

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

On anniversary of Hiroshima, Nagasaki — No to US war drive!
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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AUGUST 17, 2026

US rulers seek ‘Pax Americana,’ plunder, profits in Mideast war

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump cancelled an attack on Iran set for Aug. 3, then immediately threatened to “decapitate” its rulers, hitting Iran harder than any strike “since World War II,” if Tehran does not give in to U.S. demands.

At the same time, the U.S. president keeps demanding Israel refrain from launching new defensive military operations against the Iranian regime and its key proxies — Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

At first glance, the on-again, off-again, U.S. war on Iran, as well as the U.S. pressure on Israel, can seem illogical.

Trump, like every Democratic and Republican president over the last 125 years, defends the interests of the propertied U.S. ruling capitalist class. He does not seek the total destruction of the Iranian regime’s military capacity, or the regime’s overthrow. The Pentagon has deliberately refrained from attacking many of Tehran’s military sites, despite near-total control of the skies above Iran.

From the standpoint of the U.S. rulers, this makes perfect sense. Trump is trying
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US hands off Cuba! End stifling sanctions, war threats

Protest slanders, subpoenas on supporters of Cuba



Cuba solidarity contingent in Puerto Rican People’s Parade in Chicago, June 13. U.S. rulers are escalating attacks on Cuba’s sovereignty and socialist revolution, while targeting its supporters.

In 1959, led by Fidel Castro, Cuba’s workers and peasants made a thoroughgoing social revolution and have defended it arms-in-hand for 67 years.

EDITORIAL

They have inspired workers and oppressed peoples worldwide to seek to emulate their socialist revolution, including in the U.S.

The bipartisan U.S. rulers have never forgiven them for taking this jewel out of their greedy hands. Today they are escalating their assault on Cuba.

Street protests and other public actions are needed to demand a halt to the U.S. rulers’ brutal drive to starve the Cuban people into submission. Join in building actions to demand an end to Washington’s blockade and win your co-workers and unions to take part.

Show Cuba’s workers and farmers they aren’t alone in the fight to defend their revolution. Use the *Militant* to
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NY SWP candidates:

‘Working class needs to take political power’

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — “The U.S. rulers and their counterparts across the globe in their sharpening competition for markets, resources and cheap labor, answer by implementing measures to increase the exploitation of working people worldwide,” Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, said. “This inevitably leads to more conflicts and wars, including toward a third world war with all the devastating consequences that would bring.”

Mailhot and Willie Cotton, the party’s candidate for lieutenant governor, were describing the party’s perspectives at a special Militant Labor Forum here Aug. 1.

Cotton pointed to the “combined character of the capitalists’ wars on working people at home and their wars abroad, one accompanies the other.” He explained Washington’s war in the Middle East, saying the U.S. rulers’ goal “is to dominate and plunder the region.” Having emerged from World War II as the dominant imperialist power, they view the world — its resources and labor — as theirs for the taking today, even as their power erodes.

He contrasted this to Israel’s goal in the present conflict, which is to survive as a refuge for Jews. Israel con-
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Train conductor’s death on the job shows deepening crisis in rail safety



Rail unionists rally in Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 13, 2022. Rail bosses, seeking to boost profits, keep cutting crews, undermining both the safety of workers and those who live by tracks.

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — On July 9 Norfolk Southern conductor Scott Shoemaker, a 67-year-old experienced rail worker only weeks from retirement working out of Toledo, Ohio, was struck and killed while inspecting a passing train in East Chicago, Indiana. That 110-car train was so heavy it took over a

quarter mile to come to a stop.

Rail workers for over a century have routinely got off their engines to inspect passing trains for mechanical defects. But up until the 1990s most rail crews had three workers on the ground to help keep each other out of harm’s way. Now conductors on the ground work alone.

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Robert F. Williams: Fight against Jim Crow and support Cuba’s revolution

BY TERRY EVANS

The struggles Robert F. Williams led “to desegregate public facilities in the Jim Crow South, and to organize self-defense in the Black community against Ku Klux Klan night riders,

Ohio: Hundreds protest the end of TPS for Haitians

BY BETSY FARLEY

BLUE ASH, Ohio — More than 500 people lined the street here Sunday, Aug. 2, protesting in front of the local Department of Homeland Security facility to demand extension of Temporary Protective Status for Haitian immigrants.

Many Haitians in Springfield, Ohio, have received letters telling them they are now required to report to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and
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made Monroe, North Carolina, in those years an emblem of resistance to bigotry and social injustice,” Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, wrote in a message to a meeting celebrating Williams’ life two weeks after he died from Hodgkin’s disease in 1996.

The example Williams set in the
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Canada’s rulers use their state to attack unions’ right to strike

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Members of the Communist League here and the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. recently visited the picket lines of 550 striking Metro supermarket warehouse workers in Laval, just north of Montreal, and the 105 locked-out Siemens Electric workers in Trois Rivières, to extend solidarity and cover their battles for the *Militant*. Workers told us how the bosses’ government, its courts and labor boards are being used against workers and our unions to try to defeat efforts to win wages that keep up with inflation.

AS I SEE IT

In the first few days of the strike Metro obtained a court injunction barring workers from picketing within 5 meters (15 feet) of facility entrances. Their union, the United Grocers Workers Union, part of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), later lodged a complaint with the Quebec Labour Tribunal because of the company’s illegal use of scabs.

“Even though the labor board ruled in our favor in April,” picket captain Mathieu Klein told us, “they’ve never done anything to enforce their ruling. This shows that the government is on the side of the bosses, not the workers.”

“You’re right about who the government supports,” Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in New Jersey, said. “The government is not just on the side of the bosses, it’s the main instrument the capitalist class uses to protect their interests, along with their

courts, labor boards, cops and other institutions. This is why workers need our own party to fight for a workers government to put a different class in power than the capitalist rulers in both Canada and the United States.”

During a July 28 solidarity visit to the locked-out Siemens workers’ picket line, Stéphane Côté, one of the Steelworkers unionists locked out there since April 15, told me they face the very same anti-union tactics as the Metro strikers.

Days after Siemens locked workers out, the company got an injunction against picketing. Compliant judges regularly oblige company demands for anti-union injunctions. These rulings open the door to bosses using scab labor, as both Metro and Siemens are doing.

Workers’ right to strike and picket

When workers withdraw our labor power in a strike, effective picket lines are needed to prevent the bosses from using scabs to maintain production in an effort to force workers to accept substandard wages and working conditions.

In 1977, the Quebec government passed a law barring the use of replacement workers during a strike. But it’s almost never enforced.

The unions at Metro and Siemens filed complaints against the two companies for using strikebreakers. Inspectors from the Ministry of Labour agreed that both companies had broken the law, but the Labour Tribunal has done nothing to stop them to this day.

It took 14 months after a strike had begun in December 2024 by workers at two Quebec City stores of Renaud-Bray, Quebec’s biggest bookstore



Militant/Steve Penner

Mathieu Klein, left, picket captain for striking Metro workers, tells Craig Honts, SWP congressional candidate in New Jersey, July 26 that Canada’s government is backing the bosses.

chain, before the Labour Tribunal imposed a piddling 7,000 Canadian dollar (\$5,000) fine on the company. Such penalties are “peanuts for wealthy companies,” Côté said.

Even bosses “convicted by the courts, like Blaise Renaud [owner of Renaud-Bray], can multiply their anti-union tactics and trample on workers’ rights without fear of real consequences,” Kattia Lelievre, vice president of the CSN, said in a June 27 press release.

Workers across Canada and the U.S., as well as in all other capitalist countries, face growing attacks on the right to strike in defense of working people’s class interests. In the past two years the federal government in Ottawa has used its Canada Industrial Relations Board to rule illegal almost every single major strike under its jurisdiction — including strikes by railroad, port, postal workers, as well as Air Canada flight attendants.

The flight attendants pointed the way forward by defying the back-to-work order, keeping their picket lines up and making important gains in their fight.

Like all capitalist governments, the Canadian rulers in Ottawa and provincial rulers in Quebec City claim they rule in the interests of “the people.” This is a total fraud.

They act on behalf of only one thing — the class interests of the tiny handful of billionaire capitalist families who run the economy and control the government.

Workers need to break from any reliance on the capitalist rulers, their governments and their political parties and build a working-class party of our own that can organize to fight to defend our class interests and to win political power. The Communist League is the vanguard of such a party.

We can advance that battle by joining the striking Metro workers and locked-out Siemens workers on their picket lines, fighting against the bosses’ use of court injunctions and strikebreakers against their just fight for wages that keep up with rising inflation, and opposing Ottawa and Quebec’s attacks on the right to strike.

François Bradette contributed to this article.

THE MILITANT

Locked-out BP refinery workers win growing support

United Steelworkers Local 7-1 members got rousing applause as they marched in the popular Whiting, Indiana, Pierogi Fest Parade. A major financial backer of the event in past years, BP, which locked out the refinery workers, got its check returned by parade organizers.

United Steelworkers Local 7-1
USW Local 7-1 members were cheered at Pierogi Fest in Whiting, Indiana, July 24.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Rail workers honor USW picket line at Marathon refinery

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Locked-out refinery workers at the Marathon refinery here got a boost this week when Union Pacific rail crews stopped delivering tallow, a main ingredient of the biofuel the company produces, into the facility. The members of United Steelworkers Local 5 have been on the picket line 24/7 for over three months.

Workers picketing Aug. 2 near the rail tracks and North refinery gate where the tallow is brought in were full of praise for the rail workers. They told the *Militant* that they had decided to extend their picket line to that gate July 27 and the rail workers honored it. “For a week the train hasn’t stopped here at all,” picket Greg Belcher said. “It goes right on through.” Near the picket tent was a large sign, hung where passing train crews can read it, saying, “Tee up a fair contract. No union busting!”

The 120 USW refinery workers went on strike April 27 after the company refused to agree to a four-year contract that would expire on the same day as fellow refinery workers in the USW’s National Oil Bargaining Program. They also demanded an end to forced overtime, which can extend as much as four to six hours after their regular 12-hour shift.

The Marathon bosses refused to budge and responded with an all-out attack on the union. Then, five weeks into the strike, the company said it was 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 that they unconditionally return to work, with negotiations to continue. The company responded by locking the workers out. The plant is being run at a minimal level by managers, engineers and other strikebreakers.

Workers told the *Militant* that negotiations are slated to resume Aug. 4.

When warehouse workers, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6, went on

strike at C&H Sugar in nearby Crockett, the locked-out refinery workers joined their picket line. When the C&H workers went back to work, they brought a load of water, snacks and other supplies for the USW picket lines.

More solidarity is needed! Visit the picket lines at the intersection of Solano Way and Arnold Industrial Way in Martinez, and at the North gate. Send contributions to the strike fund to USW Local 5, P.O. Box 349, Martinez, CA 94553-0034.

— Betsey Stone

Ghirardelli candy store workers strike over healthcare costs

SAN FRANCISCO — Forty-five members of UNITE HERE Local 2 at the Ghirardelli Chocolate store here, a popular tourist attraction, began a three-day strike July 30 against the bosses’ proposal to increase their healthcare costs. “Who’s gonna win? Local 2!” they chanted in front of the usually busy store full of candy and ice cream treats.

The strike caught Ghirardelli by surprise. The company closed the store on day one of the strike, but reopened for days two and three with far fewer customers, workers said. Many families would not cross the picket line.

“We need our healthcare,” Kay Bradley, 19, who buses dishes, told the *Militant* as she handed out flyers to passersby. “While proposing to cut workers’ healthcare, they are refusing to disclose how much they receive from a 6% ‘healthcare fee’ they charge customers,” a Local 2 flyer said. “Where does that 6% go?” Bradley asked.

The workers have been fighting for a new contract for more than a year.

— Maggie Trowe

Post Office unionists protest bosses’ moves to slash deliveries

EAGAN, Minn. — As part of nationwide actions sponsored by the American Postal Workers Union, some 40 people picketed and rallied outside the Postal Service Distribution Center here July 28. This was a joint protest organized by the APWU locals in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Locked-out Teamsters vote down Cargill contract offer



Militant/Mary Martin

Locked-out members of Teamsters Local 455 in Fort Morgan, Colorado, rejected the latest contract offer from Cargill bosses Aug. 3. The tentative contract had been reached July 28.

Teamsters Local 455 Business Agent Chris Suazo told the press, “The membership spoke and they felt like the offer was not as significant an improvement to the offer they provided us in May and they want to continue to fight.”

“We asked the company if they would be willing to continue to negotiate or if they would be willing to modify their offer,” he added, but all they said is OK, thank you. “We will continue to picket. We will continue to reach out to the company.” The 1,700 meatpacking workers were locked out May 20 after they rejected Cargill’s “last and best” inadequate wage raise offer.

Fort Morgan City Manager Brent Nation told the media, “The city is extremely disappointed with the vote.” Cargill’s Senior Communications Manager Hli Yang told the media, “We are evaluating next steps and options.”

This is a time to step up solidarity with the locked-out workers and their union! Visit Fort Morgan and join their picket line. Contact Teamsters Local 455 at 423 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701; Fax 970-542-9596.

— MARY MARTIN

“We are a service,” Dave Cook, president of the APWU’s St. Paul local, told participants and passersby. “We are not designed to run as a business.”

Cook pointed to cutbacks in workers by the Postal Service that slow down delivery of mail, especially in rural areas, including to retirees on fixed income waiting on their pension checks, and to people who are ill waiting on mail prescriptions.

A postal service employee at the protest, who didn’t want his name to be used for fear of retaliation from supervisors, said more and more of their entry-level jobs are now part time, with little or no medical or other benefits. “In some cases new hires can be forced to work 16

hours straight with no breaks, especially if they are on probation, with no union protection. For this reason the turnover is high. You can’t blame them.”

— Edwin Fruit

Nurses win contract, safety gains at Hazelden Betty Ford clinic

CENTER CITY, Minn. — Members of the Minnesota Nurses Association secured their first contract at the Hazelden Betty Ford Rehab clinic here, after over a year of negotiations and a two-week strike that ended July 30.

“Great news! We have reached a contract and are ratifying it today!” Anne Coleman, a registered nurse at the clinic, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. “The contract isn’t perfect, but most of our terms were met because we decided to do this open-ended strike. The strike and people like you giving support helped put pressure on the employer.”

“Nurses at the Chisago County campus became the first anywhere across Hazelden’s Betty Ford system to win a union contract,” registered nurse Jody Burton said. “And one of the key gains — providing staff with panic buttons for safety — can be won by nurses and other caregivers nationwide.”

Safety emerged as a key issue. The union publicized the fact that county sheriff’s deputies responded to an average of nearly three calls each week where nurses at the Center City campus faced threatening situations over the last 19 months.

In addition to winning the panic button, the Minnesota Nurses Association said nurses won full recognition of the bargaining unit, including casual and on-call nurses, as well as protection of their health insurance benefits.

“I’m really proud of our team,” Coleman told me, adding the agreement sets a precedent for the other rehab locations around the country to win union recognition.

— Edwin Fruit

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

August 20, 2001

ALGIERS — The 15th World Festival of Youth and Students opened Aug. 8 here with some 6,000 delegates from over 100 countries around the world. At the opening ceremony delegates from each country marched into the stadium, many carrying flags and banners.

One of the largest delegations hails from Cuba with 750 participants, including 223 youth from 56 countries who are studying in Cuba. Among the participants was a U.S. delegation that carried signs reading, “U.S. Hands Off the Middle East,” “Free the Five Cuban Patriots in U.S. Prisons,” “U.S. Navy Out of Vieques,” and “Cancel the Third World Debt.”

The festival will end with a three-day anti-imperialist tribunal where delegates will make presentations about struggles against imperialism and present evidence of the brutality and crimes of the U.S., French, British and other imperialist powers.

THE MILITANT

August 27, 1976

The government is stepping up its enforcement of a new version of the Fugitive Slave Act — a law that punishes people for “harboring an illegal alien.” Two San Antonio Chicano activists have been charged with this crime.

Who are the “illegals”? The capitalists tell us “illegals” are dangerous. The source of all evils from unemployment to syphilis. But the undocumented workers are the victims — not the cause — of the ills of this society. They’re driven to this country by hunger, by the superexploitation of their homelands carried out by American corporations.

The capitalists treat them like cattle, letting them enter when unemployment is low, shipping them back when it is high. Since they’re “illegals,” these workers have no rights. They are exploited mercilessly. All working people have a stake in the fight to defend undocumented workers.

THE MILITANT

August 20, 1951

While President Harry Truman bemoans and tries to blame his Republican opponents, in particular Sen. Joseph McCarthy, for the spreading reign of terror in America, more repressions are being prepared in Congress to extend the witch-hunt deeper and deeper.

Sen. Patrick McCarran (Dem.) has introduced a bill, which, if passed, will spread the purge into every shop in the country. McCarran proposes to empower employers to fire “without liability” workers whose names appear on any Federal or state list of “subversives,” or who are charged with belonging to such groups.

Other open union-busting amendments will make it unlawful for any member of a communist or “front” group to hold office in a union. This widening of the attack on the labor unions and our democratic rights is still another warning to all sincere defenders of civil rights: Stop the witch-hunt now!

US rulers seek ‘Pax Americana’

Continued from front page
ing to put together a “Pax Americana” in the Middle East, like the U.S. rulers tried — but failed — to impose across the entire globe after they emerged from World War II as the dominant imperialist power. This would require regimes throughout the region to bend a knee to U.S. superiority.

The Trump administration is trying to deepen its relations with capitalist regimes in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq and Iran, all of which have their own rivalries. Washington wants stability and the acquiescence of these regimes to the U.S. rulers’ “right” to plunder the oil and gas resources of the region and exploit the labor power of working people there.

One U.S. goal: Push back Beijing

And they want to push back inroads by their main rival, Beijing. Chinese investment in the Middle East was growing faster than anywhere else in the world. Before the war, some 370,000 Chinese workers were based in the United Arab Emirates alone. Beijing has invested some \$270 billion in the region over the last 20 years, reports the American Enterprise Institute.

Washington says Tehran must renounce getting nuclear weapons. But in reality, U.S. negotiators have pushed only for Tehran to agree to dilute already enriched uranium and to two decades of restrictions on future enrichment.

Despite the blows it has taken, the Iranian regime still holds two ships — and their crews — that it hijacked on April 22 and continues to threaten maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

The U.S. military dominates the strait and the seas of the Arab-Persian Gulf. Some 75% of the sailors and ships that had been trapped by the 40-day war have been able to set sail. Though much less than before the war, dozens of vessels are passing through the strait every day, carrying an average of 4 million barrels of oil.

The reimposed U.S.-Navy blockade of Iranian ports, in contrast, has forced Iran’s maritime trade to grind to a halt. Like with the U.S. financial sanctions, it’s working people in Iran who pay the biggest price.

Rising prices, fuel and water shortages and widespread layoffs have forced many working people and layers of the middle class to sell some of their possessions, including home appliances, to get

enough money just to survive. This has also fed protests across the country by people fed up with Tehran’s wars.

Trump: ‘I call all the shots’

The Trump administration is also unable to impose its will on Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “won’t have any choice,” Trump said in June, referring to Washington’s demands that Israel back off from its attacks on Hezbollah — a key demand by Tehran — and Hamas. “I call all the shots. He doesn’t call the shots.”

But no matter what the U.S. government says, the Netanyahu government refuses to sit back while Tehran, Hamas and Hezbollah prepare new pogroms, like the massacre Hamas carried out on Oct. 7, 2023. Israel continues to strike Hamas operatives in Gaza and maintains control of a wide swath of southern Lebanon, preventing Hezbollah from establishing new bases from which to bomb Israel or overrun the border.

Israel is a tiny country, just 260 miles long and 10 miles wide at its narrowest point and 70 miles at its widest, with a population of just over 10 million, including some 7 million Jews, nearly half the world’s Jewish population, as well as some 2.1 million Arabs. Iran is 80 times larger than Israel in land area and has over 93 million people.

Israel is not looking to plunder Iran, it’s fighting to defend its existence as a refuge for Jews against the reactionary capitalist rulers in Tehran who have never stopped threatening to destroy Israel — they call it a “cancerous tumor” — and eliminating the Jews there.

Saudis, Turks compete

Washington’s use of its deadly firepower has dealt serious blows to Tehran. Despite the Iranian regime’s bluster that it has defeated U.S. imperialism, its military and economic power — and that



Above, Dubai Government Media Office
Above, Chinese businessmen meet with United Arab Emirates officials Sept. 12, 2024, in Dubai. Left, construction workers in the UAE this year, some of the more than 300,000 Chinese who work there. U.S. rulers aim to push Beijing and other competitors back to advance plunder of resources in the Mideast.

of its proxies — is severely reduced. Its rivals, especially the Turkish and Saudi rulers, see its weakness as an opportunity to bolster their fortunes and influence.

The Turkish regime, with the second-largest army in NATO and its own sophisticated military industry, hopes it can fill the vacuum by building on its ties with the new regime in Syria and extending its power into both Gaza and Lebanon. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has hosted Hamas leaders and has stridently attacked Israel for defending Jews from Hamas.

The Saudi government has sought to raise its profile by joining with Washington in carrying out military attacks on Tehran-created militias in Iraq.

With passage from its eastern ports through the Strait of Hormuz riskier because of the war, the Saudi regime began shipping more oil to the west on the Red Sea and through the Bab el-Mandeb

Strait. Now that route is threatened by the Tehran-backed Houthis in Yemen, which have been involved in on-and-off combat with the Saudis.

The Saudi government hosted representatives from 43 governments July 30 to discuss confronting Houthi attacks on shipping. They created a Multinational Maritime Defense Coalition with plans to base its military operations on Saudi soil.

Amid the shifting alliances propelled by the war and the disruption of traditional maritime routes, some capitalist companies are doing well from the volatile oil and gas prices.

U.S.-based Exxon Mobil and Chevron and Europe’s biggest oil companies, from Equinor of Norway to Shell, have all made record profits. Even Saudi Arabia’s Aramco, most directly affected by the war, reported a 33% increase in profit.

Meeting: 32 years since deadly Jewish Center bombing in Argentina

BY RACHELE FRUIT

MIAMI — July 18 marked the 32nd anniversary of the 1994 Tehran-backed Hezbollah bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that killed 85 people and wounded over 300. It was commemorated in Buenos Aires July 17 and in Miami July 27 at Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus in North Miami Beach.

Oswaldo Armoza, president of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA), as the Buenos Aires Jewish Community Center is known, was present at both events. He pointed to the fact that over three decades little has been done to bring those responsible to account. Iranian and Hezbollah officials have been charged, but no one has ever been convicted. Jewish leaders in Argentina hope that a new law there allowing trial in absentia will bring some measure of justice.

Under this law, Federal Judge Daniel Rafecas has now ordered a trial for the current chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Ahmad Vahidi, as well as nine others accused by the late Argentine prosecutor assigned to the case, Alberto Nisman. They are Ali Fallahijan, Ali Akbar Velayati, Mohsen Rezai, Hadi Soleimanpour, Mohsen Rabbani, Ahmad Reza Asghari, Salman Raouf Salman, Abdallah Salman and Hussein Mounir Mouzannar.

Argentine courts have classified the

bombing as a “crime against humanity,” based in part on Nisman’s findings. There is no statute of limitations there for such a heinous crime.

Nisman, who was Jewish, was murdered in his apartment in 2015 a day before he was to report his findings, including incriminating evidence that then President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner had been involved in efforts to cover up Iran’s involvement in the attack. Nisman’s killing remains unsolved.

Deadliest attack since Holocaust

The AMIA bombing was the deadliest single attack against Jews since the Holocaust, before Hamas’ 2023 pogrom in Israel. It was one of a series of Jew-hating terrorist attacks carried out by Hezbollah that included the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 and the bombing of a Panamanian airplane that killed 21 people in 1994. Twelve members of Panama’s Jewish community died in that attack, which took place one day after the AMIA bombing.

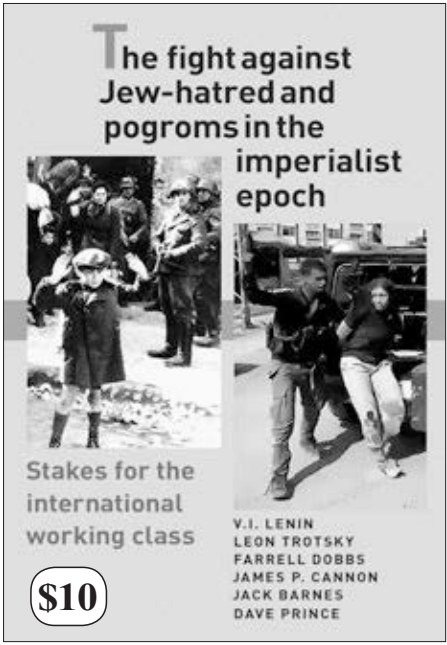
An explosive-laden truck was driven into the Israeli Embassy in March 1992 and set off, destroying not just the embassy but a neighboring Catholic Church and a school. The majority of those killed were children. Islamic Jihad, an affiliate of Hezbollah, took credit. Exactly this same method of attack was used in the bombing of the AMIA two years later.

Rabbi Mario Rojzman at Beth Torah moved to Miami from Argentina in 2003. He said that the bombing was an “attack on humanity, on decency, on civilization.” And that for all these years “the world ignored those responsible, and still does. We have to be honest about the world we live in.” The goal of Jew-hatred “remains exactly the same, to isolate Jews, to illegitimate Jewish existence, and to make Jew-hatred appear morally respectable.

“We arrived yesterday in Miami after spending weeks in Argentina. What I experienced there during the Mundial gave me a profound sense of *deja vu*. The same forces that for years have described Israel as a colonialist white supremacist racist state, part of a supposed axis of evil, transferred almost word for word that same vocabulary to Argentina during the World Cup,” Rojzman said. “Suddenly, the best soccer team in the world, and its famous player [Lionel Messi], became the white racist nation.”

The Argentine team’s soccer stars had been prominent in marking the 17th anniversary of the bombing in 2011. Messi, just named FIFA World Player of the Year, and Carlos Tevez, the Premier League’s leading scorer playing for Manchester City, posed for a photograph holding a sign saying, “The national team does not forget the 85 people killed in the AMIA bombing 17 years ago. Neither should you.”

Further reading



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‘We need to take political power’

Continued from front page

fronts the reactionary Iranian government and its proxies — Hamas, Hezbollah and its allies in Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere — that explicitly state their goal is to “kill Jews” and “wipe Israel off the map,” he said.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates used the forum to explain how the working class taking power out of the hands of the exploiters and war makers, through revolutionary struggle and building revolutionary workers parties, was the only realistic answer to counter imperialism’s drive toward fascism and war.

Assault on Cuban sovereignty

The U.S. rulers are also stepping up their attacks aimed at strangling the Cuban Revolution, Cotton said. This includes launching attacks on dozens of organizations and individuals in the U.S. who have spoken out against U.S. policy toward Cuba.

Washington has never forgiven the Cuban workers and peasants for making a revolution in 1959 and “mobilizing working people there to take back the patrimony of their country, driving out U.S. colonial domination,” Cotton said.

“It’s crucial that the labor movement and all defenders of constitutional freedoms take an unequivocal stand against attacks on any organization, whatever its political outlook, that speaks out in opposition to Washington’s offensive against Cuba.”

Cotton described how Cuban working people are using the creativity they learned from their revolution to respond to the crisis the U.S. blockade has imposed. “The Cubans are not victims,” he said. “They are combatants and they continue to resist.”

DSA’s contempt for working class

“There is no socialist content, no working-class content, represented by New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani and his fellow Democratic Party politicians in and around the Democratic Socialists of America,” Mailhot said. “These politicians view workers as victims, not fighters. Their program is to maintain capitalism, keep workers from breaking with the capitalist rulers’ parties, by advancing reforms and the vision of a ‘welfare state.’”

As examples, Mailhot pointed to a couple of Mamdani’s much-touted (and as yet unrealized) promises — five city-run discounted supermarkets to serve a city of more than 8.5 million people — and free bus rides.

These are schemes made up by people who are not connected to the real life struggles of working people, Mailhot said.

What workers need is a fight led by the unions for jobs, higher wages and better working conditions, as well as for

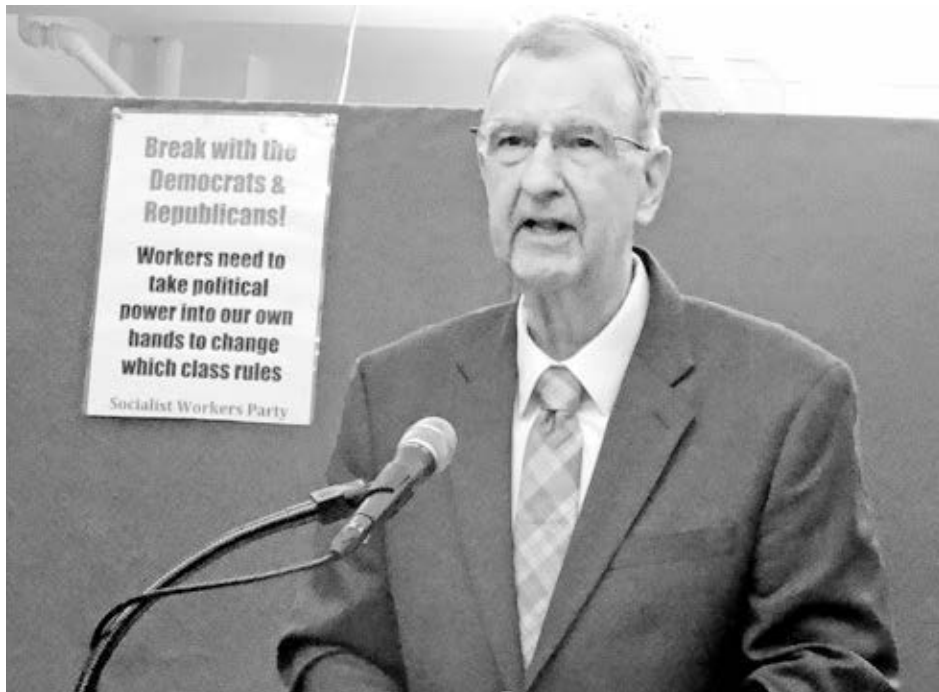
amnesty for workers from other countries who come to the U.S. without “correct” papers. This is the road to unite the working class and make us stronger to address higher prices, transportation costs, and other measures affecting our standard of living.

What we say and act on is the opposite of what DSA candidates put forward. They advance “ideas” that are just new forms of capitalist government welfare. They have nothing to do with mobilizing workers to come together in struggles to advance their class interests. Mailhot quoted from Frederick Engels: “Communism is not a doctrine, but a movement; it proceeds not from principles but from facts.”

Politicians who claim to be socialists, yet run as candidates of the Democratic Party, sow pessimism about what the working class is capable of, and confusion about why workers must act in our own interests. In contrast, Mailhot pointed to comments by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky.

“All methods are good which raise the class consciousness of the workers, their trust in their own forces, their readiness for self-sacrifice in the struggle,” Trotsky wrote. “The impermissible methods are those which implant fear and submissiveness in the oppressed before their oppressors, which crush the spirit of protest and indignation.”

“The capitalist class — the class that holds economic and political power in every country in the world save for Cuba — *always* acts in its own interests,” Mailhot said. “In the U.S. it has two parties — the Democrats, including its socialist wing, and Republicans — that it uses to defend those interests. This two-party system is designed to maintain the illusion that workers and others have a



Militant/Seth Galinsky

“Building the SWP is crucial to help construct the leadership the working class needs to move forward,” Paul Mailhot, SWP candidate for NY governor, said at Aug. 1 Militant Labor Forum.

choice in how society is governed.

“Working people need unions, but that is not enough. We need our own political party, armed with a program to serve the class interests of the men and women who toil for a living. The Socialist Workers Party is building that party,” he said.

Fight against Jew-hatred

Both Mailhot and Cotton stressed the importance of the fight against Jew-hatred today. Much of the discussion focused on this question.

One participant said she was surprised by what Cotton said about how a nuclear attack on Israel could wipe out nearly half the world’s Jews. “That would be a catastrophe for everyone,” she said. She added that her teenage daughter has been getting in trouble at school because of her defense of both Israel and Cuba.

“The Tehran-organized, Hamas Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom against Israel had been

in the works for years,” Cotton said. “They are determined to destroy Israel and the Jews. As the wars there show, it’s becoming clearer that Washington does not act in the interests of Israel and the Jews. The capitalist classes of the two countries have different interests. The U.S. rulers are for creating stability for their plunder and domination, while Israel fights to prevent a new Holocaust.”

Another speaker pointed out that to understand what is going on in the Middle East and why Israel’s right to exist must be defended, it’s crucial to understand the essential place of Jew-hatred in the arsenal the imperialists use to crush the working class when their brutal system is threatened by growing working-class combat. “That’s why it’s a life-and-death question for the workers,” she said.

It’s also why building the Socialist Workers Party is crucial for helping construct the leadership the working class needs to move forward.

Colorado workers appreciate ‘Militant,’ Pathfinder books

BY MARY MARTIN

FORT MORGAN, Colo. — Socialist Workers Party members and supporters and a member of the Communist League in Canada came here to bring solidarity to workers locked out by Cargill bosses and to prepare *Militant* coverage to tell the story of these meatpackers’ fight to workers everywhere. In addition to Teamsters at Cargill, the team brought copies of the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders to workers at the King Soopers’ industrial bakery in Denver and two JBS-owned meatpacking plants in Denver and Greeley.

After looking through the *Militant*, a maintenance department worker at the King Soopers bakery who declined to give his name said he wanted to follow the lockout of the Cargill workers and the paper’s other labor coverage. He signed up for a subscription and also gave a donation for the locked-out workers, asking us to deliver it to the Teamsters union hall in Fort Morgan, which we did.

After talking more with Joel Britton, he also picked up a copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke, who had led Cuba’s combatants aiding that struggle.

A Spanish-speaking woman and her son who were coming out of work at JBS in Greeley stopped in their tracks when she saw the *Militant* headline: “No war on Cuba!” After checking

with me to make sure the paper was in support of the Cuban Revolution she bought a copy. She said they were originally from Cuba and opposed the U.S. attacks on people there.

On the picket line in Fort Morgan, when Joe Young told a worker from Rwanda named Serge that he was the Communist League’s candidate for Quebec’s National Assembly, Serge wanted to know why someone from Montreal was in Colorado supporting them. After discussing the importance of the fight and the class struggle worldwide, he also bought a copy of the new book by Dreke, in French.

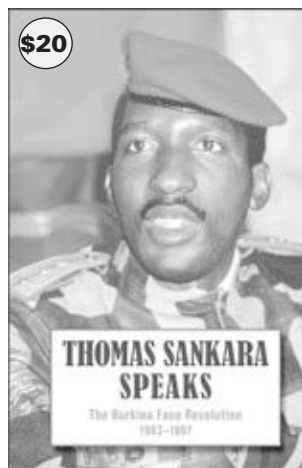
Pablo Castro, a 22-year-old locked-out electro mechanic in the Cargill plant, spoke with Britton at length about the *Militant*’s support for their fight against the lockout, its defense of Cuba and its revolution, and on the party’s stance that the fight against growing Jew-hatred today is in the interest of all workers. Castro signed up to get a *Militant* subscription and a copy of the Dreke book.

Some workers who are Haitian were waiting to get their weekly union lockout pay in a park across from the union hall July 17. As soon as some workers heard team member Jean Luc Duval from Detroit speaking in Creole, they put down their phones and engaged in a wide-ranging discussion on the need for the labor movement to wage a fight to win amnesty for all undocumented workers.

They too were interested in the Cuban Revolution and opposed the U.S. rulers’ war on Iran. Some bought books we showed them; and some asked if we will come back again so they could continue to discuss these questions more deeply. “We hope to come again,” Duval said.

Judy Burgess, a restaurant worker we have come to know from our trips to Greeley, greeted us with, “I knew you’d be back because of the Fort Morgan lockout. What’s the latest there?” She renewed her *Militant* subscription and suggested ways we can reach other workers in the region.

All in all, over the four days we were in Colorado, five more workers signed up for introductory subscriptions. Eleven bought books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, including Dreke and Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso.



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—**MILITANT
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TEXAS
Fort Worth
Union Fight Is Crucial to Win Amnesty for Immigrants! Justice for Lorenzo Salgado! Speaker: Gerardo Sánchez Corona, Socialist Workers Party and member BCTGM Local 111. Sat., Aug. 15, 5:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 201C. Tel.: (817) 899-6720.

Deepening crisis in rail safety

Continued from front page

The bosses' drive for profits is the reason for rail deaths like this today.

No worker should die on the job! All work on the railroad *can* be performed safely. The working class and our unions are the only force with the power to enforce safety on the job and in all aspects of production and transport.

As usual, the rail bosses cried crocodile tears for Shoemaker, claiming safety "is priority number one at Norfolk Southern." In reality, railroad workers are viewed by bosses and their company stockholders as easily replaceable pieces of equipment.

CSX rail officials mouthed the same platitudes after a conductor suffered a shattered pelvis May 24 after getting struck by a moving train car in the Selkirk Yard near Albany, New York. The SMART-TD Local 212 conductors union correctly put the blame squarely on the company. It told the *Albany Times Union* that CSX is rushing workers through safety training and qualifying them to work in both rail yards and on the road before they are experienced enough to be able to work safely.

"The conductor involved in the incident had recently transferred from Collinwood Yard in Cleveland raising serious questions about whether 10 days is enough time to qualify on a facility reportedly covering 1,250 acres," the union said in a statement posted on the SMART-Transportation Division website.

The union also made public a scathing letter SMART-TD New York State Legislative and Safety Director Luke Deleskiewicz sent to CSX management. Rail workers "have repeatedly raised concerns about understaffing, fatigue, inadequate time to perform work safely, pressure to move equipment before issues are properly addressed, *and the erosion of experience in the field due to cuts, consolidations and forced changes.*"

Technology used to cut jobs

Railroad workers support the use of improved technology to make working conditions safer, but the profit-hungry rail bosses, pushed by investors on Wall

Street, are using technology to abolish jobs, even though it endangers the safety of workers and the people who live and work near rail tracks.

Two examples are the deadly July 6, 2013, disaster that struck Lac-Mégantic in Quebec and the derailment and massive toxic fire in East Palestine, Ohio, in February 2023. In Lac-Mégantic, the engine on a safely parked train caught fire, which was put out by local firefighters who were called along with a company official. But they also turned the power off on the engine, which bled out its brakes, letting the train carrying 72 cars filled with oil roll downhill into the town, where it derailed, exploded and started a massive fire that destroyed most of downtown, killing 47 people.

The derailment in East Palestine put 50 cars on the ground, including 14 carrying toxic vinyl chloride as well as others carrying dangerous chemicals. A massive fire broke out, and rail bosses pushed for a burn off that spewed a giant cloud of toxic carcinogens into the air, which fell all around the area. The fight over healthcare for residents there is still going on.

A recent narrow escape was brought to light by members of the American Train Dispatchers Association. They called on the Federal Railroad Administration to investigate what the union calls a "serious software failure" in the BNSF Railway's dispatching system.



Reuters/Mathieu Belanger

Devastated town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, July 8, 2013, two days after runaway train derailed, exploded, killing 47 people. Bosses' profit drive is cause of deadly "accidents" on the rails today.

On June 16 automated computer programs involved in routing trains near Connell, Washington, "failed, allowing a train to enter track that was already occupied by a railway worker," the dispatchers association stated. By luck, an alert dispatcher saw the software error and alerted the crew to stop the 146-car train, nearly 2 miles long and some 6,500 tons, which included 20 or more cars of hazardous materials.

Today all of BNSF's train dispatching over nearly 33,000 miles of track in 28 states and three Canadian provinces is organized through just one Network Operations Center in Fort Worth, Texas. At any given time there are 100 to 150 dispatchers there working to man-

age 1,400 trains and 205,000 rail cars.

This is a dangerous change from when I worked on the Burlington Northern, when dispatchers on each division worked in a local depot in their area. They learned the lay of the land first hand, including the trackage ascents, descents, curves, signal systems, sidings, yards and more.

What is needed is a union-led fight for workers control of production — crucial to enforce safer conditions — that will inevitably come into direct conflict with the capitalist bosses' profit drive. To control our working conditions, the working class must organize in our millions to take the political power out of the hands of the boss class.

Workers go deeper into debt to cover the cost of food

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Sky-high grocery prices, on top of the cost of gas and other necessities, are driving more working-class households into debt. To cover these expenses, increasing numbers are using their credit cards to pay for food.

Last year over 34% of working-age adults put groceries on their credit card, the Urban Institute reported. Nearly 10% used buy-now, pay-later schemes, where if your payment is past due, or if you miss it, you get hit with late fees and interest rates that could soar over 30%.

In 2025 nearly 20% of working-age adults had to draw on the savings account they had sacrificed to set aside, in order to purchase the week's groceries. Another 5.2% took out payday loans from their bosses, the terms of which include having the loan repaid out of their next paycheck, along with a fee for this service, like \$15 for every \$100 borrowed. All too often workers have to get another loan just to pay off the first one.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, household spending on food items for the home averaged \$6,224 in 2024 — that's \$520 a month. Of course, if you've got kids it's a lot more. And it's a far bigger percentage of your bills if you're stuck with low wages. And whatever portion of this you put on a credit card, it carries an annual interest rate of at least 22% on any unpaid balances, a boon for the big banks.

In fact, if households pay only the required minimum monthly amount, it would take nearly 20 years to wipe out a \$3,000 debt and cost another \$5,000 in interest. So millions of working-class households end up paying hundreds or thousands of dollars in interest for meals they ate months or years ago!

The capitalists try to blame higher prices on President Donald Trump, the tie-up in the Strait of Hormuz, or whatever. But as prices get jacked up, they're boosting their profits on top of it. As big-oil barons cry crocodile tears over their troubles, the fact is ExxonMobil and Chevron reported second-quarter earnings of a combined \$26.5 billion.

Luxury housing boom — for cars!

For the capitalist class and their upper-middle-class hangers-on, high prices have little bearing on the exotic, luxury items into which they plow their money. This increasing class differentiation is intrinsic to the exploitative workings of their system.

"Ferrari has hit this year's sales target for its first electric vehicle model," reported the *Financial Times* July 29, about 500 of its Luce model so far, each priced from \$635,000. The company gears these cars to "reach a new generation of wealthy buyers — particularly in China and technology hubs such as Silicon Valley." And the company is doing quite well, reporting a net revenue of \$2.2 billion for the second quarter.

"These Cars Need Their Own Luxury Condo," headlined a July 24 *New York Times* article about a new booming business nationwide building condominiums for cars, part garage and part entertainment club. In fact, "the U.S. luxury and exotic car market is expected to nearly double to up to \$215 billion from \$110 billion in the next decade," the paper noted.

Jon Summer, who owns

Garaza Design in Scottsdale, Arizona, told the *Times* his clients spend \$400,000 to \$1 million to customize their parking spaces. Jack Griffin, a former race car driver, owns a double-size condominium in Carrollton, Texas, which includes a full stocked bar and giant TV screens. He doesn't live there, but 11 of his 12 Porsches do.

While prices continue to rise — it's way above the Federal Reserve Board's target of a 2% annual increase — government officials are now "readjusting" the way they calculate inflation to produce lower price increases. The rejiggering is focused around the Federal Reserve's preferred core personal consumption expenditures inflation index, which excludes "volatile" food and energy increases.

A similar "cooking the books" to make inflation disappear was also engineered by the Bill Clinton administration in 1997. It substantially "reduced" official price figures by as much as half of what they had been the month before. This didn't help working people functioning in the real world one bit.

March for independence for Puerto Rico

Sunday, August 16

The Bronx, New York

1 p.m.- 3 p.m.

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Robert F. Williams: Fight against Jim Crow, back Cuba's revolution

Continued from front page

late 1950s and early '60s came at a pivotal moment, as growing numbers of African Americans were joining fights to end segregation across the South. They were met by brutal assaults by the Klan and the abject refusal of cops and federal authorities to offer any protection or defend their constitutional rights.

In addition to becoming a militant leader in the fight for Black rights, Williams spoke across the country in defense of Cuba's socialist revolution, was a supporter of the labor movement and worked with Malcolm X, the Socialist Workers Party and others.

Williams, an ex-marine and former union fighter, became president of the Monroe chapter of the NAACP in the mid-1950s when he and Albert Perry were its only members. Williams rebuilt the organization, recruiting working people at pool halls, street corners and among tenant farmers and domestic workers.

"Most important, we had a strong representation of returned veterans who were very militant and didn't scare easily," Williams later wrote. They also got a charter to establish a branch of the National Rifle Association, "which encourages veterans to keep in shape."

First victory over Jim Crow

The Monroe NAACP's first victory was when Williams led its members to walk into the whites-only public library, choose some books and convince the librarian, who was unsure what to do, to let them check them out. Buoyed by that success, Williams led a yearslong fight for Blacks to use the city's swimming pool.

The Klan retaliated, organizing rallies of thousands in a town of some 11,000. It began motorcades of hooded riders through the Black community, firing pistols. When the Klan discovered NAACP members were also armed, it promised to kill Perry.

Williams organized a defense guard by Perry's house. After seeing off a Klan caravan, the guard fortified the house with sandbags and fox holes. A second Klan attempt on Perry's house was met with gunfire. After that "the Klan didn't have any more stomach for this type of fight," Williams wrote, and its threats on Perry and its night-riding terror halted for a time.

Williams launched the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice in 1958 to win support for two framed-up Monroe Black boys, aged 7 and 9. They had been thrown into a reformatory after one of them was kissed by a 7-year old white girl. Williams went on a nationwide speaking tour on what was call the "kissing case," refuting the frame-up charges. The committee's fight drew worldwide attention and broad support, eventually winning the boys release on Feb. 13, 1959. SWP members in New York and elsewhere played an important part in the campaign.

Williams became increasingly well-known across the country as an uncompromising defender of Black freedom. He met Malcolm X, who invited him to appear at the Nation of Islam temple in Harlem a number



Robert F. Williams, at head of table, representing the Fair Play for Cuba Committee during 1960 visit to Cuba. Williams mobilized Blacks in Monroe, North Carolina, to defend themselves from brutal Ku Klux Klan assaults as they fought to desegregate city, overturn Jim Crow.

of times. Malcolm helped raise funds for the fights Williams led.

Monroe sit-ins faced 'less violence'

In 1960 members of the Monroe NAACP joined in the spreading sit-in movement to desegregate lunch counters and department stores along with students all across the South. The Monroe sit-ins faced "less violence," Williams noted, "because we had shown the willingness and readiness to fight and to defend ourselves."

Williams launched *The Crusader*, a newsletter that condemned racial segregation along with the Democratic and Republican parties that upheld it. From late 1959, *The Crusader* described gains by Blacks in Cuba won as a result of the socialist revolution. Williams visited Cuba to learn more.

In 1961 the United Nations debated the failed attempt at an invasion of Cuba by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries in April of that year. Cuban Foreign Minister Raúl Roa read aloud to the General Assembly an ironic telegram Williams had sent to him. Williams demanded the U.S. government provide the same military support to the fight to overthrow Jim Crow that it had unleashed against Cuba. "Oppressed Negroes in South urgently request tanks, artillery," Williams wrote, "to crush the racist tyrants who have betrayed the American Revolution and Civil War."

In the summer of 1961 white supremacists made their first of several at-

tempts to kill Williams. His home was reinforced and guarded.

In August a group of young Freedom Riders, who had been arrested were released from the notorious Parchman Prison in Mississippi, volunteered to go to Monroe and helped establish the Nonviolent Action Committee. They marched downtown for desegregation of the stores there and picketed the courthouse to demand the cops arrest the Klansman who had tried to kill Williams.

Though the Klan feared Williams and his leadership among Blacks, they were also aware that the leadership of the more established civil rights groups, including the NAACP and Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, turned their backs on the fights Williams led.

Over several days a pro-segregationist mob carried out bloody assaults on the pickets and then began driving through the Black neighborhood again, shooting at bystanders and leaders' homes. Rather than arrest the thugs, cops jailed some 26 pickets for "incitement to riot."

Williams mobilized the Black community, ordering the construction of barricades and issuing rifles. In the ensuing conflict he was framed up on kidnapping charges. He evaded

both the racist cops and an FBI manhunt, making his way, along with his lifelong wife and political collaborator Mabel, to exile in Cuba.

Later he moved to China, returning to the U.S. in 1969. By 1976 all charges against him were dropped.

Far-reaching impact

The battles he led had a far-reaching impact. Rosa Parks, who had been one of the leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1956, had known Williams both in Monroe and, much later, when they both lived in Detroit. She had come to sympathize more with his political outlook than that of Martin Luther King.

"I admired him so very much for his courage and for his commitment to freedom," Parks said when she was invited to deliver the eulogy to Williams at his funeral in Monroe. "What he did should go down in history and never be forgotten."

In his tribute to Williams, SWP leader Barnes recalled hearing him speak at Carleton College in Minnesota in 1961. He was on tour with Ed Shaw, a leader of the SWP, for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Shaw and Williams had stayed in touch since they worked together at an aircraft plant in Woodbridge, New Jersey, in the early 1950s.

"The meeting had an enormous political impact on all of us," Barnes wrote. "Each of the speakers appeared equally comfortable in fielding questions about either the socialist revolution unfolding in Cuba or the battles for Black rights underway in this country, or both."

Working people need to "relearn this history, so we can emulate these examples," Barnes wrote. That remains true today.



Rosa Parks, center, arrives to give eulogy at Robert F. Williams funeral Oct. 22, 1996, in Monroe, North Carolina.

On anniversary of Hiroshima, Nagasaki — No to US war drive!

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

The U.S. ruling class ordered the dropping of newly developed atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan 81 years ago this month, incinerating over 200,000 men, women and children. Today, as Washington and other imperialist powers worldwide race to rearm for a world war once again, that horror is a grim reminder of what the capitalist class is capable of doing to protect their profits and markets.

On Aug. 6, 1945, a U.S. plane dropped "Little Boy," a uranium-based atomic bomb with the explosive yield of 15,000 tons of TNT, on Hiroshima, killing 140,000 people and razing 70% of the town's buildings. Three days later, "Fat Man," a slightly larger plutonium bomb, was dropped on Nagasaki, kill-

ing 74,000. At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Japan, the names of the 344,306 people who died in the bombings or from radiation poisoning and cancers afterward, are recorded.

Close to 85 million workers' lives were sacrificed during World War II as the ruling classes of rival imperialist powers fought to come out on top in their war to redivide the earth.

"There Is No Peace!" was the banner headline of the Aug. 18, 1945, *Militant* at the war's end. "War is the end result of the ceaseless capitalist hunt for profits, markets, colonies, spheres of influence," a Socialist Workers Party National Committee statement explained. "It is a lie that war can be prevented by treaties and agreements among the imperialist bandits."

As the crisis of capitalism deepens, conflicts between the competing ruling classes — intensified by the U.S. rulers' war against Iran — is driving a massive arms race.

Taking the lead, by far, is Washington. Already spending more on military expenditures than the next six biggest governments combined, the U.S. administration is weighing a \$1.5 trillion defense budget for 2027. The U.S. rulers increasingly act on the view that natural resources, entire industries, exploitable labor, strategic locations, and whole countries are theirs to take.

Beijing, with expansionist ambitions of its own, has increased its military spending 31 years in a row. It has the world's second-largest defense

Continued on page 9

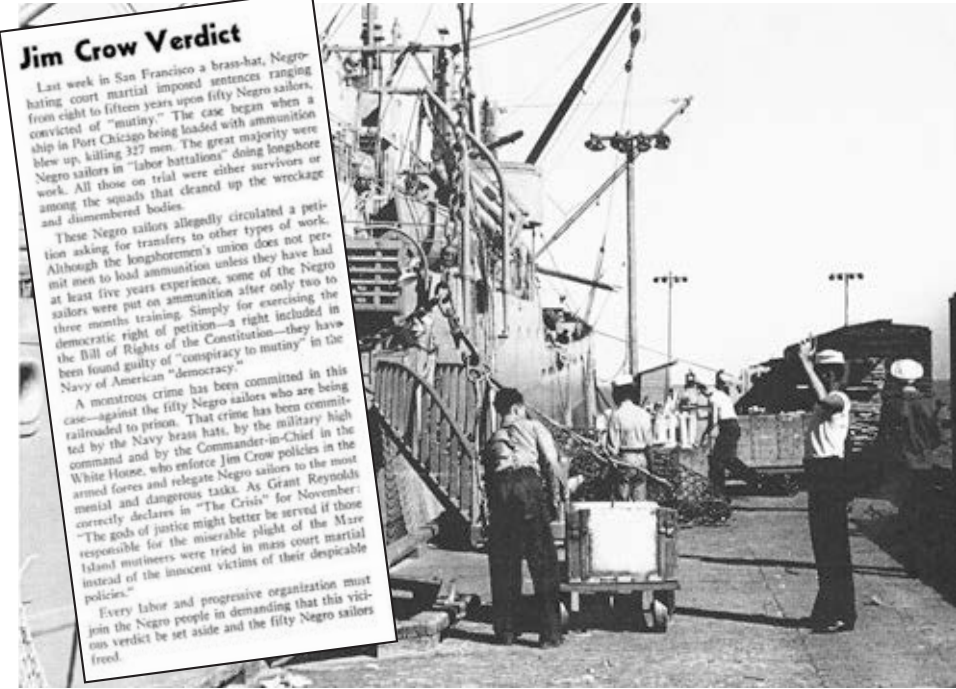
Black GIs in World War II had to fight Jim Crow segregation

Fighting Racism in World War II: From the pages of the *Militant* is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for August. It's a week-by-week account from 1939 to 1945 of the efforts to advance the fight against Jim Crow segregation in the face of patriotic appeals to postpone resistance to lynch-mob terror and racist discrimination until after the U.S. rulers could emerge victorious in the second imperialist world war. The selection is taken from "Why Negroes should oppose the war," published in 10 installments from Sept. 6 to Oct. 3, 1939. Run under C.L.R. James' pen name, J.R. Johnson, it appeared in Socialist Appeal, then the Socialist Workers Party's newspaper. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY C.L.R. JAMES

Some people, however, Negro leaders included, state that there is a possibility of Negroes gaining their rights and participating freely in American life, if they show that they are willing to die for "democracy." Let us test this by the last war. They said then that the war was being fought for "democracy," was being fought to make the world a better place than it had been before. Also, and this is what is important, many Negro leaders



Loading ammunition at Port Chicago, California, in World War II. In October 1944, 50 Black enlisted men were court-martialed for "mutiny" for refusing to return to jobs after explosion on a ship killed 320, mostly soldiers. Inset, Dec. 2, 1944, *Militant* editorial denounces verdict.

told the Negroes to support the war wholeheartedly. By showing themselves good citizens, they would win the sympathy of the whites and gain all the things of which they had been deprived. That is what was said. But how did the rulers of their country actually treat the Negro soldiers? ...

The war was a war for "democracy," but the Negroes were segregated. There was not a single regiment consisting of white and Negro soldiers mixed. American "democracy" did not want to have even American colored officers, and it took a hard fight to have a few hundred. When they did agree, they trained Negroes as officers in a special Negro camp. And these men were informed by the State Department that when they visited the South, they should not wear their uniforms. "Democracy" was sending the Negro to fight for "democracy," but could not bear the sight of him in the officer's uniform of "democracy."

The old lynch spirit continued. The Negroes were beaten up near the camps, they were stoned and jeered as they marched along the streets. When they were on leave and attempted to enter cafes and restaurants frequented by white people, they were driven out in many places.

When they went to France, the discrimination continued. American "democracy" forced most of the

black soldiers to be common laborers. Of the 200,000 Negroes who went to France, some 160,000 were used as servants and in labor battalions. Even when fighting for "democracy," the Negro was kept in his place. Negroes were made to build roads, wash clothes, cook food, clean up camps and trenches, and clean latrines, though they had enlisted as soldiers of the line.

Far from practicing any sort of democracy to Negroes, the American commanders did their best to make the French maltreat the Negroes. The French people are not as prejudiced as one would expect from their treatment of natives in Africa, and great numbers of French people in France do not make any differentiation at all between Negroes and whites. But when the American officers saw this and the friendly way in which Negro soldiers were being welcomed both by French men and women, they issued a military order, Order No. 40, instructing Negroes not even to speak to French women. For this offense against "democracy," many Negroes were arrested, though the French people, men and women, had made no complaint.

The American officers, in this war for "democracy," wrote a special document to the French commanding staff, telling them that Negroes were

a low and degenerate race, that they could not be trusted in the company of white people, that although some Negroes were officers, the French officers should have nothing to do with them, except in matters relating strictly to fighting. The French, said this American order, should not eat with Negroes, nor even shake hands, and above all, they wanted the French to use their influence to keep the white women who worked in or near the camp from forming any associations with Negroes.

This was the way in which the American ruling class fought side by side with Negroes in the great war for "democracy."

The Negroes, believing that by fighting bravely and showing that they were men as good as any other, they would gain freedom from their oppression, performed feats of distinguished bravery. Of all the American soldiers in France a Negro was the first to win the croix de guerre (war cross), and one Negro regiment, the Eighth Illinois, received more decorations than any other regiment in France. Another American Negro regiment stayed a longer spell in the trenches than any other regiment in the Allied forces. No one after that could say that Negroes were inferior. They had stood the stern test of modern war and came out with a great record.

What happened to the Negroes, after this fine showing, should be branded on the forehead of any so-called Negro leader who tries to thrust them again into war. For as soon as the war was over, there was such a desperate series of race riots in America as had not been seen for many years. In Washington, in Chicago, white mobs, inspired and encouraged by American employers and American capitalist police, shot down Negroes, many of whom had lost relations in the great war for "democracy." The southern whites were so anxious to put the Negro back in his place that they lynched Negroes who dared to wear the uniform of a private. The great war for "democracy" and the bravery and the sacrifices for "democracy" of the Negro people ended with thousands of them having to fight desperately not for "democracy," but for their lives in "democratic" America.

August

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US hands off Cuba! End war threats

Continued from front page

get out the truth about Cuba and answer Washington's lies about the real cause of the devastating conditions there today.

The U.S. rulers continue to ratchet up their punishing sanctions and have imposed an oil blockade to deprive the Cuban people of electricity, essential goods and cripple production.

At the same time, the capitalist rulers are stepping up their attacks at home on workers' jobs, wages and conditions to boost profits and provide funds to expand their military. They're driving to deal blows to their rivals abroad to reinforce their weakened domination, an effort that will inevitably lead to new, devastating wars worldwide. Crucial to advancing both of these goals is crushing the one example that shows there is an alternative to capitalist exploitation and oppression. The Cuban Revolution shows that with leadership workers anywhere can take power into our own hands.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio repeated Washington's slanders Aug. 1 that Cuba is a "failed state" and "a national security threat to our country." Days earlier the State Department issued a scurrilous report, "Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism," that fingers organizations and individuals as "subversive" and "foreign agents" because they speak out in defense of Cuba's sovereignty.

The government has subpoenaed three organizations — The People's Forum, BreakThrough News and Tricontinental: Institute of Social Research — that have spoken out in defense of Cuba. It's also grilling volunteers who deliver aid to Cuba. This attempt to force testimony from opponents of U.S. foreign policy is an assault on constitutional protections of free speech and political

association. All working people have a stake in defending these freedoms. The subpoenas should be immediately quashed.



The Cuban people refuse to bow to Washington's dictates and to surrender their country's sovereignty. They refuse to go back to the days when they lived in impoverished conditions, faced bloody repression and had no control over their destinies — under the domination of U.S. imperialism and its local henchman, dictator Fulgencio Batista.

In the face of the crisis imposed by Washington today, workers and farmers in Cuba are looking out for one another and fighting to ensure the most vulnerable get seen to first. They're using ingenuity and collaboration to counter the impact of the U.S.-driven shortages.

Their efforts are a product of how the Cuban people were transformed in their historic battle to take power and uproot capitalist exploitation. They mobilized to eradicate illiteracy and racial discrimination, drew women into social action, nationalized the banks, big business and the land, and took control of their own destiny. Working-class solidarity flourished.

In the decades that followed, hundreds of thousands of Cubans joined anti-imperialist struggles, from Vietnam to Africa; in Guinea-Bissau, bringing down Portuguese colonialism; in Angola, defeating the invading South African apartheid army; and much more.

Their fighting qualities and internationalism give toiling humanity a powerful glimpse of our future.

Join the defense of the world's one living socialist revolution! U.S. hands off Cuba! Drop attacks on supporters of Cuba!

On anniversary of Hiroshima — No to US war drive!

Continued from page 7

budget, spending \$336 billion in 2025.

Across Europe, military spending jumped sharply after Moscow's attack on Ukraine and Washington's assault on Iran. The German rulers' war spending has reached a 36-year high, with plans to spend \$228 billion by 2030, along with measures to spur voluntary enlistment. If that fails, conscription will be next, Berlin says.

As during the buildup to the second imperialist world war, Jew-hatred and violence are once again being openly embraced as banners of both the right and left of bourgeois politics in the U.S. and worldwide. Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom, backed by the rulers in Iran, announced they would act on their openly stated goal of carrying out another Holocaust.

Growing threat of nuclear war

If political power is left in the hands of the capitalist rulers, they will utilize scientific advances — not for humanity's benefit, but to increasingly threaten its very existence in a nuclear war. Washington and Moscow each have over 5,000 nuclear warheads, some

85% of the world's total. The rulers in China, U.K., France and India are among those with nuclear weapons and access to intercontinental ballistic missiles that are capable of reaching any city in the world.

The only way working people can stop this carnage is to break with the political parties of the capitalist war makers and organize to take power from them, in the U.S. and in a growing number of countries around the world.

The fight to advance that road forward lies in winning working people to oppose the war Washington is waging against Iran today and to demand U.S. troops, bases and warships out of the Middle East.

And to building more and larger street protests against the U.S. rulers' tightening economic squeeze on the Cuban people and threats of military intervention. Getting out the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution is central to winning more working people to demand: U.S. hands off Cuba!

This is the course the Socialist Workers Party acts on today. Join us in building the proletarian party needed to organize millions of workers to take power from the capitalist war makers — the only road to peace.

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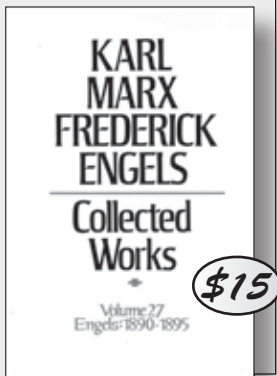
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Ohio: Protest end of TPS

Continued from front page

Removal Operations in this field office. Blue Ash is a suburb of Cincinnati.

An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Haitians live in Springfield — close to a quarter of the population. They work in local factories and warehouses, medical facilities, the school system and as small business owners. Those without another status — like asylum or permanent residency — are now subject to deportation as the government has ended TPS for Haitians. Many have already lost their jobs and driver's licenses.

Haitians first won TPS in 2010 after a massive earthquake killed over 300,000 people and destroyed much of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The last 16 years have been marked by additional earthquakes, destructive 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 maintained the highest possible "Do Not Travel" advisory for Haiti.

Protesters clapped and cheered to show solidarity as Haitian immigrants entered and exited the DHS facility. "We need to be visible, and we have to let people know that we're not OK with what's happening to our communities and our Haitian brothers and sisters," Samantha Searles, a program director for Ignite Peace, one of the organizations that sponsored the protest, told the *Militant*. "We are here to have a peaceful presence in solidarity."

Sony Prenice, a Haitian from Springfield and one of those responding to the government letter, told reporters she was given two choices — either report to the office and be issued an ankle monitor or decide to "self-deport," receiving free travel and a \$2,600 "exit bonus." Prenice chose the ankle monitor, which restricts her to a 75-mile radius around her home. To go farther, she has to call ICE and get permission.

Viles Dorsainvil, executive director of the Haitian Community Help and Support Center in Springfield and himself a TPS holder, told the press the ankle monitors were reminiscent of chains and slavery. "They don't want us to be here and now they try to put us in chains as if we did something wrong," he said.

Referring to the fact U.S. forces occupied Haiti until 1934, he said, "The American people have to know that if we are here, it is because the foreign policies of the U.S. and other big countries have failed our country and make it a hell for us. If you put my house on fire, you would have to expect that I would come to your yard."

Protester Mary Zander, a medical writer, told the *Militant*, "I came today because I want to make sure the Haitian people who came here under Temporary Protective Status know that regardless of what the government says there's plenty of people in this country that back them."

Jackie Brolhorst, a member of the Immigrant Dignity Coalition, agreed. "The government is treating immigrants as scapegoats. They are blaming all the problems on them," she said. "As long as they give us someone else to hate they hope we won't focus on them." Another protest has been called for Aug. 9, at 7 a.m., at the same ICE facility here in Blue Ash.

Ned Measel, long-time SWP member, dies Aug. 4 in Cincinnati



CINCINNATI — Ned Measel, a member of the Cincinnati branch and a long-time member of the Socialist Workers Party, died here Aug. 4, after a nearly yearlong battle with cancer and related complications.

Measel joined the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party in 1979. In his close to 50 years building the communist movement, he helped lead the political work of numerous party branches across the country. A celebration of his life, political work and the party he helped build will be forthcoming.

— JOHN HAWKINS