, like those before it, also didn't want Israel to go after Tehran's nuclear operations and ballistic missile sites.

"They told us, 'a military operation in Iran? You are forbidden from doing that,'" Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu noted that before Israel's 12-day war with Tehran in June 2025, he told Trump, "'We are taking action.' I didn't ask for permission; I simply informed him of our plan."

A year after Oct. 7, Israel also took action against Hezbollah in Lebanon, which, like Hamas, had long been accumulating weapons, building tunnels, and training bands of thugs for attacks on Jews in Israel.

U.S. pressure on Netanyahu's capitalist government has prevented Israel from militarily defeating and completely dismantling Hamas and Hezbollah, opening the door to a respite for Palestinians in Gaza and for collaboration between working people of all nationalities. "There is still work to do in Gaza, in Lebanon, and against Iran," Netanyahu added. Netanyahu said that as prime minister he will ensure that "Iran will not have nuclear weapons" and that Israel will make sure Hezbollah does not operate in southern Lebanon.

Trump lauds Erdogan

Netanyahu also spoke out against Trump's announcement he wants to sell F-35 stealth fighter jets to the government of Turkey. After Oct. 7, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had lauded Hamas as a "liberation group."

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told CNN July 2 that "these people," meaning Jews and others in Israel, "have become a burden that humanity can no longer bear. There is no parameter under which these people can be sustained."

Fidan's remarks are a "clear call for genocide," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar warned.

As he arrived for a NATO summit

Baltimore nurses hold 24-hour strike over lack of safe staffing

BY GLOVA SCOTT

BALTIMORE — Nurses at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital held a 24-hour strike here starting 7 a.m. July 6 to protest the hospital bosses' refusal to deal with patient safety and chronic understaffing that leads to nurses seeking other jobs.

There are a number of nurses strikes this week, including at two Ascension hospitals in Wichita, Kansas. Ascension is one of the largest U.S. health systems.

About 60 members of National Nurses United — the largest union of registered nurses in the country — wearing red "Nurses for Democracy" T-shirts gathered outside the hospital to demand a new contract. The union organized for drinks and breakfast sandwiches to be available while the nurses made handwritten signs.

"The hospital takes us down to barebones staffing by cutting shifts to increase their profits," Chachi Blackburn, a delivery room nurse, said. "The hospital is trying to depict us as being greedy. We just want adequate staffing."

The nurses have gotten support from

Haifa conference-goers visit British detention center for Jews



Militant/Bob Aiken

ATLIT, Israel — Jonathan Silberman and Ólöf Andra Proppé, members of the Communist League in the U.K., Bob Aiken from the CL in Australia, and Lea Sherman and Rachele Fruit from the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. toured the Atlit "illegal immigrant" Detention Camp built by the British to intern thousands of Jews trying to flee Hitler's fascist forces beginning in 1939. They were imprisoned behind barbed-wire fences by British troops and pressed into forced labor on citrus farms there, until many were deported to internment camps in Cyprus and Mauritius. The camp-prison was used to detain fleeing Holocaust survivors after the war.

Tour guide Avital Weissman, left, described the 80 barracks with 40 prisoners in each and how they were "disinfected" with DDT. She stressed the importance of this facility being preserved as part of the history of struggle waged by Jews before, during and after World War II.

One highlight was a film of an October 1945 operation by elite Jewish combat forces in the Haganah freeing 200 detainees who escaped to Haifa. When British troops tried to rearrest them, tens of thousands of working people took to the streets to defend them.

The visitors were part of a group participating in the Contemporary Antisemitism Conference at the University of Haifa July 7-9. Silberman is speaking there on "U.K. policy on the Middle East: Defend British interests, not the Jews." An article on the conference will be forthcoming.

— RACHELE FRUIT

in Turkey July 7, Trump heaped praise on Erdogan. "Turkey's been, in many ways, much more loyal than other countries," he said.

Despite the decimation of Iran's air defenses, nuclear facilities and other military sites, supporters say the regime is still strong.

They point to the over a million who joined the three-day funeral ceremonies for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had

died in an airstrike the first day of the 40-day war. The regime instructed participants to chant slogans such as "Our revenge is inevitable" and "They will pay hard" along with "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Participants were provided free food and water.

Thousands of people took advantage of the three-day holiday to head out of town. Merchants at the Bazaar complained about the forced closure.

To get some publicity the reactionary regime in Iran relaxed its longstanding restrictions on the U.S. press. "Of course I'm not going to the funeral," one man told BBC reporters at a rest station near Tehran. "Many people don't have work and are so unhappy."

Even at the funeral ceremony itself, two young women pulled the reporters aside to whisper to them that the "real voices of revolution" were the anti-regime protesters who had taken to the streets in December and January.

other hospital workers at Saint Agnes, and from other unions and from the community. Their picket line drew honks of solidarity from drivers in passing cars, school bus drivers and truckers.

"I'm here because I want a healthy community," said Sanjay Varma, a member of the Baltimore Teachers Union. "The hospital is more concerned about corporate profits than they care about keeping people healthy. Healthcare in this country is just a business."

Robin Buckner, a specialized nurse who handles catheters, has worked at Saint Agnes for 10 years. "We are out here for patients' safety and for nurses' safety. Nurses here are frustrated because they are overworked. You can only be at one place at a time."

A hospital spokesperson told WBAL-TV they stand by their "last, best and final" offer.

March for independence for Puerto Rico Saturday July 18

Orlando, Florida

4 p.m. Semoran & Curry Ford

Worcester, Massachusetts

12 p.m. 965 Main Street

Jersey City, New Jersey

10 a.m. Grove St. Path station

Bronx, New York

1 p.m. 138th St. & Grand Concourse

Cleveland, Ohio

2 p.m. 1979 W. 25th St

San Juan, Puerto Rico

2 p.m. Plaza Colón



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Blow dealt to Jim Crow

Continued from front page
the labor battles that forged industrial unions in the 1930s, many led by Black workers; in fights by Black workers and youth against the color bar in wartime industries; and the battle against segregation in the U.S. armed forces. After the war, mighty battles for colonial independence and national liberation swept Africa, Asia and the Americas laying the groundwork for a veritable social war to break out across the South.

The Montgomery bus boycott was prepared years beforehand by the painstaking work of E.D. Nixon, a Pullman porter and experienced trade unionist. He had founded the Montgomery division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters union in 1938. During the Second World War Nixon organized a march of 750 African Americans to the Montgomery County Courthouse to demand to register to vote. After the war he led the fight for the right to vote and became president of the NAACP branch there.

As civil rights battles began to spread by 1955, Nixon looked for a way to challenge the city's segregated bus system, the main way most Blacks got to work. He considered launching a fight to end it. After 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white man, he considered making her case the basis for the fight. But Nixon decided Claudette was too young.

Seamstress Rosa Parks had been Nixon's secretary as president of the NAACP. "She's reliable, nobody had nothing on her, she had the courage of her convictions," Nixon said. Parks was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat, and the fight was on.

Nixon got Parks a lawyer and put up bail for her release. He convinced her they could fight and win. He began reaching out to organize a one-day boycott of the bus system to launch the fight. Parks took Nixon's proposals to her mother and husband and won them over.

Flyers announcing the boycott were distributed all across the Black community. Nixon got a journalist on the *Montgomery Advertiser* to write a front-page article. He convinced Black ministers to join him in organizing the action, including some who were skeptical. On the evening of Dec. 5, after the day-long boycott of the buses, they held a mass meeting to discuss what had been accomplished

and what would come next. Hours beforehand they had formed the Montgomery Improvement Association and convinced Martin Luther King Jr. to serve as chairman.

As many as 5,000 attended the overflow event. A resolution to continue and strengthen the boycott until victory was met with shouts of joy. Three demands were adopted — the complete desegregation of the city's buses, more courteous treatment of Black bus riders and the hiring of African American drivers.

For the next year 42,000 African Americans boycotted the city's buses in the face of racist intimidation, arrests and night-riding terror. The day after the boycott started, cops began arresting Black cab drivers the movement had mobilized to get people to and from work.

Fight wins working-class solidarity

Decisive to the boycott's success was establishing a centralized carpool so no one lost their jobs. By February 1956, 28 of the carpool's drivers had been arrested for the unique crime of "conspiracy to destroy the bus company." Each vowed they'd get arrested again and again if necessary. Many were veterans of the Korean War, who were used to standing up to pressure. Some Blacks waiting to get picked up to go to work were arrested for "loitering."

The homes of Nixon and King were firebombed overnight on Jan. 30 and Feb. 1. No one was killed.

The fight for nationwide union solidarity was instrumental to the success of the boycott, providing cars donated to keep the carpool running.

Farrell Dobbs, the Socialist Workers Party national secretary and its presidential candidate that year, delivered the first station wagon to Montgomery and then toured the country to win unions and others to contribute more cars. "Not one single Negro should be compelled to walk because of lack of money for the carpool," Dobbs wrote in a statement published on the front page of the March 19, 1956, *Militant*. Dobbs also called on unions to raise the \$3,000-a-week needed for gas, tires and repairs, and the *Militant* reported on contributions from union locals around the country.

All told \$415,000 was raised in the course of the boycott, according to Nixon, the Montgomery Improvement Association treasurer.

Dobbs spent five days in Montgomery



AP/Gene Herrick

E.D. Nixon escorts Rosa Parks, center, to courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama, March 19, 1956. Leaders of the powerful Black bus boycott organized by thousands there were on trial.

Communist League candidate wins support in Montreal



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

MONTREAL — Joe Young, left, the Communist League candidate in the St. Laurent district for next October's provincial election, campaigned door to door here June 24.

Supporters of Young's campaign are gathering the 100 signatures needed to get him on the ballot. Their goal is to get double the number needed to ensure they have more than enough valid signatures. As of July 7 they have 64.

Young spoke with education worker Youssef Achi, right, a Berber born in France whose family had moved there from Algeria. "There were many changes in the world under the impact of the fight against colonialism," Achi said.

"As part of those worldwide struggles, under the leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, working people in Cuba made a socialist revolution," Young replied. "They carried out a mass literacy campaign so everyone could read and write, so they could participate more effectively in setting the country's future. The U.S. rulers are determined to crush the example Cuba's revolution sets for workers and farmers everywhere. We need to build a movement to defend Cuba against imperialism's attacks."

Achi agreed. However, he wasn't confident that workers are capable of "changing the world, because of human nature."

Young said that working people, like the millions of "people from nowhere" who made the Cuban Revolution, are transformed in the course of the class struggle.

Achi took campaign literature to read and share. He signed the petition to get Young on the ballot and thanked him for the discussion.

Help put Joe Young on the ballot!

— STEVE PENNER

reporting on the trials of MIA leaders for the *Militant*. He got to know Nixon, who impressed him as a fellow unionist and savvy fighter. He described how defendants used the trial to further expose segregation and reaffirm their determination to end it.

"I have seen nothing like the rank and file outpouring of grievances here since my days in the rising union movement of the Thirties," Dobbs wrote in the April 2, 1956, *Militant*.

A victory and big step forward

Mass meetings continued regularly to debate the next steps forward, to denounce the indignities of Jim Crow and to answer claims by the press that the boycott was the work of "outsiders." Friendly competition grew between rival groups of women over who could make and sell the most food to raise money for the carpool.

Through the *Militant* and other groups spreading the truth about the fight in Montgomery, workers everywhere learned more about the stakes in the battle against Jim Crow and the powerful fight to end it.

On Nov. 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling striking down Alabama's bus segregation laws. When that ruling went into effect, the Montgomery Improvement Association called a mass meeting and voted to end the boycott.

In the weeks afterward, four Black churches in the area were firebombed and African Americans were shot at as they rode on desegregated buses. Seven

members of the Ku Klux Klan were arrested for these assaults, but no one was ever convicted.

The fight to break the back of Jim Crow continued, spreading rapidly to school desegregation efforts across the South, Woolworth sit-ins and the Freedom Rides. The movement became unstoppable. How the fighters in Montgomery were led to victory needs to be more widely known.

When the organizers of a meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the boycott victory in Montgomery didn't invite Nixon to participate, the Militant Labor Forum in New York organized a dinner and program to honor him and his wife, Arlette. SWP leaders Dobbs, Fred Halstead and Clifton DeBerry joined Nixon in speaking.

Nixon thanked the party and told the meeting, "The Negro in the South will not be sold for a quarter anymore. His eyes are wide open."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

America's Revolutionary Heritage and the Fight Against Imperialism Today. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., July 19. Refreshments, 4:30 p.m.; program, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

Ukrainians defend sovereignty

Continued from front page
saults at Ukraine’s civilian population. Kyiv’s drone strikes on oil refineries near big cities in Russia have made the consequences of the war far more visible to millions of working people there, without directly targeting them. Despite the huge financial and human cost of his attempt to conquer Ukraine, Putin is doubling down on the war, claiming again July 3 that Ukraine is “historically Russian land.”

Moscow’s troops are thrown into deadly “meat assaults” after only 10 to 21 days of military training. They face swarms of Kyiv’s anti-personnel drones causing casualty rates to rise to eight times those of Ukraine’s forces.

Russian soldiers are refusing deployment to front-line island outposts in the Dnipro River, where they’re especially vulnerable. Across the occupied territories, Ukrainian medium-range airstrikes are choking off Moscow’s fuel and ammunition supply lines.

By July 1, some 1.4 million Russian workers in uniform had been killed or maimed since the war began. In June alone, the invading forces suffered almost 40,000 casualties, far outstripping Moscow’s recruitment rate. To try to fill the shortfall, Moscow is seeking to pressure university students into the army. Promised higher pay and drone operator training, many end up on the frontlines.

Crimea is being isolated

Kyiv launched over 50,000 successful strikes in June alone. Air defense and radar posts, warships and fighter jets have been hit. Oil refineries have been set ablaze as far away as Siberia. Russia’s fuel production has been cut by more than a quarter. Gasoline rationing is now in place in many regions.

The scale of the damage forced Putin to admit Ukraine drone attacks were “creating problems.”

Kyiv’s airstrikes have targeted the road and rail connections to the Crime-

an Peninsula, which was seized from Ukraine and occupied by Moscow in 2014. Power outages and food, fuel and water shortages there are now widespread.

Moscow’s authorities in Crimea declared a state of emergency June 26. Thousands are attempting to flee. The Kerch Bridge, the route back to Russia, has been closed to heavy trucks as a result of previous strikes by Kyiv’s forces.

Putin’s claim that Crimea is Russian territory has suffered a blow. Moscow moved its naval command post from Sevastopol in Crimea to the port of Novorossiysk on the Russian mainland June 14. The move follows the relocation to Novorossiysk of the surviving half of Moscow’s Black Sea Fleet not sunk by Ukrainian drones.

Ukraine’s defense missile shortage

In response to the challenges it confronts, Moscow is taking advantage of Ukraine’s growing shortage of Patriot defense systems to intensify its bombardment of civilian centers. It has more than doubled the number of ballistic missile strikes on Ukraine since January compared to the same period last year.

The Ukrainian government depends on capitalist powers in Europe to supply it with Patriot missile defense systems that it previously got from Washington. The U.S. rulers are increasing their production of Patriots but primarily to replenish their own short supplies following the war on Iran.



Kyiv City State Administration

Over 52,000 Kyiv residents took to city Metro stations during Moscow’s bombardment July 2.

During the night of July 2, “the Russian Federation launched yet another massive combined attack against Ukraine using missiles and attack drones,” noted a statement by the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU).

In Kyiv, “residential apartment buildings, energy infrastructure facilities, and a hotel were destroyed or damaged,” the KVPU statement said. At least 31 people were killed and scores injured. Ukrainian defenses intercepted only four of Moscow’s 24 ballistic missile salvos.

“Workers are being killed directly at their workplaces,” Mykhailo Volynets, chairman of the KVPU, said in the appeal for solidarity from the international trade union movement. During the first five months of 2026, 127 workers were killed at work as a

result of Moscow’s assaults.

During the July 2 airstrikes, a record 52,000 Ukrainians, including 4,500 children, were evacuated from their homes and crowded into 46 underground stations of the Kyiv Metro. They took bedding and essential supplies into the shelters, as well as their pets.

The KVPU statement says that Ukraine’s union movement continues to call for “the full, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.”

The only truly dependable allies of working people in Ukraine are working people worldwide, especially in Russia. Workers in and out of uniform there face assaults from the same enemy that Ukrainian workers face on the battlefield — the Putin regime.

Springfield rally: ‘Defend TPS protection for Haitians!’

BY BETSY FARLEY

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — One hundred and fifty people turned out here in sweltering heat July 3 to protest the U.S. Supreme Court decision granting the federal government permission to cancel Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants

and to call instead for its extension.

“We’re here to show that we are a city that loves our neighbors, no matter where you come from, no matter what your skin color is, no matter your nationality,” Jen Casto of the Indivisible Springfield coalition told the crowd.

An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Hai-

tians living in Springfield — close to a quarter of the population — could lose their jobs and face possible deportation if the government ends their TPS protection.

“I’m here for our Haitian neighbors,” rally participant P.C. Long told the *Militant*. A member of International Association of Machinists Local 1472, Long came with his wife, Holly Combs, a nurse. A number of unionists came to the rally, including members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 57 and the United Auto Workers.

Biassu Pierre, a TPS holder from Haiti, told the *Militant*, “I am here today to let people know that Haiti is not safe and people cannot return to Haiti. We have to keep fighting to be safe and in a safe place. Our fight is not over!”

Haitians first won TPS in 2010 after a massive earthquake killed over 300,000 people and destroyed much of the country’s capital. The last 16 years has seen a steady stream of additional earthquakes and hurricanes, a deadly cholera epidemic, the fall of the central government, and the rise to power of murderous criminal gangs that run rampant over much of the country.

Since 2020, the State Department has kept in place its highest “Do Not Travel” advisory for Haiti.

Toward the end of the rally, Viles Dorsainvil, a TPS holder himself and executive director of the Haitian Community Help and Support Center here, spoke. “Haitian TPS holders have become essential members of our community,” he said. “The simple gesture of coming out today means a lot to us, and we walk shoulder-to-shoulder.”

Protests: ‘End US blockade, war threats against Cuba!’

Continued from front page
ers cheered the Cuba committee’s banner, “No War on Cuba,” when it came into view. The contingent was lined up behind a group of high school women who were part of the Minnesota Frostbite Roller Derby contingent. One of the young women, who asked to be identified by her “derby name” Rumblebee and jersey number 16, said she agreed with the need to oppose U.S. aggression against Cuba. She posed for a photo for the *Militant* skating past our banner holding her hands up making peace signs!

This was indicative of the lack of support by working people and youth across the country to the U.S. rulers’ foreign wars.

Three members of the organization of Somali small-business people, Neighbors United, came to the Militant Labor Forum. The chair thanked the organization for writing a letter to the Florida Department of Corrections that, along with many others, led to the overturn of the ban on the *Militant* at several Florida prisons.

Neighbors United is involved in an ongoing fight to win compensation from the state for damages to their businesses

during the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency’s Operation “Metro Surge,” a concerted assault on immigrant workers here last winter.

Zahra Abdalla, a founder of Neighbors United, spoke to forum participants. “When the Metro Surge started, at first we were afraid and stayed in our homes. Then we decided we cannot just hide and we began to organize to fight,” she said.

“We decided that the organization would be not just for Somali small businesses, but for our neighbors and other people who want to fight for our rights — including you guys.

“So we thank you too.”

All agreed it had been a bang-up week.

Sydney protest calls for ‘US hands off Cuba, Venezuela!’

SYDNEY — Some 30 people rallied at the Ibero-American Plaza July 4 to protest mounting U.S. attacks on the national sovereignty of Cuba and Venezuela. This central city plaza here features busts of leaders of anti-colonial struggles in Latin America and the Philippines, including Cuba’s revolutionary national hero José Martí.

“For 67 years the United States has sanctioned Cuba and this year tightened the screws even further, inflicting untold hardship on the people of Cuba by blockading all oil supplies and trade between Cuba and any other nation,” Lee Walkington told participants on behalf of the protest organizers, the Australia Cuba Friendship Society.

“The U.S. has not forgotten or forgiven Cuba for this striking example of its independence,” said Walkington, pointing to Cuban working people’s defense over six decades of their 1959 socialist revolution. While “the Trump administration is the crudest, most blatant proponent,” the U.S. rulers’ determination to overthrow the Cuban Revolution has been the course of every Democratic and Republican administration alike.

Walkington called on the Australian government to actively oppose the U.S. sanctions on Cuba, as well as those on “Venezuela in its current hour of need.” Speakers from the Australia-Venezuela Solidarity Network, which also endorsed the rally, described the devastating social catastrophe since two earthquakes hit Venezuela June 24.

— Janet Roth

Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau event

Continued from front page

Those visiting for the first time were treated to a fascinating tour.

Joe DaMoura, the museum's director, welcomed participants to the meeting to learn more about the independence struggle and the little-known contribution of Cuban internationalist volunteers.

The audience viewed a video greeting from Dreke, who also sent a written message. "We're honored to hear of your interest in learning about the part of African history that is told in this book," he said. "Cuba has been tied to the African liberation movement since the Jan. 1, 1959, victory of the Cuban Revolution as a way of paying our debt — an unpayable debt — resulting from historical events that have bound our peoples together since the times of slavery."

In 1967-68 Dreke headed Cuba's military mission in Guinea-Bissau, where he worked closely with Amílcar Cabral, the central leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), which led the war that put an end to 500 years of Portuguese colonial rule there. That victory triggered the collapse of Portugal's entire empire in Africa and brought down the decaying fascist dictatorship at home.

In 1965, Dreke had been second-in-command as Ernesto Che Guevara led 130 Cuban combatants fighting alongside national liberation combatants in the Congo.

Martín Koppel, co-editor of the book, presented Corsino Delgado, president of the museum's board of directors, with a framed reproduction of a portrait of Cabral. It had been painted as part of a large mural on the wall of the six-story Pathfinder building in New York in the 1980s that depicted revolutionary leaders whose works Pathfinder has published.

'Why this book'

Also speaking on the panel was Abel Djassi Amado, a professor at Simmons University in Boston, who is active in the local Cape Verdean community. Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder and co-editor of the book, joined the discussion from the audience.

The event also reflected the celebratory atmosphere following the successes of the Blue Sharks, Cape Verde's soccer team, the smallest nation to ever reach the knockout stage

of the World Cup.

"This book is above all for working people and youth here in the U.S., especially for those learning in struggle to defend their livelihoods, job conditions and rights in today's world of economic and social disorder, of international wars for profit and plunder," said Koppel. "It's for workers like the New York nurses and Colorado meatpackers who have gone on strike in recent months. For the Puerto Ricans who this week spoke out at the U.N. about their fight for independence from U.S. colonial rule."

Cabral's leadership highlighted

Koppel pointed to both Cabral's leadership capacity and the decisive role played by the 400 Cuban combatants and doctors, who served alongside the African liberation fighters during the war.

"Going through the U.S. educational system I never learned about Cape Verde," DaMoura, who came to this country from there as a child, said, "even though it's an important part of U.S. and world history." I was also taught "to hate Cuba, until I started to learn my own history," he said. "All those years I hated people who helped me and my country to achieve independence."

Several audience members remarked afterward that this was the first time they had heard about the crucial contribution Cuban internationalists made to winning independence.

Koppel and Amado both noted the course Cabral led to overcome tribal antagonisms among Guineans, as well as divisions between Guineans and Cape Verdeans, all fostered by the Portuguese colonialists. Cabral "was very clear that we were not going to get our independence if someone else is dying for us," said Amado.

Cabral stands out because he had confidence in the capacities of working people to transform society and themselves, Koppel said.

The PAIGC's leadership under Cabral organized rural toilers in liberated zones to create schools to reduce illiteracy, set up clinics offering medical care for the first time, and formed local militias to defend the villages from Portuguese attack. Cabral promoted equal rights for women, opening the door for them to take leadership roles in the struggle.

Both speakers noted Cabral's insistence that the struggle was above all political, not military, and how he stood out by his rejection of brutality or glorification of violence. "This perspective was important both for the success of the independence struggle, but also for the future society Cabral was confident working people were capable of building," said Koppel.

"The examples about Cabral's leadership capacities, which are the greatest strength of the book," Waters said, are "needed desperately in the world today for those who are fighting in various ways for the liberation of humanity." Cabral understood and educated others about the



Militant photos: above, Roy Landers; inset, Lisa Hickler
Over 40 people, above, joined discussion at Cape Verdean Museum in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, June 28 on 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. Inset: Joe DaMoura, the museum's director, said as a youth in the U.S. he was taught to hate Cuba. "All those years," he said, "I hated people who helped me and my country achieve independence."

international scope of what they were doing, she said. They were, as Cabral put it, "soldiers of humanity."

Waters, a long-time leader of the Socialist Workers Party, underlined Cabral's efforts to explain the materialist basis of social relations and capitalist exploitation. When he went to study in Portugal, "he chose agronomy because he wanted to find out the root causes of the drought-induced famines that afflicted Cape Verde," she said. "The drought was not the product of inevitable natural disasters but of rampant deforestation and overgrazing under colonial rule."

He also worked as an agronomist in Alentejo, the poorest region of Portugal, where he witnessed the exploitation, illiteracy and repression facing landless peasants and farmworkers. Cabral stressed the "Portuguese people were not the enemy of the African toilers," Waters said, "but Portuguese colonialism was, and working people in both countries had common interests in fighting imperialist rule in Africa."

Cabral's work in Alentejo, added Amado, underlined "not only his preoccupation with the land itself, but his preoccupation with the people."

Cuba's internationalist record

During the discussion period, participants asked for more information on Cuba's internationalist mission in Guinea-Bissau and other African countries.

"Hundreds of thousands of Cubans went to Africa and other parts of the world as volunteers to join national liberation struggles," Koppel replied.

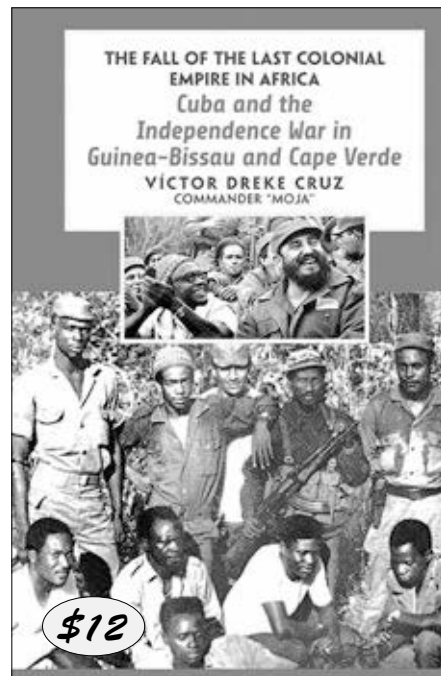
They "learned about the conditions imperialist exploitation imposed on millions of people in Africa. Fighting

side by side with the Angolans, with the Guineans and others, broadened their understanding of the world, and of themselves."

"They came back as changed people," he said. "That strengthened the Cuban Revolution."

"These experiences give them confidence to stand up against the brutal assault on them by the U.S. government today. What other country in the world would have survived 67 years of a ruthless U.S. economic war? That is only possible because of the transformation of millions of Cubans through a revolution."

The program was followed by lively discussions among audience members over traditional Cape Verdean snacks. Some 20 copies of Dreke's book were sold.



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Militant/Roy Landers

Martín Koppel, co-editor of the book, presented the museum with a portrait of Cabral that had been part of mural on Pathfinder building in New York in the 1980s.



FMSMS/Casa Comum-Amílcar Cabral

PAIGC combatants and Cuban internationalists gather together in Guinea-Bissau. The Cubans were "a boost to our morale," said Commander Duke Djassi. "Here were men who had crossed the ocean to come to our aid. They lived with us, they shared in our sacrifices."

Castro: ‘Victory depends on moral values, not weapons’

The Spanish edition of Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia: The Example of the Cuban Revolution by Fidel Castro is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for July. The selection, “For revolutionaries victory in war depends on a minimum of weapons and a maximum of moral values,” takes up key lessons of Cuba’s fight for power. It comes from an Aug. 19, 1958, Radio Rebelde broadcast by Castro from the Sierra Maestra mountains, the rebel army’s station during the revolutionary war against the U.S.-backed Batista tyranny. Copyright © 2025 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

The wounded and all other prisoners have been released without conditions. It might seem illogical to free enemy prisoners in the midst of a war. That depends on what kind of war it is, and the concept one has of the war.

War requires a policy toward the adversary as well as a policy toward the civilian population. War is not simply a question of rifles, bullets, artillery, and planes. Maybe that belief of ours is one of the reasons for the

failure of the tyranny’s forces.

Our apostle José Martí said that what matters is not the number of weapons in hand but the number of stars on one’s forehead. Those words might have seemed merely poetic — but they have proved to be a profound truth for us.

From the moment of the Granma landing, we carried out an unwavering line of conduct regarding treatment of the adversary. Very seldom in history, perhaps, has anyone adhered to that line of conduct as rigorously as we have.

Since the first battle at La Plata on January 17, 1957, to the last battle at Las Mercedes in early August [1958], more than six hundred members of the armed forces have been captured just by the Rebel Army front in the Sierra Maestra.

With the legitimate pride of those who follow ethical norms, we can say that, without exception, Rebel Army combatants have followed its laws regarding prisoners. No prisoner’s life has ever been taken. No wounded soldier has ever been left without medical attention.

But we can say more: No prisoner has ever been beaten. And furthermore: No prisoner has ever been insulted or humiliated.

Every officer whom we’ve taken prisoner can testify to the fact that none was subjected to interrogations, because of our respect for them as human beings and as soldiers.

The victories won by our weapons — without murdering, torturing, or even interrogating an adversary — demonstrate that no affront to human dignity can ever be justified. This attitude has been maintained over twenty months of combat and more than a hundred clashes and battles. It speaks for itself about the conduct of the Rebel Army. Today, in the midst of human passions, this record is valued less than it will be when the history of the revolution is written.

In the human sense, the fact that we follow this line right now, when we are stronger, is not as commendable as it was earlier, when we were a handful of men hunted down like animals in the rugged mountains. It was then ... that respecting the lives of prisoners had a deep moral significance.



Granma
Doctor (right) treats mercenary captured at Bay of Pigs, Cuba, April 1961. No wounded soldiers were left without medical care, just like the Cuban defenders — a matter of principle.

If the forces of the tyranny had respected the lives of adversaries who fell into their hands, even this record would have been nothing more than an elementary duty of reciprocity. But to the contrary, torture and death were the certain fate that awaited any rebel, any sympathizer of our cause, or anyone simply suspected of supporting our cause who fell into enemy hands.

In many cases, unfortunate peasants were murdered in order to pile up corpses that could justify the fake reports of the tyranny’s high command. For our part, we can state truthfully that the six hundred members of the armed forces who at some point were in our hands remain alive and are with their families today. In contrast, the dictatorship would have to say that more than six hundred defenseless compatriots, in many cases individuals not involved in any revolutionary activity, were murdered by its forces during those twenty months of war. Killing does not make anyone stronger.

Killing has made them weaker. Not killing has made us stronger.

Why don’t we murder the soldiers we capture?

First, because only cowards and thugs murder an enemy who has surrendered.

Second, because the Rebel Army cannot fall into the same practices as the tyranny it is fighting against.

Third, because the dictatorship’s policy and propaganda have essentially consisted of portraying revolutionaries as sworn ruthless enemies of

every man wearing the uniform of the armed forces.

Through lies and deceit, the dictatorship has made every effort to get soldiers to identify with the regime, to make them believe that by fighting against the revolution they are fighting for their careers and their own lives. It would suit the dictatorship better if we didn’t treat the wounded, if we didn’t respect the lives of prisoners, if instead we murdered them all without exception. Then the tyranny might convince every member of the armed forces that they must fight to the last drop of blood.

Fourth, because acts of cruelty are stupid in any war, and even more so in a civil war, where those engaged in fighting will some day have to live side by side with each other — where perpetrators will have to face the children, wives, and mothers of their victims.

Fifth, because for the generations to come, we must counterpose the inspiring and edifying example our combatants are setting to the shameful and depressing actions taken by the dictatorship’s torturers and assassins.

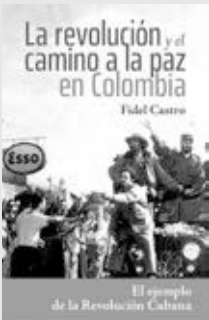
Sixth, because we need to plant today the seeds of fraternity that must prevail in the future homeland we are building for all and for the good of all. If those who fight squarely prove capable of respecting the life of an adversary who surrenders, then tomorrow, during peacetime, no one will feel entitled to commit acts of vengeance or political crimes.

July

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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What does today’s Mamdani hysteria mean for the working class?

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Bourgeois newspapers everywhere have generated stories about the narrow victories of two members of the Democratic Socialists of America, along with a former member, in Democratic Party primary elections in New York City June 23. All were endorsed by DSA member and New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Middle-class radicals hailed the result, claiming a gigantic shift in politics was underway, while President Donald Trump claimed the vote represented a resurgence of the “communist menace.”

What is really going on?

Much of the liberal press has anointed Mamdani as the Democrats’ new “kingmaker” after his endorsement boosted the campaigns of Claire Valdez, Darializa Chevalier and Brad Lander, the former

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DSA member. They all present plans to try to make capitalism “work,” rather than to organize working people ourselves to fight for what we need.

The key to the appeal of these candidates to the middle-class left is their stance on one issue — opposition to the existence of Israel. Chevalier, for example, attended a pro-Hamas rally in New York on Oct. 8, 2023, just one day after Hamas death squads systematically carried out the worst pogrom since the Holocaust, killing some 1,200 people, overwhelmingly Jews. Subsequently, Chevalier joined an encampment at Columbia University in 2024 where pro-Hamas groups spread Jew-hatred and harassed and intimidated Jewish students.

Denouncing Israel, the only country that provides Jews with an unconditional refuge, was a litmus test in all three races. During the campaign, Mamdani repeated age-old antisemitic slurs, accusing rival politicians who support the existence of Israel of being “dark money monsters.”

Chevalier defeated incumbent Rep. Adriano Espailat in New York’s 13th Congressional District, focusing on the charge he “takes AIPAC money.” AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The election results did not represent a significant political shift. Only 17% of registered Democrats in New York City voted in the primaries. Most working people saw no wing of the Democratic Party offering anything to address the social catastrophe workers face today. Nor any answer to the escalating conflicts among capitalist powers worldwide that are driving toward a new world war. The vast majority stayed home.

How egg monopoly bosses jacked-up prices

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Egg prices surged to unheard of heights over the past several years. The bosses of the giant egg company monopolies blamed it on an outbreak of bird flu. But what was really behind the price hikes was the monopolies combined to jack up prices, raking in hefty profits.

In response to growing outrage by working people about the overall rise in grocery prices, exacerbated by the huge jump in egg prices, the U.S. Department of Justice and 17 state attorneys general felt compelled to file a complaint in U.S. District Court in Iowa June 29 against some of the biggest egg monopolies — Cal-Maine Foods, Versova and Hickman’s Egg Ranch.

Between June 2022 and March 2025 these giant companies coordinated efforts to “artificially inflate the daily price quotations for eggs,” the complaint says. They would submit big orders reported by Urner Barry Publications, an influential egg industry journal that runs an index that helps determine how much grocery stores and others charge for eggs. Then the three big egg companies would cancel their orders.

“In September 2022, Cal-Maine told investors egg prices had risen because supply had tightened due to bird flu,” the *Financial Times* said. But under growing pressure, “the company acknowledged” three months later “there had been no positive bird flu tests at any Cal-Maine-owned or contracted production facility.”

Mississippi-based Cal-Maine, the largest egg company in the U.S., selling more than 15 billion eggs each year, reaped giant profits from this scam. Though it sold only 7% more eggs in fiscal 2024 than in fiscal

All together the DSA-backed candidates got votes from 3.5% of registered Democrats, a tiny sliver, and mostly from better-off middle-class neighborhoods, like Manhattan’s Upper West Side, gentrified areas in Harlem, Greenwich Village and Brooklyn’s Williamsburg and Park Slope.

The DSA won these primaries by getting out the vote by appealing to aspiring meritocratic layers who fear a worsening of the capitalist crisis will push them down into the working class — a class they disdain and fear. Their candidates emphasized appealing to those they’ve led to back Jew-hating “pro-Palestine” actions to support them at the ballot box.

Lander said it made him “queasy” to denounce AIPAC, “given the antisemitic tropes at play here about Jews and money and power.” Nonetheless, he said, “I have to.”

Yes, he did if he wanted the DSA’s backing. Lander’s opponent, Congressman Dan Goldman, was subjected to anti-Jewish protests from the owner of Poetica Coffee shop in Brooklyn who said the café made a major mistake to serve him and should have refused because he supported the existence of Israel. Unlike Landers, Goldman refused to cave in to the blood libel.

The DSA and its backers are wrong. The key question facing the working class is not eliminating Jews from the face of the earth. Finding a road to unify the working class to fight effectively against Jew-hatred and today’s growing capitalist crisis and wars is what is decisive.

Election results were starkly different in the district covering the working-class south and west Bronx where Rep. Ritchie Torres, a pro-Israel Democrat, trounced opponent Michael Blake in the primary. Blake had highlighted his support for Mamdani and

Support Cargill meatpackers fighting boss lockout

BY JOE SWANSON

FORT MORGAN, Colo. — Some 1,700 International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 455 members who work at the giant Cargill meat processing plant here have been locked out by the company’s profit-drive bosses since May 20. The company has significant influence in the town as the biggest employer with money to throw around. Cargill workers are over 10% of the city’s population.

Cargill bosses got the city to deny the union the right to set up rent-a-toilets for the strikers for weeks.

Over 85% of Local 455 members had voted to reject

his opposition to Israel’s war to defend its existence.

Any notion that the DSA is leading a “communist resurgence” is as false as the claim the primary results represented a surge in support for the DSA. Despite Trump’s smears against “communism” and columns in the *New York Post* run under a “Hot to Trotsky” banner, the DSA is focused on dragging working people into looking to one of the two main parties that uphold capitalist exploitation, as does Trump’s MAGA supporters.

But today both of these parties face a serious challenge. After decades of steady decline, fewer than 65% of voters are registered as either Democrat or Republican, the smallest number in at least 90 years. Millions of workers and farmers, facing worsening working and living conditions, are open to looking elsewhere. They see no serious answers to what they face coming from the bosses’ parties, MAGA Republicans or DSAers.

One response by all wings of the Democrats and Republicans is making it harder for working-class parties like the Socialist Workers Party to get on the ballot.

I encourage working people to join those of us organizing independently of the bosses’ two-party shell game. It’s only after we break with all shades of the Democrats and Republicans that working people will have our hands free to fight for what we need.

Workers don’t have to start from scratch. My party, the Socialist Workers Party, fights to organize the working class to take political power into its own hands, to end a world where profits for the ruling rich and their meritocratic hangers-on determine all politics, and to join working people worldwide to transform the world.

the Cargill bosses’ measly “last and final” wage offer that averages 43 cents an hour for the next five years. But consumer prices jumped at an annual rate of 4.2% in May to its highest level in more than three years.

The Teamsters are also fighting to win contract-protected rights to go to the bathroom on the job and to get the company to pay for mandatory company-issued safety boots. The cost of the boots is currently taken out of workers’ paychecks.

I’m a retired railroad conductor and member of the SMART union’s Transportation Division who came here from Lincoln, Nebraska, along with my brother, Paul Swanson, who had been an officer of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the Teamsters in Denver, to bring solidarity to the locked-out workers.

At the Teamsters’ Fort Morgan union hall July 7 we were welcomed by union representative Servando Payan. “Unionists from the area here and city representatives have recently been visiting the picket lines to show support,” Payan said. He explained hundreds of Cargill workers picket in shifts every four hours in temperatures in the high 90s.

“Bosses use their lockouts as weapons against the workers, to force concessions from unions. They are aimed at wearing down, dividing and demoralizing workers,” Paul Swanson said. “Solidarity from the labor movement is key for workers to advance and turn the table against Cargill.”

We joined Local 455 members on their picket line, along with a couple of other unionists who had come to join us. This included Gene Thompson, BMWED vice general chairman from Alliance, Nebraska, and Doug Hord, an electrician from nearby Greeley, where packinghouse workers at the huge JBS plant won an important strike earlier this year.

We delivered messages of solidarity to the locked-out meatpackers from Kim Quick, president of Teamsters Local 554 in Omaha, and the local’s members, and from Jakob Forsgren, vice general chairman of the BMWED in Lincoln. Teamsters Local 554 was formed in 1937 as part of the powerful over-the-road truck driver organizing effort that substantially strengthened the union in the Midwest.

To support locked-out Teamsters Local 455 workers at Cargill, contact them at 423 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701. Phone: (970) 867-7311; Fax: (970)542-9596.