

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

The fight for a modern
'land and labor league'
—PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 74/NO. 22 JUNE 7, 2010

U.S. gov't continues attacks on immigrants

BY SETH GALINSKY

At a joint May 19 press conference with Mexican president Felipe Calderón, U.S. president Barack Obama said that although he is concerned that Arizona's new anti-immigrant law is "troublesome" and could be "applied in a discriminatory fashion," he is sympathetic to the "frustrations" of those who backed the measure.

A quarter of a million people demonstrated for immigrant rights in more than 100 cities and towns nationwide May 1, just a week after Arizona governor Janice Brewer signed the SB 1070 anti-worker legislation.

The May Day demonstrations were the largest since 2007, fueled by stepped-up federal anti-immigrant measures and anger over passage of the Arizona law, which instructs cops to check the immigration status of those they stop for any reason, if cops suspect they are undocumented. Many demonstrators carried signs that said, "What does illegal look like?" Another

Continued on page 9

Thailand military overwhelms protesters

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A military assault by Thai troops May 19 overwhelmed an antigovernment protest camp in the center of Thailand's capital, Bangkok. The assault followed a weeklong siege of the camp and street battles in which more than 50 were killed and more than 400 wounded, almost all civilians.

As armored personnel carriers stormed the tire and bamboo barricades, protest leaders announced their surrender to avoid further loss of life. Some 100, including 22 of the group's leadership committee, are now in prison, some facing "terrorism" charges. A government state of emergency was extended to 23 of the country's 75 provinces and a nighttime curfew imposed, with troops patrolling Bangkok streets and searching vehicles.

Rallies protesting the military assault were reported in 20 provinces. Government buildings in four provin-

Continued on page 5

Washington, Seoul threaten N. Korea

S. Korea gov't imposes trade sanctions



Yonhap/AFP/Getty Images

South Korean tanks fire during a military drill near demilitarized zone dividing Korean peninsula May 25 in Yeoncheon, South Korea. Day before Seoul cut off trade and threatened military action against North Korea, alleging that North Korean submarine sank South Korean warship two months earlier, a claim that Pyongyang denies.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Prompted by Washington, the government of South Korea cut off nearly all trade and threatened military action against North Korea May 24. Seoul claimed its aggression was in

U.S. HANDS OFF N. KOREA Editorial — p. 9

response to a North Korean submarine attack on the South Korean warship *Cheonan*. Forty-six sailors died when the boat exploded March 26.

North Korea, also known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), denied the charges.

Seoul has refused the DPRK's repeated requests to send a delegation to the South to see the supposed evidence pointing to a North Korean military attack.

A senior DPRK official warned that if South Korean forces invade territorial waters of North Korea, the "DPRK will put into force practical military measures to defend its waters," reported the Korea Central News Agency.

South Korean president Lee Myung-bak declared the *Cheonan* incident a violation of the 1953 armistice that ended the fighting between North Korea on one side, and South Korea

Continued on page 3

Mortgage crisis expands as capitalist economy 'recovers'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

While government and capitalist economic analysts are increasingly talking about the recovery, the mortgage crisis has been worsening.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, in the first quarter of 2010, a record one out of every seven U.S. mortgage holders was either behind in their payments or facing foreclosure—some 7.3 million households. More than 10 percent had missed at least one payment in this pe-

riod, up from 9.1 percent a year ago.

Those failing to make at least three months of payments or in foreclosure are 8 percent of U.S. mortgage holders, about 4.3 million people. Growing numbers of them are staying in their homes for longer periods of time before eviction. Banks are allowing this to avoid "swamping the housing market with too many foreclosed homes all at once," further depressing home prices, noted the *Wall*

Continued on page 4



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

Workers line up outside "Putting New Yorkers Back to Work" job fair in New York City May 18. High unemployment and underemployment are behind rising residential foreclosures.

White House lays out plans to strengthen nuclear threat

BY DOUG NELSON

In April and May the Barack Obama administration laid out its "nuclear posture" to strengthen the effectiveness of Washington's arsenal, at the same time maximizing pressure on the governments of Iran and North Korea to forsake development of their own nuclear programs.

The White House plan includes expanding funds to modernize Washington's nuclear weapons, development of an anti-ballistic missile system, and a program to field non-nuclear long-range missiles capable of striking any target in the world within one hour.

The Obama administration intends to spend \$180 billion over the next decade to refurbish and improve nuclear warheads, delivery systems, and nuclear weapon manufacturing capabilities.

Along with promoting the modernization plan, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have been urging

Congress to ratify the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) negotiated with the Russian government in April.

Clinton told Congress the New START negotiations have helped win agreement from Beijing and Moscow for a new draft of economic sanctions against Iran and "strengthens our

Continued on page 6

Also Inside:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Puerto Rico: Students strike against tuition hike | 2 |
| Okinawa rally demands closure of U.S. base | 3 |
| Civil rights museum hosts Malcolm X event | 5 |
| Washington pushes new sanctions against Iran | 6 |

Puerto Rico: Students on strike to halt tuition hike

BY SETH GALINSKY

May 26—Negotiations to end a strike by students at the University of Puerto Rico are continuing even though university officials still refuse to agree to demands for no reprisals against strikers, to not raise tuition, and to open university financial books.

On May 22 the administration conceded on one of the central demands of the strike, agreeing to not reduce the number of students receiving tuition waivers.

Some 30 percent of the 62,000 students at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) receive waivers, including athletes, musicians, and honor students. More than 60 percent of students receive U.S. federal education grants to help cover their expenses.

In the midst of the negotiations with student leaders, Ygrí Rivera, president of the university board of trustees, claimed the strike was a maneuver by “radical forces” that want to destabilize the university and install a “co-government.”

The strike by students at 10 of the 11 UPR campuses began April 21 after the Board of Trustees voted that students would no longer be able to receive both tuition waivers and federal grants and announced plans for tuition hikes. Students also fear the Puerto Rico government plans to privatize the university.

In November, Gov. Luis Fortuño began laying off 17,000 government workers as part of the “Fiscal State of Emergency Law,” passed in March 2009 in spite of massive protests by unionists and students. Fortuño claimed the measures along with a prior hiring freeze and an

across-the-board 10 percent spending cut were needed to close a \$3.2 billion budget gap.

The austerity measures have also affected the university.

Jorge Giovannetti, a sociology professor at the UPR Rio Piedras campus, told the *Militant* in a phone interview from San Juan that since the law was passed “there are fewer classes being offered, campus staff has been reduced, and professors are required to teach more classes.”

In an attempt to end the strike, the university administration, backed by Fortuño, sent cops to surround the campuses and block the delivery of food and water to hundreds of students camped out there, but backed down after just a few days.

Alyandra González, 20, a student at the private Polytechnical University in San Juan, supports the strike. “The university should be for everyone, not just those who can pay,” she said.

Striking UPR freshman Mariana Lima, 18, agrees. “That’s the beautiful thing about the UPR,” she said in an phone interview. “Precisely that the working class can get a university education.”

At one point the administration convinced some students to call an assembly they hoped would vote to end the strike, Lima said. “We went to the assembly anyway and beat them at their own game. Students voted overwhelmingly to continue the struggle.”

Students and labor unions have called for a march to the governor’s mansion May 27 to support the strike.



Students from University of Puerto Rico march through Plaza Las Américas shopping center in San Juan May 22 to win support for strike that began April 21.

Puerto Rican political prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres wins parole

BY SETH GALINSKY

After 30 years in prison, Puerto Rican political prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres will be released on parole in July. Torres and fellow independence fighter Oscar López Rivera are among the longest held political prisoners in the world.

Torres, now 58, was arrested in April 1980 along with 10 other supporters of independence for Puerto Rico and accused of “seditious conspiracy” and armed robbery and of being a “terrorist” and member of the Armed Forces of National Liberation of Puerto Rico. At one point in his June 1980 trial, Torres was gagged for speaking Spanish in court.

López Rivera was arrested a year later and found guilty of similar charges.

Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony since 1898, when U.S. troops wrested control of the island from Spain. Residents of Puerto Rico are subject to U.S. laws, courts, and military service. Puerto Rico has been a significant source of profit for U.S. corporations.

In 1999 then-president William Clinton offered to pardon or commute the sentences of 14 Puerto Rican political prisoners, but not Torres. Two of them, Antonio Camacho Negrón and Oscar

López, refused the offer because they did not want to accept onerous conditions on their freedom. Camacho was released in 2002.

Alejandro Molina, co-coordinator of the National Boricua Human Rights Network, said in a phone interview that Torres’s release “puts us in a good position to expand the campaign to demand the release of Oscar López.”

“Antonio called me and said he’s convinced that the letters of support for his freedom and protests from a wide range of people were what made his parole possible,” Molina said.

Over the last decade church groups, the main political parties in Puerto Rico, and prominent figures such as Anglican archbishop Desmond Tutu have backed the call for freeing Torres.

A third Puerto Rican political prisoner, Avelino González Claudio, who was arrested in February 2008, agreed to a plea agreement on charges of conspiracy in relation to a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo truck. González, 67, who has Parkinson’s disease, accepted the deal in exchange for a maximum sentence of seven years in prison. Prosecutors allege the action was carried out to fund Los Macheteros, an armed group that backs Puerto Rican independence.



Free the Cuban Five!

Read about the Cuban Five, Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. jails for nearly 12 years on frame-up charges because they were gathering information on right-wing groups in Florida with a history of violently attacking Cuba.



Rue Frontenac/Rogério B Banner for Cuban Five outside home of sculptor Armand Vaillancourt in Montreal says “Prisoners of the empire.”

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Okinawans rally to close U.S. military facilities

BY ANGEL LARISCY

More than 17,000 people formed an eight-mile human chain around the Futenma U.S. military base on Japan's southern island of Okinawa May 16, demanding it be closed.

The protest came three weeks after 90,000 rallied in the largest demonstration ever against the base. Located in the middle of the densely populated city of Ginowan, the base is a center for U.S. helicopter and transport plane operations in the area.

Okinawa, an island with less than 1 percent of Japan's population, is host to more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan. Washington has more than 100 bases and facilities across the country, three-quarters of them on Okinawa.

The actions occurred as Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama reversed his election campaign promise to move the U.S. military base off Okinawa. Instead, he has decided to honor a 2006 agreement with Washington that moves the Futenma base to a less populated area of Okinawa and transfers 8,000 Marines to Guam by 2014.

U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton visited Japan for a few hours May 21 to discuss the necessity of keeping U.S. troops on Okinawa. "We want to maintain the security of Japan and the stability of the region," said Clinton. She blamed the North Korean government for the recent sinking of a South Korean warship, a charge that Pyongyang denies.

Japanese foreign minister Katsuya Okada said the government was working to convince Okinawans that "in the current security environment, the presence of U.S. forces is indispensable for the security of Japan."

Futenma has been the U.S. military headquarters in Japan since 1945. During World War II one-fourth of Okinawa's residents were killed. In 1951 the island became a U.S. military colony until reverting back to Japan in 1972.

Okinawa is strategically located in the Pacific, equidistant from Tokyo, Seoul, Taiwan, and the Philippines. The U.S. government launched major operations from Okinawa during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the

invasion of Iraq in the early 1990s.

The base has long been a target of protests by residents. In 1995 massive demonstrations erupted after the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three U.S. servicemen. In 2004 a U.S. Marine helicopter crashed into a building at Okinawa International University, leading to calls to move the base.

Former Okinawa governor Keiichi Inamine said that if the Japanese government keeps the base on Okinawa, "You might see people's anger begin blowing up like pent-up magma erupts from a volcano."



May 16 human chain of 17,000 surrounded U.S. Futenma military base on Okinawa, protesting Japanese president's decision to allow Washington to keep troops on island.

Washington, Seoul threaten North Korea

Continued from front page

and UN troops on the other. That war was a defeat for Washington as it sought to overthrow the revolution carried out by workers and peasants that overturned capitalist property relations in the North. The U.S. government, aided by its South Korean capitalist allies, has never ceased its military threats against North Korea since. It maintains 28,000 troops in South Korea.

In addition to the immediate economic and military actions, Lee banned North Korean commercial ships from entering South Korean waters. He also announced a resumption of "psychological warfare" broadcasts from across the border and announced that South Korean and U.S. troops will soon hold military exercises.

The president said he would ask the UN Security Council to enact new sanctions against the North. Earlier, Defense Minister Kim Tae-young reported that Seoul and Washington were discussing a new military alert level for North Korea, from 3 to 2. Level 1 was used during the Korean War.

U.S. president Barack Obama instructed his military commanders to work with Seoul to "ensure readiness and deter aggression." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the White House was considering restoring North Korea to the State Department list of "state sponsors of terrorism."

The provocative character of the U.S.—South Korean threats was dem-

onstrated May 15, when South Korean forces fired on two North Korean patrol boats they claimed had entered South Korean waters. The North Koreans did not return the fire and left the area.

After the *Cheonan* blew up at the end of March, voices in the South Korean and U.S. governments accused North Korea right away. However, no evidence was put forward until May 20, when Seoul announced that its investigation had shown that Pyongyang was to blame. It charged the North Koreans sent two submarines into South Korean waters to attack the warship. The key "evidence" was a piece of metal, said to be from a torpedo, that supposedly had North Korean markings.

An article in the online *Asia Times* by North Korean Kim Myong Choi pointed out, "The disaster took place precisely in the waters where what the Pentagon has called 'one of the world's largest simulated exercises' was under way. . . . It involved scores of shiny, ultra-modern US and South Korean warships equipped with the latest technology," including torpedoes. He questions how North Korean submarines could enter the waters, elude all the U.S. and South Korean ships, fire a torpedo at the *Cheonan*, and escape.

Some South Korean media have also raised questions about the official story. The *Korea Times* noted that shortly after the *Cheonan* sank, both U.S. and South Korean military authorities insisted there had been no sign of North

Korean vessels in the West Sea where the explosion took place. The paper also asked why there was several months' rust on the metal part and why the supposed "North Korean markings" were handwritten.

The serial number on the part "is not how the North numbers items since it dates back to Japanese colonial times," *Chosun Ilbo* reported former government minister Chung Se-hyun had said. "Some skeptics have also said the 130-ton 'Yono' class submarine fingered by investigators is incapable of firing a mid-sized torpedo," the daily reported.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement May 21 saying, "It is the intention of the present U.S. administration to suffocate the DPRK politically and economically by internationalizing the sanctions against the latter." The U.S. charges, it added, "reminds one of a thief crying 'Stop the thief!'"

The foreign ministry further noted that the incident is being used to scuttle talks between North Korea, Washington, Beijing, Tokyo, South Korea, and Russia over North Korea's nuclear program. The cutoff of trade by South Korea, which amounts to 14.5 percent of North Korea's foreign trade, will be a serious blow to working people in the North. North Korean shipping costs will also be higher if forced to detour around South Korean waters.

Clinton flew to Beijing to urge the Chinese government to renew sanctions against North Korea. China is North Korea's main trading partner and hosted North Korean premier Kim Jong-il earlier this month. Last year Beijing joined Washington and other imperialist powers in adopting a UN Security Council resolution for more sanctions against North Korea after it test-fired a missile.

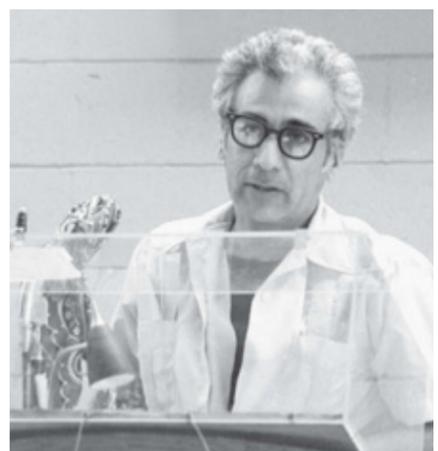
Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama called for passing a law allowing Tokyo to inspect ships traveling to and from North Korea.

Meeting to celebrate political life of Catarino Garza

BY JOEL BRITTON

SAN FRANCISCO—A meeting to celebrate the life and political contributions of Catarino Garza will be held here Sunday, June 6.

Garza, for many years a member



Militant/Walter Lippmann

Catarino Garza speaks at 27th national convention of Socialist Workers Party in 1975.

and leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died May 11 at his home in Coulterville, CA, following a long illness. He was 81 years old.

As a young worker in the 1940s, Garza joined the Socialist Workers Party youth organization and the party. A maritime worker in that period, Garza was in the party's fraction in the National Maritime Union.

Garza served on the SWP's National Committee and was a party candidate for public office many times. He was a leader of the party's work in the 1960's and early '70s, during the height of the battles for Black rights, activities in defense of the Cuban Revolution, and struggles of Puerto Ricans in the United States, including the fight for Puerto Rican independence.

Puerto Ricans in the U.S.: The Struggle for Freedom, a Pathfinder Press book containing the 1976 reso-

lution of the Socialist Workers Party on the Puerto Rican struggle, was edited by Garza. He was also a regular contributor to the *Militant* newspaper.

The meeting will take place at the Socialist Workers Campaign hall at 5482 Mission St. (see announcement below).

Messages to the meeting from comrades and friends who worked with Garza can be sent to swpsf@sbcglobal.net.

Celebrate the political life of Catarino Garza

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Read, Sell, & Discuss

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, & the Road to Workers Power

Houston

Three fellow workers at an industrial equipment assembly plant in Houston have bought copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes. This was my first week on the job!

"This is history they never teach us," said one as he carefully studied photographs in the book. Having been a farmer, he was interested in the struggle for agrarian reform in the United States following the Civil War and the struggle by Black farmers today against racist discrimination by the government.

Two other workers were interested in the history of working-class struggles in this country, in particular the role of Black workers in the vanguard of major class battles. One, who has been studying the book in English, bought a second copy in Spanish.

—Amanda Ulman

Omaha

Recently I made a follow-up visit to the Aframerican Book Store in Omaha, Nebraska. The owner had purchased a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation,*

and the *Road to Workers Power* shortly after the book's release last February. He invited me to display the book at the annual celebration of Malcolm X's birthday.

One hundred attended the May 22 event organized by the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation at Malcolm's birth site.

While looking at the photos in the book, one veteran Black activist said that it should be in every school and community library to teach the truth about the source of racist discrimination and those who have historically fought against it. Three copies of the book were sold, one with an introductory subscription to the *Militant*. Two others ordered the book.

The same evening a *Workers Power* book was sold to a teacher at a fundraiser in Lincoln, Nebraska, for the case of Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly known as David Rice). Both are former Omaha chapter Black Panthers and have been in prison since 1970, framed-up in the 1970 bombing death of an Omaha cop. Supporters of their case have been fighting for a new trial for nearly four decades.

—Joe Swanson

Review notes 'general appeal' of 'Workers Power' book

BY SETH GALINSKY

In mid-May the online edition of the *Library Journal*, which is used by thousands of librarians as an aid to book ordering, posted a review of the Spanish-language edition of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, published by Pathfinder Press.

The review recommends the book by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes for "all public libraries and bookstores for its general appeal and historic content."

The book looks at "labor history from the perspective of how the African American question was viewed by thinkers and leaders like Trotsky and organizations like the American Communist Party," writes Catherine Rendón.

"Barnes paints a picture of African American leaders and their struggles, vision, and impact, and he includes recent reflections regarding the election of Barack Obama and how this fits into the overall perceptions of African America

from within and without that community," Rendón concludes. The full review can be read at www.libraryjournal.com.

An earlier article in the *Midwest Book Review* about the English-language edition of the book called it "a powerful and persuasive political testimony."

The book is "an unabashedly pro-socialist treatise" that looks at the "exploitation of workers—especially black workers—particularly from the mid-1950s onward, when black people were disproportionately claimed as an under compensated industrial work force and as cannon fodder for America's wars."

The *Midwest Book Review* notes that the book "searches for lessons from the past, and seeks to apply those lessons to promote a future where socialism provides a framework for reducing or eliminating exploitation, violence, and racism." It especially highlights the impact of the 1917 Russian Revolution on the attitude of revolutionaries toward the Black struggle in the United States.

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Cabin crews strike at British Airways



Militant/Olöf Andra Proppé

LONDON—Cabin crews at British Airways, members of the Unite union, resumed strike action against the airline May 24. The five-day walk-out follows strikes in March against company attempts to slash jobs and bring down working conditions.

"I've had 20 plus years with British Airways and it seems that the company is trying to break the union," said a striker on the picket line at Hatton Cross station near Heathrow Airport. "They have imposed new terms and conditions involving longer shifts and less time off. Our strike is not only about pay; we have to take a stand."

The strike was due to start on May 18 but the company won a court injunction against the action, which was overturned a few days later. Two more sets of five-day strikes are planned over the next couple of weeks.

—ÖLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ AND CELIA PUGH

Mortgage crisis expands

Continued from front page
Street Journal.

Initially working people with so-called subprime loans, which had rising interest rates, were the ones mostly facing foreclosure. This has now spread to those with all kinds of loans. More than one-third of new foreclosures in the first quarter were mortgage holders with conventional fixed-rate loans, more than double those with subprime loans.

Commercial real estate is also facing a deep crisis. Some \$1.4 trillion in commercial mortgage loans will become due over the next four years "with balloon payments due at expiration," reported *Investor's Business Daily*. The largest of these loans are held by some of the biggest banks—J.P. Morgan, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.

Declining housing prices

High unemployment and underemployment, officially at 17.1 percent, account for rising numbers of residential foreclosures. House prices continue to decline in many areas.

According to figures released by New RealtyTrac, compared to 2007 housing prices are down about 50 percent in Riverside and Sacramento, California, and in Orlando, Florida. In Palm Coast and Fort Myers, Florida, they're down more than 60 percent.

With declining house prices, about one-quarter of all mortgage holders owe more than their property is currently worth.

The Barack Obama administration's \$75 billion plan to "prevent foreclosures" has done little to alleviate the crisis for working people. The "Home Affordable Modification Program," launched a year ago, pays banks to lower mortgage payments. Of the 1.2 million house own-

ers enrolled in the program, 23 percent dropped out last year. Only 25 percent received permanent loan modifications, with more than half redefaulting on their loans within nine months.

The government bailout of the biggest banks last year transferred more than \$1 trillion of those institutions' largely worthless mortgage securities onto the federal government balance sheet. Administration officials are now trying to decide what can be done—if anything—with these "assets." A Federal Reserve meeting at the end of April ruled out attempts to sell off this debt "until the economic recovery was well established," reported the minutes of its meeting.

Meanwhile, the pace of bank failures is increasing. So far 72 banks have collapsed this year, more than double the number by this time last year. A total of 775 banks, or one-tenth of all U.S. banks, are on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) list of "problem" institutions. The FDIC, which insures about \$5 trillion of deposits, currently has a balance of minus \$20.7 billion as of the end of the first quarter, reported the *Journal*.

In another development, Fannie Mae requested another \$8.4 billion from the U.S. Treasury, reporting its 12th consecutive quarterly loss. Several days earlier Freddie Mac said it needed another \$10.6 billion. The federal government seized control of these housing mortgage giants in September 2008 to avert their collapse. Last December it lifted the \$200 billion limit it had placed on their bailouts.

The Federal Housing Administration, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac guarantee more than 90 percent of all housing mortgages in the United States.

Civil rights museum hosts Malcolm X panel

BY L. PALTRINERI
AND RACHELE FRUIT

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—Fifty people attended a program entitled “Civil Rights or Human Rights: Reexamining the Rhetoric of Malcolm X” at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum here May 22. The museum opened February 1 on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the sit-ins that led to the desegregation of Woolworth’s lunch counters. It is located at the site of the original Woolworth’s store where that movement began.

Because of the brisk sales of Pathfinder books on Malcolm X in the museum’s gift shop, the organizers invited John Benson of the Socialist Workers Party in Atlanta to speak on the panel about the publisher’s new book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes.

Other speakers included associate professor Bryon Turman and Dr. James Steele from North Carolina A & T State University, and Dr. Shelly Brown-Jeffy from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Benson described the civil rights movement he was a part of as a young person in the 1960s. He said that from the sit-ins in Greensboro; to the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott; to the struggles from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Monroe, North Carolina; to the battle of Birmingham; to the formation of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization in Alabama; and the example of the Deacons for Defense in Louisiana and Mississippi; millions of ordinary people went into political action, transformed themselves, and accomplished extraordinary things. They brought down the Jim Crow system of segregation. The southern movement was linked to the Freedom Now movement in the North and to the revolutionary struggles in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

“This was the world that Malcolm X developed in and responded to,” Benson said. “Malcolm talked constantly about the revolutionary struggle in the Congo. He was attracted to the revolutions in Algeria, Vietnam, China, and Cuba. Malcolm split from the Nation of Islam to participate in these struggles.

“In the last year of his life, Malcolm became a revolutionary leader of the working class on a world scale. He saw a clash coming in the world between the oppressed and those who do the oppressing, and he said it would not be a clash based on the color of one’s skin, as Elijah Muhammad had taught,” Benson explained.

To illustrate Malcolm’s political direction in the last months of his life, Bryon Turman cited a Dec. 2, 1964, interview with talk show host Les Crane. In response to the question, “What is your main effort toward now?” Malcolm explained that “the Organization of Afro-American Unity has reached the conclusion . . . that approaching our problem just on the level of civil rights and keeping it within the jurisdiction of the United States will not bring a solution. It’s not a Negro problem or an American problem any longer. It’s a world problem, it’s a human problem.”

Dr. Brown-Jeffy explained the im-

portance of Malcolm’s emphasis on the struggle for human rights of all peoples. Human rights are not dependent on the laws of any given country, she said. The concept of citizenship is a way to exclude some people from the rights and protections of the law. Dr. Steele described Malcolm X as a social and political critic of the United States and the world.

A lively discussion ensued. Audience members asked the panelists about their views of how Malcolm would respond to the struggles of today. Steele said, “You can’t put words in a dead man’s mouth, but the current administration is waging two wars, and I feel certain that Malcolm would oppose them.”

After the program one participant expressed the view that she sees a one-sided Hispanic revolution coming in this country that will exclude Blacks. Others argued that many Blacks have participated in recent immigrant rights demonstrations defending foreign-born workers, which helps unify and strengthen the working class.

Thailand military overwhelms protesters

Continued from front page

Thailand, with a population of 67 million, has Southeast Asia’s second largest economy. It has been a longtime ally of Washington in the region. Tens of thousands of people have been engaged in ongoing protests in Thailand since March, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, the dissolution of parliament, and new elections. The United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), a coalition linked to deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, has led the protests. Many of the protesters are rural farmers and workers from the impoverished north of the country. More than two-thirds of the Thai population live in the countryside.

The anti-government protesters are known as “Red Shirts.” Thousands wore the shirts in demonstrations in

Washington, D.C., nurses rally against cuts



Kimberly Arteche

WASHINGTON—Hundreds of nurses picketed the Washington Hospital Center here May 11 to protest concession demands by the hospital owners. The workers, who belong to the union Nurses United, are fighting against wage cuts and further gutting of work rules.

—PAUL PEDERSON

April 2009 that forced the cancellation of a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations being held in the city of Pattaya.

In March 14 of this year, 150,000 Red Shirts marched in Bangkok, vowing not to leave until the government stood down. Protests of tens of thousands also took place in cities in the north.

After talks with the government ended in a stalemate in late March, protesters set up camp near Government House, later moving to occupy more than a square mile of the shopping and tourist district in central Bangkok in a well-organized tent city of some 10,000 people.

State of emergency imposed

The government imposed a state of emergency in Bangkok, banning meetings of more than five people and allowing authorities to detain

people without trial. The government has shut down Web sites, television channels, and radio stations that support the Red Shirts.

In early May, Abhisit offered elections in November if the occupation was ended, but withdrew the offer after Red Shirts demanded a government minister be fired. The army then surrounded the protest camp and cut off water, food, and electricity. The next day, Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawadiphol, an army officer who had aided the opposition, was shot by a sniper, sparking clashes with the troops. Khattiya died four days later.

Calls by protesters for a cease-fire were rejected and soldiers attacked the mainly unarmed Red Shirts with rifles and tear gas May 18. Many had already responded to the government’s ultimatum to leave. Others fled

Continued on page 9

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 7, 1985

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—In an important victory for abortion rights, Edward Markley, the Catholic priest who attacked an abortion clinic here, was convicted of two felony charges on April 30.

This is Markley’s third conviction for attacks on clinics. He was also convicted on two assault charges last year. He received suspended sentences in both prior convictions. This conviction will have a big impact on the fight to defend the right to safe, legal abortion from right-wing attack.

The right-wing forces immediately escalated their antiabortion campaign. Joseph Scheidler, head of the Pro-Life Action League, came to Birmingham.

Greater Birmingham National Organization for Women quickly organized supporters to provide patient escorts and pickets at two clinics.



June 6, 1960

Rocked by giant labor-student demonstrations, the right-wing government of Japanese Premier Kishi is fighting to save itself, its military pact with the U.S. and its plans for welcoming President Eisenhower on June 19.

Eight consecutive days of anti-government demonstrations were climaxed with a tremendous outpouring May 26.

More than 200,000 workers and high school and college students besieged the Diet (parliament) in Tokyo and an estimated two million people staged protests throughout the country.

Kishi was unable to leave his office for twelve hours as the marchers ringed the building chanting, “Ike, Don’t Come,” and “Eisenhower, Stay Home.” They roared their opposition to the military treaty and demanded new Diet elections.



June 8, 1935

Beginning August first, the New Militant will appear as an eight-page publication in an enlarged eight-column format.

With this change we will make a new and a great leap forward. Double space will be available for more news from the field of the class struggle, about the activities of the trade union militants, and for new features as well as for analytical and theoretical articles.

The need for this change is obvious. Throughout the country the workers find themselves today face to face with new attacks upon their standard of living and new attacks against their organizations. Momentous battles are on the order of the day. Great events are in the making on an international scale where the extension of Fascism is threatening and the imperialist powers are rushing headlong into another world war.

Washington pushes new sanctions against Iran

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Washington submitted a draft resolution to the UN Security Council May 18 calling for more sanctions against Iran because of its nuclear program. Paris, London, Moscow, and Beijing, the four other permanent members of the Security Council with veto power, support the anti-Iran resolution.

The U.S. government went public with the sanction plan just a day after Tehran announced it had negotiated an agreement with the presidents of Turkey and Brazil for Iran to send its uranium to Turkey for enrichment.

According to a summary of the sanctions resolution carried by the *New York Times*, it demands the Iranian government suspend its enrichment of uranium, a process needed to produce nuclear fuel. Washington contends Tehran plans to make a nuclear weapon. The Iranian government denies this charge, stating its program is designed for energy production.

The resolution insists that Iran build no new enrichment facilities and open up its nuclear sites to unannounced inspection by UN authorities. It also calls for cargo inspections of shipments to or from Iran.

Expanding the imperialist pressure on Tehran, the resolution bans sales of some weapons to Iran, but at Moscow's insistence leaves the door open to other arms sales. Russia is a major supplier of weapons to Iran. Likewise the draft urges governments to "exercise vigilance" when doing business with the Iran Central Bank or companies controlled by the Pasdaran, the Iranian military force that is dominant in the government and the country's nuclear

power industry. Both Moscow and Beijing opposed more stringent terms. Iran is China's third-largest oil supplier.

Shortly after submitting its draft resolution, the Barack Obama administration lifted sanctions from three Russian companies Washington had previously charged with aiding the Iranian nuclear program. Philip Crowley, the State Department spokesman, said Moscow's refusal to deliver S-300 anti-aircraft batteries it had promised Tehran was a factor in that decision. The S-300s would make it far more difficult for U.S. or Israeli bombers to attack Iran.

Some conservative voices denounced the sanctions draft. Columnist Charles Krauthammer called it "laughably weak." The *Wall Street Journal's* Gerald Seib, on the other hand, wrote, "No, the resolution's provisions don't amount to the 'crippling sanctions' U.S. officials have promised. . . . Still, the announcement matters. Most importantly it's a strong sign that Iran can't count on China and Russia to bail it out."

U.S. defense secretary Robert Gates argued that the sanctions resolution is a step forward. "He says it serves as a reminder of Iran's international isolation," according to Voice of America News. It quoted Gates as saying, "The resolution provides a new legal platform that allows individual countries and organizations, such as the E.U., to take significantly more stringent actions on their own."

The deal negotiated by Brazil and Turkey is refashioned from a proposal made by the imperialist powers in 2009 that Iran meet its needs for enriched uranium by shipping 70 percent of its



Reuters/Raheb Homavandi

Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant. Proposed UN resolution against Iran demands government suspend enrichment of uranium, a process needed to produce nuclear fuel.

low-grade uranium to another country for processing. Talks broke down when Iran insisted on alterations in the plan to give it more control over the uranium.

Under the new agreement, Tehran would ship 2,640 pounds of low-grade uranium to Turkey for one year. In return, it would get 265 pounds of uranium enriched to 20 percent by other countries.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the plan was insufficient because the Iranian government didn't accept negotiations over its nuclear program or free access to its newest enrichment plant.

Tehran submitted its plan to the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency on May 24, joined by representatives of the Brazilian and Turkish governments. Washington said it would pursue sanctions in the Security Council and was hopeful that its resolution would be voted on within weeks. Representa-

tives to the Security Council from Turkey, Brazil, and Lebanon are expected to oppose sanctions.

Meanwhile, Washington is quietly pursuing a campaign to pressure foreign companies to cease trading with Iran, reported Reuters. Since March the oil conglomerates LUKOIL in Russia and Royal Dutch Shell, foreign subsidiaries of Caterpillar, and the auto company Daimler have announced plans to end or reduce business dealings with Iranian firms. The German engineering giant Siemens stopped taking orders from Iran last January.

The sanctions fall the hardest on working people in Iran. Officially unemployment has risen 1.5 percent to nearly 12 percent in the last year. The rate would be much higher if those without full-time jobs were counted. The inflation rate is one of the highest in the Middle East, according to the Central Bank of Iran.

White House plans to strengthen nuclear threat

Continued from front page

hand as we seek to hold these [Tehran and Pyongyang] and other governments accountable."

The pact would limit the number of actively deployed nuclear warheads on both sides from 2,200 under the previous START pact to 1,550. Washington and Moscow hold 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons.

The warhead reduction is less than claimed, as the treaty's new method of calculating counts one bomber jet, which can hold up to 20 nuclear bombs, as one. The pact does not require destruction of any warheads, only the transfer of some from delivery systems that make them immediately deployable to an active stockpile.

At the opening of the May 3–28 Nuclear Non-Proliferation conference held at the United Nations, the U.S. government released a report declaring it has 5,113 nuclear warheads. In addition to this, Washington holds more than 4,500 other U.S. warheads in "inactive reserve."

The START treaty places no restrictions on the U.S. program to develop an antiballistic missile system, designed to restore Washington's ability to use its nuclear arsenal unchecked. But Moscow has voiced its opposition to the development of interceptor missiles and said it would withdraw from

the treaty if it determined the system posed enough of a strategic threat. "It's the latest chapter in a long line of Russian objections to our proceeding with missile defense, and frankly I think it's because . . . we can afford it and they can't," Gates told Congress.

The White House has requested nearly \$10 billion for ABM development for the coming fiscal year, an increase of \$700 million.

Much of the White House plan was laid out in its "Nuclear Posture Review," published in early April. It states that the U.S. government will continue to refrain from nuclear testing and "will seek ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty"—a pledge Obama made last year as part of a strategy to pressure other governments to abstain from testing.

By official count, Washington conducted more than 1,050 nuclear tests up until 1992. This is more than the combined total of all other countries to date. With unmatched scientific knowledge and expertise acquired through this testing, along with other advances, the U.S. military is in a distinctive position to improve its nuclear technology without live testing.

The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review does not rule out nuclear first strikes. At the same time, it pledges not to target countries that are "in compliance"

with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)—a threat and a carrot aimed at Iran and North Korea. Under imperialist pressure led by Washington, the two have been denied their right to develop nuclear technology by the provisions of the 1968 NPT treaty itself.

While maintaining its nuclear dominance, the White House is simultaneously accelerating the military's program to develop a hypersonic intercontinental missile fitted with a massive conventional warhead capable of striking a target anywhere in the world within one hour. The Obama administration has requested \$240 million this year for development of a hypersonic glider that would be launched by an ICBM, with expectations of "initial deployment" by 2015.

The weapon would give the U.S. government a very fast non-nuclear strike option. At the same time, military leaders argue, it could be used without the same political consequences of a nuclear attack, and therefore would offer a more credible threat.

Congress rejected a request for \$127 billion from the Bush administration for the technology in 2007, providing only \$5 million for research out of concern that Moscow or Beijing would misread a launch of such a missile for a nuclear weapon, possibly triggering a retaliatory response.

New International A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

Issue 12

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by Jack Barnes

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Capitalism, Labor, and the Transformation
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Richard Levins, Steve Clark



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The fight for a modern ‘land and labor league’

The following is the 20th in a series of excerpts the Militant is running from Pathfinder Press's latest book, Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. We encourage our readers to study, discuss, and help sell the book. This selection comes from the chapter "Black Liberation and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat." Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Subhead is by the Militant.

BY JACK BARNES

At the big public meeting here in New York two days ago, we encouraged participants to visit the exhibition on "Slavery in New York" at the New York Historical Society. Among many other things, the exhibit describes the New York Manumission Society founded in 1785. I noted that John Jay—president of the Continental Congress for several years during the American Revolution, and later governor of New York and Chief Justice of the United States—was a founder of the society and had included in its constitution the following words: "The benevolent Creator and Father of men [has] given to them all an equal right to Life, Liberty and Property."

I contrasted this favorably to Thomas Jefferson's decision, in drafting the Declaration of Independence a decade earlier, to alter those words—much used by bourgeois opponents of monarchical tyranny and feudal reaction at the time—and replace them with the more intangible phrase: "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." With the exception of the four children of Sally Hemings, none of the other slaves owned by Thomas Jefferson were freed by him, even in his will; 130 were sold at auction when he died. Possibly that puts into some perspective Jefferson's practical understanding of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The banner "Life, Liberty and Property" was much more in the interests of all working people. It was the dispossession of independent toiling producers by capital that left us with no other choice but to sell our labor power to an employer in order to survive and thus gave rise to our class, the hereditary proletariat.



Rail workers in Baltimore battle police during 1877 strike. Marx called it "first eruption since Civil War against associated oligarchy of capital."

They took away our free use of tools. They drove us off the land, and out of independent crafts and trades. They deprived us of our own means of production. They took over the commons. And it was the brutal denial of both liberty and property—even the right to hold property, much less the opportunity to do so—that marked chattel slavery and many other forms of bonded labor. In the chapters of *Capital* on "So-Called Primitive Accumulation," Marx describes in some detail how, as a result of these combined processes, the capitalist mode of production came into the world "dripping from head to toe, from every pore, with blood and filth."

'Pursuit of happiness'

Once we've established a workers and farmers government and expropriated the capitalist class, working people will be plenty competent to take care of our own "pursuit of happiness"—and we'll pursue a lot of it on the way. Contrary to the bourgeois misrepresentation of communists as utopian social engineers, proletarian revolutionists—like most other workers—firmly believe that many things in life are best left to the individual. The right to privacy is real. We think the state, including a work-

ers state, should keep its nose out of our "pursuit of happiness."

Neither the proletarian dictatorship, nor the communist society it is a bridge toward, has anything to do with some great collective barracks of humanity. That's not what communism is about. To the contrary, as the Communist Manifesto explains, "In place of the old bourgeois society, with its classes and class antagonisms, we shall have an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all." We have little idea what it will be like, but it will be a lot better for working people.

Today, more than 130 years after Marx identified the class forces capable of making the third American revolution—a socialist revolution—that same alliance remains central to the task: free labor, free farmers exploited by capital, and the men and women who freed themselves from the defeated slavocracy. Those forces remain at the heart of building a modern land and labor league,* the revolutionary proletarian party that can do the job.

Amid the powerful nationwide strikes sparked by rail workers in 1877, Marx wrote to Engels:

This first eruption against the oligarchy of associated capital which has arisen since the Civil War will of course be put down, but it could quite well form the starting point for the establishment of a serious labour party in the United States. . . .

The policy of the new President [of withdrawing Union troops backing Radical Reconstruction governments across the South] will turn the Negroes into allies of the workers, and the large expropriations of land (especially fertile land) in favour of railway, mining, etc., companies will convert the peas-

ants of the West, who are already very disenchanted, into allies of the workers.

As I explained in the 1984 SWP convention report, "The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States":

But this was not to be. The economic and political reserves of the rising U.S. industrial bourgeoisie were far from exhausted, and thus the class-collaborationist illusions among working people still had deep taproots. The class-struggle leadership of the working class and its revolutionary core were still too small in numbers and inexperienced in class combat. Over the next half century the United States would become the world's mightiest imperialist power, and the U.S. labor officialdom would become Uncle Sam's handmaiden.

Moreover, the defeat of Radical Reconstruction dealt a devastating blow to Blacks and other U.S. working people. The U.S. working class became more deeply divided by the national oppression of Blacks that was institutionalized in the South on new foundations in the bloody aftermath of 1877. U.S. labor's first giant step toward the formation of major industrial unions did not come for another six decades, and the formation of a labor party, anticipated by Marx 108 years ago, remains an unfulfilled task of our class to this day.

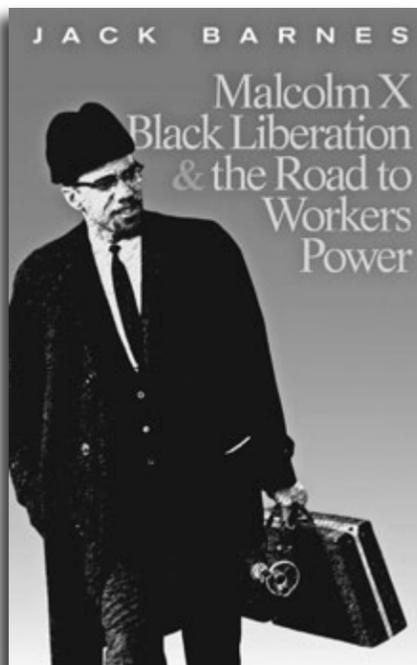
Nonetheless, Marx could not have been more correct about the alliance of social forces that would have to be at the center of a successful revolution in the United States—the working class, toilers who are Black, and exploited farmers.

That remains the prognosis for the American revolution, for the conquest of power and establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the United States, to this day.

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by Jack Barnes



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* The Land and Labour League was launched by a conference of workers in London, England, in October 1869. It was organized at the initiative of the leadership of the International Working Men's Association (IWMA, the "First International"), of which Karl Marx and Frederick Engels were central leaders. Writing to Engels about the founding of the new organization—which aimed to unite industrial workers in the cities with farm laborers and other rural working people in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales—Marx said that "here, the work-

ers' party makes a clean break with the bourgeoisie" politically. Marx joined the Land and Labour League, and a number of its leaders were members of the IWMA General Council. By late 1870, however, bourgeois forces gained dominance in the league's leadership, putting the organization on a course away from the IWMA and from its own founding declaration "that nothing short of a transformation of the existing social and political arrangements [can] avail, and that such a transformation [can] only be effected by the toiling millions themselves."

Lessons from 111-day miners' strike in 1977-78

Printed below is an excerpt from *Coal Miners on Strike*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June*. The booklet includes Militant articles on the 111-day coal miners' strike in 1977-78, describing how the miners beat back the bosses' antiunion assault with the power of union democracy and working-class solidarity. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NANCY COLE
AND ANDY ROSE

The 111-day coal strike was something new and different—more important than any other strike in a long time. Not just because it was big. And not just because it was long. It was different in what the bosses set out to accomplish, and different in how the miners and their allies responded.

The miners were hit with the most powerful union-busting assault any industrial union has faced in more than thirty years. *And they blocked it.*

They stood up to the corporations.

They stood up to the government.

They overruled their own union officials who caved in to the bosses' demands.

And despite a concerted effort to pit other working people against them, the miners won the solidarity of millions of

workers across the country.

The confrontation in the coalfields became a *social cause*, raising issues that deeply affect every working person. Issues such as safety on the job, health care, pensions, union democracy, and the right to strike.

And the coal strike became a *political battle*, pitting courageous rank-and-file workers against the giant corporations that rule this country.

For a brief time, some of the lies and illusions that cover up political reality in this country were stripped away. The [James] Carter administration—elected with the votes of workers and politically supported by the union officialdom—stood exposed as an open strikebreaker. The Democratic and Republican politicians, the courts, the police, the news media, the government mediators and arbitrators—all stood out in their true colors as instruments of the ruling rich.

The confrontation came to a head when Carter ordered the miners back to work on company terms under Taft-Hartley. He threatened to fine or jail their union leaders, confiscate their union treasuries, and cut off food stamps for their families.

Yet the miners refused to bow down.

Carter was forced to retreat, and the coal companies quickly came up with a new contract offer that dropped most of their worst antiunion demands. . . .

The miners' successful defiance of Taft-Hartley makes it harder for Carter to use that slave-labor law effectively against any other group of workers.

This spectacle—the ranks of the union showing their power and forcing the bosses to step back—fired the imagination and boosted the confidence of workers everywhere. . . .

The greatest accomplishment of the miners' fight was not the contract they ended up with—which is far from adequate to meet their needs—but the example they set. An example not only to unionists but also to Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, women, students—to everyone striving for justice and social progress. The miners inspired new hope that working people *can* fight together for their rights. And both the successes and limitations of the coal miners' battle hold important lessons about *how* to fight back.



Militant/Nancy Cole

Miners rally in Washington, D.C., March 15, 1978, during 111-day strike.

Gas explosion in coal mine in Turkey kills 28 workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A powerful methane gas explosion killed at least 28 miners in Turkey May 17 at the state-owned Karadon mine in the northwest province of Zonguldak. Two other miners are "believed to be either buried under or beyond a pile of earth and rock in the mine," reported Agence France-Presse.

In the past five months, mine explosions in Turkey have killed 60 workers. The country has the third highest number of mine deaths in the world, reported *Hürriyet*, a Turkish newspaper.

In comments May 21, the country's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, trivialized the deaths. "It is

impossible to prevent a methane gas explosion 100 percent," he said. "Unfortunately, this is the fate of this profession in many places throughout the world."

Two days earlier "scuffles broke out" between police, relatives of the miners, and other protesters when the prime minister paid a visit to the mine area, reported CNN.

In the United States, another miner—James Delbarton—died from injuries received May 10 at Massey Energy's Ruby Energy Mine in southern West Virginia. This brings the toll to 36 coal miners killed on the job in the United States so far this year.

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OFFER GOOD UNTIL JUNE 30, 2010

U.S. hands off Korea!

Working people the world over should speak out against the new economic and military threats against North Korea by Washington and the government of South Korea.

The charge that North Korean armed forces torpedoed a South Korean warship, killing 46 sailors, is the latest pretext for what has been decades of aggression by Washington against the people of Korea. It was Washington that imposed a partition between the north and south after World War II. It was Washington, under cover of the United Nations, that went to war against Korea in 1950 after working people in the north carried out a socialist revolution. When Washington was defeated in 1953, it refused to sign a peace treaty with North Korea. Washington maintains tens of thousands of troops in the south to this day.

The U.S. imperialists, along with their client regime in Seoul, have ceaselessly organized military provocations against North Korea. They have imposed economic sanctions against Pyongyang to deny the people access to food, fuel, and financing to develop their economy. They have claimed the right to board ships to and from North Korea to inspect their cargo. Washington justifies this aggression as necessary to stop the North Korean "nuclear threat." But it is Washington that introduced

nuclear arms and delivery systems on Korea's soil and maintains them throughout the Pacific.

Washington's war drive against Korea is of a piece with its stepped-up drone attacks on the people of Pakistan, its widening war in Afghanistan, and its intervention in Iraq.

These attacks on working people abroad are an extension of the capitalists' domestic policy. In order to boost their rate of profit and compete with rivals internationally, the U.S. employers are slashing jobs, and compelling those still working to produce more under less safe conditions. They are driving down wages and cutting back on health care and pensions. The U.S. government, from the federal to the municipal level, is closing hospitals, shuttering schools, and throwing tens of thousands of public employees into the streets. At the same time the U.S. rulers are increasingly curtailing workers' rights, from the right to remain silent when interrogated by the cops, to the right to organize unions, to the right to speak out against government policy.

Defending North Korea from imperialist aggression is part of opposing the employers' war on workers at home and abroad. End the sanctions against North Korea! Sign the peace treaty! Withdraw U.S. troops, ships, and weapons—conventional and nuclear—from the Korean Peninsula!

Thailand military attacks opposition

Continued from page 5

to a nearby temple, which was subsequently attacked. Others fought back with homemade weapons and burning tires. As the camp was breached, protests broke out elsewhere in the city and more than 30 buildings were burned.

Thailand has been marked by political crises and military coups throughout its modern history. The latest crisis was sparked by a 2006 military coup that overthrew the government of Thaksin, a multimillionaire businessman. First elected in 2001, he won support from working people, especially in rural areas, with his populist rhetoric and reforms that included cheap credit, expanded access to health care, and some redistribution of land.

His government at the same time privatized state-owned enterprises and escalated the repression of Malays in the south fighting for autonomy.

Thaksin's party again won elections in December 2007, but this and a subsequent Thaksin-allied administration were removed by the courts amid protests organized by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD). The middle-class supporters of the PAD wear yellow, the color of Thailand's king. The party advocates having only 30 percent of parliament directly elected by the people, with the remainder appointed, in order to curb the influence of workers and peasants.

In December 2008, Democrat Party leader Abhisit formed a government with the backing of the military. Thaksin now lives in exile, facing a jail term in Thailand for corruption.

Thailand's 82-year-old king, Bhumibol Adulyadej, a constitutional monarch who has previously played a key role in Thai politics, did not comment on the latest events. He has been hospitalized since September.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Gordon Duguid condemned Red Shirt actions May 19 while Australian foreign minister Stephen Smith cautioned against a further military coup. "What we don't want to be dealing with into the future is a government of Thailand that is militarily-led," he said May 20.

The Red Shirts are reported to be well organized throughout Thailand. They have established radio stations, magazines, Web sites, and a television channel. During recent weeks they have blocked roads and rail lines believed to be carrying troops to Bangkok.

As Red Shirt protesters returned home, they vowed to continue their campaign. In the northern city of Chiang Mai, hundreds turned out to greet the protesters' train, waving flags and holding placards calling Abhisit a "murderer." "New leaders will emerge soon and we will start again," said one of the protesters.

LETTERS

Due process rights

There is a lot of misinformation about due process rights of people in the U.S. Both the 5th Amendment (with regard to federal jurisdiction) and the 14th Amendment (regarding all other jurisdictions such as states, counties, local cops, etc.) refer to *all* persons, whether or not they are citizens, who are arrested *in* the United States.

When a person is arrested or in custody of the state (cops, FBI, DEA, etc.) he or she is to be afforded *all the rights of due process*, including Miranda warnings. Unless explicitly knowingly and intentionally waived (given up), statements can be excluded from evidence against that person because it is a violation of due process. Citizenship has nothing

to do with it. If you are arrested in the U.S. you must be given due process.

Of course, the best course of action is not to say anything to the cops, ICE, FBI or other police agencies. That point is made again and again by Farrell Dobbs in the four volumes about the Teamsters.

Robin Maisel
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

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.

Immigration law

Continued from front page

er demonstration in Phoenix against the law will take place May 29.

"We haven't done enough" to secure "our borders seriously" to slow the entry of workers without papers, Obama stated at the press conference, which he called the number one priority of his "comprehensive immigration-reform approach."

The U.S. president boasted that his "administration has devoted unprecedented resources in personnel and technology to securing our border. Illegal immigration is down, not up."

On May 25 the White House issued a statement saying it was sending up to 1,200 additional National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border as part of its twin anti-immigrant, anti-drug effort. There are more than 20,000 immigration cops assigned to the border, including 300 from the National Guard.

Obama: Get 'right with the law'

Before even being considered for becoming legal U.S. residents, Obama said during the news conference, undocumented workers must pay a fine and back taxes, learn English, get "right with the law," and "get to the back of the line."

The next day Brewer told Fox News that Obama's statement that Arizona's laws could be applied in a discriminatory fashion was misleading. She said that the new law simply strengthens what has "been federal law for decades." Brewer claimed that Arizona was "on the battlefield getting the impact of all this illegal immigration and all the crime that comes with it."

The Arizona governor's slander of undocumented workers as criminals complements stepped-up actions by the federal government that target alleged "criminal aliens."

Under Immigration and Customs Enforcement's 287(g) program—authorized by the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act signed by then-president William Clinton—cop agencies across the country are trained in immigration enforcement by ICE, supposedly giving priority to the "arrest and detention of criminal aliens."

A study by the Latino Migration Project in North Carolina exposed how the 287(g) program really works. The study, released March 26, found that almost 87 percent of immigrants stopped in the state and turned over for deportation were accused of misdemeanors, 33 percent of them for minor traffic violations.

Fingerprinting every U.S. prisoner

ICE's "Secure Communities" program, launched in 2008 under the George Bush administration, currently checks the fingerprints of every inmate in federal and state prisons against FBI and Department of Homeland Security databases. ICE has already begun expanding the program to many of the 30,000 local jail and booking locations in the United States and plans 100 percent coverage by 2013.

Calderón, who was in Washington, D.C., for a two-day state visit, said that he rejects laws that treat as criminals "people that work and provide things to this nation." At the same time he pledged cooperation with the U.S. government in strengthening border controls.

Trade between Mexico and the United States exceeds \$1 billion a day. About 80 percent of Mexico's exports are sent to the United States. Remittances of \$21 billion a year from Mexican-born workers in the United States are Mexico's second-largest source of foreign currency, after oil. Mexico is the second-largest export market for U.S. capitalists.

Organizers of the National Day of Action Against SB 1070 are calling on people from across the United States to join the march in Phoenix May 29 to demand that "all police-ICE partnerships, including 287(g) agreements and the so-called 'Secure Communities Initiative'" be terminated.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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