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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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PUERTO RICO MEETING

San Juan panel discusses Cuba, Africa, Puerto Rican independence

— PAGES 8-10

Mass protest in Philadelphia confronts Jew hating thugs

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — In a victory against Jew-hatred, at least 1,000 Jews and their supporters turned out here Nov. 8 to support six restaurants owned by Jews who faced an organized campaign to drive them out of the city. An antisemitic "Boycott Ride" took place on the eve of commemorations around the world marking the 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom — the Night of the Broken Glass — in Germany and Austria, that presaged the Nazis' Holocaust.

Philadelphia sets example for fight against Jew-hatred
Editorial, page 11

A "food crawl" and broad mobilization to defend the restaurants was organized in just a couple of days by Jewish organizations and opponents of Jew-hatred, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia, StandWithUs and the American Jewish Committee Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey.

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Ukraine unions call for solidarity as Moscow hits workers, plants

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) issued an urgent appeal Nov. 4 urging the international trade union movement to take action against Moscow's "ongoing aggression on Ukrainian workers, trade unions and civilian infrastructure."

After nearly five years of war, the invading Russian army has been pushed back by Kyiv's forces. In response, Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime has "increasingly pursued a strategy of terror, carrying out round-the-clock missile and drone attacks against Ukrainian cities, civilian infrastructure, workplaces and the population," KVPU said. Repeated waves of drone and missile airstrikes expose "workers and civilians to continuous physical danger and psychological pressure."

The KVPU said casualties among Ukrainian civilians from January to September this year — 2,570 killed and 15,211 injured — were 59% higher than in the same period in 2025 and more than twice as high as in 2024.

A Russian attack Nov. 2 targeted the

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1,000s march as French unions call general strike

Workers fed up over high prices, crisis conditions



Militant/Hugo Wils

Students march in Paris Nov. 7 two days after France's five main union federations had called out hundreds of thousands for one-day general strike. Workers, youth have rallied for weeks.

BY HUGO WILS

PARIS — Hundreds of thousands of working people joined marches here and across France during a one-day strike called by the country's five main union federations Nov. 5.

The actions were part of a wave of street protests over the past month by workers, farmers and youth against high prices, the dilapidated state of many schools, government cuts to services and the bosses' broader drive to put the capitalist crisis on workers' backs. The demonstrations have inspired similar protests elsewhere in Europe.

Labor rallies were held in 260 cities and towns across France Nov. 5. The unions are demanding a raise in the minimum wage and increases to pay, pensions and benefits. Two days later tens of thousands joined additional union-backed marches here and elsewhere protesting the policies of the government of President Emmanuel Macron Nov. 7.

"I have a friend who is retired with a

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Socialist Workers Party: 'Join fight to advance interests of the working class'



Militant/Candace Wagner

Socialist Workers Party campaigner Tony Lane talks to Carl Gorsuch in Lorain, Ohio, Nov. 8. He got *Militant* subscription, *Fight Against Jew-hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

On the heels of the U.S. midterm elections Nov. 3, the international campaign by the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and United Kingdom to win 1,150 new readers to the *Militant* and sell an equal number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders continues to make steady progress as it heads into its final week. Another $19,812 was collected toward the $140,000 SWP Party-Building Fund. The seven-week campaign wraps up Nov. 17.

On workers' doorsteps, strike picket lines, demonstrations against Jew-hatred, book fairs and at cultural events, working people are responding to SWP campaigners introducing the *Militant*

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Over 160,000 Cuban 'innovators' use their ingenuity to keep things running

BY RÓGER CALERO

There is no economic activity in Cuba — in production, services, teaching, research or defense — in which the National Association of Innovators and Rationalizers (ANIR) is not involved.

Its more than 160,000 members nationwide are at the forefront of efforts to channel the ingenuity of working people to keep production and services going in the face of the U.S. imperialist rulers' escalating economic war against Cuba.

ANIR's main task is to find alternatives and innovations to save the country's badly needed hard currency by recycling and extending the lifespan of machinery and making substitutes for

Continued on page 11

Soaring cost of basic necessities, health care deals blows to workers and families

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Persistent high prices amid bosses' attacks on the unions have led to stagnating and declining wages, making it increasingly difficult for working-class households to make ends meet. One key issue is the huge cost of health coverage, which is putting decent care out of reach for millions of working people. Hospital bosses and pharmaceutical and insur-

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More strikes in Norway today as workers take on boss attacks

British Columbia steelworkers strike Highland Valley Copper

Communist League launches federal campaign in Montreal

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — "We have an internationalist political program, and Betsy Farley's participation on the panel tonight illustrates this," Philippe Tessier, the Communist League candidate in the Dec. 7 federal by-election in the Montreal district of Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, told a Militant Labor Forum here Nov. 7.

Twenty-five people attended this launch of his campaign. Tessier works as a freight rail conductor and is a member of the Teamsters union.

Farley, a member of the Cincinnati branch of the Socialist Workers Party and a factory worker, a member of the Bakery Workers union, said she had come to Montreal to help get out the word about the Communist League's campaign.

"We are deluged with anti-American, Canadian-nationalist propaganda, but as a class workers in the U.S. and Canada have a common enemy, the capitalist rulers. We have the same interests on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border," Tessier said.

"I'm really happy to be here," Farley told the meeting. She reported on the just-concluded campaigns of the SWP in the Nov. 3 U.S. elections.

The election results "are no surprise," Farley said. "Working people, under the impact on their lives of today's deepening crisis of capitalism, voted against the party in power."

But the Democratic Party's new majority in the Senate and House of Representatives does nothing to advance the struggles of working people, she said. "The two-party lesser-evil system is a trap for workers. Both parties act in the interests of the ruling rich."

There is no "Team USA" for working people there, just as here there is no "Team Canada." All capitalist countries are class-divided, Farley said.

The Democrats' gains did register a dangerous trend in bourgeois politics, she said, "the advancing normalization of Jew-hatred." There's a growing number of members in Congress who stand against the right of Israel to exist as a refuge for Jews, peddling the lie that Israel is an "apartheid" state that commits "genocide" against the Palestinian people.

"Working people and our unions should support Israel's defensive war against the reactionary regime in Tehran and its proxies like Hamas who are determined to carry out another Holocaust.

"In contrast, Washington's war against Iran is an imperialist war for control of the resources, markets and labor power of the Middle East," Farley said. "The SWP calls for all U.S. military forces to get out of the Middle East, now."

Ottawa's war on workers' rights

Tessier described how Ottawa, under the slogan "Build a strong Canada," is preparing for new wars abroad while at the same time carrying out a war against working people here and attacking our right to strike.

"The Canadian Labour Congress campaign against Prime Minister Mark Carney's Bill C-39 reflects the sharpening class struggle in Canada," said Tessier. "It would give the federal government more power to try to break strikes." The bosses say their government needs this power to end any threat to the Canadian capitalist economy, meaning their profits.



Militant/Guy Tremblay

Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate in federal by-election in Montreal, speaks at Nov. 7 Militant Labor Forum, alongside SWP member Betsy Farley and Joe Young, chair.

"However, the leaders of the Canadian Labour Congress are not demanding the law be scrapped outright," the Communist League candidate said. "They want it amended to give Parliament the power to end strikes if a panel of 'experts' say they will hurt the economy, rather than allowing the Canada Industrial Relations Board to do it. But under capitalism there are no 'neutral' experts. They're 'neutral' on behalf of the bosses."

Defend socialist Cuba

Both speakers underlined the need for working people and our unions to fight to build opposition to Washington's economic war against Cuba's workers and farmers. Ottawa is complicit in this war, Tessier said.

"Washington's oil blockade is causing tremendous hardship for the Cuban people," said Farley. "But the Cubans are not surrendering. They are working together and fighting to win support around the world. SWP candidates have called for ongoing demonstrations to demand an end to the blockade and the over 60-year U.S. economic war against Cuba."

"Many unions in Canada and the U.S. have taken a position against the blockade," Tessier added. "Some participate in sending medical aid to the Cuban people." These efforts need to be expanded.

"Ottawa's complicity with Washington has done serious damage to the Cuban economy," he said. "Several months ago, the Canadian rulers shut down all air travel to Cuba, a body blow at the Cuban tourist industry. At the same time Ottawa issued a travel warning telling Canadian tourists not to visit there."

In the lively discussion period people asked about the sizable demonstrations in Europe protesting the high cost of living, degenerating education and healthcare systems, and more.

"This resistance shows working people need to build our own political party to fight for political power, our own government, a workers government," said Farley. "Today this means building the SWP and Communist League."

After turning in almost 150 signatures, far above the 100 required, Tessier was notified Nov. 9 that his name will be on the ballot.

THE MILITANT

International protests say: 'US hands off Cuba!'

Worldwide demonstrations continue to hit Washington's oil blockade aimed at strangling Cuba's economy. The U.S. rulers have never forgiven Cuba's workers and farmers for making a socialist revolution. But Cuba's working people are determined to defend their revolution.



Militant

Oct. 24 Montreal march opposes U.S. rulers' blockade of Cuba, Ottawa's complicity.

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

More strikes in Norway today as workers take on boss attacks

BY GREG MCCARTAN

OSLO, Norway — Over 70 people from a range of unions rallied in support of healthcare workers on strike here Oct. 29. The protest took place outside a conference organized by NHO Geneo, a federation of bosses in the private healthcare industry.

Helene Skeibrok, leader of the Fagforbundet union, told the rally, "When the employers don't pay similar wages for similar work, we have to use the strongest weapon we have," that's to go on strike. Speakers at the rally condemned the private employers' denial of extra pay for evening, night and weekend work, which is standard in Norway's industries.

Ina Libak, a leader of the union Fellesorganisasjonen, condemned the Labor Party government for forcing most strikers back to work, claiming their strike actions threatened public health and safety. Norway's government has shut down a number of strikes over the past two years.

These strikes grow out of pressure from workers for their unions to press harder for some relief from the crisis conditions they face. They reflect the same frustrations as other protests unfolding across Europe.

Healthcare union member Synne Varnes told the *Militant* the support at the rally "was overwhelming. It's important to stand together. It is fundamental that we all get the same wages" across the healthcare sector.

Flight attendants at SAS Link, the regional carrier of Scandinavian Airlines, had gone on strike the previous day, also demanding equal wages and working conditions as other SAS flight attendants.

And two days before that, the union representing cleaners, cafeteria workers and hotel workers on offshore operations of the state oil company Equinor announced they had reached agreement on a new contract after a 33-day strike by 253 workers. Like two earlier strikes in May, one in the hotel and service industry and another by cleaners that involved over 2,500 workers, the Equinor workers won higher wages and agreement the company would pay sick pay while workers wait for the government to process their sick-leave applications.

Locomotive engineers had conducted a four-week strike that shut down much of rail passenger service in the country. The walkout was against Vy, whose bosses had fused it with another, smaller company and were trying to keep separate wages and conditions at the two operations. Like the other strikes, Vy workers demanded equal pay for workers coming from both companies, and the same rules for rotating shifts, among other issues.

Locomotive engineers' union leader Rolf Ringdal told TV 2 that even though they did not win all their demands, "we have secured our main issues: control of rotating shifts and equal wages for similar work. This is thanks to our members' solidarity during the strike."



Militant/Greg McCartan

Unionists rally in Oslo, Norway, Oct. 29 in support of healthcare workers on strike. They're fighting for wage increases to keep up with rising prices as the economic crisis deepens.

These are just a few examples of the step up in working-class actions. More than 50% of Norway's workers are union members.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

British Columbia steelworkers strike Highland Valley Copper

Some 1,200 workers went on strike Oct. 24 at Highland Valley Copper in Logan Lake, British Columbia, Canada's largest open-pit copper mine. Owned by Teck Resources, the mine reported profits of 854 million Canadian dollars ($605 million) in the second quarter this year.

"Despite record profits, Teck Resources isn't paying workers what we deserve. It's even seeking concessions in the contract," said Kyle Wolff, president of United Steelworkers Local 7619, in an Oct. 26 media release. "But it should be in no doubt, steelworkers are ready to fight for fairness and our fight has only just begun."

In a phone interview with the *Militant*, Wolff said 5% of the workforce suffered work injuries last year. The company refuses to repair unsafe railings, protruding pipes and generally unsafe conditions.

The vote to strike was unanimous. On the picket line "morale is high," Wolff told online news portal CFJC Today. "We've built up some infrastructure here, heating stations, heated running water, a nice washroom."

The key issues are improved safety, better wages and a halt to the company's threat to cut its contribution to workers' pensions, Wolff said. "The atmosphere created by management is one of intimidation, including threats of violence against the staff and union workers."

"We have gotten significant support from other unions, including Canadian Union of Postal Workers, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, International Association of Machinists, British Columbia Nurses Union and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, as well as the Kamloops District Labour Council and the BC Federation of Labour," Wolff told the *Militant* by phone.

People from across the region bring food, coffee and encouragement to the picket line, he said.

The federation announced Nov. 6 that it has issued a "hot edict" against Teck Resources, which means all unions should refrain from handling products from the mine in any way.

Messages of support can be sent to Wolff at president@usw7619.com

— Dan Grant and Ned Dmytryshyn

Autobus Venise bus drivers win better wages, conditions

SALABERRY-DE-VALLEYFIELD, Quebec — "We've been in a fight for better wages and conditions since Oct. 22," Serge Grenier told this *Militant* worker-correspondent here Oct. 27. He's the vice president of the bargaining unit of Unifor Local 700 at Autobus Venise, which runs the school buses. The 41 drivers had voted unanimously to strike a month earlier.

After a two-week strike, the bus drivers won an agreement Nov. 5 that includes a 3% wage increase each year for the next three years and other gains.

Autobus Venise is owned by Transport Scolaire Sogesco, which has some 30 subsidiaries and more than 1,000 employees across Quebec.

Strikers had set up a couple lively picket lines outside the bus depot in this industrial town one hour southwest of Montreal. Many passing truck and car drivers honked in support.

Grenier said the company had offered a meager 1.5% wage increase for the first year of the contract and wanted to cut the number of working days and hours guaranteed to the workers, resulting in a significant wage reduction. "We are fighting both to win wages that keep up with inflation and to defend hard-won gains," he said during the strike.

Striker Martine Lavallee said they had learned an important lesson from the four-month-long strike they carried out during the schools' summer vacation in 2023. It's much better with the strike being waged during the school year.

Grenier added that they also support the fight being waged by unions across Canada to defend the right to strike from moves in Parliament to allow the federal government in Ottawa to ban them.

— Michel Prairie

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

November 19, 2001

Below is an excerpt from *Socialism and War*, a pamphlet by V.I. Lenin and Gregory Zinoviev which summed up the position on World War I of the Bolshevik Party in Russia.

Socialists have always condemned wars between nations as barbarous and brutal. Our attitude towards war, however, is fundamentally different from that of the bourgeois pacifists (supporters and advocates of peace) and that of the anarchists. We differ from the former in that we understand the inevitable connection between wars and the class struggle within a country; we understand that wars cannot be abolished unless classes are abolished and socialism is created; we also differ in that we regard civil wars, i.e., wars waged by an oppressed class against the oppressor class, by slaves against slaveholders, by serfs against landowners, and by wage-workers against the bourgeoisie, as fully legitimate, progressive and necessary.

THE MILITANT

November 19, 1976

HOUSTON — Speaking before a meeting of 100 Houston area steelworkers, Ed Sadlowski delivered a scathing rebuttal to the red-baiting and violence that have been directed against his campaign for president of the United Steelworkers of America.

"If you let red-baiting break you up, that's the bosses' game. If you let race hatred break you up, that's the bosses' game. There's no place in the American labor movement for that kind of conduct. We have to restore full democracy in this union, and that's not my concept of democracy. Booing, and shouting, and heckling, and bullets, and beating up — that's the bosses' game."

He rejected the union bureaucracy's line of protecting "our" industry against foreign competitors. "Hold the industrialists to blame for unemployment," Sadlowski insisted. "Don't blame the American worker or the Japanese worker."

THE MILITANT

November 19, 1951

The capitalist press is deliberately underplaying the news about the real situation in the Near East. The millions of the Arab world whose living standards are abysmal, refuse any longer to live in this degradation.

The whole Arab world is now bitterly anti-British and anti-French and is turning more and more anti-American. As matters stand today, the French would have dim prospects of hanging on in North Africa, if not for the support of Washington.

Every single Arab nation — Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iraq — has filed a separate complaint in the U.N. against the French in Morocco. But this Moroccan issue, that is, the whole colonial issue in the Near East, was shunted aside by the U.N. This vote was the handiwork of the U.S. The most illiterate Arab peasant is aware of it today.

Communist League in Australia launches campaign, presents working-class alternative

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — "The bosses are driving to maximize their profits off the backs of working people, using everything from job speedups to rising prices," Robert Aiken, Communist League candidate for the Legislative Council in the March 2027 New South Wales state election, told a Nov. 1 meeting here hosted by the Militant Labour Forum.

"Workers face greater challenges today in making ends meet in the face of a grinding cost-of-living crisis and a decline in real wages," Aiken said. He presented a working-class road forward in the face of these escalating attacks by the ruling class in Australia.

Electric bills have risen more than 25% over the past year. Since 2020 prices of basic food items like milk and bread have risen by 30% and eggs by 44%. During the same period wages and salaries have increased by less than 20%.

To cover the high cost of necessities, more and more workers are forced to go deeper into debt, using credit cards to pay bills.

Under these conditions, Qantas airline ground workers, members of the Transport Workers Union, have waged two one-day strikes and a rally demanding better wages and conditions. "We build solidarity with all union battles," the CL candidate said. "We call for automatic cost-of-living increases in all union contracts and pensions to assure our wages keep up with inflation."

In the last 20 years, household debt in Australia has increased fourfold to the second-highest level in the world. Rents have surged 39% across the country in the past five years.

"We explain that what is needed is a fight led by the unions for a federally funded public works program to create jobs at union rate to build the thousands of decent, low-rent housing units that are needed, as well as hospitals and childcare facilities and to repair infrastructure," Aiken said. "Actions by workers in defense of their unions point to what can be achieved through the mobilization of the power of a united working class."

As fears of a recession mounted, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted interest rates to 4.85% in early November, hitting the highest level in eight years.

Reserve Bank Governor Michele Bullock flatly declared in September that the unemployment rate needed to rise to lower inflation.

Workers looking for an alternative

Pauline Hanson from the right-wing One Nation and some conservative politicians have tried to win workers' support by scapegoating immigrant workers, blaming them for the housing shortage.

"Our campaign demands permanent resident status for immigrants," Aiken said, "with the same rights as other workers. This is the way to deal blows to those who try to pit us against each other and to unify the working class."

Recent polls reflect there is increased support for Hanson, as working people and others seek an alternative to the Liberals and Labor, the two increasingly unpopular main parties of capitalist rule. Aiken explained that workers can't rely on any of these parties, which all serve the interests of the propertied exploiters.



Militant/Linda Harris

Robert Aiken, Communist League candidate in New South Wales election, at Nov. 1 Militant Labour Forum.

Australia's rulers, seeking to advance their own interests against their rivals, are increasingly drawn into the sharpening political, economic and military conflicts around the world, Aiken said.

"Workers need to break with all the capitalist parties," he said, "and forge an independent course to take political power from the war makers and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism."

USW members on strike 3 months at National Steel Car

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

HAMILTON, Ontario — "We're out here for the long haul," United Steelworkers Local 7135 President Frank Crowder told the *Militant* on the picket line outside the National Steel Car plant Nov. 3. "We're discussing how to reinforce the tent for snow plus we plan to build another structure out of pallets." National Car is a major producer of railroad freight cars for North America.

Twelve hundred USW members went on strike here Aug. 12 for better wages and safe working conditions. Huge banners where they picket read, "We work to live, not die at work." With an average of six "critical injuries" every year at the plant, the company far surpasses the two injuries that make employers liable for fines of up to 500,000 Canadian dollars ($352,000). The government has administered no fines for the injuries.

"If you know your ability to pay your rent is dependent on 25% production quotas, you skip breaks and work through lunch," Local 7135 health and safety chair Will Foresi said, pointing to the so-called incentive program.

The union is fighting to get some control over the production quotas. In response, Jessica Carter, the company's vice president of human resources, sent a letter to every union member saying, "Employees can earn extra pay when production targets are safely met." She added, "The Company alone will continue to manage the program."

Andrew Richardson, a striker with 12 years on the job, said, "Three years ago we struck and won a 13% raise. That's gone. The company took it back by increasing the piece rate. My brother-in-law works here too. They upped the rate on his job from eight to 10 cars. For 10 weeks he asked for a time study to adjust it because it was impossible. He got no piece-rate pay for all that time."

The bosses have refused every union attempt to negotiate, rejecting both talks and mediation. Striker Danial Ibrahim told the *Militant* the company is sending them a message: "You support the union, you stay out here on the street."

"Canadian Union of Public Employees and Ontario Public Service Employees Union have come by the line to extend solidarity," said Crowder. "And steelworkers on their way to Ottawa took the initiative to visit." The latest food drop came from the Hamilton and District Labour Council, which brought Jamaican patties for the pickets.

The strikers have participated in solidarity for other workers. Jake Agner, a welder with five years seniority, wore a cap backing a fight by Hamilton healthcare workers against 413 announced layoffs. He joined a rally in front of Hamilton General Hospital three weeks earlier. "Teachers were there, too, and people came down from Toronto," he said.

"Ottawa's 'Buy Canadian' campaign is a show," Crowder told the *Militant*. "If you make me buy Canadian, it's going to cost me more. National Steel Car wants 'Buy Canadian' so the railroad companies here, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, buy their product and increase their profits. When will workers get something from that?"

This is a serious fight. Join the picket line to bring solidarity. It is up 24/7 at 600 Kenilworth Avenue North. Send messages to frank.crowder@usw7135.ca and donations to USW 7135 Strike & Defense Fund, 1031 Barton St. E., Hamilton, ON L8L 3E2.

Socialist Workers Party vote doubles in New Jersey

UNION CITY, N.J. — New Jersey state officials report that Joanne Kuniansky, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, got 27,432 votes, more than double the total she was credited with when she ran for governor in 2025 and for U.S. Senate in 2024.

Craig Honts, the SWP's candidate for U.S. Congress in the 8th District, got 5,222 votes, more than double the amount he got in the district the last time the party ran there.

"We began our campaigns walking the picket lines of striking New York nurses and finished by joining Teamsters Local 877 members fighting a lockout at Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery in Linden," Honts told a Nov. 7 Militant Labor Forum here. The SWP candidates joined actions to protest Washington's blockade of Cuba, in defense of immigrant workers and against the rising assaults on Jews. Because they were on the ballot, they were able to garner more news coverage.

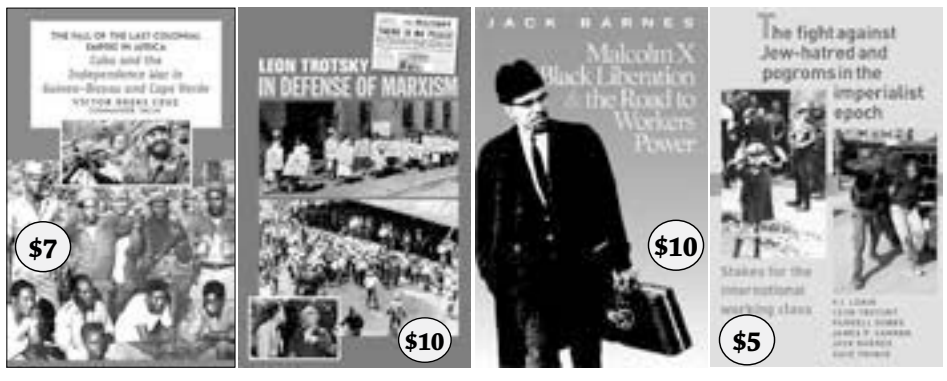
"The increasing vote for the SWP reflects the growing number of workers looking for a political alternative because they're convinced neither of the bosses' two main capitalist parties are capable of solving the problems workers face," Kuniansky said. As SWP members campaigned, they found "serious interest in discussing the only way to halt the march of Washington and other capitalist powers toward another world war is by the working class taking power into our own hands."

— TERRY EVANS

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SWP: 'Fight for the working class'

Continued from front page

and discussing what the working class can do to protect our class interests as the bosses and their government continue to push their economic crisis onto our backs.

"I just don't understand why there is such hatred for the Jews," Carl Gorsuch, a member of the Laborers' union, told SWP campaigners Tony Lane and Candace Wagner on his doorstep in Lorain, Ohio, Nov. 8. Lane explained that there is a centurieslong history of Jew-hatred that has been gaining momentum amid the deepening world economic crisis. And it is being 'normalized' in bourgeois politics.

"Only when the working class takes power can it be ended," Lane said. "In the meantime it must be exposed for the danger to the working class it poses and protested against whenever it appears." Gorsuch wanted to know more and bought a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* along with a *Militant* subscription.

Tony Hunt and Hugo Wils, members of the Communist League in the U.K., joined supporters of the *Militant* from France and Belgium in the union protests against the government in France Nov. 5 and 7, and campaigned door to door in between in a working-class area of Deuil-le-Barre, near Paris. Over the three days, dozens of Pathfinder books and six *Militant* subscriptions were sold.

Stephanie Matenot, who works for an online pharmacy company and is the union steward there, told Wils she wanted to discuss the U.S. blockade against Cuba when he knocked on her door. "They are strangling Cuba," she said, "and I don't understand why."

"They've tried for 65 years to overthrow Cuba's socialist revolution because it showed that with the right leadership, like Fidel Castro, working people can take political power into their own hands," Wils said. "Capitalist rulers — in Paris as much as Washington — think Cuba is a dangerous example. We're building working-class parties that seek to emulate that example."

Matenot got a French-language booklet of *Militant* articles by SWP leader Steve Clark, including one based on last summer's SWP conference, "Building a working-class party on Marxist foundations in the fight for workers' power," and "Cuban Revolution set an example for fighters."

Sales brisk at book fairs

SWP members set up a Pathfinder booth at the Twin Cities Book Festival in St. Paul Nov. 7. With attractive displays drawing people in, 17 participants got *Militant* subscriptions and 58 books by SWP and other revolutionaries were sold. The best seller was *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke.

Most workers who commented about the just-concluded election had a "wait and see" attitude about the Democrats who were elected, Fruit said. Sandra Eide, a healthcare worker and member of the Service Employees International Union, said she didn't think much would change.

She got a *Militant* subscription, *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, a central leader of the 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis, and *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*, a materialist history.



Militant/Edwin Fruit

At book fair in St. Paul, Minnesota, Nov. 7, Sandra Eide, a healthcare worker in SEIU, told SWP member Kevin Dwire she didn't think Nov. 3 elections would change anything. She got a *Militant* subscription, *Teamster Rebellion* and *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*.

In Irving, Texas, SWP members from Dallas-Fort Worth were invited to set up a literature table at the Ghana Nurses Association Community Health Fair Oct. 31. The group promotes healthcare and raises funds to organize medical missions and donates medical equipment and supplies for toilers in Ghana.

Participants bought four *Militant* subscriptions and 11 Pathfinder titles, including six copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*.

Rally against Jew-hatred

Over 1,000 rallied against Jew-hatred at Rittenhouse Square Park in Philadelphia Nov. 8, outnumbering bikers who had organized an action there calling for Jewish-owned restaurants to be shut down. SWP campaigners got a good reception, selling three *Militant* subscriptions and two copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. SWP member Willie Cotton said many people there to defend the restaurants wanted to take pictures of him and his sign: "Socialist Workers Party stands against Jew-Hatred; For Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews; For workers power and socialism."

Both Cotton and Osborne Hart, another party member, were interviewed by the press several times. To pitch in to help take the drive over the top, contact distributors nearest you listed on page 7, or call the *Militant*.

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

Sept. 26 - November 17 (week six)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	35	33	35	29	$9,500	$3,626
Chicago	55	42	55	45	$13,500	$9,722
Cincinnati	35	32	35	27	$5,000	$3,388
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	50	60	78	$5,000	$3,579
Los Angeles	65	46	65	53	$13,000	$8,665
Miami	45	38	45	51	$5,000	$2,589
Minneapolis	55	48	55	52	$7,000	$5,625
N. New Jersey	60	50	60	51	$7,500	$5,856
New York	70	56	70	73	$20,000	$17,360
Oakland	75	67	75	76	$15,000	$12,214
Philadelphia	35	27	35	32	$6,000	$4,135
Pittsburgh*	50	50	50	58	$7,600	$4,003
Seattle	50	54	50	54	$15,000	$9,094
Washington	40	34	40	44	$4,500	$2,719
Other		19		434		$1,100
Total U.S.	730	646	730	1,157	$133,600	$93,675
Prisoners		138				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	35	40	40		
Manchester	35	36	35	37		
Total U.K.	75	71	75	77		
Canada	65	59	80	84		
Australia	30	29	30	33		
Total	**900**	**943**	**915**	**1,351**	**$133,600**	**$93,675**
SHOULD BE	**1,150**	**986**	**1,150**	**986**	**$140,000**	**$120,000**

***Raised goal**

Bangladesh garment workers strike over low pay, cost of living

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Tens of thousands of garment workers walked off their jobs in Bangladesh Oct. 31 demanding a wage increase as the rising cost of living makes it impossible for them to provide for their families. With a minimum monthly salary of roughly $100, the country's 4 million garment workers — more than half of them women — are among the lowest paid in the world. And they haven't had a wage increase since 2023.

Bangladesh is the second largest exporter of clothing in the world after China. Manufacturers there are major suppliers to global giants like Walmart, H&M, the Gap and Levi Strauss. While garment workers struggle to put food on their tables, their labor generates $39 billion a year, some 80% of the country's entire export earnings. The annual rate of inflation in Bangladesh was 8.34% in September, with costs sharply increasing for food, housing, transport and other essentials.

"We don't want to take to the streets," Sardar, a 23-year-old who started working in garment factories as a child, told *Vogue* magazine. "But there is no affordable healthcare for us. Landlords keep raising house rents every January. The prices of staple food items and cooking gas have gone up several times during this period, and our wages have remained the same."

"We can barely afford one proper meal a day," Laili Begum, a 37-year-old garment worker and mother of two, told Al Jazeera. She said her children had to drop out of school because she could no longer pay for their education.

Garment worker Rasel Khan said he is sinking into debt to help his family, which includes his mother and younger brother along with his wife and child. "It's impossible to support a family on this income anymore. Prices keep rising and we have to borrow money just to survive."

More than 650 shops shut down

The protests shut down more than 650 garment shops in Dhaka, the capital, and surrounding cities. The government answered with thousands of police who fired tear gas and used stun grenades and water cannons, killing at least one worker and injuring dozens. More than 100 were arrested, including at least 10 union leaders.

As the workers dug in their heels, the government convened a wage board Nov. 1, which promised to increase the minimum wage in January, but failed to say what the increase would be. Workers are demanding a minimum raise of $240 a month.

Babul Akhter, who represents the garment workers on the wage board, encouraged them to go back to work while waiting for the details of the wage agreement to be announced. He demanded the release of all arrested workers and called for the frame-up cases filed against them to be thrown out. After a week on strike, most workers returned to work Nov. 8. "We have placed our demands," Khairul Mamun Mintu, a union leader at the Bangladesh Garment Workers Trade Union Center, told *Vogue*. If that "doesn't work, we will have to take to the streets again."

Hundreds of workers in Bangladesh have been killed in recent years as the bosses push profits with little concern for the safety of the workers. At least 16 died in a garment factory fire last October. Some 52 workers, trapped inside behind illegally locked doors, died in a food factory fire in 2021. And in 2013, more than 1,100 workers were killed when an eight-story building housing garment factories near Dhaka collapsed from shoddy construction.

The bosses say the wage demands of the workers would jeopardize their own jobs, driving production costs above those in India, the fourth-largest apparel exporter and an increasingly strong competitor. They also point to demands from buyers in Europe and North America for lower prices, something "we have no choice but to accept," one boss said.

—*MILITANT LABOR FORUMS*—

FLORIDA

Miami

After the Elections, the Working-Class Road Forward — Socialist Workers Party: Strengthen Unions, Oppose Jew-Hatred, Fight for Political Power. Speaker: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Donation: $5. *5710 NW 6th Place. Tel.: (305) 929-8966.*

Philadelphia protest

Continued from front page

"Let's be clear: This is antisemitism. It is Jew-Hatred, plain and simple," read their joint statement.

"This was not a protest of policy. It was a public campaign to intimidate Jews and drive them from their livelihoods because of who they are," B'nai B'rith International said in a statement condemning the attack on Jews.

At the same time that opponents of the push to drive Jews out of Philadelphia lined up outside the restaurants, hundreds of others gathered at Rittenhouse Square Park at the kickoff spot for the pro-Hamas bike ride, outnumbering the bikers, blocking their way and forcing some of the cyclists to climb over a wall to get out of the park.





Militant photos by Janet Post

Above, demonstrators in Philadelphia defend Huda restaurant against Jew-haters Nov. 8. Right, protesters outnumber pro-Hamas "boycott riders."

A disciplined response

The organizers of the pro-Hamas action failed in their plans to march on the streets unchallenged. "Take off your masks, cowards!" protesters chanted to bikers who had their faces covered with keffiyehs and masks. When one thug with a megaphone told people to "go back to Israel," one woman responded, "I live here." The counterdemonstration was firm and disciplined largely preventing physical confrontations.

The bike ride was led by a group called Philly Bike on Your Left, which describes itself as an "anti-fascist, anti-Zionist social cycling collective." The ride was promoted by Philly Writers Against the War on Gaza, which hails "martyrs" like Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas terrorist leader who was key to organizing the Oct. 7, 2023, murderous pogrom in Israel.

The leaflet promoting the ride said, "These Zionist establishments must go! Not in our city." A reactionary social media post by its organizers stated, "Ride around Rittenhouse with us as we show these zio business owners that we see them for the disgusting humans they are."

The Democratic Socialists of America, and a list of more than 20 other organizations, including campus groups Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine at both Temple and the University of Pennsylvania, lent their support to the antisemitic action.

The six restaurants targeted were Dizengoff, Goldie, Huda, K'Far Cafe, Mac Mart and Schlesinger's Deli. Goldie, one of several local restaurants owned by Israeli-born chef and James Beard Award winner Michael Solomonov, had been attacked by a pro-Hamas mob in December 2023. Solomonov had raised over $100,000 for a volunteer emergency services in Israel after Oct. 7.

Huda owner Yehuda Sichel told the media that his grandfather had survived the Holocaust and witnessed Kristallnacht. He said he is being targeted because he raised a few thousand dollars for injured and traumatized children after Oct. 7 that he sent to Israeli municipalities. "We're not going anywhere," he said. "Replacing the word 'Jewish' with 'Zionist' does not change who is being targeted."

The opponents of Jew-hatred were buoyed by the large turnout and their ability to push back the pro-Hamas forces.

"Why did they pick the day before Kristallnacht? It's an insult to people who are Jewish," Jonathan Riley, a 22-year-old African American worker, told the *Militant* in front of Huda's. "If they can do this to Jews, they can do this to anyone. As we know from the history of fights by Blacks, you have to stand up."

Some demonstrators had come from New York. The *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent* interviewed and ran a picture of Osborne Hart and Willie Cotton, who have run as candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in Philadelphia and New York respectively. "It's important to stand up to every manifestation of Jew-hatred that you can find," they quoted Cotton saying.

Rabbi Phyllis Berman told the *Militant* she had taught a class for both Haitian and Russian-Jewish immigrants. They learned to overcome their prejudices toward one another, she said. "We must oppose those who use intimidation and vilify groups of people as a fear tactic," she said of the demonstrators. "First they say, 'Israeli-owned businesses.' Then they say, 'Jewish-owned businesses,' then 'Zionist-owned.' The Nazis pushed the Jews out of Germany. We have to draw the line."

Nov. 9-10 is the 88th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Armed with axes and sledgehammers, with gasoline and pistols, Nazi thugs murdered at least 91 Jews across Germany and occupied Austria and Sudetenland — today part of the Czech Republic — raped hundreds of women, destroyed at least 267 synagogues and 7,000 Jewish businesses, vandalized cemeteries and schools and destroyed an untold number of homes.

Over 30,000 Jews were rounded up and sent to concentration camps, where thousands perished.

"Everyone has the right to peacefully protest and express their political views," Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker said in a statement addressed to the press. "But singling out businesses because their owners are Jewish is unacceptable and has no place in our city."

Shira Yoshor, of the Am Yisrael Chai Philadelphia congregation, and who had organized actions calling for the release of the Oct. 7 hostages, reported that "the Boycott Bikers will be back Nov. 15. We need to come out in full force with flags and signs."

UK conference focuses on relations of Jews and Kurds

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The "Jewish-Kurdish relations in a changing Middle East" conference here brought together some 180 supporters of Kurdish rights and opponents of Jew-hatred Sept. 6-7. It was co-hosted by the Jewish-Kurdish Network, the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, and the Kurdish Studies Forum of the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University.

Many participants were originally from countries with significant Kurdish populations — Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey — a nationality of some 30 million, the largest without its own state in the world. Participants also came from Austria, Germany, Sweden, Israel and the U.S.

Welcoming participants, Liat Korduene of the Jewish-Kurdish Network said this was the second event of its kind. She introduced Ofra Bengio, head of the Kurdish Studies program at Tel Aviv University, who said, "Kurdistan is undergoing a severe crisis — which it will overcome." Bengio said Kurds and Jews have a history of national revival in face of powerful opposition.

The discussion was shaped by upheavals shaking the Middle East today, including Israel's defensive war to safeguard its existence as a refuge for Jews, which is under attack by the Jew-hating regime in Tehran and its misnamed "axis of resistance"; the Kurds in Iran struggling against the bourgeois-clerical tyranny there; blows dealt against the Kurdish autonomous region by the new capitalist regime in Syria, backed by Washington and Ankara; and Washington's drive to impose a Pax Americana in the region.

The wide-ranging discussion addressed the history of struggles by both Kurds and Jews, and their relations, as well as the long history of genocidal attacks on Kurds and how to forge a leadership able to lead these struggles to victory.

Khaled Salih, a former adviser to the Kurdistan Regional Government, said he watched in admiration as Israeli society mobilized to defend itself after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom.

Salih explained that the KRG was established after the U.S.-led imperialist invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 toppled the Saddam Hussein regime. "Kurds were the only entity with their own organization," Salih said. "Our goal was to make Iraq livable for Kurds. It's been a tough ride, and forces in Iraq keep trying to take control away from us."

Yehuda Ben-Yosef, a leader of the Kurdish Community of Israel, brought a video by Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, who said, "We believe in strengthening relations between minorities in the Middle East, specifically between Jews and Kurds."

Several participants pointed out that Israel's government was the only one that supported implementation of the overwhelming 2017 vote for independence in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, with Washington and Tehran both backing Baghdad's suppression of it.

Jews, Kurds denied homeland

"The seeds of the current conflicts were sown by the British and American empires," Salih said. He referred to the post-World War I carve-up of the Middle East by British and French imperialism under the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement, made public in November 1917 by the just-established Bolshevik government. Iraq and Syria were created, headed by Arab monarchs under British and French domination respectively. The Kurdish populations were denied their national rights. London got the Palestine Mandate.

The deal also exposed the fraudulent nature of the promise London subsequently made in the November 1917 Balfour Declaration of a "national home" for Jews in Palestine.

In reinforcing the imperialist partitions, another speaker pointed out, the Royal Air Force repeatedly carried out raids to suppress Kurdish rebellions.

In 1946, Kurds established their first free territory, the short-lived Mahabad Republic in the Kurdish-populated areas of Iran, led by Qazi Muhammad. "The republic granted full rights to the Jewish community there," his granddaughter, Evin Abrishami, told the conference. "You should judge a national movement not just by what it demands for itself, but how it treats minorities."

"Now we have a Jewish state," said Nir Boms of Israel's Moshe Dayan Center, "but it faces a constant struggle to defend its existence."

Boms said for decades Israeli governments and Kurdish freedom fighters have had fraternal relations. In the 1960s and '70s, Israel provided military training, weapons and intelligence to Kurdish Peshmerga fighting against the Iraqi government.

'What is genocide, what isn't?'

Responding to claims by the left that Israel is carrying out "genocide," Philip Spencer, a retired professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, said this "has been turned against its victims. It should be clear who is committing genocide and who is victim.

"The Holocaust still stands out," where two-thirds of the Jews in Europe were slaughtered, Spencer added.

"Hamas filmed and broadcast its massacre on Oct. 7," he said, "but people still deny that it happened."

Ibrahim Malazoda from Iraqi Kurdistan described the massacres and expulsions of Kurds by the Saddam dictatorship. This included the 1988 Anfal campaign, in which tens of thousands were killed, including the chemical weapon attack on Halabja, which resulted in the gruesome death of 5,000 Kurds. Ben-Yosef said the Kurdish community in Israel spoke out about these horrors at the time. U.S., U.K. and other world media largely ignored the mass murder.

Continued on page 7

Ukraine unions call for solidarity

Continued from front page

township of Komyshuvakha in the Zaporizhzhia region with guided aerial bombs, then used "double-tap" tactics to hit rescue workers as well. A huge bomb struck an underground school that is also a shelter, trapping many people beneath the rubble, KVPU reported. The attacks killed at least 53 people, with dozens still missing.

"Russian forces continue to deliberately strike workplaces, mines, coal-processing plants and even the transport used to bring workers to and from enterprises," the union statement said. During the first nine months of 2026, 1,241 workers were killed in attacks at their workplaces and 4,679 workers injured on the job.

The KVPU cited the World Health Organization, which documented more than 3,000 attacks on Ukraine's healthcare system, targeting hospitals, outpatient clinics and other medical facilities, with 340 sites completely destroyed.

"At least 510 healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, other healthcare personnel and combat medics" have been killed during the war, the KVPU said. The Red Cross emblem "has increasingly become a target rather than a guarantee of protection."

The union statement said Russian forces deliberately struck the administrative building of the DTEK coal company in Pavlohrad Oct. 1. Among the offices destroyed were those of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine, as well as a small museum on the history of the independent trade union movement.

Despite Moscow's continued assaults, Ukrainians refuse to put aside culture. The third Kyiv Baroque Fest is slated for Nov. 12-22, with 15 concerts along with forums and exhibitions, drawing musicians from Belgium, Germany, Poland, the U.S., France, Italy and Switzerland.

A determined Ukrainian operation, dubbed Vivaldi, has since February led to the recapture of a sizable portion of territory in Donbas. This has dealt a serious blow to Moscow's drive to capture the last cities there to bolster Putin's demand to be given control.

The recent Ukrainian offensives forced two Russian field armies into disorderly retreats. They reversed Moscow's efforts to encircle the town of Lyman and blocked any advance beyond Pokrovsk, lifting threats for now to the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, both of which are vital to Ukraine's defensive front in the Donbas region.

Russian forces pushed back in east

Tenacious Ukrainian defenders, using newly developed middle-range drones, pushed Russian supply points further back from the front. The Kremlin was forced to pull its elite Rubicon drone units from there after they suffered heavy losses from Kyiv's own drone forces.

As Moscow's troops run short of fuel, ammunition and food, some have been holding up cardboard pleas for supplies. Russian soldiers have to walk miles to the front, each sometimes carrying an artillery shell.

The Kremlin thought its superior numbers of troops in this battle would allow for success, but instead 8,000 of its soldiers have been killed through Operation Vivaldi, 10 times the number of Ukrainian defenders, according to the Ukraine army commander, Andriy Biletskyi.

Overall, Moscow's forces suffered 54,000 troops killed or severely wounded in October, a record for the war.



State Emergency Service of Ukraine

Ukrainian firefighters put out factory fire after Russian airstrike in Kharkiv Oct. 28. Thousands of civilians have been killed or injured as Moscow targets them with drones and missiles.

1,000s march in France as unions call general strike

Continued from front page

1,180 euros [$1,320] monthly pension," Said Boukhamsa, a chef in a small bakery, told the *Militant.* "After paying his bills — rent, car insurance, gas and electricity — he's left with 100 euros for the month! And since his wife earns 400 euros, that puts them over the limit to get any government subsidies."

"It's time this government falls," said Stephanie Matenot, a union shop steward at an online pharmacy. "The bosses just get richer while we're getting poorer. My husband is a self-employed plumber. The taxes he has to pay are so high. He wants to hire an apprentice, but simply can't afford to."

Many people expressed anger at the state of the healthcare system and the lack of jobs. Koudieye Sacko, a hospital lab technician, said her workplace is "chronically understaffed."

"I am here for many reasons," Baptiste Ropert, a trainee paramedic, told the *Militant* at the Nov. 5 march. The government is "destroying public services. My 93-year-old grandfather suffered injury from a fall this summer. It took over four hours in the hospital before he was seen by medical staff."

"Many people in this country think twice when they have a health issue about whether to see a doctor," said Colombe Schwebel, a bank worker. "It is the accumulation of all these types of costs, without our wages going up, that gets people irritated."

The actions take place as a flurry of street protests against the rising cost of living have spread from France to Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain and elsewhere.

"All over Europe people are suffering," Damien Laguiche, a freelance videographer, said. "Many industries have gone and now office workers are being replaced by artificial intelligence."

Union-led disciplined protests

The protests on Nov. 5 and 7 were largely disciplined and peaceful, but anarchist-type thugs and other middle-class radicals did orchestrate some violent confrontations with cops. Similar dangerous clashes on a larger scale, alongside rioting and looting, took place at marches on Oct. 17, providing the government with a pretext to impose restrictions on the right to assembly.

The thuggery on Nov. 5 included an effort by supporters of Jean-Luc Melenchon's France Unbowed party to physically block one of Melenchon's rivals in France's presidential race, Raphael Glucksmann of the Socialist Party, from joining the march, *Le Monde* reports. After an hour's standoff, Glucksmann gave up trying to join the action.

Both Glucksmann and Melenchon are on the left of capitalist politics. They're attempting to tap workers' outrage at the growing assaults on living standards to garner support for their own election campaigns. Both claim they're the best candidate to stop Marine Le Pen, the candidate of National Rally, a party on the right of capitalist politics, from winning the presidential elections next year.

Macron's government has tried to quell the mobilizations by promising 4 billion euros — in loans — to renovate schools and the hiring of more teachers. He says the government will increase the minimum wage by 1.6%.

The CGT union federation says this isn't enough and has called a further one-day strike and demonstrations for Nov. 17.

Many workers and youth that this worker-correspondent spoke with at the Nov. 5 and 7 marches expressed an interest in the need to build an independent working-class party. That interest was reflected in the 62 Pathfinder books by Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary working-class leaders that were sold at both demonstrations.

Jews-Kurds

Continued from page 6

In the conference's final session, David Hirsh, a professor at Goldsmiths College who has been the target of virulent Jew-hating attacks by campus radicals, and serves as academic director of the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, asked a panel of youth whether Kurds really uniformly defend Jews and Israel.

Elyana Elyan, a Jewish Kurd now living in Israel, answered, "of course there's antisemitism among Kurds, as there is among all peoples, but most Kurds are pro-Jewish, and most Kurds who are Muslim define themselves more as being Kurdish than by their religious affiliation."

Conference participants bought 13 copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*; 12 of the pamphlet *UK Policy in the Middle East: Defend British Interests, not the Jews*; and two *Militant* subscriptions.

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San Juan panel discusses lessons of African freedom struggles, spreading truth about Cuban Revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY AND RÓGER CALERO

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — *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 was at the center of a lively and wide-ranging discussion here at the Casa Soberanista Oct. 21. The event was co-sponsored by the Hostosiano National Independence Movement and the Socialist Workers Party from the United States.





Militant photos by Linda Joyce

From left: Mary-Alice Waters, Rafael Anglada López and Julio Muriente Pérez at Oct. 21 San Juan panel presenting book by Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke.

This is an opportunity "to have an exchange about a victorious people's fight for freedom," Sonia Cepeda, a professor at Albizu University, who chaired the meeting, said in her welcoming remarks.

Among those in the audience were many longtime fighters for Puerto Rican independence, supporters of the Cuban Revolution, opponents of U.S. military bases in Puerto Rico and activists in the fight against the death penalty.

The speakers took up the importance for the people of Puerto Rico of the fights for independence from colonial rule in Africa in the 1960s and '70s, and the crucial role of revolutionary Cuba in these events.

The book's author, Víctor Dreke, headed Cuba's military mission in Guinea-Bissau from 1967-68, where he worked closely with Amílcar Cabral, the central leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), which led the independence struggle.

The panelists were Rafael Anglada López and Julio Muriente Pérez, two longtime leaders of the Puerto Rican independence movement, and Mary-Alice Waters, co-editor of the book and member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

Anglada and Muriente joined the independence movement as teenagers in the late 1960s. Muriente is a former co-president of the Hostosiano National Independence Movement and former editor of *Claridad*, a weekly pro-independence newspaper. Anglada, a lawyer, has helped in the legal defense of numerous fighters for Puerto Rican independence. He was also part of the defense team of the five Cuban revolutionaries arrested in the U.S. in 1998, framed up and given draconian sentences in prison.

Fresh winds blowing

Waters focused her remarks on the importance for today of the revolutionary course charted by Cabral, fully supported by the Cuban leadership.

Cabral led the fight to counter the tribal antagonisms, as well the division between Guineans and Cape Verdeans, that were fostered by the Portuguese rulers to maintain their rule. "He inoculated the cadres of the PAIGC against the falsehood that the color of one's skin automatically defines one's enemies or friends," Waters said.

He promoted the fight for women's emancipation, opening the door for them to take leadership roles in the struggle.

Though he was assassinated in January 1973, the organization he built was strong enough to continue the fight, winning formal independence for Guinea-Bissau in September 1974.

"There is no better moment than this to learn about — and study — the example of Amílcar Cabral and the humble men and women he led to victory over the Portuguese colonial empire," she said. "No time more necessary to spread the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution and its example of proletarian internationalism in action, led by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara." (See major excerpts from her talk below.)

Waters noted the "exceptional response" to the book, "not only in bookstores and online through Amazon, but even more by co-workers in factories and workplaces across the country" and when members of the Socialist Workers Party take it door to door in working-class neighborhoods.

"There could be no better sign that fresh winds are blowing as the world crises of the imperialist rulers deepen and working people everywhere are looking for answers," she said.

"Why was the independence of Guinea-Bissau and other countries recognized by the great powers, but the audacity of wanting to construct something that goes beyond independence continues to be challenged?" Muriente asked, pointing to the 1959 victory of the Cuban people that opened the socialist revolution in this hemisphere. Ever since, the U.S. rulers have waged a punishing economic and political war on the Cuban people for daring to chart their own destiny.

The imperialist powers in essence told the newly independent countries, "Proclaim independence if you like. But we're going to keep controlling your mines, your lands, your commerce, your economy, your loans, and all the rest."

"That's neocolonialism," Muriente said.

Cuba demonstrates "the qualitative difference between winning your first independence and winning your definitive independence," he added.

Countries of Africa, including ones much smaller than Puerto Rico, gained their independence, Muriente said. But Puerto Rico is still a U.S. colony.

"We have to learn from all these experiences," he said. "Because they have to be part of the road that we will continue to travel until, like them, we win our national independence."

Anglada has often represented the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and then the Hostosiano National Independence Movement at the U.N. and other international gatherings, where he worked with fighters against colonial rule on the African continent.

"I met Cabral once in 1972," he said. "Less than eight months later he was murdered. And eight months after that the independence of Guinea-Bissau was proclaimed."

Cabral must be studied

Anglada noted Cabral's political clarity and working-class ethics, which he instilled in other fighters. He "knew a lot about the poor" in Portugal, having lived there, Anglada said. "He would look at the callouses on the hands of the Portuguese soldiers" and knew they were rural workers from the countryside. That the enemy was not the Portuguese people but Portugal's colonial domination. Cabral insisted that captured Portuguese soldiers be treated with respect, he said.

"Cabral was also not a propagandist for armed struggle," Anglada noted. "It was the Portuguese empire that made it a necessity." Anglada pointed to the massacre at the port of Pijiguiti on Aug. 3, 1959, where the Portuguese secret police and army units gunned down more than 50 striking dockworkers who were demanding higher pay and better working conditions, and wounded more than 100.

Anglada encouraged participants to study the book, and to read *From the Es-*

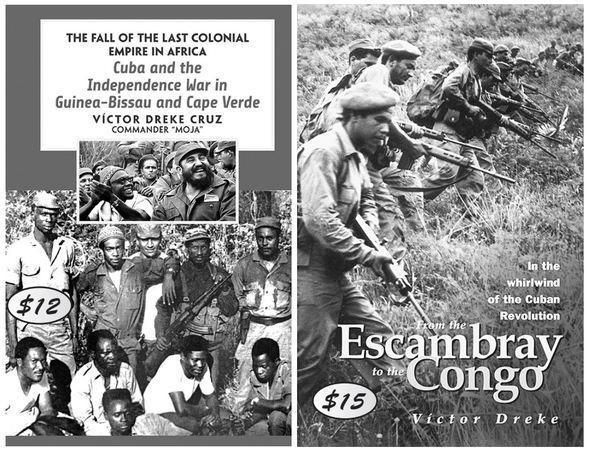
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Militant/Linda Joyce

Sonia Cepeda chaired the meeting.

Two books by Víctor Dreke



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The struggles of working people in the United States and Puerto Rico are intertwined

The following is an expanded version of the opening remarks by Mary-Alice Waters at the Oct. 21 public meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, co-sponsored by the Hostosiano National Independence Movement and the Socialist Workers Party.

Waters is a member of the National Committee of the SWP and president of Pathfinder Press.

Thank you Sonia for your generous introduction.

And a sincere thank-you to the leadership of the Hostosiano National Independence Movement (MINH) for hosting this presentation of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Víctor Dreke Cruz.

Before anything further, I have a very welcome obligation: to bring you greetings from the author of the book we are discussing this evening.

As we all know, deep historic ties have united the people of Cuba and Puerto Rico throughout centuries of struggles against Spanish and then U.S. domination. For that reason especially, Víctor Dreke very much wanted to send a written message to address this gathering himself. He has just been released from an extended hospital stay, however, and is recuperating at home under strict orders from his doctors to rest. He is very happy to know we are here together tonight and extends his warmest regards and best wishes for a successful meeting.

❖

On behalf of the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party, I want to say that it is genuinely an honor to be here with you. For many decades the fight for the independence of Puerto Rico has been our fight as well. We face the same enemy, the imperialist ruling class of the United States. We have found ourselves shoulder to shoulder on the same battle lines many times.

More than 85 years ago, as Washington prepared to enter the second great imperialist slaughter, both the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party and the leadership of the Nationalist Party were framed up and convicted of "conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government." The SWP and the *Militant* campaigned throughout the war for the freedom of the Nationalist patriots incarcerated in federal prisons — including the great Puerto Rican patriot Pedro Albizu Campos — as well as for our own leadership.

A June 1945 issue of the *Militant* interviewed Nationalist Party leader Julio Pinto Gandía, one of those facing prosecution. Puerto Ricans refuse "to fight as a slave of the imperialist power," he explained.

From the late 1930s through the early 1950s, the SWP had a sizable maritime trade union fraction. Numerous comrades worked the trade routes between the U.S. and Puerto Rico, as well as elsewhere through out the Caribbean. When I joined the party in the early 1960s, I got my first education on the importance of the Puerto Rican independence struggle from some of those sailors, leaders of the party, who had themselves been educated by the Puerto Rican sailors they worked side by side with.

One of those sailors was Ed Shaw, later the national organization secretary of the SWP. A 1995 *Militant* article describes a 1943 wartime run to Puerto Rico by Shaw with a crew organized by the Seafarers International Union. He was elected union delegate by the crew of mostly Puerto Rican workers. When the ship unloaded in San Juan, the captain refused to pay them for their overtime labor. Ed helped lead a successful sit-in strike by the crew that won them the wages they were due.

In the 1960s and '70s — inspired by the hard-fought victories being won in the battle to bring down Jim Crow segregation throughout the South — Black and Puerto Rican communities in New York City waged a powerful struggle against discrimination. They fought for community control over their schools, especially the right to decide how their children were educated. SWP members were part of that movement from the beginning. Catarino Garza, one of the sailors referred to already, was deeply involved in that fight. He used his multiple SWP election campaigns — for mayor of New York City, for governor of the state, for U.S. Senate — to champion this and other struggles, from access to housing to protesting police brutality.

Every four years the SWP presidential campaigns organize for comrades on our slate to come to Puerto Rico, so they can speak more effectively, from firsthand knowledge, about the colonial conditions you are combating. We take every opportunity to sharpen our demand on the U.S. imperialist government to free the largest remaining colony on earth.

In 1979 our forces came together again in the broad international movement that, with the help of Cuban President Fidel Castro, finally won the freedom of all five Puerto Rican Nationalists who had served a quarter century in U.S. federal prisons for their armed protests in Washington in 1950 and 1954 challenging colonial domination.

Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of those Puerto Rican heroes, toured the U.S. many times during the following years, speaking on numerous college campuses. I've never forgotten a conversation I had with him when we were on the platform together for a 1998 meeting at the City College of New York celebrating "100 Years of Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism."

He made a point of telling me and telling the audience that while in prison, he decided to learn English because he needed it to communicate with his fellow inmates, especially those with whom he was engaging in political activity behind bars. He proudly told us all that reading the *Militant* newspaper, which we sent him every week, helped him learn English. He even wrote a couple of articles for the *Militant* from prison.

Campaigns to free other Puerto Rican pro-independence prisoners — from the Hartford 15 in the 1980s and early 1990s, to Oscar López, who was released in 2017 — have always been championed by the party and in the

Continued on page 10

1938 Declaration of Principles: Socialist Workers Party stands for 'immediate and unconditional independence' for all colonies of the United States

The struggle against imperialist war is inseparable from the struggle against imperialism in general, and therefore, from support of the wars of enslaved peoples against their imperialist oppressors, of colonies against the nations which keep them in servitude, of nationalities, races, and minorities which suffer from the yoke of oppressors, of workers' states against capitalist states.

The SWP is not neutral or indifferent in such wars, but actively supports the oppressed against the oppressors.

United States imperialism, exploiting the masses within its national boundaries, at the same time and to an even greater degree, exploits the peoples of Latin and Central America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Liberia, the Philippines. These people are thus the potential allies of the American workers in the struggle against U.S. imperialism, and neither they nor the American workers can expect to win freedom except in joint combat against the common enemy.

The SWP supports every progressive struggle of these peoples. It stands for the immediate and unhampered right of self-determination for them, free from military, political, or economic intervention or pressure by the U.S. government.

It stands for the immediate and unconditional independence of all the territories, colonies, and dependencies of the U.S. and for the withdrawal of all troops from them.

It is opposed to any attempt by American imperialism, open or masked, to infringe upon the right of self-determination of any nation or people.

The revolutions in the colonies, semicolonies, and spheres of influence of United States imperialism are integrally and reciprocally related to the revolutionary struggle against that imperialism at home. A successful revolution in the United States would be decisive for the emancipation of the toiling masses throughout Latin America; while, on the other hand, a revolution beginning in one of the Latin American countries, or in one of the colonies or semicolonies of the U.S., could spread throughout the continent and powerfully accelerate the development of the class struggle and the revolution within the United States.

The SWP regards it, therefore, as a central task to aid and support the revolutionary movement in these nations and colonies, and to establish the closest relations with the revolutionists and revolutionary organizations within them.



FMSMB/Casa Comum-Amílcar Cabral

Guerrilla fighters, left, play soccer with captured Portuguese soldiers during Guinea-Bissau independence war. Independence fight leader Amílcar Cabral insisted captured soldiers be treated with respect. Military defeats in Africa helped spark revolution that overturned dictatorship in Portugal.



FMSMB/Casa Comum-Amílcar Cabral

Delegation from African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde at Cuban Embassy in Conakry, Guinea, 1967. From left, Amílcar Cabral, Ana Maria Cabral, Víctor Dreke, Carlina Pereira and Oscar Oramas, Cuba's ambassador to Guinea.

Struggles are intertwined

Continued from page 9

pages of the *Militant*.

And of course we joined forces together in the nearly 17-year battle to win freedom for the Five Cuban Heroes, a battle that finally came to fruition in 2014.

We have for many years participated together with you in the annual hearings on the status of Puerto Rico organized by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. And we often find ourselves together in Cuba and elsewhere around the world at events of every kind.

I remember first meeting comrades who are today leaders of the MINH in the course of our parallel international activities. I met Olga Sanabria in Havana in the mid-1980s when she was in charge of the Puerto Rican Mission to Cuba. And I first encountered Rafael Anglada, one of my fellow panelists tonight, in Guyana in 1987 at a ministerial meeting of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries we both attended.

Even with all this shared history to build on, our meeting here tonight still has a unique importance.

This is the first time the Socialist Workers Party has had the honor of taking part in — and co-sponsoring — a political meeting such as this *in Puerto Rico*. And for that we thank the Hostosiano National Independence Movement.

With that in mind, and to introduce ourselves to those of you who might not know of this history — and that includes new members of the Socialist Workers Party — I hope you'll allow me to end my introductory remarks by reading a few sentences from one of the earliest documents of the SWP, our "Declaration of Principles," adopted in 1938 by delegates to the party's founding convention.

That Declaration of Principles has guided the work of the Socialist Workers Party for almost 90 years. (See accompanying text on page 8.)

A book needed now

There could have been no more important moment than today for the publication of this account by Víctor Dreke of Cuba's internationalist mission to aid the national liberation struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

There is no better moment than now to learn about — and study — the example of Amílcar Cabral and the humble men and women he led to victory over the Portuguese colonial empire.

At no time has it been more necessary to spread the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution and its example of proletarian internationalism in action, led by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara.

The reason is simple. It's because the conflicts between the world's most powerful nation states are sharpening at an increasing pace, as are the consequences for the oppressed and doubly exploited peoples everywhere. To take our own hemisphere as an example, we can see clearly that what we are living through is not a series of isolated events.

- The shock-and-awe commando raid to seize Venezuela's president and his wife and confiscate the country's vast oil reserves.
- The brutal energy blockade of more than 10 million human beings in Cuba, with all its devastation.
- Washington's threat to "take back" the Panama Canal.
- The rulers' success in "buying" Greenland in order to turn it into an imperialist military outpost in the Arctic.
- Their push to annex an oil-rich Canadian province as the 51st state of the U.S.
- And not least of all, the colonial sacking of Puerto Rico to pay off a debt to North American billionaires that they — not the people of Puerto Rico — created. As well as the remilitarization of Puerto Rican territory for use as a launching pad in current and coming wars throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

None of this is due to the actions of a crude, egotistical president of the United States, drunk on his own enormous power and envisioning himself emperor of the world. It's the deliberate course of an imperialist government advancing the bipartisan state policy of the ruling capitalist families.

The U.S. rulers are simply — openly — using the weapons available to them to maximize the natural resources, markets and profits under their control and to secure the militarily strategic territories their world domination requires — from Puerto Rico to the space frontier.

What we're witnessing is the laws of capital at work — the only "international law" that is not just hypocritical bluster.

What we're living through is something similar to the period leading up to World Wars I and II — spreading "regional" wars, trade wars, the battle to control vital resources and shifting alliances as all the "great" powers prepare for what is coming.

Now as then, there is only one power that can ultimately prevent the nuclear World War III that is already visible on a distant horizon — the action of united, class-conscious workers leading the toilers of the world. The only future for humanity is to make, defend, explain and *extend* the proletarian revolution that was opened in 1917 by the workers and peasants of the old czarist empire, and exemplified in our own time by the workers and farmers of Cuba and the opening of the socialist revolution in our hemisphere.

To bring together the forces necessary to achieve that, however, demands revolutionary leadership of the highest caliber on the national and international level. Leadership like that of Lenin and Trotsky, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Amílcar Cabral, Malcolm X. Leadership that can only — and will — emerge from the working-class resistance and struggles that are coming.

Today most working people can't imagine we are capable of anything like that. That's what capitalist social relations have conditioned us to believe.

How could the toilers of one of the smallest and least developed African countries — Guinea-Bissau — kept 99% illiterate by their colonial masters, bring down the oldest imperialist empire on the continent? How could they bring down the decayed fascist dictatorship of their oppressors in Portugal and change the history of Europe?

Most would say "Impossible!"

But it's not impossible! That's what they did.

And that's why this book is important. Why it's needed today.

Fidel explained it perfectly in his magnificent tribute to Che Guevara in 1987:

"Che believed in man. And if we don't believe in man, if we think that man is an incorrigible little animal, capable of advancing only if you feed him grass or tempt him with a carrot, or whip him with a stick — anyone who believes this … will never be a revolutionary … will never be a socialist … will never be a communist. Our revolution is an example of what faith in man means. … [Our] revolution triumphed because we believed in man."



"We face the same enemy, the imperialist ruling class in the United States," said Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters. The *Militant* campaigned throughout World War II for release of Nationalist prisoners incarcerated in federal prisons as well as imprisoned SWP leadership. Clockwise from top left, Oct. 23, 1937, article in *Socialist Appeal* (later the *Militant*); Nov. 6, 1950, *Militant*; and April 30, 1976, issue.

San Juan panel

Continued from page 9

cambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution, also by Víctor Dreke. He referred to them as "Dreke Part I and Part II. You'll see Dreke's role in the Cuban Revolution."

All three panelists referred to the long collaboration between the Socialist Workers Party and fighters for independence for Puerto Rico. "Their more than 60-year commitment to independence for Puerto Rico, which unites us, can be documented," Anglada said.

During the discussion period, Cepeda underlined Waters' point that "fresh winds are blowing. The positive things that the book puts forward and the fresh winds blowing means we need a fresh discourse, action and conduct," she said.

During the discussion period, one participant pointed to the "failure of the left" to see working people in the United States as allies. At international political gatherings of the left, there are always resolutions passed in support of Argentina winning back the Malvinas, against the imperialist blockade of Cuba, in support of Puerto Rico's right to self-determination, "but there is never a statement in support of the struggle of working people in the United States."

This is especially important for us "because we have 6 million Puerto Rican compatriots in the United States" who are part of the working class there, he said.

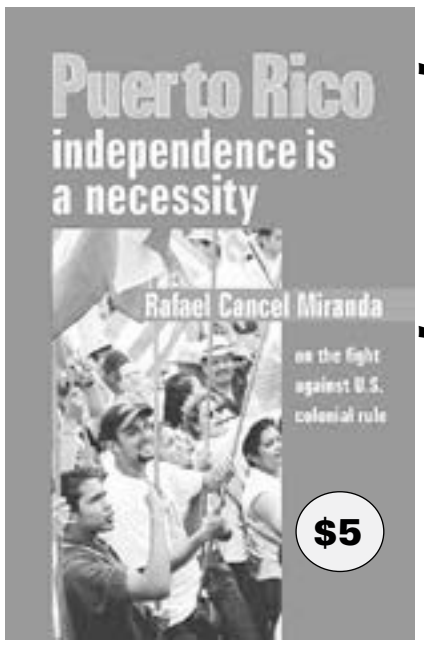
"The United States, like every other country, is class-divided," Waters said. "Neither the U.S. government nor the capitalist parties have anything to do with meeting the needs of working people."

"Working people in the U.S. and Puerto Rico have common interests," she said. "We have to reach working people in the United States and convince them on the question of decolonization."



Militant/Seth Galinsky

San Juan meeting participants bought 35 books — including 17 by Dreke — looking to deepen their knowledge of Cabral, the Cuban Revolution and the class struggle in the United States.



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EDITORIAL

Philadelphia set example how to fight Jew-hatred

A broad, spirited and effective mobilization of over 1,000 people in Philadelphia pushed back an attempt by Hamas supporters to shutdown six restaurants that are owned by Jews Nov. 8. The resounding victory set a sorely needed example. It showed a willingness to stand up and defend Jews, and to oppose forces calling for the destruction of Israel, a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms.

Hundreds took to the streets to protect the Jewish-owned outlets and hundreds more lined up for hours to eat at them, far outnumbering the mask-wearing, Jew-hating group. The determination to take on the antisemites won support from working people and strengthened confidence that Jews can and must be defended, and reactionaries taken on and defeated.

Echoing the filth spewed by the Nazis, organizers of the pro-Hamas group reviled the Jews they targeted, calling them "disgusting humans." In 1930s Germany, the Nazis declared "Don't buy from the Jews!" In Philadelphia, the antisemites shout, "Zionist establishments must go! Not in our city!"

The date the Jew-haters set for their action was no coincidence. It was the eve of the anniversary of Kristallnacht, a state-sponsored pogrom against Jews in Germany, Austria and Sudetenland organized by the Nazis the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938. During that slaughter 7,000 Jewish businesses were damaged or destroyed and at least 91 Jews were killed. Pogroms like this will happen again. Jew-hatred is a feature of the imperialist epoch and even more of its decline.

As the social upheavals and wars bred by capitalism grow, Jews will be increasingly scapegoated by the rulers for the financial ruin facing layers of the middle class and the spiraling prices and mounting joblessness workers confront. Jews will be blamed to divert attention away from the real source of the problem — capitalism.

The ruling class will turn to fascist thugs when it fears its power is threatened by rising struggles of working people that point to the need — in the eyes of millions — to end the capitalists' class rule. Fascist goons will be unleashed in bloody assaults targeting Jews, other oppressed nationalities, trade unionists and communists, as they were in the 1930s, to try to prevent workers from coming to power.

The victory in Philadelphia shows what is possible. But Jew-hatred is spreading and increasingly "normalized" as part of politics in the U.S. And workers' main defensive organizations — our unions — are not yet mobilizing to lead the opposition to this evil. Workers cannot rely on the capitalists' government, or their Democratic and Republican parties, to fight Jew-hatred. Unions can help organize, join and win support for actions to defend Jews.

From its founding, the Socialist Workers Party has stood on the frontlines in this battle. A resolution it adopted in 1938 says the party "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."

The SWP continues to act on that course, a vital part of building the revolutionary working-class party that's needed to lead millions in making a socialist revolution and lay the foundations to wipe out Jew-hatred for all time.

Soaring cost of healthcare deals blows to workers

Continued from front page

ance conglomerates are determined to maximize their profits at the expense of working people.

"Doctors' offices are charging patients 10 times more by claiming to be hospitals," the *Washington Post* reported Oct. 24, describing hospital bosses' more profitable billing practices. U.S. hospitals have bought up thousands of doctor's offices to expand their bottom line. Nearly half of all physicians have now been incorporated into this system. So medical bills many patients receive today include hospital-facility fees, meaning they are much higher, even though none of their procedures ever happened in a hospital.

"More than 60% of radiation treatments," the paper said, were "at an average cost of $1,017, compared with $218 in a doctor's office." In defense of this practice, American Hospital Association spokesperson Jason Kleinman cut to the chase, telling the *Post* these charges are essential for hospitals to maintain their profits.

Working-class families are also paying much more for health insurance coverage this year. The average price to cover your family through an employer is now $7,471 a year, up 9% from 2025. The cost of these workplace plans have risen regardless of whether the Democrats or Republicans dominate Washington. They have quadrupled over the past four decades.

More and more workers pay an average annual deductible of nearly $2,000, or in some cases more, before their insurance policy covers anything. As a result, the number of people who said they had delayed or skipped medical care because of these upfront expenses rose to 50% this year.

Millions of workers were forced to drop coverage under the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, as its insurance premiums jumped 26% this year. Another hike of 13% is projected for 2027.

Higher prices slam workers' wages

Wages rose at the slowest pace in over five years in the third quarter this year. For the seventh consecutive month, workers' wages have fallen further behind the government's reported inflation figures.

The share of "economic output" paid to workers in the form of wages or benefits fell to 53% in the third quarter, the lowest level since this data was first compiled 80 years ago. The rest of this income produced through the labor of the working class is instead taken by the capitalist class in the form of profits.

Despite growing claims by the big-business media that there is "robust hiring," saying 165,000 new jobs were supposedly created in October and unemployment dropped slightly to 4.1%, the fact of the matter is it's harder for workers to get and keep decent jobs. Over the past decade bosses have eliminated nearly a quarter million industrial jobs.

A college degree doesn't get you hired

The big business press is full of articles about how those in the working class must have a college degree to get a job. But many young people, including those who hoped things would be better if they went to college, are finding this is a big lie. After graduating with a degree in English from Texas State, Daniel Erby, 23, who lives in Austin, Texas, applied for hundreds of clerical jobs without getting hired. He finally got a job as a barista at Starbucks, he told the *New York Times*.

Others are finding that getting a job today involves passing a test generated by artificial intelligence. "A 22-year-old with an undergraduate degree in biology has applied for 511 jobs," the paper reported. "She was recently rejected from a role at Whole Foods after being 'interviewed' by a chatbot named Sage."

The rulers' drive to boost profits is also adversely affecting millions of older workers. About 19 million of their households don't have enough money each month to meet their basic needs, reported MarketWatch. The percentage of workers 65 and older living in what the government defines as "poverty" — a paltry $15,960 a year for a single person — increased to 15.4% in 2025.

Don't worry, some in the U.S. — the capitalist rulers and their upper-middle-class hangers-on — are finding life good! "The Superrich Are Buying $100 Million Mansions Just to Tear Them Down," an Oct. 21 *Wall Street Journal* article said.

Airline companies seeking to maximize their profits are laser focused on reaching those willing to pay more to travel in luxury. Singapore Airlines, for example, says it's now offering the "biggest double bed in the skies," the *Financial Times* reported. It's part of a $1.6 billion upgrade of its premium cabins. Other airlines are trying to do the same. Meanwhile, airfares working people pay rose 22.4% over the past year.

Cuban 'innovators'

Continued from front page

imported spare parts that Cuba is unable to get because of Washington's sanctions.

In addition to the hundreds of daily solutions that Aniristas help put in place that keep factories, water pumping systems, public buses and other infrastructure running, the group has been centrally involved in efforts to increase energy production to alleviate the impact of the U.S. oil blockade.

They play a crucial role in repairing equipment in medical laboratories, dentist's offices and hospitals. They are in a constant race to keep life-saving ventilators, incubators and CT scanners running.

One example is how workers at the Center for Clinical Engineering and Electromedicine (CICEM) in Cienfuegos repaired autoclave sterilizers at area hospitals. And they figured out how to get a defunct ultrasound machine working by rebuilding its keyboard.

ANIR was established on Oct. 8, 1976, at the initiative of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC). Its roots go back to the early 1960s when Cuban leader Ernesto Che Guevara led efforts to mobilize workers and farmers to confront Washington's attacks. As stated by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lester Mallory in April 1960, the U.S. rulers' aim was to deny "money and supplies to Cuba" and "bring hunger, desperation" to its people in hopes they would rise up to overthrow the government. That remains their goal to this day.

On its 50th anniversary ANIR remains a working-class bulwark of Cuba's socialist revolution. Its work is a powerful refutation of Washington's claim that the problems Cuba faces are the consequences of a "failed state," which the U.S. rulers need to "take" over.

"The revolution has been a long and difficult journey," Tahimí Vázquez Espinosa, president of ANIR in Las Tunas province, told an event to celebrate its anniversary this year. "Always facing a powerful enemy that is determined to suffocate us," we have demonstrated that "creative work is a form of resistance and a way to build the future."

'Wits and wills of thousands'

"You can witness hundreds of thousands of scientific and technical workers cooperating with each other," Cuban leader Fidel Castro said at a 1992 forum on spare parts, equipment and advanced technology. The "sincere, selfless and enthusiastic effort of hundreds of thousands of wits and wills is invaluable."

That event brought together thousands of Aniristas, the Youth Technical Brigades and scientists who demonstrated their projects and experiences. The forum took place in the midst of the economic, social and political crisis in Cuba known as the Special Period, which followed the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Castro contrasted the accomplishments of Cuba's socialist revolution in drawing on the consciousness and commitment of workers, farmers and students to work together for social progress, with the profit-driven values of capitalism, where every institution, research center and hospital "sets up its own tent."

The capitalist rulers promote the idea that only the lure of private profit can spark human creativity. The Cuban people, led by Castro and the Rebel Army, demonstrated the opposite by overthrowing capitalist exploitation, transforming their consciousness, developing a deep sense of social solidarity, new attitudes toward work, and a commitment to something bigger than their own personal advancement.

As part of this year's anniversary activities, ANIR recognized workers, trade unions and work centers that implemented "major social and economic impact" projects. These activities took note of the challenge to generalize the knowledge they had acquired to other industries, to work closely with younger workers in their training and to find ways to advance material incentives to involve more workers. A special effort is being made to maintain in its ranks members who have taken jobs in Cuba's growing private sector.

ANIR now plans to extend its reach outside the factories by joining Neighborhood Innovators Brigades, which will work with local governments and other organizations to tackle projects in the community.

"Each project, each award and result is a conquest of my co-workers and of my Cuba," said Guillermo Estrada Márquez, a leader of ANIR at the Sergio Soto Refinery in Sancti Spiritus province, when he was given an award.