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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 41 NOVEMBER 16, 2026

INSIDE

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution, a landmark in the class struggle

— PAGE 5

2026 vote shows need to fight the 'normalization' of Jew-hatred!

Working people in the U.S. face the brunt of a deep-going crisis of capitalism today — soaring prices, less jobs, assaults on immigrant workers and the spread of international conflicts and wars. Under these conditions, it's no surprise that the anger of many workers was directed toward the party in the White House.

EDITORIAL

For decades the U.S. capitalist rulers have sought to trap working people in the dead end of choosing a so-called lesser evil between their two main parties — the Democrats and Republicans — that uphold capitalist exploitation and carry out the rulers' predatory wars abroad.

Only the Socialist Workers Party candidates offered working people a road forward.

One dangerous feature of the election was the rapidly advancing normalization of Jew-hatred by Democratic Party politicians and the pro-Hamas middle-class left. Threats and

Continued on page 9

SWP campaign showed road forward for the working class

Strengthen unions, fight for political power



Militant/Mike Shur

Paul Mailhot, left, SWP candidate for New York governor, talks with participants at May Day march there. Join the party in ongoing campaign to advance working-class struggles.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

"Whether the Democrats or Republicans win control of the Senate or House this year, workers will lose," said Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, speaking at a campaign event Oct. 31.

"Capitalist politicians band together when it comes to maintaining the system of exploitation and to push their economic crises onto the backs of working people. We can expect the bosses will be emboldened in the coming period to impose lower wages and more dangerous working conditions to help wealthy capitalist families boost their profits.

"High prices will continue to make life for working people and our families more difficult. And both Democrats and Republicans will call for an ever larger war budget as competition among capitalist rivals over resources, markets and labor power pose the danger of new and more destructive wars.

"The working class needs the Social-

Continued on page 3

Spanish gov't is responsible for train crash catastrophes

BY TERRY EVANS

The third deadly train disaster in Spain in less than a year Oct. 28 left 69 people dead near Urda in Toledo province. The Spanish Railroad Engineers and Trainmen's Union (SEMAF) held a one-day strike the next day, demanding the government implement safety measures agreed to many months earlier, but never carried out.

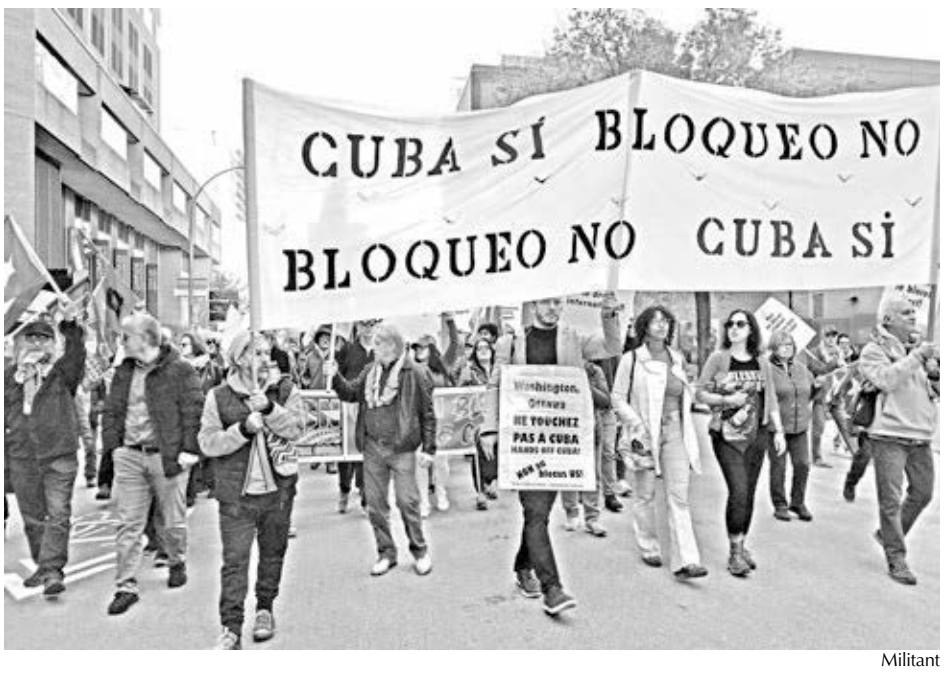
In the latest and deadliest disaster, a high-speed train operated by state-owned Renfe going 154 mph slammed into a stopped train on the same track operated by Italian-owned Iryo, on the Madrid to Seville line. Working people from Urda joined the relief effort, bringing blankets, food, water and medical supplies to the town's sports hall, which was turned into a makeshift hospital for survivors.

Most of Spain's high-speed rail network, the most extensive in the world outside China's, has the same operating system as the rest of the European Union. But 63 miles of track on the Madrid-Seville line is operated under the outdated 30-year-old LZB system, which went down, bringing train traffic to a halt that day. Management then turned on an even older system, meant for operating trains at a slower speed.

For reasons that are not yet clear, train

Continued on page 9

From Boston to Iceland, protests say: 'End US blockade, threats on Cuba!'



Militant

International protests were timed to coincide with U.N. vote Oct. 28 on Cuba resolution demanding Washington lift its blockade on the island. Above, march of 100 in Montreal Oct. 24.

BY CLAUDIA KAISER-LENOIR AND EMILY FITZSIMMONS

BOSTON — Dayanis García Farinas, coordinator for international relations at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Havana, spoke at the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain here Oct. 26, part of her four-city U.S. tour. She gave an eyewitness account of the devastating effects of the tightening U.S. blockade against the Cuban people.

The meeting was part of a week of activities across the country and abroad against Washington's oil blockade and threats of war against Cuba.

It was organized by the July 26 Coalition of Boston, which for the

Continued on page 6

UN panel documents far-reaching war crimes by Moscow in Ukraine

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow's intensified, systematic bombardment of Ukraine's energy infrastructure that cut off electricity, heat and water "with the intent of Russia's authorities to inflict harm to the civilian population" amounts to war crimes, a three-person Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine concluded in a United Nations report Oct. 26.

It also documented and condemned Moscow's use of lies and chicanery to coerce thousands of men from over two dozen countries into the Russian army for combat at the front in Ukraine.

During Ukraine's harsh 2025-26 winter, millions of people were left without electricity for hours, even

Continued on page 5

Unions in Alberta join fight to defend immigrant toilers

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — On Oct. 19 a nonbinding referendum in Canada's Alberta province posed 10 questions on the ballot. The one that received far and away the most attention in the big-business media asked if voters wanted a future binding referendum on Alberta seeking independence. But this wasn't the most important one for working people. As it happened, that question was voted down overwhelm-

Continued on page 2

Inside

Pathfinder expands its titles in Arabic, sales are growing 3

French workers, youth march against high prices, school crisis 4

SWP discusses union, political battles with Colorado workers 4

Colonial rule in Puerto Rico deepens capitalist social crisis 7

Alberta referenda on immigrants

Continued from front page

ingly, getting only 24% of the vote.

The most important contest was five interconnected measures that together constituted a frontal attack on the rights of immigrant workers, designed to deepen divisions among working people, strengthen the hand of the bosses and weaken the labor movement.

The Alberta Federation of Labour and its affiliated unions campaigned for the defeat of these assaults on immigrant workers and to defend the unity of working people against the capitalist governments of both United Conservative Party Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Liberal Party Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The lead-up to these reactionary measures has been a series of sharp class battles in Alberta and across Canada. The Liberals in Ottawa are pushing Bill C-39, which would give the government the right to unilaterally halt strike actions it deems dangerous to the profits and power of the capitalist rulers.

The Alberta labor movement mobilized in 2025 to support 51,000 striking teachers, who ended their militant strike only after the Conservative Party government adopted back-to-work strikebreaking legislation.

Divisive questions

The anti-immigrant measures call on the Alberta government to:

- Cut back so-called economic immigration "to more sustainable levels … giving Albertans first priority on new employment opportunities."
- Mandate "only Canadian citizens, permanent residents and individuals with an Alberta-approved immigration status will be eligible for provincially funded programs such as health care, education and other social services."
- Require "all individuals with a non-permanent legal immigration status to reside in Alberta for at least 12 months before qualifying for any provincially funded social support programs."
- Charge "a reasonable fee or premium to individuals with a non-permanent immigration status living in Alberta for their and their family's use of the health care and education systems."

Despite millions of dollars spent by the Alberta government in anti-immigrant propaganda ensconced in vague and misleading language, these nonbinding proposals garnered a bare majority of some 54%.

While Smith claimed this gives her a "clear mandate" to pursue attacks against immigrant workers with or without papers, the labor movement made clear that would take a fight.

The unions speak out

"The UCP is clearly trying to target working-class Albertans by convincing them to blame immigrants for the hardships they're facing in their lives," Alberta Federation of Labour President Gil McGowan said in an Oct. 21 statement two days after the vote.

"We will not allow wedges to be driven between neighbors, co-workers and families," said Thomas Hesse, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401, the next day. "Turning a cold shoulder to our immigrant population and creating the potential to freeze them out of benefits is very troubling."

"Our union stands firmly together, and we will fiercely protect the dignity and rights of every single worker who calls this province home."



Alberta Federation of Labour

The Alberta Federation of Labour organized 14 rallies across the Canadian province two days before votes on anti-worker referendums Oct. 19. The union federation mobilized against the five interrelated measures attacking the rights of immigrant workers. Above, march in Calgary.

"Temporary foreign workers and newcomers are foundational to our communities," said Faduma Ahmed, a Local 401 union representative. "We must ensure all workers receive the same dignity, respect and fairness regardless of where they came from."

"In Brooks, we see every single day, what true community looks like, with working people from all over the world working side by side," said Adriana Salguero, UFCW representative in Brooks. "They deserve the same access to the services that their tax dollars pay for like all workers do in this province."

Brooks is home to JBS Canada — one of the country's largest beef processing facilities, where 4,200 to 4,500 cattle are slaughtered every day.

The UFCW statement concludes that if the provincial government takes steps to slash services provided to immigrants, the union is prepared to take strike action to force the employers to "provide these workers with the necessary benefits."

Local 401's message of working-class unity and solidarity was also strongly expressed last March when the union sent a message of solidarity to 3,800 UFCW JBS meatpacking workers forced out on strike in Greeley, Colorado. It said: "When workers unite across borders, we are strongest together."

Union leaders back 'Team Canada'

In the days leading up to the referendum, Prime Minister Carney campaigned together with Alberta Premier Smith, calling for a vote against the referenda item posing the question of the province's independence from Ottawa.

Carney used the campaign to promote his nationalist "Team Canada" unity propaganda aimed at convincing working people and our unions to back the Canadian capitalist rulers' trade war against Washington.

"When we are united, we become even stronger, fairer and freer," he argued. At the same time as he says this, his government is stepping up attacks on the right to strike by working people, deporting record numbers of immigrants and supporting the ruling rich in their drive to save their crisis-ridden, war-generating profit system.

Nonetheless, top union officials also campaigned for a "strong Canada" in the framework of their dead-end support for the Liberal government's Canadian nationalist trade war against the U.S. This pits workers and our unions in Canada against those in the U.S. and aligns workers here with the Canadian bosses. This weakens our ability to defend our living and working conditions and democratic freedoms.

THE MILITANT

Read the Militant's coverage of labor struggles!

The 'Militant' has unparalleled coverage of labor battles, across the US and around the world. Find out about lockouts — like the one that just ended at Phillips 66 in New Jersey — and bring your support and the solidarity of your union to bear in these struggles.



Christine Queally
Teamsters Local 877 rallies after lockout Oct. 19 at Phillips 66 refinery in Linden, N.J.

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

Pathfinder expands its titles in Arabic, sales are growing

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

Pathfinder Press titles that have been translated into Arabic are getting around in the Arab-speaking world and beyond.

At the Amman International Book Fair in Jordan, from Sept. 24 to Oct. 3, with over 400,000 visitors, four Pathfinder titles were displayed in the booth of Jordanian publisher Dar Fada'at — *Lenin's Final Fight* by V.I. Lenin, *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X, *An Introduction to the Logic of Marxism* by George Novack and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible* by Mary-Alice Waters.

Also at the Amman event, Kanaan Publishing House from Damascus displayed Pathfinder's *Nelson Mandela Speaks; 50 Years of Covert Operations in the US* by Larry Seigle, Farrell Dobbs and Steve Clark; *Feminism and the Marxist Movement* by Mary-Alice Waters; *Reform or Revolution?* by Rosa Luxemburg; and *Black Music, White Business* by Frank Kofsky.

Arabic translations of Pathfinder titles were also on sale at the just-concluded 18th Erbil International Book Fair in the Kurdish Region in northern Iraq Oct. 21-31. More than 400 publishers from 18 countries participated in that annual cultural festival, under the theme of "I am Kurdistani."

Maher Haramy, who has translated many of these titles, had four books produced by his own new publishing house, Keena, in Erbil. These included two books by Thomas Sankara, *We are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* and *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle; Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia* by Fidel Castro; and *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke.

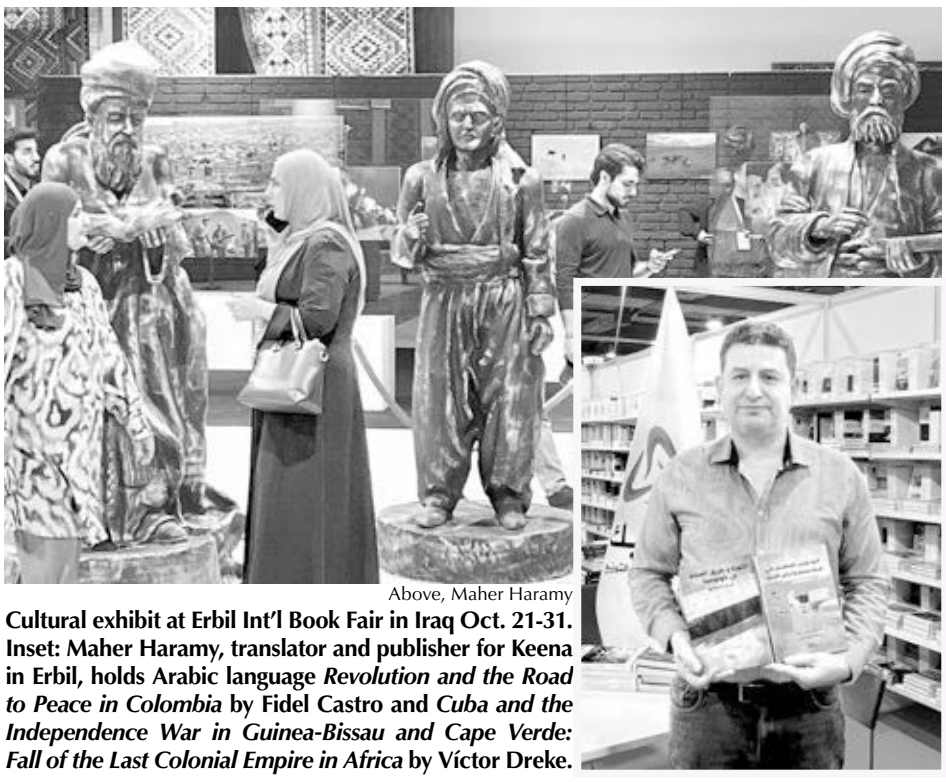
Dreke's book "is inspiring for people who fight for freedom. It shows that no matter how weak you may seem compared to your oppressor or colonizer, you can still dream of achieving your freedom," Haramy told the *Militant*.

"Your struggle can inspire others who share the same dream, just as the Cuban Revolution inspired other peoples to fight for their freedom and independence, like the people of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau," Haramy said. "What happened there can happen anywhere in the world."

Not a lot of Arabic speakers have access to much accurate information about Cuba, or Colombia or other countries outside our region, Haramy said. "But we were also occupied and conquered, so we can learn from these struggles."

Another publisher at the Erbil book fair, Al-Takween, based in Damascus, displayed two Pathfinder titles in Arabic: *Art and Revolution: Writings on Literature, Politics, and Culture* by Leon Trotsky and *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity* by Frederick Engels, Karl Marx, George Novack and Mary-Alice Waters.

"Novack, like Engels, traces everything back to the development of humanity, which took millions of years," says Haramy who translated that last book. "It helps us see in our part of the world that we can't just say, 'We haven't had any results from our struggles for 30 years. There is no point.' You have to be patient; we are talking about history."



Above, Maher Haramy

Cultural exhibit at Erbil Int'l Book Fair in Iraq Oct. 21-31. Inset: Maher Haramy, translator and publisher for Keena in Erbil, holds Arabic language *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia* by Fidel Castro and *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke.

Haramy rejects the notion that Marxism is Eurocentric. "Marx's books were not just about Germany or England because industrialization happened there first. We need that perspective to fight too," he said. "We are facing the ruling capitalist classes everywhere. There have been sectarian and ethnic struggles that have sort of hidden the class struggle, but it is still there."

We also talked to Haramy on the phone in the United Arab Emirates, where he will be at a book fair in Sharjah Nov. 4-15. "This is a very big, significant book fair," Haramy said. "All the important publishers and booksellers across the Middle East and North Africa are there. So it's a good place to find out what people are interested in, what they would like to read."

Pathfinder Press currently sells 20 titles in Arabic on revolutionary working-class politics on its website, with five more being shipped from Keena, according to Holly Harkness, director of Pathfinder's distribution center in Atlanta. Next up from Keena Publishers, Haramy said, is a new Arabic translation of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. Order online from the Arabic books section on the Pathfinder Press website.

SWP campaign showed road forward for working class

Continued from front page

ist Workers Party. The only party in the United States today whose purpose is to educate and organize the working class in order to establish a workers government, which will abolish capitalism in the U.S. and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism," Mailhot said.

Over the last week, 141 new readers got *Militant* subscriptions and 153 books by SWP and other revolutionaries were sold. The international campaign by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the U.K. to sell 1,150 *Militant* subscriptions and an equal number of books continues through Nov. 17. To date $73,863 has been collected toward the $140,000 SWP Party-Building Fund, which will help cover the party's work.

Jamal Dowling, a dockworker in Miami, member of the International Longshoremen's Association and longtime reader of the *Militant*, attended the Militant Labor Forum Oct. 31 to hear the Socialist Workers Party candidates.

"I've read the *Militant* since the early 2000s, and it's the best newspaper," he told campaign supporters. "It has information you can't get anywhere else about the labor movement and what's going on in the world." He purchased *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke.

A campaign team sold three Pathfinder titles and several copies of the *Militant* earlier in the day at the ILA union hall, where workers get their job assignments.

A campaign supporter who works as a hotel housekeeper in Miami told the *Militant* some of her co-workers had recently gotten a number of Pathfinder titles. One worker from Colombia bought *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. Her Jewish grandparents had been pressured to leave Spain and her daughter was worried about the sharp rise in Jew-hatred. "We must educate ourselves to understand what is going on in the world," she said.

Another co-worker from Grenada bought *New International* no. 6, featuring *The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop* by Steve Clark. "I saw the corruption, the treachery of Bernard Coard, and what they did to our extraordinary leader Maurice Bishop," he said. "Cuba stood by us through our struggle, what a people. What the U.S. government is doing to them is criminal." He said he wanted the article because "I want the analysis of what happened."

Oppose Washington's wars!

Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, campaigned with supporters at the Día de los Muertos Festival in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland Nov. 1. An annual event for more than three decades, this year's theme was defense of immigrant workers: "The struggle continues: We are here and we're not leaving."

"We're opposed to Washington's wars," Trowe told JoAnna Varela, a teacher's aide who stopped at the campaign table with her family. "We call for a massive jobs program, a cost-of-living adjustment to raise wages and benefits when prices go up, and amnesty to change the legal status of millions of immigrant workers."

"It's important that you are campaigning for the working class," Varela told Trowe. "I worry about the future our children face. Artificial intelligence is being used to destroy jobs and undermine literacy."

"But AI, like any technology, is just a tool," Trowe said. "In the hands of the capitalists it can be tremendously destructive. But when workers take power we will use science to benefit humanity and enrich, not undermine, our culture."

Varela bought a subscription to the *Militant* and *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*. Participants at the festival overall got four *Militant* subscriptions and 12 Pathfinder books.

Rebecca Williamson, SWP candidate for Congress in Washington state, and Michele Smith, a party member, campaigned door to door in Tukwila, outside Seattle, Oct. 27.

"Its really hard right now for working people," Ebrima Sallah, an Amazon warehouse worker, told them. While Amazon makes billions, he said, "if I don't work overtime, I can't pay the rent."

Sallah subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*. "I want to get them because of the infor-

Continued on page 4

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund

Sept. 26 - November 17 (week five)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	35	32	35	28	$9,500	$2,335
Chicago	55	38	55	41	$13,500	$9,722
Cincinnati	35	27	35	21	$5,000	$3,201
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	41	60	51	$5,000	$3,129
Los Angeles	65	26	65	32	$13,000	$4,575
Miami	45	33	45	47	$5,000	$1,393
Minneapolis	55	34	55	36	$7,000	$3,745
N. New Jersey	60	46	60	45	$7,500	$5,766
New York	70	50	70	69	$20,000	$12,830
Oakland	75	58	75	70	$15,000	$10,214
Philadelphia	35	18	35	27	$6,000	$1,835
Pittsburgh*	50	44	50	51	$7,600	$4,003
Seattle	50	30	50	27	$15,000	$8,330
Washington	40	26	40	41	$4,500	$1,935
Other		14		353		$850
Total U.S.	730	517	730	939	$133,600	$73,863
Prisoners		122				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	29	40	31		
Manchester	35	34	35	33		
Total U.K.	75	63	75	64		
Canada	65	51	80	74		
Australia	30	26	30	29		
Total	**900**	**779**	**915**	**1,106**	**$133,600**	**$73,863**
SHOULD BE	**1,150**	**821**	**1,150**	**821**	**$140,000**	**$100,000**

*Raised goal

French workers, youth march against high prices, school crisis

BY TERRY EVANS

Hundreds of thousands of working people and youth demonstrated across France for the third consecutive Saturday, Oct. 31, alongside similar actions in several German cities and elsewhere in Europe.

Spurred by student protests against appalling conditions in the country's schools, workers have joined actions against sky-high prices and the indifference of the government of President Emmanuel Macron toward the effects of the deepening capitalist crisis, as well as its attacks on the right to protest.

Actions took place in some 150 cities and towns. At least 70,000 turned out in Paris, despite the government's efforts to disrupt the march by rerouting it, closing down 40 metro stations and imposing a nighttime curfew. The march was organized by students, the CGT union federation, and those known as yellow vests — farmers and others who came together in rural areas in 2018 to fight high taxes on diesel fuel.

Students have protested for weeks against government cuts to an already strained education system that have led to teacher shortages and disgusting classroom conditions. Corentin Cabreux told PBS in Paris that his state-run school residence is damp, with "cockroaches everywhere, rats."

"At first we mobilized in support of high school students. Then we saw the possibility of uniting our struggles," Badienne, a university student who asked not to give her last name, told the *Militant* at the march in Paris. "There have been many protests in recent years to defend pensions. We felt there was an opportunity to protest alongside workers."

Despite the size of the protests, gangs of masked youth provoked violent confrontations, as they have done at earlier marches, digging up paving stones to throw at cops along with fireworks. Cops responded with teargas and stun grenades, forcing peaceful protesters to flee. Authorities across the country have used ultraleft thuggery like this by anarchist-type groups, as well as rioting and looting in the wake of the mass marches, to ban or restrict protests.

When a masked group set fire to trash bins near a police unit on the Paris march, other demonstrators intervened to put the fires out. "That's no way to protest," one marcher who helped put out the blaze told the *New York Times*.

France's main union federations have called a strike along with street protests Nov. 5 to demand increased pay and pensions. Since 2019 prices have shot up by 21.3%, and average wages have failed to keep up, driving down workers' living standards and making it harder for young people to start a family.

Derek Jeffers in Paris contributed to this article.



Militant/Nat London

Members of CGT union in Paris marshal action against sky-high prices, deteriorating school conditions, attacks by President Emmanuel Macron's government on the right to protest.

SWP discusses union, political battles with Colorado workers

BY DEBORAH LIATOS AND MARY MARTIN

GREELEY, Colo. — A team of members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist League in Canada went to plant gates and workers' doorsteps in northeast Colorado Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, looking to meet with the more than 40 subscribers to the *Militant* newspaper won during the JBS meatpackers strike by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 here and by members of Teamsters Local 455 who were locked out at the Cargill plant in Fort Morgan. Those fights involved thousands of workers who hailed from dozens of countries throughout the world. Team members also visited workers in Denver.

Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Washington state, spoke to workers at a shift change at the Fort Morgan plant Nov. 2. Many explained that conditions remain very difficult in the plant.

One worker originally from Africa signed up for a *Militant* subscription. "Cuba supports liberation struggles in Africa and around the world, unlike Washington, which goes to war in the Middle East and the Caribbean for plunder," Perasso said, showing him *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban combatant Víctor Dreke. "Nelson Mandela was a real hero," the new subscriber said when he saw the picture of Mandela with Fidel Castro.

Deborah Liatos, SWP member from Los Angeles, and Joe Young, a Communist League member from Montreal, had wide-ranging discussions at the home of two former *Militant* subscribers, a couple who worked in Greeley. They discussed the recent meatpackers' battle, and the importance of demanding amnesty for all immigrant workers in the U.S. to unite the working class. They renewed their *Militant* subscription and bought *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*.

Jean Luc Duval from Detroit and Mary Martin from Minneapolis visited a number of JBS workers they had met on the strike picket lines. The workers said some gains had been registered, but the struggle over line speed and workplace injuries continues.

Judy Burgess, a restaurant worker and *Militant* subscriber, greeted team members with a question, "What was the outcome of the Teamsters lockout in Fort Morgan?"

Martin and Duval explained how some workers at the Cargill plant gate told them that their vocal and visible picket lines during the company lockout strengthened their union, but fights on wages and working conditions continue now that they're back on the factory floor.

"That's the way it is for working people. It seems it just keeps getting worse," Burgess said.

"And that's why we have to keep fighting the bosses," Duval said, "and why you need to read the *Militant* to know about where workers are fighting back and where they make gains." Burgess renewed her subscription.

At the JBS plant gate in Greeley Nov. 2, team members spoke with workers getting off work. Some were buoyed by the improvements won through their strike, but said the line speed is still too fast. One worker signed up for a *Militant* subscription.

"Several workers told me the workers made a few gains, including a small raise and the company now has to pay for safety equipment, but most importantly workers there are more united, in a better position to continue the fight," Duval said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

SWP campaign

Continued from page 3

mation you brought me," he said. "You have a lot of books behind what you're saying. You don't hear this anywhere else."

The Communist League in Australia launched its campaign in the March 2027 New South Wales state elections at a Militant Labour Forum in Sydney, Nov. 1. Robert Aiken, a forklift driver, is the Communist League candidate for the Legislative Council.

"Our campaign starts with what working people are capable of doing," Aiken said. "We can chart a course to take political power and reorganize society from top to bottom in the interests of the working majority, that is what the toilers in Cuba showed was possible. We will be getting out the truth about Cuba and defending its socialist revolution and its record of internationalist aid to liberation struggles worldwide."

Join in the ongoing campaigning! Find a campaign center near you on page 8.

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

November 12, 2001

FAIRFAX, California — A public forum in defense of five Cubans recently convicted in Miami on frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit espionage for the government of Cuba was held here Oct. 20. Nearly 100 people attended the speakout, held during a weekend meeting of the National Network on Cuba. The five Cubans have been in jail over a year, mostly in solitary confinement.

On June 8, a federal court in Miami convicted Cuban citizens Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González. As a statement by the Cuban government pointed out, the five were in Miami to "discover and report on terrorist plans hatched against our people" by counterrevolutionary opponents of the Cuban Revolution.

In addition to targeting revolutionary Cuba, the U.S. government's frame-up violated crucial constitutional rights needed by workers in the U.S.

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

November 12, 1976

Peter Camejo, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, visited Andres Figueroa Cordero — one of the five imprisoned Puerto Rican nationalists Oct. 28. Camejo is the first candidate for public office ever to visit Figueroa Cordero in prison.

Figueroa Cordero and four other members of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico — Rafael Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, and Irving Flores — were imprisoned in the early 1950s for armed actions in support of Puerto Rican independence. They are the longest-held political prisoners in the Western Hemisphere.

Camejo said he visited Figueroa Cordero "to show my solidarity with him and to be better able to explain the issues in this case during the closing days of the campaign. The five remain in prison today because they have not wavered in their support to Puerto Rican independence."

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 12, 1951

One Negro youth is dead and another near death after being shot by a Florida sheriff who was transporting them to the site of a retrial ordered by the Supreme Court.

This latest outrage came as the climax to a frame-up attempt that has become known as the "Little Scottsboro case." On July 16, 1949, a 17-year-old farm wife in Groveland, Fla., claimed that she had been raped by four Negroes. The rape charge became the excuse for a bloody anti-Negro terror, with mobs burning houses, and shootings and beatings in the Jim Crow sections of the town.

In the course of this terror, one Negro youth was shot to death, and three others were arrested, charged with the "rape." One was sentenced to life imprisonment, and two to death, after a mockery of a trial. The Supreme Court declared this travesty a mistrial. NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White has demanded a federal investigation.

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution, a landmark in the class struggle

BY ROY LANDERSEN

On the 70th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, which broke out Oct. 23, 1956, there are valuable lessons from that struggle for working-class fighters. That powerful outpouring was a popular uprising led by workers who organized a fight to rid themselves of Moscow's domination and national oppression.

Their determination to replace Stalinist brutality with a socialist system based on the program advanced by V.I. Lenin in the early days of the Soviet workers state, gained the attention and solidarity of working people worldwide.

Its example shone strong for a few weeks before it was crushed in a bloodbath by invading Soviet troops and tanks. Thousands were killed or wounded and nearly a quarter of a million Hungarians fled the country.

"The political revolution of the East European working class against Kremlin-sponsored bureaucratic rule scored a major advance," said the front-page article in the Oct. 29, 1956, *Militant*, when it "broke out in full force in Hungary this week."

The next issue carried a lead article: "Workers Lead Uprising in Hungary; Set Up Local Revolutionary Councils." It said, "Hungary's workers, soldiers and students are in armed revolt against the Kremlin's brutal rule and for their national independence." The article noted that "a large section of Hungary is controlled by local revolutionary workers, soldiers and students councils."

"The Khrushchev regime in the Soviet Union slanderously attacked the uprising as 'counterrevolutionary' and 'fascist,'" it continued. Likewise, the imperialist news media, awash with Cold War propaganda, "tried to give the impression that the uprising is pro-capitalist."

The *Militant* reported, "There is no hint of pro-capitalist sentiment in any of the revolutionary leaflets or statements." The workers' uprising, which rapidly became a general strike, was a fight for national independence and reestablishment of workers power over society, expressed by their call for "democratic socialism."

Another *Militant* article opposing Washington's treacherous role was headlined, "Bring U.S. Troops Home from Europe Says Farrell Dobbs," the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president.

"The Soviet troops who were thrown into battle against 'counterrevolution' fought in fact not fascists or reactionaries but the common people of Hungary: workers, peasants, students and soldiers," Peter Fryer, a former correspondent for the *Daily Worker*, newspaper of the Stalinist British Communist Party, reported from the scene. Fryer broke with the party's counterrevolutionary slander and put his articles together in a book worth reading, *Hungarian Tragedy*.

Following the death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1953, unrest spread among working people against decades of brutal repression across the bureaucratically deformed workers states in the Eastern European countries under Moscow's thumb. The uprising in Hungary showed workers there still looked to build a working-class-run state they could wield in their own class interests.

A spark becomes a revolution

It began with thousands of students marching to Radio Budapest, calling for independence and the withdrawal of Soviet troops, Fryer said. The Stalinist State Security Police (AVH) opened fire and several protesters were killed. This was, he said, "the spark that turned peaceful demonstrations into a revolution."

Two days later pro-Moscow forces moved to prevent developing fraternization between Hungarian workers and Soviet soldiers, by ordering the troops to open fire on unarmed demonstrators outside parliament, killing hundreds.

"News of the shooting swept through the city like wildfire," Fryer said. "Soon the people were armed and engaged in running street battles against the AVH." They demanded "abolition of the AVH and the withdrawal of Soviet troops."

Workers hated the security police, Fryer said, which was "moulded and trained on the approved Stalinist pattern, completely lacking in either political understanding or common humanity, guilty of the most unspeakable crimes."



AP Photo

Hungarian working people capture tank in main square of Budapest during October 1956 uprising. Workers political revolution was crushed after two weeks by invasion of Soviet troops.

But Hungarian troops in Budapest, as later in the provinces, Fryer continued, either turned over their weapons to the people or "brought their arms with them when they joined the revolution."

Fryer described how workers set up a network of committees bearing a "striking resemblance at so many points to the soviets or councils of workers,' peasants' and soldiers' deputies, which sprang up in Russia in the 1905 revolution and again in February 1917."

He explained that "they were at once organs of insurrection — the coming together of delegates elected by factories and universities, mine and army units — and organs of popular self-government, which the armed people trusted."

"They enjoyed tremendous authority, and it is no exaggeration to say that until the Soviet attack of November 4 the real power in the country lay in their hands."

But the anti-working-class regime in Moscow sent in 60,000 Soviet troops and 1,000 tanks that day to put the working-class uprising down in blood. After four days of continuous bombardment, "vast areas of the city — the working-class areas above all — are virtually in ruins."

Pockets of defiant resistance continued for weeks, including a general strike Dec. 11-12 and workers' councils still organizing factories and mines.

The Hungarian Revolution showed how working people, even facing the most repressive conditions, can rise up, organize to govern themselves, assume political control and learn to defend workers power arms in hand. Stalinist regimes and the imperialist rulers alike hated and feared this historic example.

UN panel documents Moscow's war crimes in Ukraine

Continued from front page

days, in the hardest-hit cities.

Ukrainian authorities have documented deaths from the cold in homes and even in hospitals, with patients suffering from cold-related trauma, including frostbite and hypothermia, the panel noted. As the Kremlin intends, the blackouts also take a psychological toll, with people describing their exhaustion, insomnia and depression to the panel. One Kyiv resident, who the report didn't name, said he tried to keep himself awake overnight for fear the cold would kill him in his sleep.

"As the cold season approaches, the attacks have intensified once again, raising serious concerns about the threats to civilians' lives and health," said Erik Mose, the commission's chairman. He had previously served on the Supreme Court of Norway.

The other two panelists are Pablo de Greiff, director of the Transitional Justice Program at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the New York University School of Law, and Vrinda Grover, an advocate practicing at the Supreme Court of India.

The commission, which was convened a week after Moscow's all-out invasion of Ukraine, interviewed over 3,000 people during its investigation.

Putin orders 'massive strikes'

The Kremlin claims it only targets Ukraine's energy sites that have a military purpose. But as the U.N. report noted, Russian President Vladimir Putin openly declared Sept. 1 that he had "given instructions to prepare and carry out massive strikes on Ukraine's energy" with no pretense of any restrictions.

The report noted Kyiv has recently carried out energy-related attacks on the Russian Federation and Russian-controlled areas in Ukraine. It couldn't investigate further as Russian authorities refused to cooperate.

The U.N. panel interviewed 245 foreign nationals, finding that Russian authorities "trafficked persons from 29 countries" across Latin America, Africa and Asia, "using deception or coercion" to force them to sign army contracts in Russian, which few of them understood. After having been promised high-paying jobs as drivers, mechanics or security guards, their passports were seized on their arrival in Russia, and most were sent to fight in Ukraine.

Ending up at the front with little or no training, they were often beaten by their commanders and dispatched to retrieve bodies of fallen soldiers, or forced into assault missions from which few came back.

One man insisted he hadn't signed up for combat. He told investigators, "They took me 100 meters away, shot four Russians in my presence and told me, 'If you don't sign, you are the next.'"

In a glaring contrast, the panel noted that all foreign nationals it interviewed who joined "the Ukrainian armed forces did so knowingly and voluntarily."

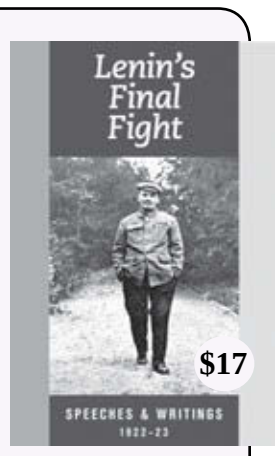
While the U.N. report focused on the targeting of Ukraine's power network, Moscow has also been escalating its strikes against residential buildings and other civilian facilities, including public transport, especially the vital rail network. The most recent deadly strike was Oct. 29 in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, when a Russian jet-powered drone hit a platform in the city's main rail depot between two waiting passenger trains. Fourteen people were killed and four more seriously wounded.

The week before, an approaching drone forced a train evacuation near Kyiv. Daryna Styrchuk, 24, although visibly anxious, told the Kyiv Post she believed Moscow's relentless attacks made Ukrainians more resilient. "I think we're ready for anything now," she said.

Lenin's Final Fight
Speeches and Writings, 1922-23

"Internationalism must consist not only in the observance of the formal equality of nations but even in an inequality, through which the oppressor nation, the great nation, would compensate for the inequality which obtains in real life. Anyone who does not understand this has not grasped the real proletarian attitude to the national question."
— V.I. Lenin, 1922

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Protests: End blockade on Cuba!

Continued from front page
past 37 years has fought for the normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations, along with Witness for Peace and the church. Some 125 people attended the event, with others following online.

García Farinas described what an average day is like for working people in a country subjected to Washington's brutal oil blockade, which causes daily blackouts lasting 20 hours or more. To get up having had no electricity for hours, which means no running water, no working stove to cook a meal, no refrigerator to prevent food going bad. Then, with public transportation paralyzed, being forced to walk or bicycle back and forth to work.

"These conditions affect everyone," she said. Infant mortality has doubled; 80% of the medicines needed are no longer available. Overall cancer survival rates have plunged.

"We have made errors, but those are for us to address," she said. The main cause of this crisis is the U.S.-imposed blockade "preventing us from trade and relations with other countries."

"How do we resist? Thanks to our creativity and capacity to adapt," she said. Hospitals have found ways to restore a semblance of normal basic functioning by getting solar panels and more bicycles, to help healthcare workers to get to work.

"We need material solidarity, yes. But also, the political solidarity of your denouncing, at every step, the actions and effects of this blockade. We resist because we are not going to give in!"

Participants in the meeting contributed to the "Healthcare on Wheels" initiative, which sends donated bicycles to Cuba for use by medical personnel.

❖

EMERYVILLE, Calif. — Over 40 people attended a meeting here Oct. 25 at the J-SEI Japanese community center to hear a report by a delegation that recently visited Cuba to investigate the challenges Cuban healthcare workers face from Washington's intensifying economic war on the Cuban people. The delegation was organized by MEDICC — Medical Education in Cooperation with Cuba.

A good number of those at the meeting came from the Japanese community, most of whom were new to learning about the Cuban Revolution and the U.S. rulers' attacks against it.

Speakers described the toll the U.S. attacks are taking, including causing rising rates of infant mortality and deaths from cancer. They also pointed to the dignity, determination and ingenuity of the Cuban people in facing this.

The program was chaired by Josie Camacho, first vice president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. Camacho, a longtime labor organizer and former secretary-treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, urged those present to organize other reportbacks and to donate to Global Health Partners' Neonatal and Maternal Healthcare Initiative, a project that is bringing supplies needed to support mothers and babies in Cuba.

David Paul, a retired nurse practitioner who was part of the delegation, showed film clips of the visit. One was of a surgery taking place after a shutoff of electricity, with light from cellphones being the only illumination.

Other speakers included Leni Villagomez Reeves, chair of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Cindy Domingo, chair of US Women and Cuba Collaboration.

The program was part of a week of activity in the San Francisco Bay Area in solidarity with Cuba's fight against the U.S. government's drive to strangle the Cuban Revolution. Over 100 rallied in downtown San Francisco Oct. 28.

To donate to the Neonatal and Maternal Healthcare Initiative, go to ghpartners.org.

— Betsey Stone

❖

MONTREAL — Some 100 people marched and rallied here Oct. 24, part of a worldwide week of action to support Cuba. The central demands at the rally, organized by the Quebec-Cuba Solidarity Roundtable, were an immediate end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba and for the Canadian government to vote in favor of the resolution at the United Nations Oct. 27-28 calling for an end to the blockade.

Speakers included Betrand Guibord, president of the Greater Montreal Labour Council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN). Guibord condemned the "attacks that the U.S. has been making against Cuba for more than 60 years."

"All countries in the world, including Canada, should denounce the blockade," he said.

— Beatrice Bowen

❖



Militant

Some 50 people protest Washington's blockade and war threats against Cuba at U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland, Oct. 28. The action was organized by Iceland-Cuba Friendship Society.

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Some 50 people gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy here Oct. 28 to protest against Washington's economic blockade on Cuba, organized by the Iceland-Cuba Friendship Society. A group of young people and some Cubans living in Iceland made up a good part of the action.

In an effort to stigmatize the protest, the U.S. Embassy issued a "security alert" closing the embassy early and urging American citizens to "avoid areas where protests are taking place" and "exercise caution at all times in the vicinity of protests."

When he was interviewed by the media a week before the action, Raúl Delgado Concepción, Cuba's ambassador to Iceland, described the difficulties the U.S. sanctions are imposing on the Cuban people. "The country is fully functional," he said, "but does face a difficult struggle."

— Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdottir

❖

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Some 35 people came together for a meeting here Oct. 31 to call for the U.S. blockade against Cuba to be dismantled.

Ambassador Luis Ernesto Morejón Rodríguez spoke to the meeting, which marked the end of his term as Cuba's chief representative in New Zealand. "Families, workers, patients, students, farmers and small businesses all experience the consequences of the U.S. policy of economic strangulation," he said. In response, the Cuban government is organizing wide-ranging measures to organize working people to address the blockade's impact.

Morejón also denounced U.S. threats of "possible military aggression."

Bob Schwartz, executive director of Global Health Partners, spoke to the meeting via video link. "The U.S. embargo impacts every aspect of daily life in Cuba today," he said, "but I believe it exacts the cruelest toll of all on Cuba's public health system.

"Hospitals can't afford equipment or spare parts," Schwartz said, as punitive U.S. sanctions "have frightened off banks, shippers and suppliers."

Schwartz said that when he had "started working with Cuba more than three decades ago," he had witnessed the country's drive to bring down infant mortality.

By 2012, it stood at 4.8 per thousand live births. "This was one of the major achievements of the Cuban Revolution," he said, "an achievement built neighborhood by neighborhood, based on preventative health, the family doctors and a strong primary care system.

"Today that number is 14, and it continues to rise," said Schwartz, as Cuba faces many challenges, from shortages across healthcare to a "nutritional deficit" suffered by mothers and newborns.

Schwartz urged those present to contribute to a Global Health Partners Neonatal and Maternal Healthcare Initiative, "aiming to supply Cuban hospitals with lifesaving equipment" and to back up their efforts "to ensure healthy mothers and babies."

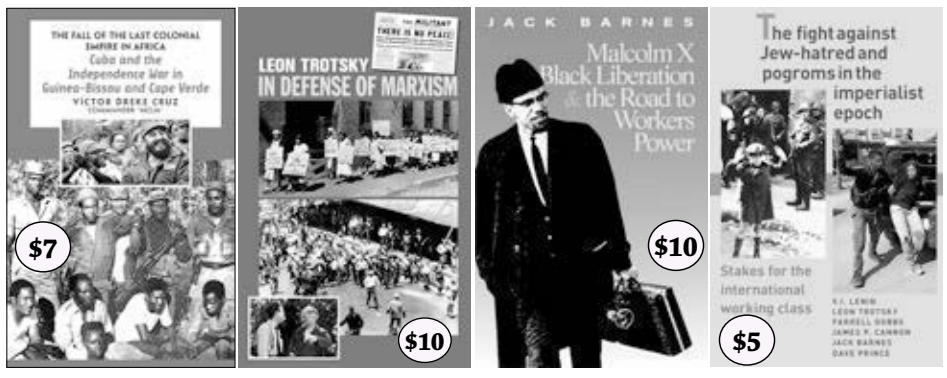
A selection of videos, including from Belly of the Beast, a news agency based in Cuba, were shown at the meeting. The event was jointly sponsored by the Auckland Cuba Friendship Society and the New Zealand Fabian Society, which live-streamed it and then put the video on its YouTube channel.

— Patrick Brown

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—CALENDAR—

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Presentation on *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa*. Speakers: Jonathan Silberman, director Pathfinder Books and panelist at Aug. 14 book presentation in Havana; video message from Víctor Dreke, book's author; chairperson, Steven Pierce, professor of modern African history, Manchester University. Thurs., Nov. 26, 5 p.m. *University of Manchester, Samuel Alexander Building, Oxford Road, M13 9PL, Room A7. Tel.: 07931 571503.*

Colonial rule in Puerto Rico deepens capitalist social crisis

BY SETH GALINSKY AND RÓGER CALERO

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — During a visit in mid-October, *Militant* correspondents and members of the Socialist Workers Party found working people here face similar challenges as those in the United States: the high cost of living, low wages, deteriorating infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, inadequate medical care, deportations of immigrants and more.

"Many people work two jobs, but it's not enough to pay all the bills," Hilda Torres Guzmán, president of the Brotherhood of Exempt Non-Teaching Employees (HEEND) at the University of Puerto Rico, told us Oct. 22. "Young people can't afford to start a family."

Hotel workers, construction workers and others we met said similar things. "I'm doing fine with just one job, but that's because I earn tips," a waitress at a restaurant that caters to tourists here told us. "I know how hard it is for those just depending on a wage."

The crisis here is deeper because of Puerto Rico's 128-year-long colonial subordination to Washington.

In 2016 the U.S. rulers moved to directly control key financial decisions when President Barack Obama — with the backing of Democrats and Republicans alike — imposed the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico. The purpose of the unelected Junta, as it is known here, was to ensure payment to wealthy bondholders of over $70 billion in debt taken out by the local government and to squeeze more out of the island's working people.

Ten years later, the debt stands at $31 billion, while the Junta still exercises dictatorial control over key government financial decisions.

Electric rates, after an increase just two weeks before our arrival, are nearly double those in the U.S. The official unemployment rate here in September was 6.2%, well above the U.S. rate of 4.2%. And the percentage of workers earning minimum wage — nearly one-third of them at private companies — is double the figure in the U.S.

Meanwhile, U.S.-owned and other foreign corporations are making profits hand over fist from exploiting low-wage labor. Pharmaceutical companies alone take in more than *$50 billion a year* in exports from their plants in Puerto Rico. All of the island's more than 13,000 pharmaceutical workers are nonunion.



UIA de la AAA

Puerto Rico's water workers at Aug. 22 union meeting in Arecibo. Instead of raising wages, replacing aging water pipes, company prioritizes paying down debt to wealthy bondholders.

Twice as many Puerto Ricans in U.S.

Under these conditions it's no surprise that the population of Puerto Rico has decreased every year except one since 2004 and the death rate is higher than the birth rate. The low birth rate is largely due to the fact that raising a family is unaffordable and by the number of young people leaving the island. Only 16% of the population in Puerto Rico is under 18 years old, compared to 22% in the United States. Today there are some 3.2 million Puerto Ricans living on the island, but over 6 million in the U.S.

Government agencies and institutions use this large-scale migration to justify cuts, including closing more than 670 schools. Since 2016 the Junta slashed funds for the University of Puerto Rico by 50%, while forcing tuition hikes.

As a result, many students can't afford to eat three meals a day and have trouble finding housing, Torres said. Rents have gone up, she said, because many homes are being bought up by foreign investors.

"Four years ago dining rooms for university students were started up," she said, at the initiative of some churches, student groups, and the union, getting some aid from the university administration, because "their scholarships didn't cover all their costs."

The university recently announced it was hiring a physician, offering a salary of just $25,000 a year. While doctors earn more than that in the private sector, it's still much less than in the United States. "Thousands of doctors and nurses have left the island, causing a shortage," Torres said. "But with an aging population, those doctors and nurses are needed more than ever."

85% of food imported

"They even cut back programs at the University of Puerto Rico's Utuado campus, which specializes in agriculture," said HEEND Vice President Jorge Rodríguez Echegaray. "They claim that young people don't want to work. But in reality they are turning them away."

Decades ago, Puerto Rico produced most of the food its people needed. Today because giant U.S. corporations can produce at lower costs, they have driven production out of the country. Some 85% of food is imported.



HEEND

Nonteaching employees protest at entrance to the University of Puerto Rico Oct. 7 to demand wage increases, union contract, after going more than 12 years without a pay raise.

No wage increase in 12 years

"We haven't had a general wage increase in more than 12 years," Torres said. The Junta demanded that the university draw up a new wage scale and classification system, before it would consider approving a wage increase. "We negotiated a new scale and system with the UPR administration in 2024," Torres said, "but the Junta still has not approved it."

Most workers at the government-run AAA water and sewage authority have also gone 12 years without a wage increase, except for those who earn the minimum wage.

After 13 years at only $7.25 an hour, in 2023 the Junta allowed the government to raise the minimum wage to $8.50. It now stands at $10.50. That still doesn't keep up with inflation.

The Independent Authentic Union at the AAA water and sewage authority held a one-day strike Aug. 18 to back its demand for higher wages.

Water and power outages are common throughout Puerto Rico. Amid a severe summer drought that lowered levels in many reservoirs — despite the abundance of water sources on the island — many towns and farm areas went without running water for weeks at a time.

In early August the government began rotating water shutoffs in San Juan for 48 hour stretches. The "rationing" did not end until Sept. 1 after rainfalls, but nothing has been done to prevent a recurrence.

More than 30% of the water in the system leaks out of some 20,000 miles of ancient pipes, and another 30% is not paid for because of broken water meters or water "theft."

"Wages are so low, they can't fill all the open positions and keep up with repairs," José Cajigas, president of the Independent Authentic Union, told the *Militant*. There are more than 1,000 unfilled positions. The water authority has been hiring private contractors who they pay "more than they pay our members," he said. "If they have resources to pay private contractors, then they should also have the will to agree to equal pay" for our members.

Despite all this, the water authority administration is cutting back funds for repairs to just 4% of its budget, down from 7% the year before. Like other government agencies, the priority is paying the bondholders.

Some 646 workers who belong to the Independent Brotherhood of Telephone Employees (HIETEL) at ClaroPR, a cellphone company owned by Mexican capitalist Carlos Slim, are also fighting for a new contract after 12 years with no wage increase. Claro had revenues of $1.1 billion in Puerto Rico in 2025.

The company had refused to meet in person with the union committee, instead conducting the wage negotiations via Zoom, HIETEL President Wilda Frechel told the *Militant* during a break in their negotiations Oct. 20.

As a private company, "the Junta's rules don't affect us directly," said Frechel, "but it has a lot of influence because of the general situation it has created."

Need for united union struggles

All three union halls we visited proudly display photos from a massive strike that took place July 7 and 8, 1998. There have not been any union struggles on that scale here since then.

That two-day strike was called by a coalition of some 50 trade unions, involving hundreds of thousands of workers to support striking telephone workers in their fight to oppose the sale of the state-owned Puerto Rico Telephone Co.

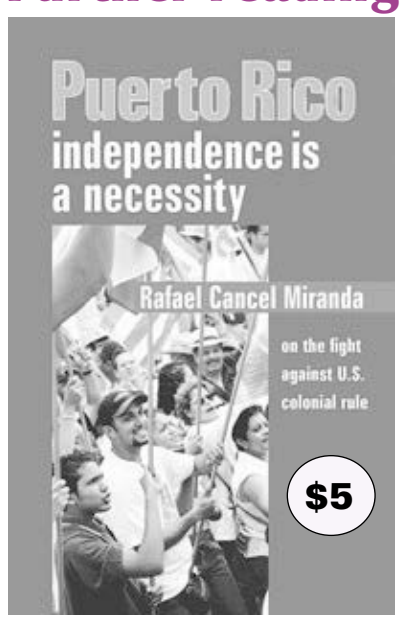
The strikers were also protesting government plans to sell other state-owned enterprises to capitalist enterprises. The striking unionists paralyzed the docks, city buses, banks, shopping centers, university campuses, government offices and a few factories.

It was the first strike of this magnitude since the 1930s.

The strikers ultimately did not win their demands. The telephone company was sold. In the last 10 years the electrical system has in essence been privatized. But they demonstrated the potential power of working people across the island. That memory still lives.

Rachele Fruit contributed to this article.

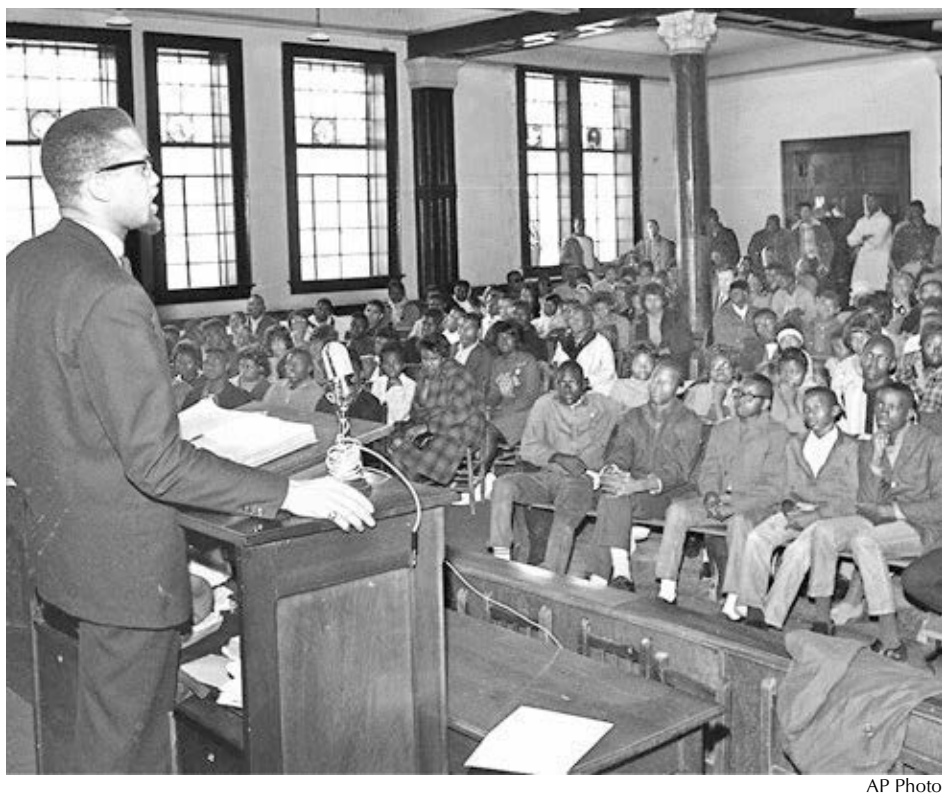
Further reading



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Malcolm X: ‘It is impossible for capitalism to survive’

Malcolm X Talks to Young People *is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for November. It includes four talks given to audiences of young people in Ghana, Britain and the U.S. over the last nine months of his life, as well as an interview for the* Young Socialist *magazine conducted by Jack Barnes, then national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance. The interview took place Jan. 18, 1965, at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. Over the last year of his life, Malcolm spoke more directly about the capitalist roots of racism, exploitation and imperialist war. The book concludes with a memorial speech by Barnes about Malcolm, a fellow revolutionary whose words and example continue to speak to youth and working people everywhere.* *Copyright © 2002 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.*



AP Photo

Malcolm X speaks to 300 young people in Selma, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965, as bloody battle for the right of Blacks to vote unfolded. Fighters against Jim Crow there faced cop attacks and racist violence. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee invited Malcolm to come speak.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

YOUNG SOCIALIST: Is it true, as is often said, that you favor violence?

MALCOLM X: I don’t favor violence. If we could bring about recognition and respect of our people by peaceful means, well and good. Everybody would like to reach his objectives peacefully. But I’m also a realist. The only people in this country who are asked to be nonviolent are Black people. I’ve never heard anybody go to the Ku Klux Klan and teach them nonviolence, or to the [John] Birch Society and other right-wing elements. Nonviolence is only preached to Black Americans, and I don’t go along with anyone who wants to teach our people nonviolence until someone at the same time is teaching our enemy to be nonviolent. I believe we should protect ourselves by any means necessary when we are attacked by racists.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What do you think is responsible for race prejudice in the U.S.?

MALCOLM X: Ignorance and greed. And a skillfully designed program of miseducation that goes right along with the American system of exploitation and oppression. …

So it takes education to eliminate it. And just because you have colleges and universities doesn’t mean you have education. The colleges and universities in the American educational system are skillfully used to miseducate. …

YOUNG SOCIALIST: How much influence does revolutionary Africa have on the thinking of Black people in this country?

MALCOLM X: All the influence in the world. You can’t separate the militancy that’s displayed on the African continent from the militancy that’s displayed right here among American Blacks. The positive image that is developing of Africans is also developing in the minds of Black Americans, and consequently they develop a more positive image of themselves. Then they take more positive steps — actions.

So you can’t separate the African revolution from the mood of the Black man in America. Neither could the colonization of Africa be separated from the menial position that the Black man in this country was satisfied to stay in for so long. Since Africa has gotten its independence through revolution, you’ll notice the stepped-up cry against discrimination that has appeared in the Black community. …

YOUNG SOCIALIST: In a recent speech you mentioned that you met John Lewis of SNCC in Africa. Do you feel that the younger and more militant leaders in the South are broadening their views on the whole general struggle?

MALCOLM X: Sure. When I was in the Black Muslim movement I spoke on many white campuses and Black campuses. I knew back in 1961 and ’62 that the younger generation was much different from the older, and that many students were more sincere in their analysis of the problem and their desire to see the problem solved. In foreign countries the students have helped bring about revolution — it was the students who brought about the revolution in the Sudan, who swept Syngman Rhee out of office in Korea, swept Menderes out in Turkey. The students didn’t think in terms of the odds against them, and they couldn’t be bought out. …

In my thinking, if the students in this country forgot the analysis that has been presented to them, and they went into a huddle and began to research this problem of racism for themselves, independent of politicians and independent of all the foundations (which are a part of the power structure), and did it themselves, then some of their findings would be shocking, but they would see that they would never be able to bring about a solution to racism in their country as long as they’re relying on the government to do it.

The federal government itself is just as racist as the government in Mississippi, and is more guilty of perpetuating the racist system. At the federal level they are more shrewd, more skillful at doing it, just like the FBI is more skillful than the state police and the state police are more skillful than the local police.

The same with politicians. The politician at the federal level is usually more skilled than the politician at the local level, and when he wants to practice racism, he’s more skilled in the practice of it than those who practice it at the local level. …

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What is your opinion of the worldwide struggle now going on between capitalism and socialism?

MALCOLM X: It is impossible for capitalism to survive, primarily because the system of capitalism needs some blood to suck. Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now it’s more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody’s blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the helpless. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It’s only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely.

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EDITORIAL

Need to fight 'normalization' of Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

assaults against Jews have risen in the U.S. and worldwide since Hamas' deadly Oct. 7. 2023, pogrom in Israel.

This shift in bourgeois politics was highlighted in the campaigns of unapologetic opponents of Israel's right to exist, like that of Abdul El-Sayed for U.S. Senate from Michigan. The number of members of Congress spreading the dangerous lie that Israel is an "apartheid" state and is carrying out "genocide" has grown. This means attacks on Jews will grow.

Israel is fighting a defensive war to prevent Hamas and its backers in Tehran from carrying out their longstanding goal of organizing more and larger massacres of Jews until they're all killed or driven from the Middle East. The defeat and disarming of Hamas would protect the lives of Jews in Israel and deal crucial blows to forces worldwide that promote Jew-hatred. And it would eliminate the biggest obstacle Palestinians in Gaza face to advancing their own national interests.

Israel simultaneously fights to prevent the rulers in Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons in order to wipe Israel — the one country that offers Jews an unconditional refuge — off the face of the earth.

A despicable campaign ad by Rebellion PAC backing Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed claimed U.S. funding for Israel's military was responsible for today's higher grocery prices, echoing the age-old blood libel that blames Jews for the financial misery and crises workers face, which are bred by the workings of capitalism.

Washington's intervention in the Middle East and its wars there have nothing to do with defending Jews in Israel, nor advancing the aspirations of the Palestinians. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations the U.S. rulers have fought to advance their class domination of the region and its peoples, to plunder its oil and other resources. That's why the Socialist Workers Party calls for all U.S. troops, warships and weaponry out of the Middle East.

El-Sayed tried to disassociate himself from the antisemitic ad, but he refused to condemn it. The fact is he had previously campaigned on the same slander, calling Israel "an affordability issue." When asked, he declined to give an unqualified defense of Israel's right to exist.

Jew-hatred is growing on both the left and right of capitalist politics. Its spread has been especially notable among meritocratic middle-class layers who worry that the deepening capitalist crisis will push them into the working class, a class they both scorn and fear. They're susceptible to calls to scapegoat Jews as responsible.

"Zionist establishments must go! Not in our city!" is the demand issued by a group called Philly Writers Against the War on Gaza. It's campaigning to drive several prominent businesses owned by Israeli and U.S. Jews out of Philadelphia.

The normalization of Jew-hatred in capitalist politics demonstrates why the working class and our unions must lead in speaking out against all expressions of antisemitism and join struggles to defend Jews wherever they're under attack.

In 1939 the Socialist Workers Party led 50,000 unionists and other workers in a labor protest against a fascist German-American Bund rally at Madison Square Garden in New York. It was part of the SWP's effort to deepen labor's participation in the fight against the rise of the Nazi menace.

Jew-hatred is not eternal; it's rooted in class-divided society. It has become especially virulent in the imperialist epoch. It rose in the 1930s both in Germany when the Nazis came to power and more broadly in capitalist politics worldwide, including in the U.S. Its rise went hand in hand with the march toward the Second World War and the Holocaust.

There are strong similarities with those developments and the period we're living through today.

Fighting to push back Jew-hatred and answering the scapegoating of Jews is deeply tied to the fight to build the working-class party that's needed to lead the deeper class-struggle battles to come. That's what the SWP and its campaigns are out to accomplish, to lead workers in their millions to take political power into our own hands.

Jew-hatred can and will be eradicated, but only in the course of making socialist revolutions, here and around the world.

Spanish gov't is responsible for train crash disasters

Continued from front page

control told the Renfe crew they were cleared to move with no speed reduction. When the crew reported back that they still faced a red signal, they were told to ignore it and get going.

"The LZB system should have been replaced some time ago," SEMAF spokesperson Diego Martín told The Associated Press. The union says the system, which is being phased out, consistently goes offline. Work to swap the cable-based LZB for the more modern radio-based European Rail Train Management System used across Europe was supposed to have been completed by 2024.

Transport Minister Óscar Puente sought to lay the blame for the crash on a worker in the train control center in Madrid, after audio from there was leaked to the press.

But the government is targeting someone "who is working under increasingly poor conditions," Raquel Ayllón of SCF, the rail traffic controllers' union, told AP. "Human error isn't incomprehensible. What is incomprehensible is that the safety system is regularly failing."

The Oct. 29 SEMAF strike by drivers at Renfe had been called in response to bosses' refusal to carry out previous agreements over safety, including hiring more drivers, protection of drivers' rest periods and an end to the company's use of unsafe rolling stock. The union says it's fighting to ensure "the urgency of keeping trains running is never placed above safety."

Forty-seven people died in a high-speed train crash near Adamuz in Andalusia on the same rail line in January, as a result of cracks in the track. Rail workers went on strike, demanding greater government investment in maintenance and safety, more hiring, and guarantees that bosses would act on workers' reports of dangerous conditions.

After the strike the government promised to invest an additional 1.8 billion euros ($2 billion) in rail infrastructure by 2030.

Outrage among working people over the failure of the government to ensure the upkeep of the rail network is widespread. It comes in the wake of growing protests by workers and youth across Europe demanding relief from the worsening effects of today's deepening capitalist crisis.

At least 70,000 people marched in Madrid and thousands more demonstrated in 50 other Spanish cities and towns Oct. 3, demanding lower rents and an end to evictions.

The protests were sparked by the eviction of wheelchair-bound María del Carmen Abascal from her home where she had lived for seven decades, after her landlords raised the rent. TV coverage of the eviction — with the 87-year-old being stretchered out of her apartment — was seen by millions. Protesters carried signs saying "Not even one more Maricarmen," as Abascal is popularly known.

"I haven't managed to defend my home, but I have fought so that others can learn to fight," Abascal said in a video taken at her bedside in the hospital. She died Oct. 7.

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Tehran's brutality fails to stop workers' resistance

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Despite the fact the reactionary rulers in Iran have stepped up attacks on working people following Washington's brutal war moves, Iran's workers and its oppressed nationalities are increasingly speaking out and organizing protests and strikes against the deteriorating living conditions and repression they face.

Contract workers at the Gachsaran Oil and Gas Company in southwestern Iran stopped work Oct. 27 and rallied outside the company's office to protest the bosses' attacks on their wages, benefits and working conditions.

The Council for Organizing Protests by Oil Contract Workers reported the workers' demands include elimination of labor contractors and converting their jobs to direct employment by the company, ending discriminatory deductions from workers' wages and greater protection of workers' rights.

They have won solidarity from workers in other oil-producing regions in southern Iran, including in South Pars, at the National Iranian Drilling Company. According to the council, these workers have organized protest actions against the nonpayment of government-approved war allowance allocations, onerous transportation costs and sky-high food prices.

Oil workers sent solidarity messages to the contract workers organizing council. "Under the pressure of poverty, destitution and hunger, they will not allow any form of government coercion or threats to prevent them from expressing their anger and dissatisfaction," the council said. Among workers employed directly by the oil companies, who get some benefits not offered to contract workers, complaints are growing over working conditions and a cap on wages.

A worker at one Gachsaran plant went into the company's office to complain about the food and was attacked by a representative of the contractor with a machete, injuring his hand, Afkarnaft, an association of permanent workers, reported.

"Oil workers are asking for neither charity nor special privileges," Afkarnaft said. "They have the right to receive healthy, high-quality food and to voice their protests without fear of threats or retaliation."

Iranian Air retirees rally

Hundreds of retired Iran Air workers rallied in Tehran Oct. 27, protesting cuts in their healthcare coverage and pensions. The workers "demanded that their claims be addressed," the Free Union of Iranian Workers reported. This is not a "temporary or one-off request," but "an effort to obtain adequate medical services, livelihood security and the protection of the legal rights of those who have served this company."

"Approximately 13,000 retirees and pension recipients of this company are facing livelihood difficulties," Jalal Hashemi, chairman of the board of directors of the Retirees' Association of Iran Air, told the media. "No one should be forced to choose between buying medicine and providing their daily food."

Prices have risen nearly 89% over the past year, Iran's Statistical Center reports. More workers are unable to cover the cost of basic necessities, from food to healthcare to housing.

The regime's fear of the working class is reflected in articles by the government-funded Iranian Labour News Agency about these worsening conditions. "My pension is around 10.5 million tomans" a month, about $76, retired construction worker Hamid Alaee told ILNA. "Meat has been absent from our tables for a long time." Many other items have tripled in prices over the past year, including for eggs and potatoes.

"Over just the past three or four years, many construction workers have been deprived of insurance coverage," Alaee said. "We construction workers have built the towers and buildings in which ordinary people and officials live, but we ourselves have been deprived of many facilities and rights."

Other workers are facing layoffs, with months of outstanding back pay withheld. ILNA reported that the Khavar Spinning and Weaving factory in Rasht in north-central Iran had shut down production with all 107 workers owed three months' back pay. When the factory started up again in October, only 40 people were called back. The others are still fighting for the money they're owed and to get their jobs back.