

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Presentation in Havana: 'Malcolm X example more important than ever'
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Wis. immigrant rights march ushers in May Day



Militant/Betsy Farley, Laura Anderson (inset)

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Seven thousand supporters of immigrant rights held a May Day demonstration here April 29. “Sí se puede (Yes we can)” and “Immigrants are not criminals” were among the lead chants as participants marched through downtown.

Organizers said the focus was on the U.S. Supreme Court’s review of challenges to Arizona’s anti-immigrant SB 1070 law.

“We are fighting for immigrant rights, the right to unionize, fighting the attack on our civil rights,” said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, executive director of Voces de la Frontera.

Inset are two construction workers at the march.

Next issue will include coverage on actions during May Day.

—LAURA ANDERSON

White House expands drone strikes in Yemen

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Barack Obama administration in April approved expanding aerial drone strikes in Yemen by the CIA and the Pentagon’s Joint Special Operations Command.

Until recently these assaults were purportedly restricted to assassinating known leaders of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula whose names appear on secret government target lists. The new plan is to deploy “signature strikes,” modeled after those carried out in Pakistan, in which unidentified individuals are targeted as suspected terrorists based on “patterns of behavior” and “gathering places.”

For example, in Pakistan’s largely pastoral Federally Administered Tribal Areas Washington’s “signature” strikes are directed against anyone who is believed to be armed—which includes most of the population there—and traveling by truck toward the Afghanistan border, regardless of whether any are known combatants, according to *Investor’s Business Daily*.

U.S. military armed assaults in Yemen
Continued on page 11

IAM strikes Illinois Cat plant, rejects union busting



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Striking Machinists picketing outside Caterpillar plant in Joliet, Ill., May 1, shortly after 800 walked out at 12:01 a.m.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

JOLIET, Ill.—At 12:01 a.m., May 1, some 800 members of International Association of Machinists Local 851 walked out of the Caterpillar plant here. More than 100 picketed the entrances to the giant plant waving signs and cheering cars leaving the factory as the strike began, less than two days after workers rejected the company’s

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Other fights gather strength in wake of Trayvon Martin protests

BY JAMES HARRIS

LOS ANGELES—Nearly 500 people attended a rally here on April 26 announcing the formation of the Justice for Trayvon Martin Foundation, one of whose stated goals is to give voice to the families of other victims

of cop or vigilante “murder and injustice.” The foundation was established by Martin’s parents, Tracy Martin and Sybrina Fulton, who spoke at the rally, held at the West Angeles Church of God in Christ.

Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old African-American, was gunned down by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain, as he walked through a gated community in Sanford, Fla., two months earlier. The killing and refusal of the cops to do anything about it sparked weeks of protests around

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Construction boss in NY ‘gets away with murder’

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK—A judge here acquitted construction boss James Lomma April 26 of any responsibility for the deaths of two construction workers in

NO WORKER HAS TO DIE!
—SWP campaign statement, p. 11

a crane collapse four years ago. Family members were outraged and their lawyers called it a shameful verdict.

“It’s a license to kill,” Maria Leo

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Lincoln and Atlanta narrow gap in int’l goal to win readers

BY LOUIS MARTIN

At the end of the second week of an eight-week international campaign to win or renew 2,400 subscribers to the *Militant*, a total of 750 subscriptions have been sold, bringing the effort to 31 percent of its goal. The campaign runs through June 10.

Militant supporters in Atlanta and Lincoln, Neb., have set an example. Both increased their quotas this week. But more raises are needed to close the gap of 63 between the combined local quotas and the international goal.

Socialist workers from Lincoln and Des Moines, Iowa, joined forces on May Day in Omaha, Neb., selling 11 subscriptions, including four outside the XL Four Star Beef plant.

That day, communist workers across the country celebrated International Workers Day by joining immigrant rights actions, going door to door in working-class neighborhoods, and by visiting picket lines and other labor actions in order to introduce the socialist newsweekly.

In New York, they participated in marches and rallies in Hempstead, N.Y., New Haven, Conn., Freehold, N.J., and Manhattan. They went to

Continued on page 4

Spring ‘Militant’ subscription campaign April 14 - June 10 (week 2)

| Country | quota | sold | % | 2,400 |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
| UNITED STATES | | | | |
| Lincoln* | 40 | 21 | 53% | 750 should be |
| New York | 260 | 126 | 48% | |
| Los Angeles | 160 | 75 | 47% | |
| Denver† | 7 | 3 | 43% | |
| Houston | 90 | 32 | 36% | |
| Washington | 70 | 22 | 31% | |
| Des Moines* | 140 | 43 | 31% | |
| San Francisco | 175 | 50 | 29% | |
| Twin Cities* | 155 | 42 | 27% | |
| Boston | 60 | 16 | 27% | |
| Philadelphia | 90 | 24 | 27% | |
| Chicago* | 170 | 43 | 25% | |
| Miami | 100 | 24 | 24% | |
| Atlanta** | 200 | 44 | 22% | |
| Seattle* | 190 | 37 | 19% | |
| Total U.S. | 1907 | 602 | 32% | |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | |
| London | 130 | 48 | 37% | |
| Manchester | 55 | 29 | 53% | |
| UK Total | 185 | 77 | 42% | |
| CANADA | 95 | 23 | 24% | |
| NEW ZEALAND | 80 | 17 | 21% | |
| AUSTRALIA | 70 | 31 | 44% | |
| Total | 2337 | 750 | 31% | |
| Should be | 2400 | 600 | 25% | |

* Raised goal ** Raised twice † New to scoreboard

Also Inside:

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Protests say free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López

BY SETH GALINSKY

Supporters of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera are stepping up efforts to win his freedom. López has been in jail on frame-up charges in the United States for 31 years.

“If you’re old enough to remember the plight of Nelson Mandela, if you’ve known anyone who’s suffered any human rights abuse, if police beatings have caused you to question what’s going on, you should feel the same indignation for what’s going on with Oscar,” former Puerto Rican political prisoner Luis Rosa told the *Militant* in an April 28 phone interview from Orlando, Fla.

Rosa was in Orlando to garner support for the campaign to free López. He spoke to a meeting of 40 people there April 26 and was interviewed by several local radio stations as part of the tour.

“To mark Oscar’s 31 years in jail, concerts, creation of murals and exhibits of Oscar’s paintings will take place in more than 31 cities in Puerto Rico this year,” Rosa said.

In Chicago, “31 days for 31 years” was launched April 28. During that period supporters of López will take turns spending a day in a symbolic storefront jail cell in Chicago’s predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood of Humboldt Park to bring attention to the case.

Born in San Sebastián, Puerto Rico, López grew up in the U.S. He was drafted into the Army and was an infantryman in Vietnam in 1965-66. Afterward he returned to Chicago and participated in social struggles. He helped form the Committee for the Freedom of the Five Puerto Rican nationalist prisoners, who

were jailed in 1954 after carrying out an armed pro-independence demonstration in the U.S. Congress.

López was arrested May 28, 1981, accused of being a member of the Armed Forces for Puerto Rican Liberation (FALN) and convicted on trumped-up charges of “seditious conspiracy.” He was sentenced to 55 years in prison.

In 1988, 15 more years were added to his sentence after he was framed up and convicted of attempting to escape.

In 1999, López was offered parole along with 13 other Puerto Rican political prisoners by then-President William Clinton. He refused, in large part because two prisoners, Carlos Alberto Torres and Haydée Beltrán, were not included. If López had accepted, he would have been released in 2009.

After Torres was released in July 2010, López applied for parole. At a January 2011 hearing, the parole commission allowed testimony from a family member of a person killed in a 1975 bombing in New York that the U.S. governments attributes to the FALN, even though López was never charged with this. The parole commission ruled that López could not reapply for parole until 2026, when he will be 83 years old.

More information on the fight to free López and two other Puerto Rican political prisoners—Avelino González Claudio and Norberto González Claudio—is available online at: boricuahumanrights.org, libertadparaoscar.org and prolibertadweb.com.

Write Oscar López Rivera in prison: #87651-024, FCI Terre Haute, PO Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

Rallies defend women’s right to abortion



Militant photos by Zena Jasper

MADISON, Wis.—Some 1,000 people rallied at the state Capitol here April 28 in defense of women’s right to abortion as part of dozens of other actions around the country that day in response to a call from Unite Against the War on Women. Protesters here condemned a recently passed state law imposing criminal penalties on doctors who fail to meet with patients three times after nonsurgical abortions.

—ZENA JASPER

* * *

TOPEKA, Kan.—Hundreds rallied at the state Capitol here April 28 to protest bills before the Kansas state legislature that would curb women’s right to abortion and contraception.

Among the proposals is a measure that would ban state employees from performing abortions and legislation that would give greater legal protections to health care providers who refuse to conduct this medical procedure or dispense abortion-inducing drugs, with “abortion-inducing” defined so broadly that it could include birth-control pills.

Among the speakers were participants in a successful fight to restore public funding for contraceptives for low-income women in Miami County, Kansas.

—CHUCK GUERRA

Students in Quebec reject gov’t offer in fight over tuition hikes

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—Rejecting a revised tuition raise announced by Quebec Premier Jean Charest April 27, some 170,000 university and CEGEP (junior college) students, now in the 12th week of a strike against fee increases, continue to boycott classes and demonstrate in Montreal and across Quebec.

The students are demanding the Liberal government repeal its legislation raising tuition fees by \$1,625 over the next five years to \$3,793 by 2017, a 75 percent increase.

Charest said the government would extend the increase over seven years, and then begin indexing further raises to the cost-of-living.

At a number of protests police riot squads, employing pepper spray, tear gas, and clubs, have attacked students and dispersed demonstrators with mass arrests.

Seizing on incidents of vandalism associated with the protests in Montreal, Education Minister Line Beauchamp unsuccessfully attempted to divide the three student organizations leading the protests by violence-baiting the CLASSE, which represents almost 50 percent of the striking students and includes some anarchist forces.

After Beauchamp excluded the CLASSE from discussions last week, leaders of the FEUQ and FECQ student federations withdrew from the talks.

THE MILITANT

Support Socialist Workers candidates

As workers confront the crisis of capitalism, Socialist Workers Party candidates present an alternative of independent working-class political action. They explain the need to build a revolutionary working-class movement able to lead the fight for political power.



Militant/Betsy Farley
Dennis Richter, (left) SWP candidate for 7th C.D. in Illinois, campaigns at April 1 immigrant rights protest.

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

March in New Orleans protests killings by cops

BY CYNTHIA JAQUITH

NEW ORLEANS—Some 200 people defied heavy rain to march from Louis Armstrong Park to City Hall here April 21 for Justin and Earl Sipp and Wendell Allen, three local Black youth shot by cops in March, and for Trayvon Martin, the Black teenager killed by a vigilante in Florida.

Called by the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the action won the support of the United Teachers of New Orleans, Teamsters, Congress of Day Laborers and Black rights groups.

Present were relatives of many African-Americans brutalized by cops here in recent years. In addition to the families of the Sipp brothers and Wendell Allen, they included Rebecca Glover, aunt of Henry Glover who was killed by cops in 2005 during the Katrina disaster, and Robert Goodman, whose brother Ronald was killed by a SWAT team in 2006.

On March 1 Justin Sipp was going to

work at Burger King with his brother Earl. Officers stopped their car, shot and killed Justin and wounded Earl. Allen was killed March 7 when police invaded his mother's home on a supposed drug tip.

Earl Sipp addressed the rally here, as did his sister Tiphonie Champ. She told the *Militant* that her brother Justin, Wendell Allen and Trayvon Martin "were criminalized in the media, although they were the ones victimized by violence."

She said the Sipp family is being stonewalled by the cops and city officials. "We have received no assistance from City Hall." No cop has been arrested for the shooting of Justin and Earl Sipp, or Wendell Allen.

A contingent of day laborers, most of them Spanish-speaking immigrants, joined the march. "We are members of the Congress of Day Laborers," said Moisés Mendoza, a construction worker, in an interview. "We are in solidarity with the whole community against



Militant/Jacquie Henderson
Rally in New Orleans April 21 against cop and vigilante killings, supported by unions and Black rights groups. Relatives of victims were among the speakers.

injustices, whether by the police or the sheriff's office. As immigrants we are often arrested for a mere traffic violation and once in jail they turn us over to immigration." The day laborers leafleted the crowd with flyers calling for a

May Day march here to defend immigrant rights.

The criminalization of young Black males was a recurrent theme of the rally. Andrew Stewart spoke representing Stand for Dignity. "I have a felony and that is being used to keep me out of a job," he said. Maria Peters, from the NAACP in Covington, explained to the *Militant* how "a whole generation" of Black men in her community is winding up in jail with long sentences on minor drug charges.

Beyond the injustices of the cops, courts and prisons, the rally addressed the disproportionate unemployment of African-Americans, as well as attacks on public education and health care.

Other fights inspired by Trayvon Martin protests

Continued from front page

the country that led to the arrest and indictment of Zimmerman.

"One of the things that keeps us going is the support we get from people we don't even know," said Tracy Martin. "On February 26 the police department had no regard for my son's life. I made a vow that I will not let his death be in vain."

The meeting was sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Major speakers included Rev. Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, and NAACP President Benjamin Jealous along with other politicians and ministers.

Sharpton said the foundation will also help advance the fight against so-called Stand Your Ground laws around the country. Florida was the first of 25 states that in recent years have passed some version of this legislation. The Florida law encourages vigilantism, sanctioning 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.

"This killing of our youth has to stop," Bill Tatum told the *Militant*, carrying a handmade poster that read, "Stop the killing of Black youth."

Family members of young people who have been killed by California cops were introduced at the rally and told their stories, receiving standing ovations and sustained applause.

Among those assembled on the crowded stage were the parents of Oscar Grant, an African-American man who was shot in the back as he lay handcuffed on the ground by police officer Johannes Mehserle in Oakland in 2009, sparking widespread protests.

Also speaking were members of the family of Kendrec McDade, a 19-year-old African-American who was shot and killed by the Pasadena police March 24 after a 911 caller said that two men had robbed him at gunpoint. The caller lied about guns being present. One cop fired on McDade from his police car and another while pursuing him on foot, according to the *Huffington Post*. No gun or stolen property was found on McDade's

body or on the other youth, also African-American, who was arrested and remains in jail.

"A few weeks ago I was scared of the police like many of you," Kendrec's father Kenneth McDade said, "but they took something from me that made me want answers. I am not afraid anymore."

Nationwide actions spark fights

"Trayvon's Case Spurs Other Investigations Around the Country," reads a headline from the *Miami Herald* posted on the foundation's website.

"I signed Trayvon's petition, sat back, and thought, 'Well, maybe I should do a petition,'" Kenneth Chamberlain Jr. told the *Herald*. His father Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., 68, had been fired upon by Tasers, shot with a beanbag shotgun and killed with a live round by cops in White Plains, N.Y., in November. The entire episode was recorded by medics on the site, taping the cops shouting racial epithets.

Chamberlain decided to start a campaign to hold the cops accountable for killing his father. Finally, in April the Westchester County District Attorney convened a grand jury to investigate the killing.

On April 28 Tracy Martin and Sybrina Fulton came to New York to appear at a fundraiser for at-risk youth at the Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture in Harlem. Shirley Williams, mother of Malik Williams, killed by cops in December in Garfield, N.J., heard about their appearance an hour before the meeting. She and a friend jumped in a car and drove to Harlem.

While waiting to meet with Fulton, she met family members of other victims of police and vigilante murder, including the mother of Sean Bell, a 23-year-old Black youth who was killed by New York cops in 2006 on the eve of his wedding. She also spoke with a cousin of Emmett Till, the Black teenager from Chicago whose 1955 lynching while visiting relatives in Mississippi sparked nationwide attention.

Williams was able to meet with Fulton, exchanging experiences and encouragement to keep on fighting.

Williams told the Bergen County *Record* that she now hopes to organize a Mother's Day meeting of mothers of youth killed by the cops to help gain publicity and press for indictments.

John Studer from New York contributed to this article.

White House to maintain secrecy in Guantánamo military tribunal

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Barack Obama administration is seeking to keep testimony secret in the trial before a military tribunal of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, 47, who is accused by Washington of helping to organize the attack by al-Qaeda on the U.S. destroyer Cole in 2000 that killed 17 U.S. sailors.

Al-Nashiri was arrested in 2002 in Dubai. Over the next four years he was tortured in CIA secret prisons in Thailand, Afghanistan and Poland. Since 2006 he has been incarcerated at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

According to a 2004 CIA report, of which a censored version was made public five years later, al-Nashiri was subjected to the suffocation technique known as waterboarding, and forced into painful stress positions, including being lifted off the floor by his arms as they were shackled behind his back.

He was hooded, shackled and stripped naked during interrogation sessions. Interrogators threatened him with execution. They put a gun to his head, revved up a power drill, and faked the execution of another prisoner.

A number of newspapers and other media are requesting Judge Col. James Pohl allow them to cover the military tribunal, scheduled to begin Nov. 9. They include the *New York Times*, Fox News, *Miami Herald*, National Public Radio, the *New Yorker*, Reuters, the Tribune Company and *Washington Post*.



Militant/Sara Lobman
Shirley Williams, right, mother of Malik Williams, who was killed by cops in Garfield, N.J., in December, takes part in march against police brutality in that city April 15.

'Militant' subscription drive

Continued from front page

Newburgh, N.Y., where the family of Michael Lembhard, 22, is fighting for the arrest of the cops who killed him in March. By the end of the day, they sold 31 subscriptions.

"On April 28," writes Chuck Guerra from Des Moines, "Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Iowa State Senate in the 18th District, drove with two other socialist workers to Topeka, Kan., to participate in a rally for women's rights. They sold nine subscriptions to the *Militant*, as well as a copy of *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Frederick Engels and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer."

From Seattle, John Naubert reports that members of the Socialist Workers Party last week sold seven subscriptions at a rally and march of airport workers involved in an organizing effort.

Osborne Hart says *Militant* supporters in Philadelphia sold eight subscriptions and five copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes last week in Black working-class neighborhoods. Most were sold going door to door, but two were sold with copies of the book to walk-ins at the Socialist Workers Party campaign office.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power is one of two books by Barnes on special sale with a subscription. The other is *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism*.

"Members of the Communist League had a very good week of sales during a tour in Sydney, Australia, of Rena Herdiyani and Hegel Terome from Kalyanamitra, a women's rights organization in Indonesia, and Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the



Militant/Jacque Henderson

Steve Warshell, SWP congressional candidate in Texas' 18th District, campaigns with *Militant* and Pathfinder books at rally of Teamsters on strike against Pioneer Flour in San Antonio.

U.S.," writes Manuele Lasolo.

"All together, we sold 13 subscriptions going door to door in working-class neighborhoods, at Sydney University, at the tour's main public meeting and

at a question and answer session with Waters at the cartoon exhibit of Gerardo Hernández, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S.," reports Lasolo. (See article page 8.)

Exposure of racist 'criminal checks' forces EEOC to revise hiring rules

BY JOHN STUDER

Millions of workers who ever had a brush with the capitalist "justice" system have increasingly found themselves among those unable to get a job amid persistently high unemployment.

Systematic hiring discrimination on the basis of criminal records has become so egregious and has so disproportionately affected African-Americans that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission—under pressure from growing lawsuits and formal complaints—recently revised its written guidelines, making them more explicit.

The EEOC's April 25 ruling says

companies cannot use criminal background checks as a basis for wholesale rejection of applicants, without defining why a particular record is incompatible with a specific job, nor can they use the checks as cover for racial discrimination.

The ruling is an extension of guidelines on the books since 1987, originally adopted when now Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was EEOC chairman under President Ronald Reagan.

Because Blacks and other minorities are arrested and imprisoned at a vastly disproportionate rate than Caucasians, the agency holds, hiring policies that bar

anyone arrested or convicted of a crime, or that are applied more often to deny jobs to Blacks or Hispanics, violate federal law. The EEOC ruling says bosses should not inquire into workers' arrest record until they have processed their applications, and should consider each worker's individual history.

In the past few years, companies such as Bank of America, Aramark, Domino's Pizza, Lowe's, Manpower, Omni Hotels and Radio Shack have adopted policies that systematically filter out all job applicants with a record. In some cases that includes anyone convicted of a felony in the last seven years. In other cases bosses have rejected outright anyone ever convicted of anything, including misdemeanors.

Earlier this year, Pepsi Bottling paid \$3.1 million in fines to settle EEOC

charges of race discrimination using such background checks to screen out job applicants.

The EEOC report notes the explosion in the prison population over the last 30 years. There are some 2.3 million incarcerated at last count—a jump of 274 percent in 25 years. Five million more are currently on probation, parole or under court supervision.

"Simply stated, incarceration in America is concentrated among African-American men," the agency says.

Continued on page 11

New subscribers contribute to Militant Fighting Fund

BY LEA SHERMAN

As of May 1, supporters of the *Militant* newsweekly have sent in \$13,416 for this year's Militant Fighting Fund, 11 percent of the international goal to raise \$120,000 by June 4.

The *Militant* depends on readers' contributions to pay operating expenses, including rent, printing costs and reporting trips to respond to workers' struggles and international political developments.

When socialist workers from Philadelphia explained that the price of subscriptions alone couldn't entirely sustain the operating expenses of the paper, Douglas Vera, a factory worker who retired from Armstrong Industries after 35 years said, "I was wondering about that."

Vera, a supporter of Steelworkers Local 285/441 during a hard-fought five-month-long lockout by Armstrong last year, first signed up for a subscription when *Militant* supporters knocked on his door in Marietta, Pa. After discussion about how the *Militant* is funded by workers like himself, Vera kicked in \$5 for the fund in addition to renewing his subscription.

Philadelphia has taken a goal to get 10 more first-time contributors and an additional \$100 for the fund from sales tables by the end of the drive.

Supporters of the *Militant* in France boosted the effort this week by getting

on the scoreboard with a goal of \$320.

Contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund are ahead of schedule in Miami following a fundraising forum titled "From the Trayvon Martin Lynching to Bosses' Attacks and Long-Term Unemployment: Capitalist Reality and Working-Class Resistance," with featured speaker Sam Manuel, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Manuel Jerez, a factory worker originally from Cuba spoke in the discussion and contributed to the fund for the first time. "We're working 10-12 hours a day, six days a week and for the last three years our wages have been frozen," he said. Jerez mentioned that he used to subscribe to *El Nuevo Herald*. "It lies a lot and didn't inform me of anything. I got the *Militant* and then renewed for a year."

"Now our challenge is to keep reaching out toward a goal of not only raising \$3,200 or more, but also gaining at least 10 first-time contributors," writes Naomi Craine from Miami.

Total pledges of \$118,670 are just \$1,330 short of the goal. Supporters of the paper in local areas can raise their goals and close this gap.

Every contribution counts. Contact distributors of the *Militant* listed on page 6, or send a check or money order, made out to the *Militant*, to The *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

'Militant' Fighting Fund April 14–June 4 (week 1)

| Country | Quota | Paid | % |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-----|
| UNITED STATES | | | |
| Miami | \$3,200 | \$590 | 18% |
| Des Moines | \$2,200 | \$403 | 18% |
| New York | \$21,000 | \$3,518 | 17% |
| San Francisco | \$15,000 | \$2,415 | 16% |
| Atlanta | \$8,600 | \$1,143 | 13% |
| Twin Cities | \$6,500 | \$647 | 10% |
| Seattle | \$8,800 | \$870 | 10% |
| Chicago | \$10,000 | \$825 | 8% |
| Philadelphia | \$4,000 | \$300 | 8% |
| Los Angeles | \$9,000 | \$350 | 4% |
| Washington | \$7,600 | \$70 | 1% |
| Boston* | \$4,000 | \$15 | 0% |
| Houston | \$4,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| Lincoln | \$375 | \$0 | 0% |
| Total US | \$104,275 | \$11,146 | 11% |
| CANADA | \$7,000 | \$1,300 | 19% |
| NEW ZEALAND | \$4,500 | \$970 | 22% |
| AUSTRALIA | \$1,500 | \$0 | 0% |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | |
| London | \$700 | \$0 | |
| Manchester | \$375 | \$0 | |
| Total UK | \$1,075 | \$0 | 0% |
| FRANCE | \$320 | \$0 | |
| Total | \$118,670 | \$13,416 | 11% |
| Should be | \$120,000 | \$16,800 | 14% |

MILITANT FIGHTING FUND EVENTS

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
From the Fight for Trayvon Martin to Picket Lines to Defend Workers—The *Militant* Is Part of the Struggle. Sat., May 12, dinner 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

IOWA

Des Moines
From the Trayvon Martin Protests to Workers on Picket Lines: Capitalist Reality and Working-Class Resistance. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Illinois. Sat., May 12, dinner 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m., followed by party. Donation: Dinner \$10, program \$5. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

NEW YORK

Manhattan
Capitalist Reality and Working-Class Resistance: From the Trayvon Martin Killing to the Bosses' Attacks and Long-Term Unemployment. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 12, dinner 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation: Dinner \$7, program \$5. 307 West 36th St., 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

WASHINGTON

Seattle
Our Politics Start With the World. Speakers: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party; Dan Coffman, ILWU Local 21. Sat., May 12, dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Resistance to Capitalist Crisis Opens Prospects for Advance Revolutionary Perspectives for Working-Class Power. Speaker: Doug Nelson, managing editor of the *Militant*. Sat., May 12, dinner 6 p.m., program 7 p.m. Donation: Dinner & program \$15, program only \$10. 143 Kennedy St. NW #15. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.

Texas flour mill workers' rally marks 1-year strike

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

SAN ANTONIO—Chanting, “We’re here to stay and we are not going away!” striking Teamsters and their supporters rallied in front of C.H. Guenther & Sons Pioneer Flour Mill offices April 25.

The rally was part of a day of solidarity activities that drew more than 80 people on the one-year anniversary of the strike. The flour workers went on strike when the company reopened Teamsters Local 657’s contract to triple their health insurance payments.

The day began with early morning pickets greeting the first shift of scabs Guenther is using to maintain production. A midday march around the mill, which stopped to rally at the company offices, was followed by a barbecue and meeting at the union’s outdoor strike headquarters across the street.

At the barbecue, Local 657 President Frank Perkins thanked strike supporters present, including representatives of the AFL-CIO, the San Antonio Central Labor Council, members of the Communications Workers of America, American Federation of Teachers, Sheet Metal Workers, Ironworkers, other Teamsters including UPS workers, League of United Latin American Citizens, Occupy San Antonio, and some political candidates.

Caterpillar

Continued from front page

union-busting contract proposal by a vote of 585 to 37.

Caterpillar Inc.’s plant here makes hydraulics and parts for tractors, mining trucks and other machinery.

Steve Jones, IAM District 8 business representative for the local, said that Caterpillar’s proposals “guttured the contract.”

“Caterpillar wants a six-year contract with a wage freeze for six years, elimination of the COLA [cost of living adjustment], doubling the cost of health insurance premiums for the life of the contract, and freezing of pensions,” Jones said. “They propose that they can work you any shift, at anytime, anywhere, regardless of seniority.”

The company says it will keep the plant working.

“Caterpillar has work plans, processes, policies and people ready to be deployed,” said Caterpillar spokesman Rusty Dunn, the *Chicago Tribune* reported, “in the event of any business interruption, whether it is a tornado, fire or a strike.”

“For 39 years I was a welder, then Caterpillar moved the welding jobs out of the plant,” said Rick Wicker, who has worked at the plant for 43 years and operates the wash tank. “In 2005, Caterpillar started bringing in supplemental workers.”

Earlier this year, the company demanded workers at its rail-locomotive assembly plant in London, Ontario, take a 50 percent pay cut. When they refused, the company shut the plant down.

“All the corporations are doing is knocking us down,” machinist Bill McCarl II told the *Joliet Herald News*, “and we’ve got to keep getting back up. It’s time to stand up and fight for our rights.”

UNITE HERE representatives organizing local hotels and Mike Hill, a San Antonio taxi driver organizing Yellow Cab drivers into the Teamsters, drew an energetic round of applause.

“The company has hardly spoken with the union all year,” production worker Rogelio Martínez told the *Militant*. “They just hope we will give up and go away,” he said. “But we aren’t going anywhere.”

Strikers are not eligible for unemployment compensation and many have had to find temporary jobs. Martínez said all the strikers take turns manning the pickets, which have been during work hours every workday since the strike started. Martínez pickets four hours every day the mill is running. “I’ve always been a union man,” he said proudly.

“The company works hard to discourage workers from joining the union, but without it we wouldn’t be anywhere,” said Pablo Sanchez, a mixer operator who has worked for Pioneer for 40 years. In 2000 the company fired San-



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Teamsters and supporters rally in front of C.H. Guenther & Sons Pioneer Flour Mill offices April 25 on one-year anniversary of their strike over company takeback demands.

chez, but through a union fight he won his job back.

Passing motorists honked in support. Ed Fife stopped his bicycle to speak with the pickets. “I pass by here every day on my way to work,” he said. “I want you to know that I support you and that I think

what you are doing standing up for all of us is important.”

“It all boils down to basic humanity,” striker Jorge Soto told the *Militant*. “They think they can just push us around and that we will accept anything. But we are standing up for our humanity.”

Iowa aluminum workers end 11-week walkout

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DES MOINES, Iowa—Members of Teamsters Local 371 ended an 11-week strike against Nichols Aluminum on April 6, the day after Nichols president Tom Brackmann announced to the press he had hired 100 strike-breaking replacement workers full-time.

Less than half the 220 strikers have been allowed to return to work so far, while roughly 100 newly hired scabs are still working.

Ross Grimm, 50, an assistant blending operator with 20 years in the plant, was among some 100 union members brought back to work. “It was really tense at first,” he said. “The company creates a hostile work environment.” Grimm says they are working under the old contract, which expired last November. Negotiations resumed

April 30.

The company put a lot of pressure on the workers during the strike, Grimm said. “They sent letters addressed to the spouses saying to tell your husband or wife to go back or they’ll lose their job. ... The company is trying to break the union. The replacement workers are not qualified, and we’re supposed to train them. That’s not right, because union members haven’t been called back yet.”

“The remainder [of former strikers] are on a preferential hiring list and will be offered the opportunity to return as openings occur,” Brackmann told the *Militant*. “Of the workers hired during the strike, approximately 100 were retained as permanent replacement workers.”

Brackmann did not respond to a question from the *Militant* on whether

the newly hired replacement workers are being given preference out of seniority over the former strikers.

Jeff Ernst, 49, worked for 24 years at a non-union steel plant in nearby Muscatine before coming to work at Nichols two years ago. He has not yet been called back. “I’m not getting unemployment benefits yet because the company hasn’t said whether we’re laid off or fired,” he said.

Rallies took place in January and March in front of the plant to support the striking workers. The main disputed issues are the company’s proposal to institute a two-tier wage structure, a four-year wage freeze, and hikes in employee payments for medical insurance.

The local has pending charges against the company for unfair labor practices.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 15, 1987

On May 5 the first phase of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 went into effect.

“Control” is the relevant word in the title. “Reform” was included to prettify it, to suggest an improvement in existing immigration law. But any suggestion that it’s a change for the better as far as working people are concerned is a fraud. The law’s purpose is to institutionalize within the U.S. working class an entire sector with no rights, a sector of “illegal” pariahs.

Those branded illegal will continue to be subjected to ripoffs by rent-gouging landlords, E-Z credit merchants, bribe-hungry agents, and cops.

The undocumented are not “aliens.” They are an integral part of the U.S. working class. The blows aimed at them divide working people and strengthen the hand of the employers and their government.



May 14, 1962

“Seven innocent unarmed black men were shot down in cold blood by Police Chief William Parker’s Los Angeles city police. One ... is now dead, murdered in cold blood by police bullets; another is paralyzed; five others are hospitalized from bullet wounds and are also in serious condition.”

These statements were made by Malcolm X, second in command of the national Muslim movement, who flew to Los Angeles after police opened fire on a group of Muslims outside their temple near midnight April 27.

Malcolm X pointed out that if today the police are shooting down the Muslims, tomorrow they will be shooting down other groups of Negroes. Malcolm X claimed that Muslims are never armed and never provoke a quarrel but are prepared to defend themselves if attacked.



May 1, 1937

The heartening success of the rank and file pluggers of the San Francisco branch at selling Labor Action upon the waterfront and in the workers’ districts demonstrates once again the truism that a revolutionary press is built by the ordinary rank and filers with enough brass anatomy to get up in the cold city dawn to shout the headlines of a workers’ newspaper on the streets.

Heroic ability to sacrifice for a revolutionary press—that is a prime quality of the workers who are building Labor Action. They understand the need for a West Coast organ to express revolutionary socialism. Their contributions are heavy blows against the capitalist exploitation which oppresses them.

To those sterling comrades who were born in the poverty of the working class and who understand the task of achieving socialism, Labor Action this May Day salutes you.

'The miners have proven that it takes a fight to win'

Below is an excerpt from a program broadcast by Cuban station Radio Havana on March 27, 1981. The text of the broadcast is included in *Coal Miners on Strike*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. *Breakers* are by the Militant.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

In 1935 the UMW was the largest and most powerful industrial union in the U.S. Coal miners were the only workers who successfully organized racially integrated locals in the South before 1900, and became the first industrial workers to establish the eight-hour day in 1898.

After it had been almost destroyed in the 1920s, the UMW reorganized itself between 1933 and 1935 and became the backbone for the founding of the CIO. Coal miners provided both money and organizers for a drive to unionize the nation's basic industries. Miners were among the few workers who fought their employers openly during World War II.

There are two major UMW strikes in recent history of tremendous political importance. In 1969 and 1978 coal miners took on every issue of concern to U.S. workers: Health, safety, benefits, wages, inflation, and especially the viability of the rank-and-file movement in the survival of a strong trade union.



Militant/Stu Singer

Thousands of United Mine Workers members march in Washington, D.C., March 9, 1981, to protest announcement of cuts to black lung disability program won by miners' struggles.

In February and March 1969, West Virginia miners led the way when 95 percent of the state's 25,000 miners stayed out of the pits for more than three weeks. They forced the state legislature to pass a new coal mine health and safety law. ...

The Black Lung Association, which rank-and-file miners formed in January 1969 to sponsor and push for the West Virginia law, soon became an advocate for the interests of working and retired miners within a union whose leaders had sold out to the companies.

The strike also inspired Joseph "Jock" Yablonski to challenge Tony Boyle for the union's presidency. Running on the slogan "Boyle's in bed with the coal operators," Yablonski ran a strong campaign and vowed to continue the fight beyond the December elections. He was assassinated by Boyle-hired gunmen on the last of the year, but at his funeral, Miners for Democracy was formed. ...

Revolution in the union

The 1972 MFD slate stood on a platform which called for election of district officials and executive board members, rank-and-file ratification of contracts, no firings for refusal to work in unsafe conditions, a full-time safety committeeman in each mine, national and district support of local disputes, no discrimination in hiring and firing,

uniform enforcement of the contract, increased pensions for retired miners, and responsible management of the welfare funds. It also pledged to reduce the salaries of top union officials.

Boyle was ousted by MFD candidate Arnold Miller, a victim of black lung and a former miner, an electrician with twenty-four years on the job. A new regime set in.

In 1974, miners voted to ratify their contract for the first time in the union's eighty-four-year history. ...

In 1975, 80,000 miners struck. In 1976, 120,000 did—nearly every union miner east of the Mississippi. The 1976 strike was so effective that federal judges in Charleston withdrew their fines and injunctions, an event almost unique in modern labor history.

Then in 1977, miners struck again in protest over cutbacks in their medical benefits, so important in a dangerous industry centered in southern Appalachia, where hospitals refuse to admit patients without cash on the spot to pay for emergency care.

Then in 1978, the UMW strike emerged as the central class question in the United States. The coal miners were fighting for the very existence of their union and every other union in the nation.

The attack on the UMW was part of the offensive being waged against the

entire labor movement. ...

The biggest coal company, Peabody, is controlled completely by the Kennecott Copper Company, which in turn is dominated by the Morgan bankers and Guggenheims.

The next biggest coal company, Consolidation, is owned by the Continental Oil Company, a multibillion-dollar asset with holdings in Africa and other overseas lands. Continental was part of Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company before the trust's nominal dissolution in 1911. Its control is now divided between the Rockefellers and Morgan bankers, with the Pittsburgh Mellons having a secondary voice.

The third biggest company, Island Creek, is owned by the Occidental Oil Company. Then there are the big mining properties of the U.S. Steel Corporation, which was founded by J.P. Morgan, Bethlehem Steel, and many coal companies owned entirely by Exxon, Mobil Oil, Gulf Oil, and other oil giants, and the big utilities.

Miners face capitalist class

It was the amassed power of the monopolists that confronted the miners as they began their strike.

[The miners'] struggle of 1978 created a new situation in the trade union movement. It gave a real jolt to big business's drive for take-away contracts. It blunted the vicious antilabor campaign launched against all labor organizations. By ignoring government attempts to break the strike with the Taft-Hartley injunction, it landed a warning blow at that dangerous piece of antilabor legislation.

[The] defense of labor's basic right to strike had positive repercussions among workers in all industries. In the process of the strike, the need for public ownership of the mines and coal resources became a hot issue in the minds of many workers. Why should such vital natural resources be under the control of the big oil, utility, and steel companies, and the big bankers?

In 1978, the United Mine Workers of America's strike brought out once again the well-known fact that under capitalism workers are forced to fight for everything they get. It's either fight, or go backward. The miners have proven it takes a fight to win.

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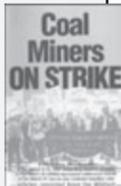
May BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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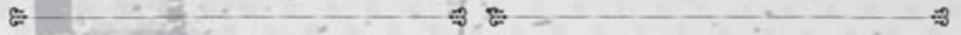
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The 99% vs. The 1%

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The Actual Class Relations In Capitalist Society

The 1% vs. 99%, while sounding radical, is nothing more than an arbitrary division that obfuscates actual class antagonisms and social relations under capitalism—the character, size and strength of the class enemy and its allies vs. the working class and our allies. Above all, it serves as a demagogic cover for bourgeois liberalism and multi-class popular-frontism, dovetailing perfectly with the 2012 Democratic Party election campaign.

MILLIONS OF CAPITALISTS

- The 60 families, hereditary holders of massive wealth, the Rockefellers, Morgans, DuPonts, Vanderbilts, etc.
- 2 million top corporate executives, board members of 6,500 banks
- The operators of some 200,000 capitalist farms, from large-scale family farms, most hiring substantial labor, to corporate agribusiness
- The millions of owners and co-owners of companies that hire and fire

| Number of workers | Companies | Total employees |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 10-99 | 1,159,000 | 29,181,000 |
| 100-999 | 99,484 | 23,847,000 |
| 1,000-9,999 | 8,390 | 22,489,000 |
| 10,000 and up | 981 | 33,025,000 |
| Total | 1,268,000 | 108,542,000 |

Millions maintaining social relations of capitalist production—from its lieutenants on the plant floor to the bourgeois-minded "enlightened meritocracy"

- 12 million supervisors and management personnel
- The 5 million plus administrators of the government bureaucracy
- Board members of 1,260,000 tax-exempt NGOs (so-called non-governmental organizations)
- The vast majority of 1,500,000 college and university professors and 1,140,000 licensed attorneys
- Editorial staff members of the capitalist media, including 1,400 daily newspapers

THE POWER OF THEIR STATE, ITS CENTURIONS AND ITS PRISONS—SOME 3 MILLION STRONG

- 513,000 elected officials
- 421,000 judges, prosecutors, etc.
- 800,000 cops
- 518,000 prison guards and jailers
- 100,000 parole and probation officers
- 200,000 in the military officer corps
- 132,000 FBI, DIA, ATF, DEA, TSA
- 41,000 immigration and border patrol personnel
- ?? CIA, NSA and other secret police

Between the capitalists and proletariat in the U.S. stand tens of millions of other petty-bourgeois and middle-class layers, including owners of some 5 million small businesses, most of the 21 million "self-employed," middle farmers, and millions of other professionals who fulfill necessary functions in modern production and are not tied to maintaining capitalist social relations: engineers, technicians, artists, etc.

Under conditions of relative capitalist stability, this mixed bag of occupations and social layers remain by and large beholden to the capitalist rulers. During periods of deep social crisis, millions of small business people are pushed into the proletariat. Many others among those described above, particularly within the younger generations, are radicalized. Among these groups, millions can be won to a fighting working-class movement.

THE WORKING CLASS INCLUDES . . .

- 17 million industrial workers
- 2.6 million farmworkers
- 16 million unemployed workers
- 90 million service and "professional" workers
- 14 million government workers (from post office and transport workers to public teachers)

EXPLOITED PRODUCERS ON THE LAND — ALLIES OF THE PROLETARIAT

- Operators of 1.7 million small farms, half of whom work another job

About this page

The page reproduced here was part of a larger display titled "The Politics of the 99% vs. the Class Struggle Road Forward." It was one of more than a dozen displays presented during a public meeting in New York March 10 titled "After Labor Resistance and Solidarity: What's the Revolutionary Political Road Forward for the Working Class?" Because the displays generated a lot of discussion and interest at the meeting, the *Militant* has decided to reprint a few for its readers over the next several weeks.

The figures cited here were extrapolated from reports of the labor and agriculture departments, and other sources. Since these statistics are compiled in a way that obscures class relations, some should be considered close approximations, particularly the class distinctions among those who work in the government and service sectors.

—Editor

Exhibit helps win support for 5 Cuban revolutionaries

Art by prisoner Gerardo Hernández tours Australia

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY—A monthlong exhibition of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 13 years, opened here April 19. About 150 people packed the At The Vanishing Point contemporary art gallery for the event.

Most came in support of the Cuban Five, which in addition to Hernández, includes René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando González.

Hernández's cartoon exhibition, "Humor from My Pen," is showing at the gallery along with three other painting exhibitions. "Humor from My Pen" is jointly sponsored by the art gallery and the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society in Sydney.

"Before their arrests in 1998," explains the exhibit brochure, "these five Cuban revolutionaries had been gathering information for their government about the activities of counterrevolutionary Cuban-American organisations in south Florida.

"These groups have a long record of carrying out deadly attacks against Cuba and its supporters around the world with Washington's complicity.

"The five were convicted in June 2001 on trumped-up 'conspiracy' charges. Sentences ranged from 15 years in jail for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández."

At the exhibit opening, Pedro Monzon Barata, Cuba's ambassador to Australia, reviewed the history of Cuba, its 1959 socialist revolution and the role of the Cuban Five in its defense.

Chela Weitzel, president of the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society, read a message from Hernández, expressing his gratitude to all those present, to the organizers of the event, and to the representatives of Justice Action and the Indigenous Social Justice Association supporting the exhibit, "whose continual work for prisoners' rights and Aboriginal rights we respect and admire."

Hernández called for doubling the efforts "for our claim to be heard in every corner of the world."

The opening event was also for other art showings, including *Box Brownie* by Elizabeth Rankin and *iWitness* by Bubaloo Fahy. Rankin said in her re-

marks that she was "proud to be associated" with the Hernández exhibit. Fahy said later she was "inspired to learn more" by the "passionate commitment" from supporters of the Cuban Five she had met.

Afterwards, the band *Mojitos* played Cuban and Latin music.

A visiting Cuban educator and AIDS medical worker, Ofelia Delgado Padrón, said she was moved by hearing Gerardo's message and seeing his art, halfway round the globe. "This battle can only win if people around the world get together and support their freedom," she said.

In Australia, *Humor from My Pen* has already been shown in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Albury and will later move on to Canberra and Brisbane. The exhibit will also be presented in Auckland, New Zealand, May 12-26. (See ad below.)

Australia rally slams cop shooting of Aboriginal youth

BY BOB AIKEN AND RON POULSEN

SYDNEY—More than 200 people rallied here April 24 outside the New South Wales Parliament House to protest the cop shooting of two young Aboriginal men a few days earlier.

Police claim that at around 4 a.m. on April 21 they recognized a carload of Aboriginal youth on the main street of the Kings Cross nightclub district. As the cops moved toward the car, which they claim was stolen, they say the driver tried to get away, driving the car onto the footpath (sidewalk) and hitting two pedestrians.

According to the police, they then opened fire at close range, hitting the 14-year-old driver in the chest. Video clips taken by eyewitnesses showed cops dragging and throwing to the ground Troy Taylor, 18, the front-seat passenger who was also shot. They then bashed Taylor repeatedly in the head. Both remain in serious condition in the hospital. The four youth in the back seat of the car were also arrested.

Tory Bell, 17, who said he was of Aboriginal and New Zealand Maori descent, was among those at the rally. He told the *Militant* that Taylor was his roommate at the Emu Plains Juvenile Detention Centre for six months. "If he was white, the police wouldn't have shot



Visitors look at political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and jailed by Washington, at April 19 exhibit launch in Sydney, Australia.

In Sydney, guest speakers will talk and answer questions at 2 p.m. each Sunday during the exhibit.

Mary-Alice Waters, who edited *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, a booklet by Pathfinder Press, spoke on April 29. Others include Del-

gado (April 22), Ray Jackson from the Indigenous Social Justice Association (April 28), and Reinaldo Garcia Perera, Consul General of the Republic of Cuba (May 12).

A promotional graphic and essay for the exhibit can be viewed at www.at-thevanishingpoint.com.au.

him," he said.

"I don't like the way the media makes out like colored youth are criminals," said Shara, 17, who described herself as "half Fijian, half Filipina." She said cops had beaten her mother and uncle when she was younger.

Aboriginal youth make up nearly 60 percent of the inmates in juvenile detention centers in Australia, but less than 5 percent of the youth population. About half of the inmates in these prisons are awaiting trial.

In adult prisons, Aborigines, who make up less than 3 percent of the population, now represent 26 percent of inmates.

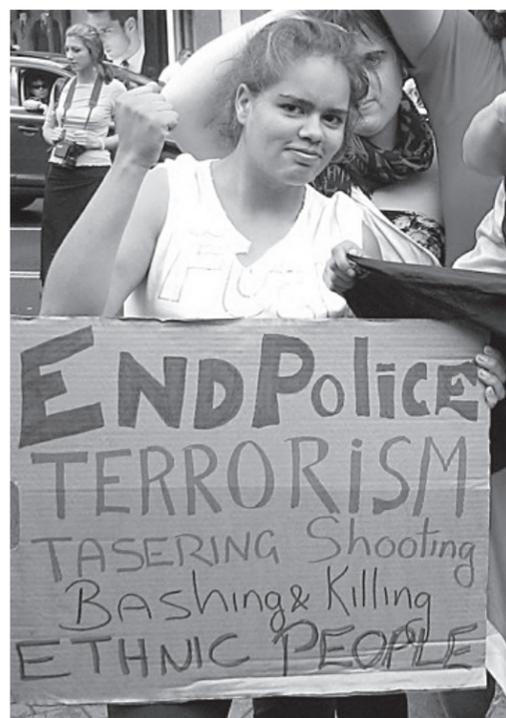
Faith Bon, a 45-year-old Aboriginal woman from Woolloomooloo, an intercity suburb of Sydney, spoke at the April 24 rally. "They are terrorizing us," she said. "We don't want our kids to go on the street."

Ray Jackson from the Indigenous Social Justice Association, which called the rally, said the April 21 police shooting and assault were criminal acts and demanded the officers responsible be charged. The group is calling for an independent investigation.

The Indigenous Social Justice Association organized a rally April 3 to protest the killing by cops of Brazilian student Roberto Laudisio Curti March 18. Curti was capsicum (pepper) sprayed then chased by six cops here who fired Tasers several times after a packet of cookies was allegedly stolen from a convenience store. He died on the spot.

The cops report that since 2009 they used Tasers on more than 4,400 occasions across the country.

The April 24 rally was called a week after the Corruption and Crime Commission in Western Australia finally recommended charges be filed against two cops who used Tasers more than three and a half years ago on Kevin Spratt, who is Aboriginal. The attack at a Perth police station—where Tasers were fired



Demonstration in Sydney, Australia, April 24 against police shooting and beating of two youth.

nine times in about one minute—was caught on video, sparking widespread condemnation and protest. The two officers are still on duty.

Tour of art by two of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in US

HUMOR FROM MY PEN

Cartoons by Gerardo Hernández

Sydney, Australia

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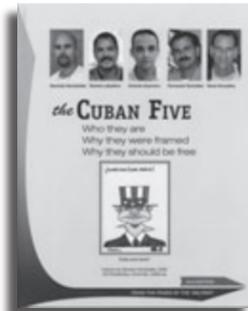
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'Example of Malcolm X more important than ever'

Presentation by Omari Musa at 'Racism, Antiracism' panel at Nicolás Guillén conference in Havana

The following remarks by Omari Musa were presented at the eighth Nicolás Guillén International Colloquium and Festival of Music and Poetry, held in Havana, April 2-6. (See article on conference in May 7 issue.) The meeting discussed the place of struggles by blacks in Cuba from the fight for independence from Spain to the revolutionary movement that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and the need to raise consciousness in the ongoing battle to overcome the legacy of racist discrimination.

The conference also celebrated the 110th anniversary of the birth of Nicolás Guillén, known as Cuba's national poet. Guillén, who was of African descent, died in 1989.

The panel on "Racism and Antiracism," one of many during the event, included a presentation on Martin Luther King Jr., by Raúl Suárez, director of the Martin Luther King Center in Havana, and on Malcolm X by Musa, representing Pathfinder Press. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY OMARI MUSA

First, I want to thank the organizers of this international conference for inviting Pathfinder Press, the main publisher of Malcolm X's speeches and writings, to participate in the discussion we're having here. It is an honor and a pleasure to do so. And special thanks to Nicolás Hernández Guillén [president of the Nicolás Guillén Foundation] for encouraging us to come.

Today we are living through the opening stages of the deepest economic and social crisis of production and employment the world capitalist system has experienced in almost a century. None of us in this room has ever known anything like the years that lie ahead. There will be decades of economic and financial convulsions, spreading wars, and—most important for us—deepening revolutionary resistance by the exploited and oppressed producers worldwide, including in the United States.

This is the world in which Malcolm's revolutionary example is of greater importance than ever before.

Rulers have no solution

The propertied ruling classes have no solution to their crisis of capital accumulation. But the course they are taking—and will accelerate—is dictated by the laws of capitalism. They must drive down our wages and living standards, the value of our labor power, in an effort to gain an edge in the intensifying competition of capitals. They must divide us and pit us against each other—along lines of race, national origin, sex, skills and in other ways.

That is what is going on worldwide, including in Washington's decades-long economic war against the Cuban people.

In the United States the bosses are carrying out a sustained assault on living conditions, on job safety, on our protections against abuses by the capitalist state. Since the current stage of the capitalist crisis exploded in 2008, wages in industry after industry have been slashed. Millions of families have lost their homes. Contrary to the publicized

monthly unemployment rate, when you include those who've given up finding a job or are involuntarily working part time, joblessness today hovers near 17 percent. Unemployment among African-American youth, even the official figure, stands at 40 percent—and the true rate is much higher.

As a necessary component of this assault on our class, the United States has the highest per capita rate of incarceration of any country on earth. More than 2.3 million, 40 percent of them African-American, are behind bars, with Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, and Fernando among them. Another 4.8 million, like René, are under supervised release or on parole or probation.¹ And many millions more are stigmatized for life as convicted felons, barred from many jobs, denied driver's licenses, access to credit, housing, stricken from voter rolls, and much more.

Pauperization of growing layers of workers, the majority Afro-American, is enforced by the criminalization of millions, who are denied the right to trial by a jury of their peers. Blackmailed into pleading guilty to "lesser" charges or "no contest" by threats of increasingly draconian sentences if they go to trial, the result is that 90 percent of those arrested and indicted in the U.S. today are convicted and locked away.

The lynching of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida once again underlines that stepped-up police use of the "war on drugs" and "stop and frisk" laws—known in the U.S. as "walking while Black"—is also spawning new varieties of "semilegal" vigilantes. Immigrant workers have been among the first targets, but as a century and a half of U.S. history confirms, Afro-Americans remain in the crosshairs, first and foremost. Trayvon's killing is one more bitter confirmation that for descendants of African slaves, equal protection under the law, written into the U.S. Constitution during Reconstruction in the aftermath of the Civil War, is still to be won.

Unresolved national question

There is an unresolved national question in the United States. This is not a question of theory primarily, nor was it inevitable. In the wake of the powerful working-class mobilizations for Black rights in the 1950s and 1960s, no one could say for sure how much progress could be made toward erasing the legacy of slavery and the crushing of Reconstruction. No one could rule out that

1. Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González, are five Cuban revolutionaries who were arrested in 1998 in Miami and convicted on trumped-up charges that included "conspiracy to commit espionage." At the time of their frame-up arrests by the FBI, the five were living and working in southern Florida where they were gathering information for the Cuban government on activities of U.S.-backed Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups with a long history of murderous attacks against Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution. René González was released on three-year parole in October; the other four remain in prison. Hernández is serving a sentence of double life plus 15 years.



Malcolm X with students at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, February 1965. "Malcolm's support for political independence from the Democrats and Republicans distinguished him from other leaders of the struggle for Black rights," said Omari Musa at conference in Havana, April 3.

national oppression would give way to residual prejudice and inequality that, even if still significant, would narrow over time as part of labor's broader fight for improved living and job conditions.

That remained for history to settle. And it has been settled—by decades of class struggle. The battle to eradicate the distinct national oppression of African-Americans remains central to the revolutionary strategy of the working class in the U.S. The coming Third American Revolution will be victorious only if that fact of history is understood by working people and embraced in all its revolutionary implications.

This capitalist world in crisis, and what it means for the working class in the United States especially, has to be our starting point.

Leader of working class

The road Malcolm traveled from street-hustler to clear-sighted and increasingly class-conscious voice of the most revolutionary layers of the toilers will be trod by other vanguard fighters seeking a way forward, whatever the color of our skin.

In the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, author Jack Barnes—who interviewed

Malcolm in January 1965 for the *Young Socialist* magazine, and who is now national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party—makes the case that Malcolm was not only a leader of the oppressed Black nationality in the United States, he "was a revolutionary leader of the working class."

This is not the common view of Malcolm, but I believe it is the accurate one, and I want to concentrate on why. What did Malcolm have to say on three of the most fundamental questions of revolutionary working-class strategy that distinguished him from all other leaders of the struggle for Black rights?

First, Malcolm's political ideas went through not so much an evolution as multiple "revolutions" during the last year of his life, after he broke from the Nation of Islam in March 1964. As this occurred, he explained and acted with ever greater clarity on the conviction that the capitalist system itself was the fundamental problem African-Americans face. It could never provide equality and freedom. It could not be reformed.

"The system in this country cannot produce freedom for an Afro American," Malcolm told a meeting organized by readers of the *Militant* newspaper in

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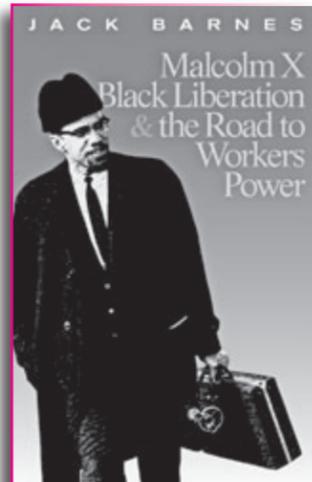
Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

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

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Example of Malcolm X

Continued from page 9

May of 1964. “It is impossible for this system, this economic system, this political system, this social system, this system, period.”

Second, Malcolm saw the fight to end racism as an international struggle. We are heading toward “a showdown between the economic systems that exist on this earth,” he said in a TV interview the month before his assassination. “I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation. I believe that there will be that kind of clash, but I don’t think that it will be based upon the color of the skin.”

This course led Malcolm to begin rethinking his identification of himself as a Black nationalist. In the 1965 *Young Socialist* interview, he described a discussion during his second trip to Africa with the Algerian ambassador to Ghana, whom he described as “a revolutionary in the true sense of the word.” The leaders of Algeria’s revolutionary government had fought and won a bloody independence war from France and were organizing workers and peasants to make inroads into capitalist property relations.

When Malcolm said his philosophy was Black nationalism, the Algerian ambassador “asked me very frankly, well, where did that leave him? He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances he was a white man. ... So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries, dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.”

So Malcolm said he had to do a lot of “thinking and reappraising” about Black nationalism. “And if you notice, I haven’t been using the expression for several months.” But he said he was still working to define the “overall philosophy I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country.”

Malcolm also changed his views on many other questions such as interracial marriage, the fight for women’s emancipation, and the separation of politics from organized religious adherence. Keep “your religion at home, in the closet,” he told a Black leadership conference in April 1964. “Keep it between you and your God.”

You’re living in “a time of revolution,” Malcolm told a young audience at Oxford University in Britain in December 1964. “The young generation of whites, Blacks, browns, whatever else there is. ... I for one will join in with anyone, I don’t care what color you are, as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on this earth.”

Malcolm supported the war of liberation being waged by the people of Vietnam against U.S. imperialism. He denounced the role of the U.S. government in the Congo as “criminal.”² He championed solidarity with the Chinese and Cuban revolutions.

In December 1964, when Che [Guevara] came to New York to address the United Nations, Malcolm invited Che to address a meeting in Harlem of the Organization of Afro-American Unity.³ Che accepted the invitation but in the end was not able to make it due to security conditions in New York.

Introducing Che’s message to the meeting, Malcolm told the audience,

“I love a revolutionary. And one of the most revolutionary men in this country right now was going to come out here” tonight. Noting the enthusiastic applause for Che’s solidarity message, Malcolm remarked, “It lets the man know that he’s just not in a position today to tell us who we should applaud for and who we shouldn’t applaud for.” We choose our own friends!

No to Democrats and Republicans

Third, Malcolm’s support for political independence from both capitalist parties, Democrat and Republican, distinguished him from all other leaders of the struggle for Black rights.

During the 1964 U.S. presidential campaign, when Republican Barry Goldwater ran against the Democratic president Lyndon Johnson, virtually every political current claiming to speak on behalf of workers and the oppressed—with the exception of Malcolm X and the Socialist Workers Party—campaigning for Johnson on grounds he was the “peace candidate,” or at least the “lesser evil” to the supposedly “fascist” Goldwater.

While in Africa in July 1964, Malcolm heard that a “summit” meeting of civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr., had called for an end to demonstrations until after the elections. Malcolm called a news conference to say they had “sold themselves out and become campaign managers in the Negro community for Lyndon B. Johnson.” These misleaders were subordinating the struggle of the Black masses for equal protection under the law in order not to “embarrass” Johnson with protests.

Commenting on Johnson’s reelection in November 1964, Malcolm told a Paris meeting that the U.S. rulers “knew that the only way people would run toward the fox would be if you showed them a wolf. ... [They] had the whole world—including people who call themselves Marxists [he was referring to the Communist Party USA, among others]—hoping that Johnson would beat Goldwater. ... Those who claim to be enemies of the system were on their hands and knees waiting for Johnson to get elected—because he is supposed to be a man of peace. And at that moment he had troops invading the Congo and South Vietnam!”

Shortly afterward it was rumored Johnson would appoint a Black person to his cabinet, which he eventually did, the first ever. Rejecting the fraud, Malcolm told a meeting in New York organized by supporters of the *Militant* newspaper, “Yes, they have a new gimmick every year. They’re going to take one of their boys, black boys, and put him in the cabinet, so he can walk around Washington with a cigar—fire on one end and fool

- Washington, together with the Belgian imperialists, organized a coup in September 1960 that overthrew Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the newly independent Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lumumba was assassinated in January 1961 with U.S. and Belgian complicity. By early 1964 a guerrilla movement that took up the banner of Lumumba was making headway. Washington sent commando troops and B-26 bombers to support the counterrevolutionary regime.
- The Organization of Afro-American Unity was set up by Malcolm X in June 1964 and was open to all Blacks committed to Malcolm’s social and political goals.



Militant/Francisco Cambero

Dec. 10, 2011, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., march calls for restoring rights of those convicted of felonies. For Blacks in the U.S. “equal protection under the law is still to be won,” said Musa.

on the other.”

There has been considerable discussion in recent years on whether there was a political convergence between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King in the last months of Malcolm’s life.

In truth, there was a divergence on the fundamental question for working-class revolutionists. King was convinced capitalism could be reformed. He saw the election of one set of capitalist politicians over another as a step forward. Malcolm rejected that course unconditionally. He knew the oppressed and exploited had to make a revolution. He and King were on opposite class trajectories.

The Jim Crow system of legal segregation in the U.S. was brought down by the revolutionary action of a mass Black-led proletarian movement in the streets. Workers who were Black, many of them veterans of World War II and the Korean War, played an indispensable if largely unacknowledged part in those battles.

The changes made possible by that momentous victory engendered new confidence and combativity among African-Americans. This powerful mass movement led the U.S. rulers to “see” it was in their interests to incorporate a substantial layer of Americans who were Black into the well-remunerated ranks of those who administer their system of oppression and exploitation. That’s what Barack Obama’s election as U.S. president registers.

There is now a significant layer of Blacks in the professional and middle classes who have no contact with productive labor. Like their white-skinned counterparts, they stand in fear of the working class, especially young African-American workers, who are deemed “dangerous people.” While not themselves part of the capitalist class, these privileged layers are used by the rulers

to help mask the deepening class divisions in U.S. society, including among African-Americans. The breakdown of the criminal justice system in the U.S. and deliberate creation of a sizeable pariah layer of the working class are as essential to the capitalist system as are the Barack and Michelle Obamas.

Growing workers resistance

What is changing in the U.S. today is the growing resistance among small but important sections of workers to the consequences of the rulers’ deepening economic crisis. That is what underlies the outpouring of tens of thousands to condemn the lynching of Trayvon Martin. It is what workers battling employer lockouts at factory after factory across the country represent.

Workers who are African-American will be in the forefront of these battles, as they have been in every significant struggle in the interests of working people since the Civil War and eradication of slavery on U.S. soil. Out of these battles forced upon us by the rulers’ crisis, the revolutionary leadership and organization necessary to put an end to the dictatorship of capital can be forged. This is the only road along which exploitation and oppression in all its forms will be eradicated.

This is the road Malcolm fought for: a clear understanding that the capitalist system can’t be reformed, it must be overturned; that the oppressed and exploited must chart our own political course independent of and against the capitalists’ parties, courts, cops, and government; that our struggle is international; that in the struggle to end this system, by any means necessary, we will realize our own self-worth and potential as human beings.

This is the road that lies before us.

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No worker has to die!

The following is a statement released May 1 by Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 13th District in New York.

Life and limb of working people is at stake as the deepening crisis of capitalist trade and production worldwide drives the bosses to speed up work, lengthen hours, slash wages and boost profits at all costs—on construction sites and oil rigs and in coal mines, fields, and factories.

According to official U.S. government statistics, more than 4,500 workers were killed on the job in 2010. More than 3 million were reportedly injured or made sick. And, as any industrial worker can attest, this figure is grossly understated by the bosses and the functionaries of their government.

James Lomma, the owner of New York Crane and Equipment Corp., taunted the victims' families after the Manhattan Supreme Court threw out all charges against him in the deaths of two construction workers. This brazen performance is but a reflection of the deep-seated contempt the propertied rulers have for working people worldwide.

The same disdain for workers is behind the violence and killings by the rulers' cops acting as judge, jury and executioner in working-class neighborhoods across the country today.

The rapid and deep contraction in the construction industry is among the consequences of the capitalist crisis and drives the bosses' anti-union assault and "productivity" cost-cutting measures deeper.

More than 1,000 construction workers in the U.S. have been killed on the job yearly over the last decade. In New York alone two construction workers, Santos Garcia and Michael Simermeyer, were killed and six others injured in April, following the death of Juan Ruiz in a building collapse in March.

U.S. construction bosses have increasingly hired immigrant workers, who come from countries where the value of labor power is lower, in an effort to divide the workforce, drive down wages and toss aside safety concerns.

"Workers were more likely to die on construction jobs if they were foreign-born, Hispanic, spoke a

language other than English, or worked for a nonunion crew," the *Boston Globe* reported, citing Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

There is one and only one answer:

working-class solidarity and union power. This underscores the life-and-death need for the labor movement to champion the rights of workers who are foreign-born, with or without "proper papers." May Day, a day of action to advance international working-class solidarity around the world, has been reclaimed in recent years by immigrant workers who have proved a combative section of our class and whose breadth of experiences in the international class struggle strengthen our ranks.

The Socialist Workers Party says: *No construction worker has to die!* Work can be done safely. But only workers have an interest in making it so. This means organizing unions and using union power to enforce safety by fighting for as much control over working conditions as we're strong enough to impose.

These are also political questions. Working people need to break from the Democrats and Republicans, who from City Hall to Washington speak for the employing class.

Workers are beginning to resist the bosses' deepening assaults on us—from strike battles like that at Caterpillar in Joliet, Ill., to defense of immigrant rights and fights against cop violence from Sanford, Fla., to Pasadena, Calif. Working people face a common enemy—the capitalist class. The road forward is the fight to wrest power from their hands, opening the door to a world based not on maximizing profits of a few but on the needs of toiling humanity.



Militant/Harry D'Agostino
Róger Calero, right, campaigns with Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power in Harlem, N. Y., August 2010.

Boss walks in NY construction deaths

Continued from front page

said outside the courtroom after the verdict, reported the *New York Times*. Her son Donald Leo, 30, was the crane operator and one of two workers killed. The other, Ramadan Kurtaj, 27, was crushed by the falling crane while doing plumbing work. He died later in the hospital.

"We are beyond outraged," Kurtaj's cousin Xhevaire Sinanaj told the *Militant*. "How much more proof do you need?"

The verdict came three weeks after a crane collapse in Manhattan April 3 killed one and injured three. Another construction worker was killed on the job the same day in Brooklyn.

The crane collapse that killed Leo and Kurtaj occurred May 30, 2008, during work on a high-rise building on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The turntable, a metal bearing that allows the boom and cab to pivot, cracked. Everything above, including the operator's cab and the boom, crashed into a nearby building and then fell 140 feet.

The cracked bearing was first discovered in 2007 and sent out for repair. Four weeks after it was put back into operation it cracked again, causing the collapse.

Prosecutors argued the repair was so shabby, it was an accident waiting to happen. Lomma blamed Leo, claiming he was trying to lift something too heavy.

Tibor Varganyi, a former employee who pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide in October for the collapse, testified against Lomma, saying he was under pressure from his boss to get the job done fast.

Lomma, owner of the New York Crane and Equipment Corp., one of the biggest crane providers in the Northeast, was charged with two counts of manslaughter, two counts of criminally negligent homicide and

one count each of assault and reckless endangerment. He was cleared of all charges by Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Daniel Conviser.

"These corporate guys always do that, they pick a judge," said Bernadette Panzella, lawyer for the Leo family.

"It's a shameful verdict," Susan Karten, lawyer for the Kurtaj family, said in a phone interview.

On March 15, 2008, two and a half months before the death of Leo and Kurtaj, a crane owned by Lomma's company collapsed, also on Manhattan's East Side, killing seven and injuring two dozen. In 2010 rigging contractor William Rapetti was charged with manslaughter and four other counts for allegedly using too few and faulty straps. He was also acquitted by a judge in a nonjury trial.

Donald Leo Sr., Leo's father, is also a crane operator. Lomma "ran his cranes from one job to the next, with no preventative maintenance, only fixing things when they broke on the job site," he told the *New York Post*. "He literally got away with murder."

The day of the acquittal, Lomma taunted the victim's families by sending an email to their lawyers with a photo of one of his cranes hoisting NASA's Space Shuttle Enterprise onto the plane for transport from Washington, D.C., to New York.

"He's telling us, 'I got away with murder, I'm getting government contracts and I can't be touched,'" said Panzella, who noted Lomma's company operates some 300 cranes.

Neither Lomma nor his company has responded to requests from the *Militant* for comment.

Both families have filed civil suits against Lomma. The court will question him May 3 in preparation for the civil trial that Karten hopes will take place around May 15.

US strikes in Yemen

Continued from front page

men are "distinct from the FATA," an unnamed administration official told the *Wall Street Journal*. This is "not an all-out counterinsurgency campaign."

The number of attacks in Yemen escalated sharply. The CIA and JSOC have carried out 29 airstrikes in Yemen since December 2009, according to the Long War Journal website. Nearly half of them have occurred in the past two months.

Six strikes were conducted in April, two of which reportedly killed 13 people.

Last September, a U.S. drone strike in Yemen killed New Mexico-born Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen and Islamic cleric whom the White House publicly targeted for assassination as an alleged central leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. The following month another drone, supposedly by accident, killed al-Awlaki's 17-year-old son, Abdelrahman al-Awlaki, who was visiting his family's home in Shabwa province after his father's death. He became the fourth U.S. citizen killed by Washington's drone attack in Yemen.

These air assaults over past several years have become increasingly unpopular among toilers in Yemen. Obama's first known authorization of a missile strike in that country in December 2009 killed more than 40 Bedouins, many of them women and children, in the remote village of al-Majala in Abyan. Five months later another airstrike killed a tribal leader and deputy governor of Marib province, Jabir Shabwani, reported the *Atlantic*.

As these attacks have increased, "AQAP has grown stronger," reports the April 26 *Journal*, especially since the killing of Anwar al-Awlaki.

Expressing some hesitations about these assaults, an unnamed Yemeni government official told the *Journal*, "Every Yemeni is armed. So how can they differentiate between suspected militants and armed Yemenis?"

'Criminal' job checks

Continued from page 4

One in 12 Black men is in prison—one in three between the ages of 20 and 34 without a high school or GED diploma. The number of people with a record is inflated by the ubiquitous system of plea bargaining, in which more than 90 percent of those sent to prison are bludgeoned into copping a plea under threat of increasingly draconian sentences.

At the same time, more than 90 percent of bosses conduct criminal background checks, the EEOC reported, up from 51 percent in 1996. Companies today have access to an explosion of online databases, dozens of search companies offering low-cost record searches and hiring through temp and other staffing agencies. Data stuffed in the files of these outfits is notoriously unreliable, recording arrests that were later dropped, convictions that were expunged, misdemeanors as felonies, cases of mistaken identity, and more.

The ruling has generated some complaints from bosses concerned that it will make it easier for them to be sued for discrimination.

"Logistically, it's going to be very difficult for employers who have a large amount of attrition to have an individual discussion with each and every applicant," Pamela Devata, a Chicago lawyer who represents companies against EEOC complaints, told the Associated Press.

Corrections

In the article "Conference Discusses Legacy of Struggle by Blacks in Cuba" in the May 7 issue of the *Militant*, Raúl Suárez was incorrectly identified. He is the founder and director of the Martin Luther King Center in Havana.

In the article "Gov't Rounds Up 3,100 Immigrants Nationwide" in the April 23 issue, the name of the director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was misspelled. His name is John Morton.

In the photobox "'Free Fumiaki Hoshino,' Japanese Political Prisoner," in the April 30 issue, the woman speaking in the photo was incorrectly identified as Akiko Hoshino, wife of Fumiaki Hoshino.