

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
SWP conference: Building a working-class party on Marxist foundations
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 90/NO. 30 AUGUST 24, 2026

Ukraine battles Moscow's war, Putin targets an entire people

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The contrast between Ukraine's drive to defend its national sovereignty and the brutal methods used by Moscow in its invasion aimed at conquering Ukraine, could not be starker. Moscow is escalating its missile attacks targeting civilians in Ukrainian cities while Kyiv's airstrikes target Moscow's military forces and infrastructure deep inside Russia and occupied Crimea.

Unable to overcome Ukrainian resistance on the front line, Moscow launched a record number of missiles at Ukrainian cities in July. Residential buildings have been targeted and more than half of the country's electrical generating capacity destroyed, damaged or occupied.

Because of the different kinds of war being waged, of the more than 16,000 civilians killed to date, the vast majority are Ukrainian. But the slaughter has failed to force Ukrainian working people into submission.

Moscow's drone operators are trying to spread fear in Ukrainian cities

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Media hysteria over 2026 DSA votes discounts class relations

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Both the middle-class left and liberal press have pointed to the narrow victory won by Abdul El-Sayed in the Aug. 4 Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in Michigan as part of a surprising socialist swing in U.S. politics. For their own reasons — smelling a greater chance for their own candidates in the coming general elections — Republican spokespeople are also speaking overtime about these results.

But the fact is the primary victory of El-Sayed and other electoral gains by similar Democratic Party candidates point to the weakness of these forces and the widespread distaste for their politics in the working class.

El-Sayed, who now says he's not a socialist, proudly enjoyed the backing of the socialist wing of the Democratic Party. He and like-minded political figures, from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — who is preparing for a 2028 presidential run — to New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, combine some self-professed "sewer socialist" reforms with a heavy dose of opposi-

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Solidarity and contributions grow for locked-out Indiana oil workers



Motorcyclists, others gather for "Poker Run," outside Steelworkers Local 6787 hall in Chesterton, Indiana, a benefit for locked-out BP refinery workers and the USW Local 7-1 strike fund Aug. 8.

BY ILONA GERSH

CHESTERTON, Ind. — One hundred ninety-six motorcycles and their riders lined up outside United Steelworkers Local 6787's hall here at the start of the Poker Run to benefit locked-out BP refinery workers and their USW Local 7-1 Strike and Defense Fund Aug. 8.

At a short meeting minutes before

the run started, USW Local 7-1 President Eric Schultz spoke about the support they've received. "Thank you for all your financial support and food donations, and for your solidarity on the picket line," he said. "Most of all, it has been an inspiration." Then there was a roar as the bike run began.

The Poker Run was sponsored by the

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Socialist Workers Party National Committee: Quash government subpoenas, Defend constitutional liberties! US rulers target backers of Cuban Revolution



Militant/Mary Martin

Cuba contingent in St. Paul July 4 parade, part of national protests. U.S. rulers are targeting Cuba, its defenders in the U.S. and crucial rights guaranteed in Constitution that workers need.

The following statement was released Aug. 9 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the party's National Committee.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people, the labor movement, and all supporters of constitutional liberties to mount a defense of The People's Forum, BreakThrough

News and Tricontinental: Institute of Social Research.

These three organizations have been hit with federal government subpoenas ordering them to turn over financial records and disclose the identity of contributors. This is a dangerous attack on constitutional protections *guaranteed to all* — an assault on our freedom of speech, freedom

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1963 'Battle of Birmingham' makes fight against Jim Crow a nat'l issue

BY TERRY EVANS

The Battle of Birmingham in the spring of 1963 was the biggest and broadest action yet against decades of segregation enforced by racist violence. Millions across the country saw fearless fighters against Jim Crow —

including thousands of youth — stand up to brutal repression on TV screens and the front page of daily papers.

The battle that unfolded in Birmingham, Alabama, aroused working people everywhere. It inspired other protests that dealt blows to the ability of the Republicans and Democrats — the dominant party in the segregated South — to uphold racial segregation.

Within weeks of the fight in Birmingham, some 150,000 marched for

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As Washington steps up economic war on Iran, Tehran attacks its working people

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump's administration has backed away from threats of new and larger airstrikes on Iran — for the moment — while intensifying its suffocating economic warfare, including a naval blockade of Iranian ports. It's working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran who face the biggest blows from Washington's

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 300 Quebec steelworkers strike ArcelorMittal for wage increases

Jew-hatred, violent attacks on Jews increase across Canada

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Noam, a kosher restaurant here, was burned to the ground Aug. 1, one of a growing number of attacks on Jews in Canada. Luckily, no one was in the building at the time. Police are treating the act as arson, but refuse to call it an act of Jew-hatred.

Other examples in just the last month are a violent assault on Hasidic Jews as they left their synagogue; soccer fans chanting “Death to Israel” and throwing things at Dor Turgeman, an Israeli player on the New England Revolution team, after he scored a goal in a match at Montreal’s Saputo Stadium; and a woman launching a Jew-hating tirade at a Jewish family relaxing in Lafontaine Park, screaming “Jews aren’t allowed here.”

The Hasidic men who were attacked July 3 were on their way home after synagogue services. Security video shows two men confronting Jewish residents of the neighborhood, shouting antisemitic abuse, throwing objects and spitting at them. They yanked shtreimels, a traditional fur hat worn by some Hasidic men, off their heads and made off with them.

“This type of harassment and intimidation against the Jewish community, or any community, will not be tolerated,” Sam Muller, executive director of the Jewish Hasidic Council of Quebec, told the press.

“Montreal is experiencing a wave of antisemitic violence,” B’nai Brith Canada reported on its website. “Arson, specifically, has been used re-

peatedly during recent months and years to target Jewish institutions in Canada. In June, a 31-year-old man attempted to set fire to Temple Emanuel-El” in Montreal.

The pattern of increased acts of Jew-hatred evident in other cities across Canada was described in an Aug. 5 *Globe and Mail* editorial headlined “Thoughts and prayers, Canadian style.” It points out that little is being done by governments to deal with the rise in acts of Jew-hatred and that the “thoughts and prayers” expressed by officials and politicians do nothing.

While Montreal police tried to claim the attack on the Hasidic Jews was an “isolated incident,” the editorial explains that following Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom targeting Jews in Israel, Jew-hatred and violent attacks on Jews in Canada jumped 82%. They’ve continued to rise since, going up 20% in the first quarter of 2026.

“Antizionism is fueling the rise in antisemitism,” the *Globe and Mail* said. “The rejection of Israel, of its very right to exist, has become the growth medium for the contagion of antisemitism.”

Fighting Jew-hatred is union issue

“Montreal police claim that the attacks on the Hasidic Jews were ‘an isolated incident,’” Joe Young, Communist League candidate in October’s Quebec provincial elections, said in a campaign statement. “This is false and part of the capitalist rulers’ attempt to downplay the significance of the major rise of attacks against Jews



Courtesy of Howard Szalavetz

Noam, kosher restaurant in Montreal, burned to the ground Aug. 1. Owner Howard Szalavetz told the press he was thankful his late father, a Holocaust survivor, didn’t have to see the attack.

since the Oct. 7 pogrom.”

“Fighting against all acts of Jew-hatred is a life-and-death question for working people,” said Young. “Jew-hatred is the inevitable product of capitalism in crisis,” as was so horrifically demonstrated during the 1930s Depression, when the capitalist rulers in Germany turned to Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party to attack Jews, turning the blame for the economic catastrophe away from the wreckage of their system.

Washington, Ottawa and other imperialist powers shut their doors to Jews trying to escape the Holocaust. One Canadian government official at the time infamously summed up Ottawa’s antisemitic immigration policy against Jews by saying, “None is too many.”

The Jew-hating attacks in Canada are also fueled by the campaign of the imperialist rulers to try and force Israel to back off from its unfinished battle to destroy Hamas as well as Tehran’s nuclear weapon capacity. “Carrying out this battle to the end is the only way to push back the threat of new, more deadly pogroms,” Young said.

Adding to the antisemitic atmosphere, Ottawa says it is committed to arresting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he sets foot on Canadian soil, pointing to the warrant issued by the International Criminal

Court in The Hague, Netherlands, on the false charge Israel commits “genocide” against Palestinians.

“Unions should take responsibility to mobilize to protest Jew-hatred and to physically defend Jews who come under attack,” Young said.

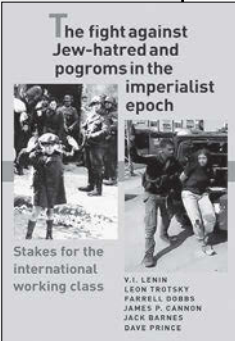
“Jew-hatred can be ended,” he added, “but only by building working-class parties to overturn capitalist rule around the world and reorganize society along socialist lines.”

The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the imperialist epoch

By V.I. Lenin,
Leon Trotsky,
Farrell Dobbs,
James P. Cannon,
Jack Barnes,
Dave Prince

Jew-hatred and pogroms are part of the permanent social convulsions of the imperialist epoch. Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia showed there is a road to uproot national oppression. \$10.

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THE MILITANT

‘Working class needs to take political power’

“Sharpening competition drives capitalist rulers to increase exploitation of working people, inevitably leads to more wars,” SWP candidate Paul Mailhot said at Aug. 1 forum in New York. “Building the SWP is crucial to help construct the leadership the working class needs.”



Militant/Seth Galinsky
Paul Mailhot, SWP candidate for New York governor, speaks at Militant Labor Forum.

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The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 30

Closing news date: August 12, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

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

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Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

4,000 WestJet flight attendants strike one day over unpaid work

MONTREAL — On Aug. 2 more than 4,000 flight attendants at WestJet, Canada's second largest airline, went on strike, setting up picket lines at airports from coast to coast. After little more than 24 hours, their union, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 8125, announced an agreement had been reached.

When the union issued a 72-hour strike notice July 30, WestJet responded by filing a lockout notice.

"We tried until the very last minute to get a fair deal that recognizes the value of the work cabin crews do," CUPE Local 8125 President Alia Hussain said. "WestJet's offer did not go far enough."

At the airport here some 100 workers picketed, carrying union placards reading, "Unpaid work won't fly," and many homemade signs expressing their determination to win pay for working before planes take off and after they land. Last August more than 10,000 Air Canada flight attendants, fellow members of CUPE, won a strike over the same issue.

"The coffee is free, not our work," read signs in French. They also rang bells and blew horns urging people in passing vehicles to "honk your support." Many did.

More than 200 strikers walked the picket line at Toronto's Pearson airport. They chanted, "If they won't pay us, shut it down!" and "From gate to gate, compensate!"

On Aug. 16, 2025, Air Canada flight attendants went on strike and defied a government back-to-work order. Emboldened by widespread labor support, they kept up picket lines across the country, returning to work three days

later after the union announced it had won important gains.

That was the fourth time in a year the federal government used anti-labor laws to rule a strike illegal, having earlier sent tens of thousands of striking postal, port and rail workers back to work.

"This tentative agreement represents meaningful progress," Hussain said after announcing the deal. It recognizes "more of the work cabin crew are required to perform and with general increases to compensation for that work." The union will now set a ratification vote.

— Beverly Bernardo

300 Quebec steelworkers strike ArcelorMittal for wage increases

MONTREAL — The 300 members of United Steelworkers Local 6951 went on strike at the West ArcelorMittal plant in Contrecoeur Aug. 1, the day after their old contract expired. Contrecoeur is an hour's drive northeast of Montreal.

When *Militant* worker-correspondents paid a solidarity visit to their picket line Aug. 5, they met with some 20 strikers near the road leading to the huge plant. It produces rebar, billets and steel rods for construction, automobile and other industries.

Daniel Martel, vice president of the local, told us a key issue is wages to help workers make up the losses they've suffered from inflation. The



Militant/Tony Di Felice

Some 200 WestJet flight attendants picket Toronto Pearson airport Aug. 2, part of 4,000 on strike demanding pay for all hours worked, including boarding and unboarding planes.

union is asking for an immediate wage increase of at least \$5 an hour to counteract the losses in real wages they've suffered over the six years of the previous contract. Then they want improved pension benefits and steady raises in the new contract.

Martel, who has worked at the plant for 22 years, operates a machine that pours molten steel into casting molds. The plant operates 24/7 on 12-hour shifts.

Martel said the strike has shut down production. There are empty flatbed trucks going into the plant picking up

work produced before the strike. Under Quebec's labor laws, he said, the company has the legal right to do this.

There are four ArcelorMittal plants in the region, including one nearby that makes similar products as this plant. It has a different contract expiration date and is still in operation.

The strikers are winning solidarity. Martel reported workers from three other USW locals joined their picket line Aug. 3.

Solidarity visits are welcome at 2050 Route des Acieries in Contrecoeur.

— Michel Prairie and John Steele

Cape Verdean film on independence struggle features Cuba's role

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — Cape Verdean filmmaker Elson Santos organized a showing of the new documentary he directed, along with Lara Sousa from Mozambique, to 80 people at the BlackStar Film Festival here July 6-9. The film, "We, People of the Islands," in Cape Verdean Creole with English subtitles, is based on interviews with workers and others who fought, arms-in-hand, in both Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau during their independence struggle against Portuguese colonial rule in the 1960s and '70s.

It includes coverage of 30 combatants from the African Party for the In-

dependence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) who went to Cuba for military training in their fight for independence from Portugal. The PAIGC was the popular movement forged by Amílcar Cabral that led the independence struggle to victory in Capo Verde and Guinea-Bissau in 1974-75.

The film includes interviews and documentary footage of the fighting, combatants' memories of Cabral and how Cuba aided their struggle. It has scenes of Cabral speaking with workers, young people and fellow armed militias on the Cape Verdean islands and in Guinea-Bissau. It describes the impact of Cabral's assassination

in 1973. Another scene shows Cuban leader Fidel Castro giving a powerful speech on world revolutionary developments at the Tricontinental Conference in Havana in January 1966, where Cabral also spoke.

In the discussion following the screening, Santos said that Cuba played a crucial role in the independence struggle and that solidarity continues today, with Cuban doctors and other medical volunteers providing free care on the islands. Cape Verdean students were also enrolled in ELAM, the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba. It covers all expenses for students from around the world who will return to their countries to provide medical care.

In talking with Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pennsylvania lieutenant governor, and some of his supporters before the film showing, Santos described his own upbringing on Cape Verde and said he wanted to make the film so he could learn more about the independence struggle and share it with others.

His own family had been divided — his father fought with the Portuguese military and his uncle was in the PAIGC. He also discussed how the independence struggle in Africa became intertwined with the Portuguese workers' struggle against their fascist dictatorship.

People who attended the film showing bought 14 copies of the new Pathfinder book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke. Santos said he was familiar with Dreke, who led the volunteer Cuban combatants aiding the PAIGC in their struggle against Portuguese colonial rule. He was very pleased to see the book and said he is a "great admirer" of Dreke.



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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

August 27, 2001

In the biggest military attack against Iraq in six months, 50 U.S. and British warplanes unleashed a bombing assault in southern Iraq on Aug. 10. Three days earlier the Pentagon had dropped bombs in the northern part of the country.

After the 1990-91 U.S.-led Gulf War, in which Washington slaughtered at least 150,000 Iraqis, the U.S. government imposed "no-fly zones" in northern Iraq in mid-1991 and in the south in August 1992, covering the majority of the nation's territory and violating its national sovereignty.

Since then the U.S. rulers have conducted a steady and at times massive bombardment of areas in these zones. Since the beginning of this year U.S. and British warplanes have conducted 29 days of airstrikes against Iraq. These airstrikes have become a permanent feature of Washington's ongoing military intervention in the Mideast.

THE MILITANT

August 27, 1976

Four years after the Watergate break-in the summer of 1972; three years after the SWP filed a lawsuit against government harassment; and two years after Gerald Ford declared an end to the "nightmare of Watergate," it has now come out that an FBI informer burglarized the SWP's Denver headquarters in the summer of 1976.

What's more, FBI Director Clarence Kelly proclaims that he cannot say "categorically" or "unquestionably" that such burglaries are not continuing.

The FBI has admitted that it has not discovered even one case of illegal activity by the SWP in nearly forty years.

The SWP has refused to buckle to these attempts at thought control. Its campaign against government harassment has exposed criminal FBI activities to millions of people, and provided a powerful impetus to the fight for democratic rights.

THE MILITANT

August 27, 1951

The *Militant* wholeheartedly endorses the Socialist Workers Party candidates who are now campaigning in the local fall elections. We urge ALL our readers to follow these election campaigns, assimilate their lessons and in this way prepare the ground in their own areas for similar election activities.

There is nothing routine about the campaigns of the Socialist Workers Party candidates. They are the unwavering partisans of the toiling people; of the underpaid and the overworked, of all oppressed national and racial minorities, of all the disinherited and the downtrodden.

They are the only genuine independent candidates opposing the nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties, who are not two different parties at all, but simply two rival but loyal agencies of Big Business, the billionaire enemies of mankind.

US steps up economic war on Iran

Continued from front page

attempts to strangle Iran’s economy. As of Aug. 10, the U.S. Central Command had forced 55 ships to change course, and disabled two others. A U.S. military helicopter fired, hitting the rudder of a Panamanian-flagged vessel Aug. 11, after it ignored orders to halt.

The reactionary capitalist regime in Iran insists that it must have control over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. It’s demanding that Washington lift all economic sanctions and release frozen Iranian funds.

Tehran’s own drone and missile attacks on ships there have caused a steep drop in maritime traffic. As have attacks by the Tehran-backed Houthis in Yemen on an alternate route through the Red Sea. While the regime’s threats give it momentary clout, in the long-run this could strengthen its regional rivals.

Knowing that “freedom of the seas” is no longer guaranteed, even if a U.S.-Tehran deal is reached, regimes in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Iraq are accelerating the building of pipelines that would allow oil shipments to bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

There are two sharply different wars against Iran’s rulers: An imperialist war by the U.S. rulers to impose a “Pax Americana” to plunder the oil, gas and labor of the region and to deal blows to their competitors. And a defensive war by Israel to prevent the Jew-hating regime in Tehran from developing nuclear weapons and the missiles to launch them to extend its regional power and to be able to destroy Israel.

Tehran has suffered big blows to its military capacity and to steel, cement and other factories. Along with the maritime blockade and new U.S. financial sanctions, this has accelerated inflation and deepened shortages of many goods. Drivers report waiting all day in intense heat to buy just two gallons of gasoline.

Indebted workers

“The indebted life of the working class: Workers have turned to ‘credit purchases’ for their meals!” was the headline on an Aug. 10 article in the government-funded Iranian Labour News Agency. It notes that “a significant portion of wage earners face a shortage of cash only a short time after receiving their salaries.” On top of this, wages are often paid months late.

“The cost of living has increased by more than 100% in a single year for food alone” the article says, while the “wages of minimum-wage workers have increased by only 60% at best” and for others by even less.

The combination of low wages, mass unemployment, unpaid wages and rising prices has forced many workers to take out loans just to be able to eat, with interest and other fees taking another bite out of their income.

The debilitating conditions working people face are of no concern to the capitalist rulers of Iran, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, their main instrument of repression, and the Basij paramilitary force un-

der its control. The Guard Corps also profits from owning key industries — from telecommunications to construction contractors.

Execution of protesters

But the regime fears the growing opposition to its rule. That’s why it keeps arresting leaders of teachers and oil workers unions and others, and has sentenced dozens of participants in the wave of anti-regime protests that swept Iran earlier this year to stiff prison sentences or death.

The No to Execution Tuesdays campaign, led by political prisoners, organizes a weekly hunger strike against the death penalty that has spread to 59 prisons. It noted in an Aug. 4 statement that the regime “is not afraid of war” and considers the threat of foreign intervention almost a “blessing.”

“Despite their many differences, the greatest fear of all the various ruling



Teachers and retired workers from at least five cities bring solidarity to family of teacher union leader Masoud Farhikhteh, imprisoned under solitary confinement in Karaj, Iran.

factions is the emergence of an internal uprising,” the statement said.

That’s why the regime has executed over two dozen people just because they joined the mass anti-regime pro-

tests in January, with dozens more on death row, and is now bringing criminal charges against journalists, actors and human rights and civil activists for publicly opposing the executions.

Hamas seeks to maintain grip over Gaza, weapons

BY SETH GALINSKY

The *New York Times* and other liberal capitalist news media are claiming that Hamas has agreed to “disarm” in exchange for Israeli troops withdrawing from Gaza, part of a 15-point “peace” plan released July 31 by the so-called Board of Peace appointed by President Donald Trump. They blame Israel for the lack of progress, implying it is sabotaging moves to peace.

This turns reality on its head.

Hamas said it is willing to turn over its heavy weapons to the “National Committee for the Administration of Gaza,” set up as part of the Trump administration’s plan, while insisting its combatants will keep their “personal” weapons. These proposals are gaining bipartisan support, with politicians on both sides of the aisle painting the National Committee as a neutral, “technocratic” body.

But Hamas supporters dominate the 13-member committee. Hamas — even if it carried out what it promises, which it won’t — would simply be turning over its weapons to itself!

It’s no wonder Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated, “Israel rejects the 15-point document. The IDF will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is disarmed. And when I say the disarmament of Hamas, I mean heavy weapons, less heavy weapons, light weapons, all the weapons.”

But under relentless pressure from the imperialist rulers in the U.S., the Israel Defense Forces abruptly stopped its strikes aimed at preventing Hamas from rebuilding its forces in Gaza.

Hamas announced July 20 that Khalil al-Hayya is its new political chief, replacing Yahya Sinwar, who was killed in October 2024. Al-Hayya, a founding member of Hamas, is frequently described by the bourgeois press as a “pragmatist.” But, like his mentors in Tehran, he calls Israel a “cancer” that must be uprooted.

In January 2025, al-Hayya called the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom Hamas carried out — slaughtering 1,200 people, overwhelmingly unarmed Jewish civilians — a “security and military miracle” that would “forever be a source of pride.”

The Oct. 7 “miracle” and “source of pride” was the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. As part of its goal of dehumanizing and terrorizing Jews, several dozen women were

raped before they were murdered by Hamas thugs. More than 50 immigrant workers and 24 Arab citizens of Israel were among those slaughtered, often after brutal torture, for the “crime” of working with Jews.

Knowing that the pogrom would leave Israel no choice but to counter-attack, Hamas put its command posts, weapons storage and rocket launchers underneath or in hospitals it controlled, apartment buildings, mosques, schools and U.N. offices. This was deliberate, to maximize the number of civilian Gazan deaths it could blame on Israel when its forces responded.

Al-Hayya became a focus for the anger of thousands in Gaza during a series of anti-Hamas protests while the war there was raging in 2025. Protesters chanted “Oh Khalil Al-Hayya!

the people are the victims” and “Stop lying to the people.”

Nothing in Hamas’ goals or methods have changed. It continues to arrest, beat, torture or kill Palestinians in Gaza who stand up to its dictatorial rule. And it is still stealing humanitarian aid meant for civilians in Gaza, either to feed its combatants or to sell for funds to procure arms. While Washington is promoting its “peace” plan in hopes of achieving stability for U.S. plunder of the region, Hamas is taking advantage of the time to restore its tunnels and smuggle in weapons and material it needs to produce more.

Netanyahu said Israel demands “real disarmament, not sham disarmament.” Despite U.S. pressure, he said, “we know how to stand our ground on these issues.”

Singer Boy George refuses to ‘pipe down,’ drop song against Jew-hatred

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OAKLAND, Calif. — English singer Boy George took a public stand against Jew-hatred in his new reggae-style song, “We Will Dance Again” issued in late July. The song’s title is a reference to the Nova music festival targeted by Hamas in its Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel.

The song rebukes many other artists who claim Hamas’ pogrom was justified and who falsely accuse Israel of carrying out genocide when it fights to defend its existence.

The song opens with the lyrics, “You say genocide, I say war; when you’re attacked, that’s what the army’s for. Does it get ugly? You bet it does. When I know you wanna kill every last one of us.”

“You never mention October 7, young girls raped against trees, murdered brutally for the crime of dancing,” the lyrics continue, referring to Hamas’ attack on the Nova music festival.

“But trust me, we will dance again and there will be no war,” the artist sings. “But if you’re ever confused, I stand with the Jews. I don’t feel brave, I just need to behave like a human.”

Boy George has weighed in on the fight against Jew-hatred before, signing a petition in April opposing calls to ban Israel from competing in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Since “We Will Dance Again” was issued, Boy George has faced serious threats. In London a mural that portrays the artist was defaced with an inverted red triangle — Hamas’ symbol for Jews targeted by its death squads — and the words, “Free Palestine.” Tony Pontius, Boy George’s BGP record label representative, refused to release the song, prompting the singer to end their commercial relationship. On X one user called Boy George “Zionist scum.”

“The suggestion that I feel no compassion for Palestinians is both untrue and absurd,” Boy George said July 31.

In an Aug. 10 *Washington Post* op-ed, musician John Ondrasik praised Boy George. Ondrasik’s 2023 song, “OK (We Are Not OK),” condemned those who blame Israel for Hamas’ pogrom. Ondrasik says that after he released the song he was the object of “vitriol and death threats.”

“One may ask why Boy George is subject to such attack while many artists freely spout anti-Israel, antisemitic rhetoric with seemingly little consequence,” Ondrasik writes.

Boy George responded July 31 to those suggesting he “pipe down” and let the controversy subside. “I’m afraid it’s not an option,” he said.

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Communist League campaigns, looks to file for ballot in Quebec

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — The Communist League here is running an energetic working-class campaign for Joe Young, its candidate for the October elections to the Quebec National Assembly for the electoral district of St. Laurent. Party members joined Young in campaigning at a Walmart parking lot Aug. 9, discussing today's crisis of the capitalist system and its deepening drive toward war. They're petitioning to get him on the ballot.

Young and CL member Francois Bradette met Miriam l'Heureux Greenberg, whose father is Jewish. She was interested in Young's campaign statement, "The fight against rising Jew-hatred is crucial for working people." Her father's parents emigrated from Poland "when they learned what was happening in Germany," she said.

"When I learned about the boat that arrived with Jewish refugees that was

refused entry into both Canada and the United States, it made me sick," she said. That boat was the MS St. Louis, which set sail from Nazi Germany May 13, 1939, holding 937 Jewish refugees. After being barred from landing in Cuba, Canada and the U.S., the ship had to return to Europe, where hundreds of passengers later perished in the Holocaust.

Recent attacks on Jews

Young described recent attacks on Hasidic Jews here and how claims by the Montreal police and the media that they are an "isolated incident" are false. "This is part of the capitalist rulers' attempt to downplay the significance of the major rise of attacks on Jews in Canada and around the world since the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel," Young said. "The Communist League supports Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews and its fight with Tehran, Hamas and Hezbollah to



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum/Courtesy Dr. Liane Reif-Lehrer

All but 28 of 930 Jewish refugees fleeing Germany aboard MS St. Louis were denied entry to Cuba in May 1939, then U.S. and Canada. Hundreds forced back to Europe died in Holocaust.

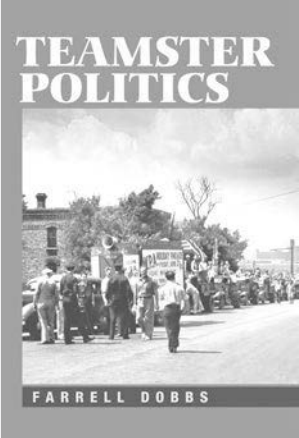
prevent another Holocaust."

She signed the petition to put Young on the ballot. "I'm against everything that harms Jews," she said.

The CL has now reached its goal of collecting 200 signatures to put Young on the ballot, double the legal

requirement of 100. In the course of the ballot drive, campaigners have sold 17 books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries, five *Militant* subscriptions and dozens of single copies of the socialist newsweekly.

Recommended reading



"Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party."

— Farrell Dobbs

Part of four-volume series

\$16 each or all four for \$50

pathfinderpress.com

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

How to Fight ICE Raids and Violence: The Working-Class Fight for Amnesty. Speaker: Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor. Sun. Aug. 23, 4 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

FLORIDA

Miami

Lessons From the Black-led Proletarian Fight Against Jim Crow. Speaker: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party. Fri. Aug. 21, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5711 NW 7th Ave. Tel.: (305) 929-8966.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Why the Cuban Revolution is an Example for All Working People. Speaker: Hugo Wils, Communist League. Sat. Aug. 22, 6 p.m. Donation: £3. 329 Royal Exchange Building, 3 Old Bank St. M2 7PE. Tel.: 07545 526 351.

Media hysteria over 2026 DSA votes discounts class relations

Continued from front page

tion to the Jewish state of Israel and diatribes against Donald Trump as a "fascist."

While preelection polls showed El-Sayed sweeping the election, he only defeated Rep. Haley Stevens, who was promoted by the party establishment, by less than 1% of the vote. He got the vote of just 17.5% of registered Democrats in the state. Far from being enamored with El-Sayed, most sat out the primary, not convinced either candidate was worth voting for.

Of those who did vote, he got the majority in only 30 of Michigan's 83 counties. Importantly, he didn't win a single county in the heavily Black metro-Detroit area. For a radical "peoples" candidate, to lose the Black vote in Detroit speaks volumes.

Many workers weren't convinced this former health official — a Rhodes scholar who attended Oxford and graduated from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons — had any real clue about what their lives are like, let alone offered a road to help them protect themselves from the worsening im-

pact of the capitalist crisis.

El-Sayed focused on tours to college campuses, where he appealed to aspiring middle-class layers that fear the crisis will push them down into the working class. He got 70% of the votes in the Ann Arbor area, home to the University of Michigan, and strong support in East Lansing, home to Michigan State. Along with thousands of students, both areas are home to large communities of young professionals.

In what some might consider a surprise, he also carried some Michigan counties with the highest median incomes.

Since the election, Democrats of all stripes have raced to embrace him in the name of party unity, from Kamala Harris to Sen. Chuck Schumer to former President Barack Obama, and he has embraced them back. He said he hopes Obama campaigns with him, adding, "You really should meet your heroes."

"I don't need you to like me," Schumer told El-Sayed bluntly. "I just need you to win."

This doesn't mean El-Sayed backs

all other Democrats. He now says one of his first tasks will be to try to defeat Sen. John Fetterman from Pennsylvania. Fetterman's crime? He supports the existence of Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred.

"Put one ogre on a pike," El-Sayed said of Fetterman, "and then everyone else gets the message."

The primary result didn't represent any significant political shift in the working class.

A campaign against Israel's existence

The "message" from El-Sayed is that Israel must go. He has vowed to end all military aid to Israel, calls its government "bloodthirsty," and has repeatedly claimed its war to defend its very existence is "genocide."

El-Sayed claims he's not a Jew-hater, but had no problem doing multiple interviews with Hasan Piker, a video streamer who tries to justify Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust.

One indication of El-Sayed's attitude toward Jews was his response to a March 12 attack on a Jewish school at Temple Israel in the West Bloomfield Township in Michigan. Ayman Ghazali had rammed his booby-trapped truck, loaded with weapons and gasoline, into the school after posting a video saying he wanted to "kill as many of them as I possibly can." Thanks to quick action by security guards no one was hurt.

El-Sayed denounced Ghazali's attack, but he couldn't condemn it without also trying to excuse it. He said, "Hurt people do hurt people."

In sharp contrast to all the capitalist candidates, from El-Sayed to Donald Trump, Socialist Workers Party candidates around the country start from the need to organize working people independently of the bosses and their parties, to see all politics from a class point of view, and to build our own party to lead millions to fight for our own class interests. The SWP offers workers the opportunity to join and build a party that is capable of taking political power into our own hands.

Join in building the Socialist Workers Party 2026 campaign

California

Margaret Trowe, governor
Laura Garza, mayor of Los Angeles

Florida

Rachele Fruit, U.S. Senate
Nelson Gonzalez, governor

Georgia

Sam Manuel, U.S. Senate

Illinois

Naomi Craine, U.S. Senate

Minnesota

Kevin Dwire, U.S. Senate

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniarsky, U.S. Senate
Craig Honts, U.S. Congress

New York

Paul Mailhot, governor
Willie Cotton, lieutenant governor

Ohio

John Hawkins, U.S. Senate

Pennsylvania

Tony Lane, governor
Osborne Hart, lieutenant governor
Abby Tilsner, U.S. Congress
Sergio Zambrana, U.S. Congress

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, governor

Washington, D.C.

James Harris, delegate to Congress
Samir Hazboun, mayor

Washington state

Jacob Perasso, U.S. Congress
Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Congress

1963 ‘Battle of Birmingham’

Continued from front page
civil rights in Detroit in June, and on Aug. 28, about 250,000 came out for the historic March for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C.

The actions in Birmingham were organized by a layer of battle-tested cadre led by Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth. They took place in a large center of heavy industry, where workers — Black and white — had been through deepgoing struggles led by the United Mine Workers in the 1930s.

The 1963 fight in Birmingham took place after students and other young African Americans across the South had acquired experience organizing sit-in fights to desegregate lunch counters and participating in Freedom Rides on Greyhound buses and other interstate transportation.

A new national group, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, was formed, with members fanning out across the South. Growing numbers of Blacks were insisting freedom be granted now, and were less and less willing to heed appeals from the John F. Kennedy White House to slow down and wait.

In 1956 segregationist forces passed laws to force the NAACP in Alabama to hand over the names of all its members in the state, which would have put targets on their backs. Rather than agree, the group dissolved.

In response, Shuttlesworth founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights to carry forward the fight, and began holding weekly mass meetings. Inspired by the victorious Montgomery bus boycott, Shuttlesworth launched a similar effort in Birmingham. He was jailed several times and his home was firebombed, leading him to urge supporters to keep their hunting weapons handy.

In April 1963 Shuttlesworth’s group issued a “Birmingham Manifesto” launching a campaign of sit-ins, marches and boycotts to end segregation, backed by Martin Luther King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. After the first week, the city got a court order to prevent marches, but the movement defied it. Several marchers, including King, were thrown in jail.

President Kennedy claimed he had no power to intervene, while the *New York Times* and other liberal papers heaped blame on what they called “poorly timed protests.”

The Children’s Crusade

King made bail on April 20, and Shuttlesworth, King and other leaders of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and SCLC decided

to recruit high school students to march in large numbers on City Hall. The call was met with a wave of enthusiasm in the classrooms.

On May 2 hundreds of students quit school and marched downtown in disciplined groups of 50. When one group was arrested, another marched in its place. By the day’s end, some 1,000 students were jailed. An overflow mass meeting was held that evening to bolster support among parents.

“Daddy, I don’t want to disobey you, but I have made my pledge. If you try to keep me home, I will sneak off,” one boy told his father. “I want freedom for you and Mama, and I want it to come before you die.”

The following day 1,000 more students assembled to march. This time Public Safety Commissioner Eugene “Bull” Connor ordered the fire department to disperse them with fire hoses. When that failed, he ordered the use of high-powered nozzles, sending students tumbling. Outraged, onlookers threw bottles at cops and firemen.

And the student marches continued. Connor ordered cops to set dogs on protesters. On May 5 cops arrested protesters on the steps of the New Pilgrim church. In response, the congregation and others marched toward the jail. When Connor ordered the use of fire hoses on them, for the first time some firemen hesitated. Connor had to retreat, letting marchers hold a prayer service at a nearby park.

James Foreman and other leaders of SNCC arrived in Birmingham to boost the fight. They led parents in making a mass delivery of blankets to the jailed students.

On May 7 Foreman and others organized a decoy march, confusing the cops, allowing carloads of some 600 student protesters from different directions to get driven downtown. They held sit-ins and picketed stores. Hundreds more of all ages joined them. With the jails full, cops made no arrests, and protesters marched proudly back to the 16th Street Baptist Church.

From there, another wave of protesters poured out of the church. Connor ordered cops to set hoses on them, seriously injuring Shuttlesworth, who was taken to a hospital. “I wish he’d been carried away in a hearse,” Connor sneered.

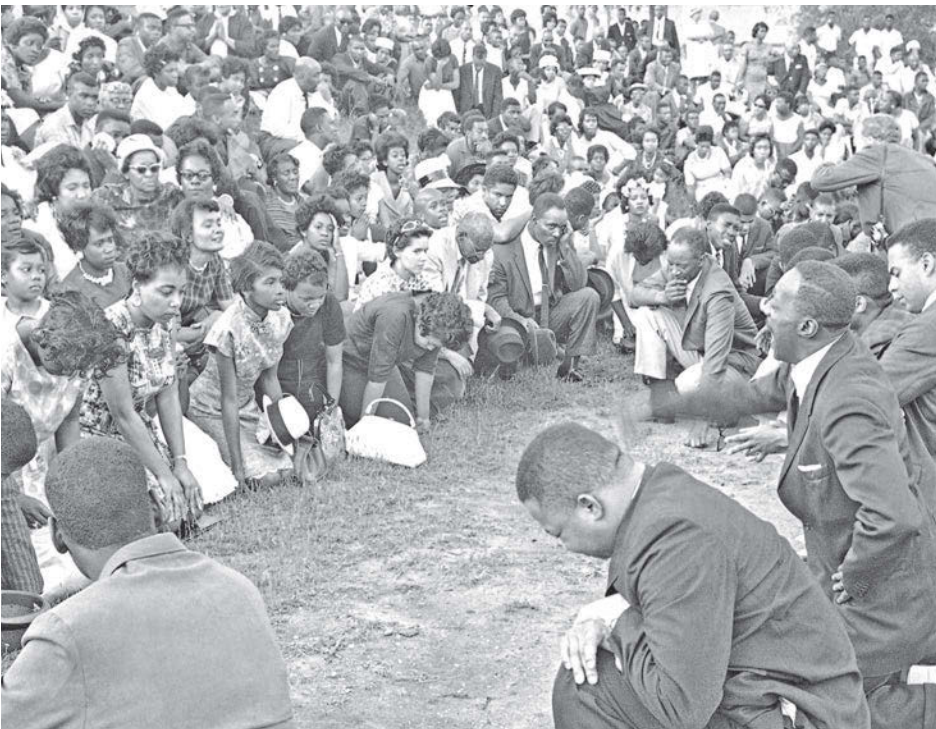
Kennedy tries to shut protests down

Kennedy intervened to try to get demonstrations halted, urging city authorities and protesters to cut a deal. King responded by proposing the suspension of protests. Shuttlesworth disagreed.

“When I see on TV that you have called it off, I will get up out of this, my sickbed, with what little ounce of strength I have, and lead them back into the street,” he told King and other SCLC leaders.

The United Steelworkers and other unions joined efforts to raise money to bail out detainees. After students streamed out of jail May 10, Shuttlesworth announced a deal had been made to begin the desegregation of Birmingham. The next night the home of King’s brother, A.D. King, was firebombed, along with the Gaston Motel where SCLC leaders were staying. No one was injured.

In the months that followed, Shuttlesworth repeatedly proposed more



Associated Press

Prayer protest in Birmingham May 5, 1963. Cop leader “Bull” Connor had ordered firemen to turn high-power hoses on marchers, but some balked. Connor had to allow the protest.

protests whenever authorities dragged their feet carrying out their promises. In July the “White” and “Colored” signs came down and lunch counters were integrated.

On Sept. 16, the 16th Street Baptist Church was firebombed, killing four young girls and wounding more than 20

others. The Sept. 23, 1963, *Militant* reported that Black residents in Birmingham began armed patrols to safeguard their neighborhoods.

The murder of the four girls devastated the community, but it also deepened the determination of millions to tear down Jim Crow.

‘We Oppose U.S. Unilateral Coercive Measures Against Cuba and Support Normalizing Relations Based on Mutually Recognized Sovereignty and Respect’

This resolution, submitted by a delegate from the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union and seconded by the United Steelworkers union, was adopted unanimously by the convention of the North Dakota State AFL-CIO on June 30.

WHEREAS: Both the United States (U.S.) and Cuba are sovereign countries and members of the United Nations (U.N.); and

WHEREAS: The U.N. Charter is a treaty which was ratified by the U.S., is therefore the “supreme law of the land” under the U.S. Constitution, Article VI, and is binding on the U.S. government including the President and the administration; and

WHEREAS: Article 2(4) of the U.N. Charter states, “All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations”; and

WHEREAS: U.S. government policy since at least April 1960, acknowledging the broad popular support in Cuba for the revolution led by Fidel Castro, adopted in secret a course of action designed “to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government” in Cuba, which has resulted in hundreds of U.S. unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) against Cuba; and

WHEREAS: on January 29, 2026, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 14380 “Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of Cuba” and threatened to impose high tariffs on any country selling or supplying oil to Cuba; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. is now enforcing a strict oil blockade against Cuba, through tariff threats, naval interdiction of tankers, and financial sanctions against oil suppliers; and

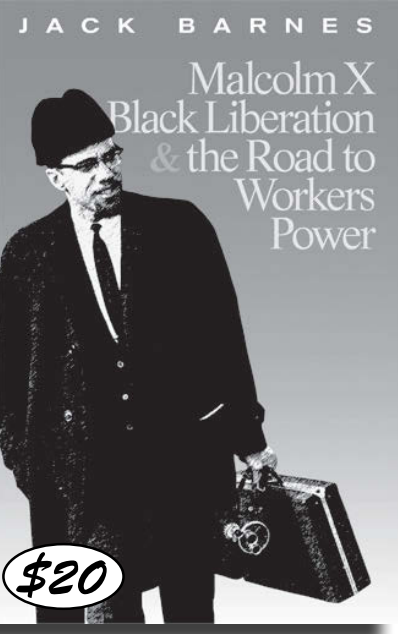
WHEREAS: Cuba poses no economic or military threat to the U.S. nor to any other country; and

WHEREAS: this Executive Order and accompanying threats have limited dramatically the flow of oil to the island, which is compounding decades of U.S. unilateral coercive measures against Cuba and created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis affecting the country’s electricity grid, food supply, transportation, and medical services; and

WHEREAS: after over 30 years of overwhelming annual condemnations by the U.N. General Assembly against the U.S. unilateral coercive measures, U.N. leadership has also expressed extreme concern for the humanitarian impacts of this Executive Order, warned of humanitarian collapse, and urged all parties to pursue dialogue and respect for international law; and therefore be it

RESOLVED that the North Dakota AFL-CIO strongly urges the President Trump to immediately rescind Executive Order 14380 and enter into meaningful good faith negotiations with the Cuban government on the basis of recognition of its sovereignty and mutual respect, with the goal of ending the U.S. oil blockade and all other unilateral coercive measures, including to remove Cuba from the U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list; and be it further

RESOLVED that the North Dakota AFL-CIO urges our congressional delegation to pass legislation to eliminate the embargo; remove all sanctions against Cuba by the United States and allow the peoples of the United States and Cuba to travel and trade freely between the countries.



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Colloquium honors Fidel Castro, leader of Cuba’s socialist revolution

BY NAOMI CRAINE
HAVANA — The First International Fidel Colloquium: Legacy and Future opened here Aug. 10. René González Barrios, director of the Fidel Castro Ruz Center, which is organizing the four-day event, told participants that the 1,500 people attending include over 1,000 from 63 different countries, including the United States — a demonstration of solidarity in face of Washington’s deepening attacks on the Cuban people and their socialist revolution.

“Fidel Castro’s thought continues to be the most precise compass to navigate the storm that the Cuban people are living through,” Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said in his speech at the opening session. Fidel taught us “that socialism is the only road to save humanity from the abyss.”

Díaz-Canel noted that just coming to Cuba today in face of the tightening blockade and imperialist hostility “is an act of militant solidarity that honors the legacy of Fidel Castro.” There are large delegations from Mexico, Puerto Rico, the U.S., Brazil and elsewhere in the Americas, as well as Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

The opening program included greetings from international representatives. “No one can speak of freedom in Africa without mentioning Cuba,” said Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare, prime minister of Namibia. More than 400,000 Cuban volunteers fought alongside Angolan forces over the 16-year struggle to repel repeated invasions by the U.S.-backed apartheid regime in South Africa. The

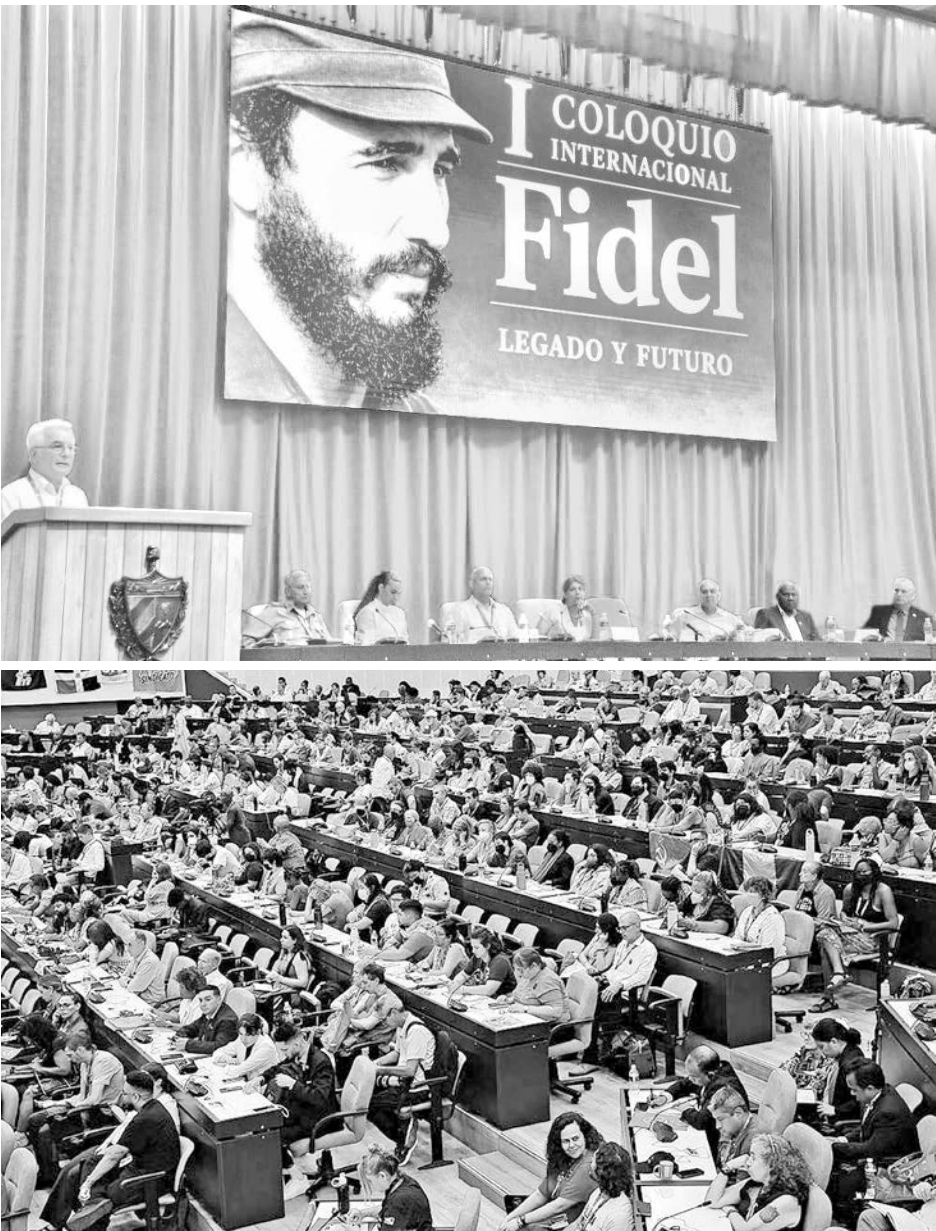
victory of the Angolan, Namibian and Cuban forces at Cuito Cuanavale in 1988 “led to the independence of Namibia,” which had been a colony of South Africa, and to the end of apartheid itself, he said.

The colloquium includes dozens of panel discussions on the legacy of Fidel Castro, covering topics ranging from the internationalism of the Cuban Revolution to questions of education, healthcare, culture, the emancipation of women and much more. There are book presentations and cultural events as well, and the closing session Aug. 13 takes place alongside events nationwide marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Castro.

The conference coincided with the 34th Havana International Book Fair, which had been postponed in February due to Washington’s oil blockade and multiple additional economic sanctions aimed at crushing the example of the socialist revolution opened by Cuban working people more than 65 years ago.

“No matter how difficult the circumstances, we could not fail to hold this fair, dedicated to Fidel,” declared Juan Rodríguez Cabrera, president of the Cuban Book Institute, when it opened. From the earliest days of the revolution, Castro was “our greatest promoter of books and literature.”

It is a tremendous effort to carry out these major political and cultural events under the conditions Cubans face as a result of Washington’s blockade, growing sanctions and war threats. The lack



Top, René González Barrios, director of Fidel Castro Ruz Center, opens First International Fidel Colloquium: Legacy and Future, in Havana Aug. 10. On far right of panel is Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel. Below, part of audience of 1,500 participating in event.

of fuel means there are extensive blackouts, virtually no buses or other public transport, and daily challenges just to obtain food, water and other basic needs. Nevertheless, Cubans visiting

the book fair Aug. 11 said it was important to come, by foot, electric tricycle, and any other means, as an act of dignity and sovereignty. The book fair runs through Aug. 16.

SWP: Quash government subpoenas! Defend constitutional liberties!

Continued from front page
of political association and freedom from unwarranted search and seizure.

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, which issued the summons July 21, pretends its investigation serves a legislative purpose. The actual goal is to pave the way for further crackdowns on constitutionally protected political and union activity by working people, the labor movement and organizations of the oppressed.

Jason Smith, chairman of the House committee, accuses People’s Forum of “using tax exempt status to spread foreign propaganda while acting as a

foreign agent.” So-called agent-of-a-foreign-power laws have long been central to the capitalist state’s “national security” arsenal. Their aim is to silence individuals and organizations who speak out against Washington’s foreign policy and who organize opposition to wars and military interventions trampling on the national sovereignty of other peoples and lands.

The immediate target today is all those who are opposed to the U.S. government’s bipartisan drive to defame and destroy the example of Cuba’s working people and their socialist revolution.

Government witch-hunters this year

have publicly dubbed these organizations and individuals “Cuba’s procommunist ecosystem.” Anyone demanding “Hands off Cuba!” is on the watch list.

Using the pretext that Cuba — by its mere geographical location, as well as its independence from U.S. imperialist control — is an “unusual threat” to U.S. national security, Washington this year has tightened even more brutally its decades-long denial to the Cuban people of elementary food, medical, energy and other basic needs. These latest U.S. government moves are combined with renewed threats of military aggression.

In the wake of World War I and the victorious Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia, the imperialist government in Washington organized sweeping attacks on working-class organizations and the foreign born. Repressive “foreign agents” legislation and prosecutions were qualitatively stepped up by the Democratic Party administration of Franklin Roosevelt in the mid-1930s. The U.S. rulers were determined to gag and victimize opponents of their entry into World War II, a global conflagration they saw as an opportunity to emerge as top dog in the capitalist world.

powerful Teamsters union over-the-road organizing drives, who were mobilizing the fight in the labor movement to expose and oppose U.S. capital’s war aims.

The House Committee’s subpoena this summer demanding that the three groups hand over financial books and name donors is an assault on freedom of association. These same methods have been and will be used to harass and disrupt union battles, struggles for Black liberation, defense of immigrant workers, fights for women’s equality and organizations of working farmers.

Long experience has taught class-conscious workers that no matter who the target is today, it is the working class and organizations of workers and the oppressed who will be in the bull’s-eye tomorrow.

The House committee chairman openly acknowledges the goal of using this “investigation” to tighten federal restrictions against educational, informational and cultural organizations with tax-exempt status, which he and other government voices allege are spreading “anti-American” propaganda. And to deny such organizations their tax-exempt status altogether.

If the assault on the constitutional protections of the three organizations now in the sites of the federal government is not turned back, everyone’s rights are in growing danger.

The SWP urges unions, other political organizations in the workers movement and all defenders of constitutional liberties to demand an end to this political police operation.

Quash the subpoenas!



FBI raid on SWP Minneapolis headquarters, June 27, 1941, hailed by bosses’ press, was aimed at party, Minneapolis Teamsters leaders as U.S. rulers prepared to enter World War II. Today, Washington is targeting constitutional rights as part of renewed war drive.

Building a working-class party on Marxist foundations in the fight for workers power amid today’s capitalist crises and wars

BY STEVE CLARK
AND ROY LANDERSEN
(first of two articles)

OBERLIN, Ohio — “The Socialist Workers Party exists, born in class struggle. Build it!” That was the banner displayed above the speakers platform at the party’s 2026 International Conference held here June 11-14.

The banner is bold, correct, as well as timely, said SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes in his opening political report. At best, however, no single banner can do more than *affirm* the revolutionary working-class character of such a party, Barnes added, not spell it out in more detail and full color.

Socialist Workers Party 2026 Conference

“That’s the job we’re here to work on together during the conference,” Barnes said. “Above all, of course, everything depends on *what we keep on doing* to build the party.” What we do here at the conference, he said, will build toward the party’s December constitutional convention in New York City. That’s where, incorporating experience from the U.S. and world politics between then and now, we’ll “ratify, correct and add to our political line and course” and elect the party’s National Committee.

The SWP is a *Marxist* party, in both program and social composition, Barnes said. We’re a party “born in class struggle,” as the banner says, along the road to the revolutionary victory of workers power. That line of march shapes our political life, milieu, organizational norms and weekly rhythm of activity.

That same political yardstick was central to the two other main conference talks: “Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba’s Socialist Revolution,” presented by Mary-Alice Waters, and “Iran, Israel and the United States in the Imperialist Epoch: Two Wars in One,” by Steve Clark. All three presentations addressed the economic and social crises and breakdowns facing the U.S. capitalist rulers today, including their mounting wars, war threats and other military clashes.

Washington is fighting to defend its



Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes presents political report to June international party conference. With Barnes, from left are SWP leaders Paul Mailhot, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

dominance as the world’s weakened but far and away single strongest economic and military power, in face of sharpening rivalry among the imperialist and other major exploiting classes and nation states. They are battling among themselves to divide and redivide control over markets, access to natural resources and low-wage labor, as well as control of economically and militarily strategic global choke points.

The conference was marked by the

“Our communist program is stronger than ever.” —Jack Barnes

increased resistance in the working class and labor movement to the employers’ intensifying exploitation, as well as other social and political struggles.

Thousands of union meatpackers of many national origins in Greeley, Colorado, had just fought and won gains in their four-week strike against JBS Foods. Labor battles by packinghouse workers, sugar warehousemen, nurses, and hotel workers are spreading, as are protests by immigrant workers, their families and supporters in the unions and elsewhere. And there is a step up in actions against the U.S. government’s tightening oil blockade and other draconian assaults on Cuba’s sovereignty with the aim of crushing the single revolutionary outpost in the Americas and trying to divide the Cuban leadership.

The SWP’s international gathering drew 300 people from the U.S., as well as Australia, Canada, the U.K., France, Greece and New Zealand. There were three days of sessions attended by all conference participants, numerous classes and wide-ranging informal discussions.

The event culminated the last day with summaries by the three plenary session speakers, as well as a rally that night with talks by participants in various social and political fights centered on the work of Socialist Workers Party and Communist League candidates for public office.

These discussions were enhanced by political and photographic panel displays along one entire side of the conference

hall, as well as crowded literature tables. A summer fund appeal raised more than \$48,000.

Build party, not create it

Here in the United States, the bastion of world imperialism, “we don’t have to create the revolutionary party,” Barnes said. “*It exists.*”

Vanguard workers parties can grow with stunning speed amid deepgoing revolutionary events, he added.

In fact, that’s a feature of the epoch we’re living in, the epoch of imperialism, which is also the epoch of proletarian revolution. That has been shown in life by the two great socialist revolutions of the 20th century. The first was the Bolshevik Party-led revolution of October 1917 in Russia, under the leadership of V.I. Lenin. The second was Cuba’s socialist revolution at the beginning of the 1960s, led by Fidel Castro and the movement of workers, rural toilers and students he politically organized and guided to victory — the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement.

“But neither the SWP nor any other party can rest on the laurels of what’s been accomplished in the past,” Barnes emphasized. “We keep on building the party through our involvement in the class struggle and mass work of all kinds.”

Socialist Workers Party election campaigns are today, as for many decades, the most important single way we organize to get out the word about the party, Barnes said. When our candidates speak out or issue a statement — against Washington’s unconscionable oil blockade of Cuba; the war of imperialist plunder in Iran; demanding amnesty for immigrant workers; against Jew-hating violence — those declarations speak not just for the party. We’re also speaking and acting on behalf of the class interests of the entire working class and exploited, as well as their solidarity and unity in action.

It’s not the party’s size right now that’s decisive, Barnes said. Size is largely determined by today’s conditions in the U.S. and world class struggle, as well as the class-collaborationist leadership of the labor movement. Those factors are largely beyond anyone’s control. As they have throughout the history of



UFCW Local 7 members and backers at JBS packinghouse, Greeley, Colorado, March 24 during successful four-week strike by 3,800 workers. Union resistance to employer attacks is growing.

capitalism, those factors will unforeseeably but inevitably change with eruptions of working-class resistance, anti-imperialist struggles and new advances of the world socialist revolution.

The SWP today, Barnes said, is proletarian in our program, our class composition and our norms and habits of political conduct. “*Our communist program is stronger than ever;*” he said.

“We remain true to that party,” Barnes said. “We keep our eyes focused on the only class and class institutions through which a vanguard can organize and lead millions in a successful revolutionary struggle for workers power.”

In Defense of Marxism

An essential guide to building the party, Barnes said, are the political and organizational lessons to be studied in the book *In Defense of Marxism* by communist leader Leon Trotsky. On the eve of the June socialist conference, a new edition of that work, first published



“Socialist Workers Party election campaigns are the single most important way to meet and talk about the party with working people,” Jack Barnes told the 2026 SWP conference. Top, Farrell Dobbs, SWP’s 1948 candidate for U.S. president, campaigns in Detroit working-class neighborhood. Below, Paul Mailhot, party’s candidate for New York governor, and Joanne Kuniansky, candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, at Feb. 22 protest in New York defending Cuban sovereignty and its socialist revolution.

damental programmatic and political guide for today. The new edition’s 2026 introduction is being used by the SWP in politically preparing its upcoming December 2026 convention.

Reading and discussing this 2026 edition of *In Defense of Marxism*, including its new introduction, dispel a common misconception about Trotsky’s place in the modern communist movement. It rebuts the false notion that whatever his reputation as a skilled writer and “theoretician,” he always came up short on matters of organization, working-class activity and discipline. This falsification is peddled, among others, by Stalinists and other middle-class radicals, in order to demean and discredit both Trotsky and the Bolshevik-forged world movement he led.

But this book shows that nothing could be further from the truth, Barnes said. From 1917 when he was won by Lenin to the Bolshevik Party, no one had internalized more deeply than Trotsky what Lenin taught and carried out in action about the *inseparable interconnection* of proletarian politics and proletarian organization, of word and deed.

In fact, at a crucial turning point in the 1939-40 struggle in the SWP, Trotsky pointed to the “lack of understanding of revolutionary centralism and hostility toward it” as a “typical” character trait of followers of any nonproletarian, petty-bourgeois tendency.

What’s more, Trotsky insisted, the political and programmatic questions at issue in the struggle — unconditional opposition to imperialist war, defense of the Soviet workers state, Marxism’s materialist method — could not be understood or acted on in a party “undated by nonproletarian elements.” The task, Trotsky wrote, is “to orient” the party “toward the factories, the strikes, the unions.”

That’s the road, Trotsky said, to forging a cadre “of proletarian revolutionists capable of understanding what the party is, what loyalty to the banner means, and what revolutionary discipline signifies.”

Barnes noted that several SWP branches across the U.S. and Communist Leagues in other countries have already begun weekly membership classes to discuss *In Defense of Marxism*, and that it had been integrated into conference classes. Participants purchased more than 200 copies of the new edition.

Barnes also underlined the importance of the upcoming new edition of James P. Cannon’s *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*, also with a 2026 introduction. Cannon, a founding leader in Lenin’s time of the communist movement in the U.S. and of the Communist International, was the SWP’s national secretary at the time of the 1939-40 dispute. The book contains the pamphlet of the same name that Cannon wrote on the eve of the April 1940 convention that voted to reject the minority’s proposed course and affirm the party’s proletarian orientation. It also contains Cannon’s letters to Trotsky and to other SWP leaders.

At the successful conclusion of that political struggle, Trotsky wrote party leader Farrell Dobbs that Cannon’s pamphlet was a much needed handbook by “a genuine workers leader. If the discussion had not produced more than this document, it would be justified.”

No one on either side of that fight, of

course, questioned that Trotsky had led the fight in the SWP around both the programmatic and organizational questions at stake. But by studying Cannon’s book along with Trotsky’s, Barnes said, readers come to see how Trotsky “*led the leaders of the SWP*,” who were among the finest organizers the communist movement has ever produced anywhere in the world.”

Even before waging that momentous battle, Barnes said, Trotsky had already consciously recognized the SWP and its tested proletarian leadership — Cannon, Dobbs, and others — as a party that could take the lead worldwide in keeping aloft the flag unfurled by Lenin more than a quarter century earlier.

A movement not a doctrine

“What are the foundations of Marxism?” Barnes asked. That needs to be understood as we build a proletarian party “capable of organizing and leading the struggle for workers power.”

Barnes focused on three central pillars.

One is overcoming the misunderstanding that communism is “a set of ideas.” That was first clarified in 1847 when the young Karl Marx and Frederick Engels were recruited to the world’s first communist party by a number of revolutionary-minded workers in Europe. Those veteran cadres asked Marx and Engels to draft a program for the new organization, the Communist League, which was founded at the end of that year.

As they were working on the draft, a radical middle-class democrat named Karl Heinzen wrote several public attacks on communists, portraying them as doctrinaire sectarians who were dividing the political struggle for democratic freedoms and a republic in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

Engels replied to these falsifications in an October 1847 article. Heinzen “imagines communism is a certain doctrine which proceeds from a definite theoretical principle ... and draws further conclusions from that,” he wrote.

Heinzen “is very much mistaken,” Engels replied. “Communism is not a

doctrine but a movement. It proceeds not from principles but from facts. ... Communism, insofar as it is a theory, is the theoretical expression of the position of the proletariat in this [class] struggle and the theoretical summation of the conditions for the liberation of the proletariat.”

Later in 1847 Marx and Engels incorporated this cornerstone of our movement into the program that was adopted by the new organization. “That document has become well known since then as the Communist Manifesto,” Barnes added.

In short, he said, “communists never start from ideas we think we somehow ‘discovered.’ We start from *facts* learned from struggles by the working class here and the world over. And then we generalize and adjust those lessons over time.

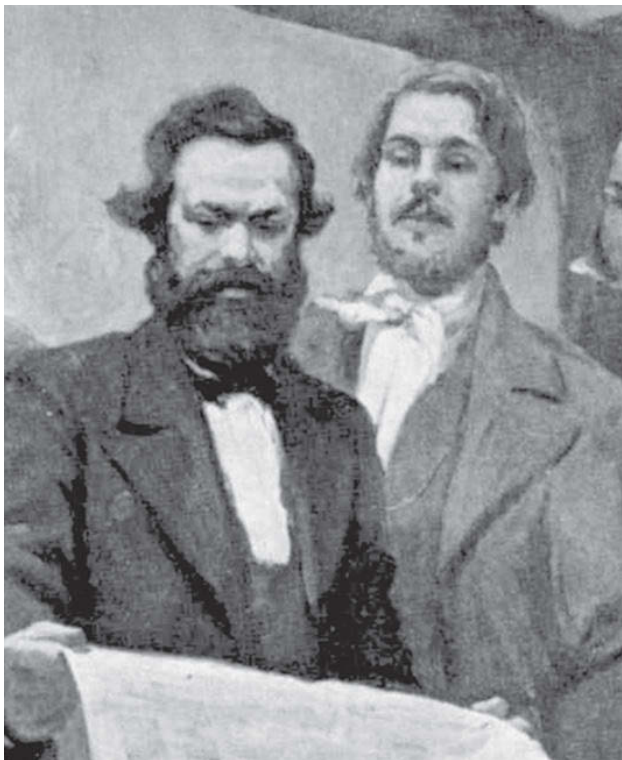
“That’s how our program grows and changes.”

Transforming class relations

Only such an understanding of our Marxist program, Barnes said, is consistent with our materialist understanding of history — whether natural history or human history.

Marxists have no “blueprint” of either the class struggle in our times or of a future communist society, Barnes said. Instead, we have “a working-class program and strategy for the *transformation* of material reality. A program and strategy for the *revolutionary transformation* of the exploitative class

Continued on page 10



Karl Marx, left, and Frederick Engels, founding leaders of the communist movement, reviewing newspaper in 1848. “Communism is not a doctrine but a movement,” Engels wrote previous year. “It proceeds not from principles but from facts.”

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SWP conference, Marxism

Continued from page 9

relations in capitalist society. Through these struggles, the working class and other toilers transform our class consciousness and ourselves.

“To understand the method of Marxism, don’t *start* with dialectics,” Barnes advised. “*Start with material reality, start with materialism.*”

In that regard, Barnes urged conference participants to make more use of the book published a few years ago, *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity* by Engels, Marx, George Novack and Mary-Alice Waters. It helps explain to fellow workers what the subtitle of that book calls “The Long View of History.” So do titles on the origins of women’s oppression and fight for their emancipation by Evelyn Reed, Waters, and others — books such as *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* and *Problems of Women’s Liberation*.

That’s where working people can learn that capitalism’s dog-eat-dog system of wage exploitation and oppression is not eternal, Barnes said. And how those degrading relations among human beings can be combated through solidarity and struggle and ended once and for all.

That’s where transformation — *dialectics* — comes in most strongly. Where revolutionary *activity* and *change* come in.

Professional revolutionaries

A second pillar of Marxism, Barnes told conference participants, is that a revolutionary proletarian party must be what Lenin called “a party of professional revolutionaries.”

That’s “one of the most intentionally and *willfully* ‘misunderstood’ political

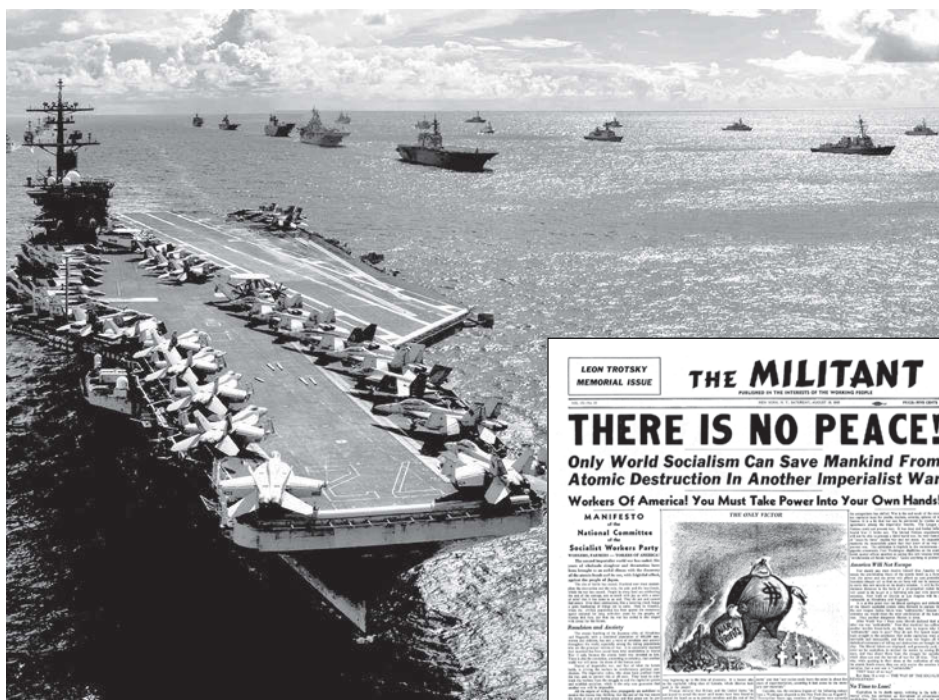
contributions by Lenin,” Barnes added. “Not that there’s anything difficult about what Lenin wrote. It’s just that the bourgeois class enemies of the working-class movement and the Stalinists and other class-collaborationist misleaders both have a stake in distorting Lenin.”

One such “misunderstanding” is that Lenin thought that workers in the party need to be led by a university-educated elite of “professionals,” who volunteer in their spare time to do so. Bourgeois anti-communists love to promote this falsification, hoping to portray communists as “hypocrites.” But it’s also convenient for so-called intellectuals who fancy themselves “political leaders” of the working class.

A professional revolutionary is also not the same thing as a party member chosen to shoulder a necessary full-time staff assignment — for a leadership committee, for a newsweekly, for a publishing house, for a party election campaign, or so on. Members of a party staff are a relatively small minority of the professional revolutionaries who make up a proletarian party.

There may be no better place to start in finding out what a professional revolutionary is than a couple of sentences on party membership at the opening of the SWP constitution. Membership, the constitution says, is open to anyone “who accepts the program of the party,” “agrees to submit to its discipline and engage actively in its work” and “belong[s] to a duly constituted branch of the party.”

The SWP, Barnes said, is made up of members with different origins and backgrounds who organize our lives and energies to building a proletarian party. Our purpose — again in the words of



U.S. Navy

USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier leads 2022 war exercise in Pacific. Inset, SWP manifesto on the *Militant* front page in August 1945. Imperialist rivalry will drive new, deadlier wars to redivide the world until working class wins state power in more and more countries, Barnes said.

the party constitution — is “to establish a workers and farmers government, which will abolish capitalism in the United States and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism.”

In everything we do, “this party-building effort involves revolutionary workers *teaching* each other and *learning* from each other,” Barnes said. “We take the time to train each other to be *professional* in all kinds of skills and working-class attitudes.

“We’re *professional* in how we organize and fight alongside other workers in industry and the trade unions, whether on the job or on a picket line. In how we write and produce a weekly workers paper, and how we organize together to promote it and sell it. In how we self-finance a workers party,” Barnes said.

“We’re *professional* in how we organize SWP election campaigns, efforts to overcome undemocratic barriers imposed by both capitalist parties to gaining ballot status, and how we present ourselves as candidates. And much, much more.”

None of this is new, Barnes repeated. It’s what Lenin explained in his 1902 book, *What Is To Be Done?* It’s the party’s “duty to assist every capable worker to become a *professional* agitator, organizer, propagandist, literature distributor, etc., etc.,” Lenin said.

The “worker revolutionary,” the Bolshevik leader insisted, must “become a professional revolutionary.”

The third pillar, Barnes said, is Lenin’s recognition that by the closing decade of the 19th century, a historic new epoch of world capitalism had opened.

Imperialism

What Lenin called the imperialist epoch had its base in a handful of powerful nation states, above all the United Kingdom, Germany, France and the United States, as well as Russia, Japan, and a number of others in Europe, North America and the Pacific.

These imperialist powers had come to dominate and divide among themselves the exploitation of the labor and natural wealth of *the entire earth*, Barnes said. Lenin explained this development in his 1916 work, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. As this small book shows, Lenin wrote, “capitalism has now singled out a handful ... of exceptionally rich and powerful states which plunder the whole world simply by ‘clipping coupons.’”

And nothing fundamental has changed this exploitative world order in the subsequent 110 years. “Until the working classes and their allies in that handful of imperialist countries have won state power from those capitalist ruling classes,” Barnes said, “history and the international class struggle will be dominated by sharp rivalry among them to redivide spheres of plunder and profits among themselves — from tariff and other conflicts over markets, to bloody military adventures and world wars.”

Imperialism is not, Barnes said, “a policy preferred by finance capital, subject to bourgeois ‘reform.’ It must be overthrown in revolutionary class struggle.”

(Continued next week)



Militant photos by Laura Anderson
Above, conference participants browse at book tables, discussing and buying literature. Left, wall of attractive displays illustrating conference themes lined one entire side of meeting hall.

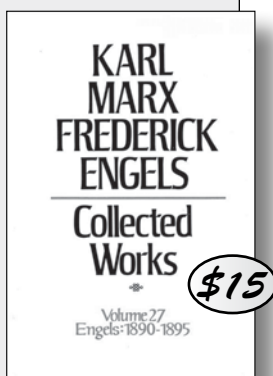
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For second week, hundreds of protesters back Haitians in Ohio

BY VALERIE LIBBY

BLUE ASH, Ohio — “Let them stay!” chanted hundreds of supporters of the right of Haitians who had been living and working in the U.S. for years under the government’s Temporary Protected Status program to remain in the U.S. They lined the streets outside the Department of Homeland Security building Aug. 9 in this suburb of Cincinnati.

Assembling at 7 a.m., over 700 people gathered for the second Sunday in a row to protest the end of TPS protections and to provide support to immigrants summoned to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office here to be questioned.

TPS protections for some 350,000 Haitians, along with 6,100 Syrians, were terminated June 25, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the law establishing TPS grants the president the power to continue or end these programs. The government has now begun issuing letters to some 15,000 Haitians who live in Springfield and Columbus.

Haitians first became eligible for TPS after a devastating 2010 earthquake. Since then, additional earthquakes, massive hurricanes, a cholera epidemic and the collapse of the central government have left the country in deep crisis. Armed gangs control most of Port-au-Prince, the capital.

The U.S. government has issued its highest warning urging U.S. citizens not to travel to Haiti. But for Haitians on TPS, Washington insists it is safe to return.

‘Immigrants welcome here’

Vilas Dorsanvil, director of the Springfield Haitian Support Center, escorted residents to their appointments. As people entered the ICE office, the crowd chanted: “No hate! No fear! Immigrants welcome here!”

He pointed to the humiliating ankle bracelets they came out wearing, after already having been stripped of their work permits and driver’s licenses. This creates a stereotype around them, Dorsanvil told WVXU News. “So many fathers and mothers don’t want their children to see them with the monitors.”

“I’m here because I believe the current administration is carrying out an inhumane and unjust campaign against immigrants,” retired teacher Robyn Allgeyer told the *Militant*. “They’re our neighbors, friends and family.”

Small-business owner Ronald Robinson said, “My mother is Haitian and she taught us the history of the Haitian Revolution, how the Haitian people were the only enslaved people to successfully free themselves from their enslavers. Haitians are a strong, proud, hard-working people.”

John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, and several supporters of the campaign joined the demonstration. “We explained the union movement needs to fight for amnesty for all immigrant workers in the U.S. in order to unify the working class,” campaign supporter Sergio Zambrana from Pittsburgh, said.

Solidarity grows for locked-out Indiana oil workers

Continued from front page

Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation. “We organized this to tell people that the fight against BP’s lockout is still going on,” Steven Minchuk, the federation’s president, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent just before the run started. The 800 members of Local 7-1 were locked out by BP bosses March 19 after the workers voted overwhelmingly to reject the company’s “last, best, and final” contract offer. The union’s contract expired Jan. 31.

The union has offered to return to work while negotiations continue, but the company answered with an ultimatum — either accept the union-busting contract the membership had already rejected by 98%, or remain locked out.

“They’ve been out for five months. They’ve got a lot of support, but it needs refreshing. That’s why we’re sponsoring this run,” Minchuk said. “BP is worth billions, taken out of workers’ pockets. Their pay was good for this region, and their wages and benefits boosted what everybody else around here made. With 800 BP workers and their families locked out without pay, everybody in Northwest Indiana hurts.

“If the company wins what they want, they’ll get rid of the union,” he said. “And a lot of other working people will be forced to say goodbye to comparatively high wages. That’s why supporting these union members against BP’s illegal lockout is so important.”



Militant/John Hawkins

Over 700 people turned out in Blue Ash, Ohio, Aug. 9, lining the street outside regional immigration office to support Haitian neighbors, co-workers, demand TPS protection be restored.

Billy Lowe, vice president of USW Local 6787 at the Cleveland Cliffs steel mill here, told me that he thought the turnout for the day’s activities was important. “The local’s participation increases the awareness of our members. Workers need to stand together.” The USW is currently in negotiations with the major steel companies, including Cleveland Cliffs. USW Local 6787 organizes 3,600 members there.

This mill was built by the Bethlehem Steel Company in 1962 next to the port in Burns Harbor. After Bethlehem filed for bankruptcy in 2003, the mill ended up in the hands of ArcelorMittal. In 2020 Cleveland Cliffs bought it. The mill has the capacity to turn out 5 million tons of raw steel a year.

Lowe told me he gives an update at every monthly union meeting on the refinery workers’ progress in winning support. “This is important,” he said, “because our members know that someone will have our backs in our fight for a decent contract.”

How the Poker Run works

Participants in the Poker Run have to stop at five locations set up along the route and sign in. If they stop at all five places, they end up with a five-card poker hand. The riders with the best poker hand and the worst win a prize. The rest of the registration fees went to Local 7-1.

In addition, a number of local unions, businesses and some politicians bought

sponsorships. These included USW Locals 1010, 1011, 1066, 2695, 6787 and 9462; Teamsters Local 142; Boilermakers Local 374; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 153; and the Indiana AFL-CIO. Some made additional donations, others paid for the beverages, wings and pizza that everyone enjoyed at the last stop, Buddy & Pal’s Place in Crown Point.

Many participants were union members, some were not. I sat at a big table with Samantha Carderas, who came to the Poker Run with a friend. She’s not in a union. “But I think the unions are important and I support them,” she said. “I’ve never been to a picket line, but I’m thinking of joining one at BP.”

Schultz chaired the wrap-up, where the prizes were handed out and raffle ticket sales announced. He thanked all who had turned out again, encouraged everyone to keep up their solidarity, and said, “It’s an inspiration when you join our picket line.”

You can help the oil workers win this fight! Bring donations of food and household items to the union hall at 2045 Schrage Ave. in Whiting. Invite the union to speak before your union, school, church or other organizations. Pick up some leaflets and posters to get out the word. Call (219) 659-1181 for more information.

Join the picket lines at BP gates, which are up 24/7. Just stop by the union hall to get a ride.

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The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us

The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward

The low point of labor resistance is behind us

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Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Socialist Workers Party candidates around the country are the only voice in the 2026 elections presenting a working-class road to end the capitalist rulers’ devastating wars abroad and their relentless profit drive that targets workers’ wages and conditions of life at home.

They explain the working class has the numbers, power and relation to the means of production to end capitalist rule and the capacity to rebuild society from top to bottom in the interests of all toiling humanity. The party’s candidates urge you to join in building the SWP, the kind of party workers need to lead the fight to replace dog-eat-dog capitalist rule with workers power.

The program SWP candidates are presenting is not a set of nice ideas, but a concrete course of action.

You’ll find SWP candidates walking strike picket lines and building solidarity wherever workers take action to defend their jobs, wages and working conditions, from locked-out meatpackers at Cargill in Fort Morgan, Colorado, to locked-out oil refinery workers in Whiting, Indiana, and many other labor battles.

You’ll find them organizing to build a movement of public protests against the U.S. rulers’ assaults on the Cuban people and their socialist revolution. Washington is accelerating its decades-long drive to try to wipe out the example that revolution sets for all working people.

You’ll find them at actions to defend immigrant workers, like the protests against the ending of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and against Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s killing of construction worker Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston. You’ll find them alongside fellow workers as they respond to the impact of the capitalist crisis, like workers in Los Angeles who protested authorities’ lack of action to deal with the

horrific and dangerous conditions left to fester after a fire at the Lineage warehouse there.

You’ll find SWP candidates at actions to defend Jews, like at a protest in June at the Poetica Coffee shop in Brooklyn, New York, after its owner claimed a Jewish customer was a “genocide enabler.” SWP candidate Willie Cotton told the rally, “Fighting Jew-hatred is a life-and-death question for the working class,” as is defending Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

SWP candidates discuss the party’s working-class program and activity with workers on their doorsteps in cities and rural areas. They work to expand the readership of the *Militant* and books by party leaders and other revolutionaries that explain the lessons of previous hard-fought working-class battles.

Everywhere they go, SWP campaigners point workers to the need to organize independently of the parties that uphold capitalist exploitation — the Republicans, the Democrats, as well as the Democrats’ sewer-socialist wing.

One big advantage workers have today is we don’t have to start from scratch. A revolutionary workers party already exists. The SWP is being built in the course of today’s union battles, in response to social upheavals worldwide, and in opposition to the U.S. rulers’ wars for domination and plunder, like its war against Iran.

A party that is working class in program, composition and conduct is indispensable for leading tens of millions of workers to take state power from the capitalist war makers and into our own hands. That is the one way workers have of halting the march of the U.S. imperialists and their capitalist rivals toward a third world war, as they battle each other to redivide the world.

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

Imperialist plunder drives emigration from Morocco

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the last two days of July, some 72,000 mostly young people living in Morocco crossed the land border into the adjacent Spanish enclave of Ceuta, with 75 immigrants dying. Many attempted a 3-mile swim around the border breakwater to get into the small city. Ceuta, along with Melilla, also sharing a border with Morocco, serve as the Spanish rulers’ last colonial outposts in Africa.

The incident sparked headlines worldwide and raised questions about what led to the disaster.

The answer has everything to do with the deep capitalist economic and social crisis resulting in dire living and working conditions for the vast majority of toilers in semicolonial countries, from Asia to Latin America to Africa. Many in Morocco hope that their lives will improve if they can just get to mainland Spain, where the government is known for liberal immigration policies, including a “regularization” program for over a million people earlier this year. About half were from North and sub-Saharan Africa.

“I tried to work and have a job and make a living, but there is nothing for me here,” Mohammed Kinani told the *New York Times*. The 21-year-old construction worker made the perilous trip to Ceuta and was forced back to Morocco. “If I don’t leave this country, there is nothing that will save me.”

“Do you think if I had a job I would have gone?” Ahlam al-Adnan, 22, said. She swam to the Spanish enclave with her four siblings, including her 8-year-old brother. In Ceuta, they hid in a forest but got hungry, so she went to look for food, got detained and was sent back to Morocco.

This time, Spanish authorities clamped down hard, deploying police and military forces to rapidly round up the vast majority of the immigrants and force them back across the border Aug. 1-2. Some 800 children who made the trip are being held in facilities across Ceuta.

In the town of Fnideq on the other side of the border, Moroccan cops turned water cannon on people trying to get into the Spanish-held territory. Until six years ago Moroccans could enter Ceuta without a

visa. But then “the state decided to close the border,” Alami El Makrini, a market stall holder in Fnideq, told Reuters. “They hurt the shopkeepers and didn’t give us any compensation.”

The official unemployment rate in Morocco is 11%. But youth unemployment is more than triple that in a country where half the population of 38 million is under 35 years old. Last year the World Bank said that over the past decade, Morocco’s working-age population had grown by 11.4%, while employment had increased by only 1.5%

In 2025, demonstrations broke out in at least a dozen cities over joblessness, poor healthcare and living conditions, while the government of King Mohammed VI spends billions of dollars upgrading soccer stadiums for the 2030 FIFA World Cup, which it’s set to co-host with Spain and Portugal.

Prospects looked brighter for immigrants in Spain when the government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced a program for undocumented workers earlier this year. It allowed individuals already in Spain whose visas had expired to renew their work permits. When registration closed June 30, over 1.1 million people had filed applications to do so.

Also impacting the crossings into Ceuta was a recent ruling by Spain’s Supreme Court that migrants stopped at sea while trying to reach Ceuta or Melilla, cannot be summarily returned to Morocco without due process.

Ceuta, with a population of 83,000, is a 7-mile enclave on a peninsula jutting into the Strait of Gibraltar. It has been controlled by Spain since 1580. When Morocco won its independence from both French and Spanish imperialist domination in 1956, the Spanish rulers continued to hold Ceuta and Melilla. The government of Morocco doesn’t recognize either Ceuta or Melilla as Spanish territories and demands their return.

In response to the latest events in Ceuta, Spanish officials have extended their water barrier out another 500 yards to make it more difficult to swim to the enclave.

Ukraine battles Moscow

Continued from front page

near the front lines this year by tripling the use of small maneuverable drones that hunt down civilians in the streets. An Aug. 5 video shows a drone chasing and wounding a vegetable seller in the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson.

Zaporizhzhia, a city near the front in Ukraine’s southeast, has been a target for Russian drones since the invasion began. Kateryna Lahuta had her seafood business hit by two Russian bombs in July. “Even half a year ago it was still scary, of course, and there were strikes. But it wasn’t like this,” Lahuta told Reuters Aug. 6.

Ania Syvova, a 34-year-old seamstress whose husband is fighting in the war, sends her 6-year-old daughter to an underground kindergarten in Zaporizhzhia. “We’ve got used to this life,” she said. “For now, unfortunately, we don’t have another one.”

Moscow’s aerial barrages with slow-moving drones are mostly intercepted. But its glide bombs and supersonic ballistic missiles are a deadlier threat. In July 8,300 heavy glide bombs were launched from Russia, the highest monthly number so far. Ukrainian warning apps help ensure most people get to shelters in time.

Kyiv’s different strategy

In sharp contrast, Kyiv’s own long-range drones are striking strategic targets across Russia, from oil refineries to huge warehouses. Refinery output has been cut by a quarter, causing fuel shortages. Kyiv’s mid-range drones hamper supply routes in occupied parts of Ukraine and Crimea, as well as target Russian oil tankers in the Black Sea.

Moscow’s war economy is straining under soaring military spending, severe labor shortages and rising inflation.

In southeast Ukraine this year, Moscow’s army has lost about 70 square miles. Russian workers in uniform are used as cannon fodder in “meat grinder” assaults. In July, Kyiv’s drone defenses inflicted almost three-quarters of the 42,800 Russian casualties, the highest monthly toll yet.

Moscow’s total military casualties in its war of attrition are estimated at about 1.4 million, including some 450,000 killed. The Russian casualty rate at the front has surged to nearly eight times that of Ukraine’s.

Many of these losses are soldiers recruited from Russia’s prison population or disproportionately from among oppressed nationalities in the Russian Federation, like Muslim people in the south, as well as Central Asian or other immigrant workers who are lured or forced into Moscow’s army.

Moscow and St. Petersburg have been largely insulated from the war, with far fewer casualties there. Russian President Vladimir Putin has so far avoided another mobilization like the one in 2022 that triggered mass anti-war protests in major cities.

But this year losses have outpaced recruitment, even after the Putin regime increased lucrative sign-up bonuses. A call-up of half a million reservists to reinforce Moscow’s army is likely after the September Duma elections. As the toll in human lives mounts and economic uncertainty for millions of workers rises, Putin is banking that his repressive forces will be able to quell resistance by working people at home.

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes
in *New International* no. 11

“The Bolsheviks’ policy on national self-determination and voluntary federation began to be reversed from the early 1920s by the emerging bureaucratic caste led by Joseph Stalin. The USSR reemerged as a prison house of nations inherited from the czarist empire.”

— Jack Barnes



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