

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Canada farmers protest gov't push to expropriate their land
— PAGE 2

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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OCTOBER 5, 2026

Wall Street hails Fed rate raise, workers driven deeper into debt

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

For the first time in three years the Federal Reserve raised interest rates this month, claiming this will slow rising prices. This is “bad news for borrowers, good news for savers,” The Associated Press reported. They were obviously happy with the news that capitalist investors, speculators, bankers and the like will find themselves even richer.

But millions of working people, already saddled with large debts, will face even higher monthly interest payments on their credit cards, auto loans, mortgage rates and more.

Prices overall have soared more than 30% since the beginning of 2019, and most of them aren't coming down. Beef is up by nearly 80%, bread by 40%, rents by 50% and daycare and preschool up 43%. Gas now costs \$4 or more a gallon, diesel averages over \$6 a gallon, a 70% increase from a year ago. The big-business press blames this all on the Iran war, but somehow the gas monopolies see record profits while our pockets are empty.

The high cost of diesel is battering truckers, but also hits farmers hard, who

Continued on page 3

US rulers step up attacks on Cuba, political rights in US

Gov't targets Cuba supporters as ‘foreign agents’



Militant/Mary Martin

“Hands Off Cuba!” picket by Minneapolis Cuba Committee June 3. Protests are crucial in fight to end U.S. gov't blockade, threats of war. Cuban people will never give up their revolution.

Cuba workers act to develop their own energy sources

BY RÓGER CALERO

While the U.S. government steadily ratchets up sanctions to bar Cuba from receiving hard currency, oil and other resources, workers on the island are using their creativity and experience to maintain essential services for the

Continued on page 7

Justice Department: Joining protests for Cuba is a crime

BY JANET POST

Without any fanfare and little media coverage in the big-business press, the Department of Justice issued a press release Sept. 16, “Liability for Unregistered Foreign Agents,” that contains a frontal assault on basic constitutional freedoms, including the rights to free speech, assembly and political association.

“Both citizens and noncitizens are reminded that anyone who violates

Continued on page 6

Cause of flood disaster in Nepal was capitalist drive for profits

BY MIKE TUCKER

A huge glacial avalanche plummeting around a mile vertically down the Himalayas triggered a fast, towering flood that swept through a major river valley formed by the Lhenda Khola, Bhotekoshi and then the Trishuli rivers between Nepal and Tibet Aug. 26. It pulverized everything in its path, leaving thousands dead. News reports quickly blamed the catastrophe on “climate change,” as did both the Nepalese and Chinese governments.

This was indeed a man-made social catastrophe, but the reason it was so deadly wasn't “climate change.” It was the destructive character of life under the lash of capitalist exploitation and competition.

In Nepal, more than 1,400 people have been confirmed dead and 6,000 are missing. Towns, farms and roads were washed away or buried under mud and rubble. This includes 900 workers entombed in tunnels when 12 hydropower plants were destroyed.

Up to 100,000 survivors lack food and shelter, including newly orphaned children. In one of the poorest and least developed regions in the world, this is devastating for working people. Many were still recovering from a destructive avalanche and earthquake in 2015.

Nepal's finance minister estimates

Continued on page 8

Join SWP in drive to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, party-building fund



Militant/Jeff Powers

Maggie Trowe, center, SWP candidate for governor of California, joined workers, supporters picketing Hilton Garden Inn in Emeryville Sept. 15 for contract matching company's other hotels.

Dear Readers,

We invite you to join the Socialist Workers Party in its fall campaign to expand the reach of the *Militant* and books by party leaders and other revolutionary working-class fighters, to help build support for the party's candidates in the November elections and to raise a Party-Building Fund to sustain the work of the SWP. The seven-week effort will

run from Sept. 26 to Nov. 17.

Political developments today are marked by the deepening economic, political and moral crisis of the capitalist system and the sharpening imperialist rivalries that fuel conflicts and threaten new wars across the globe. This war drive is the flip side of class conflicts here at home. Every day workers face

Continued on page 9

1966 Mississippi ‘March Against Fear’ dealt new blows to bastion of Jim Crow

BY TERRY EVANS

Crisscrossing Mississippi, the 1966 March Against Fear grew to the largest ever statewide action against Jim Crow segregation June 26 in Jackson, the capital. Stu Singer, a Student Nonvio-

lent Coordinating Committee volunteer from Boston, who later became a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, took part in the march. Singer spent the last year of his life preparing a vivid, firsthand account of the action in 2012.

James Meredith single handedly started the march, but was shot after just

Continued on page 5

New Gaza movie slanders Israel, covers for Hamas

BY SETH GALINSKY

NAZA, filmed in Israel, joins a growing international propaganda barrage spreading false allegations that Israel's defensive war against Hamas is genocide against the Palestinian people or at the very least deliberate mass murder of innocent civilians.

NAZA is getting a big buzz because its directors are two Jewish Israelis, Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, and

Continued on page 9

Inside

Communist League brings its campaign to workers in London 3

UK unions join fight for freedom for ‘Zaporizhzhia 15’ 5

Help Global Health Partners send medical supplies to Cuba 6

— On the picket line, p. 4 —

1,200 strike over safety, pay at National Steel Car in Canada

Seattle hotel workers strike wins substantial gains

Canada farmers protest gov’t push to expropriate their land

BY JOHN STEELE

RIGAUD, Quebec — Some 500 farmers, their families and supporters from surrounding eastern Ontario and western Quebec rallied at a dairy farm here Sept. 19 to oppose a federal government plan to buy or expropriate farms to build a high-speed train corridor linking Toronto, Quebec City and Ottawa.

The protest, “Strong and United Against Alto High-Speed Rail,” was held in both French and English. It kicked off with a bagpipe-led tractorcade of hundreds of farmers with placards explaining the project threatens their livelihoods. The main organizer of the action was ALT-NO (United Against Alto), supported by major farm organizations like Quebec’s Union of Agricultural Producers (UPA) and the Ontario Farmers’ Association.

Alto is the name of the quasi-government company set up by Ottawa to build the project in conjunction with a consortium of profit-hungry private businesses.

Signs on tractors included: “Derail this train, save our farms”; “Our land is not for sale”; and “High-Speed Rail, wrong priority.”

Another on a 1970 model tractor said, “I fought against Mirabel.” In 1969 a hard-fought battle was waged by 3,000 farmers against Ottawa’s expropriation of 97,000 acres of their land to build the infamous Mirabel airport, 30 miles north of Montreal. It opened in 1975 at a cost of about 3 billion in today’s Canadian dollars (\$2.1 billion). All told, some 10,000 people, mostly farmers, were displaced.

The airport proved to be a colossal failure, shutting down its passenger

service in 2004. It’s used now only for air freight. Last February Parliament voted for the government to apologize to the Mirabel farmers.

Over the years since, 80,000 acres of expropriated land was sold back, much to the original owners, who now find themselves threatened once again by the Ottawa-Montreal leg of the Alto project.

One participant carried a sign saying, “Facing expropriation for a second time.” She told the *Militant* her dad had a dairy farm that was destroyed to make way for the ill-fated Mirabel airport.

The Montreal-Ottawa portion of the rail line got Ottawa’s approval late last year, with construction to begin in 2029. The final route is to be determined by the end of this year, with farmers reporting drone flights now scanning their properties. Most of the trackage will require a 60-meter-wide (197 foot) fenced-in corridor. Projected costs are CA\$90 billion.

The impact will be huge, UPA President Martin Caron told the *Montreal Gazette*. “If they just take 60 meters, we would have to drive around the fence to get to the other side of our farm.”

Sharon Patton, a farmer from Rideau



Some 500 farmers, family members and supporters rallied in Rigaud, Quebec, Sept. 19 to oppose government moves to seize their farms to build a new high-speed rail corridor.

Lakes, Ontario, who farms maple and pine trees, came to the protest with 30 others from their area. “My family has farmed there since the 1700s,” she told the *Militant*. “I can’t see losing it.”

“It’s important to unite farmers in Ontario and Quebec,” said Mirabel City Councillor and coalition spokesperson Robert Charron, who chaired the rally. “We showed that with our last action in Ottawa” of almost 1,000 June 10.

“The laws on expropriation are un-

just,” said Sharon Kellar from South Frontenac in Ontario. “We have to stand together to fight this.”

“I wasn’t planning on speaking today,” said Sandra Lavoratore, mayor of Pointe Fortune, a village of 640. “But when I saw so many people, I felt that the little community of Pointe Fortune is not at all alone.”

Annette Kouri and Steve Penner contributed to this article.

SWP reports high book sales at Chicago Printers Row fest

BY STEVE WARSHALL

CHICAGO — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party set up a large, well-stocked campaign table at the annual Printers Row Lit Fest in downtown Chicago Sept. 12-13. The table was crowded by people interested in reading about working-class struggles the world over and on key political questions workers

confront today. Hundreds browsed the Pathfinder Press titles written by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries to engage in political discussion and debate.

Books by Fidel Castro and other leaders of the Cuban Revolution were the best sellers, with 32 snapped up. The new title *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban combatant Víctor Dreke was the highest seller, with 10 purchased, as well as 10 copies of *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions: Speeches from the Burkina Faso revolution, 1983-87* by Thomas Sankara, who led that revolution in West Africa.

In all, 23 copies of books by Sankara were sold, 36 books on the fight for women’s emancipation, 27 books on Malcolm X and the fight for Black liberation, and six copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Dominic Mailo was among 43 people who signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*. “The United States needs to end the embargo on Cuba, it should have ended a long time ago,” he told volunteer Betsy Farley after looking at the paper.

SWP member Farley explained that sharpening competition between imperialist rulers over which one can grab the most wealth created by the working class is the cause of today’s trade conflicts, rearmament and wars. “Only the working class can stop their drive toward a third world war by taking power and abolishing the capitalist system,” she said. Mailo agreed.

Volunteers from Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, as well as the Chicago area, helped staff the table. A total of 169 books were sold. A donation can at the table for fundraising by Global Health Partners for a maternity hospital in Cuba netted \$60 in donations.

THE MILITANT

Moscow targets passenger trains in Ukraine

Moscow’s war on Ukraine is built around attacking civilians, including workers on the job. Several crew and passengers have been killed, dozens injured in recent attacks on trains. The ‘Militant’ calls for Moscow’s troops out now! Defend Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.



Ukraine Ministry of Recovery, Infrastructure, Transport Engineer’s cabin on train attacked by Russian drone in Ukraine’s Kharkiv region Aug. 23.

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Communist League brings its campaign to workers in London

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

LONDON — “Building strong unions and extending solidarity in labor battles is key,” Hanna Tesfay told Jonathan Silberman, the Communist League candidate in the Holborn and St. Pancras parliamentary by-election here, as they discussed a road forward for working people after Silberman knocked on her door Sept. 19. Tesfay is a driver on the London Underground and a member of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

Tesfay said she was concerned about rising unemployment. She thought “some young people don’t want to work.” One million youth are neither employed nor in education or training, some 13.5% of all those aged 16 to 24.

“The bulk of the jobless don’t make unemployment a life choice,” Silberman replied. “Unemployment goes up and down as the capitalists respond to economic shifts, always looking to boost their profits. Today they’re cutting jobs.” Nine million are currently out of work in the U.K.

“Millions without jobs intensify competition between the employed and unemployed, the main division facing the working class,” Silberman said. He told Tesfay about a woman he’d just met campaigning who has a long record of working as a temp. “She can’t get full-time work. A young man in the same block said he had his temporary contract ended that day.

“The unions need to fight for cutting hours with no loss in take-home pay when job cuts are threatened,” Silberman said. “And for a program of government-funded public works to provide jobs at union-negotiated pay rates to build the homes, hospitals and infrastructure workers need.”

Silberman said that such a course would contribute to forging a fighting working-class movement. “A union-led fight for jobs goes together with fighting for rights of workers born abroad and against deportations,” he said. “And it goes alongside a fight against scapegoating Jews for problems that come from the profit-driven capitalist system.”

Tesfay took campaign leaflets to pass around to her workmates and subscribed to the *Militant*.

So did Sonai Miah, who works at a

real estate office. “What concerns me most are the spreading wars,” he told Silberman. When he saw the CL’s campaign flyer pointed to the march of the imperialist powers toward another world war he said, “That’s spot on. That’s the future for my kids.”

“Some 100 million perished in World War I and World War II, the vast bulk were working people,” Silberman said. “And the troops — workers in uniform — are treated with disdain.” He described the treatment of sailors on the USS Abraham Lincoln during Washington’s recent bombing campaign against Iran.

“They didn’t have shore relief for nine months!” Miah said.

“Another world war is not inevitable,” Silberman said. “It can be prevented by workers taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist war makers. For that we need a political party to lead a movement of millions. That’s why the Communist League exists.”

‘Never-ending price rises’

“It is hard to raise a family today,” Lianne de Vera, a community worker with two young children, told Silberman on her doorstep. She pointed to “never-ending price rises.”

Officially U.K. inflation is 3%, Silberman said. “But the government uses the consumer price index that understates inflation. And for working people it’s higher still because we’re forced to spend more of our income on essentials like food.” Food prices rose by 40% in the five years since January 2020.

“Wages should be protected against inflation by automatic increases,” Sil-

Wall Street hails Fed rate raise, workers go deeper in debt

Continued from front page

must now spend thousands of dollars more for planting, harvesting and hauling crops to market.

Mortgage rates have risen to 7%, more than double what they were four years ago. A difference of just a few percentage points like this could mean workers have to pay hundreds of thousands more just in interest over a 30-year loan on a one-family house, which now averages over \$400,000.

cal 21” several dozen workers also picketed in front of the Hilton Garden Inn in Emeryville the day before, demanding a contract on par with nearby hotels owned by the same company. There have been several recent actions by room cleaners, restaurant and maintenance workers from the hotel, joined by union members from several area hotels. Three police squad cars were dispatched to the hotel, but after union leaders spoke with them, the cops left without incident.

In Berkeley, workers at the Graduate Hotel voted 96% for representation by Local 2 in July, after holding an informational picket and winning solidarity from area unionists, as well as University of California students and local politicians.



Militant/Julie Crawford

Jonathan Silberman, Communist League candidate in London by-election, talks to Hanna Tesfay, member of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, at her door, Sept. 19.

berman said. “Unions should fight for cost-of-living adjustments in every wage agreement.” De Vera asked to keep in touch with the campaign.

CL campaigners Hugo Wils and Julie Crawford met Dary Kyela, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, when they knocked on his door. He told them that since independence from Belgium, working people in the Congo have faced economic crises and war.

“To gain real independence means uprooting exploitation,” Crawford said. She pointed to the example set by Fidel Castro, who led workers and peasants in Cuba to overturn capitalist rule.

“They started to organize society based on human needs and social solidarity, extending this solidarity internationally,” Wils said, pointing to Cuba’s aid to national liberation struggles. Kyela bought a subscription to the *Militant* along with a copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The*

Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke.

The CL’s campaign was launched at a meeting Sept. 19. Silberman described how the major capitalist parties hide the class divisions that underlie all politics. “Prime Minister Andrew Burnham says, ‘Britain must believe in itself.’ Green Party leader Zack Polanski pledges to ‘work with’ Burnham and ‘challenge him on the gaps in his plan.’

“But there are two Britains — the Britain of the ruling rich and the Britain of working people,” Silberman said. “We tell everyone we meet that our campaign begins and ends with the interests of working people. We advance a course of united struggle for workers’ self-emancipation, building the Communist League.”

Eleven subscriptions to the *Militant* and seven books on revolutionary working-class politics were sold in the first four days of campaigning.

he said, but until they’re successful, he’s had to cut back on groceries.

For cost-of-living wage increases

What’s needed here and in many other workplaces is a fight for 100% cost-of-living-adjustment clauses in union contracts, Social Security and other government benefits that we’ve won in past struggles. That way our wages automatically rise to cover price increases. Decades ago workers won protections like this in many union contracts, but over the years the bosses have fought hard to get them eliminated.

High prices are forcing more working people to cut back on food and other groceries. The Capital Area Food Bank reported in mid-September that over a third of households in the Washington, D.C., area lack access to adequate food supplies. And growing numbers of those lining up for assistance there are seniors or former federal employees.

“A lot of our seniors say: ‘I have to make a decision. Do I want to eat or do I want to get my medicine?’” Pastor Oliver Carter, who runs No Limits Outreach Ministries, told the *Post*.

Living in a different world are the ruling capitalist families and their nouveau-riche compatriots. “New York’s Top .001 Percent Have Grown Even Richer,” headlined a Sept. 2 *New York Times* article. The average annual income for these 50 families was \$600 million in 2024, up from \$315 million in 2019. The top 1% took home more than a third of all the income in the city.

Bay Area UNITE HERE hotel and candy workers mobilize for contracts

BY MAGGIE TROWE

SAN FRANCISCO — Members of UNITE HERE Local 2 are fighting on several fronts in the San Francisco Bay Area. More than two dozen members of the union and their supporters leafleted around Ghirardelli Square here Sept. 16 to win support for their fight for a contract at the Ghirardelli Ice Cream and Chocolate Shop. Handing out a flyer titled “Greedy Ghirardelli,” the unionists explained to tourists and others that the workers at the well-known sweets eatery haven’t had a new contract since 2023.

The unionists held a three-day strike in July, picketing in front of the store, which received substantial local news coverage.

Chanting “Who always wins? Lo-

1,200 strike over safety, pay at National Steel Car in Canada

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

HAMILTON, Ontario — Some 1,200 members of United Steelworkers Local 7135 went on strike at National Steel Car here Aug. 12 after rejecting the bosses’ concession contract proposal by 79%. The stakes in the fight are important for workers across North America.

National Steel Car boasts it is “the major North American rail car producer.” The fact is “this is a two-headed snake,” union President Frank Crowder told the *Militant* on the picket line Sept. 17. “The incentive program makes up 25% of our wages. The company dictates the amounts, the line speed, we have no say. It’s been like that since the company has existed.

The union is seeking the right to file grievances on the incentive program and to participate in time studies on jobs.

“Now they’ve increased the production goals for workers so they’re unattainable. Cleaning up, for example, is no longer counted as part of the job.

“The company walked out of negotiations because they refused to discuss the incentive. So the union hasn’t been able to table wage demands,” Crowder said. “What will an incentive program mean if we can’t go home to our families? And we want to afford to feed our families.”

“The strike is about wages. The work is dangerous. We need job safety,” Ahmat Hisseine, a welder with 15 years seniority, told the *Militant*. “They offered a wage increase of 7% over three years, an offer that’s spiteful and mean. It shows no respect.”

Many pickets wear union caps honoring fellow workers killed on the job. They know of seven deaths at Steel Car going back to the 1970s.

“Bottom line, the incentive program is killing people here,” striker Steve Bradt said. “I’ve seen guys shaking as they work because they’re nervous about not meeting the goal.”

Crane operator Fraser Cowan was felled by an unlatched crane hook on Sept. 2, 2020. The company had gotten government permission to operate cranes without safety latches, enabling

them to speed up production.

Painter Collin Grayley died April 23, 2021. He had been pulled up and folded in half by the machinery.

Welder Quoc Le was crushed to death on June 6, 2022. A few days later union members rallied in front of the plant demanding government action. Le had been tacking a 2,000 pound panel in place without having been given the time to install bracing to secure it.

The company was fined under 600,000 Canadian dollars total (\$430,000) for these three workers’ deaths.

Grayley’s widow, Andrea, told the press the fine for her husband’s death “is pocket change for this company. I don’t want National Steel Car to go out of business, but I want to know that those people are going to be able to come home safe after work.”

“I’ve had four instances where I was nearly killed,” said Crowder. “A car nearly crushed me and the boss told me to get back to work! I got mad and that’s how I ended up a union rep.”

No negotiations are currently scheduled.

Bosses: Sacrifice to beat the U.S.

The government and bosses across Canada are using the tariff war with their counterparts in the U.S. to try and convince workers they need to sacrifice. In early September, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced his government will invest CA\$4.7 billion in Canadian-made passenger rail cars. They “used to be built in the United States,” he said, but now “will be built right here in Thunder Bay at Alstom Canada, by the best workers in the world.”

Similar efforts by capitalist governments worldwide are being made to tell workers that they share common interests with their bosses against rivals elsewhere. They feed into sharpening competition, growing national conflicts and deepening threats of war.

National Steel Car facilities were retooled during both world wars in the 20th century for military production.



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

Strikers at National Steel Car in Hamilton, Ontario, sign up to picket Sept. 17. Incentive pay speedup, safety are key issues — seven workers have been killed on the job since the 1970s.

During the second imperialist world war, the plant was the largest single producer of shells throughout the British Empire and North America.

Build solidarity!

The strikers have won support from local unions, including the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, the Service Employees International Union and the librarians union. Canadian Union of Public Employees representatives brought an ice cream truck down and the Hamilton District Labour Council came with a samosa truck on the afternoon *Militant* corre-

spondents were on the line.

When Mohammad Mutlaq, a Montreal bakery union member, heard about the fight at National Steel Car, he said, “It should be called National Killer Car. These days if you don’t use your voice, they crush you. I never thought Canada would be like this. The biggest problems are working-class conditions — unhealthy working conditions, exhausting working hours and inadequate health insurance.”

Strike pickets are up 24/7. Join in solidarity at 600 Kenilworth Avenue North, or send messages to frank.crowder@usw7135.ca.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Seattle hotel workers strike wins substantial gains

SEATTLE — After a hard-fought 85-day strike against Embassy Suites by Hilton here, UNITE HERE Local 8 members ratified a new contract Sept. 10. It was the longest hotel strike in state history, the *Seattle Times* said.

“A win for us is a win for all workers,” front desk agent Hayden Eyerly told the *Militant*. “We are feeling great about what we were able to win.” Starting pay will go up to \$31.03

an hour, making workers the highest-paid union housekeepers in the state. Housekeepers will receive a 23.3% raise over the next four years, as well as reduced workloads for them.”

“Workers stood up for each other and showed that change is possible,” Stefan Moritz, the union’s secretary-treasurer, told the press.

“The amount of support in our city was powerful,” said Eyerly. Unionists from all over the region joined the picket lines, and more showed up for expanded pickets called when major sporting events took place at nearby stadiums.

After BNSF rail workers said they would refuse to stay at the hotel during the strike, the rail bosses “moved its room block for its crews to another hotel, a contract valued at \$4.8 million from 2025 to 2030,” said UNITE HERE Local 8 representative Jake Douglas.

Another important gain is year-round healthcare coverage for workers who put in at least 1,250 hours a year. During the slow season many workers used to lose health coverage, Eyerly said.

“We 100% feel stronger as a union. This was our first strike,” he said. “About 75% of us walked out, but for most of the strike we had closer to 50% out.”

The workers got strike pay from the union and unemployment from the state some of the time. “It was less than our pay when we work, but those who needed it got help from the union hardship fund,” he said. “If you have the will you can fight and win.

“Many of my friends who work in other hotels are asking me how they can organize a union where they work.”

— Jacob Perasso

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



October 1, 2001

Since Sept. 11, Washington has taken the sharpest moves in decades in militarizing the U.S., accelerated the assault on democratic rights and put the military on a war footing in preparation for a brutal assault on the people of Afghanistan and other countries such as Iraq.

The Pentagon has begun activating tens of thousands of reservists and National Guard troops to fly air patrols between Washington and New York, serve as police at military bases, and supplement regular forces in intelligence gathering, engineering, computers and foreign languages. Coast Guard personnel have boarded and searched more than 300 vessels in San Diego Harbor and shut down the Boston harbor.

The war moves are drawing caution from imperialist rivals such as Paris and Berlin, who fear Washington will use the military assault to strengthen its position in the world.



October 1, 1976

CHICAGO — Clovis Warren and Arthur Lewis died in mid-July after years of battling the Social Security Administration for benefits due them as coal miners dying from black lung disease.

Hundreds of Appalachian mine workers have migrated to Chicago. Poor health conditions and safety violations in the plants here cause their respiratory ailments to worsen, speeding the debilitating and frightening effects of black lung.

The coal and steel industries have reaped vast profits from the blood and lives of miners. They should be forced to provide environmental controls to assure safety in the mines. They should be forced to provide free, high-quality medical care for miners and their families.

It is a matter of simple justice to those who have suffered and destroyed their lungs digging their own graves, as did Clovis Warren and Arthur Lewis.



October 1, 1951

The Cicero indictments are a challenge to the labor movement, the Negro people and every American interested in preventing frame-ups and protesting injustice. If a lawyer can be indicted in Illinois for going into court to defend the rights of a Negro victim of mob violence, there is nothing to stop the spread of such practices to other parts of the country.

If the capitalist class can get away with such a frame-up of Negroes, it will be emboldened to attempt the same methods to intimidate the labor unions, opponents of war, inflation and the witch-hunt, and anyone else who fights capitalism.

The frame-ups can be smashed if the labor, Negro and liberal movements apply themselves vigorously to the job that has to be done. The people have to rely on themselves in mass meetings, picket lines, demonstrations of independent strength, mass action.

Mississippi ‘March Against Fear’

Continued from front page

one day. Singer and many like him did whatever was necessary to get to Mississippi to assure it continued. For Singer and thousands of others, participating in the mass struggle to topple Jim Crow was a school of disciplined revolutionary action.

During the three-week Mississippi march, SNCC led some 400 civil rights fighters into small towns and rural communities, worked with thousands of African Americans to register voters, pushed back assaults from white-supremacist thugs and drew workers and farmers into the fight that began to foreshadow the tumbling of decades of bloody segregation. The march took place in a state where Jim Crow forces were particularly entrenched, backed by the Ku Klux Klan on one side and Democratic Party politicians on the other. Courageous fighters against Jim Crow, including Medgar Evers in 1963, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner in the 1964 Freedom Summer, and many others, had been slain in cold blood by racist forces.

Meredith came to national attention by leading the desegregation of the University of Mississippi in October 1962. This was accomplished with the intervention by federalized Mississippi National Guardsmen and U.S. troops.

Meredith’s march came on the heels of the landmark Selma to Montgomery march in Alabama in 1965, which drew national attention to the fight for Black rights. The action made clear to the capitalist rulers that there was expanding support for ending Jim Crow, and a growing number of fighters were determined to settle for nothing less.

A critical meeting

Alive, but unable to continue marching, Meredith met with leaders of SNCC and other groups to debate how to continue the march. NAACP leader Roy Wilkins walked out after failing to limit the politics of the march solely to a call for more civil rights laws. SNCC insisted the action focus on the failure of the Lyndon Johnson administration to enforce existing laws like the Voting Rights Act the president signed after the march to Montgomery.

Moreover SNCC, led by its new chair Stokely Carmichael, proposed changing the route of the march. Instead of getting to Jackson as quickly as possible, as Martin Luther King planned, SNCC wanted the march to stop early each day to allow volunteers to spread out into surrounding small communities and encourage voter registration.

“The only way to break the back of segregation,” Singer wrote for the *Militant*, was to “bring to bear the power of workers, farmers, sharecroppers and youth who were Black across the state. Disciplined self-defense had to be organized to protect neighborhoods and small towns where Blacks lived, as well as the lives of those engaged in the struggle.” And the movement had to resist the inevitable pressure from Democrats and Republicans to “wait” for a “better time.”

SNCC proposed and won agreement to accept the offer of the Deacons for Defense and Justice to provide marchers with armed protection. The Deacons had been formed by Black workers and Korean War veterans during hard-fought desegregation battles in Louisiana. They stood guard over the

Meredith marchers’ encampments each night and escorted participants to and from the action.

“Since he knows we aren’t all non-violent, John Bigot isn’t so free to come in and start something,” Deacons’ leader Ernest Thomas told the *Militant* on the march.

“Black farmers and workers across the state were beginning to recognize and make use of the march as an instrument to beat back racist discrimination and terror,” Singer wrote.

Showdown in Greenwood

Chanting “We want Black power!” the marchers rallied in Greenwood. They demanded city officials appoint Black registrars to process the growing number of Blacks applying to vote. The City Council banned marchers from camping on public property. The June 27, 1966, *Militant* featured a front-page picture of cops in Greenwood beating Carmichael.

But with the eyes of the world’s press on them, the council backed off and let marchers camp in a city park. The following day 1,000 people demonstrated outside the Leflore County Courthouse there. Leflore County is where Emmett Till was lynched 11 years earlier.

UK unions join fight for freedom for ‘Zaporizhzhia 15’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

On Sept. 16, the Trades Union Congress in the United Kingdom voted overwhelmingly for a motion to build solidarity with Ukrainian workers and unions in their resistance to Moscow’s “murderous war against the Ukrainian people.” In particular, the motion condemned “the detention and abuse of workers at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine by Russian occupation forces.”

Fifteen members of the Nuclear Energy and Industry Workers’ Union of Ukraine — Atomprofspilka — “have been abducted, subjected to show trials, and sentenced to prison terms of up to 25 years on fabricated charges. They’re held in inhuman conditions,” the Trades Union Congress motion said, demanding their release.

The resolution was moved by Chris Kitchen, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers. The Ukrainian labor movement — the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) and the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) — had directly appealed to the TUC, calling for trade union action to defend Ukrainian workers. The NUM has long-standing relations with the KVPU and the In-



AP Photo

James Meredith, lower left, speaks to mass civil rights action in Jackson, Mississippi, June 26, 1966. After he was shot June 6 during his March Against Fear, thousands rallied to the fight.

“You can’t hold a meeting here,” the county sheriff told marchers, who refused to disperse, Singer said. After a short face-off, the sheriff backed down and marchers held their program before heading on, leaving behind a group of volunteers who registered thousands of Blacks to vote.

“When had there been popular mobilizations of this character in Mississippi since the defeat of Radical Reconstruc-

tion and the rise of Jim Crow?” Singer said. “Never. Including during the hard-fought and bloody struggles across the state the previous six years.”

The march prepared to step off again. Next week’s *Militant* will cover Singer’s description of how the March Against Fear concluded, electrifying Blacks in towns along the way, and the joyful welcome marchers received from several thousand when they reached Jackson.

dependent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine, which arose out of mass miners strikes in 1989 and 1990. This was part of the fight for Ukrainian independence from Russia, won in August 1991.

One of Moscow’s key goals in its Feb. 24, 2022, invasion was to seize control of both Europe’s largest nuclear power plant in Enerhodar, in the Zaporizhzhia Oblast, and the nuclear facility in Chernobyl, near the Belarus border. Residents in Enerhodar built barricades and thousands formed a human shield on the road leading into the facility to try to block the takeover. But Russian troops opened fire on them and stormed the plant.

To avoid a disaster, all six reactors at the plant were placed in cold shutdown by its Ukrainian operators, leaving it to generate only essential operations, especially its own power and cooling systems necessary for safe maintenance. Today, Russian artillery and drones strike the city of Zaporizhzhia just upriver, putting the nuclear power plant in the middle of a conflict zone and endangering not only its water and power, but also the radioactive waste stored there.

“Of the 11,000 workers who operated the plant before occupation, only 3,000 remain,” the TUC motion says.

Occupation authorities have attempted to coerce operators into “accepting Russian citizenship,” noting “at least 1,000 workers have endured psychological abuse and torture.”

Ukraine unionists build support

Leading up to the TUC conference, Khrystyna Levchenko, a former Atomprofspilka union representative who lived under occupation in Enerhodar for 18 months, and Ivanna Khrapko from the FPU, spoke at an Aug. 27 public meeting in London organized by the Ukraine Solidarity Campaign. Kitchen, who chaired the meeting, explained that before the invasion Ukrainian workers faced the same labor problems from their bosses as workers in the U.K., but “now on top of that, they face the war.”

In June 2014, *Militant* reporters John Studer and Frank Forrestal were invited to visit the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant by the union, where they talked with Ivan Zdravchev, deputy chair of the local, describing their meetings with union leaders in Chernobyl.

Although Ukraine is a large country, Khrapko told the London meeting, the combat zone is a nightmare with small drones hunting people from Zaporizhzhia to Kherson. Workers don’t know if they will make it to their job and back.

Despite the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant’s seizure, operators still went to work to ensure it was functioning safely, Levchenko said. But there can be “no safe operation of a nuclear power plant under the barrel of a gun.”

The persecution of the nuclear plant workers is part of Moscow’s “war against the Ukrainian people, which has targeted and killed thousands of civilians,” the TUC motion said, “including many trade unionists.” It notes, “Free trade unions in occupied areas have been suppressed.”

The TUC reaffirmed its “support for Ukraine’s fight for self-determination” and applauded “the resistance of the Ukrainian people.”



Ukraine Solidarity

Aug. 27 London event featured Chris Kitchen, left, National Union of Mineworkers general chair; Ukrainian unionists, center — Khrystyna Levchenko, representing Zaporizhzhia nuclear workers’ union, and Ivanna Khrapko, from Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine.

Help Global Health Partners send needed medical supplies to Cuba

BY LESLIE DORK

Over the last three decades, Global Health Partners has sent some \$280 million in vitally needed medical aid and equipment to Cuba to alleviate the impact of Washington’s brutal economic, trade and financial embargo on the country’s health system. This year alone, they have provided more than \$4 million in medical aid to Cuban hospitals, including syringes, sutures and pacemakers.

The *Militant* met with Bob Schwartz, its executive director, Sept. 17 to get an update on their current Neonatal and Maternal Healthcare Initiative.

Schwartz outlined the organization’s work to aid Cuba’s Ministry of Health to combat the infant mortality rate that doubled between 2018 and 2025 with the tightening of the U.S. blockade. Infant mortality serves as a barometer for any country’s overall health and access to healthcare services.

Before the 1959 revolution, Cuba’s infant mortality was over 70 deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births. By 1960, the rate dropped nearly in half, despite the flight of the majority of the doctors in Cuba after the revolution.

This was an “early commitment and crowning achievement of the Cuban Revolution, along with literacy, and is widely recognized as such around the world,” Schwartz said. By 2012 infant mortality had dropped to 4.8 per 1,000 live births.

But today the U.S. blockade is having a punishing effect on every aspect of life in Cuba, with an especially harsh toll on the public health system.

“The infant mortality rate is already over 10 per 1,000 live births this year and it will keep increasing. They have no equipment, no medications for treatments, and malnutrition is becoming a big issue,” Schwartz said. “There’s a big increase in low birth weight infants who need special care — largely related to the mother’s nutritional status. Anemia has become a significant issue in newborns as the public health system is unable to buy prenatal vitamins with iron and folic acid for pregnant women.”

“Walk into a pediatric intensive care unit. There is nothing there. No medications,” he said. “They may have taken the parts from three incubators to have one that works. If there is a ventilator, it could stop working anytime there’s a power outage.”

The direct connection between conditions in hospitals in Cuba and Washington’s blockade is deliberately never made in the capitalist media.

“When people hear babies are dying because of the U.S. government’s actions it has an impact,” said Schwartz, underlining the need to get out the truth about the effects of the U.S. blockade.

Schwartz pointed to the successful press conference organized by the National Nurses Union with Global Health Partners in Washington, D.C., June 30 calling on the U.S. government to end the blockade. It involved “people I couldn’t have reached. I’d like to get other unions involved in the initiative.

“We work with the Ministry of Health. They know the priorities and

have the ability to distribute supplies across the island,” he said.

The group plans to put added emphasis on improving mothers’ health. Well-nourished women who receive proper vitamins and care during pregnancy tend to deliver healthier babies, decreasing the number of newborns with low birth weights, anemia or undiagnosed problems requiring resuscitation or special care at birth.

Schwartz noted that malnutrition especially affects Cubans who don’t get remittances from family or friends abroad or who cannot access U.S. dollars. This falls hardest on Afro Cubans and those in more rural areas.

The Cubans “wrote the book on infant and maternal health. They are the model for the world,” Schwartz said. But with U.S. government sanctions they have “no sources for obtaining what they need. They lack tools to function.”

Washington’s sanctions prohibit the sale to Cuba of any technology containing 10% or more of U.S.-origin components. This restriction encompasses the vast majority of modern medical equipment produced globally.

Cuba’s Ministry of Health has asked Global Health Partners for incubators, ventilators and blood pressure monitoring equipment. “It selected two



Visión Tunera

Because of U.S. blockade, Cuba faces a medical crisis, with only 30% of basic drug supplies in stock nationwide during a rise in arbovirus cases. Above, medical workers at Mártires de Las Tunas Provincial Pediatric Hospital are turning to homemade solutions for hydration.

maternity hospitals in Havana for our pilot project. If successful, the goal is to reach out across the country where there are even fewer resources than in Havana,” Schwartz said.

“The Ramón González Coro Maternity Hospital takes care of pregnant women from all 15 provinces with diabetes or heart disease, who have the highest risk of complications with pregnancy. The Diez de Octubre Maternity Hospital also takes high risk mothers and babies.”

Schwartz added, “We will also target nearby primary care clinics to provide

specialized training and resources that have been diminished by the emigration of skilled medical personnel. This can lessen the need for emergency care in hospitals to save newborn lives.

“In two weeks we will have procured \$60,000 to \$80,000 of prenatal vitamins with folic acid. We will use the remainder of the \$250,000 we are raising to buy equipment to ship to the two hospitals,” Schwartz said.

To donate money to send medical supplies to Cuba, go to the Global Health Partners website at <https://ghpartners.org/cuba-2026>.

Justice Department: Joining protests for Cuba is a crime

Continued from front page

FARA [Foreign Agents Registration Act] or [18 U.S. Code] 951 may face federal civil or criminal liability,” it says. “If a person acts as an agent of any foreign power to carry out any public activity, including (but not limited to) public demonstrations designed to further the propaganda or other goals of the foreign power, he or she must register with or notify the appropriate federal authorities. Failure to do so may result in significant civil or criminal sanctions, up to and including a maximum of five years in prison.”

The threat to “public activity” and “public demonstrations” comes at a time when there has been an increase in protests opposed to Washington’s criminal oil blockade against the people of Cuba.

This spring, Fox News Digital reported the federal government has compiled a hit list of 145 organizations the news agency called a “pro-communist Cuba ecosystem,” consisting of political groups, including the Socialist Workers Party, a number of national and local trade unions and others.

This political assault on supporters of Cuba’s sovereignty was highlighted in President Donald Trump’s presentation to the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 22. “The Cuban regime has also spent decades coordinating with the left-wing radicals and communist networks here in the United States,” he told delegates.

“As our State Department has detailed, they’ve cultivated ties to subversive and radical groups such as the Communist Party USA, Antifa, and the Democratic Socialists of America.

Communism will never be coming to America, but freedom will be coming to Cuba,” he threatened.

In an Aug. 13 letter to the International Association of Machinists, a union with 600,000 members, Sen. Bill Cassidy, chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, demanded it provide the committee detailed information on its alleged links with the Cuban government.

The IAM’s crime? Opposing the U.S. blockade of Cuba and making a union hall in Los Angeles available for a public meeting opposing U.S. attacks on Cuba, which included via live video link, remarks by David Ramírez Álvarez, second secretary at the Cuban Embassy, along with questions and answers.

Another recent target of the FARA law is the African People’s Socialist Party and its affiliated UHURU Solidarity Movement, whose leaders were arrested and put on trial over government claims they were agents of Russia. They were acquitted of this charge at trial, but somehow convicted of the lesser charge of *conspiring* to act as agents of Russia.

Their appeal of the conviction was rejected Aug. 5 by a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. They have filed a motion for a new hearing by the full appeals court. Their attorney, Leonard Goodman, said the court’s finding that “lawful political speech loses its First Amendment protections when the speaker is alleged to be a Russian agent” must be reversed.

In 1998, acting as “unregistered foreign agents” was one of the charges in the government’s frame-up case

against five Cuban revolutionaries who had come to the U.S. to gather information about counterrevolutionary groups planning violent assaults on the island. The “Cuban Five” were targeted by the FBI, tried and imprisoned for up to 16 years.

A long history of attacks

“Foreign agent laws” are an important part of the U.S. government’s “national security” arsenal — a direct attack on First Amendment protections.

The Foreign Agents Registration Act was adopted in 1938 by the Democratic Party administration of Franklin Roosevelt, part of a package of laws passed to attack political rights in preparation for crushing opposition to Washington’s entry into the second imperialist world war.

After FBI raids on the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Teamsters union, the government framed and convicted 18 SWP and Teamsters union leaders under the Smith “Gag” Act in 1941, another law aimed at making revolutionary political speech illegal.

In the decades following, Democratic and Republican administrations have used “foreign agent” and other anti-free-speech laws to try and disrupt the activities of many organizations, including the Communist Party, as well as those leading the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War movement.

Reactionary laws like the Foreign Agents Registration Act and similar measures will increasingly be used by the government to attack crucial constitutional freedoms workers sorely need today.

Working people in Cuba act to develop their own energy sources

Continued from front page
population. Among them are thousands of members of the National Union of Energy and Mine Workers (SNTEM), who are waging a daily battle to keep the country's electrical grid functioning.

Health, transportation, food and water supplies have been severely disrupted with life-threatening effects for millions since the oil blockade imposed by Washington in January had depleted the island's fuel reserves.

Since last year President Donald Trump's administration has imposed more than two dozen separate additional sanctions against Cuba. These include barring 40 entities — from foreign companies operating on the island to state-run port, construction and mining companies — further aggravating Cuba's ability to acquire desperately needed revenue, resources and materials.

"Every time they create a new mechanism in which they try to get out of the noose, we just close it off," Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared in August, reiterating Washington's determination to strangle the Cuban economy and crush its people.

German-owned shipper Hapag-Lloyd had begun unloading containers of donated resuscitation kits, colostomy bags and intravenous tubes at the Mariel port June 4, before the latest sanctions took full effect. But they stopped and then took the load and dropped it in Panama.

Spare parts for Cuba's Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Power Plant, Cuba's largest, were stranded in a Caribbean port after French shipping company CMA CGM suspended delivery following the U.S. government's executive orders.

Cuba's power plants have been plagued by deteriorating infrastructure for decades with no major capital invest-



Ministerio de Energía y Minas de Cuba
Cuba's Minister of Energy and Mines Vicente de la O Levy, right, visited Hermanos Díaz Oil Refinery Sept. 4 where workers developed process to refine Cuban oil. He commended them for strengthening, with their own resources and talent, the Cuban energy sector.

ment and vital maintenance deferred as a consequence of Washington's six-decade-long economic and political war. The immediate cause of today's blackouts and the recurrent system collapses, however, is the lack of parts and fuel due to the intensified sanctions.

To hide the brutal effects of its oil blockade and other sanctions, Washington tries to blame the outages on "the failure" of the country's state-run economic system and its control by a "military-run kleptocracy" that it claims enriches itself at the expense of the Cuban people.

The fact is, that in addition to blocking the Cuban government's access to fuel, the U.S. rulers have virtual control of gasoline and diesel imports to private businesses on the island. Some \$96 million in fuel was exported by U.S. companies to Cuba in the first half of this year, a drop in the buck-

et compared to the country's needs. Washington said none of it can go to state-owned facilities.

The U.S. rulers aim to force the Cuban government and people to surrender control of the island's energy, industrial and other resources to U.S. business interests, and reimpose the dog-eat-dog rules of the market system.

In defense of Cuba's sovereignty

"We Cubans, with our history regarding the United States, have been a beacon of sovereignty all these years doing something seemingly impossible to sustain," Jesús Echevarría, told Cuban TV in May, after crews at the Guiteras plant where he works had just completed major repairs.

For the last nine months Cuba's fuel supply has been limited to relatively small domestic crude and gas production, augmented by increasing solar energy during daylight.

Three milestones in these efforts to increase energy output have been highlighted by the Cuban press recently.

A group of technicians completed the installation of the El Algarrobo Solar Park in Guantánamo province in August. It was the first such project to be completed solely by Cuban technicians, after foreign advisers unexpectedly withdrew. After long days

of trial and error, the Cuban crew figured out how to synchronize the park with the national grid.

"This is the first in the country to be done without Chinese assistance," said Rusel Ramos, a 26-year-old engineer, who spearheaded the last stretch of the installation. "This is a victory," he said proudly. "In addition to being part of something significant, we're also motivated by knowing the population will have a little more electricity."

A similar breakthrough was scored in May by workers of Unión Cuba-Petróleo (CUPET), the country's state-owned oil and gas company. A Cuban crew replaced an electric submersible pump in an oil well in the offshore Varadero oil field in Matanzas, saving the country's scarce hard currency.

"This had always been done with foreign technical assistance," said Yodalis Hernández, a CUPET director. And acquiring and installing "the equipment to pump the oil is not easy for Cuba given that we are under siege."

Last July, the State Department added CUPET's research and development section to the list of sanctioned entities.

Through these measures, the U.S. government "has long tried to destroy our revolution, the morale of Cubans, our way of doing things," Leonides Pelegrino, a CUPET technician, told the Cuban press in June. "They never expect the Cuban people's resistance to be as great as it is."

The battle to keep factory and farm production going is key for maintaining confidence and working-class participation in political and economic decision-making.

In August, workers at the Hermanos Díaz Oil Refinery in Santiago de Cuba succeeded in developing a process to refine the high-sulfur crude extracted on the island. This is not a small feat, since for decades Cuban crude has been considered unsuitable for conventional refining. While it does not come close to covering the country's needs, workers at the refinery obtained significant batches of naphtha — a derivative used as a building block for other products and for oil well extraction — as well as fuel oil and diesel. And they are proud of it!

NY meeting marks 55th anniversary of Attica uprising



NEW YORK — Some 300 people attended a Sept. 12 commemoration here of the 1971 uprising and massacre at the Attica prison in upstate New York. The 55th anniversary event, held at the Schomburg Library in Harlem, was sponsored by the New York chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Inmates at the notorious prison united in the uprising to protest conditions that included chronic overcrowding, one shower a week, and one roll of toilet paper a month. "We are men. We are not beasts and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such," they proclaimed. They demanded an end to brutality, to racism, to censorship of their mail, as well as an end to wretched and demeaning living conditions.

New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's response was tear gas and a barrage of gunfire. Police fired indiscriminately, killing 29 prisoners and 10 guards the inmates had taken hostage and wounding 89 more.

The highlight of the program was a panel that featured eight men who had participated in the uprising, from left — Carlos Roche, Jorge "Che" Nieves, Eddie LeShure, Alhajji Sharif, Lawrence "Akil" Shakur, Arthur "Bobby" Harrison, Daniel Sheppard and Melvin Muhammad.

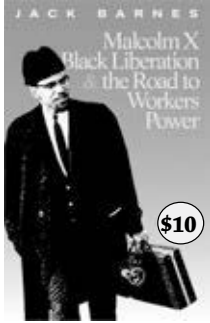
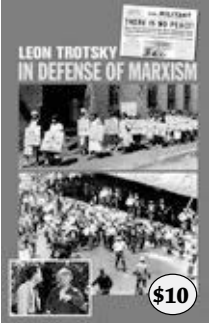
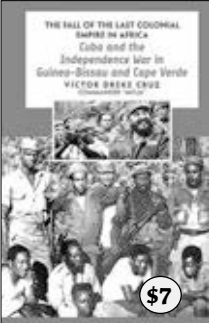
The Attica brothers, as they refer to themselves, described where they were during the uprising, how they participated, and the lasting impact that fight had on their lives. Many spoke of the unity they forged in spite of the efforts of the prison authorities to divide them, pitting Black, Latino and Caucasian against each other. "We did become brothers regardless of creed, class and color," Muhammad said in his concluding remarks.

— SARA LOBMAN

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Profit-drive caused Nepal flood toll

Continued from front page
the cost of reconstruction could top \$5 billion, a tenth of the country’s annual economic output.

In Tibet, the toll was reported as 43 dead and 519 missing. While the damage was less, the extent is unclear because of tight media control by the Chinese government.

As the glacier on Langtang Lirung mountain sheared off and fell into the valley below, it hit with the force of a large earthquake. At first it dammed up the valley, concentrating growing power, until it exploded in a torrent of water, ice, mud and rock that became an inland tsunami.

It obliterated Gyirong Port, a strategic border crossing between Nepal and Tibet, then surged down the narrow Trishuli River corridor.

While the scale of the flood was exceptional, its occurrence was not. Over the past century, dozens of floods have been recorded there, including a major glacier collapse during the 2015 earthquake. Last July a flood washed away the border bridge at Gyirong Port.

Capitalist development vs. nature

Langtang Lirung, like the rest of the Himalayan Mountains, has been slowly rising because of pressure from long-term tectonic movement, where one of the earth’s plates is pushing up against another. As the mountain rises, the glacier gets steeper, and parts fall off. This tectonic movement also triggers earthquakes that dislodge ice and rock. Scientists place the Himalayan Mountains in the highest-risk category for disasters, with seismic pressures capable of producing magnitude 8 earthquakes.

Farmers in the region have a saying, Outside magazine reported, that roughly translates as, “Live in the mountains and farm in the valley floor.” They put their homes and harvest on higher ground, away from the reach of most floods.

Nepalese authorities have failed to take this hazardous natural environment into account in their development of the region. “The people on these mountains understood it was dangerous to live by the river,” Kunda Dixit, editor of the Nepali Times, told the Sept. 9 *Australian* newspaper.

In recent decades, however, the government has authorized building highways and towns along river banks, And with development, more people have moved there.

One illustration of reckless capitalist development on both sides of the

border is the accelerating construction of hydroelectric power plants and dams on area rivers.

The rulers of Nepal see this as central to economic growth. Hundreds of plants have been built or are under construction, and foreign investment has poured in. They are built to handle monsoon floods, but not the all-too-often high-velocity overflows like this one.

In Tibet, Beijing has also pursued an aggressive program of hydroelectric dam construction. This includes the \$170 billion Medog project in the Himalayas that will become the world’s largest hydropower facility, generating electricity equal to the entire annual output of the United Kingdom.

These projects uproot populations with utter disregard for the environment. They also have consequences for millions of people downstream in Bangladesh and India who depend on these rivers.

Effect of profit-driven tourism

Another factor adding to destruction and ice melt in the Himalayas is highly profitable tourism. Each year, 100,000 people climb or trek Nepal’s mountains. According to a study published in July, the energy used to run facilities at the Mount Everest Base Camp alone each spring melts some 3,000 tons of ice on the mountain’s Khumbu Glacier.

The push to exploit the Himalayan region for capitalist development and profit leads to the settlement of growing populations, putting greater numbers at risk from its hazards. Protection from floods and other disasters requires developing advanced warning systems. Sensors and sirens are needed to alert people to escape from harm’s way. But no such systems are in place.

Instead, imperialist aid agencies raise cries about “climate change.” Climate “protection” funding provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations Green Climate Fund has flowed to projects like planting trees, developing ecosystems, climate “education” and “gender” action plans. Anything but practical lifesaving warnings that could have enabled people to escape to higher ground.

“Global flood deaths fell nearly 90% across the past century as nations built levees, dams, drainage and, most of all, early-warning systems,” Mi-



Powerful inland tsunami in Himalayas Aug. 26 killed thousands of people, destroyed river towns and bridges. Profit-driven capitalist “development” put people in path of catastrophe.

chael Shellenberger noted in the Sept. 5 *Australian*. Nepal’s rulers haven’t taken this course, instead prioritizing other schemes, “including ineffectual ‘nature-based solutions’ and woke programs around gender rather than the basics of sensors and sirens.”

Regional competition

Adding to the problem are frequent border disputes between rival governments. The Himalayan Mountains straddle five countries — Tibet, ruled by Beijing; Bhutan; Nepal; India; and Pakistan. The governments of India and

China have fought battles over their border. Those of India and Pakistan have fought over occupied Kashmir, also in the region. When it comes to monitoring river flows, protective dam construction or emergency alarm systems, there is little collaboration or communication between the region’s rulers.

In both Nepal and Tibet, the impact of unbridled capitalist development on the environment and on the livelihoods and safety of workers and farmers will be a mounting factor adding fuel to coming class battles by working people on both sides of the border.

Minnesota doctors go on first-ever strike to win contract, better care

BY EDWIN FRUIT

COON RAPIDS, Minn. — Some 150 doctors, including OB-GYNs, psychiatrists and critical care physicians at Allina’s Mercy Hospital here and its Unity campus in Fridley began a four-day strike Sept. 14 after three years of fighting to win their first contract. The strike is said to be the first walkout by private-sector hospital doctors in U.S. history.

The doctors are members of Doctors Council Service Employees International Union, having won union recognition in 2024 after the National Labor Relations Board rejected a challenge by Allina. Both hospitals are in the Twin Cities northern suburbs.

The doctors are fighting for paid sick days and cost-of-living adjustments to

blunt today’s high inflation. But their fight, they say, goes beyond pay and benefits. It’s a fight against profit-focused hospital executives who demand workloads so punishing that doctors are burning out, and patients’ care is at risk.

“The labor movement fought to make industry more humane,” Dr. Alia Sharif, an internal medicine physician who serves on the Doctors Council SEIU bargaining team, wrote in an op-ed in the Sept. 15 *Minnesota Star Tribune*. “Physicians must now organize to keep healthcare human.”

“Medicine has become an arena in which titans — healthcare corporations, private equity firms, insurers and pharmaceutical companies — wrestle over pots of gold,” she said.

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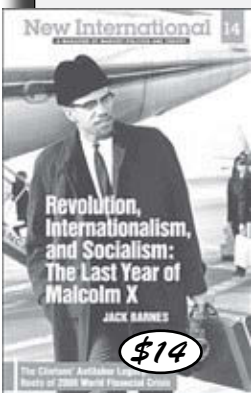
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The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor



“Human hardship from natural occurrences, including calamitous ‘acts of god,’ falls in starkly different ways on different social classes under capitalism.”

Socialist Workers Party statement

New International no. 14.

pathfinderpress.com

Join SWP in drive to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, party fund

Continued from front page

speedup on the job, wages that don’t come close to keeping up with rising prices, and schedules that do damage to being able to begin or provide for a family.

The fall campaign overlaps with the final weeks of the U.S. elections. Working people face the unappealing choice of Donald Trump clones vs. middle-class, woke “socialists,” like Michigan Democratic Party Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, and are looking for a serious alternative. Many who hear about the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party want to learn more.

In the United Kingdom, the campaign of Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman, standing in the Holborn and St. Pancras by-election, and in Canada, Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in the St. Laurent district of Montreal, pose clear working-class alternatives for working people.

These candidates get a hearing for their call for a government-funded public works program to provide jobs at union-scale wages to build hospitals, childcare centers, housing and other needed infrastructure; for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to provide jobs; for automatic cost-of-living increases in union contracts, pensions and Social Security for protection against soaring prices; and union control over production to protect life and limb on the job.

We need a government-funded basic income for all working-class families — not welfare — sufficient to meet our needs and to deepen class solidarity as we fight for deeper changes.

The *Militant* is a unique and invaluable source of news on today’s labor struggles, like the recent battles of packinghouse workers in Greeley and Fort Morgan, Colorado, and refinery workers locked out by BP in Whiting, Indiana, and many more. Getting this unique paper into the hands of fellow workers is vital for building solidarity and strengthening the labor movement. The paper also explains why our unions taking



Militant/Terry Evans

Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, discusses party’s opposition to U.S. rulers’ blockade, threats against Cuba with bakery worker Patricia Gomez on her doorstep in Orange Sept. 20. Gomez got subscription to the *Militant*.

on crucial political battles — from the fight against Jew-hatred to the defense of constitutional freedoms — is essential to the working class.

The *Militant* runs unmatched coverage of the determination of the Cuban people to defend their socialist revolution in the face of U.S. imperialism’s brutal assaults. Week by week the *Militant* gets out the truth about why that revolution is an example for all workers to emulate and champions “Hands off Cuba” actions everywhere.

Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke, and *In Defense of Marxism* by Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian Revolution, are among the books being offered at a substantial discount during the fall campaign for anyone who buys a subscription to the *Militant*. All Pathfinder books and *New Internationals*

will be offered at a 20% discount.

We’re finding growing interest among working people as we sell subscriptions and books on workers’ doorsteps, on strike picket lines, at actions opposing Washington’s war on the people of Iran and demanding U.S. out of the Middle East, at rallies in defense of immigrant workers and more.

Working people are the only force with the numbers, social weight and potential power to stop today’s deepening attacks by the capitalist rulers and to chart a path toward taking political power into our own hands. This is the course the SWP advances. The banner hanging over the SWP’s 2026 conference in June read, “The Socialist Workers Party exists, born in class struggle. Build it!”

Broadening the reach of the party, the *Militant* and Pathfinder books is essential to building the tested leadership that can make this possible.

The Party-Building Fund is an essential part of funding the year-in, year-out work of the SWP, and meeting special opportunities to respond to new developments in the class struggle.

The goals of the fall campaign by the SWP and Communist Leagues in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia are to sell 1,150 *Militant* subscriptions and the same number of books. Reflecting today’s political openings, the SWP Party-Building Fund aims to raise \$140,000.

You can help make the fall campaign a success! To get involved, contact the *Militant* distributors nearest you.

John Studer
Militant editor

NAZA, new ‘documentary’ on Gaza, slanders Israel, covers up for Hamas

Continued from front page

claims to be based on information leaked from inside Israel’s military. This allows Hamas defenders to say, “See, even Jewish Israelis admit it’s a war crime.”

At the heart of the “documentary” are interviews with 24 anonymous Israeli intelligence officers and soldiers whose faces and voices are digitally disguised. Even *New York Times* columnist Michelle Goldberg — who enthusiastically promotes the film — admitted Sept. 18 that “the documentary’s claims” are “impossible to check.”

Film director Abraham says you don’t need proof because he and the British *Guardian* newspaper have vetted the anonymous whistleblowers. But the *Guardian*, like many woke liberal papers, has made anti-Israel bias in its news coverage a badge of honor.

NAZA, Hebrew shorthand for “collateral damage,” claims the Israeli military uses artificial intelligence, including information on how many people live in every apartment in Gaza, to deliberately massacre large numbers of civilians as part of its targeting of Hamas operatives.

Movie’s false claims

One of the anonymous sources claims that one operation the IDF planned was expected to kill 500 civilians, just to eliminate one Hamas official.

That’s “completely false,” the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. “The IDF has never planned, approved, or carried out a strike in Gaza in which 500 civilians or anything near that number were anticipated to be killed.”

In fact, the Israel Defense Forces has called off hundreds of attacks in Gaza to avoid civilian deaths, often using the information system denounced in the film. It has repeatedly warned civilians by phone calls, texts and aerial leafleting to leave buildings and neighborhoods ahead of planned strikes that target Hamas.

That doesn’t mean that every action of the Israeli forces is correct, justified or moral. The IDF is a capitalist army fighting under difficult conditions.

The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry says that Israel has killed 73,000 Palestinians, since Oct. 7, 2023.

Israeli military figures say that figure is roughly accurate, but point out the Hamas ministry never says how many were combatants and how many were civilians. The IDF insists one-third of those killed were Hamas or Islamic Jihad operatives.

Film director twists the facts

For Abraham and Szor these facts don’t matter. They are pushing a political perspective, which whatever their intentions, would allow Hamas to survive, rebuild and prepare new pogroms.

Abraham laid out his views in a series of articles in +972, a middle-class, left-wing website in Israel, that became the starting point for the movie. The first was published just three days after Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas thugs systematically slaughtered 1,200 people, overwhelmingly Jewish civilians, took more than 250 hostages and raped and mutilated dozens of women, the worst pogrom since the Holocaust.

He admitted that Hamas committed a “war crime” but claimed the real problem is “Israel’s policies in Gaza.”

“There is no military solution to Gaza because the problem in Gaza is political — namely, keeping millions of people under siege, in an open-air prison, under an apartheid regime,” Abraham wrote at the time. “It is impossible to defeat Hamas, because Hamas is a political force that leads Palestinian society in Gaza, and the main fuel that sustains it is unrelenting Israeli oppression.”

This is exactly the same false narrative promoted by Hamas to justify its murder of Jews.

Hamas: leadership or Nazi thugs

Saying that Hamas “leads Palestinian society in Gaza” turns reality on its head. Less than a year after winning just 45% of the vote in 2006 elections in Gaza, Hamas declared war on its political opponents and instituted a brutal dictatorship. To this day Hamas’ thugs continue to arrest, torture or execute anyone who dares to oppose it. It passed laws restricting women’s rights. It brutalized gays.

Despite Hamas’ repeated attacks against Israel, prior to Oct. 7, Israeli authorities were granting permits to growing numbers of Palestinians from Gaza to work in Israel.

Hamas took advantage of this to expand its massive tunnel network. It built command posts, weapons storage and tunnel entrances underneath schools, hospitals, U.N. warehouses and mosques, preparing to turn civilians into human shields. It organized to maximize the number of Palestinian dead it could propagandize as “martyrs.”

If Gaza was an “open air prison” under siege, it’s because Hamas turned it into one.

Hamas is a Nazi-like organization. Its 1988 founding charter explicitly calls for exterminating the Jews, in continuity with the line of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, who directly collaborated with the Nazis during the Holocaust. That remains at the heart of its course today. Its leaders say they want to carry out Oct. 7-type massacres “over and over again” until Israel is destroyed.

That’s why a political solution is not possible without the decisive defeat, disarming and dismantling of Hamas’ murder machine.

Hamas is also the biggest obstacle to Palestinians winning their national rights. They need help to get Hamas’ boot off their necks. Hamas wants to keep Jewish and Arab workers from realizing they have common interests and can live and work side by side in the same land.

In response to the lies and distortions in NAZA, some Israeli officials have called for Abraham and Szor to be stripped of their citizenship or prosecuted for treason. But that allows them to portray themselves as victims. Moreover, restrictions on political rights and freedom of speech will eventually be used against the working class and its vanguard.

Answering the lies and slanders against Israel needs to go hand in hand with defeating Hamas militarily. That’s part of the fight to defend Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred, something the makers of NAZA are not concerned about.