

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

African American library hosts meeting on politics of Malcolm X
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Puerto Rico unions call one-day strike

BY SETH GALINSKY

Union federations in Puerto Rico have called a one-day island-wide strike October 15 to protest the impending layoffs of almost 17,000 government workers.

Gov. Luis Fortuño claimed the layoffs, which will go into effect November 6, are needed to save \$386 million as part of a plan to close a \$3.2 billion budget gap. Some 500 workers will be rehired by the Treasury Department to help collect back taxes.

After taking office in January, Fortuño, a former Republican congressman and a leader of the New Progressive Party in Puerto Rico, instituted a strict hiring freeze and an across-the-board 10 percent spending cut.

At that time, the Puerto Rican government employed about 21 percent of the island's workforce. In March, Fortuño signed the "Fiscal State of Emergency Law," known as Law 7, in spite of protests and marches by tens of thousands of workers.

By August the government workforce was down to 201,300, about 11,200 less than August last year.

Unemployment in Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony with almost 4 million people, is now over 15 percent, higher than any state except for Michigan.

"With these layoffs, unemployment could go up to 18 percent," Sandra Correa, vice president of the Puerto Rican Workers Union, affiliated to Service Employees International
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U.S. drones in Pakistan more deadly this year

BY DOUG NELSON

September 29—A U.S. aerial drone strike in Pakistan today, reportedly killing at least five "suspected" Taliban fighters, was the 38th such attack in the country since President Barack Obama was sworn in January 20. The air strikes in Pakistan—a key aspect of U.S. military strategy in the region—have maintained a steady pace since they were stepped up in August of last year.

Women and children residing in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) are among the 44 confirmed killed in five U.S. drone strikes this month.

Between 2004 and 2007 there were 10 drone strikes. In 2008 there were 34 such attacks. There are been 40 so far in 2009.

The attacks have been more deadly this year than last, killing about 50 percent more people on average. Throughout 2008 and early January 2009, under the George Bush administration, 36 drone strikes killed at least 295 people. The 38 strikes since then have killed at least 460.

These figures are based on press accounts compiled by the *Militant*, mostly from Pakistan's Geo TV online news service. They are usually initial counts, before wounded die and others are unearthed. When articles reported both "official" estimates and the accounts of local residents—which were always higher and tend to include many more civil-
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U.S. gov't leads push for new Iran sanctions



Reuters/Raheb Homavandi (Iran)

Nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Iran, April 2007. Washington and allies seek to prevent Iran from developing capacity to enrich uranium, which Tehran says is needed for electrification.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Seeking to put the Iranian government under maximum pressure as talks on its nuclear program open October 1, Washington, Paris, and London threat-

U.S. HANDS OFF IRAN! Editorial—p. 9

ened further sanctions if Tehran does not comply with UN demands.

U.S. president Barack Obama, flanked by French president Nicolas Sarkozy and British prime minister

Gordon Brown, announced September 25 the existence of another, previously unpublicized nuclear plant in Iran, charging this proved the Iranians are planning to produce nuclear weapons, an accusation Tehran denies.

The Iranian government had notified the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) September 21 of the plant's existence. Washington had known about the facility for at least two years, according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

According to the Iranian govern-
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U.S. immigrant population declines, 1st time since 1970s

BY SETH GALINSKY

With the opening of the economic crisis, stepped up enforcement of anti-immigrant laws, and more border cops, the number of immigrants in the United States dropped for the first time in more than three decades according to a report by the Brookings Institute.

Some 38 million people born in other countries lived in the United States in 2008, about 100,000 fewer than in 2007, according to a Brookings Institution analysis of census data. Because these are estimates, the drop falls within the "margin of error," but still represents a significant change.

Until 2008 the foreign-born population in the United States had increased both in percentage and absolute numbers every year since 1970.

While the number of immigrants legally admitted into the United States

went up slightly from 2007 to 2008, the number of immigrants entering without papers declined.

The fastest growing number of immigrants have been from Mexico. In 1960 Mexicans made up 6 percent of immigrants in the United States; by 2007 they were 31 percent. Some two-thirds of Latino immigrants are from Mexico; close to 10 percent of Mexicans live in the United States.

There is of yet no indication that larger than usual numbers of immigrants are returning to their home countries.

The sharp cuts in construction jobs that began in 2005—before the general contraction in production that started at the end of 2007—hit Mexican and Central American immigrants hard. About a third of male Mexican and Central
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New book on Black struggle to complement subscription drive

BY TOM BAUMANN AND NORTON SANDLER

We want to alert readers of the *Militant* that next week's paper will feature a special multipage pullout of the introduction by Jack Barnes to the forthcoming Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Barnes is the Socialist Workers Party's national secretary

and the author of several Pathfinder titles and major articles contained in issues of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory distributed by Pathfinder.

Beginning next week, *Militant* distributors will be offering this book at a special prepublication price when it is purchased along with a *Militant* subscription. The details of this offer, which will be available until the end of the *Militant*'s fall subscription campaign, will be contained in next week's issue.

In addition to the introduction, this
Continued on page 4

Public forums win funds for workers party

BY LAURA GARZA

Meetings in several cities last week boosted the effort to raise \$95,000 for the party-building fund of the Socialist Workers Party.

Speaking in New York September 25, at a meeting titled "U.S. and World Capitalism: The Crisis Deepens, the Wars Spread," *Militant* editor Sam Manuel responded to a question about the "single-payer" idea for health care. "Under the guise of providing 'universal health care,' the U.S. rulers are attacking working people's access
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Houston socialist debates candidates in mayoral race	8

Women's rights, economy spur interest in Pathfinder

BY THERESA KENDRICK

MIAMI—The sales effort by Pathfinder Press volunteers to obtain 55 orders for books this fall is off to a good beginning with eight orders tallied so far. The sales effort extends until December 1 and is focused on retail and college bookstores, distributors, libraries, and professors who use titles in college and high school classrooms.

A highpoint of the effort will be a national sales day October 12 when volunteer teams will use the holiday from work to meet with buyers using new promotional leaflets. Volunteers are also planning regional trips to book fairs and conferences, larger bookstores, and college campuses.

Volunteers are taking advantage of interest generated by recent actions in defense of abortion rights to promote upgraded English and Spanish editions of *Abortion Is a Woman's Right*. This book explains why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement.

They are becoming part of every volunteer sales person's kit. A wide range of titles are featured on a new Pathfinder Press promotional flyer entitled, "Books on the fight for women's rights today: from Asia and Africa, to Europe and the Americas."

Recent library orders are showing wider sales possibilities as the economic crisis continues. In August a regional team from New York visited bookstores and libraries in New Ha-

ven, Connecticut. An academic library there placed an order for 92 books.

The *Library Journal* recently reviewed the Spanish-language edition of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* It can be read online at PathfinderPress.com.

News of protests in Iran against the outcome of that country's June presidential elections sparked interest in Pathfinder's 35 Farsi language titles. A new, full color promotional flyer featuring many of the most popular Farsi-language titles is available.

Sales representatives visiting a major Los Angeles-area Farsi-language bookstore found it already has several Pathfinder titles in Farsi. Among them are *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States and of the Socialist Workers Party, *Their Trotsky and Ours* by Jack Barnes, and books by West African communist Thomas Sankara, and Evelyn Reed, a long-time leader of the Socialist Workers Party. The buyer ordered additional titles after the visit.

Conflicts between capitalist rivals mark G-20 meeting

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The September 24-25 meeting in Pittsburgh of government leaders from the Group of 20 nations, known as G-20, expressed increased disagreements between U.S. capitalists and their competitors in Europe in response to the worldwide depression.

At the meeting, the G-20 designated

UK rail car cleaners go on strike



Militant/Jim Spaul

LONDON—Members of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, who clean the Eurostar cross-channel trains to Paris, went on a 48-hour strike September 17. The workers protested the 16-week suspension of their shop steward Mohammed Yellow, management's refusal to negotiate a pay rise for 2009, and the use of a fingerprinting system to clock in and out of work. Union members voted unanimously for the strike. They make £6.37 (about US\$10) per hour, a little more than the government minimum of £5.73.

At a lively picket Yellow said, "We want to negotiate, but if not, we are ready to fight. We've got the support of other union members, including the train drivers." The company, Carlisle Group, recruited temporary workers at a higher pay rate to try to break the strike. Despite that, trains were sent back to the depot before the stoppage to try to get them cleaned for the next morning.

—ROSE KNIGHT

itself "the premier forum" for international economic cooperation, in place of the G8—governments of the seven major imperialist powers and Russia. G-20 members include the imperialist governments of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom as well as China, Russia, Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Turkey. The European Union is the 20th member. The G-20 countries produce 85 percent of the world's gross domestic product.

With production and trade declining on a world scale, Washington projected that China and Japan should export less, focusing instead on domestic demand, and that working people living in the United States should save more and spend less. German chancellor Angela Merkel took issue with this projection. Germany's economy is fueled by exports.

Differences also emerged with British and French representatives over the Barack Obama administration's projections of overhauling the International Monetary Fund. Washington wants to reduce seats by European representatives on the IMF board of directors and possibly add representatives from countries like China and India. This proposal "exasperated" the British and French officials, noted the *Financial Times*.

The meeting called for phasing out \$300 billion worth of fossil fuel subsidies over time, a proposal promoted by Obama. The U.S. government provided \$72 billion in subsidies to oil and natural gas companies between 2002 and 2008, according to the Environmental Law Institute. China and India also have large fuel subsidy programs.

In a protectionist move, Washington is threatening to impose "green tariffs" on imports from countries failing to set what it considers acceptable emissions targets.

THE MILITANT

Oppose deportation of Haitians!

Tens of thousands of Haitians face deportation from the United States. Despite the fact that their country has been devastated by hurricanes, the U.S. government refuses to grant them Temporary Protected Status.



Militant/Paul Pederson

September 16 demonstration at White House for Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants.

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N.Y. socialist candidate speaks to college class

BY TOM BAUMANN

NEW YORK—Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, spoke to a classroom of 30 students at the uptown extension of the Borough of Manhattan Community College September 23. Fein was invited to speak by Professor John Bredin.

“This is the worst economic crisis any of us in this room has ever lived through,” Fein said in his opening remarks, “and it’s just beginning. The only way to confront it is for the working class to take political power.”

Speaking about the bipartisan attacks on working people at home and abroad, Fein explained, “Obama is increasing troops in Afghanistan. If you add up the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan today, there are more troops there than during the surge.” Fein was referring to the Bush administration’s decision at the beginning of 2007 to send nearly 30,000 additional troops to Iraq. It was dubbed the “surge” in the capitalist media. At the same time, “they are going after our wages and working conditions, making us work longer for less pay,” Fein added.

In the discussion Brian Taveras said that he thought Obama was trying to do some good things but the Republicans were blocking him.

“Obama is not being blocked,” Fein replied. “What he puts forward are attacks against working people. The Democrats and Republicans are the parties of the ruling rich. If we didn’t run in the elections, the working class wouldn’t have a voice.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Juárez, Lincoln, and Martí: Their Political Legacy for Today. Speaker: Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 10. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

FLORIDA

Miami

Cuba’s Internationalist Missions: From Che Guevara to the Cuban 5. Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. 719 NE 79th St. (one block east of Biscayne). Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

U.S. Shift on Missile “Shield” Aims at Iran. How Can Iran’s National Sovereignty Be Defended? Speaker: Ruth Robinett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Assembly, 29th District. Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m. 45 Academy St., Suite 309. Tel.: (973) 273-0075.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Iran: The Struggle for Democratic Rights—Working People Need to Demand “Imperialist Hands Off!” Meeting to raise funds for Socialist Workers party-building fund. Speaker: Ma’mud Shirvani. Sat., Oct. 10. 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.

—CALENDAR—

UNITED KINGDOM

Edinburgh

Free the Cuban Five. Protest called by Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign. Sat., Oct. 10. Rally at 11 a.m. at Wellington Statue, Princess St.; 12 p.m. at U.S. Consulate, Regents Terrace.

Student Gabrielle Felton told her classmates, “Let’s face it. We voted for Obama because he’s Black. But now that he’s in office, we can see he’s just as bad as Bush.”

Felton went on to describe some of the effects of the Clinton administration’s slashing of welfare in 1996 with the elimination of Aid to Families with Dependent Children. “When Clinton got rid of food stamps, the rich people acted like it was a good thing. It was good for them, but it wasn’t good for us,” she said. “Those who were on welfare, now have low-paying jobs with no health insurance and have to pay for child care.”

In response to Fein’s explanation of the fraud of the current “health care debate,” Felton explained how her co-payments sometimes prevented her from going to the doctor’s office at all.

Another student, Daniel Carrier, asked, “How are we going to make a revolution, if we don’t have any power?”

Puerto Rican unions call one-day strike

Continued from front page

Union, told the *Militant* in a phone interview.

“The government said they were going to lay off all those with less than thirteen and a half years of seniority,” Correa said. “But we know of people who have worked for the government for 25 years who are being laid off.”

Many of those facing layoffs are among the lowest paid government workers, Correa said, including many school cleaners and cafeteria workers.

Forums win funds for party

Continued from front page

to health care,” he said.

Manuel pointed to the provision in all the health-care bills currently in Congress to make health insurance obligatory and subject working people to fines if they don’t purchase it. “They are trying to shift the burden for health care more and more onto working people,” he stated. “What we’re for is what working people in Cuba have. Health care for all. To get that will take making a revolution.”

Seth Galinsky, the fund director in New York, reports that just over \$2,000 was collected at the meeting.

In San Francisco 48 people attended a September 26 event where Ma’mud Shirvani spoke on “Iran: The Struggle for Democratic Rights—Working People in the U.S. Need to Demand ‘Imperialist Hands Off!’” The event gave a lift to the fund, boosting to \$8,971 the total pledged toward a quota of \$13,000 in San Francisco. Nearly \$2,000 was collected at the meeting, bringing to \$5,236 the total contributed so far.

Shirvani spoke in Los Angeles the next day. He noted that sales of revolutionary titles translated into Farsi and Arabic had expanded in the last few months. He said this is an indication of the growing thirst for revolutionary theory in the Middle East. “These are



Militant/Tom Baumann

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for New York mayor, talks with students at Borough of Manhattan Community College class on uptown extension campus, September 23.

“I don’t have any blueprints,” Fein responded, “but if we look at our own history we should realize that we have already made two revolutions in this country—the first American Revolution and the Civil War.” Fein also pointed to the example of the Cuban Revolution and described how working people there took political power

and through a revolutionary government, reorganized society to meet their needs.

At the end of the meeting, eight students signed up for more information about the campaign and Bredin invited the Socialist Workers candidates to speak to another class the following week.

“In one agency, 132 out of 140 workers received layoff notices,” said Luis Pedraza Leduc, spokesperson for the Coordinadora Sindical, a coalition of independent unions.

José Rodríguez Báez, president of the Puerto Rican Workers Federation, affiliated to the AFL-CIO, told the *Militant* that “we have made many proposals to the government on how to deal with the fiscal crisis but at no time have they listened to us or even been willing to talk.”

He said that Law 7 also suspended union contracts and any union nego-

tiations for two years for government workers. “They passed this law to carry out the wishes of the wealthy,” Rodríguez Báez said.

The Popular Democratic Party, the largest opposition party in the Puerto Rican Congress, has criticized the layoffs. Instead it proposes cutting the workweek of government employees to 35 hours, which would mean working people paying for the crisis through reduced wages.

The three main union federations are planning a series of protests, including civil disobedience, leading up to the October 15 work stoppage.

On September 30 students, professors, and workers from the University of Puerto Rico marched to demand that Law 7 not be applied to the university. That same day the Union of Electrical and Irrigation Workers (UTIER) held a march and 12-hour strike to protest cutbacks in health care for retirees.

UTIER president Angel Figueroa Jaramillo said in a statement that the one-day action was also taken to protest “the brutal assault that the government and businessmen are carrying out against the Puerto Rican working class.”

Party-building fund Fall 2009 ♦ Week 1 of 8

City	Quota	Paid	%
San Francisco	\$13,000	\$3,285	25%
Boston	\$2,800	\$542	19%
Newark, NJ	\$3,000	\$550	18%
Des Moines, IA	\$2,400	\$370	15%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$1,225	13%
Miami	\$3,000	\$270	9%
Washington, D.C.	\$5,500	\$300	5%
New York	\$16,000	\$839	5%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$330	5%
Los Angeles	\$9,200	\$425	5%
Twin Cities, MN	\$6,600	\$255	4%
Atlanta	\$7,500	\$0	0%
Houston	\$2,700	\$0	0%
Philadelphia	\$3,500	\$0	0%
TOTAL	\$91,700	\$8,391	9%
SHOULD BE	\$95,000	\$11,875	13%

Contributions to the fund can be sent to 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Checks or money orders should be written out to the Socialist Workers Party. Seth Galinsky in New York, Joel Britton in San Francisco, and Dean Hazlewood in Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Thousands protest cuts at California campuses

BY BETSEY STONE

DAVIS, California—Some 5,000 students, workers and faculty overflowed Sproul Plaza at the University of California, Berkeley September 24 for a protest against proposed tuition hikes, unpaid furloughs and layoffs, and cuts in courses and enrollment.

That same day there were protests on campuses throughout the University of California (UC) system, including rallies of more than 500 here at UC Davis and at UCLA and UC Irvine, as well as at Cal State San Francisco and City College of San Francisco.

In July, in the wake of a \$813 million cut in state funding for the university, the Board of Regents declared a state of emergency and approved furlough days for all workers, staff, and faculty, pay reductions of between 4 percent and 10 percent, and cuts in courses and services. Also projected is an increase in next year's tuition to more than \$10,000, a 45 percent increase over last year's fees.

"Education should be free, No cuts, No fees!" demonstrators shouted at UC Berkeley as the massive rally turned into a march through the campus and

then through downtown streets.

Prominent at the protests were picket signs carried by campus workers who are members of Local 9119 of the University Professional and Technical Employees-Communications Workers of America (UPTE-CWA). It was this union's call for a one-day strike on September 24 that spurred UC faculty and students to call for a UC system-wide walkout in solidarity with the union strikers and against the cuts.

Unlike UC Berkeley, where school has been in session for several weeks, September 24 was the first day of school at most UC campuses. At UC Davis, despite organizers having to scramble to get out the word to newly arriving students, more than 700 students, faculty, and workers turned out for a spirited rally and march through the campus.

José Ballesteros, a graduate student, was worried about the debts being accumulated by students, debts he says will take years to pay off. He also pointed to the insistence by the university administration that the faculty furloughs be taken on non-instructional days. "By doing this they



Militant/Betsy Stone

More than 700 students, teachers, and workers marched at the University of California, Davis campus September 24 against tuition hikes, unpaid furloughs, and layoffs.

hope to make the cuts invisible to the students," he said.

"If I had wanted to go to a private university, I would have been born rich," said one of many signs carried by protesters, pointing out how working-class students are hardest

hit by the cuts.

Jonathen Duran, one of the student speakers at the rally, emphasized that students from immigrant families are particularly affected. He said that many of his friends have already dropped out because they could not afford the tuition.

Fueling the anger of protesters was the decision by the regents to award 30 percent salary increases to a dozen university executives at the same meeting where tuition raises were announced. "Chop from the top!" was seen on many picket signs.

Local 9119, which includes computer workers, research aides, and laboratory technicians, has been bargaining for 18 months with no progress toward a contract. "We had to do something since they are not negotiating with our union, or addressing any of our issues," said Carlos de la Cruz, who fixes microscopes for science laboratories at UC Davis. "We are not keeping up with the cost of living. I have two jobs and I can't keep up."

Green-shirted members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which includes janitorial, grounds, and other workers at UC Davis, picketed alongside UPTE workers at entrances to the UC Davis campus.

Book on Black struggle aids circulation drive

Continued from front page

pullout will include an extensive selection of photos that will give readers a feel for the contents of this new book, which will be available in November.

We are urging our distributors to order extra copies of next week's issue with this special supplement and also to generously order individual copies of the supplement at the price of 25 cents apiece.

Given the encouraging response we

are already getting to the subscription campaign, the *Militant* is setting an international goal of 2,000 new and returning subscribers for the eight-week drive.

Militant supporters signed up workers and students as new readers at various protests and other activities this week. We are just a little behind schedule, with 470 subscriptions in hand.

In the Los Angeles area, 17 people subscribed. "Eight new readers got subscriptions after meeting socialist distributors at a protest against Nazi sympathizers," reported Arlene Rubinstein. "We heard about the protest that morning and got in our cars to join." The Nazis organized a rally at a Riverside Home Depot, in part to terrorize the day laborers who assemble there. More than 100 people gathered to outmobilize them. "Four of the students who subscribed were later seen on the evening news, maintaining a disciplined counterprotest," said Rubinstein.

Three students at Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State Los Angeles bought subscriptions. A worker in the American Apparel garment plant and another at the Farmer John slaughterhouse also subscribed, Rubinstein reported.

Kevin Dwire reports two of the subscriptions sent in this week from Boston were renewals from people who appreciate the paper's factual coverage of workers' struggles.

At a protest against Colombian president Alvaro Uribe, who spoke at East Boston High School, one long-time

subscriber renewed and took advantage of the special offer on *Nueva Internacional* no. 8, only \$10 with a subscription. "When another person at the protest saw the book, he also got the package," Dwire said.

Supporters of the *Militant* in San Francisco distributed the paper at protests by thousands of students against education cuts. "Two students decided to subscribe after meeting socialists at a conference on how budget cuts affect education and four more did so at protests at University of California, Davis and UC Berkeley," reported Carole Lesnick. Two campus workers who joined the protests also subscribed. "The cuts in education meant layoffs as well," Lesnick added, "and they wanted a paper that explained the cause of these attacks."

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City, campaigned with supporters at a South Bronx neighborhood event that demanded U.S. military bases out of Latin America. "Four workers subscribed, and several purchased Pathfinder books," said Fein. The following day, the socialist campaigners went door-to-door in Harlem, the Bronx, and Brooklyn and met others interested in the socialist press, 10 of whom subscribed.

At a protest in Mt. Vernon, Washington, two students from Skagit Valley Community College and one from a high school in Bellingham got introductory subscriptions. "Some 500 people protested the mayor of Mt. Vernon giving the key to the city to Glenn Beck, a right-wing, anti-immigrant talk show host," Edwin Fruit reported. Other new subscribers included workers met at street tables by supporters of the Seattle Socialist Workers campaign.

Militant supporters in Canada sold nine subscriptions and 26 Pathfinder titles at the "Word on the Street" book fair in Toronto September 27.

'Militant' Subscription Drive

Sept. 12 – Nov. 10, 2009
Week 2

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Twin Cities, MN	130	49	38%
Newark, NJ	75	25	33%
Los Angeles	100	29	29%
Washington, D.C.	100	28	28%
Boston	60	16	27%
New York	230	62	27%
Miami	110	29	26%
San Francisco	150	38	25%
Philadelphia	75	18	24%
Seattle	90	22	24%
Chicago	110	23	21%
Des Moines, IA	110	14	13%
Atlanta	130	15	12%
Houston	90	8	9%
Other		2	
TOTAL	1560	378	24%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	35	9	26%
London	75	16	21%
TOTAL	110	25	23%
Canada	100	24	24%
New Zealand	65	15	23%
Australia	50	12	24%
Sweden	25	16	64%
Total	1910	470	24%
Should Be	2000	500	25%

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Boston unionists support fired Hyatt housekeepers

BY TED LEONARD

BOSTON—Some 400 workers and their supporters walked a lively picket line and rallied September 18 in front of the Hyatt Regency Boston hotel. Union officials of UNITE HERE Local 26, which organized the protest, said the company had fired almost all of its housekeepers in its three area hotels. Workers on the picket line chanted “Shame on Hyatt!” and “Put them back to work!”

Local 26 organizes hotel workers in the area but does not have a contract with Hyatt.

“In the history of Boston hotels this has never happened before and we are not going to let it happen now,” declared Local 26 president Janice Loux at the rally.

One of the fired housekeepers who worked at Hyatt’s downtown hotel addressed the rally in Cantonese. She said that on August 31 the company called the workers to a meeting in the afternoon and told them to return their IDs and uniforms. They were then escorted out of the building by security.

Many of the 100 workers fired, according to a union statement, had worked for the hotel for more than 20 years. They earned around \$15 an hour and had health and dental benefits. They were replaced by workers employed by a subcontractor, Hospitality Staffing Solutions. The Georgia-based company pays its employees minimum wage and provides no benefits.

Fired workers have said that in some cases they trained the workers who replaced them. The company issued a statement denying that charge. The statement cited economic hardship for the layoff and said some management positions at the three hotels had also been eliminated.

Serendu Kamara, who had worked at the Hyatt Harborside Hotel for five years, described her experience at the rally: “Imagine, they let you work for eight hours and then tell you you’re fired.”

Lucine Williams, another fired worker, told the rally, “Somebody ought to stop these corporations from just kicking me and you to the curb. You know, one thing I’m happy about today is that

we all can come together.”

The president of the Greater Boston Central Labor Council and officials from the Service Employees International Union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Carpenters union also addressed the rally.

The workers received two weeks of pay when they were fired and one week of pay for every year they worked at the Hyatt up to five or 10 years, depending on which hotel they had worked at, reported the *Boston Globe*.

The paper also reported that Hyatt would extend medical benefits to the end of the year. Originally they were to expire at the end of September.



Militant/Ted Leonard

Janice Loux, president of UNITE HERE Local 26, addressing September 17 rally in Boston in support of Hyatt hotel workers who were fired after as much as 20 years on job.

Rightist thugs faced down in United Kingdom

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

HARROW, England—More than 1,000 people mobilized here September 11 to counter an outfit calling itself Stop Islamisation of Europe (SIOE). In a visit to this town just northwest of London September 19, *Militant* reporters found an upbeat mood with several youths saying how proud they were to have faced down these right-wing thugs.

The SIOE had targeted a new mosque in the town, which they claimed would house a sharia law court, claims refuted by the mosque’s leaders. The rightists’ action was also intended to mark the anniversary of the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

Unite Against Fascism called the counterdemonstration, which started gathering outside the mosque hours before the planned right-wing action, their numbers growing throughout the afternoon. Faced with the mass of trade unionists and youth from the surrounding areas, the rightist outfit called off its action. The few dozen of their supporters who showed up were heavily outnumbered.

Stop Islamisation of Europe originated in Denmark. Their aborted action in Harrow follows in the wake of similar actions called by another ultraright outfit, the English Defence League (EDL), whose actions in Birmingham in August and September were also met with counterdemonstrations.

The EDL was formed out of an anti-Muslim demonstration in May in Luton, 30 miles north of London. During the right-wing demonstration Asian businesses were attacked.

According to a statement on the outfit’s Web site, the anti-Muslim action was in response to a protest in March by Islamists at a homecoming event in the town for British soldiers returning from the war in Afghanistan. In early May a mosque in Luton was firebombed. At the end of August, hundreds of Asian youths in Luton protested following a rumor that the EDL was planning an action.

The EDL recruits from people who’ve been involved in fights at football matches. “You can’t win a fight without people like that,” an EDL leader in Oldham near Manchester told the

local evening paper. EDL is planning an action in Manchester October 10. In an interview with the BBC another EDL leader said, “There are town centers now that are plagued by Islamic extremists. . . . Those are our town centers, and we want them back.” They urge their supporters to wear EDL uniforms—polo shirts with English and British flags and the slogan “No surrender to al-Qaeda” printed on them.

Arun Kundnani of the Institute of Race Relations told *Sky News* that nationalist government rhetoric, such as Gordon Brown’s “British jobs for British workers,” had fanned “a progressive increase in far-right politics” over the last eight years.

Taking advantage of the rightist action to clamp down more broadly on democratic rights, the Luton City Council and police August 20 got a three-month order from the Office of the Home Secretary prohibiting “any procession or march involving members or supporters of but not limited to the English Defence League” and some other groups in the borough of Luton.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 12, 1984

MADRID, Iowa—Last year was bad. But for many farmers, 1984 is worse. More farmers are being forced off the land because they can’t make the payments on their debt.

This was the common theme in all the area reports given at the September 1–2 Grassroots Campaign to Save Our Farms and Communities meeting called by the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA). The meeting here was attended by more than 75 farmers and supporters. They came from 14 states and Canada.

It was reported that a survey of farmers in Wisconsin found that 36 percent felt they would be forced off their farms in five years, and 11 percent said this was their last year.

The Iowa Farm Unity Coalition held a statewide congress that decided to continue direct protest action to preserve farms and to participate in electoral action.



October 12, 1959

That this year’s school openings were marked by relatively little anti-integration violence is regarded by many Northern newspapers as a sign of progress. Such, however, is not the case.

Aside from the ineffectual and quickly dispersed demonstration by some 200 Little Rock white supremacists and the arrest of dynamiters in August, it is true that the beginning of the school year was relatively calm. But the reason is that hardly any new desegregation took place.

This year marked the lowest point for school desegregation since the Supreme Court decision of May 1954. The drastic decline in the number of districts undertaking school desegregation can be seen in the figures for the six years since the Supreme Court’s decision: the first two years, 450; third year, 270; fourth year 60; fifth year, 20; this year, 15.



October 13, 1934

In spite of very serious setbacks to the insurrectionary movement in Spain, the miners of Asturias are still putting up a valiant defense against all the armed forces of the semi-Fascist regime, dominated by Lerroux and Gil Robles.

As warships shell coast towns in the workers’ hands, the embattled miners are barricading themselves in mountain strongholds, where they are besieged by the combined land and air forces of the government in Madrid and many other cities. Throughout the country, street fighting still continues, but all indications now are that the premature, improperly prepared uprising has but small hope of success.

The very fact that the workers have fought so valiantly, in spite of the confusion caused by the lack of a truly united leadership, undoubtedly indicates that Robles will still have much to contend with before he can consolidate a dictatorship.

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‘Malcolm X: Internationalizing the Struggle’

Atlanta African American library hosts meeting to discuss political evolution

BY JACOB PERASSO

ATLANTA—“The Political Evolution of Malcolm X, Internationalizing the Struggle” was the topic of a panel discussion September 24 sponsored by the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History.

The panelists were Sobukwe Shukura, host of the radio show “Revolutionary African Perspectives” and member of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party; Samuel T. Livingston, a professor of history at Morehouse College; and Steve Clark, editor of several collections of Malcolm’s speeches published by Pathfinder Press, managing editor of *New International* magazine, and a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee.

Morris Gardner, program manager at the Auburn Avenue Research Library in downtown Atlanta, chaired the event, attended by more than 100 people. The meeting was part of a series of discussions with authors on the history of African Americans. Gardner said the library had evolved from a segregated institution founded in 1934 as the Negro Colored Collection of Non-Circulating Books.

Leader of working class in U.S.

Opening the panel, Clark pointed to Malcolm’s statement in January 1965 that he believed “a showdown” was coming in the world “between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing.” But, Malcolm said, “I don’t think that it will be based on the color of the skin, as Elijah Muhammad had taught.”

Clark said that Malcolm X “was the outstanding leader not only of African Americans but of the working class in the United States in the latter half of the 20th century.” And Malcolm came to recognize, said Clark—reading the quotation chosen by meeting organizers for the flyer—that “the only way we’ll get freedom for ourselves is to identify with every oppressed people in the world.”

The conditions of working people and the oppressed that Malcolm fought to end continue to this day, Clark said. World capitalism is at the opening of its deepest economic, financial, and social crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II. As examples,



September 24 panel discussion on “Political Evolution of Malcolm X, Internationalizing the Struggle” at Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. Left to right: Steve Clark, Sobukwe Shukura (speaking), and Samuel Livingston. Inset: Morris Gardner moderates the discussion.

he pointed to lack of electrification, drinkable water, adequate nutrition, and minimal health standards for billions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; rapidly rising joblessness in the United States, highest among workers and youth who are Black; and the exploding numbers in U.S. prisons, jails, or on probation or parole.

Clark said Malcolm’s conviction in the need for revolution in the United States and worldwide set him apart from other leaders of the struggle for Black rights. “It’s not correct, as many say, that there was a *political* convergence during that last year between Malcolm and Martin Luther King,” Clark noted.

Malcolm respected King’s courage and commitment to the fight for Black freedom and saw a pressing need for united *action* to advance that goal—a central reason he had broken from the Nation of Islam, Clark said. But Malcolm disagreed with King’s opposition to organized self-defense in face of racist violence, his conviction that capitalism could be reformed, and his support for the imperialist Democratic Party.

Clark closed by pointing to the experiences that had led Malcolm to stop

using the term “Black nationalism” to describe his political course. Malcolm told the *Young Socialist* magazine in January 1965 that he had recently met the Algerian ambassador to Ghana, who “is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word” and “was a white man.” When Malcolm spoke about Black nationalism, the Algerian asked him, “Where does that leave me?” Malcolm continued: “So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary. . . . And if you notice, I haven’t been using the expression for several months.”

Culture, politics, pan-Africanism

Sobukwe Shukura, who introduced himself as a revolutionary pan-Africanist, focused on “Malcolm X’s relationship to culture.” Malcolm recognized “that each people have their own culture” and come to revolution in that way, he said.

Malcolm X was able “to translate complex ideas into popular, simple messages people can understand,” Shukura said. Malcolm “was a master in understanding the need for unities. He never forgot the need for cultural unity or that his culture was African.”

There are limitations within nationalism, he said. Malcolm X recognized the need for class struggle, Shukura added, pointing to Malcolm’s explanation of the conflict under slavery between “house Negroes,” who grew to identify with the plantation owners, and “field Negroes,” who rebelled against them.

Shukura said Malcolm X had helped reintroduce “the idea of what revolution is.” He saw the need for the “transformation of power,” hailing the revolutions in China and Cuba.

Samuel Livingston emphasized that Malcolm X engaged in struggle not only through politics but “understood the power of culture,” of African-American culture and history. Malcolm

encouraged Blacks “to rediscover their humanity” as a road “toward creating the future.”

Malcolm “rallied to the defense” of those around the world targeted by U.S. government assaults, Livingston said. He noted Washington’s organization of the overthrow of the elected government of Iran in 1953 and the murder of Congolese revolutionary leader and prime minister Patrice Lumumba in 1961. Malcolm championed Lumumba’s cause, said Livingston.

Malcolm X’s political evolution had brought him to pan-Africanism in 1964–65, Livingston concluded. “Internationalism was the lens through which Malcolm’s pan-Africanism was expressed. His Marxism was secondary.”

Obama administration

Chairing the discussion, Gardner presented the panelists with several questions, including “What influences allowed Malcolm X to link the condition of African Americans to the . . . oppressed outside the United States?” and how Malcolm’s views related to the election and presidency of Barack Obama.

“Malcolm X would have been very critical of the new administration,” answered Livingston. “We live in the seat of a military empire, but Obama”—for whom Livingston said he had campaigned—“is not dealing with it. The U.S. is putting troops in Africa—we need to wake up.”

“Obama’s path is increasing U.S. imperial hegemony,” Livingston concluded, saying he hoped the new president would change course on foreign policy, health care, and other matters.

Clark said one of Malcolm X’s most enduring lessons is the need for working people to organize and act independently of their oppressors and exploiters.

“Just as it was necessary, for the abolition of chattel slavery, to overthrow the slaveholding class and Confederacy through a revolutionary war—the U.S. Civil War—the fight against exploita-

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'Struggle'—panelists exchange views

development of revolutionary leader of Blacks and working class

tion, racism, and other forms of oppression today requires a revolution to overthrow the capitalists and put power in the hands of the working class," Clark said.

"The capitalist class rules through a state power, seated in Washington, and through the Democratic and Republican parties. Barack Obama is the chief executive officer of that state, the mightiest imperialist power on earth, and commander in chief of its armed forces."

Shukura said Obama is the leader of a "racist imperialist" system "whose failure is obvious and cannot be reformed." It can only survive "with the exploitation of people here and rape of people abroad. The conditions of our people have not changed."

A woman in the audience who had participated in the civil rights movement in the 1960s and campaigned for Obama said she thought it was unfair not to give him more time before criticizing him. "There's a limit to what he can do alone in the White House to change things," she said. "That's our job."

What road forward?

Nathan McCall, a professor at Emory University, asked from the audience: "I thought I heard a disagreement between Steve Clark and Sobukwe Shukura. Clark is saying Malcolm X transcended race and Shukura is saying that for Malcolm X race was central, even though he was for unities. Please clarify."

Shukura replied that "Malcolm faced the conditions of our community, where the intersection of the problems of nation, class, and gender don't disappear. The legacy of slavery and colonialism transcends class, and that is true even in Cuba today. I don't deny that Malcolm viewed capitalism as a system of exploitation. Alliances are necessary, but you can't say there is only class."

"Capitalism is not just the enemy of African Americans in the U.S.," Shukura said, "but of all African people."

Yes, Clark said, differing viewpoints had been presented by the panelists, but not over whether Malcolm or anyone else could "transcend race" under capitalism. Race was a foundation of chattel slavery at capitalism's origins centuries ago and remains a central way the propertied families rake in enormous profits by seeking to divide working people along lines of skin color, sex, language, and national origin.

"Changing that," Clark said, "requires a revolution to overturn the state power of the capitalist class, something that can only be organized and led by an organization uniting working people of all races, both sexes, and many national origins. That socialist revolution, in and of itself, can't and won't end racism or the second-class status of women."

"But it will remove from power the class with an enormous stake in maintaining oppression and exploitation. It will put power in the hands of the oppressed and exploited—who can use that mighty weapon to wage the ongoing battle to eradicate all forms of exploitation and oppression."

Those attending the event included students and faculty members from Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Tech, Emory University, and Georgia State University; regular participants in Auburn Avenue Research Library events; immigrant workers from Mexico and Guatemala, including members of Cajola United in Solidarity with Guatemala, (simultaneous translation into Spanish was provided); WRFG radio station; Collective Black People Movement; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; NAACP; Unity Brothers United; Socialist Workers Party; and the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party.

From a literature table at the event, participants picked up a variety of books and pamphlets, including Pathfinder collections of speeches by Malcolm and five copies of *Revolution, Internationalism, and Socialism: The Last Year of Malcolm X* by Jack Barnes, which appears in issue 14 of *New Internationalist*.

U.S. gov't leads push for new Iran sanctions

Continued from front page

ment, the plant is being built to enrich uranium up to 5 percent, which can be used as nuclear fuel—90 percent enrichment is necessary for use in a nuclear weapon. Washington and the other imperialist powers have rejected Tehran's right to conduct uranium enrichment of any kind.

'Line in the sand'

Obama called the Iranian decision to build the plant "a direct challenge to the basic compact at the center of the nonproliferation regime. These rules are clear: All nations have the right to peaceful nuclear energy; those nations with nuclear weapons must move toward disarmament; those nations without nuclear weapons must forsake them." Washington, with thousands of nuclear warheads, remains the only country in the world to have dropped the atomic bomb on human beings.

Brown said, "The international community has no choice today but to draw a line in the sand." Sarkozy called for more sanctions against Iran by December if "there is not an in-depth change by the Iranian leaders." Obama noted that German chancellor Angela Merkel had expressed her agreement with their stance.

The day before, Obama had chaired a special "summit meeting" of the UN Security Council, which adopted Resolution 1887. Ostensibly about securing world nuclear disarmament, the resolution's main purpose is to provide further ways to block the nuclear programs of both Iran and North Korea.

The Security Council—whose five permanent members are Washington, Paris, London, Beijing, and Moscow—has imposed three rounds of sanctions against Iran over the nuclear issue. Berlin will join the five in the October 1 negotiations with Iran.

Obama and Russian president Dimitry Medvedev met in New York during



Malcolm X speaking to some 300 young people in Selma, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965. After his break with Nation of Islam, Malcolm sought to build revolutionary movement for Black freedom and to overturn "the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary."

the UN sessions and held a joint news conference afterward. "We spent the bulk of our time talking about Iran," Obama told the media. Medvedev, in a shift from earlier hesitations, made favorable comments on sanctions against Iran, saying, "in some cases sanctions are inevitable."

While Moscow has criticized some of Washington's anti-Iran measures, it has taken its own steps to limit Tehran's nuclear capabilities. "Moscow has so far refused to deliver on two contracts: fuel for Iran's first nuclear-power plant in Bushehr and advanced S-300 air-defense missiles," said a September 28 article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Beijing has maintained an official position of opposition to more sanctions against Iran. But that could change. In June Beijing supported financial and trade sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad downplays threat

In a September 25 interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attacked the British and French governments as "still in the colonial age." He said, "It does not matter to us [what they say], but what Mr. Obama says does matter." Ahmadinejad said Obama's attack on Iran was based on him receiving "wrong information."

The Iranian president also downplayed the significance of Washington's decision to suspend construction of antimissile systems in Poland and the Czech Republic, which led to Moscow's warming up to anti-Iran sanctions. Ahmadinejad told AP the U.S. move was merely "a respectful way of buying out."

On September 28 Iranian military authorities announced the successful test launching of the Shabab-3 and Sejil medium-range missiles. The Shabab-3 has a range 800–1,200 miles, sufficient to reach Israel, U.S.

military targets in the Middle East, and parts of southeastern Europe.

U.S. defense secretary Gates said on ABC's "State of the Union" talk show September 27 that stiff sanctions against Iran were preferable to a military strike against its nuclear facilities at this time.

"There is no military option that does anything more than buy time," he said, "The estimates are one to three years." Far better, he suggested, "for the Iranian government to decide that their security is diminished by having those weapons."

Gates said sanctions against the Iranian purchase of equipment and technology for its oil and gas industries could be effective. He noted that "there are some fairly deep fissures in Iranian society and politics, and probably even in the leadership. . . . We know that the sanctions that have already been placed on the country have had an impact. The unemployment among youth is 40 percent. They have some real serious problems, especially with the younger people."

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for "crippling sanctions." Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said it was time to "overthrow the mad regime in Tehran."

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Houston socialist debates opponents in mayor race

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON—Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston, addressed questions ranging from the environment to immigration to the source of crime in the first debate here that included all the candidates.

“What do you support in the policies of the current city government and what specific policy would you change?” Houston Fox News reporter and debate moderator Duarte Geraldino asked the seven candidates in the September 17 debate. It was organized by two neighborhood associations in the city’s southwest.

“Those currently in office, whether in Houston or Washington, represent the interests of the ruling billionaire families,” Ulman responded. “They are expanding their wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and elsewhere, and against working people here. Millions of us have already been thrown out of work and they continue to go after entitlements like Social Security and Medicare, part of the social wage that working people won through massive battles.

“Working people need to organize to defend our own class interests. I would immediately end the use of

287(g), which gives further powers to the cops to collaborate with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency] against immigrants. We would legalize all undocumented workers now.”

Roy Morales and Charles Daniel Cupp said they thought that the mayor was not active enough in pursuing “illegal immigrants.” Morales is a board of education trustee and a retired air force officer.

How would the candidates tackle pollution, asked moderator Geraldino? Parker asserted that “the big oil and chemical companies here are becoming the new green leaders.”

Ulman sharply differed, saying, “Pollution comes from the same disregard for human life and dignity that the capitalist system is based on. One major contributor to environmental pollution in this part of the world comes from the oil industry. We need to open the financial books of the energy corporations to a panel of workers, expose their profiteering at the expense of humanity and the environment, and nationalize the energy industry, taking it out of private hands, and putting it under workers’ control.”

“For us to really fix the environment,” Ulman continued, “working



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Houston, debates other candidates September 17. “Working people need to organize to defend our class interests,” she said.

people have to take political power and use that power in our own interests.”

“I don’t think we need that here,” responded Luis Ullrich, a plumbing contractor. “No, I’m totally opposed to a Cuban-style revolution here.”

“How do you see fighting crime? Would you make any changes to the organization of the present police force, including the police chief?” the moderator asked.

Gene Locke, former city attorney, replied that he would “work closely with the police to improve their image.” Parker said she would hire a new police chief who “better understands the city of Houston.”

Ulman answered, “My campaign explains that it is the capitalist system itself that, by force of violence including use of the military and police, pits individuals against each other in competition for survival. That system is the source of organized crime and petty criminals among workers who have lost their sense of social solidarity.

“Workers obviously hate petty muggers and gangs who prey on them, but the capitalist rulers’ ‘anti-crime’ campaigns always mean more workers, especially those who are Black and Latino, getting shot by cops in the streets,” said Ulman. Her remarks were interrupted by clapping and comments of “That’s right!” from the audience.

The socialist candidate concluded, “To stop crime in all forms, working people must unite to put an end to the system of exploitation of man by man and organize society on the foundations of human solidarity.”

When asked why people should vote for her, Ulman replied, “A vote for Amanda Ulman is a vote for the Socialist Workers Party. That is the vote that counts. Together with Steve Warshell for city controller and Socialist Workers candidates across the country, our campaign is a campaign of action, one that joins with struggles that advance the interests of working people worldwide. I would like to encourage those here to join with us in our campaign and vote Socialist Workers Party on November 3.”

Honduran gov’t pressured to restore rights

BY SETH GALINSKY

September 29—One day after declaring the suspension of constitutional rights to assembly, freedom of the press, and freedom from arbitrary arrests, de facto Honduran president Roberto Micheletti said today he would soon reverse the decree.

The interim president backpedaled after criticism from abroad and from his own allies at home.

“We need to lower the pressure and all begin to calm down so that we can have a dialogue,” said José Alfredo Saavedra, president of the Honduran Congress, who headed a congressional delegation that told Micheletti to reverse the decree.

Manuel Zelaya was ousted from the presidency June 28 and put on a plane to Costa Rica by the military. His presidential term would have been up five months later.

The Honduran congress then voted overwhelmingly to appoint Micheletti, a former Zelaya ally and fellow Liberal Party member, in his place.

After several attempts to return were blocked, Zelaya slipped back into the country and took refuge in the Brazilian embassy September 21.

The embassy is surrounded by police and soldiers who used tear gas and water cannons to chase away thousands of pro-Zelaya protesters. More than 170 people were arrested in the two days after his return.

Honduran officials had issued an ultimatum giving the Brazilian government 10 days to hand over Zelaya for arrest or take him out of the country. Along with saying he would reverse the suspension of constitutional rights, Micheletti promised September 28 that nothing would happen to the Brazilian embassy.

Both Zelaya and Micheletti are

wealthy businessmen. Zelaya owns ranches and runs a timber operation. Micheletti owns a large transportation business and once ran the Honduran telephone company.

Zelaya won the presidential election in 2005. As the world economic crisis unfolded, he began to use more left-sounding rhetoric and took limited measures that were popular among working people, such as raising the minimum wage for some workers.

After returning to Honduras, Zelaya has continued to say he is willing to reach a compromise with Micheletti prior to new elections scheduled for November 29.

Honduran capitalists and foreign investors are concerned that they will

lose profits if an agreement is not reached. Jesus Canahuati, vice president of the Honduran chapter of the Business Council for Latin America, told Bloomberg.com that Honduras has lost as much as \$200 million in investment since Zelaya was ousted.

Washington suspended some \$30 million in aid and cancelled visas for members of the de facto government to show its displeasure. But Lewis Amselem, U.S. representative to the Organization of American States, criticized Zelaya’s return to Honduras as “irresponsible and foolish.”

Four of the six presidential candidates in the upcoming election met with Zelaya at the Brazilian embassy September 24.

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No to sanctions against Iran

Working people should oppose the drive for new and tougher sanctions against Iran that the rulers in Washington, London, and Paris are seeking to impose. Moscow has expressed more openness to go along with harsher sanctions. The Obama administration seeks to justify these moves with the announcement that a new, unpublicized nuclear facility has been “discovered” in Iran. The U.S. government has known of the facility for at least two years.

Escalating sanctions pose the threat of future military action, despite comments by Defense Secretary Robert Gates that this is not currently being considered. Washington imposed sanctions against Iraq in 1990, kept them in place, and invaded the country in 1991 and again in 2003 when the sanctions proved insufficient to bring the Saddam Hussein regime to heel.

The Iranian government says its program of uranium enrichment is for peaceful use of nuclear energy to develop the country’s infrastructure. Expanding electrification, including through the use of nuclear power, is a necessary step for any country to advance industry and agriculture as well as medicine and culture. Imperialism’s drive to block this—whether in Iran, North Korea, or anywhere else in the world—aims to maintain the economic

underdevelopment and dependence of semicolonial countries. It must be opposed by working-class fighters everywhere.

It’s the height of imperialist arrogance for Washington to insist that nuclear “non-proliferation” means nations without nuclear weapons cannot have them, while those that do possess them just need to reduce the number in their arsenal. Washington maintains thousands of nuclear warheads and has no intention of eliminating them all in “disarmament” talks. While the U.S. government demands assurances that Iran’s nuclear program cannot be used to develop nuclear weapons, it turns a blind eye to nuclear arsenals in Israel, India, Pakistan, and that of apartheid South Africa before its overthrow.

Recent protests in Iran to defend and expand democratic rights, like the ones September 18 involving tens of thousands, help stay the imperialists’ hands. Opposition by working people around the world to imperialist intervention in Iran buys valuable time for these popular protests to strengthen and deepen, opening up political space for the toilers in the city and countryside to advance their interests and act independently of the capitalist rulers in Iran. That is the only road to prevent an imperialist assault. Hands off Iran!

U.S. immigrant population declines

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American immigrants are construction workers.

In December 2006, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) simultaneously raided six Swift & Co. meatpacking plants in six states. More than 1,200 immigrant workers were arrested. Hundreds more did not return to work.

Because of the grueling pace of production and low wages, turnover at Swift plants is as high as 70 percent each year. The meatpacking bosses succeeded in slashing real wages by almost 50 percent from 1980 to 2007 while increasing line speed. In spite of this, after the raid the company was able to rapidly hire U.S.-born white, Black, and Latino workers to take the place of those caught up in the raid. They also brought in large numbers of refugees with work permits from Africa, Burma, and other regions of the world.

While the administration of Barack Obama has scaled back high profile factory raids, the expansion of other measures such as E-verify, which allows bosses to check to see if workers have work authorization or valid Social Security numbers, have made it more dif-

ficult for workers without papers to get jobs.

This is not the first time that the number of immigrants and their percentage has dropped in the United States. Both began to decline in the 1930s during what is often called the Great Depression. That decline continued until the 1970s.

In 1965 the U.S. Congress amended the Immigration and Nationality Act. The amendments allowed immediate relatives of U.S. citizens to come to the United States without numerical restrictions and abolished national origins quotas, which had been in place since 1924.

Immigration increased rapidly in the 1970s, especially from Latin America and Asia as U.S. capitalists sought to expand a section of the working class that was vulnerable to superexploitation. In 1970 about 4.7 percent of the U.S. population were immigrants, by 1980 that grew to 6.2 percent and to 12.6 percent in 2007.

In 1986, under the administration of Ronald Reagan, the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed. Some 3 million undocumented workers were given amnesty and became legal residents. At the same time, the new law gave the government more tools to harass and intimidate undocumented workers and other immigrants and control the flow of labor across the borders.

One indication of the decreasing number of workers entering the United States from Mexico is that detentions by the U.S. Border Patrol declined 17 percent in 2008, even though the number of border cops increased by 6,000 in the past two years.

The economic crisis is also affecting state-to-state migration by working people in general. About 700,000 fewer people moved from one state to another in 2008 than in 2006, a 9 percent decline.

Pakistan

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ians—the official figure was used.

While public opinion in Pakistan has largely turned against the Taliban and al-Qaeda over the last year, opposition by Pakistanis to the U.S. attacks is widespread, a reality substantiated by a recent Pew Research Center survey. More than 90 percent surveyed said the drones kill too many civilians. The survey also says that “64% of the public regards the U.S. as an enemy,” a political fact that complicates the Pakistani rulers’ close alliance with Washington.

Islamabad and Washington share intelligence and otherwise collaborate in a joint war against those elements of the Taliban that oppose the Pakistani government. In reward for this cooperation, the Senate approved a \$7.5 billion aid package to Pakistan September 24.

At the same time, Washington has been pressing Islamabad to broaden its internal war against a wider range of Taliban forces, while rebuffing requests by the Pakistani government to exercise some control over the drones.

Distrust of Washington within sections of the Pakistani government, particularly below the top echelons, has recently been exacerbated by concerns over the U.S. personnel expansion of its 38-acre embassy in Islamabad. Pakistani news accounts have said the expansion will include 1,000 U.S. Marines along with additional spies and that the U.S. military has hired private mercenaries for assassination missions in the country. U.S. officials deny the accounts.

Increased tension has manifest itself recently in the rejection by Pakistani officials of at least 180 U.S. government visa requests, citing “incomplete” applications.

Pakistani army’s war against Taliban

The Taliban are one of the reactionary Islamist military formations the Pakistani government has backed and used in its contest for influence in Afghanistan and to counter struggles by oppressed people within its borders.

But Islamabad lost its ability to control much of the Taliban after pledging support for the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan that began in 2001. Sections of the movement based in Pakistan turned against the government.

Islamabad launched a more than one-month offensive in May against Taliban forces in the country’s Swat District north of the FATA, inflicting great hardship on millions. More than 2 million were displaced and many homes were burned to the ground. Those who couldn’t flee the war zone were confined inside their homes without food, water, or sanitation for weeks at a time during shoot-to-kill curfews.

The Pakistani military could be preparing a similar offensive in the FATA where they have been conducting air strikes and ground battles against Taliban forces.

“Whether we really need a real good big operation like Swat in North Waziristan, in South Waziristan, we are considering it and at the appropriate time we are going to take action,” Interior Minister Rehman Malik said.

The FATA is administered under the executive authority of the president through government-paid *maliks* or chiefs. In some tribes, such as the Mehsud, Taliban fighters have displaced the government agents, making members of the tribe targets.

A Mehsud council meeting September 27 protested that the military made no distinctions between Taliban and non-Taliban members of the tribe and demanded the government provide aid to displaced residents, open roads, and bring an immediate end to drone attacks.

At least three federal ministers and two parliamentary secretaries in the FATA handed in their resignations September 28 against the “killing of innocent people” and failure to provide promised funds for economic development in the area. They demanded the release of innocent people in jail and the removal of the governor.

Draconian criminal codes established in the FATA by the British colonial power in 1901 are still in place. Under the strict laws, people are imprisoned for years without cause and collective punishments are meted out for members of families and tribes.

New York: Transit workers rally for pay raise



Militant/Dan Fein

NEW YORK—Some 2,000 Transport Workers Union Local 100 members and their supporters rallied outside the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) offices here September 29. The workers were protesting the transit authority’s move to take legal action to block pay raises awarded to the union by an arbitration panel. A spokesman for the mayor said that his office will not join the MTA in the suit but is “vigorously supporting” it, reported the New York Post. On August 11, the panel awarded union members a three-year contract with 4 percent raises in the first two years and 3 percent in the last year. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and MTA officials claim the city government cannot afford the raises.

—DAN FEIN