

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Herman Wallace fought
frame-up, 41 years in solitary**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 37 OCTOBER 21, 2013

Socialist Workers candidates 'laser focused on labor issues'



Militant photos: left, Cecelia Moriarity; right, Mary Martin

An editorial in the Sept. 30 *Seattle Times* explained why it would not endorse John Naubert, (in photos above), Socialist Workers Party candidate for Seattle Port Commissioner, Position 2. "Factory worker John Naubert is a self-described communist more laser focused on labor issues than the Port's broader issues," the paper said.

The same is true of the more than two dozen workers running for office on the SWP ticket in nine U.S. cities. These candidates and their supporters are putting forward a socialist platform in the interests of working people. They provide an example of the need and possibility of workers to organize in politics independent of the Democrats and Republicans, the twin parties representing the interests of the propertied rulers. And they explain the need for working people to organize and fight along a course toward conquest of political power.

Right, the socialist Port Commissioner candidate talks with workers at a March 8 International Longshore and Warehouse Union rally in Vancouver, Wash. Left, while running for U.S. Senate in 2010, Naubert speaks at a demonstration in Seattle that included contingents opposed to deportations of immigrants.

— EMMA JOHNSON

US warships stand ready off Syria as media plays up 'peace' talk plans

BY JOHN STUDER

While most of the big-business media coverage on Syria is focused on the Washington-Moscow negotiations and plans for a possible U.N.-sponsored "peace" conference in November, *USA Today* reported Sept. 23 that

the Assad regime "still has the attention of a key America audience: The U.S. Navy."

Defense Secretary John Kerry praised Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for progress in the deal brokered by Moscow toward decommissioning the Syrian military's chemical weapons — at least those not moved out of the country or otherwise hidden — as "a credit to the Assad regime." Meanwhile, armed forces backing the Assad government are stepping up a series of sieges aimed at crushing resistance in the suburban neighborhoods of Moadhamiya and Zamalka, both of which were hit by sarin gas attacks Aug. 21.

The U.S. has deployed a sizable naval armada around Syria. Five destroyers, an unspecified number of submarines and the USS San Antonio, an amphibious troop-landing vessel carrying 600 Marines, are off Syria's Mediterranean coast. A Strike Group led by the nuclear-powered USS Nimitz aircraft carrier was diverted to the Red Sea in September.

Washington also deployed to the Red Sea the USS Kearsarge, a large-deck amphibious warship armed with 16 Harrier and Osprey aircraft, heli-

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DC cops, agents kill Miriam Carey in cold blood

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Media across the country sought to rationalize a cold-blooded murder when Washington, D.C., cops and Secret Service agents put a hail of bullets through Miriam Carey's car door Oct. 3. "Look how restrained they are," said a reporter in a CNN video showing cops with drawn weapons surrounding Carey's car outside a White House barrier.

When Carey, 34, a dental hygienist from Stamford, Conn., ran into the barrier, uniformed and plainclothes cops and federal agents surrounded the car with drawn weapons. She fled, and officers fired several rounds at

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Workers pay price as rulers debate budget, 'shutdown'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

On Oct. 1 the U.S. government "shut down" over disagreements concerning the onset of Obamacare the same day. Payments to programs and government workers not deemed "essential" were halted. Some programs, like the Pentagon, anti-terrorism spy programs and Social Security keep chugging along.

Workers have no responsibility for how the political representatives of the propertied rulers decide or run their budget, but their "shut down" effects millions of us and we should

COMMENTARY

fight to stop the layoffs and cuts to programs workers need.

They run their state to maintain and defend capitalist social relations against competitors abroad and against workers and farmers at home. That's why such a big part of their budget goes to the military, the spies, the cops, the courts and the prisons.

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Support grows for prisoners' right to read the 'Militant'

BY JOHN STUDER

The *Militant's* fight against efforts by prison authorities in Florida to withhold the paper from workers behind bars is beginning to gather support.

"Journalists have not only a right but an obligation to report on matters of public concern and political significance," begins an Oct. 9 statement

**SUPPORT RIGHTS OF
WORKERS BEHIND BARS!**
Join the fight, see appeal p. 4

from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "Recent articles by the *Militant* and other news outlets about a hunger strike and conditions in California prisons exemplify this duty."

On Oct. 2 the Florida Department of Corrections informed Benjamin Stevenson, the Florida American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing the *Militant*, that the department's Literature Review Committee

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Join effort to win 2,500 'Militant' subscribers during int'l campaign!

BY EMMA JOHNSON

On Oct. 12 the *Militant* kicks off an international campaign to win 2,500 new and renewing subscribers. We call on readers to join in the eight-week effort and help boost your area on the scoreboard that will be printed each week as supporters around the world report on progress to bring the drive home by Dec. 10.

Participants in the drive will bring

US Special Forces carry out raids in Somalia, Libya

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the most recent example of the White House's penchant for use of hunter-killer tactics, Special Operations forces carried out raids in Libya and Somalia Oct. 5.

Army Delta Force operatives kidnapped alleged al-Qaeda leader Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, commonly referred to as al-Libi, outside his home in Tripoli in broad daylight. That same day Navy Seals attacked a residence in the coastal town of

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the socialist newsweekly to working people, whose lives and outlook are shaken by the crisis of capitalism — from big cities to small towns and rural areas, from coal mines to garment factories, from the U.S. and Canada to the U.K., Australia and New Zealand.

As in other recent subscription efforts the heart of the campaign will be selling door to door in working-class neighborhoods. Supporters of the paper will also be selling as they join labor struggles and social protests — from fights against police brutality to defense of women's right to choose

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Marches protest UK gov’t cuts to health care services

BY PAUL DAVIES

MANCHESTER, England — Some 50,000 people from around the United Kingdom marched past the governing Conservative Party’s annual conference here Sept. 29 to protest ongoing cuts to the national health care system and other issues.

The government is moving ahead with its decision to close 10 percent of emergency departments and maternity wards and 6 percent of pediatric units. There are 6,000 fewer nurses now than three years ago.

The cuts take place in the context of assaults on workers’ unions, wages and jobless benefits. While official unemployment stands at 7.7 percent, the impact of the world crisis on jobs is manifest in a record high number forced into part-time work and an explosion in “casual” work through employment agencies. Officially, real wages dropped an average of nearly 3 percent annually between 2010 and 2012.

Labour Party leaders and their backers in the union officialdom used the action to paint Labour as defenders of the National Health Service. The opposition party held the government for 13 years until the most recent parliamentary elections in 2010, when it was taken by the Conservative (Tory) Party in a coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

Organized by the Trades Union Congress labor federation, the march drew health workers and other trade unionists, groups campaigning against cuts at hospitals and students.

Labour Party health spokesperson Andy Burnham told demonstrators that

if elected, Labour would repeal the 2012 Health and Social Care Act, which expands competition from private health companies and puts local doctors in charge of budgets in their area. These changes are designed to make cost a weighty factor in medical decisions and weaken national wage scales and bargaining for health workers. In a process that began in the early 1990s, under both Conservative and Labour governments, NHS hospitals became self-financing and increasingly reliant on private investment.

“Last October we were given 90 days notice, dismissed and then re-employed with a new company, Future Directions,” said Andy Taylor, one of five dozen striking care workers for the disabled from Rochdale who took part in the demonstration.

“Our pay was cut 20 percent, sick pay and overtime rate ended and holiday entitlement halved,” said his co-worker Karen Astin.

The day before several thousand marched to protest cuts to maternity and pediatric units at Stafford Hospital. “Two thousand women give birth every year at Stafford,” said Anne Hobbs, a Stafford Labour councilor and health care worker. “They would be forced to travel out of town.”

Continuing an “efficiency savings” program of cuts initiated under the Labour government, the current Tory-Liberal coalition aims to cut £20 billion (\$32 billion) by 2015, including through a wage freeze on health care workers.

Twenty-nine members of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union from



Militant/Paul Davies

Health care workers on strike in Rochdale, England, joined Sept. 29 march in Manchester.

the Hovis bakery in Wigan took part in the protest, following strikes against moves to replace part of the workforce there with temporary workers.

The day after the demonstration, the Conservative Party announced that

the long-term unemployed will have to work for no pay or face losing their benefits — a measure that is part of a campaign to scapegoat workers without jobs, undermine solidarity and increase competition among workers.

Bakery workers in England push back move to replace jobs with ‘temp’ work

BY DAG TIRSEN

WIGAN, England — Some 220 workers at Hovis bakery here ended a series of strikes after pushing back — for now — the company’s union-busting scheme to lay off permanent union workers and hire replacements through an employment agency at lower wages and without any guaranteed hours.

In April the company laid off 26 workers, including the union’s branch secretary at the plant. Days later 24 others were hired on “zero hour” contracts.

On Aug. 28, members of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union started their first one-week strike.

The picket line was up 24 hours a day during the actions. Workers came in solidarity from other unions and workplaces across northwest England. On Sept. 16, for example, a delegation from Allied Bakeries in Liverpool brought £70 (\$112) collected on the shop floor.

During the second walkout strikers and supporters took part in a solidarity march that ended with a meeting by some 250 at Welly Labour Club.

“Our union is strong now and it is you who have done it, who have stood at the gate around the clock in the rain,” striker Paul Cotten told the crowd.

Additional speakers included other strikers, representatives from unions and political organizations and Lisa Nandy, Member of Parliament for the Wigan constituency.

After the first strike, the company offered permanent jobs to the 24 agency workers. When the third strike was about to start, the bosses negotiated a deal that included promises to minimize the use of agency workers. The 26 workers who were laid off in April did not get their jobs back.

“The main thing achieved was to bring the temporary workers on permanently,” said union branch secretary Nick Hughes. “We’re more confident now.”

According to a recent survey by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, agency workers on “zero hour” contracts have mushroomed to an estimated 1 million.

THE MILITANT

Countermobilize against fascists in Greece!

The ‘Militant’ reports on and backs the actions by working people and youth in Greece answering the murderous attacks by Golden Dawn fascists, who seek to build a movement with the aim of crushing the organizations of the working class as the class struggle deepens.

Sept. 25 protest against Golden Dawn.

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NEW READERS

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☐ \$35 for 1 year

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CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 12 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

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Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.
United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.
Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.
France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.
New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.
Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.
Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

abortion, and actions demanding release of the Cuban Five, Puerto Rican independence fighters and other political prisoners.

The subscription drive will coincide with campaigns by Socialist Workers Party and Communist League candidates in elections across the U.S. and beyond, offering a special opportunity to reach and involve workers, farmers and revolutionary-minded young people looking for a class-struggle road forward.

The candidates bring a socialist perspective, a working-class program, that answers who the “we” are in bourgeois politics and presents a working-class line of march toward power.

The *Militant* will continue to feature nine key books by Pathfinder Press on special offer with a subscription. (See ad on this page.) Supporters sold hundreds of these books on revolutionary working-class politics in the eight-week spring drive, including 150 copies of

The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free. Recent experiences from book fairs in Montreal and Brooklyn, New York, reflect a thirst for these important weapons.

The *Militant*’s fight against the Florida prison authorities’ impounding of the paper offers the opportunity to join in a fight to defend workers rights, particularly workers behind bars. And coverage of the international campaign to “Free the Cuban Five” will be a regular feature.

The *Militant* is proud about its growing number of subscribers behind bars — which stands at 86. Prisoners will continue to occupy an important row in the subscription chart, as they have for the last two drives.

“I received the notice that I have ‘2 issues remaining’ and I must renew my subscription,” wrote a prisoner in Florida by mail. “I want to stay updated on all social issues.”

Winning readers to renew is a very important feature of the campaign and we should take the lead from this fellow worker behind bars.

The *Militant* will publish the first scoreboard for the drive in its Nov. 4 issue.

Wash. pickers win support at festival, company bows out



Militant/Mary Martin

BURLINGTON, Wash. — On Oct. 5-6, the annual Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms was held here without the participation of Sakuma Brothers Farms. The company posted signs on its store and packing plant saying it was unable to attend this year. A similar notice was posted on the festival’s website.

Participants, who came to tour farms, buy fruit or pet animals, were welcomed by informational picket lines on all four corners near the highway exit. Pickets included members and supporters of Familias Unidas por la Justicia (Families United for Justice), the union representing berry pickers who work at Sakuma Farms. They are fighting for a contract with higher wages and better conditions as well as reinstatement of union leader Ramón Torres.

— MARY MARTIN

Cantata Pa (for) Oscar López Rivera

Special appearance by former Puerto Rican political prisoners Luis Rosa, Felix Rosa, Ricardo Jiménez, Adolfo Matos Antongiorgi, Alicia Rodríguez and Elizam Escobar. Music/poetry by numerous artists and musicians.

Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m.

Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture
450 Grand Concourse at 149th St., Bronx
Tickets: \$20

Sponsored by NYC Coordinator to Free Oscar López Rivera.
Tel: 646-299-6507 or 646-229-5133.

Socialist Workers Party launches \$100,000 fund drive

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Socialist Workers Party is launching its annual party-building fund, appealing for contributions from working people and others who support its aims to help finance its work. The nine-week drive runs from Oct. 12 to Dec. 17 with a goal of raising \$100,000.

Today we have entered a period of historic crisis for capitalism, a crisis worldwide that is still in its initial stages. In response, the Socialist Workers Party is bringing its communist program deeper and broader into the working class and working with others to increase readership of the *Militant* and books by Pathfinder

Press that draw on the working-class’s 150-year continuity of the struggle for power, clarify current political developments and help chart a course toward proletarian revolution.

The party and its supporters are introducing thousands of working people to its election campaigns, which help reach broader audiences with a socialist platform and provide an example of the need and possibility of an independent working-class political course and break from the parties of capitalist rule, the Democrats and Republicans.

Together with a small but growing vanguard of workers, the party is joining and building solidarity with working-class battles and important social struggles. Yet small in number and scope today, they reflect the bubbling underneath the surface.

The party is organizing to link up with other working-class fighters and recruit to its ranks. The SWP is today a nucleus of what will be decisive in building a mass revolutionary proletarian party in the future. It is an indispensable instrument for drawing together and educating a working-class vanguard that can lead working people and allies in coming class battles.

Through these experiences workers will gain the confidence, organization and discipline necessary to wrest political power from the capitalist exploiters and establish a workers and farmers government that will end the dictatorship of capital and join the worldwide fight for socialism.

SWP units and supporters nationwide are taking quotas to meet the national goal. The *Militant* will provide weekly reports along with a chart showing progress in the drive.

Contributions can be sent to the SWP address nearest you (see directory on page 8) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription

The Cuban Five

Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free
from pages of the ‘Militant’
\$3 with subscription (regular \$5)

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes
\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions

by Thomas Sankara
Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87
\$5 with subscription (regular \$10)

Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

See distributors on page 8

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

by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Cuba and Angola

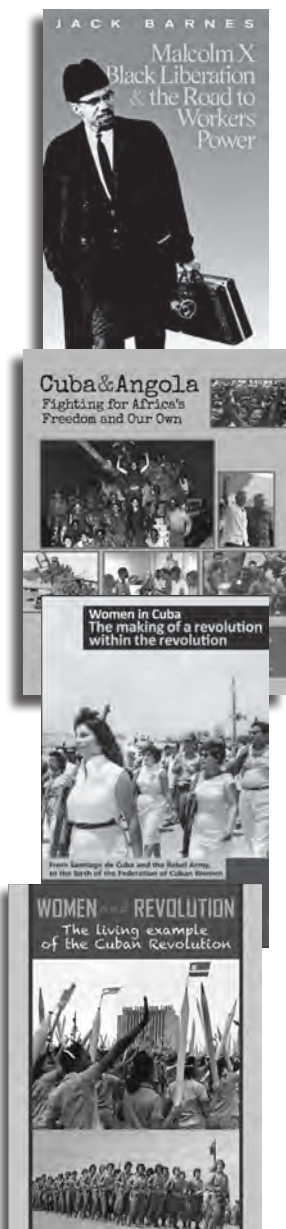
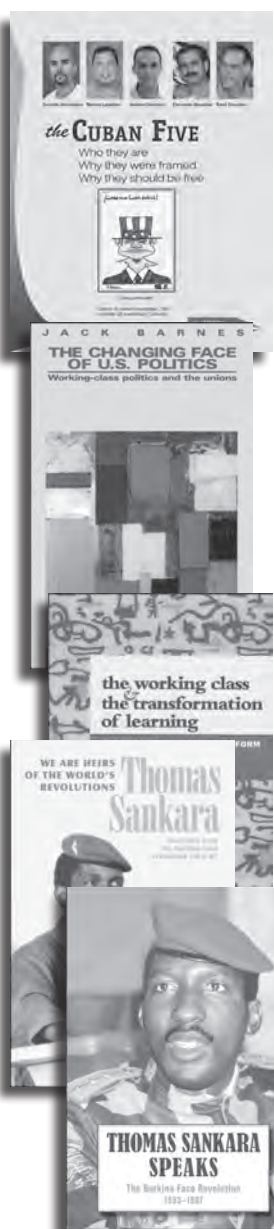
Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez
\$6 with subscription (regular \$12)

Women in Cuba

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)



Prisoners rights, ‘Militant’

Continued from front page

rejected the paper’s appeal and upheld the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution’s impoundment of the July 22 issue of the paper. They said the *Militant* would receive a final written decision from the Santa Rosa CI.

The *Militant* has 86 subscribers behind bars, including 35 in Florida and 15 in California. The decision affects all institutions of the Florida State prison system.

The issue was impounded by prison authorities Sept. 4, because of a front page article — “Calif. Prisoners Launch Hunger Strike Against Solitary Confinement, Abuses” — they claimed “encourages hunger strikes.”

“The article is written for a general audience,” the socialist newsweekly’s appeal said, “and nowhere does the writer ‘encourage’ anyone to do anything.”

The hunger strikes were widely covered in the press across the country, including in Florida. There have been no reports of any other papers being politically censored by prison officials, in Santa Rosa or anywhere else, because of their news coverage of the sizable prison protests.

The fact that the *Militant*, whose masthead describes it as “a socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people,” was singled out, the appeal says, is “explicable only by Santa Rosa CI’s hostility to the proclaimed or perceived political view-

point of *The Militant*.”

Since the appeal was filed, the *Militant* has received letters from two other prisoners, one more in Florida and another in Washington state, reporting that they had been denied copies of the paper at the same time.

The Florida inmate, a long-time subscriber, told the paper he hasn’t received an issue in over six weeks. The Washington prisoner reported he was denied three issues, the one dated July 22 and the next two issues with follow-up articles, “Calif. Prisoners Protest Solitary, Harsh Conditions” and “Calif. Prisoners Keep Up Hunger Strike over Solitary Confinement.”

‘News from outside important’

Defenders of the rights of workers behind bars as well as partisans of freedom of the press have started to speak out on behalf of the *Militant*’s fight to beat back prison censorship.

“News from the outside is important for prisoners, especially those in solitary,” Araceli Guizar in San Pablo, Calif., told the *Militant*. Guizar has a friend in solitary at Pelican Bay in California who participated in actions in support of the hunger strike. “After two or three weeks of the hunger strike, the guards told my friend there was almost no support for the strike outside the prison. But with newspapers coming from the outside, the prisoners have a better chance to learn the truth.

“The prisoners have a right to receive newspapers with different points of view,” Guizar said. “To get news in the *Militant* about the five Cubans and other struggles.”

“Readers in all incarceration statuses deserve equal access to the *Militant*’s unique in-depth, ground-level coverage of working people’s issues,” Ashley Chausuk, who lives in San Leandro, Calif., and also has joined protests in support of the California hunger strikers, told the paper. “By denying access to the *Militant*, the Florida prison authority is severing a vital resource to the incarcerated individual.”

“Just as the First Amendment protects journalists’ right to truthfully report on matters of public concern, it protects prisoners’ rights to re-

Militant Labor Forum in Omaha discusses FBI assault on workers rights, targeting of Somalis after Kenya attack



Militant/Laura Garza

OMAHA, Neb. — “The FBI and other cop agencies have used the recent attack by al-Shabab in Kenya to step up their campaign of harassment, probes, spying and frame-ups against the Somali community in the U.S.,” said Frank Forrestal at a Militant Labor Forum Oct. 5 attended by 16 people at the Socialist Workers Party campaign hall here. “These probes represent not just attacks on working people who are Somali, but on the rights of all workers. As the capitalist crisis and class struggle deepen, these same methods will be used more and more against working-class militants, unionists and others.”

— LAURA GARZA

ceive that information,” the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press statement says, “so long as the material does not interfere with the safety and security. The article in question, a routine report about important events in a California prison, appeared to pose no such threat.”

“We intend to press this fight,” *Militant* editor Doug Nelson said in response to the report of the rejection by Correction Department authorities. “This is a fight for the rights of working people, both inside and outside prison walls. We think we can win broad support on those grounds and the need to protect freedom of the press.”

“The explosion in the numbers of workers locked up and locked down after being run through the plea-bargain frame-up factory over the last several decades is part of the propertied rulers’ broader offensive against the working class,” Nelson said. “It’s in this context that the number of *Militant* subscribers in prisons have been growing. These

readers are important to us, as are the struggles of prisoners for dignity in face of a myriad of abuses designed to degrade, demoralize and divide working people. We will defend the ability of workers behind bars to follow, discuss and participate in politics.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ILLINOIS

Chicago

FBI Uses Kenya Shooting to Widen Assault on Workers Rights — ‘Terror’ Probes Target Somalis in Minneapolis. Sat., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party.

Fraud of Health Care Reform Under Capitalism: Why Workers Should Fight for Free Health Care from Cradle to Grave. Speaker: Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. *Both events at 806 W. Washington Blvd., Room 202. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.*

IOWA

Des Moines

Why Workers Need Health Care, Not Health Insurance. Speaker: Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council. Fri., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

U.S. Gov’t Political Police Use Kenya Shooting to Widen Assault on Political Rights: ‘Terror’ Probes Target Somalis in Minneapolis. Speaker: Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 18. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m.

Free Oscar López, Puerto Rican Independence Fighter in U.S. Jailed for 32 Years! Program with former Puerto Rican political prisoners Luis Rosa, Ricardo Jiménez, Elizam Escobar, and Adolfo Matos Antongiorgi; Lourdes Lugo, niece of Oscar López; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 25. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *Both events at 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (use north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Back Fights of Syrian Toilers! No to U.S. War Threats! Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 18, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Road. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

US warships stand ready off Syrian coast

Continued from front page

copters and 3,000 Marines and naval troops. Washington used the Kearsarge to launch airstrikes against Libya in 2011.

Syrian government troops from the 4th Army Division and the paramilitary National Defense Force are “tightening the noose around one of the suburbs gassed by chemical weapons in August,” the Oct. 2 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

There are some 12,000 people in Moadhamiya, near Damascus. “We won’t allow them to be nourished,” one paramilitary commando told the *Journal*.

The neighborhood has been without electricity or telephone service for months and water supplies are running short. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has made numerous efforts to bring food to the area, but has been rebuffed by government forces each time.

It’s the same story in Zamalka, a suburb in Ghouta where pro-government

shelling and sniper fire comes in daily.

Workers there have organized a network of committees to take on medical care, communications, humanitarian relief, education, sanitation and “something that approximates the rule of law,” Reuters reported Oct. 4. With all the schools bombed out by the regime, residents have organized “revolutionary education” centers.

Roughly one-third of Syrians have been forced out of their homes since the Assad regime launched its scorched-earth assaults to crush anti-government protests by workers, peasants and youth beginning in 2011. More than 2 million have been driven out of the country.

In September 2012 there were 300,000 refugees. There were 1 million in March and 2 million in September this year.

More than 1 million have fled to Lebanon where today roughly one out of every four people is Syrian.

Some 600,000 are in Jordan, making up 10 percent of the population, 120,000 in the U.N.’s Zaatari camp on

the Syrian border. Rents in the capital Amman have doubled. The population of the town of Mafraq has doubled to 250,000. The Jordanian monarchy has asked Washington to quietly build up its military presence in the country.

Half a million Syrian refugees are in Turkey and 100,000 in Egypt. Some 200,000 Syrian Kurds have gone to Iraq, many fleeing stepped-up attacks by Islamist Jihadists seeking to carve out territory.

In Syria, entire industries have come to a standstill. Three-quarters of the factories in Aleppo, the country’s most industrial city, are no longer operating. Textile, one of Syria’s largest industries, has lost \$88 million in destroyed plant and production.

The bulk of Syrian capitalists continue to back Assad. “They look at the countryside and think: What if these people win?” Joshua Landis, a U.S. professor, told the *New York Times*. “Are they going to respect capitalism? Are they going to preserve our wealth?”

Miami: SWP campaign joins actions for Cuban Five, against cop brutality

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MIAMI — “You got my vote,” said Manuel Pages after Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, showed him campaign literature at a car caravan here Oct. 5 to demand release of the Cuban Five, revolutionaries who were framed up and imprisoned by the U.S. government for 15 years (see article on page 6).

“Washington refuses to free the Five because of its hatred for the Cuban Revolution and its fear of the example it provides for toilers worldwide,” Baumann said.

Pages purchased a subscription to the *Militant* and the Spanish edition of two Pathfinder books: *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own* and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*.

Supporters of the socialist candidate brought four others to participate in the caravan protest, including two who were joining an action on behalf of the Five for the first time.

Baumann, a 27-year-old warehouse worker, has been active in solidarity with taxi drivers fighting attacks on their livelihood and dignity. Drivers organized by the New Vision Taxi Drivers Association turned out at a “Budget Town Hall” meeting in Little Haiti Aug. 27 to protest proposals by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez that would force them to install credit card machines in their cabs, obey stricter dress codes and jump out and open doors for all passengers in order to work at the city’s air and sea ports.

“I support the struggle of the taxi drivers, who have to pay a fee every time they leave the airport, work long hours and are continually abused by the police,” Baumann told the meeting.

“The county is not issuing the medals they’re required to,” allowing the owners to keep a tight monopoly, driver Joseph Bessard told Baumann when the socialist candidate visited the cab lot at Miami International Airport Sept. 25.

“The most important message of the SWP campaign is that we working people need to organize independent of the bosses and their twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans, to advance our interests,” Baumann said when some drivers asked why he was running.

Baumann and campaign supporters have joined protests demanding action against the Miami Beach police who killed Israel Hernández, 18, with a Taser shot Aug. 6, after catching him spraying graffiti on an empty building.

“Police brutality is endemic to capitalist society. We should fight for the arrest and prosecution of cops who kill and abuse working people,” Baumann told the *Militant*. “As I campaign, I urge workers to join with me Oct. 6 in a protest march called for the two-month anniversary of Hernández’s killing.”

Sixteen people came to a meeting at the SWP campaign hall Sept. 27 to celebrate Baumann getting on the ballot and learn more about the campaign. For most, it was their first time there.

“What would you do as mayor?” asked Santiago Cely, who works at a nonprofit agency.

“I’d use the office to build solidarity with workers’ struggles and press for anything that would help break down divisions between workers fostered by the bosses and their government, and strengthen the confidence and mobilization of working people,” Baumann said. “We urge workers to fight for a big raise in the minimum wage and a government-funded public works program to provide millions of jobs for those thrown out of work as a result of the capitalist crisis.”



Militant photos by Naomi Craine

Tom Baumann, second from left, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami, discusses campaign’s communist platform with participants in Oct. 5 car caravan demanding release of Cuban Five. Inset, Baumann sells *Militant* subscription to Maria Garcia Sept. 28 after knocking on her door in Allapattah neighborhood.



Georgia Griffin-Rolle, a laid-off pharmaceutical worker who has been reading the *Militant* for a couple months, volunteered to join the effort to reach working people with the campaign and sell the paper.

“It’s important for working peo-

ple here to see their common interests with toilers around the world,” Baumann said. “In opposing any U.S. intervention in Syria, for example, we explain that Washington’s political and economic interests are diametrically opposed to those of fellow toilers there who have been pressing for political space, more rights and freedom under the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad.”

South Africa platinum miners strike against layoffs

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of miners went on strike against Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) in Rustenburg, South Africa, Sept. 27, to protest plans by the company to cut 4,800 jobs.

The world’s largest platinum producer, Amplats originally said it would cut 14,000 jobs, but revised its plans after workers and the government objected.

“We are for zero retrenchment,” Gaddafi Mdoda, an underground miner and branch secretary of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) at one of the four shafts the company wants to close, said in a phone interview from Rustenburg Oct. 5.

Amplats claims that the shafts it will close are unprofitable and that it is suf-

fering from “overcapacity.” The price of platinum on the world market is \$1,375 an ounce, double what it was in 2004, but below its peak of \$2,250 in 2008. The company is planning to cut jobs through a combination of voluntary severance, early retirement, attrition and layoffs.

“We are not economists,” Mdoda said. “But we do know that Amplats has been producing platinum here for 30 years, making millions and millions in profits. And they are still producing as much as they can. The workers should not be the ones to be punished if the company has a problem.”

Mdoda was a leader of the two-month strike by 28,000 workers at Amplats for higher wages and better working condi-

tions last year that was part of a strike wave by more than 100,000 platinum, gold and other miners. The government-allied National Union of Mineworkers opposed the strikes. Since then AMCU has replaced the NUM as the majority union throughout South Africa’s platinum belt.

“The mines they are shutting down are where the strongest leadership came from during the 2012 strike,” Mdoda said. “If they shut them down, the militants will be dispersed.”

AMCU President Joseph Mathunjwa said the union is pressing Amplats to increase the number of workers eligible for severance and to lay off contract workers ahead of those it directly employs, according to South Africa’s *City Press*.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 21, 1988

HAVANA, Cuba — “They rob us everyday!” Cuban President Fidel Castro told delegates here at the closing session of the Third meeting of the Women’s Continental Front Against Intervention. Castro was referring to the U.S. and other imperialist banks and corporations exploiting Latin America and the Caribbean, especially through the crushing foreign debt imposed on the working people of the region.

In his address to the delegates, Castro devoted extensive time to the fight against the foreign debt, which is accelerating hunger, disease, unemployment, and homelessness for millions of working people on the continent.

“They plundered us in the past and they plunder us today,” he said. “They robbed us in colonial times, and they’re robbing us even more today.” Castro explained that “it’s impossible to pay the debt,” which in Latin America is now more than \$400 billion.



October 21, 1963

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 — “The members of the national committee of the Democratic Party are a bunch of hypocrites,” Clifton DeBerry, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Brooklyn Councilman-at-Large, told a street-corner rally in Brooklyn Oct. 12.

“They have the unmitigated gall,” said DeBerry, “to appeal to Negroes with a voter registration campaign in Brooklyn while leaders of their own party — including members of the national committee itself — are using force, violence and every dirty trick they can think of to stop Negro voter-registration drives in Mississippi and Alabama.”

“Black people here in Brooklyn should register to vote all right,” said DeBerry, “and they should do so 100 percent. But they don’t have to register as member of the party of Eastland, Wallace, Kennedy and Barnett. They can register independent.”



October 22, 1938

At the moment when representatives of the Bolshevik-Leninists of all countries, gathered together in an international conference, are constituting the Fourth International (World Party of Socialist Revolution), their thoughts and their revolutionary greetings go first of all to their comrades who everywhere in the world are victims of repressions of capitalism and totalitarian dictatorships.

Our cadres are as yet few and young; but already numerous are those of our comrades who lie in prisons or concentration camps established throughout the world by rotting bourgeois regimes and reactionary governments.

None of these repressions, these tortures, these assassinations, shall stop us, for our task is laid out for us by history, and not by the activities of police or of state terror-machines, no matter how powerful and totalitarian.

Today’s sacrifice is tomorrow’s guarantee of triumph.



See page 3 for special price

Car caravan through Miami demands ‘Free Cuban Five!’

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MIAMI — “We’re here to demand that the four of the Cuban Five who are still in prison be released now,” Andrés Gómez told dozens of people who came out for a car caravan through the streets of southwest Miami Oct. 5. Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González were framed up by the U.S. government 15 years ago, after coming to South Florida to keep tabs on rightist paramilitary organizations that have carried out murderous attacks against the Cuban Revolution and its supporters in Cuba, the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

“Tomorrow marks the 37th anniversary of the bombing of the Cubana Airlines plane. So we’re also organizing against that kind of terrorism,” Gómez added. He noted that Luis Posada Cariles, a U.S.-trained mercenary who organized the 1976 airline bombing that killed all 73 people aboard Flight 455, still walks free on the streets of Miami. In 1998 Posada bragged in a *New York Times* interview about his role in a string of bombings of Cuban hotels, restaurants and dance clubs the year before.

Gómez invited participants to join a delegation that will take part in the Ninth International Colloquium for the Freedom of the Five, which will be held in Holguín, Cuba, Nov. 13-17. It will be the first of these annual conferences to include René González, who won his fight to return to Cuba in May.

The caravan of more than 40 cars drove through the streets of this largely working-class area for over an hour, receiving many honks of support as well as a few jeers and thumbs down. It was organized by the Alianza Martiana, a coalition of Cuban-American organizations that oppose U.S. government attacks on Cuba and has campaigned to free the Cuban Five.

Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, took part in the caravan. “We point to

the Five as examples to be emulated. They are fighting for the interests of working people in Cuba and here,” Baumann told a reporter from Radio Miami before the caravan took off.

“This action is important to let people in the United States know that there are five men who are prisoners for fighting against terrorism, that they are good people, not spies,” said Samuel Aranda. “The problem is people are misinformed by the media.” Aranda, who works as a maintenance worker, moved here from Cuba a little over a year ago and heard about the caravan on the radio.

Kian Seara, a student at Florida International University whose family came here from Cuba soon after the 1959 revolution, was also taking part in his first action in support of the Five. “There’s a lot of lies and rumors about Cuba, and it’s hard to find out what’s true,” he told the *Militant*. “People who are critical of the revolution, like Yoani Sánchez, are given lots of press time. Those who organize events like this are kept in silence, or sometimes worse.” He said he thinks it is important to find ways to inform people more about the case of the Cuban Five.

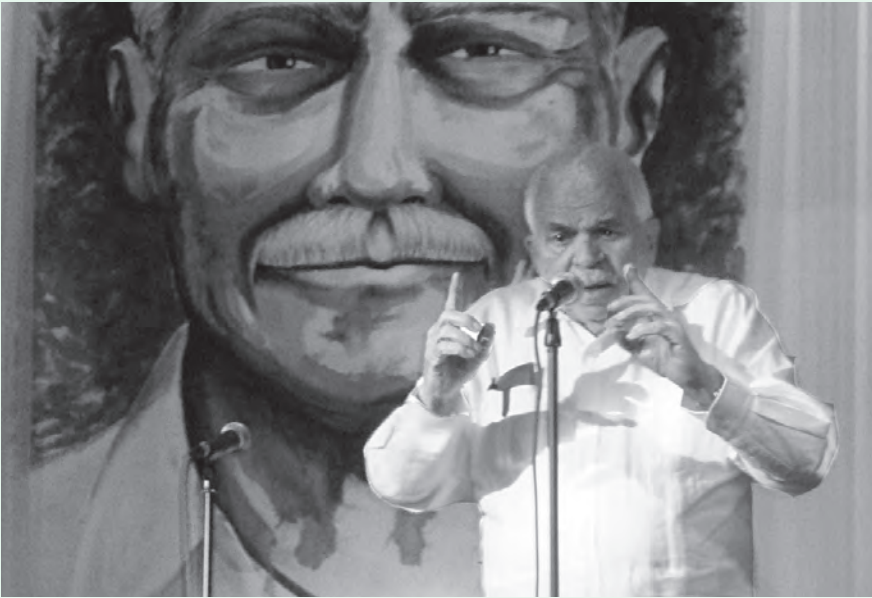
Angola war conference highlights role of Cuban internationalism

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

TORONTO — A colloquium on “Africa’s Unknown War: Apartheid Terror, Cuba and Southern African Liberation” held at University of Toronto Sept. 27-28 commemorated the 25th anniversary of the March 1988 battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola, where Cuban, Angolan and Namibian combatants dealt a crushing defeat to the invading army of the white supremacist South African regime — a victory that opened the door to the liberation of southern Africa from the scourge of apartheid.

The event was hosted by the Caribbean Studies Program and sponsored by a broad array of academic and other organizations, including the

Philadelphia event discusses fight to free Oscar López



Militant/Janet Post

PHILADELPHIA — Rafael Cancel Miranda, a leader of Puerto Rico’s independence struggle who spent 28 years in U.S. prisons, was the honored guest at a dinner event here Sept. 28 commemorating the 145th anniversary of El Grito de Lares (Battle Cry of Lares). On Sept. 23, 1868, a revolt in the town of Lares raised the banner for Puerto Rican independence from Spain and abolition of slavery. The event of some 200 people was sponsored by the National Boricua Human Rights Network and the *Impacto Latino* newspaper. It promoted the campaign to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, who has been incarcerated in the U.S. for more than 32 years. Behind Miranda, speaking above, is a painting of López. Alicia Rodríguez, a Puerto Rican independence fighter who was framed up and imprisoned for 19 years also spoke. Greetings from Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly from February 1993 to February this year, were read by Luis Sanabria of the El Grito de Lares Committee.

— JANET POST

Canadian Network on Cuba, Canadian Union of Postal Workers and United Steelworkers.

One of the featured speakers was Jorge Risquet, who was Cuba’s chief diplomat at negotiations that ended South Africa’s occupation of Namibia.

Some 200 people turned out for a Friday evening showing of two documentaries on Cuba’s 16-year-long internationalist mission. Between 1975 and 1991 some 425,000 Cubans volunteered for duty in Angola, helping defend the newly independent nation against repeated South African invasions, which were backed by its allies in Washington London, Paris and Ottawa.

Saturday was devoted to four panels on the battle of Cuito Cuanavale by Risquet; Maria Elena Alvarez, professor of African History at the University of Havana; Piero Gleijeses, professor at John Hopkins University in Washington, D.C.; and Isaac Saney, teacher at Dalhousie University and Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Gleijeses is author of *Vision of Freedom: Havana, Washington, Pretoria, and the Struggle for Southern Africa, 1976-1991*, to be released this fall. Saney is the author of *From Soweto to Cuito Cuanavale: Cuba, the War in Angola and the End of Apartheid*, to be released in 2014.

In the second half of 1987, South Africa’s forces launched a major invasion. “Angola was on the verge of a military disaster,” Saney said.

The Cuban government decided to send 50,000 reinforcements and Cuba’s best weapons to Angola. In a matter of a few months, the Cubans bogged down the South African forces at Cuito Cuanavale and built a major outflanking force that took control of Angola’s airspace and moved decidedly toward the Namibian border.

At that point, the South African gov-

ernment sued for peace as it was unable to wage simultaneous wars in Namibia and in South Africa’s Black townships, which were by that time swept by mass mobilizations against the apartheid regime.

In December 1988 the Angolan, Cuban and South African governments signed a peace accord in New York. As a result of Cuito Cuanavale, the speakers stressed, South African troops had been driven out of Angola, the Namibian people achieved their independence and a powerful boost was given to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in jail and in April 1994 he was elected South Africa’s president in that country’s first democratic elections.

“Don’t be overenthusiastic about Cuito Cuanavale,” argued John Saul, a political science professor at York University in Toronto. “By the early 1980s, global capitalism had already concluded that white-minority rule was no more useful to defend its interests in southern Africa.”

Gleijeses answered by quoting from a 1991 speech that Nelson Mandela gave in Cuba to thank the Cuban people for its contribution to the liberation of Africa.

“Your presence and the reinforcement of your forces in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale was of truly historic significance. The crushing defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for the whole of Africa,” Mandela said. “Cuito Cuanavale was a milestone in the history of the struggle for southern African liberation! Cuito Cuanavale has been a turning point in the struggle to free the continent and our country from the scourge of apartheid!”

“Never has a small country done so much for another,” Cuban professor Alvarez said in her talk. “We are very proud of it!”

Who are the Cuban Five?



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with “conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information.”

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue aircraft that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana’s repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. His wife Adriana Pérez is barred from entering the United States.

All but René González remain in prison. He was allowed to return to Cuba in May this year, halfway through a three-year term of supervised release.

In solitary 41 years, Herman Wallace fought frame-up

Three days before he dies, judge orders his release for not getting fair trial

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Herman Wallace spent nearly a lifetime fighting his frame-up conviction of murder. He had spent more than 41 years in solitary confinement when a judge ordered his release Oct. 1 on the grounds that he did not receive a fair trial. Three days later, Wallace died from liver cancer at the age of 71.

Albert Woodfox, 66, convicted with Wallace, is still fighting from his 6-by-9-foot solitary cell in a Louisiana prison. Together with Robert King, 73, Wallace and Woodfox are known as the Angola 3 political prisoners, as a result of the work of those who for decades have campaigned for their freedom.

King arrived at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola in 1972. He, along with Wallace and Woodfox, became members of the Black Panther Party. King was released in 2001 after his conviction of killing a fellow inmate in 1973 was overturned and after spending 28 years in solitary confinement. Since his release, he has campaigned against solitary confinement and for release of all of the Angola 3.

"I'm glad they released Herman, but it's bittersweet," King said Oct. 7 in a phone interview from Austin, Texas. "It should have been done a long time ago and justice delayed is justice denied. But his voice will become louder in death."

Woodfox and Wallace arrived at Louisiana State Penitentiary, the nation's largest maximum security prison, in 1969 and 1971 respectively. They were placed in solitary on April 18, 1972, following a riot in which prison guard Brent Miller was killed. In 1972 all-male, all-white grand juries indicted the two for the killing. They were convicted in 1974. With the exception of a three-year period for Woodfox, the men have been in solitary ever since.

District Judge Brian Jackson in Baton Rouge, La., overturned Wallace's conviction Oct. 1 and granted his immediate release, ruling that his 1972 indictment and subsequent trial was a violation of his 14th Amendment rights, because there were no women on the grand jury. A grand jury re-indicted Wallace on the charges Oct. 3.

Wallace, Woodfox and King have always maintained their innocence and pointed to the political nature of their frame-ups.

"They pinned it on us, because we were militants, we were fighters, we were members of the Black Panther Party," King told the *Militant*. "There was no evidence linking us to the kill-

ings. We shed light on conditions in the prisons, the unconstitutional treatment of inmates."

A blood print at the murder scene did not match either of the two. DNA evidence that could potentially have cleared them was "lost" by prison officials. Multiple defense witnesses placed both far from the murder scene.

Miller's widow Teenie Verret is among those who don't believe Wallace and Woodfox killed her husband. "I've been living this for 36 years," she says in "In the Land of the Free," a documentary released in 2010. "And it just keeps going and going. And then these men, I mean, if they did not do this — and I believe that they didn't — they have been living a nightmare for 36 years."

In 1971, Wallace and Woodfox were among a group of inmates at Angola that founded one of the first prison chapters of the Black Panther Party. They organized hunger and work strikes for better conditions.

'Brought consciousness to prisoners'

"Herman and Albert started and I joined them, because I felt the need to struggle," King said. "We wanted to bring consciousness to our fellow prisoners that we are protected by due process, 14th Amendment and other constitutional grounds. And we adhered to that. The prison tried to impose punitive measures upon us for doing this, but we continued. And we were very successful. As a result Herman and Albert paid dearly for it — more than 40 years in solitary confinement."

Woodfox's conviction has been overturned three times, most recently on Feb. 13 due to a finding of racial discrimination in the selection of the grand jury. The first two decisions were reversed on

appeal; he is now awaiting a ruling on the third from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a 2008 deposition, Angola warden Burl Cain stated why he thought Woodfox should remain in solitary. "The thing about him is that he wants to demonstrate. He wants to organize. He wants to be defiant. ... [H]e is still trying to practice Black Pantherism and I would not want him walking around my prison because he would organize the young new inmates."

The harsh conditions continued after the men were moved — Wallace to Elayn Hunt Correctional Center in 2009 and Woodfox to David Wade Correctional Center in 2010.

When King was asked how he made it through nearly three decades of solitary confinement he answered, "My political conviction."

"I'm a Christian, I inherited that," he said. "But that's not what did it. It was when I became political, when I began to understand how society worked, how injustices are built into it. This gave me some buoyancy. I saw it as my duty to this political conviction to keep going, and I did. When I met the Panthers in prison, I was already ripe for the message."

"I thought that my cause, then and now, was noble," Woodfox says in a statement on the Angola 3 website. "They might bend me a little bit, they may cause me a lot of pain, they may even take my life, but they will never be able to break me."

"He's still in there, still fighting. He



Herman Wallace in Louisiana prison April 2013.

will hold out. But this goes beyond us, it's a growing movement against long-term solitary confinement," King said. "It's been our main focus and it's now Herman's legacy. We're a huge body of people, we're growing and becoming more vocal."

Arrested by NY cops, woman dies next day from lack of care

BY DAYANN MOLINA
MCDONOUGH

NEW YORK — On July 20 my god-sister Kyam Livingston was arrested by police from Brooklyn's 70th Precinct. The next day, she was dead after guards refused her request to see a doctor.

Livingston, 37, was picked up after her grandmother called police when the two had gotten into an argument. She was brought to the Brooklyn Central Booking jail to await a hearing for allegedly violating a protection order that forbade her to argue with her grandmother or drink alcohol in the apartment.

In the cell, Livingston experienced severe stomach pain and diarrhea and asked to see a doctor. Her request was ignored. Her condition worsened and according to witnesses she repeatedly requested medical care only to have the guards belittle her.

This ordeal went on for seven hours. The other inmates cleared a bench for Livingston, tied her hair back, and tried to tend to her and comfort her. Eventually, she went into convulsions.

The cops stereotyped her as some sort of derelict, calling her an "alcoholic," (as if that would be grounds for denying someone medical attention). Aleah Holland, a nurse who was one of some 15 women in the cell that night, told the *Daily News* that when women in the cell banged on the bars for help, officers told them to "shut up before we lose your paperwork."

"Let it play out," said another guard when she saw Livingston convulsing, according to Holland.

The police tried to cover up their fatal "mistake." They reached out to their press contacts and smeared the character of Livingston and her family. They reported she had attacked her grandmother in a drunken rage, when it had been only a verbal altercation (she was arrested coming out of the shower). And they said she died after going into "sud-

den" seizures without mention of the hours she pleaded for medical care.

The cover-up continues. Brooklyn Central Booking is riddled with security cameras recording what goes on in the cells, yet the New York Police Department claims there is no tape showing what happened.

This could happen to anyone detained by the police. If you get sick, you could be at the mercy of callous cops with hardened hearts who decide on their own whether you warrant or "deserve" medical treatment.

On Aug. 21, the family organized a vigil outside Central Booking with local clergy and community leaders. On Sept. 21 they initiated a rally and march in the Flatbush community where Livingston grew up and lived.

On Oct. 21 at 6 p.m., there will be another rally in front of Brooklyn Central Booking at 120 Schermerhorn St. Family and supporters of Livingston are demanding that the NYPD release any video footage from the cell and the names of the officers who refused her medical care, as well as prosecution of those responsible and an investigation into the filthy and abusive conditions at the New York City Central Booking jail.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/Justice4KyamLivingston>

For further reading ...

"Better sex offenders programs, better substance abuse programs, better job training programs for prisoners — these reforms are all designed to do the same thing as gangs in the prison yard and corruption in the cell blocks. Everything is organized to turn cons against one another, to reinforce the worst, dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to differentiate the incarcerated. The fight of the working class is the opposite."

— Jack Barnes from *Capitalism's World Disorder*

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Maurice Bishop: 'Fight is with imperialism, not US people'

Below is an excerpt from Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-83, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. Bishop was the central leader of the 1979 revolution in the Caribbean island of Grenada that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Eric Gairy and brought a workers and farmers government to power. Bishop became the nation's prime minister, using the government to deepen the mobilization, organization, education and class consciousness of the Grenadian masses.

But on Oct. 19, 1983, a Stalinist-inspired coup led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard murdered Bishop, overthrowing the revolution. This betrayal opened the door to a U.S. military invasion, which installed a pro-U.S. regime. This piece is from a July 15, 1980, interview with Bishop in St. George's conducted by Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

STEVE CLARK: One last question. What would you like to say to working people in the United States? To the Black community in the United States? What message would you like us to take back?

MAURICE BISHOP: First of all we would like to stress something that imperialism has been trying to use as a means



Maurice Bishop talks with nurses during 1979-83 Grenada revolution. Workers and farmers government deepened organization and class consciousness of the Grenadian masses.

of dividing and ruling—and this is that we have absolutely no quarrel with the American people. We have nothing at all against the people of America as a people.

Our quarrel is with the system of imperialism. Our quarrel, therefore, is with the American establishment and all its various manifestations—whether it's through the presidency or National Security Council or the State Department or the CIA or the powerful business lobby or the powerful media or whatever. That is who our quarrel is with. And particularly insofar as that establishment seeks to support by violence the right of their transnational corporations to continue to exploit and rape our resources. That is what our quarrel is with.

After all, more Americans come to our country every year than the entire population of Grenada—140,000 came by ship last year, and I'm not talking about those who came for stay-overs.

So that is not our quarrel and we want to make that clear. Because imperialism has been doing its best to try to sow all sorts of confusion in that area.

Likewise, when you come to the question of the Blacks and other oppressed minorities in America, obviously we have a particularly close feeling, given our own cultural background and our own history. There is a very close

sense of cultural identity, which the people of Grenada automatically feel for American Blacks and which we have no doubt is reciprocated by the American Black community.

Because our own struggle is internationalist, we have over the years been giving our fullest support to all international causes that demand such support. We see that as our internationalist duty.

Since the revolution, we have continued in that vein. We were the first country in the Western Hemisphere to recognize the Polisario Front; the second country in the world to recognize the provisional junta in Nicaragua on May 23 last year, fully three weeks before they finally won their victory; our open and consistent support to the PLO, for Puerto Rican independence, and so forth. That is our position.

And therefore we see the importance of progressive forces worldwide joining together. We see that struggle as being *one* struggle, indivisible. And what happens in Grenada, we recognize its importance for all struggles around the world. And we feel that on that basis, the progressive forces and democratic forces in America ought to give their support to our revolution also.

We certainly place a great deal of importance on the activity, the potential, and the possibilities for the Ameri-

can working-class movement. Both in terms of mobilizing and organizing to stop any draft movement, and in terms of the potential of doing mortal damage to the international capitalist and imperialist system from within the belly of the main imperialist power on earth.

And thirdly, in terms of the great possibilities for expressing solidarity with the revolutionary struggles around the world. Something they have done before and can do again. For example, mobilizing and organizing themselves to refuse to load ships heading for particular areas.

So, our basic message would be to get across this sense: That what we are struggling against is the system of imperialism. That we have the greatest respect for the people of America. That we feel a particularly close affinity to American Blacks and other oppressed minorities, to the working-class movement in America, toward progressive forces in America. That we certainly are willing to extend our solidarity with them in their struggles, and we certainly would hope that they would extend their own solidarity to us in our struggle.

Finally, our message would be: We would love to see them. We believe that it is very important that instead of reading the propaganda that is being circulated in America, they should come out to Grenada, come out to Cuba, come out to Nicaragua, and see for themselves. So that they can understand what is happening and as a result be in a better position to appreciate what is going on in this part of the world.

Let me add just one final thing. That is to say that we, without intending to be disrespectful, would very strongly recommend to the Black movement in America the importance of developing the firmest and closest links with the white working-class movement and the white progressive movement. Our feeling certainly is that in order to win that struggle inside of America, it's extremely important that all progressive forces get together and wage a consistent fight against the real enemy. Don't spend time fighting each other, debating trivialities. That's something I think is important and that I would like to get across in the message.

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Workers pay as rulers debate ‘shutdown’

Continued from front page

That’s why they are “essential.”

It is a trap for workers to get caught up in their debates on how to raise and allocate their budget to cover their ever-expanding administrative bureaucracy or pay the interest to wealthy bondholders or how much they should cut social programs, or anything else. They claim there is a shrinking pie and we should argue over who gets what piece, in order to deter working people from fighting for the interests of our class against theirs.

After Congress could not agree on a budget, the government laid off hundreds of thousands of government workers without pay and cut off funds for programs affecting millions of workers, disproportionately those with the lowest incomes, including Head Start and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. Many federal workers deemed “essential” are being forced to work without pay.

Here workers do have a big interest. We need to organize workers and our allies to fight for unemployment pay and health care for those laid off and for restoration of social programs slashed.

The shutdown occurred as the Republican Party majority in the House of Representatives sought to halt or at least postpone the Affordable Care Act, known as “Obamacare,” by blocking payments for it in the new fiscal year.

The promise of Obamacare is that it will provide health care to the tens of millions without access be-

cause they lack insurance.

But the reality is that Obamacare was set up as an alternative to universal government-funded health care. Instead, the Affordable Care Act sets up a profit boon for insurance companies while giving restricted health care to some and imposing high fees or penalties on others.

While the government did a partial shutdown, the press tried to get workers excited about an Oct. 17 deadline to raise the federal debt ceiling or trigger a U.S. government credit default on some of its \$12 trillion in bonds.

A default “has the potential to be catastrophic: credit markets could freeze, the value of the dollar could plummet, U.S. interest rates could skyrocket,” the Treasury Department wailed in an Oct. 3 report.

But the propertied rulers have no intention of damaging the “full faith and credit” of U.S. imperialism.

In case any of their Washington mouthpieces had forgotten this, a high-powered phalanx of 14 CEOs and executives from some of the largest U.S. banks, including J.P. Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Citigroup and Wells Fargo trooped down to the Capitol Oct. 2 to set them straight. “There’s a precedent for a government shutdown. There’s no precedent for default,” Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein told the *Wall Street Journal* after the meeting.

From 1978 to 2013, Congress has voted 53 times to increase the debt ceiling, which ballooned from \$752 billion to \$16.7 trillion.

DC cops kill Miriam Carey in cold blood

Continued from front page

the car with drawn weapons. She fled, and officers fired several rounds at the moving vehicle. At least 20 cop cars took off after her in a 1.7 mile high-speed chase. It ended when she crashed into a guard shack, was cornered and then shot to death through the windshield. Her 1-year-old daughter, who was in the back seat, survived.

From the very beginning media coverage was slanted to paint Carey as a deadly danger to President Barack Obama or Congress and to hail the police operation for amazing self-control and courage.

Cops put the Capitol on lockdown, ordering everyone to “shelter in place” or lay down on the floor.

The Capitol Police and the Secret Service came down on Carey in full force, mobilizing an expanding force of snipers and cop cars and firing some 17 shots.

It was almost immediately clear that Carey had no “connections” to anything. She was unarmed. No explosives, threatening letters or other weapons were found in her car. Authorities and their media

flacks then shifted, painting her as a crazed woman and dangerous threat who got what she deserved.

Carey was said to have a “fixation” with President Obama. Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, told the media she fit “a picture of a mentally disturbed woman.”

The media tried to turn the unarmed woman into an armed threat to provide a rationalization for her murder. “There was no other way. She had a 3,000 pound weapon she was striking at police officers,” said a CNN reporter, pointing to her car.

Her family has contested this effort to smear Carey as a mentally deranged murderous threat, saying she had been under doctor’s care for postnatal depression, but was taken off medication.

“What I see perhaps is that my sister was a little afraid of being surrounded by officers with their guns drawn,” Valarie Carey said on NBC’s “Today Show.” “If you hear gunshots, [she’s] like ‘I’m afraid, I don’t want to be here. I want to get out of here. I have a baby in the car.’ My sister was fleeing. She was trying to figure out how to get out of there.”

— LETTERS —

‘Stay strong! Stay Militant!’

I’m hoping that your newsletter deals with helping improve the prison condition for inmates. Also the educational condition is bad here in Florida, the prison is in contradiction of what they proclaim they teach. They claim correction, but they only impose physical and mental abuse and they give you little access to what you need as humans to survive and treat humans as humans.

I’m a 24-year-old “Blackman” that is trying to elevate his “manhood” by gaining knowledge, wisdom and understanding. By gaining this I will use it in my everyday life and apply it, not getting arrogant or something to gain self interest. Prison is bad and staying there is worse. We should evolve positive solutions out of each condition of struggle we are under and become proactive in our thinking and activity. I would love

to receive your newsletter so I can improve my studies. Thank you. Stay Strong! Stay Militant!

*A prisoner
Florida*

‘Can’t wait to see Gerardo’

I received the letter stating that I have one issue left. I really, truly wish I could help financially, but I am an indigent prisoner. That doesn’t mean I can’t pass each issue around to other incarcerated workers to get SWP’s name, info and message out to them. If

possible, can you continue sending your informative newspaper to me?

I’m presently in the SHU upon arrival, put here over a write-up in West Virginia. I was here at USP Victorville 2007-2009 and have now returned to finish my last 18 months.

I don’t know yet if Cuban Five Gerardo Hernández is still here or not. He was in ’07-’09 when I was here, we lived in the same unit then. If he is, I can’t wait to see him again. We had a lot of great talks.

*A prisoner
California*

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

US Special Forces

Continued from front page

Baraawe, Somalia, in a failed attempt to kidnap or kill Abdikadir Mohamed Abdikadir, who is allied with al-Shabab.

While complaining that “surgical strikes” are not sufficient in the “War on Terror,” conservative columnist and military historian Max Boot lauded President Barack Obama for being “very decisive about ordering drone strikes and raids by Special Operations Forces (or SOF) on terrorist targets. Indeed, Obama may well be the most SOF-friendly president we’ve ever had.”

The White House carried out the raid in Somalia in response to the Sept. 21 mass killing by al-Shabab at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya. The attack is part of a growing reliance on terrorist actions by al-Shabab following a string of defeats over the last two years in its civil war against the U.S.-backed Transitional Federal Government.

Somalia has been wracked by war and without a centralized government since the overthrow of the regime of Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. After years of fighting between rival clans that devastated the country, the Union of Islamic Courts took control of Mogadishu and much of the southern part of the country in the summer of 2006.

But Ethiopian troops entered the country in December 2006 and by January had pushed the Islamist group out of their last stronghold, the southern port of Kismayo, and backed the establishment of the Transitional Federal Government, which never succeeded in bringing the country under its control. By the time the Ethiopian troops left in January 2009, the Union of Islamic Courts had split. A wing joined the Transitional Federal Government, while al-Shabab (the Youth in Arabic) emerged as the strongest force fighting against the imperialist-backed invasion.

Al-Shabab soon controlled much of the countryside and many key towns and ports. The group profited from smuggling ivory and charcoal, ransoms from kidnappings and pirated ships, and taxing farms and goods.

Since the beginning of 2011, however, al-Shabab has suffered serious defeats as troops from Kenya, Ethiopia and the African Union pushed them out of every major town in the country and completely out of Mogadishu. Al-Shabab’s last major urban base fell to African Union troops in October last year.

But al-Shabab still controls large parts of the countryside. The Navy Seals that landed on the beach in Baraawe met heavy resistance and retreated, according to the Pentagon.

“Where you got active plots and active networks, we’re going to go after them,” President Barack Obama said in an Oct. 8 White House press conference.

Somalia is an area where U.S. military activity usually gets little attention. In addition to direct U.S. intervention that includes cruise missile attacks, airstrikes and special forces operations, Washington supports African Union forces.

“We prefer partnering with countries,” Obama said, “and we want to build up their capacity. But we’re not going to farm out our defense.”

In Libya, the Special Operations forces ambushed and kidnapped al-Ruqai on his way home from morning prayers. Al-Ruqai was indicted in absentia for his alleged role in the bombings of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998.

The Obama administration asserts they can hold al-Ruqai indefinitely and that he is being treated “humanely” while representatives of the military, CIA and FBI attempt to extract information and “confessions” aboard a Navy ship in the Mediterranean. They claim that he won’t be waterboarded or deprived of food and will get at least “four hours of continuous sleep in a 24-hour period.”

“We know that Mr. al-Libi planned and helped to execute plots,” Obama said, in response to a question as to whether the capture of al-Libi conformed to international law. “He will be brought to justice.”

Correction

The article “Demonstrations in Greece Protest Fascist Thuggery” in the Oct. 14 issue said Golden Dawn won 21 seats in Parliament in 2012. The group has 18 seats.