

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Washington does a flip-flop on Ukraine in grab for Russian diesel
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 38 OCTOBER 26, 2026

Help extend reach of ‘Militant,’ books by SWP leaders

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

“I’m very interested in what you have to say about Cuba,” S.D. Harris, a truck driver, told Samir Hazboun, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C., and campaign supporter Sarah Ullman Oct. 8. Hazboun was introducing the SWP campaign at a truck stop in Jessup, Maryland. “I once had a Spanish teacher who was anti-Castro, but then I started to read for myself. When I read that Fidel was taking on the plantation owners I realized whose side I was on,” Harris said.

After looking over *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, Harris explained his family had roots in the small town of Yanceyville, North Carolina. He told them how State Sen. John Walter Stephens was killed by the Ku Klux Klan there in 1870 for encouraging newly freed slaves to vote.

He also described how Matt Ingram, a Black tenant farmer, was convicted of “reckless eyeballing” of a white woman in 1951. Ingram fought the racist frame-up all the way up to the North Carolina Supreme Court, and won.

Harris got the book, a subscription to the *Militant*, and two other titles, *Cuba*
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NY yellow cab drivers are being driven to their death

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

NEW YORK — Babacar Dem, a yellow cab driver originally from Senegal, died during a break in his work shift in the bathroom of a Bronx chicken shop in late August. He was the fourth cab driver to die while on the job in the city over the summer.

Dem had been going for dialysis treatment three times a week, but was behind on his medallion payments and pushed himself to keep driving as much as possible. A cab driver since 2001, he signed a contract with Queens Medallion to pay at least \$800 weekly for three years — almost a quarter million dollars — to get his own title to the cab. He still owed money when he died.

“It’s a debtors’ prison,” Bhairavi Desai, executive director of the Taxi Workers Alliance, the union that represents cab drivers, told Gothamist news. “Drivers feel that they’re handcuffed to the wheel. You begin each day at a negative and you have to keep working, whether you’re sick or have an emergency.”

Khalifa Siwa, a diabetic, was found dead in his cab Sept. 2 with an insulin
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Meetings worldwide protest spread of Jew-hatred, attacks 3rd anniversary of Oct. 7 Hamas pogrom in Israel



Reuters/Hollie Adams

Memorial on third anniversary of Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas pogrom against Jews in Israel, held at Bondi Beach, Australia. December 2025 attack on Jews there killed 15, wounded 40 more.

BY SETH GALINSKY

It’s been three years since Oct. 7, 2023, when Gaza-based Hamas thugs — trained, financed and armed by Tehran — swarmed into Israel and carried out the worst slaughter of Jews since the Nazis killed 6 million Jews during the Holocaust in World War II.

On Oct. 7, some 1,200 people, mostly Jewish civilians, were murdered — including 378 at the Nova music festival, as well as entire families in their homes near the Gaza border — thousands wounded and more than 250 taken hostage. The thugs raped

and mutilated dozens of women.

Thousands of Jews and others from Israel to Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C., joined commemorations Oct. 7, making it clear that they will continue to stand up to the Jew-haters. This year’s events took on added importance in the face of spreading vitriol and violence against Jews, and its “normalization” by governments and bourgeois media worldwide.

Middle-class groups that support Hamas took to the streets the same
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French students, backed by unions, protest deep gov’t cuts in education



Militant/Derek Jeffers

Almost half a million students, teachers, unions demonstrated across France Oct. 6, above, in Paris. Popular protests have spread, targeting gov’t austerity drive wreaking havoc on schools.

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Demonstrations by striking high school students demanding a decent education are spreading across France. What began Sept. 18 in Creteil, then three days later in Saint-Denis, both heavily immigrant, working-class suburbs here, rapidly spread to over 40 cities.

Hundreds of thousands of students,

joined by their parents, teachers, university students, and the labor unions, took to the streets Oct. 6. They’re battling the effects of a government austerity program that has slashed spending on education, leaving classrooms overcrowded and ill-equipped, schools deteriorating, and with thousands of teaching jobs unfilled. The protesters are demanding
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Facing punishing US blockade, Cuba trains 10,000 new doctors

BY RÓGER CALERO

One of the central aims of the U.S. capitalist rulers’ escalating attacks on Cuba is to cripple its popular health-care system, and they’re doing ev-

erything in their power to do so. In response, the Cuban government and people are organizing to preserve this gain by turning Cuba’s entire national health system into a space for teaching. Some 10,000 new medical students began courses Sept. 1, determined to continue a crowning achievement of the socialist revolution — every person’s right to health-care offered with human solidarity.

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1965: Right to vote battle explodes in Lowndes County

BY TERRY EVANS

Years of battles to win the right of Blacks to vote in the Jim Crow South came to a head with the monthslong fight to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. During that fight President Lyndon Johnson — a lifelong segregationist — announced he was going to introduce a bill in Congress to guarantee the vote to everyone in the country.

The march went through Lowndes
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IBEW’s 8-day strike at Duquesne Light in Pittsburgh makes gains

Washington does a flip-flop on Ukraine in grab for Russian diesel

BY ROY LANDERSEN

President Donald Trump announced Oct. 9 an agreement he had reached with Russian President Vladimir Putin for Moscow to immediately supply 2.25 million barrels of diesel to U.S. and global markets. Washington’s surprise announcement aims to bring down energy prices, which have skyrocketed since its war on Iran began, affecting costs in the U.S., from farming to trucking to ordinary life. The administration also fears persistently high prices will weaken support for Republican candidates in November’s midterm elections.

As criticism of the diesel deal mounted, Trump announced that Moscow and Kyiv had agreed to an energy ceasefire “effective immediately.”

After the announcement, Moscow launched further airstrikes overnight, including attacks on Ukrainian energy facilities. “This is Putin’s answer to Trump,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Ukraine should “get a new leader who can make a deal,” Trump declared with imperial arrogance, in response to Zelensky’s criticism of the diesel arrangement.

Trump turned reality on its head, claiming that Zelensky was to blame for failing to end the war, despite the fact that there is no letup in Moscow’s bombardment, with the Putin regime acting on its belief it can use its greater resources to grind Ukraine into submission.

Trump also alleged Kyiv’s strikes on Russian oil refineries — a necessary part of its war of defense — were to blame for soaring diesel prices in the U.S. In fact, the price spike is mainly

a consequence of the choking off of global crude oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz this year and attacks on refineries in the area.

Zelensky reiterated that he was open to stopping airstrikes against Russian refineries if Moscow stops bombing Ukraine’s energy grid. But Kyiv has rejected Washington’s pressure to unilaterally cease its own strikes.

Behind Trump’s attempts at a deal to end the Russia-Ukraine war is the U.S. rulers’ longstanding efforts to draw the Putin regime closer to Washington and away from Beijing, as their rivalry with the Chinese rulers intensifies. But Moscow has repeatedly rebuffed ceasefire proposals, insisting it must conquer Ukraine despite being unable to do so over almost five years of war.

Trump faced calls from both Republicans and Democrats to reverse the diesel deal, which they complain undercuts the impact of the sanctions the U.S. and other imperialist powers have imposed against Russia. These hurt the working people there the hardest.

Trump, like every president, acts



Ukrainian National Police

As Moscow loses ground in Ukraine, it is escalating airstrikes on workers there. Above, deadly glide bomb attack on bus stop in Kramatorsk Oct. 8 killed at least 30 people, injured 18 more.

for the imperialist interests of the U.S. rulers in the face of today’s deepening conflicts against their rivals over trade, resources and influence. Washington cares nothing about working people in Ukraine, nor their courageous defense of the country’s national sovereignty, let alone the interests of workers and farmers in the U.S. who face increasing assaults on living standards, jobs and rights.

As Trump administration officials pushed Kyiv to halt its strikes on Russian oil refineries and pressed European powers to lean on Ukraine to give in to U.S. demands, Washington is threatening to cut off intelligence sharing with Ukraine. It also threatens to end Ukraine’s access to U.S. weapons, such as the Patriot missile defense system. Kyiv relies on both to intercept Moscow’s deadly ballistic missile strikes.

Moscow had 50,000 casualties in September but lost ground

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow’s invasion forces in eastern Ukraine are losing ground and have suffered a new monthly high of more than 50,000 Russian troop casualties in September, with as many as 28,000 killed.

Single-day casualties hit 2,090 on Sept. 28, after 1,960 Sept. 17 — among the highest daily losses recorded during more than four and a half years of

war. Since Moscow’s 2022 invasion, more than 400,000 Russian workers in uniform have been killed, a staggering figure the Kremlin tries to keep hidden from the Russian people.

After insisting over and over prior to Russia’s Sept. 18-20 parliamentary election that his regime had no intention of ordering a new round of conscription, Vladimir Putin has now called for 120,000 fresh soldiers, aiming to boost Russia’s army to over 1.5 million troops. And the regime has moved to block all reservists from leaving the country. The last mobilization four years ago triggered widespread protests and tens of thousands emigrated.

Moscow’s call for conscription is especially aimed at the oppressed nationalities and migrant workers in the Russian Federation, at the same time it is looking to recruit new layers of foreign troops. Over 8,000 North Ko-

rean soldiers have been deployed to guard Russia’s border.

The Kremlin’s brutal officer corps throws waves of untrained troops as cannon fodder into what is called the “meat grinder” at the front. Fearing growing opposition inside Russia from former soldiers, 46 hand-picked “war veterans” were “successful” candidates in Russia’s rigged election, the first parliamentary vote since Putin’s invasion of Ukraine.

To try to mask rising disaffection with the regime and its war, Putin assured that Yabloko, the one party that calls for a ceasefire, was barred when it became obvious it would attract sizable support.

Dubbed by many Russians “the special election operation,” mimicking Putin’s euphemism for his war in Ukraine, Putin’s deeply unpopular United Russia party gained an increased parliamentary majority in the State Duma.

THE MILITANT

Communist League campaigns against Jew-hatred

“Only the Communist League is placing the fight against Jew-hatred as a key issue in its campaign,” Jonathan Silberman, League’s candidate in three-week by-election in London, said at candidates’ debate Sept. 24. “Defense of Israel as a refuge for Jews is crucial today.”



Militant/Julie Crawford
CL candidate Silberman, right, campaigns at Oct. 4 march against Jew-hatred in London.

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The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 38
Closing news date: October 14, 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.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
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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Extend reach of ‘Militant,’ books

Continued from front page
and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Cuban revolutionary Victor Dreke, and We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso.

This discussion was one of hundreds like it during the second week of the international campaign by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the U.K. seeking to win 1,150 new readers to the Militant, sell an equal number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders and to build the parties. Winning support for SWP candidates, the only ones presenting a working-class road forward, over the final three weeks of the 2026 campaign will be a key part of the effort, along with raising \$140,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund.

“That was terrible,” Noah Atchison, an Amazon driver, told Sam Manuel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, and campaign supporter Marklyn Wilson, when they showed him the Militant article on the botched execution of Christa Pike by Tennessee prison officials. “They are trying to normalize the death penalty,” Atchison said as we spoke with him in Atlanta.

“The death penalty is a weapon of terror used by the capitalist rulers against working people,” Manuel said. “Democratic and Republican politicians take advantage of cases like this to push for its increased use. It’s part of their drive to undermine democratic rights in preparation for taking on growing resistance by working people to the deepening capitalist crisis.”

Atchison got a Militant subscription along with a copy of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power to learn more about the party.

“I’ve lived in this country for a long time and never had a candidate come to

my home like you,” said Leo Tarr, a tech worker originally from Liberia, when Tony Lane, SWP candidate for governor of Pennsylvania knocked on his door in Pittsburgh Sept. 27.

After talking about Cuba’s role in the liberation struggles in Africa, Tarr looked over some of the books by Sankara, Nelson Mandela and Amilcar Cabral. “You guys know the African revolutionaries!” he said.

He bought a subscription to the Militant and copies of How Far We Slaves Have Come by Mandela and Fidel Castro, and Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

Interest at student protest in France

“There was a lot of interest in our literature,” Derek Jeffers told the Militant, describing the table he and other Militant supporters set up in Paris Oct. 6 at the massive march to back students’ demands the government provide a decent education. “For two and half hours, we watched a human wave march nonstop.” Fifteen books, mostly in French, were sold, as well as a subscription to the Militant and three copies of the paper.

SWP members from Oakland, California, joined protesters outside a screening of the film “NAZA” in San Rafael Oct. 6. The movie, filmed in Israel, is part of a growing international propaganda campaign spreading false charges that Israel’s defensive war



Sam Manuel, center, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, and campaign supporter Marklyn Wilson talk with Amazon driver Noah Atchison in Atlanta Oct. 9. Atchison got Militant subscription and Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by SWP leader Jack Barnes.

against Hamas is premeditated “genocide” against the Palestinian people.

“We’re here to protest the content of this movie,” SWP member Betsey Stone told the San Francisco Chronicle. “We think it covers over the big danger in the Middle East and the seven-front war against Israel after Oct. 7. There’s not a real examination of Hamas or the role of the Iranian regime in arming them,” leading to the deadly Oct. 7 pogrom there.

Some readers of the Militant were surprised when they got a vote-seeking emailed letter from President Don-

ald Trump this week telling them a piddling \$90 would be knocked off the cost of their traditional Medicare coverage for the one month of October. “I want to send it along to the SWP Party-Building Fund,” one reader wrote to the party. “It’s not much, but it’s such a repulsive step just before the November elections that I probably won’t be the only one who wants to pass it on.” If you get one of these bribes, put it to good use and do the same.

To join SWP campaigning in your area, contact the nearest Militant distributors listed on page 7.

‘Workers have the capacity to change the course of history’

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON — “Our campaign was about discussing a road forward with fellow workers, building support for union fights and presenting the communist program,” said Jonathan Silberman, the Communist League’s candidate in the Holborn and St. Pancras parliamentary by-election, at a celebration of the CL’s campaign here Oct. 8.

“The crisis facing working people and the imperialist rulers’ march toward more wars cannot be fundamentally affected by elections,” he said. “Whatever the differences among Labour, Conservative and Green, they are all loyal to the capitalist system, the source of this crisis.”

CL campaigners knocked on doors in the working-class Somers Town estate in the constituency and beyond. Silberman said, “We joined a union-organized protest in Liverpool against attacks on immigrant rights; protests by rail workers against driver-only operations that undermine jobs and safety; a picket line by cleaning and catering workers at a school in east London fighting against a wage cut and for union recognition; and actions against Jew-hatred.

“Rising Jew-hatred is a key question in U.K. and world politics today,” he said. “A massacre of Jews was prevented last week by the crew and passengers on a plane heading to

Israel during an attempted hijacking. Antisemitism is growing on the left of bourgeois politics, in the Green and Labour parties and to a lesser extent on the right.”

Silberman pointed to the Labour government’s sanctions on Israel, and “the motion passed at the recent Green Party conference labeling Zionism as ‘racism’ and calling for an end to Israel’s existence.” The Greens rejected a motion that would have prevented Jewish party members from being punished “based on their affiliation with Jewish community institutions.”

“There is nothing new in the anti-Israel course of the Andrew Burnham government. It’s consistent with the British rulers’ course for over a century,” Silberman said. The CL produced a pamphlet containing his talk at the Contemporary Antisemitism conference in Haifa, Israel, “UK Policy in the Middle East: Defend British Interests, Not the Jews.”

Silberman described a trade union-sponsored discussion he participated in on the lessons of the 1936 working-class mobilization against an antisemitic march by fascists at Cable Street in London’s East End. “All the speakers assumed a framework of ‘fighting against the right,’ claiming Reform Party leader Nigel Farage is a ‘fascist.’”

“In 1936, a massive strike wave in France took place, showing the potential of the working class to take power,” Silberman said. But Stalinists and social democrats refused to organize workers to fight for their own interests, instead pointing them to a popular front with bourgeois parties. “The threat of fascism was real. But the choice was not between democratic capitalism or fascism, but between fascist counterrevolution or the seizure of power by the working class.

“The rulers will only start backing fascist movements when their rule is threatened by the working class. Today the challenge facing our class is recognizing our own capacities to change the course of history.”

This is why defense of the Cuban Revolution is key, Silberman said. “It showed that working people can take political power and transform social relations. In the face of Washington’s drive to overthrow the revolution — in which London is complicit — working people in Cuba and their government are mobilizing to hold onto political power.

“The CL is in the same trench as the Cuban workers,” he said. It organizes speakouts against Washington’s attacks and gets out the truth about Cuba, promoting books like Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa by Cuban revolutionary leader Victor Dreke.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund
Sept. 26 - November 17 (week two)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	35	25	35	13	\$9,500	\$750
Chicago	55	15	55	20	\$13,500	
Cincinnati	35	9	35	11	\$5,000	
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	17	60	19	\$5,000	
Los Angeles	65	11	65		\$13,000	
Miami	45	15	45	20	\$5,000	
Minneapolis	55	11	55	13	\$7,000	\$1,350
N. New Jersey	60	19	60	18	\$7,500	\$1,600
New York	70	21	70	30	\$20,000	\$3,054
Oakland	75	31	75	35	\$15,000	\$4,410
Philadelphia	35	1	35	6	\$6,000	
Pittsburgh	45	19	45	21	\$7,250	\$750
Seattle	50	20	50	18	\$15,000	\$2,480
Washington	40	10	40	12	\$4,500	
Other		5		192		\$250
Total U.S.	725	229	725	428	\$133,250	\$14,644
Prisoners		54				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	26	40	25		
Manchester	35	19	35	25		
Total U.K.	75	45	75	50		
Canada	65	24	80	43		
Australia	30	16	30	4		
Total	895	368	910	525	\$133,250	\$14,644
SHOULD BE	1,150	329	1,150	329	\$140,000	\$40,000

Revolutionary Continuity

The Early Years 1848-1917

by Farrell Dobbs

How successive generations of fighters joined in the struggles that shaped the U.S. labor movement, seeking to build a class-conscious revolutionary leadership capable of advancing the interests of workers and small farmers and linking up with fellow toilers worldwide.

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After botched execution, Christa Pike wakes up shackled to a bed

BY JANET POST

Christa Pike is back on death row in Tennessee after two torturous botched execution attempts Sept. 30 left her unconscious, but alive. Despite executioners stabbing at her body, attempting to inject two vials of the lethal drug pentobarbital in her arms for over an hour, she survived.

After a delay, Pike was taken to the hospital. Even though she was unconscious, she was shackled to her gurney. Her lawyers were barred from seeing her. At one point medical personnel believed she wouldn't survive and began making plans to remove her from life support.

But she woke up. She looked around at a room she'd never seen before, didn't see anyone she'd ever seen before, and saw her shackles. "Where am I?" were her first words since the botched execution attempt. "Who are you?"

While she had little use of her burned and blistered arms, Pike began walking with some assistance and ate a bit. One arm has a blood clot. She also had gotten pneumonia.

She has now been released from the hospital and returned to the badly misnamed Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center, where she has served time for 30 years in relative isolation as the only woman on Tennessee's death row. Tennessee Gov. William Lee has paused all further executions while this disaster is examined. It's unknown what Pike's prognosis is.

On Oct. 13 the *Washington Post* reported that when the execution failed, medical dispatchers were called to send an ambulance to the prison.

"There's someone at the gate telling them to come in, that they need the ambulance, and this is an actual thing that is happening," ambulance dispatch told a prison official. But dispatch was told, "There is no medical assistance needed at Riverbend prison," where the execution attempt was being carried out.

It took a half hour before the ambulances were admitted to prison grounds and picked up Pike.

Trauma of failed execution

Her lawyers said in a statement that she continues to struggle with concentration and memory. "Christa is dealing with the profound psychological trauma of having survived a failed execution, including the terror, pain and uncertainty of believing she was about to die."

They say Gov. Lee should commute her sentence to life behind bars.

Pike was the first woman the state had attempted to execute in more than 200 years. She was also the first person to ever survive after being injected with lethal pentobarbital.

On May 21 Tennessee had attempted to execute Tony Carruthers. That attempt was botched by the doctor used by the state in its executions, Dr. Mark Fowler. His name is public through a slip by a prison official that revealed it. He's the same doctor who botched Pike's execution.

Lee has paused further executions for now, but he has never granted clemency to any death row inmate. After Carruther's execution was botched, Lee gave him a one-year reprieve.

In Huntsville, Texas, Oct. 7 Jamaal Howard, 46, became the first person executed in the U.S. since the failed attempt to kill Pike. He was given an injection of pentobarbital after requests by his lawyers for a stay were denied by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

On Oct. 13 Florida prison authorities executed James Robertson, 63, by a three-drug protocol at Florida State Prison in Raiford. Robertson is the 17th inmate executed in Florida this year. There have been 31 executions in the U.S. so far in 2026, with another eight death row prisoners set to be killed before the end of the year.

Another Florida prisoner, William Lee Thompson, 74, was set to be killed by lethal injection on the same day as Robertson, but Gov. Ron DeSantis withdrew the death warrant after three

French students protest deep gov't cuts in education

Continued from front page

these conditions be reversed, including a fairer system for deciding university placement.

Students' concerns about their future, with youth unemployment at 20%, have converged with wider unrest among working people who face the consequences of today's deepening capitalist crisis. The French government of President Emmanuel Macron is striving to advance the capitalist rulers' interests in the face of sharpening competition from their rivals, and deepening political polarization. Wealthy bondholders are demanding government budget cuts to ensure loans they've made to cover the country's enormous debt are repaid.

As the actions escalated, students barricaded hundreds of schools. Anger grew as the government sent baton-wielding riot cops charging — using tear gas and water cannon — against protesters. Media coverage focused on a small minority in the crowd who set trash bins on fire or threw objects at the cops.

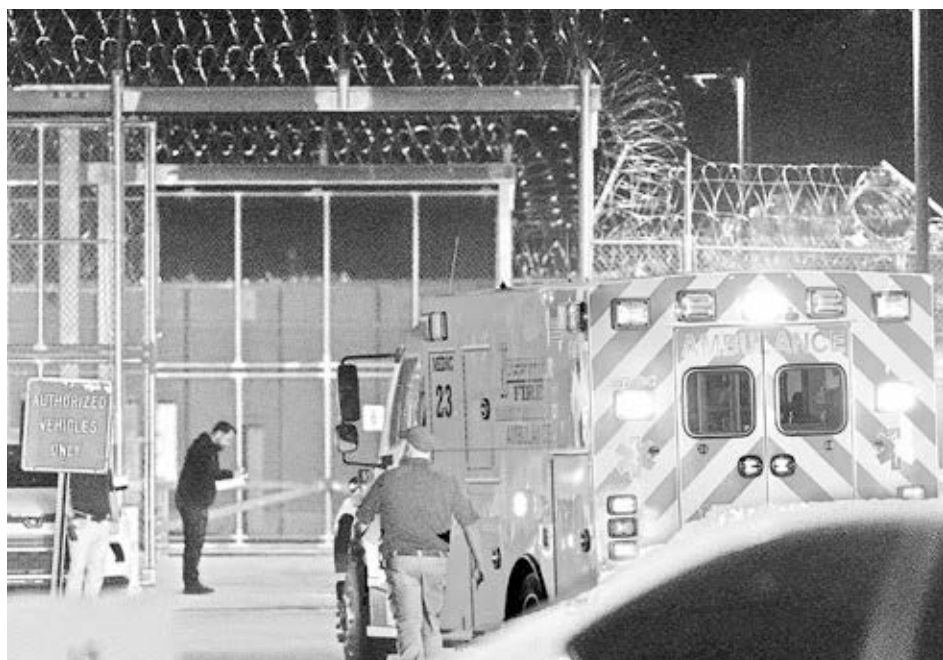
Kaspar, a 15-year-old student here, told the BBC the fear he felt when riot police charged as he and his friends protested peacefully. He said they were targeted after some strangers showed up "just to shoot fireworks at police officers" and then run away. "This is not the message we want to send to the world," he said.

So far, some 7,000 protesters have been arrested and hundreds injured, many seriously. One 15-year-old lost an eye, shot in the face point blank by cops using rubber bullets. Another teenager lost a hand from a stun grenade and a third had their jaw shattered by a tear gas canister.

Under pressure of working-class outrage, the cops have paused the use of the stun grenades for now. "They have armies, they have the police, they have the powers," Massicella, 18, told the BBC as she marched through Lille. "But we have the mass population."

Popular chants on the demonstrations include, "Justice nowhere, police everywhere!" and "Macron, resign!"

In Saint-Denis, Zohra, 16, told the *Financial Times* Oct. 9 that her school is full of rats and cockroaches, and that conditions in classrooms during the summer heat wave with no air condi-



AP Photo/George Walker IV

Ambulance outside Tennessee death row forced to wait half hour to take Christa Pike to hospital after botched execution Sept. 30. Prison officials claimed they hadn't called for one.

psychiatrists he had appointed evaluated Thompson, who has dementia. In an earlier health assessment, his lawyers said he was "confused," "disoriented," and thought "Bush" was the president.

Since 2021 under Florida law, the state may not execute anyone who is intellectually disabled. This is the first time DeSantis has withdrawn a death warrant since taking office.

tioning were so punishing that some students fainted. "In winter, we freeze, and in summer we boil."

Andreane Pierzo, 20, studying to become a doctor, told the Oct. 8 *New York Times* that government "budgetary cuts affect every public service, except for the police and army."

Unions back students

The major trade unions joined the students Oct. 6. In Paris, students applauded as members of the CGT, one of the largest union federations in France, formed a defense guard around the student contingents to protect them from further cop attacks. The police said 256,000 demonstrated throughout France that day, while march organizers and union leaders claimed it was almost half a million.

Mickael Sauvage, an aerospace worker, joined the demonstration in response to the call of his union. Following a police attack on the students, a *New York Times* reporter found him in the space between the police and demonstrators trying to prevent a second attack.

"Young people are worried about their future," he said. "The trap is that the government is pushing them to violence, so that public opinion will turn against them and their demands won't be heard."

A government meeting to try to defuse the student protests refused to ex-

tend the education budget, but did take some measures to reduce diesel prices. Officials were worried that more workers, farmers and others would join the student actions.

On Oct. 6 Finance Minister Roland Lescure declared that Macron's minority government could circumvent parliamentary approval by using executive orders to enact its 43 billion euro (\$48 billion) austerity budget cuts.

Signs of deeper capitalist crisis

"This goes beyond having decent toilets in schools," high school student Alcidor told the BBC in Paris. "It's strong anger from the youth in France that doesn't feel represented, that feel abandoned, that feel unheard and are scared of what's coming in the future."

As the demonstrations expanded, drawing working-class support, different political forces moved to make gains from relating to them. Jean-Luc Melenchon, leader of the left-wing France Unbowed party, joined the protests. Marine Le Pen, leader of the right-wing National Rally party, criticized Macron for failing to prevent "the noose of interest payments from strangling France."

The French state debt is at \$4 trillion, almost 120% the size of the gross domestic product, which is the second-largest in Europe after Germany. Alongside brewing crises in Greece and Italy, the rulers across Europe fear a fresh financial crisis in the eurozone.

Iran rulers step up executions as opposition to death penalty grows

BY SETH GALINSKY

From October last year to this October "at least 2,230 people have been executed in Iran, including 54 women, 47 political prisoners and four children," the No to Executions Tuesday campaign reported Oct. 13. Organized by prisoners, the campaign's weekly hunger strike has taken place for 142 weeks, expanding to 66 prisons.

"No human being should become a victim of the gallows," the group states. Their goal is "for a free Iran, far removed from torture and executions."

The reactionary capitalist regime in Iran has increased the pace of ex-

ecutions, fearful of the deepening hatred for its rule in the wake of the torture and slaughter of thousands of protesters in January. The regime has stepped up arrests of teachers and other union activists, and sentenced to being whipped some who publicly oppose its repression.

The Human Rights News Agency reports that more than 10 oil workers from Petropars, in the mostly Arab province of Khuzestan, received 74 lashes with a whip for protesting their firings after their employment contracts lapsed.

Continued on page 10

Cuba trains 10,000 new doctors

Continued from front page

Unable to open classrooms under normal conditions due to prolonged blackouts and lack of public transportation — a result of Washington’s brutal oil blockade of Cuba — “the university will go beyond its walls” to train future health workers, Tania Ponce, head of the teaching department at the Enrique Barnet University Polyclinic, said in Santa Isabel de las Lajas, Cienfuegos province, Sept. 28.

Instead of traveling to one of the 33 medical schools and faculties located in provincial capitals, students will attend intensive seminars once a week near where they live, and learn directly from doctors and instructors in hospitals and clinics in the same area.

First-year students will learn in the 450 neighborhood polyclinics that dot the country. Those in the final stage of their studies, in addition to their hospital residency, will also provide care in area senior centers and maternity homes.

“Today we become part of a common project to train upright professionals capable of upholding the most wonderful health system our people have known,” said Daniel Alejandro, president of the Federation of University Students (FEU) at the Medical Science University of Havana, at a public event launching the initiative.

José Ángel Portal Miranda, Cuba’s minister of health, gave special recognition to a group of 34 medical and nursing students who had volunteered at the Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Centro Habana during their vacation.

“The experience is quite intense because of the difficulties our country is confronting with shortages of medicines and other necessities,” said Haila Izaqui Marroquí, a fourth-year medical student.

Impact of U.S. blockade

The oil blockade and sanctions systematically imposed by the Donald Trump administration over the last year have sharply increased the human cost the Cuban people are paying for the U.S. rulers decades-old moves to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

In January, the Trump administration threatened tariffs against any country that supplies oil to Cuba. With the exception of one Russian oil tanker Washington permitted to reach Cuba in March, there have been no fuel de-

liveries to the Cuban government.

Every medical service — from surgeries to blood bank supplies, ambulance access, child vaccinations, cancer treatment and even having a skilled attendant present for childbirth — is affected by Washington’s brutal measures.

Cuba’s historic infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000 live births — levels that match those of developed countries — has now doubled. “This means the deaths of children that could have been avoided, and that we know how to avoid,” said Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel in August.

Challenges faced by Cuban medical professionals include an acute shortage of medications, caused by Cuba’s inability to purchase raw materials for its pharmaceutical industry. State-run pharmacies where medications are sold at subsidized prices have not been able to stock medications for some time. Cubans have been forced to turn to medicines imported and sold by private individuals at exorbitant prices via internet apps, with no government oversight.

After widespread discussion in Cuba, the government recently adopted a series of measures aiming to mitigate the blockade’s impact on the population. Among them, private pharmacies are now authorized with some regulations.

Amid the collapse of domestic production of medicines, donations by international solidarity groups have become a lifeline for hospitals and patients. Some of these medications are distributed by community youth networks led by the Union of Young Communists (UJC) and university and high school student federations. They organize to visit elderly residents living alone, pregnant women and families with special needs, to



cubadebate

Cubans in Cacocum gather to greet first revolution-trained doctors and dentists in 1965. Graduates were accompanied by Fidel Castro, central leader of Cuba’s socialist revolution.

help them with the many challenges they confront.

Healthcare born with the revolution

Cuba’s medical system, at no cost to individuals and their families, is a conquest of its socialist revolution. Healthcare is not a commodity bought and sold for profit. It is a right whose goal is to save lives, and medical students are taught those values.

Immediately after the Jan. 1, 1959, overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, half of the 6,000 doctors practicing in Cuba left the country, lured by tempting job offers by the U.S. government. This was just one of the moves by the U.S. rulers designed to cause pain and suffering to the Cuban people.

The Cuban leadership, however, pressed forward to fulfill the right of every person to healthcare, a right the Cuban people have long fought to extend to sister peoples in other countries.

Books on Cuba, Africa in demand at Toronto book fair

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

TORONTO — Eleven Pathfinder volunteers from Canada and the U.S. staffed a lively stand at Toronto’s annual open air Word On The Street fair Sept. 26-27, billed as Canada’s largest no-door-charge book and magazine festival.

“Our top seller was Pathfinder’s *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban leader Victor Dreke,” said organizer Philippe Tessier. “Twenty-one copies were sold in English and French. Titles on the fight for women’s emancipation followed closely. We sold 216 books in all, including 11 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* and 29 subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper.

“Our stand was the last to close down on Sunday because people kept coming by to discuss politics. We sold 10 copies of *The Communist Manifesto*, and everything from *In Defense of Marxism* to *The Truth About Yugoslavia* and *Samizdat: Voices of the*

Soviet Opposition.”

Nitsimrit Kaur browsed the booth after picking up *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*. Commenting on Washington’s ever-tightening blockade of Cuba, she said, “Every country has the right to live how they want.

“Social media makes us dumber. You get a lot of information but you have to process it. I like to dig a little deeper.” She added to her pile the three issues on special of *New International*, which include the articles “The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop,” “Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism” and “Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War.”

Candace Wagner showed *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* to a young man who said he thought Israel was guilty of genocide in Gaza. As Wagner explained why working people should defend Israel as a refuge for Jews, a young woman joined the conversation. “I was in Israel recently and it’s not true that it’s an apartheid state. There are Arabs in government, in all walks of life,” she said.

This was in sharp contrast to the occasional yells of “You support genocide” directed at the stand by a small group handing out flyers urging a

boycott of the Indigo bookstore chain, which is owned by Jews.

A volunteer staffing the table selling *Parchment*, a magazine of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing, told this reporter that they were getting a warm reception.

“I was in Iran for a few months during the woman, life, freedom demonstrations, and they did make a difference,” high school student Nika Solatinia told volunteers at our booth. In 2022, widespread street protests across Iran erupted after the killing of Zhina Amini by regime thugs for alleged violation of the reactionary dress code.

“Now girls go out wearing regular clothes,” she said. “There are derogatory comments, but people are sick and tired of all the hate and obviously the economic situation.” Solatinia picked up a copy of *Problems of Women’s Liberation* and a subscription to the *Militant*.

Pathfinder volunteers also met staffers at other booths who wanted to keep in touch. Tom Best, director of Book Clubs for Inmates, described the 45 reading clubs they’ve set up in prisons around the country, as well as their successful fight last year to stop Ottawa’s plan to eliminate prison librarians. He requested a list of the Pathfinder books ordered most by prisoners.

Puerto Rico

Two presentations of the book:

Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa
by Victor Dreke Cruz

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Casa Soberanista — San Juan
(in front of Placita Roosevelt, Hato Rey)

Panel: Mary-Alice Waters; Rafael Anglada López; Julio Muriente Pérez; Sonia Cepeda (moderator)

Sponsors: National Hostosiano Independence Movement, Socialist Workers Party

Saturday, Oct. 24, 5 p.m.
Loma de la Niña Mariana
Barrio Mariana 2, Humacao

Panel: Marisaura Serrano, Róger Calero; Abraham Ruiz

Sponsor: Arecma

IBEW's 8-day strike at Duquesne Light in Pittsburgh makes gains

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH — Some 1,000 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 29 members returned to work at Duquesne Light Co. after an eight-day strike, the first walkout in over 50 years. Details of the contract have not come out publicly, but after the contract vote the local leadership put up an Instagram post saying, “A huge thank you to everyone that supported us and all of our members for standing with us.”

WTAE News reported Local 29 business manager Josh Ewing said the new contract features “additional staffing, technology advancement, enhanced benefits and nonunion workers being allowed to organize.”

The contract came days after a successful and spirited strike rally at Duquesne Light's Woods Run facility. As picketing continued at other locations, around 400 members of the union blocked off access to the plant here. Local 29 President Nicole Greb told the crowd, “I'm overwhelmed by the support today and on the picket lines.” Speakers were interrupted by chants of, “Union strong. DLC is wrong!”

Passing motorists honked horns as they drove by picket lines along the two Duquesne Light facilities on Beaver Ave.

The rally and the strike had quite an impact in this area near downtown Pittsburgh, where other union-organized utilities and services are located. When the strike began Oct. 1, hundreds of pickets set up and greeted the shift walking out of the plant. “That night was unbelievable,” a picket captain told the *Militant*. “It was complete solidarity!”

“We went out as employees, but we'll go back as Local 29,” Mike Goodwin, transmission and distribution representative, told the rally. “We are a family. They are a company.”

Union say-so over safety and introduction of new technology were big issues in the strike. Ewing told radio station KDKA the “humongous workload of 60, 70, 80 hours a week” imposed by the bosses is a dangerous safety question for both workers and customers.

“The company is trying to take away our ability to negotiate” over the introduction of new technology, Ewing added. He said the company had tripled the size of its nonunion workforce, put restrictions on the union's right to organize and put a heavy reliance on contractors. “We need full-time union workers.”

“This strike is not about money, it's about safety, staffing, the use of non-union contractors and company refusal to allow organizing them,” John Galuska, president of the Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council, told the *Militant*. “And it's about equalizing pensions among workers.”

Kathie Fitzgerald contributed to this article.



Militant/Tony Lane
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers members rally at Duquesne Light's Woods Run facility in Pittsburgh Oct. 7 during strike over work hours, safety and union rights.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Ohio school bus drivers strike for wages, healthcare and respect

SHARONVILLE, Ohio — Close to 100 Princeton City school bus drivers went on strike here Oct. 1. The workers, who transport over 5,000 students daily, are demanding higher wages after years of unlivable pay and no medical or prescription drug coverage. Striking drivers lined the road in front of First Student, Inc., the bus company that serves several schools in the northern suburbs of Cincinnati.

“First Student is a for-profit company, they don't worry about working families,” Tarelle Harris told the *Militant*. Harris is president of Ohio Association of Public School Employees Local 184.

“We don't have health insurance and we need better wages. We make \$22.50 right now and we're asking for a \$3 an hour increase up front and \$2 more next year and the year after.

“We're not like truck drivers, their freight doesn't talk, doesn't move. We're taking care of children, we have to check on them,” Harris said.

Tina Benjamin, a driver for 31 years, said last week that she had a child who had a serious asthma attack. “I made

sure the child got an ambulance to the hospital right away. That's the kind of drivers we've got here, but we're not getting the money we need to live and we're not getting the respect we deserve.”

“We treat these kids like they're our own kids. We watch them grow up. In fact Tarelle, our union president, used to be on my bus,” Benjamin said. Harris said he graduated from Princeton High in 2014 and went right to work as a bus driver.

The picket lines are up every school day at 11786 Hwy Drive in Sharonville. “We're asking everyone to join us and support our fight,” Harris said.

— Betsy Farley

Hundreds of Chicago hotel workers strike as marathon nears

CHICAGO — Hundreds of hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 1, walked out of some of the most famous hotels here Oct. 9, going on strike just hours before the start of the Chicago Marathon, a busy time of the year for local hotels and restaurants.

Workers at the Millennium Hotel Knickerbocker Chicago, Palmer House, Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk,

Waldorf Astoria Chicago, Westin Chicago River North and Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago had all walked out.

The union represents room attendants, dishwashers, front desk agents, servers and more at 46 hotels in the city. Most of the contracts covering around 7,000 hotel workers expired as of Aug. 31, the union said, and workers voted last month by 85% to authorize a strike.

“This strike is not about the pay, it's about the exploitation, making us do so much work in so little time,” Mariela Bernal told the *Militant*. Bernal, a housekeeper at the Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago, has worked there for three years.

“The bosses are making people with low seniority work seven days a week. Sometimes we have to clean all the rooms on two or three floors, at least 16 rooms, sometimes with people still in them! Our cleaning supplies are delivered late in the day, but we are still expected to get the rooms cleaned in eight hours,” she said.

“When I started, I was 118th on the schedule, now we've only got 92 ladies working,” Juana Sanchez, a housekeeper at the Sheraton Grand, told the *Chicago Tribune*. “The work that is for two ladies, there's only one lady doing it.”

As a single mom, 46-year-old Sanchez is particularly hurt by the intense workload and low pay. “Right now, I owe over \$40,000,” she said. “When I get home, I don't have the same quality time that I get with my kids. I get tired, and I just want to get some rest.”

“I work too hard to live like this,” LaTonya Jennings, a room attendant at the Hilton McCormick Place, told CBS News, “I'm tired of robbing Peter to pay Paul.”

Since each hotel has a different union contract, they are being negotiated separately.

— Steve Warshell

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

October 22, 2001

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Picket lines remain strong as more than 22,000 state workers remain on strike in Minnesota. Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees are fighting over pay and health coverage.

Gov. Jesse Ventura is the hot topic on the picket line. He has threatened layoffs if state workers win pay hikes. “I can tell you personally, I would be going to work,” said Ventura in a radio interview. “We're going to war. In a war, everyone has to bite the bullet.”

But every striker spoken to by reporters for the *Militant* was united on the need to fight now for living wages and against higher health-care costs proposed by the state. A New York Firefighters Union member sent a message, referring to the World Trade Center disaster: “We will mourn our dead. You fight like hell for the living.”

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 22, 1976

NEW ORLEANS — In a little more than a week, SWP vice presidential candidate Willie Mae Reid has swept through six cities in five states. From Wisconsin she swung south to Maryland, Virginia, Texas, and Louisiana.

Each of the stops on this leg of Reid's tour is an area where the socialist movement has expanded since the beginning of the presidential campaign, where new socialist campaign headquarters are opening. Reid met activists in the labor, women's and Black movements everywhere she visited.

Reid addressed a New Orleans city-wide rally, along with Juanita Tyler, mother of Gary Tyler, who is in jail at St. James Parish now facing a possible death sentence. Tyler was convicted of a murder he did not commit. Mrs. Tyler said, “He's just not my son now.” For those who believe in justice, “he is everyone's son and we must all defend him.”

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 22, 1951

Seizing the Egyptian city of Ismailia, the British imperialists turned machine guns at pointblank range upon thousands of demonstrating workers and students who had gathered to demand that these foreign occupiers get out of their country. The news of this massacre touched off mass demonstrations at Port Said, the Suez canal and in Alexandria.

The British who already have some 60,000 troops stationed in the Suez area, are rushing more troops, planes and battleships to the area. The demand that the British get out has the support of the overwhelming majority of the population.

The cause of the Egyptians is a just one. They fully merit the support of the American people, all the more so because Washington is “strongly backing” the attempt of the British to drown in blood the Egyptian struggle for freedom and independence. HANDS OFF EGYPT!

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Hamas in its own words: Jew-hatred, genocide and anti-communism

The following is an appendix to The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class. Copyright © 2024 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Whatever opinion an individual might have of Hamas and of its bloody anti-Jewish massacre of 1,200 people October 7, 2023, anyone calling for an Israeli government ceasefire is in fact falling in step with the propaganda campaign planned in detail by Hamas’s leaders long before the slaughter and carried out ever since.

Hamas’s reactionary aim? To survive another day and keep on slaughtering Jews in Israel.

Hamas ruled Gaza, a de facto state, for almost two decades. It busted unions, arrested and tortured Palestinian political opponents, and denied women any semblance of equal rights. It ran the state, in the words of its own leaders, as “cover” to prepare assaults on Israel and the Jews.

Hamas is trained, financed, and aided in planning its assaults by the counterrevolutionary bourgeois-clerical regime in Tehran. Hamas was joined in its butchery, torture, and sexual outrages October 7 by Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and other groups. None of them is a liberation organization of the Palestinians or anyone else among the oppressed and exploited.

Everything Hamas does is aimed at annihilating the Jews and destroying Israel.

Below is what Hamas says for itself.



From Hamas’s founding 1988 covenant

Our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious. It needs all sincere efforts. It is a step that inevitably should be followed by other steps. The Movement is but one squadron that should be supported by more and more squadrons from this vast Arab and Islamic world, until the enemy is vanquished and Allah’s victory is realized. ... (Introduction)

“The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight the

Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Muslims, O Abdullah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.”... (Article 7)

They strived to amass great and substantive material wealth, which they devoted to the realization of their dream. With their money, they took control of the world media, news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broadcasting stations, and others.

With their money they stirred revolutions in various parts of the world with the purpose of achieving their interests and reaping the fruit therein. They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution, and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. ...

They were behind World War I, when they were able to destroy the Islamic Caliphate, making financial gains and controlling resources. They obtained the Balfour Declaration, formed the League of Nations through which they could rule the world.

They were behind World War II, through which they made huge financial gains by trading in armaments, and paved the way for the establishment of their state. It was they who instigated the replacement of the League of Nations with the United Nations and the Security Council to enable them to rule the world through them. There is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it. (Article 22)

The Zionist plan is limitless. After Palestine, the Zionists aspire to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates. When they will have digested the region they overtook, they will aspire to further expansion, and so on. Their plan is embodied in the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” and their present conduct is the best proof of what we are saying. (Article 32)



From 2017 Hamas document of General Principles and Policies

The establishment of “Israel” is entirely illegal and contravenes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. ... There shall be no recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist entity. ...

Hamas believes that no part of the



DPA/ Gil Cohen-Magen

Oct. 7, 2026, commemoration at site of Nova festival in southern Israel where Hamas thugs murdered 378 people, took hostages and raped and mutilated women three years earlier. Hamas vows this won’t be the last pogrom. “Everything we do is justified,” said Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad.

land of Palestine shall be compromised or conceded, irrespective of the causes, the circumstances, and the pressures and no matter how long the occupation lasts. Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea. (Articles 18–20)



Ghazi Hamad member, Hamas Political Bureau

From interview on Lebanese TV, October 29, 2023

GHAZI HAMAD: “Everything we do is justified.”

The October 7 operation “is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth.”

QUESTION: “Does that mean the annihilation of Israel?”

HAMAD: “Yes, of course.” “We are proud to sacrifice martyrs.”



Mousa Abu Marzouk, member Hamas Political Bureau

From interview on ‘Russia Today’, October 27, 2023

QUESTION: Many people are asking: Since you have built 500 kilometers of tunnels, why haven’t you built bomb shelters, where civilians can hide during bombardment.

MOUSA ABU MARZOUK: We have built the tunnels because we have no other way of protecting ourselves [Hamas] from being targeted and killed. ... Everybody knows that 75 percent of the people in the Gaza Strip are refugees, and it is the responsibility of the United Nations to protect them.

Later Marzouk added to BBC Arabic: “Do you expect me to fit 2.5 million people in the tunnels?”



Khaled Mashaal, founding leader of Hamas and member of its Political Bureau

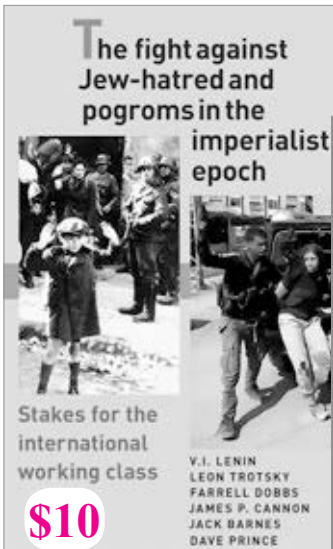
From interview on Kuwaiti podcast, January 2024

“We have nothing to do with the two-state solution. We reject this notion, because ... you are required to recognize the legitimacy of the other state, which is the Zionist entity. “This is unacceptable.”

Socialist Workers Party ‘Theses on the Jewish Question’ adopted in 1938

Below is an excerpt from “Theses on the Jewish question,” adopted by the Socialist Workers Party in 1938, the year the party was founded. The party also adopted a second resolution, “Let refugees into United States! Open the doors to victims of Hitler’s Nazi Terror!” They are in The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party. Copyright © 1982 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Our approach to the Jewish question can be none other than that of the international class struggle. In its death agony the capitalist class maintains itself in power by resorting to unmitigated brutality and violence aimed at the working class, particularly at its vanguard. It utilizes every element of hatred and prejudice which it can fan into flame to bring about division among the masses and to establish a social basis for its fascist, gangster rule. The Jews, by virtue of the fact that everywhere they form only a small minority of the population, and because anti-Semitism has always been fostered, sometimes openly, sometimes in masked form, constitute an easy scapegoat upon whom the big bourgeoisie can divert the pent-up, dangerous wrath of the backward elements among the masses, and particularly of the desperate middle classes. The fascist hirelings of the big bourgeoisie use the most vicious, lying propaganda to inflame to pogrom temperature the dormant antagonism to the Jews. Precisely because the fomenting of anti-Semitism has become an inseparable part of the technique of fascist reaction, the revolutionary party has a double duty to perform in combating it. It has the duty of exposing the real aims of the capitalists, hidden behind the smokescreen of anti-Semitism and thereby inoculating the masses against the poison; it has also the special task of mobilizing the real defense of the persecuted Jews, a defense of necessity based on the might of the organized working class. If these tasks are properly carried out, then we can at the same time hope to attract to our firm support the Jewish masses.



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Pogroms are part of the permanent social convulsions and wars of the imperialist epoch



Fighting Jew-hatred is of decisive importance to the working class and oppressed nations of the entire world. These books are for workers, of all ages, skin colors and both sexes who are saying, “Enough is enough.”

Meetings protest Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

day to celebrate the massacre, claiming the pogrom was a “glorious” action that advanced the liberation of the Palestinian people.

“Know your truth. Be strong. Be loud. Don’t give up,” Andrei Kozlov told some 400 people at the Oct. 7 commemoration at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan. Kozlov, who is not Jewish, was a security guard at the Nova festival, where he was taken hostage by Hamas and held captive for 246 days until an Israeli army raid freed him.

Speaking to some 2,000 people at the Oct. 7 commemoration in Beverly Hills, in Los Angeles County, Modi Ephraim, consul general of Israel to the Pacific Southwest, said, “Anti-Zionism is fueling the highest number of antisemitic attacks since the Holocaust.” He pointed to the organized murder of Jews in Boulder, Colorado; Manchester, England; Bondi Beach, Australia; Montreal; and Washington, D.C.

Hamas spent years planning the pogrom, including simulating attacks using models of the kibbutzim its thugs planned to destroy. Hamas methodically organized to lull Israeli officials into believing that despite its calls for slaughter of Jews, it had become more “pragmatic” and could be worked with. This was all a lie.

Hamas also murdered more than 50 immigrant farmworkers as well 24 Arab citizens of Israeli — often after brutal torture. In the eyes of Hamas, working with Jews as equals is a crime punishable by death.

Hamas knew that many of those targeted, like at Kibbutz Be’eri, were activists in peace groups that back calls for a separate Palestinian state, viewing the government of Israel as an obstacle to “peace.” It didn’t matter. To Hamas all Jews are the enemy.

Hamas wants civilian ‘martyrs’

Hamas knew that once it launched the pogrom Israel would fight back. That’s why Hamas built its weapons caches and command posts underneath hospitals, schools, residential housing, mosques and U.N. offices, using Palestinian civilians as human shields. It wanted to maximize the number of civilian deaths it could claim as martyrs to their movement.

Despite all these facts, Israel’s defensive war to ensure that Hamas can no longer launch new pogroms to murder Jews is constantly slandered as “genocide.”

The most open and virulent Jew-hatred — often cloaked with the label of “anti-Zionism” — comes from middle-class radicals and pro-Hamas groups. But more “mainstream” forces, from the Nobel Peace Prize committee to *New York Times* columnists, feel free to bandy about the blood libel that Israel is committing “genocide” in Gaza. They are increasingly joined by politicians from both the left and the right of bourgeois politics.

These capitalist news outlets cover up the fact that since its formation, Hamas has openly declared its goal is to kill or expel all the Jews in Palestine and destroy Israel, the only refuge for Jews in the world. Hamas’ 1988 covenant quotes the czarist-

epoch forgery “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” promoting the lie that Jews control the world.

Hamas, al-Husseini and Hitler

In fact, Hamas traces its continuity to the Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood and Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who collaborated with the Nazis during World War II. From a wealthy landlord family, al-Husseini’s political life back to the 1920s was marked by Jew-hating pogroms, when few believed a Jewish state was even possible.

Before the rise of fascist Germany and Adolf Hitler’s Nazi party, most Jews in Europe had no intention of moving to Palestine. The Holocaust changed everything.

The Moscow-dominated Communist Party in Germany, despite having the support of millions of workers there, refused to join with the Socialist Party to fight fascism. Instead, they stood aside as Jew-hatred flourished, saying, “After Hitler, our turn.”

As the Nazis moved to impose their “Final Solution,” Jews attempting to flee were turned away by all the major imperialist powers, including Washington, London and Ottawa.

By the time the war ended, two out of three Jews in Europe — some 40% of Jews worldwide — had been murdered by the Nazis. The U.S., British and other imperialist victors still refused to accept Jews who survived Hitler’s death camps. The British used military force to try and prevent Jews from escaping to what was to become Israel.

Where were the Jews to go? Shut out elsewhere, they found ways to get to



German Federal Archives

Amin al-Husseini, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, meets with Adolf Hitler in Berlin in November 1941, offers collaboration “in the struggle against three common enemies: the English, the Jews and Bolshevism.” Hamas traces its continuity to al-Husseini and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Palestine. Jewish leaders accepted the United Nations partition plan for two states, one Palestinian, and one Jewish.

Arab misleaders attack Israel in 1948

But the reactionary semifeudal landlord misleaders of Arabs in the region joined with al-Husseini. They attacked the new Israeli state, hoping to demolish it before it could be established. They failed at a tremendous cost in human lives to both sides in the war.

Israel exists today as the only refuge from Jew-hatred for Jews in the world. And one small proof that Israel and the Jews oppose genocide against Arabs, Muslims or Palestinians is that today some 20% of the citizens of Israel are Arabs.

Just two days after Oct. 7 this year, former U.N. human rights chief Navi

Pillay, who presided over a commission that declared Israel was committing genocide in Gaza, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Last year Pillay spoke out in defense of a member of her commission who said that social media is “controlled largely by the Jewish lobby.”

Israel will not — and should not — back off defending itself as a refuge for Jews. One atom bomb dropped on Israel — a country roughly the size of New Jersey — could kill half the Jews in the world.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, Israeli forces have struck big blows to Tehran, Hamas’ primary enabler; to Hamas; Hezbollah in Lebanon; the Houthis in Yemen; and other members of Tehran’s “axis of resistance.” These advances are in the interests of working people everywhere.

NY Mayor Mamdani’s remarks Oct. 7 attack Jews, Israel

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani delivered a message Oct. 7, the third anniversary of the bloody Hamas pogrom in Israel, the biggest assault on Jews since the Holocaust. But he focused not on that atrocity, but on slanders against Israel, charging it was carrying out an “ongoing genocide in Gaza.”

He paid lip service to “the horrific war crimes of October 7,” but said nothing about Hamas’ systematic slaughtering of 1,200 people, overwhelmingly Jewish civilians; wounding thousands more; taking more than 250 hostages, many it held for months; and raping and mutilating dozens of women.

The mayor focused his remarks on blaming the Israeli government for “genocide,” killing “more than 74,000 Palestinians” as part of its “occupation and apartheid.”

An editorial the following day in the *Wall Street Journal* titled “Celebrating Hamas on Oct. 7,” notes, “Mr. Mamdani passes off the Hamas-supplied Gaza casualty figure as if all the dead were civilians, not bothering to mention that at least 25,000 are believed to have been terrorist combatants.”

And, of course, the pro-Hamas mayor failed to acknowledge the fact that Hamas’ death squads built a massive tunnel network for its military operations and set up command posts and weapons storage depots under schools, hospitals, homes, U.N. warehouses and mosques, hoping to maximize civilian

deaths, creating “martyrs” of Israeli brutality. The fact is, Israeli forces tried to minimize civilian casualties, including sending messages to people’s cell-phones who were in harm’s way.

Mamdani also participated in an Oct. 7 remembrance candlelight vigil in Union Square Park in Manhattan organized by Israelis for Peace. Speakers there read testimonies from families of some of those killed by Hamas, as well as testimonies about Palestinians killed by Israel Defense Forces in Gaza.

As the rally was about to begin, hundreds of pro-Hamas supporters swept in trying to disrupt the vigil. They yelled Jew-hating rants, including, “We don’t want peace with Israelis. We sent your people to hell on Oct. 7.” Organizers of the vigil were able to move it to another part of the park.

The mayor stood silent throughout all this. He did not speak at the vigil, nor address the protesters’ actions.

The mayor’s Oct. 7 statement was condemned by a number of Jewish organizations. “Not once” did he say the word “Jews,” Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, told the media.

“The Jewish people should be afforded this one day to mourn the murdered, the raped and the children left orphaned, without having their grief reframed as an indictment of Israel,” Jack Simony, president of the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, wrote.

The following day at a news confer-

ence in Brooklyn, the mayor defended his message. “I was proud to attend last night’s vigil,” he claimed, but focused on repeating the charge that the Israeli government used the Oct. 7 attack as a “justification for an ongoing genocide against Palestinians.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had answered this charge in a speech at the U.N. General Assembly two weeks earlier. “Accusing Israel of genocide is the greatest lie of the century,” he said. On Oct. 7, he noted, “there wasn’t a single Israeli then in Gaza, not a civilian, not a soldier, not one.”

“What genocidal regime gives a million polio vaccinations to the enemy’s population? What genocidal regime enables the distribution of 2 million tons of food into Gaza?”

“Israel didn’t commit genocide. Israel prevented genocide,” he said.

They prevented genocide aimed, as so many times in history, at the Jews. Hamas leaders have said over and over they will never cease their efforts to eliminate all the Jews.

“The lies you and other antisemites spread about the Jews and the Jewish state have real consequences,” Netanyahu said about Mamdani in his speech. “In New York, Jews are threatened on the way to synagogue. Jews have been stabbed in the streets. Jews are demonized. They’re targeted simply for being Jews. Jews have been murdered in Sydney, Manchester, Montreal, Boulder, Colorado.”

1965: Lowndes right to vote battle

Continued from front page

County, one of the most reactionary Ku Klux Klan strongholds in Alabama.

Led by Stokely Carmichael, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee stepped away from the march to talk with local Blacks who came out to greet the marchers and discuss plans for a voter registration drive. After the march Carmichael and other SNCC leaders immediately returned to Lowndes.

From bitter experience, these fighters knew that neither the Democratic nor Republican parties offered any protection from deadly assault by white supremacists, let alone any assistance in the struggle to overturn Jim Crow. SNCC's goal was to organize the broadest layer of working people in Lowndes County to take their destinies into their own hands, including by establishing an independent Black political party.

In 1965 not a single Black was registered to vote in Lowndes County, despite Blacks making up 81% of its population of 15,000. Many were seasonal farm laborers, sharecroppers or maids. As the fight against Jim Crow spread in the early 1960s, no actions to protest Jim Crow had taken place there.

But under the impact of victories against segregation across the South — from the Montgomery bus boycott to the Freedom Rides to the Battle of Birmingham to the Selma-to-Montgomery march — a layer of African Americans in the county were looking for a way to fight. They were led by John Hulett.

He had left Lowndes in 1948 to find work in a foundry in Birmingham, where he joined the foundry workers union and the NAACP. Hulett also joined the armed self-defense team organized to protect Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the central leader of the Birmingham desegregation fight. He returned to Lowndes in 1959.

Just weeks before the Selma-to-Montgomery march set out, Hulett led 39 Blacks to try to register at the county courthouse. They were turned back.

Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights fighter from Detroit, had come to join the

march. After it concluded in Montgomery, she volunteered to drive participants home. On the way, she was murdered by the Klan in Lowndes. At a meeting to mark her death at Mount Gillard Missionary Baptist Church, 100 Blacks formed the Lowndes County Christian Movement for Human Rights.

SNCC volunteers in Lowndes worked with this newly formed group, going door to door to broaden the reach of the movement. In one rural area, Carmichael rode a mule from house to house. He audaciously backed off cops who tried to prevent him from handing out flyers to high school students, who were clamoring to get involved.

Following the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in August, the federal government sent registrars to Lowndes to sign up Blacks. African Americans lined up day after day to register and it became clear they would soon be a majority of voters in the county.

Racists launch reign of terror

To try to quell the movement's momentum, a sheriff's deputy shot and killed Jonathan Daniels, a SNCC volunteer from Massachusetts, and SNCC's freedom library was bombed. Lowndes activists responded by organizing armed convoys to get people to and from meetings and posting armed sentries outside leaders' homes.

With the threat of violence pushed back, wealthy white landowners began a wave of evictions of the Black sharecroppers who were backing the desegregation fight. In response, Lowndes activists set up a tent city to house the evictees. In Detroit former Lowndes residents and members of the Friends of SNCC collected food and clothing from the United Auto Workers and other unions to distribute to the evicted sharecroppers.

The supplies were delivered by Rosa Parks, who had helped initiate the Montgomery bus boycott by refusing to sit in the back of a bus and who was now co-chair of the Detroit SNCC support group. She spoke to a mass meeting in Lowndes.

For decades most African American



AP Photo/Horace Cort

African American workers and farmers, members of Lowndes County Freedom Organization, meet in Hayneville, Alabama, May 3, 1966, to elect party nominees for coming local elections.

farmers had been kept out of federal government price support and loan programs. In November 1965, SNCC led Black farmers in Lowndes to fight for representation on the government bodies dispensing those funds. The effort was defeated, reinforcing the growing understanding among Blacks that a break with the parties that upheld segregation was needed.

At a mass meeting April 2, 1966, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization was formed as an independent political party. Because illiteracy was so widespread — among Caucasians as well as Blacks — political parties in Alabama had to choose a symbol their supporters would pick when they voted. For Alabama Democrats, it was a white rooster. The LCFO chose a snarling black panther.

“We aren’t asking any longer for protection — we won’t need it — or for anyone to come from the outside to speak for us, because we’re going to speak for ourselves now and from now on,” Hulett said at a 1966 rally in Los Angeles against the Vietnam War. “And I think not only in Lowndes ... not only in the South, but in the North. I hope they too will start thinking for themselves.”

Working-class candidates

The party's slate of candidates, all working people, ran on a program demanding a halt to segregationist violence, aid to Black farmers, a halt to evictions, improved schools for Black children and higher taxes on wealthy landowners.

Willie Ricks, a SNCC field organizer in the county, addressed the party's nominating convention in May. Alabama governor “George Wallace is a Democrat,” he said. So are “the people who work you for \$3 a day” and those who “call themselves the Ku Klux Klan.”

Willie Bolden, 81, cast his first vote in the party's primary, saying it “made me think I was sort of somebody.”

Socialist Workers Party leaders Betsey Stone and John Benson visited Lowndes on different occasions in 1966, working with Hulett and writing first-hand accounts of the unfolding struggle for the *Militant*. Members of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization are “continuously canvassing the community, going house to house,” Stone wrote. They hold “frequent meetings” where “the candidates speak and political questions are discussed.”

The liberal *New York Times* smeared the LCFO, calling it “disruptive” for breaking the two-party control over politics. In contrast, Benson said, “I have never met people so united and enthusiastic about what they were doing. They are proud of their new party and go out of their way to explain what they are doing and why.”

The LCFO candidates won 41% of the vote for county offices in their first outing that year, short of what they needed to get elected. But this example of independent working-class political action was a proud moment in the deepening struggle against Jim Crow.

Opposition to death penalty grows in Iran

Continued from page 4

“You flogged our colleagues in order, as you imagined, to intimidate the vast number of colleagues in the oil industry who have been made unemployed,” the Council for Organizing Protests by Oil Contract Workers stated Oct. 11. “When the anger of oil workers erupts, no savage and repressive force will be able to withstand it.”

“Under the shadow of war, repression and executions, our livelihoods have been destroyed more than ever,” they wrote a week earlier. “The executions must stop immediately.”

Sheikh Abdul Hamid, the central leader of the Baluch, an oppressed nationality based in Sistan-Baluchistan province, has also been speak-

ing out against the death penalty.

“Imprisonment and execution are not the solution,” Abdul Hamid told hundreds at Friday services in Zahedan Oct. 9. “The scale of executions being carried out in the country today is unprecedented in the history of Islam.”

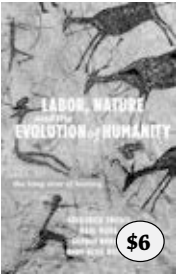
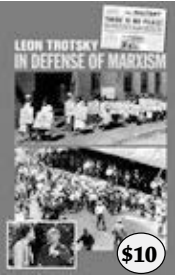
“These executions only widen the gap between the people and the governing authorities,” he said. “Violence and executions breed resentment and hatred.”

Oppressed nationalities — Baluch, Kurds, Afghans, Arabs and others — disproportionately face execution by the regime, mostly for drug and other criminal offenses. But the number of those executed on trumped-up political charges is growing.

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Join campaign to get out book on Cuba, Africa

The U.S. imperialist rulers, with their Democratic and Republican parties in tow, are working nonstop to try to poison the minds of working people about Cuba as they intensify their drive to starve the Cuban people into submission and crush their socialist revolution.

Washington slanders Cuba’s leadership, from Fidel and Raúl Castro to those serving today, and the missions they’ve led to aid other peoples fighting for independence, in Africa, the Americas and elsewhere. It falsely claims that in doing so, Cuba “exports revolution” and supports “left-wing terrorism.”

There is no better way of countering Washington’s lies than reading and distributing *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke, who led Cuban combatants fighting alongside the liberation forces there. The book, available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, describes an exciting but little known piece of class-struggle history that illustrates the boundless capacities of working people.

It brings alive the determination and pride of the people of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde as they fought to free their country from five centuries of colonial domination. Their victorious struggle triggered the collapse of the Portuguese empire across Africa and brought down the fascist dictatorship in Portugal itself.

Under the Portuguese rulers’ boot, 99% of the population of Guinea-Bissau was disenfranchised, life expectancy was 37, malnutrition widespread and the peasants subjected to forced labor.

Cuba “sent its children to fight by our side, to shed their blood in our land together with the best children of our country,” Luis Cabral, then president of Guinea-Bissau, explained in 1977.

200 join Montreal vigil marking Hamas pogrom

BY BEATRICE BOWEN

MONTREAL — Some 200 people gathered here Oct. 7 in a vigil organized by several Jewish student organizations at both McGill and Concordia — Israel on Campus, Jewish Law Student Association and the Medical & Dental Jewish Student Association — to mark the third anniversary of the murderous Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel by Hamas.

Organizers invited the public to join Jewish students at McGill’s Lower Field, where a pro-Hamas encampment stood two years ago. Allied Voices for Israel also supported the vigil.

“We’re here to celebrate life. Three years ago was the deadliest, most horrific attack on our people since the Holocaust,” Elias Manevich, one of the student organizers of the vigil, said opening the program. “As Jewish students we got no support from our professors. We were harassed on campus and we saw attacks on Jews, like the firebombing in Dollard des Ormeaux, so it was important to come together to support Israel and Jews here in Canada.”

The book describes the outstanding qualities of Amilcar Cabral, the central leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde. The PAIGC fought to counter tribal antagonisms, and championed women’s equality and their participation in the leadership of the struggle. It organized the country’s toilers to come together and fight to win their national liberation, to forge their own future.

“Our enemy isn’t the people of Portugal. Our enemy is Portuguese colonialism,” Cabral said. Captured Portuguese soldiers were treated with respect, and many returned home to join the fight to overthrow the fascist dictatorship there.

Cabral taught combatants to see themselves as part of the world. “Our struggle is worth nothing if it’s not deeply tied to those of other peoples in the Portuguese colonies,” he said.

Cuba’s unprecedented aid was only possible because of the transformation Cuban workers and farmers had lived through in making a socialist revolution. Under the leadership of Fidel Castro, they nationalized the country’s factories and banks, and the land, taking them into their own hands. They opened the door to the eradication of all forms of oppression and exploitation.

“The Cuban people, led by Fidel, had brought about profound changes in our society,” Alfonso Pérez Morales, one of the Cuban volunteers in Guinea-Bissau, explains in the book.

What they helped accomplish must become more widely known by workers everywhere. It can inspire us to step up the fight to end Washington’s assaults against Cuba today. Join Socialist Workers Party members in distributing the book, organizing meetings to discuss it and what it helps show we are capable of.

On Dec. 18, 2024, the Congregation Beth Tikvah synagogue in the West Island suburb of Dollard Des Ormeaux was firebombed by Mohamed Ilyess Akodad, shattering glass, causing smoke damage and more. The explosion also smashed a glass door at a nearby Jewish community organization.

Lee Rahav, who helped defend the Nirim Kibbutz as Hamas thugs came across the Gaza border into Israel, described the fight to save people’s lives. Hamas “came with only one goal — to kill, rape and destroy as much as they could.” Rahav also spoke to hundreds at another commemoration that evening organized by the Federation Combined Jewish Appeal.

Several students who had family or friends killed or injured during the pogrom addressed the crowd, as did a Holocaust survivor originally from Hungary, who spoke from his wheelchair. Holding a sign reading “We will not be silent,” he described the horror of the Holocaust, adding “I see the seeds of what happened then, today. Never again!”

New York cab drivers

Continued from front page

pen in his hand. That was a week after his cab’s GPS tracker showed he had stopped along the West Side Highway.

Originally from Tanzania, Siwa was hospitalized in July for a stroke that left him with visible facial paralysis. But his doctor said he was cleared to work. Like Dem, Siwa was on a lease-to-own contract requiring weekly payments.

Richard Coulibaly, a 73-year-old cab driver from Ivory Coast, also on the hook to Queens Medallion, died in his cab during an intense heat wave here July 2.

Jagjit Singh was found dead from a suspected heart attack in his cab in the West Village Sept. 11.

Conditions for yellow taxi drivers have declined sharply since the introduction of strong competition from Lyft and Uber, companies that have more than 84,000 cars licensed to operate in the city. There are just over 10,000 active yellow cabs today, whose drivers have to work ever-increasing hours to bring in an average of about \$387 in fares a day.

Desai said a recent union survey of over 400 cab drivers found that 10% of them knew drivers who had become homeless and 30% of those surveyed were behind on rent or mortgage payments last year.

For many cab drivers the four deaths brought back memories of at least eight cab drivers who found their situation so difficult they committed suicide in 2018. Drivers who had purchased taxi medallions — that at one point cost over \$1 million each and were marketed to cabbies as a lifetime investment — found themselves drowning in debt after Uber and Lyft gutted what had been a government-enforced monopoly for the taxi industry, driving down the value of the medallions.

Growing hardships for Uber drivers

Uber and Lyft drivers are facing harder times too. While the costs of these rides rose nearly 10% last year, that extra money isn’t going into the pockets of the drivers. In June, Business Insider reported on a study covering ride-sharing data from three drivers in Dallas; Miami; and Tampa, Florida. Over a decade Uber bosses’ cut rose above 50% in some cities, well above the 15% to 20% the company used to take out of drivers’ fares.

That shift, benefiting the bosses’ profits by squeezing drivers’ income, along with fewer customers as working people hit with inflation cut back on using cabs of all kinds, has left app drivers scrambling. “I used to make a minimum of \$300 a day,” Anja Holthoff, an Uber and Lyft driver for 10 years in Atlanta, said. “Now, sometimes, it takes me two days to make that.”

All cab drivers in New York have a tough time finding a place to take a meal break or use a restroom. They compete for just 151 parking spots south of 60th Street in Manhattan that the city has set aside for yellow cab drivers, and another 137 spots they share with app drivers. They face fines of \$115 to \$150 if they leave their cars, even briefly, in restricted or no-standing zones.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani took a yellow taxi to his inauguration on Jan. 1 driven by Richard Chow, the brother of one of the cab drivers who committed suicide in 2018. But this was just show, no concrete help for drivers has come from the mayor’s office.

The Department of Transportation is discussing a one-year pilot plan that could expand the number of rest stops cab drivers can use. But “drivers have been hearing that ad nauseam for decades,” Desai said last September.

Of more consequence, the Taxi Workers Alliance is stepping up its long-standing fight for disability insurance, expanded sick leave and healthcare for drivers. “If you get sick, you’re pretty much on your own,” Wain Chin, a yellow cab driver for 30 years, told the *New York Times*. And with times getting tougher, he said, “forget about retirement. We don’t have nothing.”

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications).

1. Publication Title: The Militant.

2. Publication Number: 0349-040.

3. Filing Date: 09/25/2026.

4. Issue Frequency: Published weekly except for one week in January, three weeks in June, one week in September.

5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 47.

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$35.

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4): 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Printer): 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do Not Leave Blank). Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address): The Militant Publishing Association, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482. Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): John Studer, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482. Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): Not applicable.

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as that of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full name: Susan LaMont; Complete mailing address: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None.

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Does not apply.

13. Publication Title: The Militant.

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 5, 2026.

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average Number of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): 3156. b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser’s proof copies and exchange cop-

ies): 1219; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser’s proof copies, and exchange copies): 27; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 974; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 61; c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)): 2281; d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 34. (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 2. (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 2. (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 0. e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)): 38. f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 2319; g. Copies Not Distributed: 837. h. Total (Sum of 15f and g): 3156; i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): 98.36%; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date. a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): 3000. b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser’s proof copies, and exchange copies): 990; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser’s proof copies, and exchange copies): 15; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 969; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 55; c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)): 2029; d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 32. (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 2. (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 2. (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 0. e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)): 36. f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 2065; g. Copies Not Distributed: 935. h. Total (Sum of 15f and g): 3000; i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): 98.26%.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership. If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 26, 2026, issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Bob Bruce, Business Manager (signed). Date: 09/25/2026.

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