

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Free five Cuban revolutionaries
framed up by Washington!

—EDITORIAL PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 17 APRIL 30, 2012

‘Recovery’= work harder, longer and for less pay

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

According to Labor Department statistics, the number of workers with jobs declined in March by 31,000, but the official unemployment rate also dropped by 0.1 percent to 8.2 percent. How can this be so? Because the government stopped counting another 164,000 workers.

While declining slightly over the past few months, these figures are indicative of a longer-term capitalist crisis rooted in a worldwide slowdown in production and trade, despite the current uptick in the business cycle.

In manufacturing, 37,000 jobs were added, according to the report. At the same time the average workweek fell, indicating lack of a basis for a longer-term hiring trend.

To shore up their profits, bosses have been ramping up worker “productivity” and cutting wages. Today

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Longshore union hall in Wash. is attacked

BY MARY MARTIN

LONGVIEW, Wash.—On the night of April 9, the headquarters of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 here was broken into, robbed and vandalized. Union funds were stolen from a safe and three office computers were taken. Graffiti in red spray paint was written on the union office walls, table and trophy case. The graffiti said “F--k ILWU,” “ILWU Scabs” and “ILWU F-gs.” The stolen computers were found in a dumpster not far from the union hall.

Following an eight-month struggle, the Longshore union won a victory against EGT Development’s effort to shut the union out of its grain terminal at the Port of Longview. At the end of January, EGT recognized the ILWU as the representative for workers in its terminal and the union’s members have been working there since the

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Protests win arrest in Trayvon Martin killing

Vigilante ‘Stand Your Ground’ law pushed back



Militant/Seth Galinsky

March 31 action in Sanford, Fla., one of many demanding arrest of George Zimmerman.

BY DEAN HAZLEWOOD AND NAOMI CRAINE

SANFORD, Fla.—After weeks of protests here and around the country, George Zimmerman, who fatally shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin here Feb. 26, has been arrested and indicted.

Angela Corey, the special prosecutor assigned to the case by Gov. Rick Scott, announced April 11 that she has filed charges of second-degree murder. In her announcement, Corey

sought to deny the impact of the mobilizations in towns and cities, large and small, in unraveling the weeks-long attempt by local cops and prosecutors to cover up the killing and vigilante circumstances surrounding it, and their refusal to initiate a grand jury investigation or make an arrest.

“We do not prosecute by public pressure or petition,” Corey asserted.

“This is just the beginning,” Tracy

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Chicago sets pace in 1st weekend of ‘Militant’ subscription drive

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The first weekend of the eight-week *Militant* subscription campaign got off to a strong start in a number of areas, with 172 subscriptions sold. Socialist Workers Party branches in Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle and Des Moines, Iowa, raised their quotas, although the total is still shy of the international goal of 2,400.

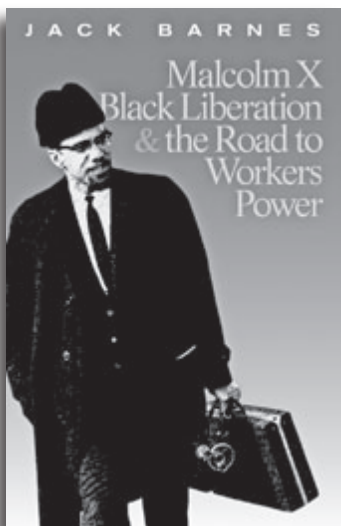
The current drive is part of a long-term effort by members of the communist movement to increase the readership of the paper among the broadest layers of working people. A consistent weekly aspect of the effort is door-to-door sales in working-class neighborhoods. Campaigners will also regularly take part in picket

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Special offer

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

by Jack Barnes

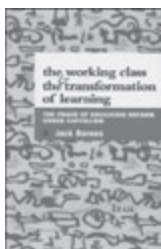


“Don’t start with Blacks as an oppressed nationality. Start with the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. From the Civil War to today, the record is mind-boggling. It’s the strength and resilience, not the oppression, that bowls you over.”

—Jack Barnes

Only \$10 with subscription to the *Militant* or \$15 without. Usually: \$20.

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning by Jack Barnes
\$2 with a subscription;
\$3 without.



Death toll mounts in capitalist-made disaster following tsunami in Japan

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The death toll continued to mount long after the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami swept Japan. According to a recent survey by the Japanese news agency Kyodo News, more than 1,300 additional disaster-

related deaths have been officially recognized by local governments.

Some 20,000 people died in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, as a direct result of capitalist social relations that put millions of workers, small fishermen and others along a sea coast prone to tsunamis—without adequate warning systems, sea walls

Continued on page 4

Supreme Court: Cops can strip search anyone in their custody

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 vote ruled April 2 that anyone arrested on any pretext, including minor violations like not wearing a seat belt or jaywalking, can be strip-searched before being jailed—a direct affront to the dignity of working people who

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UK: no inquest, no charges for killer cops, 8 months later

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON—Eight months after police shot and killed Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old black man in North London, no inquest has been held and no cops have been questioned—let alone charged.

Duggan’s family continues to press for authorities to tell the truth about his killing, which sparked protests and riots in London and other cities last August.

The government’s Independent Police Complaints Commission announced at the end of March that a coroner’s inquest would be delayed until at least January 2013. It also said it has evidence that it would not disclose to an inquest, citing a law that bars evidence obtained from phone taps in court.

Authorities used the same pretext for refusing to hold an inquest into the 2005 killing of Azelle Rodney, who was shot eight times by police. A judge-led inquiry into his death, parts of which may be held behind closed doors, is scheduled for September this year.

Duggan was shot in Tottenham, North London, in a pre-planned operation by a special police unit, after they stopped a taxi he was riding in. The complaints commission initially claimed that there was an exchange of gunshots, but later admitted that only the police had fired.

All the cops involved in the incident have refused to be questioned by the commission unless they get “categorical assurances” they are not being

viewed as possible suspects. “While they will want to cooperate, they also need to be able to control what is said,” Steve Evans, secretary of the Police Federation, told the *Daily Mail*.

Both the London Metropolitan Police and the Independent Police Complaints Commission have called for a change in law to allow phone taps to be presented in court, as have some liberal politicians, lawyers and charities.

This comes at a time when the government is proposing to set up secret courts to hear such “evidence,” sparking a debate in ruling class circles over whether or not aspects of these courts are “too broad.”

The family of Mark Duggan continues to press for the truth about his killing. He was “executed on the streets of London by the Metropolitan Police,” his aunt Carole Duggan told the BBC. “We definitely want an inquest to be held and we deserve one.”

In a related development, Gail Hadfield, the partner of Anthony Grainger who was killed by police March 3 in Culcheth near Manchester, is calling for the policeman responsible to be charged with murder.

Police investigating a robbery in mid-February shot Grainger once with a submachine gun while he was sitting in a parked car. According to the Manchester *Evening News*, he was shot when he failed to obey a police order to put his hands in the air. Sixteen armed cops were part of the operation.

London protest defends abortion rights



Abortion Rights

LONDON—Several hundred supporters of a woman’s right to choose abortion mobilized outside the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in Central London March 30. The counterprotest was in response to a rally by U.S.-based “40 Days for Life.” The anti-woman group had been holding daily prayer vigils throughout March outside the clinic here.

—ANNE HOWIE

Court backs strip-searches

Continued from front page
make up the vast majority of those behind bars.

The court ruled against a lawsuit filed in New Jersey by Albert Florence, a 34-year-old African-American who was falsely arrested for an unpaid fine and forced to undergo strip-searches in the Burlington County Detention Center where he was held for six days and then at Essex County Correctional Facility.

He charged this humiliating procedure violated the Fourth Amendment prohibiting unreasonable searches and the 14th Amendment’s equal protection under the law provision.

After a run-in with police in 1998, Florence was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice and use of a deadly weapon. In a plea bargain deal, Florence pleaded guilty to two lesser offenses and was sentenced to pay a fine in monthly installments. After falling behind in 2003, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Florence paid off the rest of the fine less than a week later, but the warrant remained on the statewide computer database.

In March 2005 Florence and his wife were stopped in their automobile by a

state trooper, who arrested him even though Florence had a letter showing the fine had been paid.

“In addressing this type of constitutional claim courts must defer to the judgment of correctional officials,” wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy in the majority opinion, noting that jails “admit more than 13 million inmates a year.”

As a basis for the decision, Kennedy quoted an earlier ruling that maintained “preserving internal order and discipline are essential goals that may require limitation or retraction of retained constitutional rights of both convicted prisoners and pretrial detainees.”

Restricting strip-searches to just some individuals, the black-robed administrators of class justice ruled, would be “unworkable or even give rise to charges of discriminatory application.”

The decision “was a victory for the jails and for the Obama administration, which argued for an across-the-board rule allowing strip-searches of all those entering the general jail population,” noted the April 2 London *Guardian*.

The ruling comes at a time when federal prisons do not have this policy and at least 10 states have laws forbidding it.

THE MILITANT

Victory for New Zealand port workers

Workers at the Ports of Auckland, New Zealand, recently won a five-week battle against bosses attempt to impose “flexible” hours and subcontracting.

Read about workers battles in the ‘Militant’.



Militant/Patrick Brown

Port workers in Auckland march back to work April 5 after beating back bosses’ lockout.

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‘Militant’ subscriptions

Continued from front page
lines and other labor resistance; join protests against cop brutality; and get out to rural towns, mining areas and other places outside cities where branches are organized.

Last weekend, reports Laura Anderson from Chicago, four members of the Socialist Workers Party “were well received in southern Illinois coal mining communities. Nearly everyone we spoke with welcomed the *Militant* coverage on the fight to jail Trayvon Martin’s killer.”

Over two days, the socialist workers sold nine subscriptions, four revolutionary books and 23 single copies of the paper. This includes 16 copies at the American Coal Co. mine portal, as well as eight subscriptions and several single copies of the paper in the coal mining communities of Galatia and Benton. Going door to door they engaged in a wide range of discussions, including the fight for safety in the mines; how to resist the capitalists’ assault on our livelihoods, unions and rights; cop harassment and racist discrimination.

At a Saturday evening barbecue in Paducah, Ky., *Militant* supporters joined three members of the United Steelworkers union who were part of a 14-month-long union battle after being locked out by Honeywell at its nuclear processing plant in Metropolis, Ill. The three are long-term readers of the *Militant*.

“Over dinner,” writes Anderson, “we had a lively discussion on their continuing fight to strengthen their union against harassment and firings by the company.” Then socialist worker Betsy Farley gave a brief presentation on her trip to Cuba as part of a *Militant* reporting team that covered the Havana International Book Fair in February. This opened a discussion about the Cuban Revolution.

One Steelworker renewed his sub-

scription to the paper. Two copies each were sold of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Cuban leaders Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, also by Barnes, are both offered at reduced prices with a subscription. (See front page.)

“I just came back from a plant gate sale at the Van Houtte coffee plant,” writes John Steele from Montreal. “A worker who has bought the *Militant* a number of times subscribed today while going in to work.”

Two subscriptions were sold last Saturday going door to door in Valleyfield, an industrial town west of Montreal. One was to a millwright who works at General Dynamics, the other to a high school student who participated in a large demonstration last month against the Quebec government’s decision to raise tuition fees.

In his letter below, long-time reader Horace Kerr from Denver requests that his weekly *Militant* bundle be increased and adopts a goal in the subscription campaign. We urge you to follow his example. Adopt a goal for the subscription drive. Join the effort to increase the readership of the socialist newsweekly. Contact a distributor listed on page 8 or call the *Militant* office (see page 2).

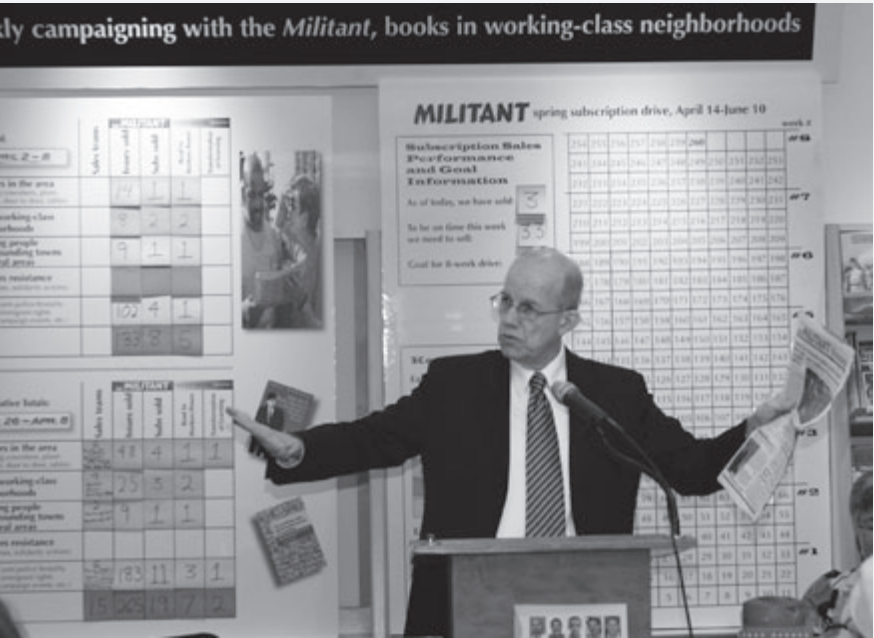
‘Accordingly, Denver will take goal in drive’

Long-time reader Horace Kerr from Denver wrote the following letter to the *Militant*, requesting that his weekly bundle be increased from five to seven copies and taking a goal in the international subscription drive. We urge our readers to follow his example. (See article above.) The quote from Ontario farm worker and *Militant* subscriber Kenneth Logan was printed in last week’s issue of the paper.

Militant Fighting Fund	
April 14 - June 4 \$120,000	
Country	Quota
UNITED STATES	
Atlanta	\$8,600
Boston*	\$4,000
Chicago	\$10,000
Des Moines	\$2,200
Houston	\$4,000
Lincoln	\$375
Los Angeles	\$9,000
Miami	\$3,200
New York	\$21,000
Philadelphia	\$4,000
San Francisco	\$15,000
Seattle	\$8,800
Twin Cities	\$6,500
Washington, D.C.	\$7,600
Total U.S.	\$104,275
CANADA	\$7,000
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,500
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500
UNITED KINGDOM	
London	\$700
Manchester	\$0
Total UK	\$700
Total	\$117,975
* raised goal	

Spring Subscription Drive April 14-June 10 Goal: 2,400			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
New York	260	39	15%
Denver†	7	1	14%
Chicago*	170	18	11%
Miami	100	10	10%
Houston	90	8	9%
Des Moines*	140	11	8%
Philadelphia	90	7	8%
Twin Cities*	155	10	6%
Seattle*	190	12	6%
Washington, D.C.	70	4	6%
Atlanta*	185	9	5%
San Francisco	175	7	4%
Los Angeles	160	5	3%
Lincoln	35	1	3%
Boston	60	1	2%
Total U.S.	1887	143	8%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	130	5	4%
Manchester	55	4	7%
UK Total	185	9	5%
CANADA	95	7	7%
NEW ZEALAND	80	4	5%
AUSTRALIA	70	9	13%
Total	2317	172	7%
* raised goal †new on chart			

NY meeting boosts ‘Militant’ subscription, fund efforts



Militant/Seth Galinsky

NEW YORK—Steve Clark, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee, speaks April 14 at a Militant Labor Forum here on “Our Politics Start with the World: Resistance to Capitalist Crisis Opens Prospects to Advance Revolutionary Perspective for Working-Class Power.” Some 75 people attended.

Behind him are two displays produced by the local party branch used to track their weekly progress selling subscriptions to the *Militant* as well as two books on special sale as part of the spring subscription campaign. (See article and ad on front page.)

Forum participants donated \$975 and pledged an additional \$7,205 to the Militant Fighting Fund, an annual drive used to finance the working-class newsweekly.

The meeting was also part of a Supporters Monthly Appeal tour in the New York/New Jersey area. Through the appeal more than 470 people across North America make regular monthly financial contributions to the political work of the Socialist Workers Party. The tour was part of an effort to increase to \$750,000 the yearly total contributions to the appeal by the party’s June convention.

—NANCY BOYASKO

“The *Militant* is tangible. You can share it with someone and have a conversation about what’s in your hands.”
I was using almost these exact words this afternoon in door-to-door sales here in Denver, finding my new bundle waiting when I came home, and with the Kenneth Logan quote from Ontario experiencing the same thing.
World events, workers’ fightbacks, and the beacon of the Cuban Revolution are covered and explained in the *Militant* as in no other periodical. I am a long-term reader and a health care worker caught up in the crucible of world capitalism in crisis. Staff and supplies are slashed to below the bare minimum, while management drowns us in an avalanche of upbeat “make do” morale boosting, collecting bo-

nuses for productivity increases and budget cutting—an abomination in the face of humanity.
Accordingly, please increase my weekly bundle to seven.
Denver will also take a subscription drive goal of seven.
As Joe Swanson [from Lincoln, Neb.] so succinctly puts it: “High green. High ball—the track ahead is open for the *Militant* Army!”
Horace Kerr
Denver, Colo

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA
Miami
From the Trayvon Martin Lynching to Bosses’ Attacks and Long-Term Unemployment: Capitalist Reality and Working-Class Resistance. A Militant Fighting Fund event. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 28. Dinner, 6 p.m., program, 7 p.m., followed by party. Donation: \$12 (unemployed \$5). 719 NE 79th St. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

ILLINOIS
Chicago
Our Politics Start With the World. A Militant Fighting Fund meeting. Speaker: Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 5. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 program, \$5 dinner. 806 W. Washington Blvd., #202. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis
51st Anniversary of Cuba’s Workers and Farmers Victory at Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs. Fri., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 1311 1/2 E. Lake St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

Capitalist disaster in Japan

Continued from front page
and evacuation procedures.

The survey was largely ignored by the press outside the country—a fact that underscores once again how the reality and scope of the deaths and lingering social disaster continue to be overshadowed by hysteria around radiation released by the near meltdown of the nuclear power plant in Fukushima, which, in fact, has reportedly killed or sickened no one.

But people died of starvation and other torments because the government needlessly blocked family and rescuers from the area.

The new figure compiled by Kyodo News “includes a large number of elderly people who died of aspiration pneumonia, as well as suicides and deaths resulting from the stress of living in evacuation shelters,” reports *Japan Times*.

The 1,331 additional reported deaths is understated. The Japanese news agency collected data of deaths in which prefectural and municipal governments ruled in favor of applications for disaster-related condolence money. Many were turned down.

According to a report released in February by the Independent Fact-Finding Committee on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident, says a March 10 Associated Press dispatch, many “perished because of bad planning and miscommunication between gov-

ernment agencies” in the evacuation of six Fukushima hospitals within the 12-mile evacuated area around the nuclear plant.

AP gives the example of what happened at the Futaba Hospital and a related senior center. Of the 435 people evacuated, 21 died either in buses en route to evacuation centers, or in the hospitals themselves, before they could be admitted to another medical facility. “It was complete chaos,” said Jin Ishida, whose grandfather died in the evacuation.

One year later, according to medical officials interviewed by AP, “little has been done to fix systemic planning shortfalls ... that compounded that day’s horrors.”

Meanwhile, a government-appointed panel released earlier this month an updated hazard map detailing the destruction that a quake and tsunami of a similar magnitude could cause along a stretch of Japan many times more populous from Tokyo southward.

Local governments are left to themselves to reassess their evacuation plans.

The *New York Times* reported April 9 the case of Kuroshio, a town of 13,000 at the south of the Japanese archipelago that would be submerged by a tsunami as high as 112 feet in the worst case scenario projected by the new study. “About four-fifths of the

population inhabits low-lying areas that would be inundated by a large tsunami,” said the *Times*.

“There is talk of relocating parts of the city to higher ground,” wrote the *Times*. “But the thrust of the town’s current contingency plans is simply: be prepared to flee for higher ground.”

But under capitalism, such “talk” has far more effect on land values than spurring bosses and their gov-



Refugees from retirement home take shelter in school gymnasium in Kesennuma, Japan, after March 11, 2011, tsunami.

Indonesian women’s rights organization Kalyanamitra tours Australia & New Zealand

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Struggle for Women’s Liberation – From Indonesia to Iran to Cuba. Celebrating the Publication of *Woman’s Evolution* in Indonesian. Speakers: Rena Herdiyani and Hegel Terome, Kalyanamitra; Mary-Alice Waters, author of prefaces to recent Indonesian and Farsi translations of *Woman’s Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family*. Sat., April 28, 6 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$3 unwaged. *Upstairs, 281-287 Beamish St., Campsie.*

Kalyanamitra and Women’s Rights in Indonesia. Seminar by Indonesian Studies Department, Sydney University. Mon., April 30, 5.30 p.m. *History Room S223, Quadrangle Building. Tel.: (612) 9718-9698 or (0416) 809-107.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Changes Facing Women Today in Indonesia and Iran: Why Previously Banned Books are Now Being Published. Speakers: Rena Herdiyani; Hegel Terome; Mary-Alice Waters; Sharyn Graham Davies, Auckland University of Technology. Thurs., May 3, 4 p.m. Sponsored by New Zealand Asia Institute. *Room 325, Level 3, Owen G. Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Rd., University of Auckland.*

Changes Facing Women Today in Indonesia and Iran: What Can We Learn. Speakers: Rena Herdiyani, Hegel Terome, Mary-Alice Waters. Fri., May 4, 5.30 p.m. *Manukau campus, Auckland University of Technology, 640 Great South Road, near Cavendish Drive.*

Meet the speakers for an informal lunch. Sat., May 5, 12.30 p.m. Hosted by the Indonesia Human Rights Committee. Bring finger food to share. *Peace Place, 22 Emily Place (close to Britomart station).*

Groups call Chicago May 1 rally for immigrant rights



CHICAGO—Representatives of more than 20 organizations gathered April 11 at the Haymarket Martyrs monument here to announce plans for a march and rally on May Day. Speaking is Marylou Vargas of the Church of Our Lady of the Americas. Among the participants were representatives of several unions, immigrant rights organizations and some “Occupy” groups. José Landaverde, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Anglican Catholic Mission, in the city’s Little Village neighborhood, called for a massive turnout May 1 to fight for legalization of undocumented workers and to demand a halt to “divided families, workers being deported, the deportation of hospital patients and ill people, profiling and police harassment, and construction of an immigrant detention facility in Crete.”

—JOHN HAWKINS

ernments to divert any resources from their profits to measures that could save the lives of working people. Their response to disasters is governed by the reigning law of value.

In Kuroshio, a granite marker placed after the last deadly tsunami in 1854 still stands: “The farms and rice paddies became the sea. Let this be a warning for the next 100 years.”

Art exhibitions to win support for Cuban 5 set to open in UK

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

MANCHESTER, England—An art exhibition “Beyond the Frame” to win support for a campaign to free five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and convicted on conspiracy charges by the U.S. government is coming to London (Gallery 27 Cork Street, April 23-28) and Glasgow (The Lighthouse, May 7-13). A selection will be shown here May 4.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, will include works by Gerardo Hernández and Antonio Guerrero, two of the five. They, together with Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González were arrested by the FBI in 1998. They were living in Florida where they were monitoring and keeping the Cuban government informed about the activities of U.S.-backed armed counterrevolutionary groups in Florida. (See article on page 7.)

The U.S. government convicted Hernández of “conspiracy to commit murder,” claiming he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s shooting down of two planes that had entered its airspace heading toward Havana on Feb. 24, 1996. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. Hernández’s cartoons have been published since 1982 in Cuba.

Guerrero is sentenced to 21 years and 10 months for conspiracy to commit espionage. He learned to draw and paint in prison.

Their work will be accompanied by contemporary Cuban art by renowned artists, including Manuel Mendive and Alexis Leyva (Kcho), photographers Ernesto Fernández and Roberto Salas,

as well as artwork by mainly U.K.-based artists, including John Keane, Derek Boshier, Susan Hiller and Mona Hatoum.

All artists have donated their work to raise funds for the ongoing campaign to win freedom for the five.

Cuban artists Eduardo Roca Salazar (Choco), Lesbia Vent Dumois and Gustavo Díaz Sosa and members of the families of Guerrero and Fernando González will participate in events related to the exhibition. The artists have been invited to the University of Essex on April 25, to Birkbeck College in London on April 27, and to a seminar at the University of York on May 2. Dumois, Sosa, Rosa Aurora Freijanes (Fernando González’s wife), and Toni Guerrero (Antonio’s son) will speak at a public meeting at the Anthony Burgess Centre on Cambridge Street in Manchester on May 4. The two relatives will also attend the May Day march and rally in Glasgow.

For more information, visit <http://www.cubabeyondtheframe.com> or call Beyond the Frame UK: 07958 169 627, Beyond the Frame Glasgow: 07850 437 549, or the Cuba Solidarity Campaign: 020 8800 0155.

—CALENDAR—

UNITED KINGDOM

London

Film showing of interviews with contemporary Cuban artists. Followed by discussion with Cuban artists Lesbia Vent DuMois and Gustavo Diaz Sosa. Event to support campaign to free the Cuban Five. Fri., April 27, 6:30 p.m. *Cinema, Birkbeck College, University of London, 43 Gordon Square, WC1 0PD.*

Port truckers in L.A. win union recognition battle

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WILMINGTON, Calif.—“We’re an example for the 10,000 other drivers at the Los Angeles port. When you fight, you can do it,” said truck driver Beatriz Rios, celebrating a union-organizing victory here April 12. The day before workers at Toll Group voted 46-15 to be represented by Teamsters Local 848.

Australia-based Toll Group is a shipping and warehousing company that handles brand-name fashion imports at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports.

When the vote was announced at 9 p.m. April 11, “We didn’t go home. We stayed together,” Xiomara Perez told the *Militant*. “Drivers from other companies honked and yelled congratulations. Some parked by the road and said ‘Organize us!’ That is what we promise to do with this victory.”

Perez was fired in March leading up to the vote, after she stopped at McDonald’s to use the restroom. Her coworkers say the firing was due to her pro-union activities and demand that she is reinstated.

“The trucking bosses woke up to some bad news today,” said Jimmy Martinez at the plant-gate celebration. Like other Toll Group drivers Martinez is a veteran of earlier union-organizing drives. “Those efforts failed, but they taught us something about unions, gave us experience and confidence in ourselves and in each other.”

The union drive won support from the Transport Workers Union of Australia. In March four members of the TWU, which represents 12,000 Toll Group workers there, visited Los Angeles on a fact-finding and solidarity trip.

A Teamsters delegation also went to Australia in October 2011 to protest together with the TWU at the annual stockholders meeting of Toll Group in Melbourne. “The CEO showed the shareholders photos of a beautiful lunchroom and gardens,” Teamster Alberto Quiteno recalled. “I thought to myself ‘Where is that?’”

The union drive at Wilmington was

spurred on by poor working conditions in the yard—portable toilets instead of bathrooms, no separate toilets for women, no place to eat lunch, and no water to wash up.

Toll Group in October fired 26 workers, including Quiteno, other members of the delegation to Australia and many drivers who wore union T-shirts to work. So far 15 have won their jobs back.

Teamsters Local 848 has offered support to other struggles. Martinez went to Seattle in February to bring solidarity to port drivers who walked out to protest abuses and fines. “I was inspired by the combativity I saw there,” he said. “I know they are happy for us today.”

The Seattle port drivers face greater legal obstacles to organizing because the companies claim they are “independent contractors.”

With the deregulation of the trucking industry in the 1980s, more trucking companies classified their employees as contractors or owner-operators



Tom Politeo/Sierra Club

Port truckers for Toll Group celebrate at plant gate in Wilmington, Calif., day after 46-15 vote for Teamsters union. “Trucking bosses woke up to some bad news today,” said one driver.

as a way to lower their labor costs and get workers to bear the burden of paying for fuel, repairs and wait time. In addition, the bosses say these workers are not entitled to union membership.

Most of the drivers at the port here are also labeled “independent” operators. But at Toll Group drivers are hired by the company directly. The drivers’ union victory there makes them one of a handful of unionized

harbor trucking fleets in the U.S.

In a statement, Toll Group said it would “recognise our employees’ decision,” but did not reply to requests from the *Militant* for further comment.

“We will be meeting together to discuss a contract. And we will win a contract. We won’t go back,” said Remberto Martinez, a Toll Group driver.

16 month lockout ends at NY apartment complex

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Seventy porters and maintenance workers returned to work at the Flatbush Gardens housing complex here April 2 after being locked out for 16 months.

Renaissance Equity Holdings, which owns the complex, locked the workers out on Nov. 29, 2010, when they refused to agree to a 30 percent wage cut. The workers, members of Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, had picketed daily since then.

On March 27 federal judge Brian Cogan ordered an end to the lockout, a 20 percent pay cut and a resumption of negotiations. “We have no contract now, but I think it is good that we have our foot in the door and negotiations are starting for a new contract,” union shop steward Desmond Pennant told the *Militant* in a phone interview.



Dave Sanders/SEIU 32BJ

Locked-out building workers at Flatbush Gardens, in Brooklyn, N.Y., rally with supporters April 26, 2011. The SEIU 32BJ members are back at work and in negotiations after court order.

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May 1, 1987

WATSONVILLE, Calif.—An important victory was won here recently for the 1,000 strikers who stayed out for 18 months against Watsonville Canning and Frozen Food Co. and its successor, Norcal Frozen Foods.

A victory for the thousands of workers in Local 912 of the Teamsters union.

The strikers, a large majority of whom are Mexican women, waged a stubborn fight that halted the downward spiral of wages and benefits in this canning and freezing industry center. The united fight of the ranks (not a single striker crossed the picket line) was backed up by a broad-based strike support effort.

And a courageous 11th hour decision by the strikers to postpone for a week a vote on Norcal’s “final offer”—with Teamster officials declaring that the strike was over and that no more union strike benefits would be paid—was key to sealing the victory.



April 30, 1962

One by one Kennedy’s pretenses that U.S. involvement in South Vietnam’s civil war differs in any way from the U.S. “police action” in Korea are being dropped.

Kennedy’s direct plunging of U.S. forces into the “dirty war” against the rebellious peasants of the southeast Asian country was made evident by the April 15 landing of a 400-man U.S. Marine helicopter unit in South Vietnam.

That the war of South Vietnam dictator Ngo Dinh Diem and the U.S. forces is not only against the Viet Cong guerrilla bands, but against the Vietnamese population as a whole is becoming increasingly obvious from the nature of the military orders issued.

The Associated Press [reported] for the area contiguous to the Cambodian border, “All persons in the zone suspected of being Communist infiltrators are likely to be shot on sight.”



May 1, 1937

Workers’ pickhandles beat down the pickhandles of deputized thugs and brought a major victory on the Stockton battlefield of California’s perennial civil war in agriculture.

The four great canning plants in Stockton are the heart of San Joaquin agriculture and their conquest by the Cannery Workers Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, marks the beginning of the end of open-shop exploitation.

Sheriff Odell openly enlisted 500 vigilantes and armed them with pickhandles and baseball bats. National Guardsmen were mobilized. Every farmer-vigilante offensive was met by a workers’ counteroffensive. Careful plans were laid for a general strike of industrial workers in Stockton and agricultural field workers throughout the valley. Longshoremen, carpenters, and cannery workers prepared their baseball bats and whittled their clubs.

US, Philippines expand military ties, target China

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In the latest military provocation aimed at China, 7,000 U.S. and Filipino troops began joint military drills April 16 in the South China Sea, where Washington is exploiting disputes between Beijing and several Southeast Asian governments over territorial waters and islands.

This comes in the midst of expanded U.S. military presence in the region and after a five-day naval standoff between China and the Philippines over a shoal claimed by both countries.

On April 8 Philippine aircraft spotted eight Chinese fishing boats anchored in a lagoon at Scarborough Shoals, a chain of reefs and islands in the South China Sea. The Philippine navy dispatched the Gregorio del Pilar, its biggest warship. Later the same day two Chinese surveillance ships arrived and positioned themselves at the mouth of the lagoon. Saying it was Chinese territory, they ordered the Philippine vessel to leave. Its captain refused, saying it was Philippine territory and insisting on confiscating the catch. After a five-day standoff all the fishing boats left with their cargo intact.

More than half of the world's supertanker commerce travels through the South China Sea and it is believed to hold vast reserves of oil and gas. Territorial disputes involve Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The U.S.-Philippine military drill, held near the shore of the Palawan group of islands, will include training Filipino marines in retaking a hi-jacked oil rig

and mock beach invasions along coastlines facing China. A similar drill was held in October with 3,000 troops. Palawan is close to the Scarborough Shoals.

According to the *Washington Post* April 14, the Obama administration is holding talks with Manila about expanding the U.S. military presence in the Philippines. Under consideration are operating U.S. Navy ships from Philippine bases, deploying troops on a rotational basis and more frequent joint exercises. Some 600 U.S. special operations troops have been stationed on the southern island of Mindanao since 2002.

In early April 250 U.S. marines began training in Darwin, Australia's northern-most city. They are the first of 2,500 troops to be deployed.

The government of Vietnam—reunified in 1975 following defeat of Washington's war to roll back the Vietnamese Revolution—has since 2003 established limited ties with the U.S. military. Since 2009 Vietnamese bases have opened up for U.S. Navy port visits and ship repairs. In July there were joint exercises with three U.S. warships. In August a Navy ship visited the Vietnamese naval base at Cam Ranh Bay for the first time in 38 years.

According to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Navy ships and marines participate in more than 170 bilateral and multilateral exercises and conduct more than 250 port visits in the region each year.

President Obama has declared that reductions in defense spending will not affect U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific.



Above, U.S. Navy photo of U.S. naval warship (above) participating in joint military exercises with Philippine forces April 16. Inset, demonstration outside U.S. Embassy in Manila the same day demands "U.S. Troops Out Now!"



While still lagging far behind U.S. naval and air power, China has made substantial military advances in a relatively short period. It has developed a new generation of stealth jet fighters, an aircraft carrier and the world's first land-based antiship ballistic missile able to change course to hit a moving aircraft carrier, presenting a growing challenge to the U.S. imperi-

alists' hitherto unchallenged domination of the Pacific.

Meanwhile, the class struggle is heating up in the countries of both rival powers amid the deepening worldwide crisis of capitalism. According to the *Economist*, China's spending on internal security last year for the first time was higher than military spending, an indication of Beijing's deep concern.

ILWU union hall attacked

Continued from front page
first week of February.

According to Dan Coffman, president of ILWU Local 21, the break-in was discovered around 6:30 a.m. April 10 by two union members. The unionists immediately called the police and Coffman. When Coffman arrived 45 minutes later from his home 30 miles away there were still no cops. The police sent a parking meter enforcement officer to take a report nearly an hour after the call, according to Coffman.

"We have no idea why anyone would attack the union hall, but we want an investigation," Coffman told the *Militant*.

On April 11 some 40 unionists gathered to show support for ILWU member Ronald Stavis, who began his 22-day jail sentence in Kelso, Wash., on trespassing and other trumped-up charges stemming from a Sept. 8 union protest at EGT's terminal.

"We came out today to have a show of

solidarity and support for our member who stood up for the union," Coffman said. "There are two sets of rules in this country. You can have bankers that steal millions of dollars and don't see any jail time. But we will continue to fight to defend our union and our members."

At the same time, county prosecutor Sue Baur is moving ahead with the frame-up charges against two more unionists related to union protest activity during the battle against EGT's union busting.

Felony charges are pending against Conner McLeod and William "Sonny" Halladay. McLeod's charges come from the Sept. 8 port protest. Halladay is charged with endangering a train during a Sept. 21 protest at the EGT terminal. At the time, Halladay was operating a log loader separated by a fence from the tracks where the union protest was taking place. Both men are scheduled to go to trial next month.

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'Free Fumiaki Hoshino,' Japanese political prisoner

April 12, 2012

To the editor:

Last November I was asked as a representative of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 to attend two labor rallies in Chiba City and Tokyo, Japan. The invite was from Doro Chiba, the rail workers union there, which had carried out a solidarity protest against ITOCHU, one of the owners of the EGT terminal in Longview, Wash. Japanese workers are facing the same problems we are here in the U.S., including privatization and efforts to contract out union jobs.

While there I met Akiko Hoshino, the spouse of Fumiaki Hoshino, one of the longest detained political prisoners in the world. He helped organize a protest Nov. 14, 1971, against the "Okinawa Reversion Agreement," which allowed the U.S. to base nuclear weapons in Okinawa. A policeman and a woman trade unionist were killed during the protest. Hoshino was framed up and charged with murder in those deaths.

The Japanese prison system is oppressive and most friends cannot visit him. He is innocent and there is no physical evidence whatsoever linking him to the deaths.

The only "evidence of guilt" were statements of six demonstrators made in closed police interrogation rooms. Five of these witnesses later recanted on the grounds they were coerced by cops and prosecutors. Others refused to testify in open court. Also, the police "lost" the videotape of the demonstration.

On top of that, the Supreme Court in Japan admitted Fumiaki was wearing "light blue clothes" during the 1971 protest, instead of "biscuit colored clothes" as was reported in the frame-up story.

For 35 years plus the Japanese government has imprisoned an innocent man.

This injustice reminds us of so many other frame-up cases and of the injustice done to Trayvon Martin here. Working people throughout the world need to stand up and demand, "Free Fumiaki Hoshino."

Dan Coffman
ILWU Local 21 President
Longview, Wash.



Alice Hutchinson

Akiko Hoshino, wife of Fumiaki Hoshino, a political prisoner in Japan, speaks at Nov. 6 labor rally in Tokyo.

Puerto Rico, Cuba: ‘same enemy, shared struggle’

Puerto Rican independence fighter Carlos Alberto Torres talks about Fernando González, one of Cuban Five

The following is a tribute to Fernando González, one of five Cubans who were arrested in September 1998 and framed up by the U.S. government for their work in defense of the Cuban Revolution. It was given by Carlos Alberto Torres, a longtime Puerto Rican independence fighter and himself a former political prisoner, at an Oct. 29, 2010, meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, organized by the Puerto Rico Committee for Solidarity with Cuba.

The five—Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René González—were convicted on trumped-up charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage and, in the case of Hernández, conspiracy to commit murder.

At the time of their arrest they were living in southern Florida gathering information for the Cuban government on activities of Cuban-American counter-revolutionary groups with a history of attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution with the complicity of Washington.

All but René González, who began a three-year parole Oct. 7, remain in prison. Fernando González is serving 17 years and 9 months; Guerrero, 21 years and 10 months; Labañino, 30 years; and Hernández, double life plus 15 years.

In March of this year, Torres was in New York campaigning for the release of the three Puerto Rican independence fighters currently locked up in U.S. prisons: Oscar López, Avelino González Claudio, and Norberto González Claudio. Torres, 59, was released on parole in July 2010 after serving 30 years of a 78-year sentence in federal prisons for “seditious conspiracy” and other trumped-up charges. Today Oscar López has already served nearly 31 years behind bars.

Speaking with *Militant* reporters during his New York visit, Torres noted that he had shared five of his years at the federal prison in Oxford, Wis., with Fernando González. Torres also met González’s mother and wife, Magali Llort and Rosa Aurora Freijanes, during their visits to Oxford. In 2007 González was transferred to the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind., where Oscar López is also incarcerated.

Translation is by the *Militant*.



In 2002, in the Oxford, Wisconsin, federal prison, as I was painting a work in oil called *Resurrection*, another inmate told me one of the five Cuban political prisoners had arrived. It was

Fernando González Llort. Prison officials called him “Rubén Campa,” a pseudonym Fernando had used before his arrest.

After getting to know him and a few brief conversations, he told me his name was Fernando, not Rubén. He said, without any sign of annoyance, that the prison officials knew this but hadn’t corrected it, perhaps out of bureaucratic indifference.

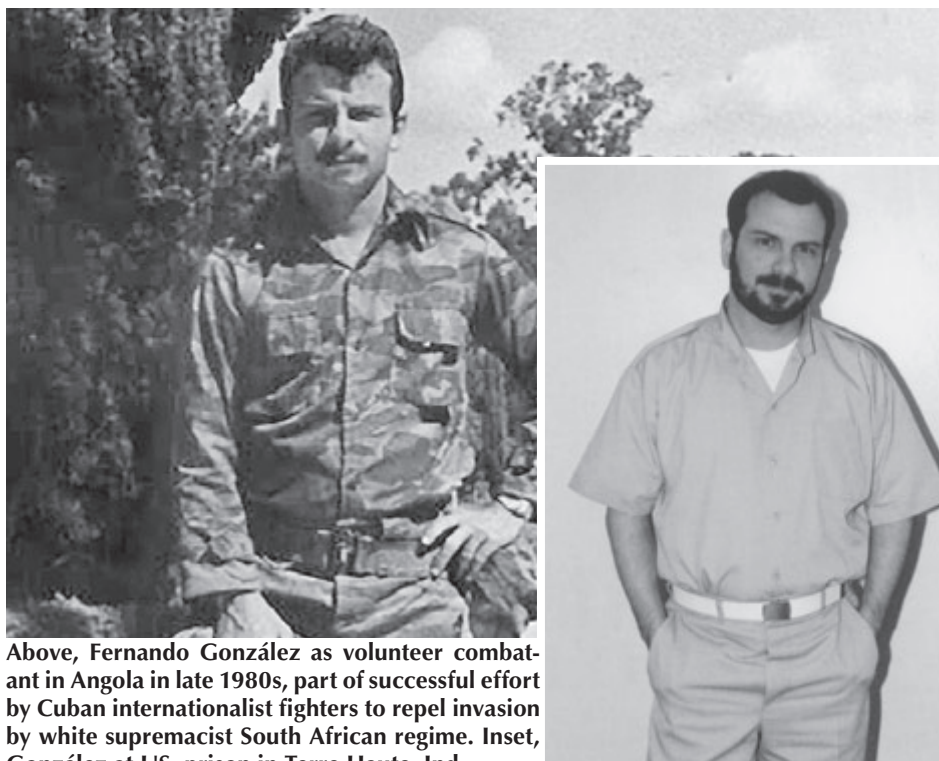
It seemed to me almost humorous that this Cuban, so reserved and careful, always respectful and correct, showed so little concern at being called the wrong name. I too had used a pseudonym during the years I was underground, and I remembered that after my arrest in 1980, it was actually something of a relief to be able to use my own name again.

Fernando’s apparent indifference about what name he was called was a detail that revealed an important aspect of the person his experiences had created. It didn’t matter to him what definition prison officials imposed, because that had nothing to do with who *he* was. He kept a wall between them and him. Even in these circumstances, the only thing that mattered to him was how he defined himself. He and I were in complete agreement on this.

Over time we got to know each other more and understand each other better. I learned something of the arrest of the Cuban Five. Although I wasn’t familiar with the details of the charges against them and the sentences the federal court gave to Fernando, Ramón, René, Antonio and Gerardo, it was easy to imagine the duplicity and injustice behind their imprisonment. I also didn’t know, but could imagine, the abuse and isolation the five Cuban patriots had suffered since their arrest.

Cuban 5’s unbreakable commitment

Before me was an honest, committed man with a deep political consciousness. Despite the hardships he had been through, he showed no bitterness over his situation. He was proud he was carrying out his duty for Cuba, his nation and homeland. I have no doubt that all five Cuban heroes, defenders of the security of their homeland and their people, are men of outstanding uprightness and unbreakable commitment. The five have been punished because of the U.S. government’s hatred of the Cuban Revolution. Until I met Fernando, I thought this kind of mistreatment of prisoners was reserved solely for Puerto Rican political prisoners.



Above, Fernando González as volunteer combatant in Angola in late 1980s, part of successful effort by Cuban internationalist fighters to repel invasion by white supremacist South African regime. Inset, González at U.S. prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

Over time we shared many things. Rare was the time that Fernando wouldn’t accompany me on walks in the prison yard. They became a time to talk about everything: personal memories, heated debates, banter that sometimes tailed off into jokes or recollections of girlfriends of our youth.

Shared struggle of Cuba, Puerto Rico

During the years we were both inmates in Wisconsin, I think we got to know each other as two individuals who were fighting for their homeland and were sacrificing themselves for it as well. I think we reached an understanding that the struggles for the independence of our two countries were deeply related. We are still fighting to win Puerto Rico’s independence—Cuba is fighting to protect and preserve hers. There’s a saying that Cuba and Puerto Rico are petals from the same flower, that they are sister islands with a long history of shared struggles. There, in prison in Oxford, Wisconsin, the truth of that saying was demonstrated in flesh and blood.

I learned more details about the unjust trial that kept the five Cuban heroes locked up in prison. I got to know better the character and spirit of resistance to injustice shown by Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, René, and Fernando. And I was able to see the determination to fight and the love that marked their families.

I should say something about what the support of family members, friends and compañeros means when you’re in prison. That support is absolutely essential. It sustains us, it gives us strength when we are feeling the weight of imprison-

ment. The love and commitment of our loved ones helps us put things back in perspective when prison conditions get to us so much that we lose focus. It’s not possible to capture in words the full importance of contact and visits with our loved ones.

Our jailers know this too. For prison officials, contact and visits with our families can be turned into a weapon to use against us. For the Puerto Rican political prisoners, and later for the five Cuban political prisoners as well, one tactic for attacking us has been to interfere with or deny contact or visits with our loved ones. They harass them or bar their visits. It shouldn’t surprise us, then, that both in the case of Oscar and Avelino, and in that of Gerardo, Ramón, René, Antonio, and Fernando, the tactic of interfering with family visits becomes a club to try to beat them down.

Despite the many restrictions and limitations, I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Fernando’s mother and wife. They are kind human beings, tireless and dedicated workers. Not only are they doing everything they can to bring Fernando and his compañeros home. They are fighting women who defend their people with a strong sense of commitment and responsibility. Although I haven’t met personally the family members of the other Cuban political prisoners, I know they too are fighting for them and support them, no matter what restrictions the jailers impose. Those same close family ties are something our patriots Oscar and Avelino have shared as well.

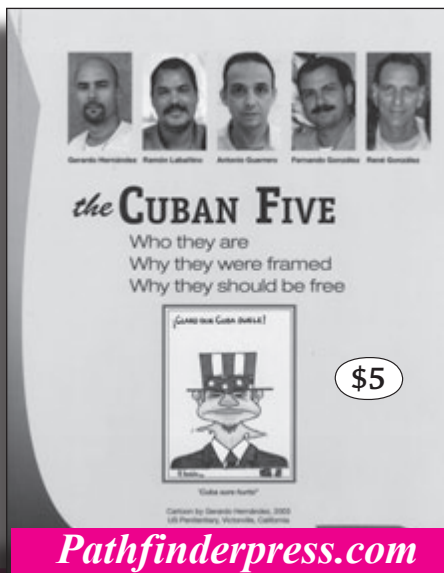
Today, both Cuba and Puerto Rico have patriots behind bars in U.S. federal prisons. We have the same nemesis, the same jailer. The same zombie—to use a Haitian term—who wants to bury Oscar and Avelino alive in the depths of the prison is trying to bury Fernando, Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, and René as well.

In this battle to win our patriots’ freedom—which will be like a rebirth, a resurrection for them when they return home—both peoples can support each other and fight together in solidarity until Oscar and Avelino are brought home to us and Fernando, René, Gerardo, Ramón, and Antonio are brought back to their homes in Cuba.



Greg Boozell

Carlos Alberto Torres, right, on day he was released from prison, July 26, 2010. On stage from left is José López, brother of political prisoner Oscar López; and lawyer Jan Susler.



‘Exploited of America have begun writing own history’

Below is an excerpt from The First and Second Declarations of Havana, adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people. The selection is from the Second Declaration, delivered by Fidel Castro in February 1962, less than a year after the defeat of the U.S.-led invasion at Playa Girón. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

At Punta del Este* a great ideological battle unfolded between the Cuban Revolution and Yankee imperialism. Who did each side represent, for whom did each one speak? Cuba represented the people; the United States represented the monopolies. Cuba spoke for the exploited masses of Latin America; the United States for the exploiting, oligarchic, and imperialist interests. Cuba for sovereignty; the United States for intervention. Cuba for the nationalization of foreign enterprises; the United States for even greater investments by foreign capital. Cuba for culture; the United States for ignorance. Cuba for agrarian reform; the United States for great landed estates. Cuba for the industrialization of the Americas; the United States for underdevelopment. Cuba for creative work; the United States for sabotage and counterrevolutionary terror practiced by its agents—destruction of sugarcane fields and factories, bombing



Archivo de Bohemia
One million Cubans rally in Plaza of the Revolution, Feb. 4, 1962, in support of Second Declaration of Havana. Inset: Members of First Company of Cuban Battalion 134 celebrate crushing U.S.-backed mercenary invasion of the island at Playa Girón, April 1961.

by their pirate planes of the work of a peaceful people. Cuba for the murdered literacy workers; the United States for the murderers. Cuba for bread; the United States for hunger. Cuba for equality; the United States for privilege and discrimination. Cuba for the truth; the United States for lies. Cuba for liberation; the United States for oppression. Cuba for the bright future of humanity; the United States for the past without hope. Cuba for the heroes who fell at Girón to save the country from foreign domination; the United States for the mercenaries and traitors who serve the foreigner against their own country. Cuba for peace among peoples; the United States for aggression and war. Cuba for socialism; the United States for capitalism. ...

And the Blacks? What “alliance” can the system of lynching and brutal exclu-

sion of Blacks in the United States offer to the 15 million Blacks and 14 million mulattos of Latin America, who know with horror and rage that their brothers to the north cannot ride in the same vehicles as their white compatriots, nor attend the same schools, nor even die in the same hospitals? ...

This toiling humanity, these inhumanly exploited men and women, these paupers, controlled by the system of whip and overseer, have not counted or have counted little. From the dawn of independence their fate has been the same: Indians, gauchos, mestizos, zambos, quadroons, whites without property or income, all this human mass that formed the ranks of the “nation” that was never theirs, who fell by the millions, who were cut to bits, who won independence from the mother country for the bourgeoisie, who were shut out from their share of the rewards, who continued to occupy the lowest rung on the ladder of social benefits, continued to die of hunger, curable diseases, and neglect for lack of things that never reached them: ordinary bread, a hospital bed, medicine that cures, a helping hand.

But now, from one end of the continent to the other, they are signaling clearly

that the hour has come: the hour of their redemption. Now this anonymous mass, this America of color, somber, taciturn America, which all over the continent sings with the same sadness and disillusionment, now this mass is beginning to enter definitively into its own history, is beginning to write it with its own blood, is beginning to suffer and die for it.

Because now in the fields and mountains of the Americas, on its hillsides, on its flatlands and in its jungles, in isolated fields and in the crush of its cities, on the banks of its great oceans and rivers, this world is beginning to tremble. Ardent fists are raised, ready to die for what is theirs, to win those rights that for five hundred years have been laughed at by one and all. Yes, now history will have to take the poor of America into account, the exploited and spurned of America, who have decided to begin writing their history for themselves for all time. Already they can be seen on the roads, on foot, day after day, in an endless march of hundreds of miles up to the “Olympian” heights of government to demand their rights.

Already they can be seen armed with stones, sticks, machetes, from one end to the other, each day, occupying lands, sinking stakes into the land that belongs to them and defending it with their lives. They can be seen carrying signs, slogans, banners; unfurling them in the mountain and prairie winds. And the wave of trembling anger, of demands for justice, of claims for rights trampled underfoot, which is beginning to sweep the lands of Latin America, will not stop. That wave will swell with each passing day. For that wave is composed of the greatest number, the majorities in every respect, those whose labor amasses the wealth and creates all value, those who turn the wheels of history. Now they are awakening from the long, brutalizing sleep to which they had been subjected.

For this great mass of humanity has said, “Enough!” and has begun to march. And their march of giants will not be halted until they conquer true independence—for which they have died in vain more than once. Today, however, those who die will die as in Cuba, as at Playa Girón: they will die for their one, true, never-to-be-surrendered independence.

Patria o muerte! Venceremos!

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Free the five Cuban revolutionaries!

The *Militant* has been urging working people to join a rally April 21 in front of the White House to demand freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries, exemplary internationalist working-class fighters Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René González.

The action is the culmination of five days of events in the Washington, D.C., area aimed at winning new support for the international campaign to get the five out of Washington’s hold.

Their frame-ups and treatment by the U.S. “justice” system, including long periods of solitary confinement, are familiar to millions of working people in the United States, which incarcerates at a rate immensely higher than anywhere in the world.

The Cuban Five are working-class fighters. Their real crime in the eyes of Washington is their uncompromising defense of the Cuban Revolution.

In 1959 Cuban toilers overthrew the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista and wrested political power from the capitalist exploiters. They have defended and wielded this power for more than 50 years, and used it to advance the interests of workers and farmers in Cuba and worldwide. This living example is the source of the imperialists’ unrelenting class hatred. They will never forget or forgive.

Like in the fight to indict the vigilante who killed Trayvon Martin, we put zero faith in the U.S. government or “justice” system. Contrary to what special prosecutor Angela Corey claims, the only reason Zimmerman

was charged is because the U.S. rulers buckled under the pressure of mass street demonstrations. Similarly, as Gerardo Hernández put it, it is the “jury of millions around the world” that will ultimately win freedom for the Cuban Five.

Amid the deepening world crisis of capitalism, working people increasingly find themselves under attack by the bosses, cops, courts and government. The increased working-class resistance to the bosses’ assaults on our jobs, unions, rights and very dignity also bring new recruits to the fights against capitalist frame-ups.

Members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 have been jailed and still face possible prison sentences for defending their union. Leaders of the fight against the lockout by American Crystal Sugar in the Midwest face frame-up charges for the same “crime.” More than any time since the arrest of the five, there exists an opportunity to win broader layers of working people to champion the fight for their freedom.

From the protests to arrest Trayvon Martin’s killer, to the picket lines against boss assaults on our unions, to the ILWU’s fight against anti-labor frame-ups and vandalization of their hall, to the battle to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners in U.S. jails—new forces will see and understand that the five are part of one and the same struggle and should be defended as such.

Free the Five!

Protests win indictment in killing of Martin

Continued from front page

Martin, father of Trayvon Martin, said at an April 11 news conference in response to the indictment. Members of the Martin family are listed as among the speakers at a “Stand Our Ground for Justice” town hall meeting April 19 at the Beulah Baptist Institutional Church in Tampa and an April 26 community forum at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Corey took over the case March 22 after the local state attorney, Norman Wolfinger, stepped aside amid mounting protests. ABC News reported March 27 that one Sanford police investigator wanted to charge Zimmerman right after the killing occurred but was overruled by Wolfinger’s office.

“They brought charges because people demanded it, not because they wanted to,” Michael Mills, an unemployed worker in the neighboring town of Maitland, told the *Militant*. He and nearly every other person *Militant* correspondents spoke with in working-class neighborhoods here April 14 said it was time there was an arrest.

“Trayvon even tried running away,” Mills said. “How could [Zimmerman] be defending his ground?”

‘Stand Your Ground’ laws

Florida is the first of 25 states that in recent years have passed some version of so-called Stand Your Ground legislation. The Florida law sanctions the use of deadly force in public in order “to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony,” even if there is a clear option to simply walk away.

The Florida law was enacted in 2005. That same year two security guards here killed 16-year-old Travon McGinnis. The two did not identify themselves as security guards when they shined a blinding light into the parked car McGinnis was sitting in. They fired six shots as a panicked McGinnis tried to speed away. Authorities dropped charges filed against the two by a grand jury, citing the state’s just-passed Stand Your Ground statute.

Protests demanding the arrest of Zimmerman have also pressed for repeal of such pro-vigilante laws. In several states some version of Stand Your Ground is now before legislatures. About 100 people rallied in Boston April 12, the day after the indictment, calling for the defeat of such a bill in Massachusetts.

The American Legislative Exchange Council, which was a major force pressing for Stand Your Ground bills across the country, announced April 17 it was with-

drawing its sponsorship of that and other law enforcement legislation it was involved in. The move came after major corporate sponsors such as McDonald’s, Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods, and the Gates Foundation began, under growing public pressure, to disassociate themselves from ALEC. Legislators in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin have started calling for repealing the laws in their states.

Corey filed a court affidavit at the time of Zimmerman’s arrest. It states Martin was walking back from a convenience store to the townhouse where he was staying in the gated community of Retreat at Twin Lakes “when he was profiled by George Zimmerman. Martin was unarmed and not committing a crime. Zimmerman ... observed Martin and assumed Martin was a criminal.”

During a recorded 911 call, “Zimmerman made reference to people he felt had committed and gotten away with break-ins in his neighborhood. Later while talking about Martin, Zimmerman stated ‘these a--holes, they always get away.’” The document says that Zimmerman disregarded a police dispatcher’s instructions not to follow Martin.

“During this time Martin was on the phone with a friend and described to her what was happening,” said the affidavit. “The witness advised that Martin was scared because he was being followed through the complex by an unknown male and didn’t know why. Martin attempted to run home but was followed by Zimmerman. ... Zimmerman confronted Martin and a struggle ensued.” Shortly thereafter Zimmerman fatally shot Martin in the chest.

In an initial court appearance April 12, a judge ruled there was probable cause to proceed with the case. Zimmerman pleaded not guilty.

Mark O’Mara, Zimmerman’s attorney, has said he expects self-defense will be a key part of his defense.

In response to a request from O’Mara, Circuit Judge Jessica Reicksiedler ruled April 12 that documents related to the case would all be sealed, barred from public inspection. Prosecutor Corey consented to the order. Numerous media outlets, including the *New York Times*, the Tribune papers, the Associated Press, the *Miami Herald*, CNN, and others filed suit April 16 to reverse the decision.

“There’s a lot of anger that’s now coming to the surface,” said Rhea McAuley, a sculptor in Orlando who has taken part in many of the rallies in Sanford, in a phone interview. “There’s a long history in Sanford, which didn’t start with Trayvon Martin.”

Capitalist ‘recovery’

Continued from front page

the average wage for manufacturing is 2 percent below what is paid in the service industry, notes John Mauldin in his Frontline Thoughts newsletter.

Real disposal income rose by only 0.3 percent over the past year, notes fund manager John Hussman in his April 9 weekly report. This “is very much at odds with the job creation figures unless that job creation reflects extraordinarily low-paying jobs.”

About 40 percent of hiring in the past two years has been for the lowest paying jobs, such as those in retail and restaurants, according to a study by Wells Fargo Securities.

Hussman notes that many of the new jobs available since the officially declared end of the recession in June 2009 went to workers aged 55 and above, and usually at much lower wages.

Over this nearly three-year period employment for those over 55 rose by 2.96 million jobs, but total nonfarm payrolls grew by just 1.84 million jobs. This means the bosses eliminated 1.12 million jobs for those younger than 55, Hussman notes. “In short, what we’ve observed in the employment figures is not recovery, but desperation,” he says.

The percentage of the population the government counts as part of the labor force continues to decline, dropping 0.1 percent to 63.8 percent last month. The rate for men has been falling consistently from about 85 percent in the 1950s to about 70 percent today, with a steep plunge after 2007. Women’s participation rose until 1995, but has been gradually declining since 2008, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The official unemployment rate for Blacks is 14 percent, about twice the rate for Caucasians. For Black youth 16- to 19-years-old, the rate is 40.5 percent.

Overall, one-quarter of youth younger than 20 are out of work. For the past three-and-a-half years their jobless rate has remained above 20 percent—a post-World War II record, notes the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Long-term unemployment remains at record-high levels with little change over the past couple of years. In February, 3.5 percent of the U.S. workforce was unemployed for more than six months.

Speculative bubble

According to the April 9 *Wall Street Journal*, a “rebound” in the economy is underway, “reflected in the stock market, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average at a four-year high.”

Under the circumstances of slowing production and trade, high stock prices are not a sign of recovery, but yet another indication of instability and crisis in the world capitalist system.

Stock market “investment” is one of a number of forms of speculative activity divorced from production that is being buoyed by government policies. At best this only postpones deeper crises.

Meanwhile, the bosses and their government are acting to solve their crisis the only way they can: by assaulting our living standards, job conditions, unions and dignity. And they seek to use the expanding reserve army of unemployed workers and resulting job competition as a bludgeon to accomplish that goal.

Corrections

The article “New Zealand Frame-Up Trial Ends in Hung Jury” in the April 9 issue should have stated that the Tuhoe are one of dozens of Maori tribes, not “one of several Maori tribes.” Also, the credit for the photo with the article should have read “Gil Hanly.”

The photobox “Minnesota Action Defends Women’s Right to Choose” in the April 23 issue should have said that the bombing of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Grand Chute, Wis., occurred April 1, not April 8.

The photobox “Protests Continue Against NY Cop Killing” in the April 9 issue should have said that the man in the photo leading the march is Frank Graham, whose son Ramarley Graham was killed by cops.