

## Immigrant workers demand jobs back

254 at California company protest firings



Militant/Naomi Craine  
Fired workers and their supporters picket outside Overhill Farms food packaging plant in Vernon, California. Company fired 254 workers under pretext of invalid Social Security numbers.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

VERNON, California—"We're here, we're not leaving, and if they fire us we'll be back!" chanted 150 workers and their supporters outside the Overhill Farms plant here July 1.

The workers are demanding reinstatement after the company fired 254 of them for allegedly having invalid Social Security numbers. In their place, Overhill is hiring "part-time"

workers who work full-time hours at minimum wage with no benefits.

The ongoing fight by workers at Overhill Farms took on added importance when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) gave notice July 1 to 652 companies—nearly 50 of them in Los Angeles—of plans to audit their employment records. That's more notices than were issued in all

**Continued on page 8**

## New York socialist campaign launches drive to get on ballot

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

NEW YORK—Socialist Workers Party campaigners are hitting the streets of this city with a platform that addresses the pressing interests of working people in face of the deepening capital-

ist depression, social crisis, and imperialist wars. On July 7 they launched a drive to win ballot status for the SWP ticket in New York: Dan Fein for mayor, Maura DeLuca for public advocate, and Tom Baumann for Manhattan borough president.

In the first two days, 2,329 people signed petitions to put the socialist ticket on the ballot.

Fein, a veteran trade unionist, said the working-class perspective of the socialist campaign strikes a chord with many who have signed.

"Right now more U.S. troops are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan than at anytime since the Iraq war began, with the exception of the 'surge' in 2007. And this number is going to grow. Our campaign calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from these countries," said Fein.

"We face the deepest economic and social crisis of the capitalist system in living memory. And the ruling class is launching a frontal assault on the conditions of life of working people. The

**Socialists win right to petition on N.Y. campus**

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK—As we go to press, Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan borough president, has won the right to petition his fellow students at Hunter College to place him and his running mates on the ballot this fall.

On the first day of petitioning, July 7, Baumann was stopped by a campus cop and told he and his supporters would need a permit to petition.

That same day, a group of students who

**Continued on page 7**

## U.S. troops launch new offensive in Afghan war

BY BEN JOYCE

The U.S. military launched a major operation against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan July 2 involving some 4,000 troops. Meanwhile, the Pakistani government has agreed to resumption of flights of unmanned U.S. spy planes over Pakistani territory.

In addition to the stepped-up surveillance, the U.S. military continues to carry out its deadly missile strikes. Missiles launched from an unmanned drone aircraft killed 50 people June 23 in the border region of South Waziristan, and another nearby attack on July 3 killed at least six.

Operation Khanjar—"strike of the sword" in English—is one of the largest operations yet in the nearly eight-year-long U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. The 4,000 troops are from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The U.S. military overthrew the Taliban government in Afghanistan in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

The operation targets the southern Afghanistan province of Helmand, major sections of which have been controlled by Taliban forces for many years. The Helmand River Valley is the world's largest opium poppy-producing region, representing more than half of Afghanistan's opium crop, which accounts for 90 percent of the world's heroin.

Operation Khanjar is the first to utilize

**Continued on page 7**

## N. Carolina meat packers win first union pact

BY NED MEASEL

WASHINGTON—Workers at the giant Smithfield pork slaughterhouse in Tar Heel, North Carolina, voted to accept the first contract between their union, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1208 and the company. Eighty-four percent of the workers who participated in the two-day vote, June 30 and July 1, approved the pact.

"We really did accomplish something with this union," Mattie Fulcher, who has worked 10 years at the plant, told the *News & Observer*. "We might not have gotten the raise that we wanted, but that will come in time. This is our first contract, and it is a start."

Smithfield opened the plant in 1992. The union lost representation elections in 1994 and 1997 amid company intimidation, including beatings and arrests of union supporters, spying on union activists, confiscation of union materials, and harassment by the company's in-plant police force. A federal court threw out the results of both elections in 2006.

Smithfield agreed in 2007 to pay \$1.1 million in back wages plus interest to 10 workers fired for union activity. The company then launched a lawsuit against the union, claiming racketeering. The company dropped the suit when the UFCW agreed to end its national "Justice at Smithfield" campaign. Both sides agreed to hold a third union election in December 2008. Many workers campaigned for

**Continued on page 2**

## Rise in unemployment dashes gov't claims of 'recovery' signs

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Employers slashed 467,000 jobs in June, dashing hopes expressed by government officials that the U.S. economy is starting to rebound. The official unemployment rate in June rose to 9.5 percent, or 14.7 million workers, reported the U.S. Labor Department.

Some 7.2 million jobs have been cut since the recession began in December 2007. Unemployment has doubled from its 4.8 percent rate 16 months ago.

If you include the 2.2 million people the government doesn't count, claiming they haven't looked for work over the past month, and another 9 million forced into part-time hours, the unemployment and underemployment rate rose to 16.5 percent—nearly 26 million workers.

Those out of work for six months

### Also Inside:

Company threatens plant closure after union victory 2

Ousted Honduran leader agrees to U.S.-backed talks 3

Georgia prisons slash Friday inmate lunches 5

Are Palestinians in the working class? 8

# Company threatens plant closure after union victory

BY MAURA DELUCA

BRONX, New York—Bakery workers who have been on strike for nearly 11 months returned to work July 7 after winning a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruling reinstating their jobs with back pay. The company has threatened to close the plant in October.

According to workers in the plant, union officials have said they will oppose any attempt by the company to move the plant.

During the strike at the Stella D'oro Biscuit Company not one member of Local 50 of the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) crossed the picket line.

The June 30 NLRB ruling orders the company to reinstate all of the workers under terms of the last contract, to pay them wages going back to May with interest, and to provide the union a copy of its 2007 audited financial statement for the purpose of negotiating a new contract in "good faith."

The decision is largely based on the fact that the company told the union that it could not afford to continue to operate without cutting labor costs, and refused to supply the union with copies of financial records to prove that claim. The company sought \$1.6 million in concessions from the workers.

The 136 workers, many of them immigrants, in mid-August unanimously rejected the company's contract offer, which included cuts of up to 25 per-

cent in hourly wages; steep reductions in vacation, sick, personal, and holiday pay; and increased health-care costs. The judge also ruled invalid the company's declaration on August 27 of an "impasse" in negotiations.

The strikers withstood harsh weather conditions as well as pressure from the company in various forms, such as job fairs held right near the picket line. Early in the walkout the company attempted to divide strikers between so-called skilled and unskilled workers. Skilled workers were offered their jobs back with no wage changes, according to some of the strikers.

Workers on the picket line cheered upon hearing the news of the ruling, said Mike Filippou, a worker and union representative. Filippou noted that as part of the ruling the company would have to pay replacement workers back pay as well, since they were being paid much less than the unionized workers. Some replacement workers, he said, when coming to get their checks congratulated the strikers and said they want to join the



Militant/Tom Baumann

During their nearly 11-month strike, not one worker crossed the picket line at the Stella D'oro cookie factory in the Bronx. In union victory, National Labor Relations Board ruled June 30 company must reinstate workers with back pay. Above, strike support rally May 30.

union, too.

"I didn't think we would win because I thought the rich always get their way," commented striker Emilia Dorsu. "I was so surprised and so happy. People have been supporting us, which helped us stand our ground, and we stood out there all this time."

Dorsu called the ruling a victory for all working people. She said in

a later interview, "Now we need to fight to keep the plant open and in the Bronx."

Filippou emphasized, "No fight is easy or overnight, but we still need to struggle to win. Now with the economic crisis deepening, and workers facing layoffs and pay cuts, more people will need to fight and stick together."

## N. Carolina meat packers win first union contract

Continued from front page

the union, including inside the plant, this time winning union recognition by a vote of 2,041 to 1,879.

Effective July 1, the contract gives workers a 40 cents an hour wage increase each of the first three years, 30 cents an hour in the fourth year, and time-and-a-half pay for working

holidays. A Smithfield spokesperson reported that starting pay at the plant is about \$10 an hour and the average pay is about \$11.60 an hour.

According to the *News & Observer*, workers will get 26 hours of unpaid sick time per year with no disciplinary points. Employees will receive a third week of vacation after 10 years, down from the previous 13 years. The contract includes a guarantee of 30 hours of work a week in the first year and 32 hours thereafter.

The cost of health insurance will increase by as much as \$4 a week this year then remains steady. Job openings will be filled by seniority. Workers will have access to union representatives in the plant at all times, and get three paid days of funeral leave for death of an immediate family member.

A press release from the UFCW explains the contract also includes

protection of the existing pension plan, a continued joint worker/management safety committee, safety training, and a system to resolve workplace issues.

The plant is the largest pork processing plant in the world. About 4,650 workers slaughter and process about 32,000 hogs a day.

Last year, North Carolina had the lowest rate of union membership of any state at 3.5 percent, compared to 12.4 percent nationally. Official joblessness in the state surged in May to 11.1 percent, its highest rate in three decades.

Smithfield reported last month that it lost \$190.3 million in the fiscal year that ended May 3, compared with a profit of \$129 million the previous year. The company announced in February that it will close six plants in six states by year's end, resulting in 1,800 workers losing their jobs.

## THE MILITANT

### Defense of affirmative action

*The 'Militant' explains why the fight for quotas in hiring, seniority-based layoffs, and college admissions for Blacks, women, and others who face discrimination is indispensable in forging class solidarity among workers of all skin colors.*



Militant/Paul Pederson  
Howard University contingent in Washington, D.C., Millions More Movement rally, Oct. 15, 2005.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

### NEW READERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,  
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £18 • France, 12 Euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • Sweden, Kr60 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

### The Militant

Vol. 73/No. 27

Closing news date: July 8, 2009

Editor: Sam Manuel

Managing Editor: Martin Koppel

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Roger Calero, Ved Dookhun, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Ben Joyce, Omari Musa, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso

Published weekly except for one week in January and one week in July.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above

address.

**Africa, Asia, and the Middle East:** For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

**Canada:** For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, Montreal, Quebec, H2S 2N1.

**United Kingdom:** Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

**Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe:** Send £75 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

**France:** Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

**Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark:** Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

**New Zealand:** Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

**Australia:** Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

**Pacific Islands:** Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

# Ousted Honduran leader agrees to U.S.-backed talks

BY CINDY JAQUITH

July 8—The ousted president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, and Roberto Micheletti, who was appointed by the Honduran congress to replace him, have agreed to negotiations to resolve the governmental crisis. Following a July 7 meeting with Zelaya in Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the talks will be led by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Zelaya was arrested by Honduran troops June 28 and put on a plane to Costa Rica, as part of infighting between wings of the capitalist class. The Honduran congress voted unanimously—including the members of Zelaya's party—to name congress speaker Roberto Micheletti the new president, the succession stipulated by the constitution.

Declaring he remained the president, Zelaya made a show of attempting to land at the airport in the capital, Tegucigalpa, July 5. The army stationed vehicles blocking all runways at the airport. The pilot had to turn back, landing instead in Nicaragua.

Zelaya was to fly to Tegucigalpa together with the presidents of Argentina, Ecuador, and Paraguay—Cristina Kirchner, Rafael Correa, and Fernando Lugo respectively—but the three decided instead to fly to El Salvador, where they said they would "monitor" the situation.

Demonstrations have taken place almost daily, both supporting Zelaya's ouster and calling for his reinstatement. Some Zelaya supporters have been tear-gassed and arrested or beaten. Two people were reported killed by soldiers July 5 when a crowd tried to break through barriers at the airport. But a nighttime curfew decreed following Zelaya's ouster is largely not being enforced against pro-Zelaya demonstrators in the capital.

Several newspapers and radio stations were shut down in the first few days after Zelaya's fall, but many of these are now open, in a few cases without some previous reporters or announcers.

The three union federations in Honduras—the General Workers Union (CGT), Workers Confederation of Honduras (CTH), and Unitary Confederation of Honduran Workers (CUTH)—opposed Zelaya's overthrow. Union leaders called a general strike, but it didn't materialize. The main worksites affected were schools and some hospitals.

Daniel Durón, general secretary of the CGT, said in a July 6 phone interview that workers in private industry did not strike.

Maria Gloria García, a staff member in the San Pedro Sula office of COSIBAH, the banana workers union, said some banana workers observed the strike call the first day, but returned to work after other union members did not strike.

In San Pedro Sula demonstrations took place July 2 both in support of the new government and against it. García said many of the workers who participated in the action backing the ouster of Zelaya were employed in

nonunion garment shops in the free trade zone in that city. She said the majority of the Honduran garment industry is nonunion.

Zelaya belongs to a wealthy family in Honduras with large ranches and timber holdings. He is a leader of the Liberal Party, one of the two main capitalist parties, the other being the National Party. "He's a businessman, a rancher," said Durón, "but he took some initiatives that won him support."

In 2005 Zelaya ran for president on an anticrime platform sprinkled with slogans about "citizens' power" and "change."

Early in 2009 he decreed a raise in the minimum wage by 60 percent to about \$289 a month. Many employers refused to pay the higher wage or laid off large numbers of workers. Zelaya did not extend the raise to factory workers in the free trade zones. Some 100,000 are employed in garment and auto parts plants in these zones.

As the world capitalist economic crisis took a greater and greater toll on Honduras—one of the poorest countries in Latin America—Vene-

Continued on page 5

## Washington protest condemns 'terror' frame-ups

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

WASHINGTON—Supporters and family members of several Muslim men who have been held for years on frame-up charges of terrorism rallied outside the Convention Center here July 3. Mauri Saalakhan from the National Alliance of Indigenous Muslims chaired the gathering of about 100 people.

Burim Duka appealed for justice for his three older brothers, who were convicted last December along with two others on charges of "conspiring" to attack soldiers at Ft. Dix in New Jersey. The five young men—Elvir, Dritan, and Shain Duka, Mohamad Shnewer, and Serdar Tartar—are from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. They were entrapped by paid government informants and sentenced in April to extremely harsh terms ranging from 33 years to life plus 30 years.

Lynne Jackson spoke on behalf of Project Salam, an organization that is defending Yassin Aref and Mohammed Hossain. They were set up by a government agent provocateur and are serving 15-year sentences.

Project Salam also organizes support for Rafil Dhafir, a doctor from Syracuse, New York. Dhafir is serving 22 years. When the government could not prove that Dhafir's fund-raising for Iraqi children was "financing terror," he was charged and convicted of Medicare fraud, Jackson said.

Ali al-Arian spoke for his father, Sami al-Arian, who was a professor of computer science at the University of South Florida. The father successfully beat back terrorism charges after serving six and a half years in prison. He was released in September 2008. He now faces charges of criminal contempt for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury investigating a Virginia-based Islamic organization.

Faisal Hashmi said his brother,

## Miami protest meeting: Free the Cuban 5!



Militant/Ernest Mailhot

MIAMI—Around 90 people, mostly Cuban Americans, participated in a protest meeting here June 28 to demand freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries, known internationally as the Cuban Five, who have been unjustly locked up in U.S. prisons for almost 11 years. The Alianza Martiana, a coalition of groups that support normalizing relations with Cuba, organized the event. Speaking at the meeting, Max Lesnik (above), director of Radio Miami, denounced the June 15 U.S. Supreme Court decision to deny the five a retrial. "The five are imprisoned for defending Cuba, its sovereignty, and its revolution," Lesnik said. "Our objective is to keep the pressure on," said Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.

Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González were arrested in 1998 and convicted in 2001 in a federal court in Miami on a range of "conspiracy" charges. The five were monitoring counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups in Florida that have carried out violent attacks in Cuba with the complicity of the U.S. government.

—ROLLANDE GIRARD

Fahad Hashmi, has been held in solitary confinement for two years in New York. His trial on charges of providing material support to terrorism is scheduled for October. The evidence in the case is luggage containing ponchos and socks left in Hashmi's apartment by a friend. The government claims the luggage was later turned over to al-Qaeda.

Sharmin Sadequee discussed the case of her brother, Shifa Sadequee, who has been held in solitary confinement for three years in a federal

prison in Atlanta. He is charged with "conspiracy" to support terrorism. His trial is set for August 3.

After the rally about 40 people attended a town hall meeting at the Washington Historical Society. The meeting was a further step in sharing information and planning common activities to defend these victims of government frame-ups.

Further information on these cases is available on the Web sites ProjectSALAM.org, freefahad.com, and freeshifa.com.

## Capitalist depression deepens

Continued from front page

average workweek down to 33 hours. Increasing numbers of employers are also forcing workers to take unpaid leaves.

Over the past several months, government officials have pointed to some statistics indicating that the economy was starting to recover from its precipitous decline. The latest job figures "sprayed some Round-Up on the green shoots," David Shulman, an economist at the UCLA Anderson Forecast, told the *Washington Post*. "Green shoots" is the term Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke began using in March to describe what he claims are signs of economic improvement.

A day prior to the release of June's unemployment figures, the Institute for Supply Management reported that manufacturing activity in June declined at the slowest pace in 10 months. *Investor's Business Daily* hailed this as "the latest 'green shoots' signal that the recession may have bottomed out." A Commerce Department report July 2 said factory orders rose 1.2 percent in May, but the steepest decline in jobs continues to be in industrial production and construction. In June 136,000 manufacturing and 79,000 construction jobs were cut. Total

jobs eliminated in these two areas since December 2007 are 1.9 million and 1.3 million respectively.

Barack Obama administration officials described the slight reduction in the hundreds of thousands of jobs being slashed each month as a sign that the "stimulus" spending package passed earlier this year is working. From November to March employers cut an average of 670,000 jobs each month. From April to June, this slowed to 436,000 a month.

"We're seeing a kind of leveling off here," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis told the *New York Times*. At the time of its passage, Obama promised the \$787 billion "stimulus" plan would save or create 3.5 million jobs over the next two years.

Average unemployment in the 16 European countries comprising the Eurozone rose to 9.5 percent in May, a 10-year high, up from 9.3 percent in April. In Spain the official rate tops 18 percent.

In another development, the number of U.S. banks collapsing this year rose to 52. On July 2 banking authorities shut six regional banks in Illinois and one in Texas. In 2008, 25 banks failed.

# Openings to build unions during 1930s depression

Printed below is an excerpt from The Communist League of America: Writings and Speeches, 1932-34 by James P. Cannon, one of the Books of the Month for July. Cannon was a central leader of the Communist Party in the 1920s. He was expelled from the CP in 1928 for supporting Leon Trotsky's defense of Leninist policies. The Communist League of America was formed by those expelled by the CP that year. Its political work in the early 1930s helped lead to the founding of the Socialist Workers Party several years later. The piece below is from an editorial published in the Militant on Oct. 14, 1933, titled "The AFL, the strike wave, and trade union perspectives." It points to the improved prospects for workers to bounce back from the demoralizing effects of the first years of the Great Depression. Copyright © 1985 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Minneapolis truck drivers strike in May 1934 in fight for union recognition. Scene above shows heavy fighting between pickets and cops reinforced by deputized thugs in city marketplace.

the workers which were aroused by the ballyhoo campaign of the NRA [National Recovery Administration], will come a tremendous disillusionment of the workers and a rapidly increasing tendency on their part to resort to more aggressive struggles; to rely on their own strength and organization. Trade unionism, which was held out to them in the first stages of the NRA as a device to restrain their independent movement, will become for the workers the medium for its expression on a colossal scale. The workers will turn to trade unionism in real earnest, and they will be bent on making the unions serve as instruments of struggle against the exploiters.

Then, as has already been clearly intimated in the threatening speeches of Roosevelt and [NRA administrator Hugh] Johnson at the [American Federation of Labor] Washington convention, the benevolent mask of the Roosevelt administration will be taken off. The unions they encouraged, and even coddled, as long as they thought they could serve as "harness" will meet open opposition from the government. All the forces at its command, from systematic antiunion and antistrike propaganda to police and military force, will be brought to bear. The unions, insofar as they really fight—and that is the function which the conditions of the times im-

pose upon them—will have to fight for their existence against the government itself.

The capitalist attack against the trade unions as organs of struggle will be carried inside the unions. [AFL president William] Green, [John L.] Lewis, and Company will be called upon to purge the organizations of their militant elements and restore the unions to conservative and respectable docility. The prompt response of these treacherous agents of capital to this demand is assured in advance; their attitude at Washington, in harmony with all their previous conduct, signifies this first of all.

The trade unions, swelling into larger proportions by the influx of new members on one side, will witness wholesale expulsions and splits, engendered by the reactionary bureaucracy on the other. Insurgent workers who insist on striking—the "horses" that "refuse to work in harness"—will meet the condemnation of the labor bureaucracy. Their strikes will be outlawed and denounced as communistic plots. A campaign of red-baiting will be inaugurated against revolutionaries and communists. Where these do not exist they will be invented. Every worker who wants to fight for his rights and wants to make the union fight for them will be branded as a "red." The next developments of the trade union movement will unfold in a seething tide

of labor rebellion—of "outlaw" strikes, clashes with the authorities, fierce internal struggles in the unions, expulsions, and splits.

The fact that already today hundreds of thousands of workers are streaming into the trade unions is in itself a fact of incalculable significance. The workers are on the move. That is what is new; that is what is important in the situation. The trade union is the first and most elementary form of working-class organization, for which no substitute has ever been invented. The workers take their first steps on the path of class development through that door. Hundreds of thousands are taking this step already today, a large percentage of them for the first time. Millions of others will follow them tomorrow. No matter how conservative the unions may be, no matter how reactionary their present leadership, and regardless of what the real purposes of the Roosevelt administration were in giving a certain encouragement and impetus to this trade union revival—in spite of all of this, the movement itself represents an elemental force, a power which properly influenced at the right time by the class-conscious vanguard, can break through all the absolute forms and frustrate all the reactionary schemes.

This movement of the masses into the trade unions can be seriously influenced only from within. From this it follows: Get into the unions. Stay there. Work within.

Before any serious development of a revolutionary organization can be expected in America this penetration of the trade unions must begin in earnest. The militants who undertake this task now, after all the discredit brought to the name of communism by the Stalinists, will labor under a double handicap. The complete and unchallenged supremacy of the reactionaries in the trade union leadership; the weight of the government and of all capitalist propaganda and repressive forces on their side; the popular hostility to communism and the relationship of forces in general—these circumstances alone will constitute huge obstacles at the beginning. Besides that, the new left-wing movement will have to pay for the sins and failures of the old.

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

**NEW YORK:** Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

**TEXAS:** Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 143 Kennedy St. NW Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON:** Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

## AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

## CANADA

**QUEBEC:** Montreal: 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, H2S 2N1. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: cllc\_can@bellnet.ca

## FRANCE

**Paris:** P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

## NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

## SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Bildhuggargatan 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

## UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND:** London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: clondon@onetel.com

**SCOTLAND:** Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cledinburgh@talktalk.net

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The attempt of the [Franklin] Roosevelt administration to "plan" industry on a basis of capitalist private ownership is inevitably doomed to a resounding collapse, and that very probably in the near future. With that, and with the failure also to satisfy the expectations of

### July BOOKS OF THE MONTH

#### PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

#### The Communist League of America, 1932-34

by James P. Cannon

The communist movement's turn toward new openings in the unions as the industrial working class begins to recover from the initial blows of the Great Depression. \$28. Special price: \$21



#### The Assassination of Malcolm X

by Baxter Smith, George Breitman, Herman Porter

\$17. Special price: \$12.50

#### The Marxist Theory of Alienation

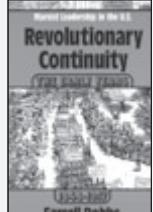
by Ernest Mandel, George Novack

\$11. Special price: \$8

#### Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years, 1848-1917

by Farrell Dobbs

\$20. Special price: \$15



#### Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation

by Fred Feldman, Georges Sayad

\$7. Special price: \$5

#### La classe ouvrière et la transformation de l'éducation

(The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning)

by Jack Barnes

\$3. Special price: \$2

#### Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM](http://WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM)  
OFFER GOOD UNTIL JULY 31, 2009

# Georgia prisons slash Friday inmate lunches

BY SETH GALINSKY

For years, working people locked behind bars in Georgia's prisons have been getting only two meals a day on weekends: breakfast and dinner. But the state's Department of Corrections recently eliminated lunch on Fridays too.

The department says Friday lunches are no longer necessary because the workweek for prisoners has been changed from five eight-hour days to four 10-hour days. Officials claim that breakfast and dinner portions are bigger on the two meal days so that prisoners still get the same number of calories.

Georgia's prison system is the fifth largest in the United States.

Working people locked up in neighboring Alabama don't fare any better. In January a federal judge jailed Morgan County sheriff Greg Bartlett for contempt for failing to adequately feed inmates.

Since the depression of the 1930s, Alabama law allows sheriffs to keep any profits from feeding prisoners. Currently sheriffs there receive \$1.75

a day for each prisoner. Bartlett managed to pocket \$62,000 in 2007 and \$55,000 in 2006 from this princely sum. CBS news reported that at the court hearing where 10 prisoners testified "most of the inmates appeared thin, with baggy jail coveralls hanging off their frames."

Prisoners told the judge that most days their breakfast—at 3:00 a.m.—consisted of half an egg, a spoonful of oatmeal, and a piece of toast. Lunch was a handful of chips and two sandwiches with barely enough peanut butter to taste. "It looks like it was sprayed on with an aerosol can," testified Demetrius Hines.

In response to complaints that prisoners are almost always hungry after meals in the Morgan County jail, the head of the Alabama Sheriff's Association admitted those complaints are widespread across the state. "You're never going to be able to satisfy them," he said.

The temporary jailing of Bartlett has not deterred Alabama officials



Privately run Reeves County Detention Center, in Pecos, Texas. Prisoners protested in December and February over poor quality food and medical care.

from new "savings" plans at the expense of those behind bars. At the beginning of June the state reduced the amount of fresh fruit served to prisoners to one apple or orange a week—down from the previous "generous" twice-weekly portion. Milk was cut from seven servings a week to three.

The state of Ohio is considering replacing weekend breakfasts and lunch with brunch. Other states are also cutting back on milk and fresh fruit.

Prisoners at Reeves County Deten-

tion Center in Pecos, Texas—operated by private prison company Geo Group, Inc.—rioted in December and again in February to demand better medical care and food, the media reported.

On February 5 the American Civil Liberties Union sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice asking for an investigation of conditions at the detention center. Five months later they have still not received any answer.

## Honduras

Continued from page 3

zuelan president Hugo Chávez urged Zelaya to join the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas, a trade alliance between Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and some other Latin American nations. Chávez offered the Honduran government a steep discount in the price of Venezuelan oil.

As Zelaya's rhetoric shifted to the left, the *Post* reported, he "increasingly spoke of the two nations of Honduras, one hopelessly poor, the other wealthy and uncaring. He began to argue for 'people power,' a kind of direct democracy."

Rafael Alegria, a leader of the National Organization of Rural Workers and an advisor to Zelaya, told the Mexican daily *La Jornada* on June 29, "He isn't a socialist or a revolutionary, but these reforms, which didn't harm the oligarchy at all, have been enough for them to attack him furiously."

The majority of Honduras's rulers balked when Zelaya proposed the government conduct a plebiscite to see if people favored forming a commission to redraft the constitution to allow the president's reelection.

The Supreme Court ruled against the referendum and even most leaders of his own party disagreed. Zelaya was arrested shortly after firing the general who refused to distribute the ballot boxes for the referendum.

No government has thus far recognized the Micheletti government. The Organization of American States and the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolutions for Zelaya's reinstatement. The World Bank temporarily froze loans to Tegucigalpa, and Washington joined the initial calls for Zelaya to be restored to office.

## Obama wants to recruit more spies from campus

BY DOUG NELSON

As part of its 2010 intelligence authorization bill, President Barack Obama's administration has proposed establishing a recruitment and training program for spies on university and college campuses modeled on the military's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

A major focus of the program, according to the director of national intelligence, would be to recruit "first- and second-generation Americans, who already have critical language and cultural knowledge, and prepare them for careers in the intelligence agencies."

Students in the program would receive financial assistance, which could include "a monthly stipend, tuition assistance, book allowances, and travel expenses." Similar to the

ROTC program, students would be required to work at an agency, such as the CIA or National Security Agency (NSA), for the same number of years as they received financial aid.

Students would apply for the program, often on recommendations from professors with longstanding ties to spy agencies. Their participation in the program would be kept secret from other faculty and students.

In addition to taking college courses geared toward their future career, students would receive training at summer internships with one or more spy agency—and maybe get some "practice" spying on individuals and organizations on campus itself.

Another aspect of the program would subsidize tuition for current spies to return to school and study languages or other subjects to strengthen

their abilities.

The proposed program expands, makes permanent, and provides regular funding to two pilot programs established under the Bush administration in 2004.

The NSA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) are also expanding the number of schools that participate in Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE) programs. The programs provide full scholarships and stipends to students in information technology, language, and other studies in return for tracking them into jobs with spy agencies.

Currently 106 colleges and universities have CAE programs funded either by the NSA or the ODNI. The ODNI plans to double the number of "Centers of Academic Excellence" it funds by 2015.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

July 20, 1984

BIRMINGHAM—On May 12, two men armed with sledgehammers attacked the Birmingham Women's Medical Clinic, smashing \$10,000 worth of equipment used for abortions. On June 15, a Catholic priest splashed red paint inside the women's Community Health Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The clinic suffered \$2,000 worth of damage. On June 25, a potentially deadly bomb exploded at the Ladies Center, Inc., an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida. Fortunately no one was injured.

Mark Curtis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Alabama's 6th C.D., condemned the terrorist campaign: "The events in Birmingham, Huntsville, and Pensacola are part of a nationwide campaign of violence fostered by the anti-abortion, anti-women's rights words and deeds of the Democratic and Republican parties."

### THE MILITANT

July 20, 1959

The steel strike is on! After exhausting every reasonable means to avoid a showdown, over 500,000 steel workers have been forced on strike to preserve the gains made in several decades of struggle. From the beginning the steel magnates merely went through the motions of negotiating a new contract. They talked peace but prepared for war.

While the steel workers are the immediate target, the union-hating corporations and their flunkies, in and out of public office, have rallied around the steel tycoons who are spearheading an attack aimed at the entire labor movement. In addition, the current campaign against "labor racketeering" sparked by the anti-labor, anti-Negro McClellan Committee is tailored to smear and discredit the unions in an effort to enlist "public" support.

### THE MILITANT

July 21, 1934

Minneapolis, July 20 (By wire)—Thirty-three [Teamster] pickets were shot with sawed-off shotguns by police who began firing volleys of slugs into groups of pickets.

One attack took place in front of the Slocum Bergen Grocery Company, from which convoys of police cars were preparing to move a merchandise truck. As the scab truck began to move, swaddled around by police cars, a truckload of pickets drew alongside. Without warning, the police fired volley after volley into the tightly packed strikers.

While men fell like flies, the rest courageously advanced on the scab truck. Their defiant advance probably saved the lives of many, for in hand-to-hand fighting with the bloodthirsty police, they prevented them from continuing their gunfire.

THE MILITANT

online

[www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

# 'In Miami many want good relations with Cuba'

## 4th part of Gerardo Hernández interview

The following is the fourth installment of an interview with Gerardo Hernández, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries who have been held in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges for more than 10 years. Saul Landau, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., who is making a documentary on the case, conducted the April 1 phone interview. The *Militant* will publish the final installment in a coming issue.

Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González were arrested by FBI agents on Sept. 12, 1998. They had been gathering information on counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups that, with Washington's complicity, operate from south Florida and have a history of violent attacks on Cuba.

The Cuban Five, as they are known, were convicted in 2001 on false charges that included "conspiracy to commit espionage" and failing to register as agents of a foreign government. They were given sentences ranging from 15 years to life in prison. Hernández, who was also falsely accused of "conspiracy to commit murder," was given two life sentences plus 15 years. He is locked up in the federal penitentiary in Victorville, California. He was previously held in the Lompoc, California, federal prison.

The English translation of the interview has been checked against the original Spanish and revised by the *Militant*. Footnotes are by the *Militant*.



*Saul Landau:* In Angola,<sup>1</sup> in Africa, what did you do?

*Gerardo Hernández:* I went as second-in-command in a reconnaissance squad. First, all of the *compañeros* in the same field received general training. Then we were sent to different units in different parts of Angola. I was placed in Cabinda, in the 10th Tank Brigade, 11th Tactical Group. The lieutenant left and I became squad leader until his replacement arrived. Our mission was to explore a part of northern Angola, very close to the Congo, that was a mix of jungle and desert. To protect our troops we scouted the area, looking for signs of enemy activity. We would explore, along with the combat engineers, and inspect the roads our unit's vehicles used.

For example, there was a well we used to get the unit's water, and our trucks had to drive there. To prevent the enemy from placing mines, we had to patrol the area with the sappers to make sure there were no mines that could hurt our troops.

I was there from 1989 to 1990. The press has said that I participated in combat missions. There's a big difference between a combat mission and action in combat. The reconnaissance squad carried out its missions without getting into combat. We completed 64 combat mis-

sions but I was never in combat. Even though this was already the last stage of Cuban collaboration in Angola, there were *compañeros* who did encounter enemy mines.

*Landau:* Could you speak about living in Miami? How does life compare with Havana?

*Hernández:* I come from Havana, between La Güinera and Vieja Linda. There are a lot of differences. The first thing that comes to mind is the material difference. But what most struck me wasn't that. For example, in Cuba people live with their doors open to their neighbors and they know just about everyone in the neighborhood. At 8:00 at night your child could be outside playing. So people yell from the doorway for the kids to come in and eat, or bathe. They live with the assurance of knowing no one will be selling their child drugs or kidnapping him.

In my apartment building [in Miami], although I was there for years . . . I knew some people by sight, but people live with their doors closed. It's a different atmosphere. In Cuba, if you see a kid out with his dad, even if you don't know them, you say, "Oh, what a lovely kid!" And you pat him on the head and pick him up, whatever, and this is completely normal.

Not here. You have to be very careful here about that kind of thing. Also, there were certain Miami neighborhoods where everyone who lives there or a large percentage is of just one race. And people tell you, "Be careful, don't go there because you look white and that's a Black neighborhood with gangs." That shocked me, because in Cuba we live totally mixed together.

The other thing I noticed—reading Cuban history, and from family stories—is that you see people like Esteban Ventura,<sup>2</sup> the famous Batista police torturer who came to Miami after the triumph of the revolution. So, you can walk on the same streets where these people strolled freely. I was able to observe Orlando Bosch,<sup>3</sup> see him up close, knowing he was one of those who ordered a bomb put on a Cuban airplane that killed 73 people. These experiences . . . what you feel . . . it's hard to describe.

I'm talking about my own personal experiences. But the other four had incredible experiences as well, as many or more than me. Their experiences were very similar to mine. The "hole" in Lompoc I was in is not the same one they were in, but theirs was just as bad or worse.

One small detail about Miami. In that "environment" of fear and intimidation, of profiteering, of the "Just give me money and we'll bring down Cas-

2. Esteban Ventura was a colonel in the police force under U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista.

3. Orlando Bosch, Luis Posada Carriles, and other counterrevolutionaries were implicated in the October 1976 bombing of a Cuban passenger plane over Barbados. All 73 people aboard were killed, including 19 members of Cuba's junior fencing team.

4. Landau notes that Hernández is referring



**Gerardo Hernández (right, back row) in Angola.** One of five Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges since 1998, he was falsely accused by FBI of conspiracy to commit espionage and murder. Hernández was one of more than 375,000 Cuban volunteers who helped defend Angola from invasions by apartheid regime in South Africa between 1975 and 1991. He was there from 1989 to 1990.

tro" extortion they used against their enemies,<sup>4</sup> I was struck by the many Cubans or Cuban Americans I saw, including those born in this country, as well as other Latin Americans, who were struggling in order that Cuba and the United States could have a better relationship, a mutually respectful relationship, to end the history of intrigues, conflicts, and tensions. It really struck me because I know they are risking their own lives to do this.

Negrín, assassinated by Omega 7 in New Jersey, lost his life because he opposed them. *Réplica* magazine, the Marazul offices—all the bombings these people faced, victims just because they wanted a more respectful U.S.-Cuba relationship, such as the ability of Cubans here to travel and spend time with their families there.<sup>5</sup> It was like a ray of hope knowing that not everyone in Miami is part of that stifling, recalcitrant, extremist mafia, that there are many good people there as well.

*Landau:* Hector Pesquera [then FBI chief in Miami] interrogated you. What was his motivation, in your opinion?

*Hernández:* I don't know if he wanted a promotion, or some other benefit, maybe even some financial gain. He has moved to private practice. Ports and airports advisor, I think. I'm convinced he wanted to curry favor with those who control the "Republic of Miami." As I told you, the FBI ended up looking bad after the Roque and Brothers to the Rescue experience.<sup>6</sup>

Listen to the call-in radio shows. People complained, "The FBI has betrayed us!" "They were spying on Brothers to the Rescue!" So I think one motivating

factor was to throw the beasts a piece of meat to make them happy. To tell them, "You say we've done nothing, but look, we caught these guys!" In Pesquera's case, from what I've read, it's possible that his own convictions are quite extremist, quite pro-Cuban American mafia. I think that for him perhaps it was a great pleasure to do this. And after the trial, he and the other FBI officials celebrated their triumph with Basulto<sup>7</sup> and those people. So that wasn't at all strange.

*Landau:* Did you play a key role in Roque's return?

*Hernández:* Yes, I played a part. The U.S. government wanted to show that Roque's return was linked to the shootdown. That's absolutely false. It's well-

**Continued on page 7**

pilot, left Cuba for the United States in 1992. He was one of the Cuban revolutionaries who entered Brothers to the Rescue to gather information on its activities.

He left Miami for Havana on Feb. 23, 1996, a day before Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces shot down two planes flown by Brothers to the Rescue after they provocatively entered Cuban airspace. Roque had flown missions for the group, and had also been giving information on the group to the FBI. Two days after the shootdown, he appeared on Cuban TV and gave details on how Brothers to the Rescue was planning terrorist attacks on Cuba.

7. José Basulto is head of Brothers to the Rescue, a counterrevolutionary Cuban American group that claimed to be a humanitarian organization devoted to rescuing Cuban "rafters."

### Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters

"Revolutionary struggles by working people are inevitable. They will be initiated not by the toilers, but will be forced upon us by the crisis-driven assaults by the propertied classes. As solidarity grows among working people, the outlines of these coming class battles can be seen." \$7



[WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM](http://WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM)

# N.Y. socialist campaign

## Continued from front page

depression and the rulers' assault have barely begun.

"Our campaign explains the need for working people to take political power out of the hands of the ruling-class families," emphasized Fein.

"We are running against all the capitalist candidates, from Mayor Michael Bloomberg to city comptroller William Thompson," he said, referring to the incumbent mayor's leading Democratic contender.

As the capitalists try to make working people bear the brunt of the crisis, "we advance immediate demands to unify and strengthen the working class in struggle," Fein said.

The Socialist Workers candidates call for guaranteed unemployment compensation "at union scale for every worker until they find a job," he explained. "We also demand a federally funded crash public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages to build schools, hospitals, roads, and public transportation." Union scale is the pay rate required by a union contract, whether or not workers are union members.

Tom Baumann, the Socialist Workers candidate for Manhattan borough president, goes to school at Hunter College in

New York. Baumann and the other SWP candidates participate in the struggle to defend and extend the right of women to obtain an abortion. "There are huge stakes for the working class in defending this right which is under attack, with the most recent example being the killing of abortion provider George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas," he said.

Maura DeLuca, a garment worker and the Socialist Workers candidate for public advocate, has been promoting solidarity with striking bakery workers at the Stella D'oro Biscuit Co. plant in the Bronx. Recently the National Labor Relations Board ordered the company to reinstate the 135 strikers with back pay.

The petitioning drive, which runs through July 19, aims to get 15,000 signatures to put the citywide SWP ticket—Fein and DeLuca—on the ballot and 8,000 signatures for Baumann in Manhattan. These are double the legal requirement.

Every day campaign supporters are organizing daytime and evening teams. Before fanning out across the city with their campaign flyers and petition boards, they start with a discussion on different aspects of world politics and the socialist perspective. Campaigners are also reading and studying basic



Militant/Brian Nevin

Tom Baumann, left, campaigns at Hunter College July 7.

works of Marxism, with classes held on Thursdays and Sundays.

An event to celebrate the kickoff of the Socialist Workers ballot drive will be held July 11. The meeting will also celebrate the life of SWP leader Tom Leonard, who died in June (see ad on

this page). On July 18, the socialist candidates will speak at a celebration of the success of the drive. It will be held at the campaign headquarters in Manhattan at 307 W. 36th Street, 10th Floor North. For more information call (212) 736-2540 or e-mail newyorkswp@mac.com.

## Socialists win right to campaign

### Continued from front page

are parents were also petitioning against attempts to close the campus day-care center. Several of them signed the social-

ists' petitions and offered space on their table. The cops backed down. The next day, campus cops again told Baumann he needed permission to petition.

"We sat down to map out a plan to reach out to students and professors for support," Baumann said. The candidate and his supporters talked to students and professors, including in the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Women Studies program, and Undergraduate Student Government about the undemocratic denial of his right to fully campaign.

In the afternoon, Dean of Students Michael Escott refused to meet Baumann and a representative of the student government, saying he was too busy. However, later that evening Escott called and sent an e-mail informing Baumann that he and his supporters could petition outside the campus cafeteria, which is also a central meeting area for students.

"The response of students to my campaign has been really good," Baumann said, "It's been one of our hottest spots." In two days, 516 students and professors signed petitions to put the socialists on the ballot.

## U.S. offensive in Afghanistan, Pakistan war

### Continued from front page

lize the additional troops the Obama administration has sent to the Afghan war front. Some 21,000 troops have been ordered to that country so far this year, and the Pentagon says its goal is to have 68,000 there by the end of the year. The total number of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan combined are nearing the level they were at around the height of the "surge" in Iraq in 2007.

The operation comes on the heels of a shift in the command structure in order to more effectively prosecute what has become a cross-border war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. On June 10, the Senate unanimously approved the nomination of Gen. Stanley McChrystal to head U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan. Since then, the Pentagon has given

McChrystal unprecedented authority to handpick some 400 officers to serve under the new Pakistan-Afghanistan Coordination Cell.

On June 24, Obama signed a bill that provides an additional \$106 billion for the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The bill passed through the U.S. Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, with only five senators voting against it. The final version of the bill did not include \$80 million earmarked for closing the notorious U.S. prison camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, which was originally projected.

Marine Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commander of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, described the operation to American Forces Press Service. "What makes Operation Khanjar differ-

ent from those that have occurred before is the massive size of the force introduced, the speed at which it will insert, and the fact that where we go we will stay, and where we stay, we will hold."

The U.S. military has said the surveillance obtained from renewed spy flights will go to the Pakistani military, in an attempt to get Islamabad to take on a greater role in neutralizing the Taliban.

In an agreement between the two governments, the Pakistani military can request that U.S. spy planes fly surveillance missions where it suspects "militant activity," according to the *New York Times*. The video would be reviewed by Pakistani military personnel at a joint coordination center near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in the Khyber Pass region.

## Interview with Gerardo Hernández

### Continued from page 6

documented that Roque's return had been planned for a year before that happened. Yet, that confusion persists. The prosecution cleverly removed from the evidence certain communications referring to Operation Venice—Roque's return—and made it seem that they were referring to Operation Scorpion, the operation to prevent the violation of Cuban airspace.

One clear example is a message I sent responding to a request from Cuba saying that for me it was an honor to have made a modest contribution to a successful mission. It is super clear in the evidence that this referred to Operation Venice, the one about Roque. The government used it as its sole piece of evidence that I had something to do with the shootdown, although they know it did not refer to Operation Scorpion. Our lawyers knew this, but unfortunately, because of the way the justice system works, we couldn't spare time or space

to clear this up.

The prosecution mixed the two up purposely to create a cloud. But we still haven't been able to clarify that point because of page restrictions, limits on briefs, limitations on everything. I hope at some point it will be clarified. Although it's not really essential, because even with the confusion it's been proven I had nothing to do with that. But I don't want to even concede on that, because it didn't happen that way. But yes, I played a part in Roque's return.

*Landau:* Specifically?

*Hernández:* Cuba wanted Roque to return to Cuba to reveal all the information he had against the Brothers to the Rescue—their true intentions, explaining that they weren't a humanitarian organization, but rather one involved in buying weapons.

But it couldn't be done in time, and coincidentally Roque returned around the time of the shootdown. But among

the evidence there's another message in which Cuba tells Roque he can return on the 23rd or the 27th, because there were flights on those days to his initial destination. And the Brothers to the Rescue flights were on the 24th. That's as clear as can be in the evidence. So, if Roque's return was linked to the shootdown, why would they tell him he could return on the 27th, since everyone knew the flights were going to be on the 24th?

That piece of evidence refutes those who claim Roque's return had something to do with the shootdown. But the U.S. government won't touch that, won't refer to it, because it would affect the story they concocted. In essence, Roque had to be gotten out of there with a series of security measures, and that was where we made our contribution. But I assure you that the operation to remove Roque had nothing to do with the shootdown. It was a completely different operation from the one having to do with Brothers to the Rescue.

*Come Celebrate*

**Socialist Workers  
ballot drive kickoff!**

**Saturday, July 11**

**Program: 6 p.m., Dinner: 8 p.m.**

**Chairperson: Jack Barnes, national secretary, Socialist Workers Party**

**Speakers: Martín Koppel, 2009 New York SWP campaign chairperson; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of 'New International' magazine; Norton Sandler, SWP National Committee; Ben Joyce, Young Socialists**

**also**

**Celebration of the life and political contributions of Tom Leonard, communist cadre for 6 decades.**

**New York City  
Taino Towers  
240 E. 123rd Street  
Tel.: (212) 629-6649**

Sponsored by New York and Newark SWP and New York Young Socialists

---

## EDITORIAL

---

# Legalize all immigrants now!

This week the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) ordered American Apparel to fire 1,800 workers at its downtown Los Angeles factory if the company cannot prove they have valid Social Security numbers.

That is why working people should demand not only stop immigration raids, but stop the deportations, stop the firings, and legalize all undocumented workers, now! The example of the 254 workers at Overhill Farms in Vernon, California, who are demanding reinstatement after the company fired them for allegedly invalid Social Security numbers, should be emulated.

The Barack Obama administration claims that instead of massive factory raids it will concentrate on forcing businesses to fire undocumented workers, while keeping the deportation weapon in reserve.

This is the real face of the “comprehensive immigration reform” the White House, with bipartisan support, is promoting. It is little more than a modern-day iron fist covered with a not-so-velvet glove.

Neither the bosses, nor their government in Washington, want to deport all or most undocumented workers. They want to maintain a superexploited layer of workers, a reserve army of labor that they can tap at will. By keeping millions of immigrant workers “illegal” they hope to intimidate them, undermine their self-confidence, keep them from joining and revital-

izing unions, and lower the value of the labor power of all workers.

The victory by striking members of the bakers union at the Stella D’oro cookie factory in the Bronx, New York—not a single worker crossed the picket line during the 11-month strike—is an example of how immigrants strengthen the working class.

Statements by Sen. Charles Schumer, who has been tapped by the Democrats to write the immigration “reform” bill, show what is at stake in the immigration debate.

Schumer’s proposal for a national “forgery-proof” worker ID card would be a weapon in the hands of the bosses against *all* workers. It would allow the bosses to blacklist union activists and anyone else they consider to be a “troublemaker.” Schumer also wants to expand the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The illustrious senator opposes referring to immigrants without papers as “undocumented workers.” He demands they be referred to as “illegal aliens” who “should not be treated the same as people who entered the United States legally.”

Class-conscious workers say the opposite. We welcome our immigrant brothers and sisters, with or without papers. They are not “illegals” to us; they are fellow fighters. Together, from California to New York, we will stand up against the attempts by the boss class to divide us and take out their economic crisis on us.

# Are Palestinians in working class?

BY SETH GALINSKY

Yuval Adom writes, “most Palestinians (in the occupied territories) are not ‘workers.’” Instead, he says, they live “on the very edges of survival.” (See letter below.)

Adom raises an important question. Are Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and inside Israel itself, part of the working class? Or is the struggle in Palestine a special case where the laws of motion of the class struggle don’t apply?

The question can be posed a different way. Is it possible to fight to end the oppression of the Palesti-

## REPLY TO A READER

tinian people? If so, what class will lead that struggle? Where can it find allies? What should they fight for?

Adom says most of the 2.5 million Palestinians who live in the Israeli-occupied West Bank are not workers. Although unemployment is high, people in the West Bank hold a wide variety of jobs. They work for Palestinian-owned businesses and farms, the Palestinian National Authority, on farms owned by Jewish settlers, in Israeli-owned industrial parks in the West Bank, or inside Israel.

Thousands work on farms run by Jewish settlers in the Jordan Valley alone. In one of the largest of the industrial parks, near the Barkan Jewish settlement, there are 2,400 Palestinian workers from the West Bank at 120 businesses including plastics, metal-work, food-processing, and textile plants.

Some 25,000 West Bank Palestinians have permits that allow them to work in Israel, mostly in construction, agriculture, and cleaning buildings. In addition to those with permits, some 50,000 work in Israel “illegally,” according to *Kav LaOved* (Worker’s Hotline). There are also thousands of small and not-so-small farmers who tend citrus and date groves or plant tomato, wheat, and barley fields.

In the Gaza Strip there are 70,000 mostly small farms and 30,000 farm workers. Since the beginning of the Israeli blockade in 2007 thousands of Palestinians lost their jobs in Israel and most factories in Gaza were forced to close. Most Gaza residents are now dependent on handouts from the United Nations, other aid groups, or “charities” run by Hamas, a bourgeois party. This does not advance their self-confidence, class-consciousness, or ability to organize. That’s why demanding an end to the blockade and the opening of border crossings is so important.

Adom seems to ignore the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. Like Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank—and like Jewish citizens of Israel—they are class-divided. There are some Palestinians who own capitalist businesses or farms and exploit wage labor.

In Israel more than 21 percent of farm workers, almost 43 percent of construction workers, and more than 15 percent of industrial workers are Palestinian Arabs, according to *Sawt el-Amel* (The Laborer’s Voice). Unlike in Gaza or the West Bank, it is impossible for the Israeli rulers to put up a fence to control the flow of their labor or remove them at will from their jobs.

Palestinians often work side-by-side with Jews and immigrants. And it is not uncommon for Jewish, Palestinian, and immigrant workers to join in common struggle to resist the employers’ attempts to make working people pay for the capitalist economic crisis. The capitalist rulers in Tel Aviv, like their counterparts around the world, will deepen their assault on working people in the months and years ahead.

Workers and small farmers will play a decisive role in the fight by Palestinians for land, water, travel, language, and women’s rights, against racist discrimination, and for the right to return to their homeland. These battles will open the road to a revolutionary struggle for a democratic, secular Palestine for all who live there. And they will draw in Jewish workers and others in Israel and inspire workers, farmers, and youth throughout region.

## California immigrant workers fight firings

Continued from front page

of 2008. In April, President Barack Obama’s administration had issued new immigration policy guidelines for ICE with tougher enforcement aimed at employers.

American Apparel, which employs more than 5,000 garment workers in Los Angeles, said that a government audit last year found that up to 1,800 of its workers were allegedly undocumented. The company has begun firing some of these workers and giving notice to others that they have 30 days to present valid work authorization, or they will be fired.

In Congress, Democrats have tapped New York senator Charles Schumer to lead crafting an “immigration reform” bill. A priority of the bill is to make a “dramatic reduction in future illegal immigration,” reported the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Outlining what might be in the bill June 24 Schumer stressed that Democrats must show the other side that they are serious about “combating illegal immigration.” Schumer said, “People who enter the United States without our permission are illegal aliens, and should . . . not be treated the same as people who entered the United States legally.”

Schumer also proposes that all workers be required to apply for a “forgery-proof” ID card.

At the July 1 picket line, the Overhill Farms workers announced they are suing the company for stiffing them on overtime pay and launched a national boycott of Overhill and its customers.

In the midst of the protest action, Overhill Farms launched a counteroffensive by serving subpoenas to six workers, accusing them of defamation and extortion for making “maliciously false and recklessly

misleading and inflammatory statements” about the company. Also named in the suit is Nativo Lopez, president of the General Brotherhood of Workers International Union, which is organizing the fight.

On June 24 Lopez was also charged with election fraud. The Los Angeles County district attorney’s office, working with the secretary of state, charged that Lopez registered to vote from an address that is not his legal residence and is therefore guilty of four felonies.

At a meeting of about 60 activists, including workers from the Overhill plant, Lopez explained that the charges had to be seen in the context of the attempt to organize Overhill workers. “There is no question that the charges come from the fight at Overhill Farms and our intention to organize in Vernon,” a large industrial enclave adjacent to Los Angeles, he said.

Since their firing on May 31, the Overhill Farms workers have held weekly protests in front of the plant to press their demands, which include getting their jobs back and benefits for the part-time workers.

On June 26 Overhill fired three more workers for supporting the protesters. One of them, Marcelino Arteaga, was a shop steward for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 inside the plant. “At first I thought the company had a right to fire them” because of the no-match letters, he said. But he soon realized the company “was simply using this to get rid of people.”

“So I joined the marches after work. That’s why they fired me. They said I was ‘undesirable.’ But what I’m doing is protected under the First Amendment, freedom of speech.”

*James Harris contributed to this article.*

---

## LETTERS

---

### ‘Waltz with Bashir’

As an Israeli Jew who is involved in the small (*very small*) movement to solidarize with Palestinians, I’d like to offer a few words of rebuttal to your recent article about the movie *Waltz with Bashir* (see May 11 *Militant*).

People here in the Palestinian-solidarity movement appreciate many aspects of this film, but we’re not happy with a certain smug self-satisfaction that it conveys: “We Israelis are very humane, and even

when we’re compelled to do terrible things, at least we reflect upon it and feel some grief.”

You state: “The film . . . shows the real potential to win over sections of Israeli working people, intellectuals, and artists to the side of the Palestinian toilers.” You seem to see Palestinians as working away in sweatshops and so on. In reality, most Palestinians (in the occupied territories) are not “workers,” but part of the large segment of humanity that lives on the very edges of survival,

and who often work in the informal economy. As a fellow Socialist, you need to update your analysis.

*Yuval Adom  
West Jerusalem, Israel*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**