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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 30, 2026

INSIDE

US blocks Cuba's help, crucial in 2014, in latest Ebola epidemic

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Gov't in Florida moves to target groups that act to support Cuba

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In a serious assault on constitutional freedoms, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and state Attorney General James Uthmeier have launched two broadside attacks on groups whose politics they oppose.

"Today my office issued a subpoena to the Democratic Socialists of America," Uthmeier announced Nov. 10, to establish whether the organization "accepted contributions or support from foreign sources of concern, including the regimes in Cuba and China." He also said they are looking into whether its fundraising among donors in Florida had been transparent and lawful.

"Our laws prohibit accepting contributions from foreign sources of concern," he added.

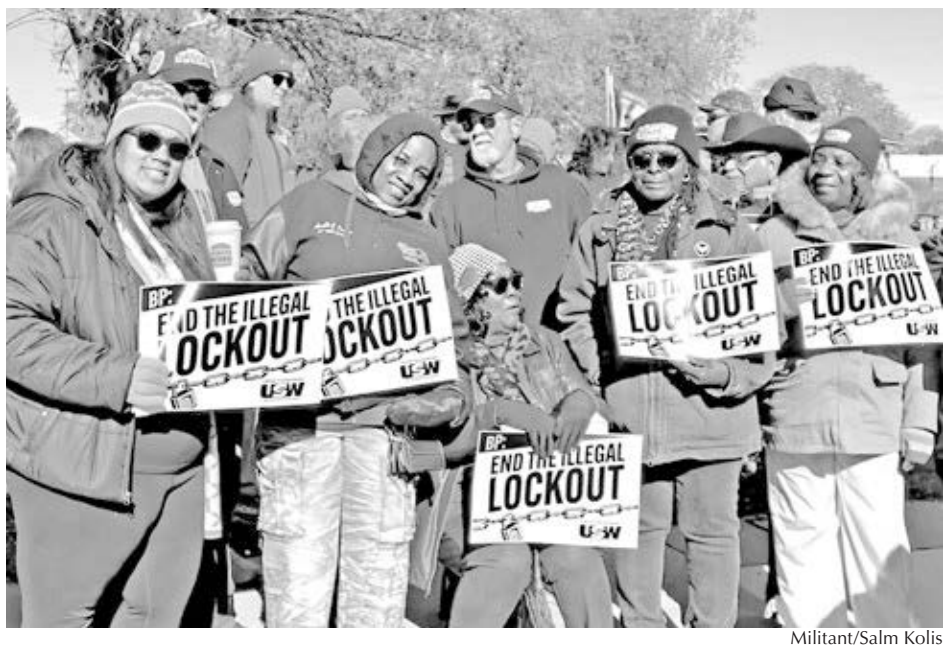
These are listed in Florida law passed earlier this year as, "The People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic."

The subpoena opens a fishing expedi-

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Indiana rally builds support for locked-out BP oil workers

8 months on the picket line fighting boss assault



Militant/Salm Kolis

Hundreds rallied in Whiting, Indiana, Nov. 14 to back 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1, locked out by BP bosses since March. Above, members of USW District 7 join in.

BY ILONA GERSH

WHITING, Ind. — A boisterous crowd of several hundred warmly greeted Eric Schultz, president of United Steelworkers Local 7-1, when he stood up as the first speaker at a rally here Nov. 14. The action was called to support the 800 workers who were locked out by BP on March 19. This is the company's biggest oil refinery in the country and the only union one left.

USW Local 7-1 called the rally to show the solidarity of the community and area labor movement. It drew a solid turnout from other USW locals in this heavily industrial area, and from other union members across the region.

The last eight months have posed a hard challenge for the locked-out workers and their families. The lockout started several days after the union voted down the company's concession contract by 98%. Now going into winter,

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Washington steps up use of Puerto Rico as a military base

BY RACHELE FRUIT AND RÓGER CALERO

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — *Militant* correspondents traveling to Punta Santiago on the south coast of Puerto Rico to meet with local fishermen drove past the Naval Station Roosevelt Roads base near Ceiba. Spanning 8,600 acres, it was hard to miss.

Before Washington closed the base in 2004, the naval complex included an additional 14,000 acres on the nearby islands of Vieques and Culebra, serving as a part of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility.

The base had been used since the 1940s for training operations, including nuclear warfare exercises and for guided-missile tests. It has played a major role in the U.S. rulers' military strategy and presence in the hemisphere.

Much of the area occupied by the U.S. Navy was transferred — on paper — to the Puerto Rican government, with promises of multimillion-dollar development projects that never materialized. In 2008, the José Aponte de la Torre civilian airport began operating in the former base under management of the Puerto

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'Militant' welcomes new readers as fall drive goes over all its goals!



Militant/Joel Britton

Margaret Trowe, 2026 Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, introduced party literature to workers at Ghirardelli Chocolate plant in San Leandro Nov. 12.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

The *Militant* extends a warm welcome to the hundreds of new readers who subscribed during our seven-week campaign to broaden the reach of the paper. Every issue — written in the interests of working people worldwide — carries articles on the most pressing issues our class faces.

The results of the recent U.S. midterm elections won't solve any of our problems. Higher prices will continue to make life more difficult for working people and our families. Both Democrats and Republicans will continue their calls for ever-larger war budgets as sharpening competition among capitalist rivals the world over pose the danger of new and more destructive wars.

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1938: Nazi 'Kristallnacht' portended what the Holocaust would look like

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Kristallnacht — "the Night of the Broken Glass" — was what the Nazi regime called its Nov. 9-10, 1938, organized nationwide anti-Jewish pogrom. Although the orgy of violence occurred almost nine decades ago, today its memory has been revived by rising incidents of violent and sometimes deadly Jew-hating attacks worldwide. Antisemitism is becoming "normalized" within bourgeois politics everywhere.

Some antisemitic groups in Philadelphia tried to launch a campaign — on the eve of the Kristallnacht anniversary — to drive Jewish-owned restaurants out of the city. But a countermobilization by Jews and their supporters outnumbered the Jew-haters 10-to-1, striking a blow to

Continued on page 4

Spanish unions march for higher wages, job safety

BY TERRY EVANS

Hundreds of thousands of working people took to the streets across Spain Nov. 11 during a one-day strike called by the country's two main union federations to protest stagnant wages and the skyrocketing cost of workers' housing.

The actions took place as frustration and anger by workers and youth deepen across Europe against high

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'Yes, Cuba is a small country, but we will resist' 9

– On the picket line, p. 6 –

Chicago hotel workers press demands for contract

Norwegian postal workers strike over gov't move to cut deliveries

Communist League speaks out against Jew-hatred in Montreal

BY BEATRICE BOWEN

MONTREAL — "Since the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel by Hamas, there has been a rise in Jew-hating attacks across Canada, the U.S. and around the world. In the Montreal area alone, there have been 322 attacks against Jewish institutions, homes, businesses and individuals as of Oct. 31," Communist League member John Steele told a Nov. 14 Militant Labor Forum here.

On Nov. 4, Mimimelon, a Montreal kosher bakery, was badly damaged in an arson attack — the second one against the Jewish-owned store in less than 48 hours. Luckily, in both cases the bakery was empty and no one was injured. Even though the Montreal police claim there is no evidence yet that the attack was motivated by antisemitism, they've assigned both their "hate crimes" and "arson" units to the investigation.

In September a masked man entered the bakery, located in the historically Jewish Saint-Laurent neighborhood, and yelled "All the Jews will burn," before running off.

B'nai B'rith says antisemitic incidents nearly tripled in Quebec from 2025 to 2026. In August, a Montreal kosher restaurant was gutted by a suspicious fire that police investigated as arson.

Late on the night of Oct. 29, someone fired shots from a pellet gun at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal's west end, damaging several windows. No one was injured and the projectiles failed to penetrate the building. "This is our third incident in less than two years," Rabbi Lisa Grushcow told the *National Post*.

In February 2025, someone spray-painted a swastika on the synagogue. And this June, an assailant smashed windows at the rear of the building and hurled two Molotov cocktails toward the synagogue, which also houses a daycare center.

"Enough is enough. This must stop," the Federation Combined Jewish Appeal and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs declared in a joint statement Oct. 30. "The Montreal Jewish community is tired of fearing for its safety and the safety of its children." The National Council of Canadian Muslims joined in condemning the attack.

"We urge all working people, their unions and all defenders of democratic rights to join us in speaking out against the attack on Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom," Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate in the Dec. 7 federal by-election in Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, said in a Nov. 3 statement.

On Sept. 20, while congregants were attending a service at the Sons of Jacob synagogue in Belleville, Ontario, for Yom Kippur — the holiest day of the year for the Jewish community — a man opened fire with a shotgun on a police officer who was stationed outside. Before shooting, he shouted at the cop, "You're going to die for the Jews." The police officer was taken to the hospital in critical condition while the shooter was killed.

Mass mobilization fights Jew-hatred

"Last Sunday in Philadelphia there was an important victory against Jew-hating. At least 1,000 Jews and supporters successfully countermobilized against an antisemitic 'Boycott Bike Ride' calling for all Jewish-owned eateries to be shut down. This was on the eve of commemorations around the world marking the Nov. 9-10, 1938, Kristallnacht pogrom — the Night of the Broken Glass — in Germany and Austria that preceded the Holocaust," Steele said.

In the lively discussion period, several forum participants stressed how the action in Philadelphia set a powerful example of how to fight Jew-hatred. The counterprotesters took to the streets to protect the Jewish-owned outlets and hundreds more lined up to show support by eating there. The action won widespread support from working people and showed it is possible to defend Jews and defeat efforts to shut down Jewish businesses.

"The mobilization in Philadelphia shows what is needed. Opponents of Jew-hatred cannot rely on the Canadian government to fight against increasing antisemitic attacks," Tessier said. "Ottawa opposes Israel's defensive war against the rulers in Tehran and their 'axis of resistance' allies like Hamas, and says it would arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he sets foot on Canadian soil, based on the warrant issued by the U.N.'s International Criminal Court on the false charge Israel commits genocide against Palestinians.

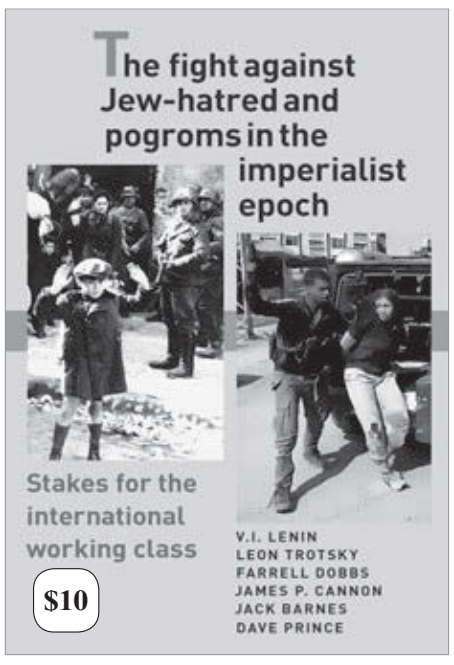
"Fighting against all acts of Jew-hatred is a life-and-death question for working people. Jew-hatred is the inevitable product of capitalism in crisis," he said. "Unions should take the lead in physically defending Jews and build actions that protest Jew-hatred and violence."



Rebel News

Mimimelon, a Montreal kosher bakery, badly damaged in arson attack Nov. 4. Two other Jewish-owned restaurants in the city had windows smashed days later, Pizza Pita and Schnitzels.

Recommended reading



"Jew-hatred and the slaughter of Jews — pogroms — like Hamas carried out Oct. 7, 2023, are not new. Fighting Jew-hatred is decisive for the working class and oppressed nations of the entire world."

pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Join efforts to spread the reach of the 'Militant'

Over a thousand working people bought 'Militant' subscriptions and books by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and others over the last seven weeks. You can help! Subscribe today, or, better yet, join the SWP in its ongoing efforts to spread the reach of the paper!



Militant/Candace Wagner

SWP member Tony Lane speaks with new *Militant* subscriber Carl Gorsuch Nov. 8.

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

‘Militant’ welcomes new readers

Continued from front page

“The working class needs the Socialist Workers Party,” Paul Mailhot, the 2026 candidate for governor of New York, told the *Militant*. “The capitalists’ dog-eat-dog system drives the bosses to expand or perish. The crises, runaway inflation and periodic depressions that mark capitalism will not cause it to collapse on its own accord. They will find ways — through bloody wars — to redivide the world in order to protect their profits.

“Capitalist rule has to be overthrown by the conscious, organized actions of the working class in its tens of millions. Advancing along that road requires a Marxist party with tested, capable leadership. That’s the party the SWP is striving to build,” Mailhot said. “Whatever we are doing, SWP members chart a road to strengthen the unity, confidence and fighting capacities of working people.”

During the fall campaign, members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom sold 1,155 subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with 1,536 books by leaders of the SWP and other revolutionaries. And a total of $148,147 was contributed to the SWP’s Party-Building Fund, exceeding the goal of $140,000.

Party candidates in each country gave voice to a road forward for working people, and will continue to do so in 2027.

“I am now paying over $6 a gallon for fuel, double what it was previously,” Jamal Ali, an over-the-road truck driver originally from Somalia, told SWP members Edwin Fruit and Mary Martin in Fridley, Minnesota, Nov. 16. He said the costs for his truck’s maintenance and insurance have also risen dramatically.

Fruit and Martin showed him the *Militant*, pointing to an article on the need for working people to fight Jew-hatred. “Yes, no one should be under attacks because of their religion,” Ali said. “Here in Minnesota people scapegoat all Somalis because a few people committed fraud. That is not right.” He got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions*, a collection of speeches by Thomas Sankara, leader of the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso.

In London, Communist League members Jonathan Silberman and Ólöf Andra Proppé knocked on the door of Michaela Rafferty, a recently retired primary school teacher originally from Ireland, Nov. 14. Rafferty had nominated Silberman to help him get on the ballot when he stood as the CL’s candidate in the Holborn and St. Pancras parliamentary by-election in London last September.

“The huge mobilizations of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland was one of the major issues that brought me into politics,” Silberman told her. “We had campaigned for ‘Troops out!’ ever since the Labour Party government sent in the British Army in 1969.

“I was arrested for selling our party’s paper because it headlined defense of the Irish people’s struggle against London’s occupation. After being frog-marched to the police station, when the duty sergeant heard my last name he said, ‘What’s with a Jew-boy supporting Catholics?’”

“That’s no surprise to me,” Rafferty said. “They lived on ‘divide and rule.’” She spoke about recent attempts by pro-British Loyalists to revive sectarian marches that had once been used to reinforce the second-class status of Catholics in British-ruled Northern Ireland. “We thought that was over, that we’d brought those marches to an end,” she said.



Militant/Ólöf Andra Proppé

“Civil rights mobilizations were decisive in Irish people’s independence struggle, they drew me to politics,” Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman told Michaela Rafferty Nov. 14.

“What you raise about divide and rule is central,” Silberman said. “At the center of our campaigning is forging a movement of millions of workers — of all nationalities and skin colors, all religions and none, workers born here and abroad, women and men. That’s the only course to defend our interests and ultimately through revolutionary struggle, establish a workers government.”

Rafferty got a *Militant* subscription.

Among the 1,536 books sold during the campaign, 149 titles were bought by participants in mass, union-led marches against the effects of the capitalist crisis in France, Nat London reports from Paris.

Campaigning with the *Militant* and books will continue. To join in, contact the campaign center nearest you listed on page 7.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund

Sept. 26 - November 17 (final chart)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	35	35	35	36	$9,500	$10,512
Chicago	55	55	55	61	$13,500	$14,739
Cincinnati	35	39	35	38	$5,000	$5,004
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	64	60	81	$5,000	$5,068
Los Angeles	65	65	65	75	$13,000	$14,294
Miami	45	48	45	56	$5,000	$5,188
Minneapolis	55	61	55	69	$7,000	$7,438
N. New Jersey	60	60	60	61	$7,500	$8,549
New York	70	70	70	79	$20,000	$23,054
Oakland	75	87	75	88	$15,000	$16,484
Philadelphia	35	38	35	38	$6,000	$7,020
Pittsburgh*	50	55	50	59	$7,600	$7,677
Seattle	50	64	50	57	$15,000	$15,176
Washington	40	45	40	49	$4,500	$4,894
Other		22		446		$3,050
Total U.S.	730	808	730	1,293	$133,600	$148,147
Prisoners		157				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	47	40	63		
Manchester	35	38	35	54		
Total U.K.	75	85	75	117		
Canada	65	74	80	93		
Australia	30	31	30	33		
Total	**900**	**1,155**	**915**	**1,536**	**$133,600**	**$148,147**
SHOULD BE	**1,150**	**1,150**	**1,150**	**1,150**	**$140,000**	**$140,000**

*Raised goal

Protests blame bosses, gov’t in death of oil workers in Iran

BY SETH GALINSKY

“Today is a day of mourning” and “Resign! Resign!” protesters in Abdanan in Iran’s Ilam province chanted Nov. 17. They were expressing outrage at government and oil industry bosses after 13 contract oil workers died and 15 more were injured when the bus taking them home from a natural gas processing plant in Dehloran overturned three days earlier.

The protest rapidly grew from 200 to about 1,000, the official Fars News Agency reported. As the march grew bigger, some participants began chanting “Death to the dictator,” a reference to Iran Supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei. The day before the action, merchants at the bazaar in Abdanan — a mostly Kurdish town, along with members of the Lur nationality — shut down completely to express their solidarity with families who lost their loved ones.

“What happened on the road, resulting in the deaths and injuries of our fellow workers, was not simply an incident or an accident,” the Council for Organizing Protests by Contract Oil Workers said in a Nov. 15 statement. “It was an outright killing, and it is repeated every day.

“We all know that the profiteering of contractors and rapacious employers, the government agencies that support them, unsafe roads, and extremely unsafe vehicles used to transport workers are the direct causes of this catastrophe.”



Free Union of Iranian Workers

Some 1,000 people marched in Abdanan in Iran’s Ilam province Nov. 17 to protest death of contract oil workers in van that overturned due to company, government disregard for safety.

Working people in Iran are paying the price for the regime’s provocative air attacks in the region, which give Washington a pretext to tighten economic sanctions, worsening the deepening economic crisis working people face, as well as to strike at economic and military targets.

Like tens of thousands of workers throughout the country who are forced to wait weeks and months to be paid, these workers “had received only their September wages,” the council noted. “They had been protesting the contractor’s failure to pay their October wages, the failure to provide them with holiday bonuses and benefits received by workers in other sectors of the oil industry and the imposition of harsh working conditions under unjust two-to-three-month contracts.”

‘Are workers just pieces of metal?’

“Our fellow workers, filled with anger and disgust at these unsafe, life-threatening working conditions,” the statement said, “are asking, are oil workers nothing more than wrenches, pipes and pieces of metal, so that whenever one is destroyed, another can simply be brought in to replace it?”

The declaration of a day of mourning by the governor of Ilam province and a representative of Iran Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was “hypocrisy” the Council said, and “an attempt to absolve themselves of responsibility.”

A post on the internet site of Afkarnaft, an organization of workers who are directly hired by the oil companies, pointed to other disasters and close calls in the last few weeks. These include 17 workers who spent 15 hours on a life raft in a “raging sea” after they had to abandon an offshore platform engulfed in flames; a worker who is still missing after falling off an oil rig the week before; and an explosion and fire at a West Oil and Gas plant in Ilam province.

In a not-so-subtle dig at the Iranian regime’s nonstop war propaganda, one worker wrote that “as long as the West Oil and Gas bosses remain in charge, there is no need for Israel or the United States to cause an explosion!”

Philadelphia rally applauds defeat of Jew-hating threats

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — Some 250 Jews and fellow opponents of Jew-hatred rallied near the Rocky Balboa statue at the top of the stairs to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and joined a "Bike Ride for Israel" here Nov. 15. They mobilized to counter an announced second attempt to hold a bike ride demanding several Jewish-owned restaurants in the city be shut down, but that action was called off.

That's why the main banner on the museum steps said, "Standing up against hate works: Antisemitic boycott officially canceled."

They also were celebrating the success of their much larger counterdemonstration the week before, when they outnumbered and blocked out a reactionary, Jew-hating action against Jewish-owned businesses here.

After the rally, bikers and marchers made their way downtown to the Liberty Bell. Then they gathered at the Congregation Mikveh Israel, the oldest synagogue in the city — founded in 1740 — to celebrate and share a Kosher meal.

The ride was organized by the Philly-Israel Alliance, a coalition that includes the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the American Jewish Committee, End Jew Hatred, Hadassah, and the historic synagogue.

A tiny group of pro-Hamas supporters waving Palestinian flags stood at the top of the museum's steps yelling Jew-hating abuse. They said they will continue to try to organize a "boycott" of the restaurants.

"Ours is not a counterprotest," Rachel Alaiev, co-chair of Jewish organization Chevra Sisterhood, told the rally. "We are not here to make someone else's message louder by arguing with it. We are here to share our own."

The *Jerusalem Post* quoted Aryeh Shalom, who posted the flyer for the Ride for Israel, saying that following the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel, Jewish residents in Philadelphia "have increasingly faced verbal harassment and accusations of genocide while simply walking into neighborhood coffee shops or convenience stores." He said he organized the ride to push back against this "climate of intimidation," calling on "both Jewish community members and non-Jewish allies to march together."

Shalom added, "I don't want my children to have to hide their Jewish identity."

Some of the protesters at the Philadelphia rallies had been part of an earlier movement fighting for the freedom of the 250 hostages seized by Hamas during their Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel. The Hamas thugs murdered over 1,200 people, including Arabs and Bedouins who lived and worked with Jews; wounded thousands more; and raped and mutilated women.



Militant photos by Roy Landersen

"Bike Ride for Israel," organized by Jewish groups, others in Philadelphia Nov. 15 celebrates protest the week before that blocked reactionary drive to force Jewish-owned restaurants out of the city.

Roots of Jew-hatred

"My grandfather was a Bolshevik!" a woman at the rally said to Roy Landersen, a member of the Socialist Workers Party from Union City, New Jersey, after he had told her about the continuity of the SWP going back to the Russian Bolsheviks led by V.I. Lenin and how the victory of the 1917 October Revolution had put an end to the reign of terror of the pogroms organized by the czarist regime there. Her grandfather, she said, "used to hide revolutionary literature in hollow table legs to avoid being discovered by the secret police."

"There were a lot of Jews in the Bolsheviks," she added. Her grandfather escaped from Ukraine to the U.S. in 1913. She got the Pathfinder book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

Jenni Paul, a former school guidance counselor, initially told Landersen, "I don't talk to socialists," expressing her anger at the growing normalization of Jew-hatred being led by New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani and the Democratic Socialists of America. But when she realized he was part of the demonstration and not with the antisemitic handful there, she apologized and welcomed him.

David Alper, who held the main banner, told Landersen that the rise of Jew-hatred meant it was "time to unite in solidarity."

"It is wonderful to see the turnout today, with more young people compared to last week," he said. "I hope the attacks on Jews won't happen again, but I know it will."

SWP member Mary Martin spoke with Elvis Faruku who lives in Italy, but is originally from Albania. While visiting the museum, he saw the rally and decided to join. "I am not Jewish," he told Martin, "but I think for me and all these people, being here today is important."

'Kristallnacht' portended what the Holocaust would look like

Continued from front page

their reactionary campaign.

The relationship of forces was very different in Germany in 1938, as Adolf Hitler consolidated his fascist regime. Armed Nazi thugs, equipped with axes, sledgehammers and cans of gasoline, launched a coordinated rampage against Jews and anything Jewish across Germany and German-occupied Austria and the Sudetenland, seized from Czechoslovakia.

Over 90 Jews were murdered and hundreds of women raped. Some 1,400 synagogues and 7,500 Jewish businesses were burned or pillaged, numerous Jewish cemeteries and schools were vandalized, and many Jewish homes ransacked. In a harbinger of what was to come, 30,000 Jews were rounded up and sent to concentration camps.

The violent rampage became a launching point for Hitler in his preparation of the Holocaust. The Nazi regime imposed an evening curfew on Jews, suspended their driver's licenses and prohibited them from carrying arms. All Jewish children were banned from public schools. With the outbreak of World War II the next year, Nazi forces rolled across Europe, slaughtering Jews as they went.

Hitler's Nazi party had come to power in 1933. It faced little opposition because the working class was split by the ultra-left, sectarian course of the leaders of the large Communist Party of Germany, on orders from Moscow, and the leaders of the reformist Social Democratic Party, who both refused to organize a united front battle to defend the labor movement, Jews and others against the murderous Nazi thugs.

The CP denounced the SDP as "social fascist," while disastrously insisting, "After Hitler, then us!" This historic defeat of the working class in Germany was deepened by Moscow's betrayal of the Spanish Revolution, which hastened the march to the second imperialist world war.

Kristallnacht accelerated the Nazis' advance to what Hitler called the "Final Solution" to the Jewish question — the genocidal Holocaust. This was the systematic mass murder of Jews, who were herded into death camps, shot or gassed, and incinerated. This only stopped in 1945 with the defeat of the Nazi regime ending the war in Europe. By then, more than 6 million Jews had been slaughtered, about two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe.

SWP's call to action on Kristallnacht

As news of the Nazis' deadly Kristallnacht pogroms spread, the Socialist Workers Party National Committee issued a call: "Let refugees into the U.S.! Open the doors to victims of Hitler's Nazi terror!"

"The first step of solidarity with the German Jews and the German workers must be a vast outpouring of the workers from every shop and factory and office into a mighty protest demonstration at which labor will give voice to its resounding indignation," the party said.

Less than two weeks later the SWP joined unionists and others in a demonstration of hundreds in front of the German Consulate in New York. They demanded, "Open the doors to the refugees!" declaring, "Only working-class actions can smash fascism!"

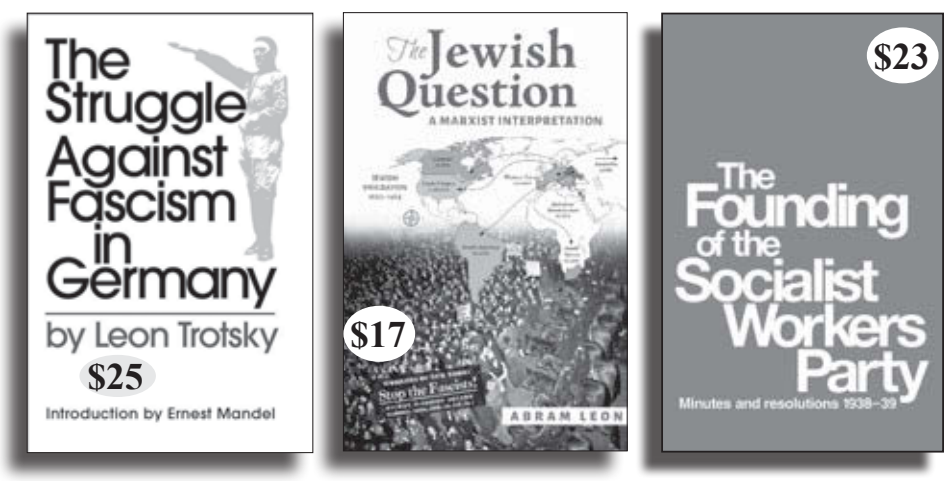
The SWP has a long, proud history in the fight against Jew-hatred, explaining this is a life-and-death issue for the working class and calling for the unions to take up the battle. This continuity is explained in the recent book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* by V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Jack Barnes and Dave Prince.

The book explains how the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by Lenin put a stop to czarist-organized Jew-hating pogroms as part of the fight for a socialist revolution.

A month after the Kristallnacht events, Trotsky, who had led efforts worldwide to keep the revolutionary program of Lenin alive against the deepening Stalinist counterrevolution, wrote, "Now more than ever, the fate of the Jewish people — not only their political but also their physical fate — is indissolubly linked with the emancipating struggle of the international proletariat.

"Only audacious mobilization of the workers against reaction, creation of workers' militia, direct physical resistance to the fascist gangs, increasing self-confidence, activity and audacity on the part of all the oppressed can provoke a change in the relation of forces, stop the world wave of fascism, and open a new chapter in the history of mankind."

Lessons from history: How workers can lead the fight against Jew-hatred



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Immigrants in Mexico look to US border after 2026 election

BY TERRY EVANS

A group of some 1,500 working people, mostly from Central America, set out on foot from Tapachula in southern Mexico Nov. 10 hoping to get into the U.S. Many of them say that the Democrats' win in the midterm elections would make it easier to get in.

"We believe the Democrats will help us," Cesar Sandoval, a Nicaraguan who was on the caravan, told Reuters. Others were less convinced, but still determined to make it to the U.S. "Nothing has changed," Aníbal from Guatemala told CNN. "Democrats and Republicans are the same, so if they capture us tomorrow, we'll just head there again.

"Let's see who gets tired first, them or us," he said.

The group that set out from Tapachula was mostly made up of people from Honduras, but also included 100 Guatemalans, and several people from Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. It was the largest caravan of immigrants headed to the U.S. border from Mexico this year, but paused shortly after starting the journey.

President Donald Trump threatened to impose higher tariffs on Mexico if the government there didn't stop the group. In fact the administration of Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum collaborates closely with Washington to crack down on undocumented immigrants trying to get to the U.S. Since September Mexican officials stopped and broke up two caravans before they left southern Mexico.

Sheinbaum's government has also agreed to Washington's request and accepted 21,000 people, originally from other countries, who were seized and deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in the U.S. That's about 80% of all those deported not to their country of origin but to one chosen by the Trump administration, where they have no family or other connections.

After Trump took office unauthorized crossings at the Mexico-U.S. border dropped from 950 a day to 150 a day in July 2025. But they've gone back up to an average of 300 a day since March.

That's hardly surprising. The conditions driving mass immigration haven't gone away. Millions of workers and farmers across Latin America and beyond confront increasing hardship and uncertainty about the future as a result of the world capitalist crisis. Some 70,000 people joined more than 50 caravans from southern Mexico to try to get to the U.S. between 2019 and 2025.

"The truth is there's work here, but it's not enough to get by," Mauricio, a farmer from El Salvador, told CNN. He joined one of the groups trying to get to the U.S. after the midterm elections.

Thousands of immigrants from across the continent are stranded at Tapachula and elsewhere in southern Mexico, with few jobs and a lack of healthcare or schools for their children.

U.S. rulers seek immigrant labor

At the same time that it's tightened the border, the Trump administration is ensuring that U.S. bosses continue to have what they hope will be a steady stream of superexploitable immigrant labor. Bosses see this as key to creating divisions in the working class in the U.S., maximizing their profits and being better able to grab markets from their competitors abroad.

In January the administration doubled the number of H-2B visas it would grant to seasonal immigrant workers who are sponsored by employers to work in construction, hotels, landscaping and fish processing. These workers' status in the U.S. is tied entirely to an employer hiring them for temporary work, which can be extended at the bosses' request for up to three years.

The administration has also stepped up ICE raids and deportations across the country. Its aim isn't to deport all undocumented workers, but to ensure that those who remain live and work in fear. The U.S. rulers believe that the second-class status these workers face will make them less willing to resist the bosses' drive for low pay, backbreaking workloads and few or no benefits, and make them afraid to turn to unions to fight alongside U.S.-born workers for a better life.

For the labor movement, leading a fight to win amnesty for all workers without papers in the U.S. is key to unifying the working class to meet the growing attacks of the bosses.



Reuters/Damian Sanchez

Migrants from Central America march in Tapachula, in southern Mexico, in the largest caravan toward the border this year. The conditions driving immigrants to the U.S. have not gone away.

Washington steps up use of Puerto Rico as a military base

Continued from front page

Rico Ports Authority, an agency of the colonial government.

But in September 2025 the airfields were once again full of U.S. military aircraft, as Washington reactivated the base and began deploying an armada in the Caribbean. It was the largest deployment of U.S. naval forces there since the Cuban Missile Crisis and full naval blockade of Cuba in 1962.

Military exercises on the island were part of the Pentagon's preparations for an assault on Venezuela, as it carried out dozens of airstrikes that U.N. officials say have killed 239 people in 71 strikes against alleged drug trafficking boats. U.S. military MQ-9 Reaper drones and other aircraft have been reported operating out of Puerto Rico as part of broader surveillance and other military operations.

Cost of colonial domination

The U.S. military paid the Ports Authority $5 million for use of the airport, a shameful imposition on the Puerto Rican people for using its soil for attacks on sister nations.

By comparison, "counter narco-terrorism" Operation Southern Spear and its companion, Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela, cost an estimated $4.7 billion from August 2025 to March 2026.

Operation Absolute Resolve was the U.S. invasion force sent to kidnap and imprison President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, on Jan. 3. Some 100 people were killed during the operation, including 32 Cuban combatants who were part of Maduro's security detail.

By this September, more than $13 billion in Venezuelan oil revenue had been deposited in U.S.-controlled accounts, and U.S. oil bosses have secured concessions for extracting oil worth billions of dollars from Venezuela.

Through its colonial domination over Puerto Rico, Washington used Vieques for bombing runs to train for wars and invasions, such as against Grenada in 1983, the Dominican Republic in 1965, Haiti in 1994 and Panama in 1989.

Fishermen and other residents of Vieques protested for years against the human and environmental contamination there, including a march of 50,000 in 1999 and another of 85,000 in San Juan in 2000. The escalating protests and widespread opposition to the U.S. military presence on the island forced Washington to close its base there in 2003.

Six decades of U.S. bombings left much of the island's waters and soil contaminated with uranium, lead and arsenic. Working people on Vieques suffer higher cancer rates than anywhere else in Puerto Rico.

At the annual United Nations decolonization hearing on the status of Puerto Rico June 22, several speakers denounced Washington's reactivation and stepped-up use of its military bases in Puerto Rico.

"We are being used as a platform for military operations and strategies assaulting the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean," Iván Elías Rodríguez of the National Hostosiano Independence Movement told the committee.

Washington has sent "military personnel and combat planes to Puerto Rico," said Lydael Vega Otero of the Professional Social Workers Guild of Puerto Rico, that violate "the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people" and threaten "military incursion on Cuban soil."

Washington's military buildup in the Caribbean is part of a broader deployment of U.S. forces throughout Central and Latin America, as the imperialist rulers seek to reassert economic and political dominance over "their" Western Hemisphere against rivals like Beijing.

Many of the U.S. military assets sent to the region earlier this year were redeployed after the Jan. 3 assault on Venezuela to take part in Washington's escalating confrontation with Iran. The U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command still maintains a formidable force operating in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

Under the banner of fighting drug cartels, Washington has stepped up collaboration with compliant governments in the region. U.S. Special Forces and naval warships have conducted joint strikes with Ecuadorian forces against a group they labeled as drug traffickers.

In October, some 200 soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York, conducted jungle combat training with Panamanian forces for the first time in 20 years.

On Oct. 30 Venezuelan government forces conducted an assault against Colombian guerrillas from the National Liberation Army (ELN) inside Venezuela with the help of U.S. intelligence and drones. According to the *New York Times*, Washington and Caracas are negotiating for an agreement on a long-term U.S. military presence on Venezuelan soil.

The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us



The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Chicago hotel workers press demands for contract

CHICAGO — "Marriot is cheap! Cheap and mean!" chanted strikers on a noisy picket line outside the Marriott Marquis hotel here Nov. 15, the second day of a five-day work stoppage.

"When you see the billions we help this company make on a yearly basis, what we're asking for is pennies," bellman Erroll Howard told the *Militant*. "We're the lowest-paid department, so it was a no-brainer for the bellmen when it became time to strike."

"We don't want to be rich, but we should have the means and ways to get by," said co-worker Albert Blair, a chef. "It was going kind of OK until prices started going way up — gas, everything in the store. And our pay is stagnant." He said he didn't hold out much hope the results of the midterm elections would change anything. "The Democrats controlled Congress before, and they didn't do anything" for working people.

Along with the Marriott Marquis, hotel workers are also on strike at the Royal Sonesta Chicago Downtown and The Wade in the city's Near North Side. It's the third wave of strikes by workers at some 40 hotels fighting for new contracts after the old ones expired Sept. 1. Issues include wages, benefits, and workloads. Workers from hotels that are not on strike have joined the picket lines as well.

To send a message of solidarity, or to find out how to join a picket line, contact UNITE HERE Local 1, 218 S. Wabash Ave., 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604.

— Naomi Craine

Norwegian postal workers strike over gov't move to cut deliveries

OSLO, Norway — Postal workers across the country struck for three hours and held rallies in some 40 cities Nov. 16, demanding a stop to planned mass firings by Posten, the government's national postal company. As the rally of over 600 got underway here, subway and tram workers, members of the Oslo Sporveiers Arbeiderforening union, stopped work for 15 minutes in solidarity.

This is the first-ever nationwide political strike organized by the Fagforbundet union. It opposes plans by the ruling Arbeiderpartiet (Labor Party) to reduce mail delivery to one day a week, which would lead to 2,000 of the 3,000 delivery workers being fired.

Mail carrier Espen Ronningen and package delivery worker Kitto Buberg both told the *Militant* the strike action was important in the fight to stop the cuts. Due to a decline in letters being mailed, "we have to change," Ronningen said, "but we can be used for other jobs rather than be fired."

Since 2015 Posten has gone on a massive offensive against the workforce, slashing the number of workers from some 20,000 to 12,000. Most post offices have been closed, then opened up inside grocery stores, where low-paid and already overworked employees have to find time to receive and give out mail as they stock shelves.

Leaders from the four parties that support the government in parliament spoke against the cuts at the rally. A representative from the national retirees organization also condemned the proposed cuts, saying elderly people are more dependent on getting letters.



Militant/Naomi Craine

Striking members of UNITE HERE Local 1 picket Marriott Marquis hotel in Chicago Nov. 15, part of strike for new contracts by workers at some 40 hotels in the area over wages, workloads.

Helene Skeibrok, the head of the Fagforbundet union, told the *Militant* the rallies around the country will send a clear message to the government.

— Greg McCartan

Sutter nurses picket hospitals across Northern California

BURLINGAME, Calif. — Nurses and healthcare workers set up informational picket lines at 13 Sutter Health facilities across Northern California over the week beginning Nov. 9, demanding the healthcare giant come to terms. They've been in negotiations since August but no agreement has been reached on the key questions. The current contract expires Dec. 1.

The California Nurses Association, which represents the 10,000 nurses and healthcare workers involved, says winning an adequate level of staffing is needed to protect patient safety. "Safe staffing" was emblazoned on many of the picket signs at Mills Peninsula Medical Center here Nov. 11.

"They are adding more surgeries, but keep the same staff level," Maricar Chavez, one of four registered nurses in the ambulatory surgery department there, told the *Militant*. "We help each other, that's why we lasted."

The CNA is also pushing for "protections for nurses and patients in the hospitals' use of AI"; safeguards to ensure care for patients regardless of immigration status; and against any hospital closures.

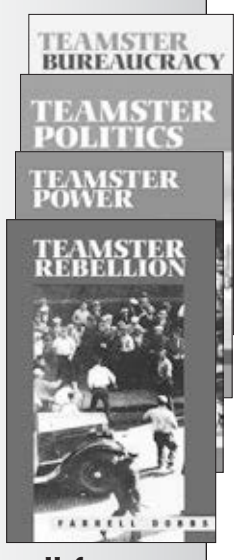
Sutter Health made headlines recently when it announced it had decided to scrap plans to build a new full-service hospital in Emeryville to replace the Alta Bates Hospital, which they intend to close. The company said it will seek a different site for a new East Bay hospital and hopes to keep Alta Bates open until it is built.

— Andrea Morell

Lessons of Teamster battles from 1930s

4 books by Farrell Dobbs

"The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership, they can overcome."



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80,000 students in Quebec go out on strike over crisis in education

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — Several thousand students demonstrated here Nov. 13, part of a weeklong strike by some 80,000 students across Quebec. While the protest has been in the works for months, many participants said they were inspired by recent student protests in France to act now. Organized by the Coalition for Resistance and Student Union Unity (CRUES), they are demanding increased funding for colleges and universities, changes to financial aid and compensation for unpaid internships. The recently elected Parti Quebecois government has promised further austerity moves.

Students at the protest told the *Militant* about the impact of having to work as unpaid interns and of government cuts to education funding on their lives. Dali Khayat, an education student at the University of Quebec at Montreal, said she is required to work as an intern teaching more than 30 hours a week with no pay. "So I don't have time for a part-time job," she said. A February 2025 study found that 44% of college students in Quebec faced some type of "food insecurity."

This August the College of General and Vocational Education (CEGEP) St. Laurent — a two-year program after high school in Quebec that can prepare students for either university or jobs — closed a third school building because its deterioration endangered safety.

CRUES announced the protests will continue.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

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

November 26, 2001

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — The International Longshoremen's Association in South Carolina declared victory in the case of the "Charleston Five" after a nearly two-year battle in defense of union rights.

Days before the framed-up dockworkers were to be tried on felony riot charges that could lead to long prison terms, the prosecution settled for a plea agreement on misdemeanor charges with no jail time. "The Charleston Five are finally free," said Kenneth Riley, president of ILA Local 1422. "This is a tremendous victory for the labor movement in South Carolina."

In response to this attack, the longshoremen launched a militant defense campaign that set an example for the entire labor movement. ILA officials from Charleston traveled throughout the United States and to Europe, South Africa, and elsewhere explaining their fight and gaining support.

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

November 26, 1976

The SWP has again forced a retreat on the FBI. The agency has ordered its field offices to urge their informers to get out of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. This latest retreat was disclosed when Leonard Boudin, the socialists' attorney, questioned FBI Director Clarence Kelley for the SWP and YSA lawsuit against government harassment.

Syd Stapleton, an SWP leader who was present during Kelley's testimony, explained, "Kelley was compelled to issue the order to informers because he knew he was required to testify under oath in our suit."

Since the socialists' lawsuit against government political police agencies was filed in 1973, it has uncovered a seemingly endless stream of FBI crimes: burglaries, disruption programs, illegal mail covers, wiretapping, poison-pen letters, and — as recently as last summer — black-bag jobs by informers.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 26, 1951

The CIO convention's strong denunciation of the "retreats" on the civil liberties front was an important development in the mobilization of resistance to the witch-hunt. The CIO asked "all men of good will" to join with it in urging Congress to revise existing legislation, especially the Smith Act and the Subversive Activities Control Act, by striking out provisions "which permit prosecution on the basis of speech or advocacy alone."

On Nov. 8, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas sounded a warning that the U.S. is "drifting dangerously fast" to a condition of "repression."

"Fear has mounted — fear of losing one's job, fear of being investigated, fear of being pilloried. This fear has narrowed the range of free public discussion. We have the spectacle of university officials lending themselves to one of the worst kinds of witch hunts."

US blocks Cuba's help, crucial in 2014, in latest Ebola epidemic

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November is *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa* by Enrique Ubieta Gómez. He explains the book is "about the solidarity and internationalism that are at the heart of the Cuban Revolution." It recounts the work of Cuba's volunteer doctors and nurses in West Africa during the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic, when Cuba continued its decades-long tradition of solidarity by sending volunteers, including 256 doctors and nurses out of 12,000 who stepped forward, in response to the call for help from governments in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Over eight months, the Cuban volunteers were crucial in helping stamp out Ebola in those countries.

The book is especially timely now, as the latest and fastest-growing Ebola outbreak Africa has faced, centered in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is wreaking havoc. In its first six months, over 11,200 have been infected with the virus, and over 5,500 have died. It continues to spread. Unlike the 2014-2015 eruption, Cuba is prevented from sending medical brigades to help bring the epidemic under control. The U.S. government has pressured foreign governments to abandon all efforts to use Cuban healthcare workers to combat the epidemic under threat of sanctions and loss of U.S. financial "aid."

In Cuba, healthcare is treated as a right guaranteed to all, not a commodity to be bought and sold for profit. Cuba serves as an example to the world of the difference a socialist revolution can make. It's this example Washington is driving to eliminate. The excerpt is from the preface. Copyright © 2019 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

❖

BY RÓGER CALERO AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

The small island nation of Cuba provided what was most needed and what no other country even tried to deliver: hundreds of doctors, nurses, technicians, and public health specialists *on the ground, caring for thousands of desperately ill human beings and their families and communities traumatized by the killer disease.*

For the Cuban people and their communist leadership, such a response was nothing new. It was simply one more example of the political course that began with the January 1959 triumph of a revolution that brought to power a government representing working people. A government of, by, and for the humble, as they often describe it. That course — at home and abroad — is one of solidarity, not charity. …

[In] the words of Fidel Castro, historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, at the opening of the Ebola mission in October 2014: "The medical personnel who will go anywhere to save lives, even at risk of losing their own, are the greatest example of solidarity a human being can offer, above all because they aren't motivated by material interest."

The discipline, courage, sense of humor, and joy of these Cuban volunteers comes through time and again in these pages. The political course and moral values their actions embody are an expression of the social relations only a truly socialist revolution can produce. They register the economic, social, and political conquests working people in Cuba have made since they freed their country from US imperialist domination and took power out of the hands of domestic and foreign capitalists and plantation landowners.

Many have asked, "Why did no other country in the world respond to the Ebola epidemic the way Cuba did? Can't Cuba's medical system and internationalist missions be emulated by other countries?" The answer is no secret. Cuba's proletarian internationalism is the product of a socialist revolution. It cannot be grafted onto other nations, nor reproduced by men and women who have not been transformed by a similar revolutionary class struggle. …

The record the Cuban internationalists recount here helps us understand what a socialist revolution is. Eradicating exploitation changes not only the circumstances in which we live and work. It begins to change what capitalism teaches us is "immutable" human nature. Cuba's example points us to the only class forces that can and will make it possible for working people to fundamentally transform ourselves as we transform social conditions.

Red Zone also provides a compelling refutation of the US government's slanders against Cuba's internationalist medical cooperation.

Precisely because the example of this cooperation is so powerful and so welcomed by working people around the world, Washington has intensified efforts to peddle the lie that Cuban doctors, nurses, and medical technicians who volunteer for these missions are victims of "exploitative and coercive labor practices," "human trafficking," even "modern slavery!" …

Washington's slanderous campaign is simply another front in the six-decade-long economic war by US Democratic and Republican administrations alike aimed at isolating and economically strangling the Cuban people. These measures, once again tightened since 2017, have the objective of ultimately restoring control of Cuba's land, labor, factories, and natural resources to capitalist hands, from which they were ripped by working people in the opening years of the revolution. …

In *Red Zone*, Ubieta said at the 2016 launching, "I write about the seeds we are sowing inside and outside of ourselves. Every time a Cuban doctor takes part in a mission abroad, they renew themselves as revolutionaries."

Some people contend "that the epic moments of the Cuban Revolution are a thing of the past," Ubieta noted, and "that Cubans should concern themselves only with their own individual, everyday problems, which can sometimes be overwhelming.

"And then suddenly you hear the battle cry, like the request we received for aid. And thousands turn out, volunteering to go. Solidarity is very much alive in the Cuban people."



Ronald Hernández Torres

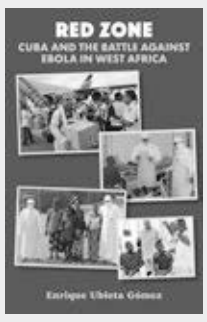
Cuban volunteer healthcare workers, who helped lead fight against deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa 2014-15, at U.S.-built clinic they were invited to run in Liberia, Oct. 31, 2014.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

November
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Wheeling & Lake Erie workers win strike over jobs and safety

BY CANDACE WAGNER

At noon Nov. 11, union picket captains at the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway yards got on the radio and told operating crews to secure their trains and join the picket line. "BLET Division 292 on strike!" Steve Totten, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in Brewster, Ohio, said on a video posted on the union's Facebook page.

One hundred forty BLET-organized engineers and conductors shut down the regional carrier, which serves businesses in Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Nine hours later the union declared victory. The company had capitulated to its demand.

The decision to strike came after the company assigned two supervisors to operate a train, instead of the contractually required crew of a BLET engineer and conductor. The company said it intends to continue doing so in the future.

"It's important for us to stand up for our union employees and workers' rights," Owen Perry, an engineer and president of BLET Division 292, explained on the video. "Let these big companies know they can't just do what they want, whenever they want." The union had conducted and won a strike over the same issue in 2013.

"The opportunity to strike under these circumstances is rare," BLET National President Mark Wallace explained that evening in a statement, headlined "A Victory for Our Brotherhood."

"The Railway Labor Act places strict limits on our ability to strike. In the earlier W&LE case, a federal appeals court had already determined that replacing union conductors with managers presented a major dispute and violated the railroad's obligation to maintain existing working conditions," the statement said.

"Conductors play a critical role in a two-person crew and train safety," Wallace added. "Both crafts represented by the BLET stood together to protect the work of the conductor. That is how we preserve the two-person crew requirement that will keep our communities safe: Standing together, united as one."

This is an important victory. Rail bosses across the country have been pushing to reduce the operating crew size to just an engineer for years, to boost their profits.



Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen shut down Wheeling & Lake Erie rail yards Nov. 11 when bosses had supervisors operate train, instead of union members.

Indiana rally builds support for locked-out BP workers

Continued from front page

the workers have repeatedly mobilized broad support for their fight, and their spirits are high.

BP wants to eliminate more than 100 union jobs, cut base wages for nearly all job classifications, strip the union of bargaining rights, bar the union from going on strike until it gives 150-day advance notice, end seniority protections in layoffs and force Local 7-1 out of the national oil bargaining bloc by imposing a six-year contract.

"They want the sole, exclusive authority to make whatever changes they want, even after the contract is signed, and that negates the purpose of even having a contract," Shultz said.

"We've been out on the picket lines without a paycheck for 240 days," he added. "A job is more than a paycheck. It's your dignity. Those eight months were made possible — survivable — by people like you. We have distributed $7 million to help our members pay for mortgages and utility bills. Dozens of international unions and the whole community of Whiting have contributed!

"Why do we need your support to continue? Because this fight is bigger than us. Every company in America is watching. If we let them get away with what they want, this will happen over and over and over again. There is nothing more inspiring to us than seeing you join our picket lines.

"By coming out today you are showing our members that we are not alone. We've won support from Alaska, New Jersey, California and Texas." He asked, "Are we alone?" The crowd roared, "No!" Everyone joined him to shout out the main slogan of their fight — "One day longer! One day stronger!"

Broad support

Members of several other USW locals participated, including those representing workers at a number of U.S. Steel and Cleveland-Cliffs mills across northwest Indiana, which are currently in contract talks themselves. Workers also came from smaller shops, as well as USW members from the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, where 1,600 workers had been locked out earlier this year.

Roofers, carpenters, decorators from Chicago's McCormick Place convention center and autoworkers from Ford were there. And family members and members of the community joined in.

Nancy Duran works at the Cleveland-Cliffs Burns Harbor steel mill and is a member of USW Local 6787. She came with a friend who works at U.S. Steel in Gary and her two young daughters. "The rich just want to keep getting richer," Duran said. "It's important for the younger generation to understand. People fought back in the day for us and what we have today. And now we have to fight for them. These lockouts are a way for them to start destroying the unions.

"At Cleveland-Cliffs we don't have a contract yet either," she said. "These company owners just think about themselves and their profits and their money. I brought my daughters today so they could begin to understand why we have to keep fighting and showing up for all workers."

Brenda English, another steelworker from USW Local 6787 and a leader of Women of Steel, said, "Our local supports them because this very well could be us tomorrow. What's happened is just not right.

"And especially because the company has moved in court to try and make the workers pay back all the unemployment they've gotten. BP is making millions and millions of dollars on the high gas prices from the Iran war and they still want to keep the workers from getting what they deserve."

The union fought and won three months of unemployment from the state of Indiana at a little more than $300 a week. But BP filed an objection last month, asking the court to stop paying unemployment benefits and claw back everything already paid. The court has yet to rule on the case.

Courtney Mansfield is financial secretary of USW Local 7-209, which organizes smaller plants in the area. She works making oil additives. "Community support is a huge deal. Without it these families would be struggling going into the holidays," she said. "We need all the Steelworkers, Teamsters and other unions to stand together against corporate greed." Her local has helped. "Right now we're getting donations for Thanksgiving. We're also going to sign up to help with the Angel Tree, to get Christmas gifts for the children."

Jorge Torres-García is a member of USW Local 1010 at the Cleveland-Cliffs mill in East Chicago. "Local 1010 has been collecting food donations, diapers and financial collections," he said.

Several local politicians as well as representatives of the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation spoke at the rally.

Shultz wrapped up the action, thanking "all the unions that have given support, in addition to the politicians, the businesses which continue to support the union by donating meals and giving discounts and those in the community who have brought donations and participated in solidarity actions."

"Chicago is a union town. Northwest Indiana is union. We come from union families," he said. "Today this refinery is owned by BP. Before that, it was Standard and Amoco. But the ones who have been here all along are us. They don't rule our lives! With your support we'll continue the fight for what we and all workers deserve!"

To send solidarity or a contribution, write to USW Local 7-1 Strike & Defense Fund, 2045 Schrage Ave., Whiting, IN 46394. To join the picket line, stop by the union hall at this address.

Los Angeles meeting discusses book on Cuba and African freedom struggles

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — "This is such an important book," Eric Mann told the 35 people at a Nov. 8 panel on Pathfinder's new book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban leader Víctor Dreke. Mann manages the Strategy and Soul Book Center where the meeting was held.

The book chronicles the fight to end 500 years of Portuguese colonial domination in West Africa in the 1970s, the indispensable internationalist aid given by the Cuban Revolution, and the decisive leadership of Amílcar Cabral.

Speaking for Pathfinder Books in Los Angeles and for the Socialist Workers Party, Norton Sandler described the conditions imposed on Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau by Portuguese rule. "Fidel Castro and the Cuban leadership recognized the importance of the liberation struggles in Africa. At the time, Guinea-Bissau had no industry, no working class to speak of and an average life expectancy of 37 years."

"Cabral had a very broad capacity as a leader," Sandler said, quoting him. "Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories."

Mann returned to this point. "In reading the book, I was struck by Cabral's focus on ethics and morality in the creation of the socialist woman and man. He was very African nationalist, but he wanted Africans to see themselves as internationalists, leaders of the world."

Mark Friedman, a leader of the US Hands Off Cuba Committee in Los Angeles, gave a presentation on efforts by Global Health Partners to oppose the U.S. government blockade of Cuba and to send them much needed medical aid. Renowned worldwide for the quality of its healthcare system, Cuba today faces a real crisis due to the blockade, he said. Over $1,000 was raised at the meeting to advance GHP's work.

During the discussion, participants spoke about Washington's accelerated efforts to strangle the Cuban Revolution. "The book is very important in helping explain the revolution and combating Washington's anti-Cuban thought," Mann said.

"Washington is undertaking the most concerted attempt to overthrow the Cuban Revolution in decades," Sandler added. "They say they're not going to do it militarily, but they let that hang in the air. This is the time to step up our solidarity efforts."

Florida targets Cuba supporters

Continued from front page

tion into whether trips by DSA delegations to Cuba and China were illegal under Florida law.

The DSA "picked the wrong state to be messing with in terms of communists," DeSantis told the press. "We're the only state in the country that has anticommunism curriculum now in our schools." Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, students in Florida have to be taught "how communist ideologies suppress individual freedoms, abuse power, and inflict widespread human suffering," a press release from the Florida Department of Education says.

Like thousands of other individuals and organizations opposed to the decades of Washington's aggression against Cuba, the DSA has organized several trips to the island to learn more about developments there and to offer support. "Delegates delivered hundreds of pounds of solidarity aid and learned about the achievements and challenges of Cuban socialism," DSA's website says of a trip to Cuba by 40 members in October 2025. "They met Cuban workers, doctors, teachers, and artists who keep the country running despite the growing hardships imposed by the U.S. blockade."

In January this year the DSA organized the Venceremos Fund, a project to raise money to help finance DSA-backed trips and political work abroad. The DSA also organized a five-person delegation that traveled to Beijing in September 2025.

It hasn't been made public which financial records, donor information or communications the Florida subpoena demands be turned over. Under Florida law, the attorney general's office can demand documents and sworn testimony be surrendered *even before* deciding whether to bring a case, let alone prove that any laws have been broken.

These moves follow steps by Washington earlier this year, reported by Fox News, to target 145 organizations, including a number of national trade unions and political organizations, such as the Socialist Workers Party and others who have offered support for Cuba's sovereignty and its socialist revolution. In July the House Ways and Means Committee issued subpoenas against three U.S. nonprofits that have organized trips and extended solidarity to Cuba — the People's Forum in New York, BreakThrough News and Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

Another attack on rights

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a nationwide Muslim political rights group in the U.S., and its state chapter in Florida were designated "terrorist organization[s]" by Gov. DeSantis late last year. CAIR sued, and a broad coalition of religious organizations, including the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Hindus for Human Rights and others, filed a friend-of-the-court brief in its defense. In March a federal district court ruled DeSantis' order violated the First Amendment.

The governor responded by sponsoring a new state process that allowed him to designate domestic terrorist organizations, one that widely expands the state's authority to unilaterally single out and punish groups — including nonprofits engaged in First Amendment-protected activities.

CAIR was once again named a domestic terrorist organization. "They have not been charged with, let alone convicted of, any crime. They do not engage in 'terrorist activity,'" said the Florida American Civil Liberties Union. It and the national ACLU are part of the legal team representing CAIR and its Florida chapter in the case.

But a judge ruled this month the order would be in effect while further legal action continued. CAIR announced it has suspended operations in Florida to avoid the severe penalties it would face if it continued to function. Its legal appeal continues.

Despite US blockade, Marathon in Havana draws thousands



Granma/Ricardo López Hevia

Against all odds, the Marabana Marathon, Cuba's most important international race, took place with thousands of runners and walkers going through the streets and by the well-known landmarks of Havana Nov. 15. "It is very motivating to see so many people participating despite the conditions we are in," one runner told Cuban TV. "Coming to run and outdo themselves."

The annual race, held each November to commemorate the city's founding, went ahead despite the economic hardships and prolonged power outages that have intensified as a result of the U.S. rulers' oil blockade and tightening of trade and financial sanctions against Cuba.

Some 3,000 Cubans — including nationally known athletes and amateurs — along with 70 participants from abroad, gathered before sunrise at the start of the race. The event also includes a half-marathon and the more popular 10K and 5K races. Families with children, participants in wheelchairs and people with disabilities, such as Ernesto Javier Consuegra, above, joined the races, as spectators cheered from the sidewalks.

"I'm here for the sovereignty of my country and because Cuba will not bow down to anyone," runner Karla Montoro said. Many of the runners wore signs that read "Cuba is not a threat; the blockade is," answering the spurious claim made by Washington to try to justify its attempts to strangle the Cuban people into submission. Participants came from Mexico, Italy, Vietnam, France, Germany, Chile and Colombia. Some wore jerseys that read "Cuba is not alone."

"The blockade is suffocating the Cuban people," Yuraldi Cava told The Associated Press as he ran. "We are going to win this fight."

— RÓGER CALERO

'Yes, Cuba is a small country, but we will resist'

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — Some 25 people attended a meeting here Nov. 2 to hear Leima Martínez Freire, director of the North America division of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), speak about Cuba's fight to defend its revolution against the sharpening blows of Washington. The event was sponsored by the Quebec-Cuba Roundtable. Similar meetings took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Toronto.

A week earlier the United Nations General Assembly for the 34th consecutive year adopted a resolution denouncing the economic war waged by U.S. imperialism against Cuba's socialist revolution for over six decades.

Ottawa supported the resolution, but went on to point out they weren't voting to support Cuba's government.

"Washington has pursued the same policy since the early days of the revolution," Martínez said, "which is to use economic strangulation to undermine popular support for the government."

"Today, Washington is attacking not only Cuba but also the countries that support it, threatening those in the U.S. who back the revolution. The U.S. government accuses them of being 'unregistered agents' of Cuba — a crime under their law."

"This targets people like you, who take an interest in Cuba. The imperialists are incapable of understanding what solidarity means, because it is completely absent from their own values."

Situation in Cuba is 'complex'

"The situation in Cuba is complex today," she said. "Oil supplies in particular have been a primary target since the beginning of the year. Since January, we have received only one Russian oil tanker and two small Mexican deliveries. Transportation has ground to a halt, and there are massive power outages. In my neighborhood, the power was out from last Thursday until Sunday afternoon, meaning no lights, elevators, water and no phone service. How are you supposed to cook without water?"

"Washington is increasingly threatening military intervention," she said. "We must continue our campaign to get the truth out and build solidarity."

In response to a question on how the Cuban people are responding, Martínez said, "We are taking action on three fronts. First, the government has adopted 176 economic measures to increase industrial and agricultural production by easing the administrative or bureaucratic hurdles that hinder new initiatives. This is the only way to reduce inflation. A new labor code has also been adopted, granting equal rights to all workers, regardless of whether their employer is the state or a private entity."

"Second, there is community-based work. The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution — which exist in every neighborhood and village — help residents support one another in addressing their challenges, such as carrying water to upper floors when elevators don't work."

She described how solar panels have been installed at every health clinic to ensure everyone has access to care.

"There are shortages, but there is no chaos in Cuba," Martínez said.

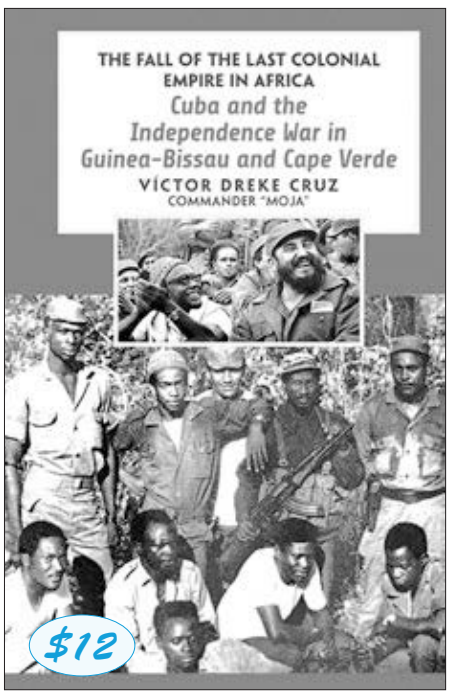
The third front of this collective response, she added, "is preparing ourselves to defend against any military attack." In addition to the preparations of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, "defense councils" have been active across Cuba for months. Each month, "defense days" are held, during which people practice handling weapons, using protective gear and identifying where to take shelter in the event of an attack.

In response to a question about tourism, Martínez said, "it was targeted by Washington because it was a major source of revenue for the government. They pressured airlines to stop flying to Cuba, which most did. Hotels closed."

The government took steps to find work for the 30,000 hospitality industry employees, "but many thousands more depend on tourism for their livelihood."

Martínez said she had seen the travel advisories issued by the Canadian government discouraging Canadians from visiting Cuba. "Under these circumstances those who come to Cuba today do not do so as tourists, but out of solidarity. We are a small country, but we will resist," she said.

Essential reading



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EDITORIAL

Defend Ukraine sovereignty! US out of Europe!

Before President Donald Trump headed off for a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen, China, the U.S. government proposed to Ukraine that it surrender the resource-rich Donbas region to Moscow's invading forces, in exchange for a promise of future protection from the U.S.-led NATO military alliance.

Washington's scheme would tear apart Ukraine's sovereignty and flies in the face of the courageous battle waged by working people in Ukraine to resist Putin's bloody war of conquest. But it's consistent with the course of both the Biden and Trump administrations throughout the war. The U.S. rulers' concern has nothing to do with defense of Ukraine's sovereignty. Their class interest is to maintain their political and military sway over the dominant imperialist powers worldwide and to draw Moscow away from Beijing, Washington's foremost rival.

As the crisis of capitalism deepens, the U.S. and all other capitalist rulers are driven to expand their destructive military might in a forced march toward a third world war. The U.S. rulers are determined to come out on top in the sharpening clashes among capitalist powers today for control over resources, markets and labor to exploit.

U.S. foreign policy everywhere is an extension of the U.S. rulers' drive to squeeze more out of working people at home. To strengthen their position worldwide, they're fighting to hold down our wages, slash benefits, speed up production and are pushing to divide native-born and foreign-born workers from one another, to weaken the working class.

In the face of Moscow's nearly five-year war, working people in Ukraine refuse to give up. Putin seeks to seize back territories once conquered by the Russian czars, in order to enrich the country's current capitalist rulers and strengthen their position worldwide. For centuries the people of Ukraine have fought Moscow's domination, leading to the popular Maidan uprising in 2014 that toppled the oppressive rule of the pro-Moscow regime of President Viktor Yanukovych.

The fight to defend Ukraine's sovereignty is in the interests of workers and our unions the world over. None more so than working people in Russia whose lives are being sacrificed in huge numbers. Workers and youth in Russia are used as cannon fodder at the front and thrown into prison at home for speaking out against Putin's war.

The interests of workers in the U.S. lie with fellow workers in Ukraine and Russia and not with the U.S. rulers nor either of their Democratic and Republican parties. We have every interest in getting out the truth about Ukraine's right to exist as an independent nation and calling for Moscow to get its forces out now. And in opposing Washington's own predatory extension of its military forces across Europe, ever-closer to Russia's borders. We call for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces and weapons from Europe.

The fight to defend Ukraine's sovereignty goes hand in hand with the fight by workers against bosses' attacks at home. It's through these struggles that we advance working-class unity, self-confidence and class consciousness. Fighting workers increasingly see our problems don't lie with just one or another boss, but with social relations founded on the exploitation of our class by the entire capitalist class and their hold on state power. With leadership, we build the party that's needed to lead tens of millions to replace capitalist rule with a workers government in the U.S., part of making socialist revolutions in an expanding number of countries across the world.

French unions back Ukraine against Moscow's war

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Eight trade union federations in France — the two largest, the Democratic Federation of Labor (CFDT) and the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), both with over 600,000 members, as well as the FO, CFE-CGC, CFTC, UNSA, Solidaires and FSU — issued a joint declaration, "Solidarity with the resistance of the workers of Ukraine!" Nov 4.

It noted, "Ukraine has been facing a large-scale war of aggression" waged by Moscow since Feb. 24, 2022.

The statement came as an immediate response to an appeal for support by the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine.

"Russian bombings strike civilian infrastructure, schools, health facilities, and water, heating, and electricity supply networks on a daily basis," the joint statement said. "With winter approaching, this destruction directly threatens the living conditions of millions of people." However, it added, "the country still lacks sufficient means of defense to protect its population and infrastructure."

Pressures exerted by Washington, the unions said, "in connivance with Vladimir Putin, raise fears of an imposed outcome for Ukraine." They strongly rejected any negotiations "conducted in disregard of the will of the Ukrainian people."

The French union confederations reaffirmed their "solidarity with Ukrainian trade unionists who, while actively participating in the resistance against the Russian military occupation, continue to organize, defend workers' rights, and voice their social demands despite the conditions imposed by the war."

The statement supported the Ukrainian union movement's efforts in defense of workers' rights at home. This is at a time "when a third of the country's workforce is employed under dangerous working conditions aggravated by the war."

"Alongside Ukrainian trade union organizations," the French unions denounced the Oct. 12 adoption by the Rada, Ukraine's parliament, of a law on occupational health and safety, which "marginalizes the role of trade unions in the effective monitoring" of on-the-job hazards. It "weakens existing guarantees, notably compensation mechanisms, social benefits, and protection provisions for workers exposed to these risks."

The statement noted with concern the Ukrainian government's labor code reform, "which risks increasing job insecurity for workers, weakening collective protections, and restricting trade union rights."

"International solidarity, the defense of trade union and social rights, and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace remain at the heart of our shared commitment," the declaration said. It concluded with the call:

"Solidarity with the workers of Ukraine!

Russian troops out of Ukraine!

For a just and lasting peace and for social justice!"

Correction

The front-page headline on the Nov. 23 *Militant* — "1,000s march as French unions call general strike" — was politically incorrect, misstating what actually took place. These were one-day partial work stoppages by a number of unions, which never approached a general, labor-wide character. If they had, they would have begun to challenge capitalist power. In such a confrontation, with the French union leadership firmly tied to capitalist rule, this would have meant a disaster for working people.

"Whatever its power and mass character, the general strike does not settle the problem of power; it only poses it," Leon Trotsky, a leader of the Bolshevik Revolution, wrote in 1924. "To seize power, it is necessary, while relying on the general strike, to organize an insurrection." For this, a leadership with a nose for power, steeled in struggle and trusted by working people in their millions, is required.

The *Militant* adjusted this headline in the issue online, to read "1,000s march as French unions call for strikes."

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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Spanish unions march

Continued from front page

prices and the broader impact of today's capitalist crisis.

"Live. Not Just Survive" read the banner at the front of the march of thousands in Barcelona Nov. 11.

The work stoppage was initiated by Spain's Tenants' Union and backed by the General Workers Union (UGT) and the Workers Commissions (CCOO). Union-led marches were held in cities and towns across the country.

"I'm 36 years old and I still can't move out on my own," hospital worker Jesús González told Reuters at the Madrid action. "The current cost of living compared to wages is completely unsustainable," Olga Domingo, a teacher on the march, told BBC. Over the past decade rents have soared by 87%, but average wages have gone up by only 28%.

Salesman Gonzalo Álvarez said he spends fully half his salary on rent for the one-bedroom apartment he shares with his girlfriend, a dental hygienist. "You have to be able to collect an insane amount of money to buy a house," he said.

Substantial contingents of autoworkers and warehouse, energy and port workers joined the work stoppage. The UGT and CCOO are demanding wage raises of 4% to 7%, a 7% hike in the minimum wage and a shorter workweek.

"We, the workers — who are also renters or who also pay mortgages — are the ones with the power to halt production and bring the economy to a standstill," Sandra Mora of the Madrid Tenants' Union told the *Guardian*.

The action built on a wave of street protests against the lack of affordable housing that swept Spain last month, sparked by outrage at the televised eviction of 87-year-old María del Carmen Abascal after landlords tripled the rent on her apartment. Shortly after, Abascal died in the hospital. Protesters set up encampments in several cities.

During the Nov. 11 marches in Madrid and Barcelona some masked protesters organized provocative confrontations with the police, smashing shop windows, looting stores and hurling fireworks at cops. The police seized on the violence as a pretext to fire tear gas at the marches.

The government of social democratic Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has called parliamentary elections for Nov. 29. Days before the strike, Sánchez warned that a victory for the opposition Popular Party would deal further blows to gains unions have fought for and won. The Popular Party said the unions only held the strike to try to get Sánchez re-elected.

Rail workers strike for safety

The Spanish Railroad Engineers and Trainmen's Union (SEMAF) went on strike on both Oct. 29 and Nov. 10, part of the union's fight for critical safety measures at the state-owned Renfe railroad. The union's action follows the deaths of 69 people in an Oct. 28 crash near Urda in Toledo province when a high-speed train smashed into one stopped on the track in front of it.

"How many tragedies must occur before they finally prioritize SAFETY?" SEMAF demanded in a Nov. 10 statement. The collision was the third fatal rail disaster in less than a year. Forty-seven people lost their lives in a derailment near Adamuz in Andalusia on the same rail line in January. The government and its rail company bosses never implemented safety measures that they had promised, the union stressed.

SEMAF's demands include hiring more drivers, protecting workers' rest periods and an end to the use of unsafe rolling stock.

The government issued a decree Nov. 10 saying it will strengthen rail inspections, protect drivers' rest periods and provide confidentiality to workers who report dangerous conditions and equipment. But, it added, these measures will not be implemented for six months.

"For SEMAF, commitments are no longer enough, not even when signed by a minister. We will only accept concrete measures that have been adopted and come into force," the union said. Further strike action is planned for Nov. 17 and 23.