

THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 35 SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Washington, allies plan more Iran sanctions

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Washington and imperialist powers in Europe threatened more sanctions against Iran on the eve of a meeting in Germany of representatives of the U.S., French, British, Russian, and Chinese governments, plus Berlin. The gathering's purpose is to discuss new moves to block Tehran's nuclear power program.

At a news conference August 27 German chancellor Angela Merkel demanded Tehran submit to negotiations on its nuclear work or face more sanctions "in the energy, financial, and other important sectors." She was joined at the news conference by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The previous day, French president Nicholas Sarkozy said that if Iran does not submit, "the question of very substantial strengthening of sanctions" will be posed. Since 2006 the UN Security Council has imposed three rounds of economic and travel sanctions against Iran in an effort to force that country's government to retreat.

"President Obama has said he will use the opening of the United Nations General Assembly . . . to press

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U.S. general sets 'new' plan for Afghan war

Lays ground for continued escalation



U.S. Army/Sgt. Matthew Moeller

U.S. army soldiers patrol Korengal valley in Afghanistan's Kunar Province August 13. There are 62,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, up from 38,000 at the start of the year.

BY SETH GALINSKY

A strategic review of the U.S. military's conduct of the war in Afghanistan paves the way to send more troops. Washington has been increasing its forces in Afghanistan since President Barack Obama took office in January.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, turned in the report August 31. He said that the situation is

"serious, but success is achievable." Although McChrystal's report will not be made public, military officials described its contents to selected news media.

The report argues for shifting U.S. strategy to emphasize the importance of holding and securing areas captured from Taliban control. The strategy is a version of that applied in Iraq, which required an additional 30,000 troops, dubbed the "surge." It also calls for a large expansion of the

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Nebraska: antiabortion rightists fail to mobilize

BY MAGGIE TROWE

BELLEVUE, Nebraska—Defenders of a woman's right to choose abortion scored a victory here August 28–29, keeping open a clinic that anti-abortion forces had pledged to close.

Over two days some 150 people came to defend Dr. LeRoy Carhart's Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska. Most came from Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, and from neighboring Midwest states.

A group of 60 opponents of legal abortion, led by the rightist outfit Operation Rescue, gathered outside the clinic trying to intimidate women entering for appointments. They shouted, "Don't kill your baby!" and "Mommy!" A line of women's rights supporters countered them chanting, "Welcome, welcome, this clinic stays open!"

Operation Rescue had called the harassment rally as an opening shot in its "Keep It Closed!" campaign aimed at preventing Carhart from opening another clinic to provide abortion services in the Wichita, Kansas, area. They did not mobilize their supporters to come to Bellevue, however.

Dr. George Tiller, who had operated an abortion clinic in Wichita, was

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Three of Cuban Five moved to jail in Miami for resentencing

BY DOUG NELSON

Three of five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly held in U.S. prisons for nearly 11 years have been transferred to a Miami jail to await a resentencing hearing scheduled for October 13.

Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González are known internationally as the Cuban Five.

Before their arrest in September 1998, they had been monitoring the actions of counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups that have carried out bombings and other armed attacks against Cuba with Washington's complicity. For this, they were framed-up by the U.S. government on allegations of acting as "unregistered" foreign agents and various "conspiracy" charges. Three were charged with conspiracy to commit espionage and one with conspiracy to commit murder.

Last year a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions of all five prisoners, but ruled that the sentences handed down to Labañino, Guerrero, and Fernando

González were excessive. The three are now in a Miami jail awaiting resentencing. They are being held in solitary confinement, as all five were for the first 17 months of their incarceration.

Their resentencing will be presided over by the same Miami judge that sentenced all five of them in June 2001.

Labañino and Guerrero were each

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Rising bank failures mark U.S. economic 'recovery'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As Obama administration officials more confidently assert that the economy is on the road to recovery, bank failures are on the rise.

Since the beginning of the year, 84 banks have collapsed. The number of those at risk of failure has risen from 305 to 416 in the second quarter, a 15-year high, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Company (FDIC). At the same time FDIC funds to guarantee deposits are at the lowest level

since 1993.

Over the past year and a half the government has pumped tens of billions of dollars into bailout packages to avert collapse of the nation's largest banks. However, the crisis has spread to encompass the entire banking system, with increasing numbers of smaller and medium-size banks collapsing or on the brink of failure.

"Early losses were related to residential loans and complex mortgage-

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Socialist candidate certified for Houston mayoral election

BY STEVE WARSHALL

HOUSTON—Working people here will have a revolutionary working-class alternative to the capitalist candidates in the upcoming election for mayor of this city.

Amanda Ulman, a 34-year-old garment worker and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, has

been certified by election officials as an official candidate on the ballot. Ulman filed documents and paid the required fees August 26.

"The government of the billionaire rulers has launched a frontal assault on basic living conditions of working people, from jobs and wages to pensions, health care, housing, and essential public services," said Ulman. "Central

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Houston socialist ballot

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to these attacks is maximizing the exploitation of immigrant workers, especially those without documents, which drives down the wages of all workers. This is why we see the legalization of all workers without papers as a life and death question for the working class.”

Supporters of Ulman’s campaign raised the \$1,250 needed to file for a place on the November ballot. While officially a “nonpartisan” race, the field of other candidates includes three Democrats and one Republican.

“The Socialist Workers candidates in Houston are running against the capitalist class and all of their candidates in the Democratic and Republican parties who spearhead the assault on working people. These include mayoral candidates such as City Controller Annise Parker, former city attorney Gene Locke, Harris County Education Department Trustee Roy Morales, and City Councilman Peter Brown,” Ulman explained.



Amanda Ulman (left), SWP candidate for Houston mayor, and Steve Warshell (center), SWP candidate for controller, file August 26 to place party on ballot.

“The working class needs to answer this war on our class by organizing a revolutionary struggle to take state power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers. We must reorganize the economy and all social relations, from top to bottom, in the interests of workers and farmers,” she said.

The next day Ulman traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to join supporters of a woman’s right to choose abortion in defending the clinic of Dr. LeRoy Carhart, who has been targeted by anti-abortion groups.

Ulman has been active in defense of a woman’s right to choose abortion in the Houston area and elsewhere, as well as in the fight for the immediate and unconditional legalization of undocumented workers. In her campaign she has also called for immediate withdrawal of all U.S.-led imperialist forces from Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and everywhere else they are stationed.

Ulman joins Socialist Workers candidates in state and city campaigns across the country in putting forward immediate demands to protect working people in face of the devastation the ruling class is organizing and to unify the working class in struggle to demand: guaranteed unemployment compensation at union scale for all workers until they find a job; increase the federal minimum wage to union scale; a federally funded crash public works program to put millions to work at

Montreal public employees strike



Militant/John Steele

Beverly Bernardo (center holding flyers), Communist League candidate for mayor of Villeray-St. Michel-Parc-Extension, talks to striking members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Around 5,000 Montreal “blue collar” workers, members of the union’s Local 301, struck for 24 hours August 31 to protest contracting out of their jobs and the refusal of city bosses headed by Mayor Gerald Tremblay to negotiate a new contract. The workers have been without a pact for two years.

Hundreds of strikers converged on city hall during the day waving placards. The previous day Tremblay and Louise Harel, the major capitalist mayoral candidates, officially launched their campaigns for the November 1 municipal elections. Both have been silent on the workers’ demands. At the picket line outside city hall later that afternoon CUPE 301 president Michel Parent spoke to the Militant and Bernardo. “Through this action we are speaking to the people of Montreal about the situation. Contracting out our jobs means loss of services,” he said.

—JOHN STEELE

union scale to build schools, roads, and public transportation; no cuts in medical benefits for any worker laid off from their job—guaranteed lifetime medical care and retiree pensions for all; immediate, unconditional legalization of all undocumented workers; and an end to all income taxes on workers.

Joining Ulman in the campaign is Steve Warshell, 55, a Deer Park factory worker who is the SWP candidate for city controller here. Both are defenders of Cuba’s socialist revolution, and call for the immediate release of the five Cuban revolutionaries framed up on conspiracy charges and unjustly held in U.S. prisons solely for the “crime” of defending their country from attacks by armed counterrevolutionary groups launched from U.S. territory.

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Our Politics Start with the World

\$14 — issue number 14:
Revolution, Internationalism, and Socialism: The Last Year of Malcolm X



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THE MILITANT

2.3 million in U.S. prisons

More prisoners in the United States are serving life terms than ever before. More than 2.3 million people are in U.S. prisons and jails—the highest rate of incarceration in the world. Keep up with the fight for prisoners’ rights through the ‘Militant.’



Overcrowded conditions at California State Prison in Los Angeles, August 2006.

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New Zealand troops are deployed to Afghanistan

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A new deployment of Special Air Service (SAS) troops will be sent to participate in the U.S.-led imperialist war in Afghanistan. The National Party-led government announced August 10 that three rotations of 70 of the elite army troops will be sent over the next 18 months.

The SAS has served in Afghanistan three times previously, as part of the U.S.-led Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. Since 2003, the New Zealand government has also maintained a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamiyan Province, currently numbering some 140 troops. In addition, New Zealand instructors are helping train Afghan army troops and police. No New Zealand soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan.

The decision came four months after a request by the U.S. government, and after a New Zealand government review of its role in Afghanistan. New Zealand's rulers had hesitated over stepping up their involvement in the war.

In announcing the deployment, the *New Zealand Herald* reported Prime Minister John Key saying that New Zealand had to “play its part in combating the breeding grounds for terrorism.” The agreement was conditional on an “exit strategy” under which all New Zealand troops would be withdrawn in five years and replaced by civilians working in health, education, agriculture, and police training, he said. Diplomatic links with Kabul would also be strengthened.

Key had refused an earlier request from the U.S. military for the SAS to be assigned to training and fighting with the Afghan army, stating that it would be “particularly dangerous.”

In an August 12 editorial, the *Herald* called such caveats “unrealistic.” The government’s “half-hearted contribution” places New Zealand in “similar territory to countries such as Germany and France,” it said,

“which have refused to let their forces be deployed in Helmand province, the Taliban stronghold.” The editorial added that for the United States the “fair-weather approach of some of their European allies did nothing to prevent the fundamentalists’ resurgence.”

The opposition Labour Party, which organized the three previous deployments of the SAS to Afghanistan, now opposes the current one. Labour leader Philip Goff accused the prime minister of caving in to “overt” U.S. pressure.

On August 21, following a leaders’ summit, Key and his counterpart, Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd, announced plans to set up a joint rapid response military force. This would be part of stepped-up ties between the Australian and New Zealand military, which have historically close links in training, equipment, and military interventions.

U.S. attempt to deport Egyptian student fails

BY DOUG NELSON

The U.S. government failed to convince a federal immigration judge that Youssef Megahed should be deported because he is likely to engage in “terrorist” activities. He was released without bail from detention August 21.

The attempt to deport Megahed followed his acquittal in federal criminal court on charges based on the same “evidence.” Some jurors in the criminal trial were so indignant at the double jeopardy that they joined the campaign for his release.

Megahed, 23, is a permanent resident who has lived in the United States for the last 11 years. He was an engineering student at the University of South Florida and had just filed his application for citizenship when he and a fellow student, Ahmed Mohamed, were stopped for speeding while on their way to Carolina beaches. After pulling over the two young



New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team troops at Bamian, Afghanistan, base October 2007. A new deployment consisting of three rotations of 70 elite Special Air Service troops will be sent to country over next 18 months.

Rudd recently announced the deployment of an extra 450 Australian troops to Afghanistan, joining 1,100 already there.

There are currently 717 New Zealand troops in 10 countries around the world. Over half of these are on active military assignment, mainly

in Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, and the Solomon Islands.

New Zealand soldiers were also part of the U.S.-led imperialist forces in Iraq. From 2003 to 2004, under British command, 61 New Zealand army engineers were stationed in Basra.

Egyptian men, cops searched the vehicle and found what they claimed were explosive devices and arrested them.

The items, which Megahed said he didn’t know were in the trunk of his brother’s car, turned out to be low-grade propellants commonly used for model rockets.

Cops searched Mohamed’s laptop and a computer used by members of the Megahed household. The FBI “evidence” against Megahed was based on testimony by computer forensic specialists that someone using the Megahed computer had visited Islamist Web sites, searched the Internet for information about Qassam rockets used by Hamas fighters in Palestine, and watched nine video clips on rockets used against U.S. military targets in the Middle East.

On Mohamed’s laptop, FBI agents say, was a video he created for YouTube showing how to convert a re-

mote-controlled toy into a bomb detonator. Mohamed was convicted for supporting “terrorism” in December and given 15 years in prison.

Megahed was found not guilty of illegally transporting explosives and of possession of a destructive device. Three days later, immigration cops arrested Megahed as he was leaving a Wal-Mart with his father. Deportation charges were brought against him on the grounds that he was likely to engage in “terrorist” activity.

The government has 30 days to appeal the judge’s decision to not deport Megahed. “Pending appeal Megahed cannot associate with known terrorists,” the *Tampa Tribune* reported, and must report to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Tampa once a month.

Meanwhile, Syed Fahad Hashmi, a U.S. citizen born in Pakistan, remains imprisoned in the United States under restrictive, solitary conditions. Hashmi, 29, was arrested in London in 2006 and extradited to the United States based on statements of Junaid Babar, who faced 70 years on “terrorism” charges and testified against Hashmi as part of a plea-bargain deal.

Babar stayed at Hashmi’s apartment for two weeks in 2004 while Hashmi was attending college in London. Hashmi was charged with conspiracy to provide support to al-Qaeda based on allegations that Babar brought rain gear to Hashmi’s place when he stayed there and later provided the gear to a high-ranking member of al-Qaeda.

More than 500 academics and individuals have signed a petition protesting the harsh conditions of Hashmi’s detention and the undermining of his right to a fair trial.

Three construction workers killed on job in N.Y.

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK—Three building trades workers were killed on various work sites here in less than two weeks.

Construction worker Henryk Siebor, 42, fell four stories to his death

August 18 when he stepped on scaffolding and it gave way, leaving two other workers suspended from their safety harnesses. The men were left dangling for 15 minutes before they were rescued by firefighters.

The workers were repairing the façade on an upscale Brooklyn apartment building when a motor that lowered and raised the scaffold stopped working. The two men then asked Siebor to check it out. As Siebor stepped across from his scaffolding to theirs the cable snapped, dropping the platform from beneath the three men.

“It was so fast, I did not have time to think,” Marlo Sidinta, one of the three workers, told the *New York Times*. “Then I realized I was hanging, so I felt calmer. But then I looked down and saw my co-worker on the ground.” Siebor was wearing his harness but investigators are not sure if it was secured to the building, reported the *Times*.

William Barnes, 48, was killed August 25 when a hydraulic boom

snapped off a crane he was operating and crashed on his head. Barnes worked on the Throgs Neck Bridge.

Three days later Stephen Laviscount, 27, was killed at the Boerum Hill building in Brooklyn when an elevator he was working under fell five floors on top of him.

“Accidents do happen. There is pressure to get the job done. I hear it every day,” José Martínez, a six-year veteran of the Carpenters union, told the *Militant* at a worksite in mid-Manhattan.

“We need more safety and more safety inspectors. The union construction sites are safer than the non-union, said George Escuza, a member of Laborers Local 79 who is originally from Peru.

“If I feel a job is dangerous,” said Martínez, “I tell the boss ‘show me.’ If he can’t show me, I won’t do the job. At a nonunion place, there would be no choice.”

Dan Fein contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

New Developments in the Fight to Defend Workers’ Rights. Speaker: Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Hear the Socialist Workers Party Candidates in New York City Speak. Fri., Sept. 11. Dinner, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. 307 W 36th St. (near 8th Ave.), 10th fl. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

—CALENDAR—

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Grand Opening of Newark Socialist Workers Party Campaign Headquarters. Sat., Sept. 19. Open House/Reception, 3–6 p.m. Program, 6 p.m., dinner to follow. 45 Academy St., Suite 309. Tel.: (973) 273-0075.

‘Contractors’ critical to U.S. wars around world

BY SETH GALINSKY

Tens of thousands of “contractors” bolster U.S.-led imperialist forces in the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. They are an essential component of the U.S. war in the region—often outnumbering U.S. combat troops.

They enjoy lucrative contracts from the Pentagon, State Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency. They are used to build and guard U.S. military bases, load bombs onto aerial drones to attack Taliban and al-Qaeda groups, provide security for U.S. diplomats, train soldiers, and transport supplies in war zones. Some, working for the CIA, have planned assassinations of alleged al-Qaeda leaders.

By the end of June, the number of military contractors in Afghanistan had reached 74,000, far outnumbering the roughly 62,000 U.S. soldiers there. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, more than two-thirds of those contractors are Afghani.

In December 2008 there were almost 150,000 contractors in Iraq—slightly more than the number of U.S. ground troops. The number of contractors has

dropped somewhat since.

Many of the contractors carry out noncombat tasks like construction of buildings and bases, laundry, and kitchen duties that were once carried out by soldiers. Still tens of thousands of them are armed and staff checkpoints to government compounds or accompany food and fuel convoys.

The increased use of contractors allows the U.S. Defense Department to expand the number of combat-ready troops without a massive increase in the size of the U.S. armed forces and without resorting to a draft. The Defense Department has transferred soldiers out of noncombat tasks and replaced them with civilian employees under Pentagon supervisors as well.

Many of the high-ranking officials in the dozens of companies that provide contractors are former officers of U.S. military units or the CIA, what the *Los Angeles Times* calls “a revolving-door relationship.”

Erik Prince, a former Navy SEAL, owns Blackwater, one of the best known of the private security firms. After Blackwater guards killed 17 Iraqi civilians at a



Blackwater contractors in central Baghdad, July 2005. Company became notorious for gunning down 17 Iraqi civilians in 2007 and changed its name to Xe Services.

major traffic intersection in Baghdad in September 2007, the company changed its name to Xe Services in a not-so-successful bid to escape its notoriety.

Cofer Black, former head of counterterrorism at the CIA, is the chairman of Total Intelligence Solutions, a Blackwater-related operation that provides “intelligence services.”

John Shalikashvili, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, sits on the board of directors of L-3, a giant military contractor that operates

in Afghanistan.

Former soldiers from the U.S., British, and other armies can earn as much as \$33,000 a month when they sign up with one of these companies to work as a contractor in Iraq or Afghanistan.

At the same time the U.S. military encourages its most skilled troops to re-up when their tour of duty is over by offering retention bonuses that can range from a few thousand dollars to \$150,000.

Even though North Carolina-based Blackwater lost its security contract in Iraq, it has continued to receive contracts from both the State Department and the CIA.

Blackwater employees—after receiving training at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada—assemble and load Hellfire missiles and 500-pound laser-guided bombs onto Predator drones launched from bases in Shamsi, Pakistan, and Jalabad, Afghanistan. CIA agents direct the pilotless planes from CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

In June, CIA director Leon Panetta reportedly ended a program begun in 2004 that hired Blackwater to assassinate alleged leaders of al-Qaeda.

According to the *New York Times*, about 25 percent of U.S. spooks are contractors, who receive as much as 70 percent of the U.S. spy budget.

Treasury Dept. issues fine over Cuba embargo

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Treasury Department fined Australia and New Zealand Bank Group \$5.75 million for allegedly violating the U.S. embargoes of Cuba and Sudan. It is the largest Cuba-related fine imposed since June 2004.

The Barack Obama administration has fined eight companies and four U.S. citizens for violating the Cuba embargo so far this year. During the same period last year 40 companies and individuals were fined. However, the Bank Group fine is equal to more than three times the total Cuba-related fines during the first eight months of 2008.

The Office of Foreign Asset Control, which imposed the fine, said it could have demanded more but decided on a lower amount due to the bank’s “substantial cooperation” and agreement to take measures to prevent future violations. The bank was charged with conducting 15 financial transactions worth \$78 million with Cuba, and 16 transactions worth \$28 million with Sudan.

Washington began the embargo of Cuba in October 1960 and then wid-

ened it in February 1962. The ban on trade, including medicine, food, and most travel by U.S. citizens, was in retaliation for the 1959 Cuban Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and ended U.S. domination of the island.

In 1999 restrictions were eased to allow the Cuban government to import some agricultural products from the United States.

New Mexico governor William Richardson traveled to Cuba the last week in August to promote exports of New Mexico beef, corn, wheat, potatoes, and apples. While visiting Ernest Hemingway’s former home outside

Havana, Richardson told the Associated Press, “I’m for enhanced tourism travel for Americans.”

Richardson was tapped by Obama to be U.S. secretary of commerce, but withdrew his nomination under pressure of a federal investigation regarding his political financial contributors. Richardson said that he was not representing the Obama administration during his Cuba trip but would “submit my impressions” to the White House on his return to the United States.

Cuba’s *Granma* daily newspaper reported news of the latest fine under the headline, “Still the exact same blockade.”

Three of Cuban 5 prisoners moved to Miami

Continued from front page

given life sentences for “conspiracy” to commit espionage and concurrent shorter sentences for lesser charges. The judges’ decision pointed out that they were given the maximum punishment based on guidelines related to the “actual gathering or transmission

of top secret information.” The panel overturned the sentences, they say, because the government presented no evidence and never accused them of any act of espionage.

Fernando González was sentenced to 19 years for acting as an unregistered foreign agent, conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent, and charges related to possession of false documents. The sentence for the latter charge was ramped up based on allegations that González was a “manager or supervisor” of a conspiracy to use false documents, which the judges ruled the government presented no evidence to support.

The court upheld the 15-year sentence for René González and two life sentences plus 15 years for Gerardo Hernández.

The three judges said that the reasons for vacating Labañino and Guerrero’s sentences for conspiracy to commit espionage apply equally to the same charge against Hernández. However, they declined to overturn his sentence. Because Hernández is concurrently serving another life sentence on the false charge of conspiracy to commit murder, they said,

any change to his prison term for conspiracy to commit espionage would be “irrelevant to the time he will serve in prison.”

From the outset, the Cuban Five requested a change of venue from Miami on the basis that they could not receive a fair trial there, given the atmosphere of bias and intimidation. This was denied.

One of the three judges in last year’s decision attached a dissenting statement in which he reiterated his support for change of venue from Miami given the “pervasive community prejudice” and role of the media.

The five have received worldwide support, including from nine Nobel Prize winners, some 6,000 intellectuals and artists, more than 1,000 elected politicians, the UN Human Rights Commission, various civil libertarian and human rights organizations, and many others.

Most recently, on August 25 American Federation of Teachers Local 2121 in San Francisco unanimously passed a resolution calling on President Barack Obama to pardon and release the Cuban Five. The union local requested the San Francisco Labor Council endorse the resolution.

Write to the Cuban Five:

Antonio Guerrero

#58741-004, FDC Miami, P.O. Box 019120, Miami, FL 33101

Luis Medina (Ramón Labañino)

#58734-004, FDC Miami, P.O. Box 019120, Miami, FL 33101
(NOTE: the envelope must be addressed to Luis Medina, but address the letter inside to Ramón)

Rubén Campa (Fernando González)

#58733-004, FDC Miami, P.O. Box 019120, Miami, FL 33101
(NOTE: the envelope must be addressed to Rubén Campa, but address the letter inside to Fernando)

René González

#58738-004, FCI Marianna, P.O. Box 7007, Marianna, FL 32447-7007

Gerardo Hernández

#58739-004, U.S.P. Victorville, P.O. Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301

Montreal communists open campaign office

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL—The Communist League (CL) will hold an election campaign rally here September 13 featuring Michel Prairie, the league's candidate for mayor of Montreal, and Beverly Bernardo, its candidate for mayor of Villeray-St. Michel-Parc-Extension. The election takes place November 1.

To confront the deepening worldwide capitalist depression and expanding imperialist wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Communist League candidates pose the need for the work-

ing class to take political power.

The rally will take place in the new CL campaign hall in central Montreal, which opened August 31. The meeting will also feature Norton Sandler, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

Since August 11, CL members and supporters have been working to renovate the new campaign hall, which will also house the weekly Militant Labor Forum. The renovation also includes building an office where work will be done on editing French-language titles for Pathfinder Press.

More than 20 volunteers participated in a Red Weekend August 22–24 centered on plastering, painting, and other renovation work necessary to prepare the spacious, professional, and attractive campaign hall for the communist movement. In addition to members and supporters of the Communist League in Montreal, members and supporters of the SWP and Young Socialists traveled from Boston and New York to help. Supporters of the CL from Toronto and Montreal have also participated in the renovation work.

The Red Weekend featured a range of party-building activities. These included a skills class on sewing to help CL members find and hold sewing jobs in the garment industry, a CL election campaign table in front of the busy Jean Talon subway station near



Militant/John Steele

Beverly Bernardo, right, Communist League candidate for mayor of Villeray-St. Michel-Parc-Extension, campaigns in Montreal August 22.



Militant/John Steele

Volunteers work on renovating new Communist League campaign hall in Montreal

the new hall, and a Sunday morning class centered on studying a chapter from *Teamster Bureaucracy* by Farrell Dobbs. *Teamster Bureaucracy* is the final book in the series by Dobbs, a central leader of the Teamsters union and the SWP, on the important industrial union-building battles waged by Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544 in the 1930s and early '40s.

On Saturday evening volunteers for the weekend relaxed for several hours at a barbecue held to launch the \$12,000 Communist League 2009 fund drive. Beverly Bernardo, the CL fund director, chaired the program. John Steele, the organizer of the CL hall renovation work; Tom Baumann, from the SWP and YS in New York; and Michel Dugré, a CL leader and one

of the translators in Pathfinder Press's French publication program, all spoke briefly on the work of building the international communist movement. Participants pledged some \$4,000 to the Communist League fund drive.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters

"To think that a socialist revolution in the U.S. is not possible, you would have to believe not only that the ruling families of the imperialist countries and their economic wizards have found a way to 'manage' capitalism. You would also have to close your eyes to the spreading imperialist wars, civil wars, and economic, financial, and social crises we are in the midst of." Also available in Spanish and French. **\$7**

Capitalism's World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Also available in Spanish and French. **\$25**

Available online or at a distributor listed on page 10.

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Iowa: Immigrant's arrest highlights rights abuse

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

HAMPTON, Iowa—The early morning arrest on August 6 of Alberto Casteñeda is an example of a growing pattern of blatant violations of the rights of immigrants. The New York-based Cardozo Immigration Justice Clinic has issued a report documenting such violations, especially illegal entry into homes and onto private property without a search warrant.

Seventeen-year-old Casteñeda, a high school student, was in his car about to drive to work when agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) ordered him to get out. Casteñeda said that he wanted to speak to a lawyer first. The cops responded by smashing in the driver's side window, arresting him, and spiriting him away to Des Moines, where he was put on a flight to Chicago—all before he had a chance to talk with an attorney.

A week after Casteñeda's arrest, the car with the bashed-out window remained in the driveway of his house with a black garbage bag taped over it. Neighbors told the *Militant* that the family rapidly moved out, fearing the return of immigration cops and the possible arrest of other family members.

The *Des Moines Register* ran a front-page article on the arrest and the conclusions of the Immigration Justice Clinic report. The report explains that the stated purpose of ICE's National Fugitive Operations Program is to detain immigrants who have outstanding arrest warrants or deportation orders. But the report shows that this is often used as a pretext for sweeping up anyone, especially Latinos, who

may not have papers to legally reside in the country. The Justice Clinic documents the practice of ICE agents routinely breaking into homes without legal authorization or permission from the homeowner.

Last year ICE opened a permanent fugitive unit in Des Moines. The *Register* reported that ICE has made 1,130 arrests in a five-state area that includes Iowa since October of last year. Some 470 of the arrests were

of immigrants who had not been ordered to leave the country but "were encountered during the arrests of fugitives," according to ICE.

Many Latinos who live in Hampton, a town with a population of roughly 5,700, work at nearby hog farms. In the two weeks before Casteñeda was arrested, at least eight other immigrants were arrested in the town, including another teenager who worked at the Fareway supermarket.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 14, 1984

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—On August 29, the National Police of the Dominican Republic began an intensive round-up directed against the leaders of the Dominican Left Front and major trade unions.

In addition, the government ordered the police to close the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and suspended classes for two weeks in the public schools.

The night of August 30, Salvador Jorge Blanco, the president of the Dominican Republic, announced increases in the price of fuel. Anticipating the price hike, the major unions in the country, together with the People's Struggle Committees, had been organizing protest activities. After the announcement of the increase in fuel prices, the unions called for a national transport strike for September 3.



September 14, 1959

SAN FRANCISCO—Not in many years has there been such a remarkable demonstration of rand-and-file combativity as that exhibited in the recently concluded San Francisco teamster strike. It was reminiscent in many ways of the militant battles of 1934 that restored union strength to this area. As in 1934 it was a movement that got no sanction from on top but arose from deep wells of working class anger.

These young men took to the streets and bridge approaches and stopped a large city's commercial traffic. When they got up in their strike meeting to proclaim that the power rested in their hands to paralyze the city, they were speaking a simple truth that could not be denied. Only one combination could counter that—a devious alliance of union officials, judges, editors, employers, and agents of the federal government.



September 15, 1934

The most far reaching, vicious injunction ever to come to our attention has been awarded the Paterson dye-house bosses.

Under its provisions the dyers must either work or go to jail. Already squads of constables are scurrying about to the shops to serve the injunction. Here is an order which enjoins the workers not merely from striking or from picketing but even from discussing a strike.

"We are happy at this decision," say the bosses, "thousands of workers will be permitted to work and earn their livelihood uninterrupted."

Reduced to the level of chattel, these workers are now forced by solemn court order either to stay at their places of slavery, eking out whatever miserable existence they can, or protest, strike, and be sent to the county prisons.

Amid crisis, Japan vote ends 1-party dominance

BY DOUG NELSON

August 31—Under the impact of the deepening capitalist crisis in Japan, the opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) took a decisive majority in the country's lower house parliamentary elections yesterday, ending a long period of one-party dominance.

The DPJ is expected to win 308 of 480 seats, displacing the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the more powerful of Japan's two legislative bodies. With the victory the DPJ will take the office of prime minister.

In 2007 upper house elections, the DPJ captured a plurality in the 242-member body, holding 109 seats against the LDP's 83. With the exception of 11 months in 1993–94, the LDP had controlled both houses since 1955.

The official unemployment rate has risen for six straight months and now stands at 5.7 percent—the highest in Japan's post-World War II history. The rate is nearly 10 percent for workers under 25. Deflationary pressures are mounting, as the consumer price index has fallen for five consecutive months. The decline in each of the last three months has set a new record since these figures were first recorded in 1971.

The former ruling party has taken much of the blame for the economic crisis in Japan. The country's massive speculative bubble in real estate and stock prices was the first to pop, foreshadowing what was to come in the rest of the world.

Throughout the 1990s commercial land prices fell by more than 75 percent and stock prices dropped by nearly two-thirds, throwing Japan's economy into its worst recession of the post-World War II era.

Since the recession of the late 1990s, Japan's economy has continued to decline relative to other imperialist powers. Its gross domestic product rank in the world fell from fifth in 2001 to 19th in 2007. Now it is caught in a crisis that is gripping the entire globe.

Democratic Party promises

The DPJ, formed in 1998, has promised to alleviate the grind through social spending. Among the party's promises: a raise in the hourly minimum wage to 1,000 yen (\$10.70), elim-

ination of highway tolls, a guaranteed minimum pensions payment of 70,000 yen per month, income compensation for farming households, free public high school education, and stimulus payments to families with children, designed to address the country's declining birth rate and rising age. The new ruling party has said it will do this without raising consumption taxes or increasing the issuance of government bonds.

The DPJ has also sought to differentiate itself by calling for a "more equal" relationship with the U.S. government and better relations with other countries in East Asia, including recognition of Japan's military aggression against them in World War II.

DPJ president Yukio Hatoyama said in July that his party would not extend Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean—set to expire in January—for U.S. and allied naval forces engaged in the Afghan-Pakistan war.

In response, U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton told Japan's foreign ministry that Washington expected Japan to continue the refueling.

Hatoyama has also suggested Tokyo should review agreements with Washington to support the U.S. marine air base in Okinawa.

The ousted LDP stressed maintain-



AP Photo/Koji Sasahara

Job seekers crowd branch of "Hello Work," Japan's main government job placement agency, in Toyota city April 6. City is named after mainstay employer in region Toyota Motor Corp., hit by worldwide decline in auto market. Official unemployment nationwide reached record high of 5.7 percent in July. Recent elections brought Democratic Party of Japan to power for first time with popular promises such as raising minimum wage and a guaranteed minimum pension.

ing Tokyo's close relationship with Washington and calls for legislation to expand the use of Japanese military forces abroad. The DPJ has been somewhat silent on that controversial issue while supporting involvement in missions led by the United Nations.

The LDP has placed great importance in continued cooperation with Washington on the deployment of Tokyo's antiballistic missile system. Japan's defense ministry announced in August its request to include three more Patriot missile installations in

next year's budget, doubling the number of antiballistic missile facilities in the country.

The DPJ has not commented on the antiballistic system, while calling for legislation to explicitly ban possessing, producing, or allowing nuclear weapons on Japanese soil.

Both parties pledge to continue the pressure on Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear program, while the DPJ has called on Washington to renounce any preemptive nuclear strike on North Korea.

Youths injured, abused in N.Y. detention centers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—"Imagine a 260-pound man on your back putting you in a full nelson and trying to break your arms off." That's how Zachary Bowers, 17, described one encounter with guards when he was incarcerated at the Louis Gossett, Jr. juvenile detention center outside Ithaca, New York.

In a phone interview with the *Militant*, Bowers described the physical abuse and injuries youths sustain at these centers. Incarcerated on a petty larceny charge, he was released from the Gossett center in December after being forced to spend nearly a year there. "I was put in restraints at least 20 times," Bowers told the *Militant*.

For the first week inmates have to walk an arm's length from a staff member, said Bowers. Because he was more than an arm's length, "I had restraints put on. My face was burn-

ing from them rubbing it in the carpet," he said.

Bowers' eight-month sentence was extended three times. "This is not a rehabilitation place. It makes county jails sound much better because in there you know when you're getting out," he said. In the detention centers "you don't know. They're playing with your head."

A study initiated nearly two years ago by the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division at four of the 31 juvenile detention facilities in New York found widespread abuse.

"Anything from sneaking an extra cookie to initiating a fistfight may result in a full prone restraint with handcuffs," the report stated, leading to "an alarming number of serious injuries to youth, including concussions, broken or knocked-out teeth, and spiral fractures." The latter are caused by severe twisting of a bone in the arm or leg.

The inquiry centered on the Gossett and Lansing residential centers outside Ithaca and the Tryon Residential Center and the Tryon Girls Residential Center near Johnstown, New York. Most of the youths incarcerated in the four prisons are 16 or younger. Many have been placed there by the courts for nonviolent misdemeanors such as turnstile jumping, marijuana possession, or truancy.

A common practice of prison officials is "pin-pushing," that is, pushing the buttons on their radios to bring in the "response teams." A 2007 memo to staff at Gossett called for pin pushing "if you 'think,' 'feel,' or 'suspect' that you may have to use physical force" or "if a resident says 'no' or demonstrates defiance in any manner."

In one case a response team was deployed when "a youth refused to

stop laughing loudly in the cafeteria after staff warned him several times to stop," the Justice Department report stated. Also, when a youth was ordered to get up from where he was sitting and stand next to a staff member, which he did, but "reportedly glared at the staff and 'invaded [their] space.'" Restraints placed on this individual reinjured his collarbone, which had previously been fractured by restraints.

Another punishment technique employed is "hook and trip." This involves restraining a youth's arms behind his or her back then tripping their legs so the person falls to the floor face first, resulting in head injuries and broken teeth.

Full prone restraints, in which a person is placed face down on the ground with arms frequently handcuffed behind the back, can restrict breathing. A 15-year-old youth at Tryon Boys died from this restraining method in November 2006. In struggling for air the individual's movements can be "misconstrued" as "resistance," leading to increased force being applied to him or her, the report said.

At the Lansing detention center, with capacity for 50 girls, restraints were used 698 times in 2007, an average of 58 per month, resulting in 123 reported injuries.

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, called the detention centers "a government-sponsored nightmare of Dickensian physical and mental abuse."

A 2006 report by Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union said the state's juvenile detention centers were "among the most hostile juvenile justice agencies we have ever encountered."

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The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Explains why communism is not a set of preconceived principles but the line of march of the working class toward power, "springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes."—\$5

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Iran rulers debate how to deal with opposition

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Sharp debate and division continue within the ruling class in Iran over how far to go in cracking down on protesters fighting for more political rights. More than 100 people who played a role in organizing the protests are on trial.

Sustained street demonstrations in the hundreds of thousands rocked Iran following the June 12 presidential elections. The protesters had supported former prime minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, viewing him as more favorable to democratic rights, including the rights of women. When the government announced that incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won by a large margin, Mousavi backers poured into the streets in many cities charging fraud. It took more than a week for security forces to bring the protests under control.

The Iranian parliament reported that 30 people were killed in the demonstrations, but Mousavi forces say 69 died. Both liberal and some powerful conservative voices have criticized the way the government responded to the protests and the revelations of torture and deadly beatings of demonstrators who were arrested.

Mohsen Ruholamini, the son of one prominent conservative, died in prison from meningitis, his family was told. However the August 31 Mehr

News reported, "A coroner's commission on August 16 reached its final finding that the cause of Ruholamini's death was physical stress, bad detention conditions, and repeated blows, including one from a hard object."

The case of Ruholamini has drawn particular attention because his father is a close aide to Mohsen Rezaei, a long-time military commander who ran for president against Ahmadinejad.

Central leaders of the campaigns of Mousavi and of presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi, who also called for more freedoms, are now on trial, accused of trying to overthrow the government in a plot said to have had U.S., British, and Israeli backing. Key defendants have made "confessions" widely believed to be forced.

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, Iran's top Shiite cleric who strongly backed the suppression of the demonstrations, sought to strike a more conciliatory tone in an August 26 meeting with students in Tehran. "I don't accuse the leaders of the recent incidents of being affiliated with foreign countries, including the U.S. and Britain, because it has not been proven to me," he said.

He promised the students that a raid on a Tehran University dorm that killed four students and the abuse of demonstrators taken to Kahrizak prison would be investigated and



Members of rightist Basij militia in Iran club protesters in June

those found guilty punished.

President Ahmadinejad two days later said that no one in Iran's security forces was responsible for any torture or abuse that took place during the protests. He called for the arrest of the "main agents" behind the demonstrations, clearly referring to Mousavi and his closest associates.

"The main elements behind the riots should not be immune while their inferiors are punished," he said, according to Fars News Agency. "Those being deceived and the inferior elements in the riots should be treated with Islamic compassion."

Khamenei recently appointed Sadeq Larijani head of Iran's judiciary. One of Larijani's first moves was to

place Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei in the prosecutor general's seat. Ahmadinejad had fired Ejei from his post as intelligence minister over disagreements that included the handling of the postelection demonstrations.

Larijani has removed the Tehran prosecutor, Saeed Mortazavi, who had been directing the show trials. Mortazavi is also notorious for closing down opposition newspapers and imprisoning journalists and other activists.

The trials are continuing, however. Brig. Gen. Seyyed Massoud Jazayeri, deputy chief of the Pasdaran, the main military arm of the government, demanded "swift retribution for rioters," CNN reported.

An opposition Web site, Noruz, reported August 31 that an "unprecedented" number of security forces were amassed at the University of Shiraz, one of the first schools to reopen. Shiraz is about 500 miles south of Tehran. Some 100 students were arrested in Shiraz during the post-election demonstrations.

U.S., allies prepare new sanctions against Iran



Reuters/Raheb Homavandi

Nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Iran, about 750 miles south of Tehran, Feb. 26, 2006. Washington seeks to deny Iran's right to develop nuclear technology.

Continued from front page for far tougher sanctions," the August 26 *New York Times* reported. "Among the penalties under consideration is a cutoff of refined gasoline to Iran."

The paper added that a senior administration official said that such a step "will be a hard sell for China and Russia." Beijing and Moscow, who are permanent members of the Security Council, both have substantial trade relations with Tehran. Washington, Paris, and London are the other three permanent members.

Obama had earlier urged Tehran to open negotiations, promising economic incentives if the Iranians agree to halt uranium enrichment.

Iran's nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, announced September 1 that Tehran is ready "to present its revised package of proposals . . . and hold talks with world powers."

The imperialists claim Tehran's nuclear program is designed to produce

atomic weapons, pointing to the fact that the Iranian project includes uranium enrichment, which is necessary to produce a bomb. Tehran says the program is for peaceful use of nuclear energy to develop the country's infrastructure. Uranium enrichment is also necessary to generate fuel for nuclear power plants.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released its quarterly report on Iran's nuclear program August 28. The IAEA board of governors is due to discuss it at a September 7 meeting.

The report states that Tehran has been more cooperative in allowing IAEA inspections of its facilities. Inspectors were able to visit the heavy water reactor under construction in Arak in mid-August for the first time in a year. The inspectors have also been given greater access to the Natanz enrichment plant.

The report, however, criticized the

fact that "Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities or its work on heavy water related projects as required by the Security Council." Nor has it provided the UN agency with information "to exclude the possibility of military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme."

The *Jerusalem Post* reported that the government of Israel said the report did not go nearly far enough in condemning Iran and demanded release of an IAEA report it claims exists on Iran's nuclear weapons efforts. "Israel expects the international community to take substantive and prompt steps to halt Iran's military nuclear program," a statement from the foreign ministry said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said all Iran's nuclear activities have been within the framework of the IAEA and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "Sanctions will not prevent us from pursuing our legal rights," he added.

The NPT favors nuclear-armed imperialist powers over semicolonial countries. Under the treaty, which Tehran has signed, Iran has the right to produce nuclear power, including enriching uranium "for peaceful purposes." But it and other "non-nuclear-weapon States" must submit to inspections to verify they are not developing nuclear weapons.

A "nuclear-weapon State," on the other hand, does not have to allow these intrusive inspections. Such a state is defined by the treaty as "one which has manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967."

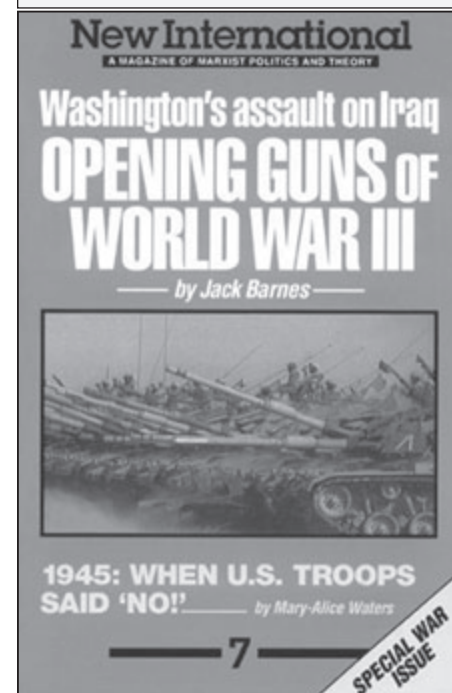
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Communism, the Working Class, and Anti-Imperialist Struggle: Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War
—Two Documents with introduction by Samad Sharif

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Abortion prosecution protested in Australia

BY JOANNE KUNIAISKY

SYDNEY, Australia—Sergie Brennan, 21, and Tegan Simone Leach, 19, a young couple charged in April under Queensland's century-old antiabortion law, have been forced to move after their house near Cairns in northeast Australia was hit with a Molotov cocktail and their car vandalized.

In a much publicized case, Leach and Brennan are due to appear at a hearing September 3 where a magistrate will decide whether there is sufficient evidence for a trial. Leach is charged with "procuring her own miscarriage," which carries a punishment of up to seven years in jail. Brennan, a mechanic, is charged with "attempting to procure an abortion" and with supplying abortion drugs. He could receive a 14-year term if convicted.

No woman in Australia has been prosecuted under antiabortion laws for the last 50 years.

Abortion used to be penalized under the Crimes Act of each state in Australia. This remains the case in Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, and Tasmania. Abortion has been decriminalized in the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, and Victoria, but in the latter two states new laws restricting abortions were adopted in the process. While there is no federal law guaranteeing women the right to abortion, it is subsidized by Medicare.

Common law decisions in New South Wales in 1971 and in Queensland in 1986 broadly defined "lawful abortions." Abortion is available in those states if, in the opinion of the doctors, the continued pregnancy would cause mental or physical harm to the woman.

Queensland police charge that Leach and Brennan used the abortion drugs RU486 and misoprostol to terminate pregnancy. Queensland law states that only surgical abortions are legal. Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital, in the wake of the arrest of Leach and Brennan, has stopped carrying out drug-induced abortions until the law is changed, forcing women to travel to clinics in New South Wales.

RU486 was banned in Australia until 2006. Its distribution remains tightly controlled by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Just a few dozen doctors are licensed to prescribe it, and only when a woman's life is endangered by continuation of the pregnancy or she

has a serious medical condition.

Cairns gynecologist Caroline de Costa, who established the country's first abortion service using RU486, said a number of her colleagues had sought her advice on treating women who had taken illegally imported abortion pills since 2006.

Former Democrat federal senator Lyn Allison, a leader of the pro-RU486 campaign, said the TGA had placed "onerous and ridiculous conditions" on distributors, including a requirement they attach English translations of every study conducted on the drug with their application.

The pill is available in about 35 countries. In the United States the drug accounts for about 14 percent of abortions. More than 840,000 have used the drug there since it was approved in 2000. In France the drug accounts for roughly one-third of abortions.

The Queensland state Labor govern-



Protesters in Brisbane, Australia, August 29 demanded government drop charges against young couple under century-old antiabortion law.

ment is resisting calls to decriminalize abortion. Queensland premier Anna Bligh said August 21 that the state government would review the ban on use of RU486 by doctors. But she made clear she continues to oppose decriminalization.

In a statement calling for the removal of antiabortion laws from the Queensland Criminal Code, the abor-

tion rights group Children By Choice states: "It is unacceptable that a young couple have been targeted in 2009 for making the same decision that many women and their partners make every day—that is, to abort a pregnancy. What should have remained a private matter has now become the subject of a criminal investigation and potential imprisonment."

Nebraska: Antiabortion rightists fail to mobilize

Continued from front page

gunned down three months ago by an antiabortion rightist. Tiller's clinic has been closed and Carhart says he will open a new one.

'Every woman's right'

Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), spoke at a press conference August 28 at Carhart's clinic here in Bellevue.

That same day the Omaha *World Herald* published an article titled, "Ex-employees aid abortion foes."

The article reports on Operation Rescue's claim that four former employees of Carhart's clinic said they had carried out medical procedures without proper licensing. The paper said Operation Rescue is demanding that the Nebraska attorney general's office investigate the claims.

Asked about the assertions, Carhart noted that antiabortion groups had made similar groundless claims about Tiller for 30 years.

Troy Newman, Operation Rescue director, led the rightist's action here. He and others from his group continually tried to provoke clinic defenders. At different times Newman and Cheryl Sullenger, the outfit's senior policy advisor, drove past the clinic

defenders, taking their photos in an intimidation tactic.

Rightist attacks in other cities

Polarization around the abortion issue, part of the deepening capitalist economic crisis, was evident in other cities as well while the actions were taking place near Omaha. The Associated Press reported that on August 27 a makeshift explosive was thrown at a Planned Parenthood clinic in nearby Lincoln. The Molotov cocktail fell short of its mark and caused no damage.

The *New York Times* reported August 28 that Donald Hertz was arrested for threatening to have the director of the Boulder Abortion Clinic in Colorado and his entire family killed. Hertz is described by his attorney as "very pro-life."

Need for solidarity

Beth Dagle, 27, a software developer, was among the many women and men from Omaha and the nearby region who turned out for defense of the clinic here. Dagle said she came because "I support women's rights, especially to abortion, to the core. It's so important!"

Patrice Fisher, 51, a laid-off worker, said, "I heard about this on local TV news and MSNBC. I said to myself, 'I really should show my solidarity.'"

For Kat Simmons, 24, it was her first time on clinic defense. Simmons said, "I read about Operation Rescue coming to town, and I contacted Erin Sullivan, president of Nebraska NOW, and joined NOW."

Part of the defense was a honk-and-wave line on a busy street bordering the clinic. Many drivers passing by honked or gave a thumbs-up to the clinic defenders.

Three veteran clinic escorts from Louisville, Kentucky, were part of the defense. Drew Patterson, a retired salesman who has been an escort every Saturday for 10 years, told the *Militant*, "I am here today because this is the front line in the fight for

reproductive justice."

Patterson said he had just learned that some 200 antiabortion protesters had shown up at the Louisville clinic that morning. Patterson said he was encouraged by the fact that after Tiller's death more young people are getting involved. "We have recruited 20 more escorts in Louisville," he said.

Among the clinic defenders were members of NOW; NARAL, an abortion rights lobby group; Feminist Majority; Young Socialists; Socialist Workers Party; and The World Can't Wait.

Michelle Fadeley, president of DuPage NOW, told CNN that she drove from the Chicago area to support Carhart. Fadeley has helped organize countermobilizations against rightist harassment at an abortion clinic in Aurora, Illinois.

Several members of Medical Students for Choice came from South Dakota.

Nicole Goss, 23, came in a van with 10 others, most of them African American, organized by the Chicago Abortion Fund. "This is very important," Goss said. "Anti-choice is using scare tactics. It's important that the clinic stay open."



Militant/Betsey Stone

Clinic defenders in Bellevue, Nebraska, kept facility open August 28-29.

For further reading

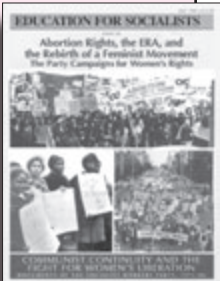
Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women's Liberation

Documents of Socialist Workers Party 1971-86

How did the oppression of women begin? What class benefits? What social forces have the power to end the second-class status of women? Why is defense of a woman's right to choose abortion a pressing issue for the labor movement? A three-part series that helps politically equip the generation of women and men joining battles in defense of women's rights today.

Special offer through end of September: purchase entire three-part series for \$15, or \$7 for each single booklet. Regular price is \$30.

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1934 Teamsters strikes: example for workers today

How working people transformed union into fighting tool of social struggle

Printed here is an excerpt from *Teamster Rebellion*, the story of the strikes and union organizing drive by the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, one of the richest chapters in the history of the U.S. labor movement. This August marks the 75th anniversary of the union's first strike victory.

The book is written by Farrell Dobbs, a coal-yard worker at the time of Local 574's first victory, who became one of the central leaders of the strikes and subsequent organizing drive to expand union power throughout the Midwest.

The successful struggle against the trucking bosses, their big-business allies, and the local and federal governments, paved the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) as a fighting social movement in the United States.

The book, one of a four-part series, illustrates the revolutionary potential of the working class and records invaluable lessons for workers—who may hail from any corner of the globe—engaged in struggles within the borders of the United States and beyond. Dobbs dedicates his account “to the men and women who gave me unshakable confidence in the working class, the rank and file of General Drivers Local 574.”

Among the book's most valuable lessons as illustrated by Dobbs is the indispensable role of a revolutionary party organizing to emulate the course laid out by the Bolshevik Party in the Russian Revolution of 1917. Dobbs himself was won to the communist movement in the preliminary stages of the Minneapolis struggle, becoming a central leader of the Communist League of America and its successor, the Socialist Workers Party.

In the first chapter of the book, Dobbs wrote, “A key aspect of the local situation was, of course, common to industry as a whole, namely, radicalization of the working class under the impact of severe economic depression. The main difference lay in the presence locally of revolutionary socialist cadres who proved highly capable of fusing with the mass of rebellious workers and adding vital know-how in the struggle



Photo: Minnesota Historical Society

“Battle of Deputies Run,” which occurred May 21–22, 1934. Unionists routed cops and deputized company personnel who attempted to “teach the workers a lesson.” Workers, however, defeated the bosses and won a settlement Aug. 21, 1934, opening up the road to advance union power throughout the Midwest. Top right: Union paper *The Organizer* announces victory. Bottom: *Militant*, Aug. 25, 1934.

against the capitalist ruling class.”

The story retains all the relevance and importance for the working class as when it was printed in 1972.

As the introduction to the Spanish edition by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, puts it: “In a new century, increasingly marked by looming economic catastrophe, and an accelerating drive toward bloody wars unleashed by the final imperialist power attempting to extend its life, the concrete experiences of the men and women of Local 574 will prove ever more current and valuable.”



BY FARRELL DOBBS

After almost five weeks of bitter conflict, coming on the heels of the hard-fought May strike, the workers had won a sweeping victory. Growing realization of what had been accomplished was reflected in the mood back at strike headquarters after the membership meeting was over. A good example was the pride with which Brother Sloan did his announcing over the loudspeaker. Sloan, whom we called “Brother” as a nickname, said in signing off: “This is Station 574 broadcasting, with 7,500 pickets, 450 cruiser cars, 16 motorcycles and 2 airplanes, by authority of the Strike Committee of 100.”

In an editorial hailing the union victory, *The Organizer* took note that “the strike ends but the struggle does not end.” It warned that the bosses would be up to their usual sneaky tricks in the Labor Board elections to be held on August 28. There were to be two opposing tickets: Local 574's and a company-union slate.

Several employer devices were used in an effort to steal the elections. Payroll lists were padded with office workers

and salesmen. Attempts were made to leave some union members off the list. There were also cases in which a boss tried to put the name of a good union member on the company-union slate.

To combat these maneuvers Local 574 organized for the elections as it had prepared for the strike, using *The Organizer* as the main weapon. Daily publication of the union paper continued throughout the preelection period. (After the elections, *The Organizer* continued briefly as a weekly and publication was then suspended for lack of funds.) As reports came in from union members of each boss trick, the paper would publish a general alert and explain how to combat the underhanded move. The union campaign was climaxed by a big open rally the night before the vote. Nonmembers from within the industry were invited and the speakers explained in a friendly way why these workers should vote for the victorious union and join it.

The election returns made Local 574 the bargaining representative for 61 percent of the employees in the general trucking industry. Majority votes gave the union the right to speak for all employees in sixty-two firms. At fifteen companies there were tie votes. In these cases Local 574 had the right to represent its half of the employees, thereby gaining union recognition on these jobs. At nearly all the large companies the workers voted about three to one for Local 574, and the bloc of twenty-two market firms went solidly for the union. . . .

Our strikes had unfolded during the fifth year of the great depression and the second year of the revival of labor. They constituted one of the three outstanding class battles of 1934, the others having been waged by the Toledo auto workers and the San Francisco longshoremen. All these strikes were led by radicals, over the opposition of conservative union officials. They tended to spill over narrow jurisdictional lines and were militantly conducted in the face of harsh police repressions. These combats not only demonstrated that the workers would and could fight for their rights—they showed that genuine rank-and-file actions could win. In all three cases the bosses were beaten and forced to recognize the union.

This series of victories gave a tremendous lift to the morale of insurgent workers throughout the country. The increasing labor momentum led to historic struggles in basic industry that resulted in the formation of the CIO and culminated in the wave of sit-down strikes that began two years later. A basic understanding on our part of this developing phenomenon was vital to the charting of Local 574's future. The mounting groundswell of labor combativity could lend us objective support in our coming battles, provided we clearly grasped the meaning of events and maintained a good sense of timing.

In more immediate terms, objective trends were already leading toward national reinforcement of our party's trade union cadres. Parallel to the May strike in Minneapolis the American Workers Party had led the comparably militant struggle of auto workers at the Electric Auto-Lite Company in Toledo, Ohio. It had also built a substantial unemployed movement, centered in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and contiguous areas. The AWP was centrist in character, containing both potential revolutionaries and political opportunists. Important to us was the presence in its ranks of militant workers who were moving in our direction politically. A collateral consideration was to prevent the Stalinists from knifing into the AWP while we drew the militants over to our revolutionary program.

With this object in mind, the Communist League opened a friendly discussion with the AWP. By December 1934 our efforts had led to fusion of the two organizations into a new formation called the Workers Party of the United States. Soon after the fusion a joint national tour was made by Jim Cannon, who had headed the Communist League of America, and A.J. Muste, who had been the central leader of the American Workers Party. Their arrival in Minneapolis was greeted with great jubilation. All the comrades became doubly inspired to go forward both in the trade-union and party-building work.

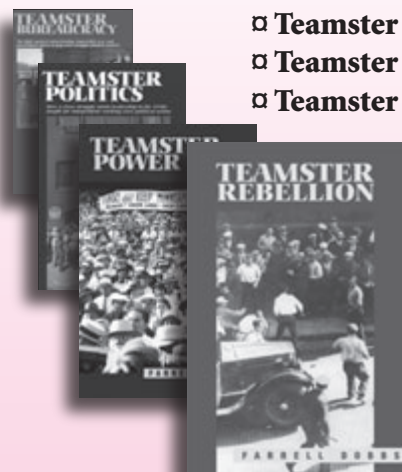
Locally our victorious strike struggle had already set the tone, given an example, and shown the way toward further working-class advances. In its August 24 issue the *Minneapolis Labor Review* had declared: “Winning of this strike marks the greatest victory in the annals of the local trade union movement. . . . It has changed Minneapolis from being known as a scabs' paradise to being a city of hope for those who toil.”

Confirmation of the declaration came swiftly. By August 27 the laundry workers, who had gone on strike after Bloody Friday, wrested an agreement from the laundry bosses to raise wages and improve working conditions. Their victory, which came on the heels of Local 574's triumph, helped inspire other workers to square off against the bosses. Strike after strike began to take place as more and more workers joined in the campaign to make Minneapolis a union town. In every case help and guidance was sought from Local 574, which had emerged as a major power in the Minnesota labor movement.

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Debs: Capitalist system is ‘crime against humanity’

Below is an excerpt from Eugene V. Debs Speaks, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. A pioneer socialist in the early 1900s, Debs campaigned for the overthrow of capitalism by a workers' revolution. He embraced the 1917 Russian Revolution and spoke out against anti-immigrant chauvinism and racism, and about the need to fight for industrial unionism. He went to prison in 1919, charged with violating the Espionage Act for having made an antiwar speech in Canton, Ohio. He served two years and eight months behind bars. The piece below was written by Debs about crime under capitalism. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EUGENE V. DEBS

Crime in all of its varied forms and manifestations is of such a common nature under the capitalist system that capitalism and crime have become almost synonymous terms.

Private appropriation of the earth's surface, the natural resources, and the means of life is nothing less than a crime against humanity, but the comparative few who are the beneficiaries of this iniquitous social arrangement, far from being viewed as criminals meriting pun-



Socialist leader Eugene V. Debs speaking in early 1900s. “Under the capitalist system,” writes Debs, “there is far more concern about property and its conservation than in human life.”

ishment, are the exalted rulers of society and the people they exploit gladly render them homage and obeisance.

The few who own and control the means of existence are literally the masters of mankind. The great mass of dispossessed people are their slaves.

The ancient master owned his slaves under the law and could dispose of them at will. He could even kill his slaves the same as he could any domestic animal that belonged to him. The feudal lord of the Middle Ages did not own his serfs bodily, but he did own the land without which they could not live. The serfs were not allowed to own land and could work only by the consent of the feudal master who appropriated to himself the fruit of their labor, leaving for them but a bare subsistence.

The capitalist of our day, who is the social, economic and political successor of the feudal lord of the Middle Ages, and the patrician master of the ancient world, holds the great mass of the people in bondage, not by owning them under the law, nor by having sole proprietorship of the land, but by virtue of his ownership of industry, the tools and machinery with which work is done and wealth produced. In a word, the capitalist owns the tools and the jobs of the workers, and therefore they are his economic dependents. In that relation the capitalist has the power to appropriate to himself the products of the workers and to become rich in idle-

ness while the workers, who produce all the wealth that he enjoys, remain in poverty.

To buttress and safeguard this exploiting system, private property of the capitalist has been made a fetish, a sacred thing, and thousands of laws have been enacted and more thousands supplemented by court decisions to punish so-called crimes against the holy institution of private property.

A vast majority of the crimes that are punished under the law and for which men are sent to prison, are committed directly or indirectly against property. Under the capitalist system there is far more concern about property and infinitely greater care in its conservation than in human life.

Multiplied thousands of men, women and children are killed and maimed in American industry by absolutely preventable accidents every year, yet no one ever dreams of indicting the capitalist masters who are guilty of the crime. The capitalist owners of fire traps and of fetid sweating dens, where the lives of the workers are ruthlessly sacrificed and their health wantonly undermined, are not indicted and sent to prison for the reason that they own and control the indicting machinery just as they own and control the industrial machinery in their system.

The economic-owning class is always the political ruling class. Laws in the aggregate are largely to keep the people in

subjection to their masters.

Under the capitalist system, based upon private property in the means of life, the exploitation that follows impoverishes the masses, and their precarious economic condition, their bitter struggle for existence, drives increasing numbers of them to despair and desperation, to crime and destruction.

The inmates of an average county jail consist mainly of such victims. They also constitute the great majority in the state prisons and federal penitentiaries. The inmates of prisons are proverbially the poorer people recruited from what we know as the “lower class.” The rich are not to be found in prison save in such rare instances as to prove the rule that penitentiaries are built for the poor.

Capitalism needs and must have the prison to protect itself from the criminals it has created. It not only impoverishes the masses when they are at work, but it still further reduces them by not allowing millions to work at all. The capitalist's profit has supreme consideration; the life of the workers is of little consequence.

If a hundred men are blown up in a mine a hundred others rush there eagerly to take the places of the dead even before the remnants of their bodies have been laid away. Protracted periods of enforced idleness under capitalism have resulted in thousands of industrious workingmen becoming tramps and vagabonds, and in thousands of tramps and vagabonds becoming outcasts and criminals.

It is in this process that crime is generated and proceeds in its logical stages from petty larceny to highway robbery and homicide. Getting a living under capitalism—the system in which the few who toil not are millionaires and billionaires, while the mass of the people who toil and sweat and produce all the wealth are victims of poverty and pauperism—getting a living under this inexpressibly cruel and inhuman system is so precarious, so uncertain, fraught with such pain and struggle that the wonder is not that so many people become vicious and criminal, but that so many remain in docile submission to such a tyrannous and debasing condition.

September

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Free the Cuban Five now!

Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, and Fernando González have been moved to a Miami jail for resentencing. They, along with Gerardo Hernández and René González, are five Cuban revolutionaries who have been unjustly held in U.S. jails for nearly 11 years. They are known as the Cuban Five.

Last year a three-judge panel ruled that the sentences meted out to Guerrero, Labañino, and Fernando González were excessively long. But it failed to overturn their convictions, despite the fact that the government has never presented any evidence to back up the false charges it brought against any of the five—charges ranging from “acting as unregistered foreign agents” to various “conspiracy” charges. All five should be set free now!

Winning the freedom of the Cuban Five is in the vital interest of working people in this country and the world over. The government’s case against them is built on the violation of our rights, including collection of “evidence” through secret, warrantless searches of homes—a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s Fourth Amendment ban on unreasonable search and seizure.

Unable to dig up any credible evidence, the government framed the five on “conspiracy” charges. In that way it was not required to prove that any crime was actually committed. Hernández, for example, is also

charged with “conspiracy to commit murder” based on the fact that the Cuban government exercised its right to shoot down planes that violated Cuban airspace in 1996. The planes were flown by members of the counterrevolutionary outfit Brothers to the Rescue, whose leader is a veteran of the CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. The government falsely charged that Hernández knew in advance of the Cuban government’s decision to shoot the planes down.

The trial of the five took place in an atmosphere of pervasive intimidation in Miami organized by opponents of the Cuban Revolution. The defendants’ request for a change of venue was denied. The judge allowed the prosecution to use heavily censored documents as “evidence” on the grounds that some files might contain classified information.

The unjust treatment of the five can only be understood as Washington’s punishment of the Cuban workers and farmers for overthrowing the wealthy, U.S.-backed capitalists and landlords who ruled them, making a socialist revolution, and reorganizing the country’s production in the interest of working people. By their example the Cuban Five have shown that they remain on the front lines of the class struggle in this country. They deserve our redoubled effort to win their freedom. Free the Cuban Five!

Rise in bank failures mark ‘recovery’

Continued from front page

related assets,” stated FDIC chairperson Sheila Bair in an August 27 news release. But “we’re now seeing problems with more conventional types of retail and commercial loans.”

Of the 84 bank closures this year, 39 have occurred over the past two months. “The numbers are climbing every day. The U.S. banking system will lose some 1,000 institutions over the next two years,” John Kanas told CNBC. Kanas’s private equity firm recently took control of collapsed BankUnited of Florida—the largest financial institution in that state.

In all of 2008 bank failures totaled 26. During the years of the post–World War II boom, between 1947 and 1978, the average bank failures each year were three.

Federal regulators closed Guaranty Bank August 21. With 162 branches in Texas and California, the bank was the third largest financial institution to fail in 2009 and the 11th largest in U.S. history. Its collapse depleted \$3 billion of the government’s deposit insurance funds. As of the second-quarter this fund, which insures \$4.5 trillion in U.S. bank deposits, stood at \$10.4 billion, down more than 20 percent from the previous quarter. A year ago it was \$45.2 billion.

“Over the next five years, the agency expects roughly \$70 billion in losses due to the failure of insured institutions,” stated CNNMoney.com.

The FDIC insures up to \$250,000 per depositor in each bank. However the actual funds the agency has on hand aren’t anywhere near the amounts the government promises to guarantee.

Federal government regulations say the FDIC can

maintain on hand as little as a 1.15 percent ratio to insured deposits, but even that figure is declining. At the end of June the fund ratio stood at 0.22 percent.

The government’s bailout of the nation’s largest banks along with federally arranged mergers have made the banking giants even bigger. J.P. Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo each now hold more than \$1 of every \$10 on deposit in U.S. banks, despite regulations barring this. Those three banks along with Citigroup now issue one of every two mortgages and about two of every three credit cards, reports the *Washington Post*.

In an article titled “Bernanke Sees a Recovery—How Would He Know?” John Hussman, president of the Hussman Investment Trust, notes that the billions poured into the largest banks have done nothing to resolve the financial crisis.

Federal Reserve chairman Benjamin Bernanke, like Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and his predecessor Henry Paulson, “shows no hesitation in diverting the real resources of the American public to defend and compensate the bondholders of mismanaged financial companies who made reckless loans,” Hussman wrote August 24. “The underlying problems are not healed—only band-aided temporarily by a flood of public money.”

Government officials point to increasing home sales in arguing that the economy is recovering. In July they rose for the fourth consecutive month and median prices were down 11.5 percent from a year earlier. However, these sales “are still at one of their lowest levels in the last half century,” J.P. Morgan Chase economist Abiel Reinart told the *Journal*.

Afghan war plan

Continued from front page

Afghan army and police. There are currently about 134,000 Afghan cops and 82,000 soldiers.

The number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan has climbed steadily from 38,000 at the start of the year to 62,000 today. By the end of December there will be 68,000, including 4,000 sent to train Afghan forces. Some 34,000 NATO troops, mostly from Britain, Canada, France, and Germany, are also stationed in the country.

Worried about its inability to defeat Taliban groups, the U.S. military has begun shifting how it conducts the war. It is redeploying troops from the countryside to more heavily populated areas, like Kandahar, the largest city in southern Afghanistan, as part of a “clear, hold, and build” strategy.

Afghanistan, with more than 33 million people in an area about the size of Texas, is one of the most underdeveloped regions in the world. It has the fourth highest birthrate and the third highest infant mortality rate in the world.

On August 26 McChrystal issued a “Counterinsurgency Guidance” for U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan to win the war by “persuading the population.” He refers to U.S. imperialism’s occupation of Afghanistan euphemistically as “nearly eight years of international presence.”

Taliban groups, he says, “influence the population through both intimidation and attraction.” The U.S.-led forces need to change “our mindset,” McChrystal’s directive says.

The guidelines call on U.S. soldiers to “embrace the people” and “build governance capacity.” They encourage the U.S. forces to turn in “corrupt” officials to the Afghan government so they can be replaced by “honest, hard-working” leaders.

The U.S. military has sent more spy planes to Afghanistan and moved others there from Iraq, while increasing their overall number. In July 2008, 75 percent of U.S. spy planes, including drones, operated in Iraq and 25 percent in Afghanistan. By August this year 66 percent were in Afghanistan and 33 percent in Iraq.

Increased U.S. military activity has meant higher casualties. Two bombings on August 31 brought the number of U.S. troops killed for the month to 47, the highest monthly U.S. death toll since Washington invaded the country in 2001.

According to the United Nations, 1,013 civilians were killed in the first half of 2009, an increase of 24 percent from last year and almost double the 2007 figures. The UN blamed Taliban groups for 60 percent of those deaths and the U.S.-led coalition forces for about 30 percent.

Indiscriminate U.S. bombings have sparked outrage in Afghanistan, including among Taliban opponents. On July 2 McChrystal ordered U.S. and NATO commanders to restrict artillery and air strikes to avoid hitting civilians. As a result of the new policy, Washington says there were 19 civilians killed by coalition actions from July through August, down from 151 in the same period last year.

The escalation of the imperialist war in Afghanistan has left some liberal antiwar groups feeling betrayed by the Obama administration. United for Peace and Justice, which celebrated Obama’s election, is now calling for local protests and teach-ins in October against the war.

Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a U.S. soldier who died in Iraq, led protests against the war during the George W. Bush administration. At a news conference August 27 at Martha’s Vineyard, where Obama was vacationing, she said, “Even though the facade has changed in Washington, D.C., the policies are still the same.”

Conservative George Will wrote in a September 1 column that U.S. forces should be reduced because the number of troops and time needed for a counterinsurgency that could win is “inconceivable.”

“Instead,” he said, “America should do only what can be done from offshore, using intelligence, drones, cruise missiles, airstrikes and small potent Special Forces units, concentrating on the porous 1,500-mile border with Pakistan, a nation that actually matters.”

However, William Kristol, editor of the conservative *Weekly Standard*, wrote August 31 that “a majority of conservatives don’t merely support the war but say they approve of President Obama’s handling of it.”

LETTERS

Shacking of pregnant inmates

The article in the September 7 *Militant* about the barbaric practice of shackling women prisoners during childbirth reminded me of a case highlighted in a recent TV program here.

Fifteen-year-old Emely Jessop was handcuffed to a warden until she was on the point of giving birth to her first baby. She was released only at the insistence of her father, who was present.

After the birth she was given the choice of being handcuffed to the shower or have a warden watch her as she showered.

In 1998 Jessop, then 14, was convicted on a charge of aggravated robbery on the basis of a confession she says was forced from her by police, and sentenced to four years and eight months in prison.

She has been waging an 11-year fight to clear her name.

*Terry Coggan
Auckland, New Zealand*

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.



Correctional Association of New York
New York City protest August 18