

# Step up effort to expand readership of ‘Militant’!

## Workers, farmers need socialist weekly



Naomi Craine, left, Socialist Workers candidate for Florida governor, talks with theater worker Queen Mecca Thomas, while selling *Militant* door to door in North Miami Beach April 26.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Supporters of the *Militant* are selling subscriptions to the socialist paper together with books on revolutionary, working-class politics on workers’ doorsteps in cities and rural

areas, as well at picket lines, protests and other political events. And the effort has been boosted by the launching of more than half a dozen socialist campaigns for governor around the country.

While the third week was the best so far with 293 subscriptions sold, the pace must pick up further to reach the 1,800 goal by May 14.

“We sold 12 subscriptions, our best week so far. Nine of them door to door,” wrote Katy LeRougetel from Montreal April 27. “Our plan for making the quota is centered on these door-to-door sales. And we are

Continued on page 3

# Socialist Workers candidates raise fighting demands for working class

BY TOM BAUMANN

MIAMI — “The message of this campaign is that we need to organize and fight independently of the capitalist rulers and the political parties that represent their interests, here in Florida and all over the world,” Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Florida governor, said in an April 25 statement launching the party’s election campaign here.

“As we organize to resist these worsening conditions, we can gain the experience, self-confidence, and solidarity that will be needed to overturn the dictatorship of capital we live under and chart a course toward working people taking political power,” she said.

Craine is one of a number of Socialist Workers Party candidates

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# Havana art exhibit gives feel for life in US prisons

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The National Museum of Fine Arts in Havana has inaugurated a new work by renowned Cuban artist Alexis Leyva Machado (Kcho) that brings to life a collection of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of five

Works by Cuban artist Kcho, Antonio Guerrero convey resistance of Cuban Five

Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States since 1998.

Guerrero’s 15 watercolors, titled “I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived,” convey the conditions faced by the Cuban Five and how they fought back, with dignity, creativity, and humor during their first 17 months of imprisonment, when they were held in punishment cells at Miami’s Federal Detention Center. (See “Who Are the Cuban

Continued on page 4

# Workers in east Ukraine protest pro-Moscow assaults, terror

BY JOHN STUDER

Demonstrations took place across eastern Ukraine April 26-28 against provocations and assaults by Moscow-backed forces there. Thousands of workers and youth marched in Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk and other cities.

In an effort to intimidate and demobilize defenders of Ukraine’s territorial integrity, Russian military personnel and local thugs have carried out a wave of murders, kidnappings and assaults on journalists, politicians, United Nations observers and working people. The terror methods have led to growing opposition to pro-annexationist forces and reinforced support for Ukrainian sovereignty.

The small pro-Moscow bands are “missing one element that proved vital to the success of the Kiev protests in toppling Ukraine’s pro-Russian

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# Press leak of gov’t report exposes cold-blooded killings by border cops



Reuters/Sandy Huffaker

Valentin Tachiquin speaks at rally near border in San Ysidro, Calif., last year. U.S. border cop killed his daughter Valeria Tachiquin in 2012, shooting nine bullets through car windshield.

BY WENDY LYONS

LOS ANGELES — “Since 2010 we have documented 28 cases of civilians killed by the Border Patrol along the Mexican border,” Christian Ramirez, director of the Southern Border Communities Coalition, told the *Militant* April 24. “There has been an ongoing campaign by family members and local protests to demand justice.” The coalition is made up of 60 organizations from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas.

The killings take place as the U.S. government continues to tighten its

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Spring ‘Militant’ subscription campaign  
April 5 - May 14 (week 3)

Country	quota	sold	%	Should be
1,800				
UNITED STATES				
Philadelphia	80	49	61%	Should be ..... 874
Los Angeles	115	70	61%	
San Francisco	110	66	60%	
Houston	50	28	56%	
Seattle	100	51	51%	
Omaha/Lincoln	120	60	50%	
Twin Cities	100	50	50%	
Chicago	75	35	47%	
Miami	65	30	46%	
Boston	40	18	45%	
Des Moines	85	37	44%	
New York	300	117	39%	
Atlanta*	100	37	37%	
Washington	75	24	32%	
Total U.S.	1415	672	47%	
PRISONERS	10	15	150%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	100	61	61%	
Manchester	65	52	80%	
UK Total	165	113	68%	
CANADA	65	26	40%	
NEW ZEALAND	50	27	54%	
AUSTRALIA	50	21	42%	
Total	1755	874	49%	
Should be	1800	1080	60%	

\*Raised goal

# ‘Acceleration’ of US economy zooms past the working class

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“With payrolls and workweek both rising, a measure of total work effort jumped by the most in more than seven years ... suggesting the economy was beginning to accelerate.” That’s a big-business perspective from *Newsweek’s* April 14 issue.

Apparently this “acceleration” has zoomed past the working class, whose wages, working conditions and employment haven’t left the starting block, and in many cases continue to move backward.

It’s been nearly five years since economists said the 2007-2009 recession was over. But, despite the official unemployment decline from 10 percent to under 7 percent, there’s been no recovery in jobs. In January 2007 the percentage of the population with a job stood at 63.3 percent. By September 2009 it had dropped below 59 percent where it remains to this day (58.9 percent in March 2014).

The “structural” long-term character of joblessness has been handled by the statisticians by continually shrinking the pool of people considered “part of the workforce.” As a result 92 million adults today are not counted when calculating the unemployment rate — 11 million more than five years ago.

In response to the slowdown in world capitalist production and trade, bosses are pressing against wages, unions, benefits and working conditions. This assault, many economists argue, is the road to “competitive-ness” and “recovery.” The “experts”

are proposing to drive workers off food stamps, and reduce payments for unemployment and disability. In February \$8.7 billion was cut from the food stamps program under the new farm bill, and three months earlier \$5 billion was eliminated.

Extending unemployment benefits “lengthens spells of unemployment,” argues Glenn Hubbard, dean of Columbia Business School, in an April 5 *Wall Street Journal* article. Instead, he calls for a broad “structural reform” of the entire program, meaning steeper cuts in payments and for fewer weeks.

The premise is workers don’t want to work anymore because life is so easy on government assistance! Forget that the bosses aren’t hiring now.

The one measure that could alleviate the persistently high joblessness, however, is never mentioned in public: a massive government-funded jobs program to put millions to work building and repairing hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

## UK rally condemns cops’ role in football fans’ deaths



LIVERPOOL, England — Some 24,000 participated in the 25th anniversary memorial at the stadium here April 15 for the 96 football fans crushed to death at the Hillsborough football grounds in Sheffield in 1989.

A 1991 inquiry verdict of accidental death was overturned in 2012, following decades of campaigning by the Hillsborough Family Support Group and the Hillsborough Justice Campaign. A government-appointed panel then concluded that police had doctored statements, used criminal record checks to discredit victims and lacked evidence to support their claims that fans were drunk and aggressive. The panel also said nearly half might have been saved if cops hadn’t delayed access to ambulances.

The government recently opened a new inquiry. “Now we want to know who was responsible,” said Kenny Derbyshire, a forklift driver here who was at the match in 1989 and today chairs the Hillsborough Justice Campaign.

— PAUL DAVIES

## Rally opposes closing of New Brunswick abortion clinic

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — Hundreds of supporters of a woman’s right to choose abortion marched on the New Brunswick legislature in Fredericton April 17, demanding the province fund abortions in private clinics. The action took place one week after Morgentaler abortion clinic manager Simone Leibovitch announced the clinic

was closing at the end of July after a 20-year battle for government funding.

“The New Brunswick government needs to fund our clinic in the same way that nonprofit clinics are funded across the country,” Leibovitch said by phone April 23. “Women need access to reproductive health care, not just abortions.”

New Brunswick is the only Canadian province that doesn’t fund abortions in private clinics.

When the Morgentaler clinic closes, women on Prince Edward Island seeking abortions will have to go to Halifax. “It is not acceptable for this to be the only way to access a simple medical procedure that could be offered in Island hospitals,” Colleen MacQuarrie, spokesperson for the Prince Edward Island Abortion Rights Network said in an April 17

news release.

Protesters also demanded that the provincial government repeal Regulation 84-20, which requires abortions to be performed by specialists at approved hospitals and only after a woman gets approval from two doctors.

Sorcha Bierne, coordinator of the Fredericton Youth Feminists, said the regulation tramples on women’s rights. “We need to start following federal law, including the Canada Health Act,” she told the *Militant*. In 1988 Canada’s Supreme Court struck down the country’s anti-abortion law, ruling that it denied women the right of “life, liberty and security of the person.”

“It’s great that so many people have come out to protest, but we need to keep it out there and not let the issue get buried,” said Bierne.

# THE MILITANT

*Support workers’ struggles worldwide!*

*The ‘Militant’ covers struggles by workers around the world — from Greyhound bus workers resisting contract concessions in the U.S. to shoe factory workers in China on strike, demanding housing and social security payments owed them. Don’t miss an issue!*

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## The Militant

Vol. 78/No. 18

Closing news date: April 30, 2014

Editor: Doug Nelson

**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Frank Forrestal, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Paul Pederson, Gerardo Sánchez, John Studer, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in July, one week in August and two weeks in September.

**Business manager:** Lea Sherman  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
**Fax:** (212) 244-4947  
**E-mail:** [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)  
**Website:** [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States:** For one year send \$35 to above address.

**Latin America, Caribbean:** For one year

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**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  
paying attention to contact each person who has asked us to get back with them or whose subscription is up for renewal.”

In New York, a team of two signed up seven new readers in an apartment building in Brooklyn, another team of two got six subscriptions in a building in the Bronx April 27.

After three steady weeks, Los Angeles is on target. Supporters of the paper there sold 14 subscriptions last week at labor actions by postal workers resisting attempts to outsource jobs, and by workers at Greyhound bus company calling for a “no” vote on the company’s contract offer.

“There was interest in coverage on working people in Ukraine who recently topped the government and are now resisting moves by Moscow to destabilize their country,” said Norton Sandler by phone from Los Angeles April 28. “Participants also appreciated the articles about workers’ struggles in other countries like the fight in the large shoe

factory in China against the company’s moves to cheat them on social security payments. Both actions were wide open to discuss politics and promote the *Militant*.”

Supporters in Manchester, England, continue their steady weekly pace that has placed them at the top of the scoreboard. In the third week they signed up 16 new readers and got two renewals.

“I want to read the *Militant* because I don’t like working people being taken advantage of. We need to put up a fight,” Zynab Hibbert in the Moston area of Manchester told Hugo Wils when she decided to get a subscription April 27.

“We sold 13 subscriptions April 26,” reported Jacquie Henderson from Omaha, Neb. “We signed up four readers in Shelby, a town of some 600 surrounded by farms in western Iowa. One new subscriber said she has four sons who farm who would also be interested in the paper.”

Larry Sell, a machine operator, bought a subscription when Andrew Pulley and Dave Prince came to his



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Machine operator Larry Sell, right, at Militant Labor Forum in Omaha, Neb., April 26. Sell subscribed when Andrew Pulley, left, knocked on his door in La Vista, Neb., earlier that day.

door in La Vista, Neb., April 26. Sell came to a Militant Labor Forum in Omaha later that day, where Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota, gave a presentation on “Working people in Ukraine and U.S.: Both Face Offensive from the Bosses.”

Supporters of the *Militant* in Nebraska have sold eight subscriptions and 19 books in connection with exhibits of “I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived,” in Lincoln April 22-30, said Joe Swanson by phone April 29. The exhibit features prison paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five. (See “Who Are the Cuban Five?” on page 4.)

“Three attending the exhibit renewed their subscriptions. The paintings now move to Omaha, where three showings are scheduled in the coming months.”

Of the 19 books, 16 were on the Cuban Five, including *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*; *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*; and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. The three books are on special sale and available from Pathfinder Press. Also sold was *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*; *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*; and *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution* — three of 11 books offered at reduced prices with a subscription (see ad below).

Join the effort to expand the *Militant*’s readership! See page 8 for a distribution center near you or contact the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899.

Militant Fighting Fund starts strong in Manchester, England

BY LEA SHERMAN

At the end of the second week of our seven-week campaign to raise \$115,000 for the *Militant*, a voice of the working class, the Militant Fighting Fund has received contributions totaling \$22,940.

These contributions are used for basic operating expenses, but also make possible international reporting trips, like the most recent one to Ukraine.

“The fund made a flying start at the Militant Labor Forum April 5 in Manchester,” wrote Dag Tirsén from the United Kingdom. He and Catharina Tirsén, who were both part of the reporting team there, spoke at the forum

where participants gave \$640.

“The team was greeted with open arms by the fighters at Maidan Square in Kiev when they saw the *Militant*’s front-page photo of protesters in Crimea carrying banners in Ukrainian saying ‘Ukraine is not Russia’ and

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Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription

Militant Fighting Fund			
April 5 - May 27 (week 2)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Miami	\$2,800	\$972	35%
Des Moines	\$2,800	\$840	30%
Boston	\$3,500	\$960	27%
Philadelphia	\$3,800	\$866	23%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$1,807	23%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$1,935	23%
Twin Cities	\$6,500	\$1,410	22%
New York	\$19,000	\$3,785	20%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$2,220	16%
Seattle	\$8,400	\$1,340	16%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$800	8%
Washington	\$7,800	\$400	5%
Omaha/Lincoln	\$2,700	\$90	3%
Houston	\$3,500	\$0	0%
Other		\$650	
Total U.S.	\$100,400	\$18,075	18%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$725	10%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,000	\$1,570	31%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$610	41%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$1,300	65%
Manchester	\$750	\$660	88%
Total UK	\$2,750	\$1,960	71%
Total	\$116,650	\$22,940	20%
Should be	\$115,000	\$32,857	29%



Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power  
by Jack Barnes  
\$10 with subscription(regular \$20)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning  
The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism  
by Jack Barnes  
\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

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)

Los cosméticos, las modas, y la explotación de la mujer  
(Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women)  
by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, Mary-Alice Waters  
\$10 with subscription (regular \$15)

See distributors on page 8



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)

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

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics  
Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions  
by Jack Barnes  
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?  
A Necessary Debate  
by Mary-Alice Waters  
\$5 with subscription (regular \$7)

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)

# Cuban Five

Continued from front page  
Five” on this page.)

Inspired by Guerrero’s work, Kcho created a true-to-life replica of a cell in the prison’s Special Housing Unit — the “hole” — where each of the five were held.

Visitors to the combined exhibit of Guerrero’s paintings and Kcho’s art installation come away with a vivid appreciation of the unbending resistance of the Five in face of the U.S. government’s unsuccessful efforts to break them.

Kcho’s project was born out of his collaboration with René González, who last year returned to Cuba after completing his sentence. González showed him the book *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*, with reproductions of the watercolors and commentary by three of the Five.

Working closely with René, Kcho drew on that book to ensure the replica was accurate to the last detail. In February, as the prison cell was being built, Fernando González returned to Cuba after more than 15 years in U.S. prisons and joined the effort.

Speaking at the April 5 inaugural event, René and Fernando thanked Kcho for his “magnificent work” and its contribution to the international fight to win the release of their three comrades: Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, and Gerardo Hernández.

“As long as they are not back home, Fernando and I will remain imprisoned together with them,” René González told the audience at the opening event. Among those present were Cuban Vice President Miguel Díaz-Canel; Miguel Barnet, president of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC); and family members of the Five.

Visitors to the exhibit “will discover one of the most sadistic aspects of the U.S. penal system,” wrote reporter Yimel Díaz in the Cuban newspaper *Trabajadores*. “They can choose to experience being locked up a cell that is 15 feet long by seven feet wide. For five minutes. The cell has no furniture other than an iron bunk with a thin mattress, a concrete table and stool, and a metal toilet, sink, and mirror that returns a sad reflection.”

Those entering the cell put on a prison-issue orange jumpsuit and flip-flops. The uniform has the name and sentence of one of the Five printed on the back. Before entering, a voice orders, “Open your mouth, stick out your tongue, shake out your hair, and bend back your ears. ... Turn around!”



AIN/Tony Hernández Mena

Visitors to exhibit by Cuban artist Kcho at Havana art museum can choose to be locked up for five minutes in replica of “hole” at Miami Federal Detention Center, **right**, where Cuban Five spent 17 months after 1998 arrest by FBI on trumped-up charges. **Above**, Fernando González and René González at April 5 opening of exhibit, which includes Antonio Guerrero’s paintings.



Visitors are bound with handcuffs and ankle chains, and uniformed “guards” escort them into the cell as a security camera monitors every move.

Inside the cell, many details, taken from *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*, capture the Five’s life in the “hole” — from cockroaches on the wall to the roll of toilet paper on the cot and the improvised chess set the Five crafted from cut-up milk cartons. There is also the “line,” made from strips of bed sheets attached to an empty toothpaste tube, which inmates use for “fishing” — exchanging newspapers and other items between cells.

An adjoining area serves as a classroom where visitors can watch audiovisual programs and read about the Five. Secured to the desks are copies of books *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived* and *Voices from Prison*.

## ‘Indictment of an unjust regime’

“This work is an indictment of an unjust regime that treats people like garbage,” Kcho said at the inauguration. “The United States has more than 2 million prisoners,” he noted, underscoring how widespread the experience with police brutality and frame-ups and inhumane prison conditions is for working people in the U.S.

“Take the case of Herman Wallace,” he added, “the Black Panther who was released [last October] only when he was about to die, after being kept in solitary confinement for more than 41 years” in a Louisiana prison.

The art installation, titled “Don’t Be Thankful for the Silence,” is “a call to refuse to be complicit with the silence that engulfs those in prisons,” Kcho said.

“Part of the punishment is the isolation — you never see anyone,”

Fernando González told the audience. For example, he said, “You had to wait for the sound of a key, to shout and see if they responded to you, and then to ask the guard for the cleaning agents to wash the cell with.”

The depiction of the cell “is a reminder of a battle that we won,” said René González. The U.S. prison authorities failed to crush their spirit and embitter them. As revolutionar-

ies, he added, “We were happy before we went into the hole and we are still happy after getting out — the U.S. doesn’t have the moral capacity to take that away from us.”

The artwork “isn’t only for the Five,” Kcho told *Trabajadores*. “It’s also for the countless unknown Cubans who have suffered during these 50 years of confrontation with

Continued on page 9

## Paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban 5 *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*

### New York

May 3-17

Opening event, Sat., May 3, 12-3PM. Jackie Robinson Center, 110 E. 129th St., Manhattan. Exhibit hours: Mon.-Fri. 7-9PM. Sat. 12-5PM. Closing program, Sat., May 17, 12-3PM. Tel.: (212) 348-7900.

### San Francisco

May 4

Exhibit and reception: 2-4PM. Program, 2:30PM. San Francisco Public Library, Bayview Branch, 5075 Third St.

### Montreal

May 5-24

Exhibit hours: Mon. 8AM-4PM, Tues., Wed. 8AM-7PM, Thurs., Fri. 8AM-8PM, Sat. 10AM-8PM. Café l’Artère, 7000 Ave. Du Parc Tel: (514) 232-1917.

### Washington, D.C.

May 17

Showing 6-9PM, program at 7PM. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW. Tel: (202) 641-8220

### Sydney

May 9-11

Opening event, Fri., May 9, 6:30PM. Gallery, Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. Exhibit hours: Sat., 11AM-3PM; Sun., 9AM-3PM. Tel.: 0413 450 981.

### Manchester, England

May 17-31

Opening event, Sat. May 17 6PM. Exhibit hours: Mon.-Sat. 9AM-5PM. Moston Miners Community Arts and Music Centre, Teddington Road, Moston. Tel.: 0161 682 6253.



AIN/Tony Hernández Mena

**Above**, exhibit opening at Havana Fine Arts Museum, April 5. **Inset**, prominent Cuban artist Kcho, who was inspired by Antonio Guerrero’s prison paintings, speaks at event.

## 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.

René González returned to Cuba in May 2013. Fernando González returned Feb. 28.

# Greyhound workers rally, reject wage-freeze contract

BY PAUL PEDERSON

LOS ANGELES — “What do we want? Equal pay!” chanted some 60 Greyhound Lines workers and supporters outside the bus terminal here April 26. They were encouraging ticket agents, janitors, food service, baggage and other terminal workers to vote no to the company’s contract proposal. Later that day, union members voted to reject it by a large margin.

Similar demonstrations were held in Atlanta and Cleveland.

“Greyhound’s latest offer includes no pay raise for terminal workers. Instead, they offer a \$500 bribe that we reject,” Jimmie McCoy, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1700, which organizes Greyhound workers across the country, told the rally. He was referring to the company’s \$500 contract-signing bonus offer. The agreement covers workers at eight southern California terminals. Bus drivers are covered by a separate contract.

The union is also demanding that the company reinstate Patricia Vidrio, a food service worker for 19 years at the Los Angeles terminal. Vidrio took a leave to travel to Mexico to bury her mother. Upon returning to work Greyhound told her she was fired for being absent more than five days.

“My mother was also a Greyhound worker for almost 20 years,” Vidrio told the rally. “Am I not allowed to grieve? I’m not asking for anything. I just want my job back.”

After she spoke the crowd chanted, “Bring Patty back!”

“There is a tremendous gap between pay for drivers and terminal workers,” Sindy Vasquez, a driver who is the local’s executive vice president, told the *Militant*. “There are janitors who have been here 21 years who are make \$11 and change an hour. We demand that they raise the wage to a minimum of \$15.”

“We’re the younger workers, we’re the future of labor,” said Jonathan

Garrido, 27, a shop steward who works in Package Express. “If we don’t fight, who will fight for us?”

Rosario Martinez, a ticket agent for seven years, said this fight is about respect. “There is a lot of intimidation. You shouldn’t feel threatened when you come to work.”

Greyhound spokesperson Lanesha Gipson would not comment on the wage freeze for terminal workers or the firing of Vidrio.

“This is Greyhound’s 100th birthday,” McCoy told the rally. “And we baked the cake, we lit the candles, we cut the cake, but we aren’t even getting crumbs from it. We are not even invited to the party.”



Militant/Paul Pederson  
ATU Local 1700 President Jimmie McCoy addresses union rally at Greyhound terminal in Los Angeles April 26. Patricia Vidrio, right, was fired after missing work for her mother’s funeral.

## Workers in east Ukraine protest pro-Moscow terror

Continued from front page

president: people,” observed the April 24 *Wall Street Journal*, referring to the mass mobilizations that overthrew Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in February. “The trade union at one of the largest metal plants in the region said its members supported Ukrainian unity,” the *Journal* noted.

Miners and the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine — the country’s largest union — have been organizing pro-Ukrainian self-defense units and have been at the center of protest actions.

“Ukraine will not lose Donbass,” Nikolay Volinko, leader of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Donbass, told Ilya Azar from the *Moscow Echo* April 23. “The resistance is increasing.”

The provocations and takeover of government buildings are “happening with the help of the local authorities and local law enforcement agencies and because of the indecisiveness of the central government,” said Volinko.

“Has anyone attacked you because you speak Russian?” Volinko asked

interviewer Azar. “Not really, I would say I have more chance to be attacked speaking Ukrainian,” Azar answered.

Pro-Moscow forces escalate attacks

Russian government-backed forces in Donetsk took over City Hall, the Donetsk regional administrative building and other government facilities, proclaimed an “independent” Donetsk People’s Republic and called for Russian military intervention.

Volodymyr Rybak, a pro-Ukrainian city council member in Horlivka, a city in the Donetsk region, was kidnapped April 17, tortured and mur-

dered after he attempted to restore the Ukrainian flag to the Horlivka City Hall building.

Rybak’s body was recovered by pro-Moscow forces from a nearby river along with the murdered corpse of Kiev student Yuriy Popravka. Initially Vyacheslav Ponomaryov, a soap factory boss and the self-proclaimed mayor of Slovyansk, the paramilitary headquarters of the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic, claimed they were the bodies of two pro-Russian “activists,” with “their bellies ripped open and signs of torture.” The lie

Continued on page 8

## Militant Fighting Fund: 2nd week

Continued from page 3

“Crimea is Ukraine,” said Dag Tirsén.

Socialist workers selling door to door are often given a few dollars extra by workers. These donations go to the Militant Prisoners’ Fund, which subsidizes subscriptions for workers behind bars.

“I really enjoy getting the *Militant*. I’m indigent right now. So if I could get another six months, I’d really be hap-

py,” wrote a prisoner from California. In April more than \$325 was paid to the prisoners’ fund.

To contribute to the fighting fund, contact distributors listed on page 8 or send a check or money order to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2482.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 12, 1989

A bitter strike battle is escalating rapidly here in the green hills of southwest Virginia.

On one side are the Pittston Coal Group, its brass-knuckled gun thugs, and the Virginia state police. On the other side are tens of thousands of working people across Appalachia, led by 1,700 striking coal miners in District 28 of the United Mine Workers of America.

Ten thousand people jammed the Wise County fairgrounds on April 30.

For three hours, and through a soaking rainstorm, the crowd clapped, sang, and roared their determination to defend Appalachia — “our kids, our lives, our union” — from the coal bosses.

The rally was swelled by outrage at police violence against peaceful pickets earlier that week. On April 24, 472 miners and supporters were jailed after state troopers dragged them from the entrance to Pittston’s Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant.



May 11, 1964

There is an old and somewhat cynical saying that a lie can travel halfway round the world before the truth can put its shoes on. The White House, State Department and Pentagon seem to have adopted that as their propaganda motto in the U.S. armed intervention in South Vietnam, which is just about halfway round the world from Washington.

One of the administration’s most persistent and pernicious lies, for instance, concerns the role of U.S. military forces since 1961 in the Vietnamese civil war. We have long been regaled with the fiction that invading U.S. armed forces, now numbering about 16,000, are acting in the war solely as “advisers.”

It is now being revealed that the American forces are engaged in direct warfare, killing and being killed. We have been dragged into a shooting war without the vote of Congress, let alone the consent of the American people.



May 12, 1939

Negro voters of Miami, Fla., last week courageously answered the attempt of Ku Klux Klan paraders to prevent them from voting. The Ku Klux Klanners, hiding their faces behind full hooded regalia and covering the license plates of their automobiles, paraded on the eve of the city election primaries through the Negro district and threatened violence to Negroes who would dare show up the next day at the polls.

The Negroes flocked to the polls. The City Clerk reported that they voted at a ratio of 5-to-1 greater than ever before.

The success of the Miami Negroes in defying the Ku Klux Klan should prove once again that they CAN conquer the rights that are theirs as human beings.

The courage and heroism that is characteristic of the Negro race will prove one of the most powerful forces in smashing forever the capitalist system of inequality and scarcity and establishing the socialist system of genuine equal rights and plenty for all.

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# Quebec provincial elections register history

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — A historic victory for working people in Quebec and across Canada has been registered in the defeat of the Parti Québécois in the April 7 provincial elections. Discrimination against the French-speaking Québécois is no longer the powerful club that capitalists in Canada had for decades wielded against the working class.

The PQ, a bourgeois-nationalist party increasingly out of touch with the sentiments of working-class French-speaking Québécois and more and more openly at odds with the interests of working people of all backgrounds, received its lowest vote in three decades. Its demagogic and reactionary appeals to Québécois nationalism — including measures targeting immigrants who make up a growing proportion of the working class in the province — has largely fallen on deaf ears. This is particularly true in the working class.

The rejection of the PQ is above all a reflection of the fact that Canadian imperialism has failed to prevent the working class from steadily making gains against the discrimination of French speakers in Quebec and across the country. This weakening of national oppression against Québécois — and the divisions it fostered within the working class of Canada — unfolded in step with the weakening of U.S. imperialism and of imperialism on a world scale over recent decades.

## A colossal misjudgment

Quebec is one of 10 provinces in Canada. Some 80 percent of its 8.1 million inhabitants speak French as their first language.

The Parti Québécois was elected to the Quebec National Assembly in September 2012, forming a minority government. It had formed provincial governments several times in recent decades.

At the beginning of March 2014, the PQ leadership called a five-week snap election, more than two years early, convinced they faced an easy victory.

The election was to be the party's triumphant culmination of a campaign that was in fact launched last September, when it introduced into the Quebec National Assembly a draft of its



Parti Québécois has become increasingly out of touch with sentiments of working people of all backgrounds. Left, thousands rally against Charter of Quebec Values in Montreal, Sept. 14, 2013. Widely seen as aimed primarily at Muslim women, law would have banned government employees from



wearing "conspicuous" religious symbols. Right, May 1, 2010, against concession demands. Karl Péladeau resigned from Quebecor board

Charter of Quebec Values. In the name of secularism and women's rights, the charter would have banned the wearing of "conspicuous" religious headwear, jewelry or other dress by government employees. Its primary target is Muslim immigrant women who wear various kinds of head covering, thousands of whom work in government-run day care centers, schools and hospitals.

When the elections were called polls suggested that a majority of Québécois supported the proposed charter.

Then, at the very beginning of the campaign, the PQ leadership announced with great fanfare the candidacy of multimillionaire Pierre Karl Péladeau, former president of Quebecor Media, one of Canada's biggest multimedia companies. In announcing his candidacy, Péladeau proclaimed, with his fist in the air, that he wanted to make Quebec "a country," a signal that the PQ was bringing the demand for Quebec's independence to the fore. The demand — once at the center of the fight against national oppression of Québécois — has been the first article in the PQ program since its founding in 1968. But the PQ's trump card turned out to be a colossal misjudgment on the popularity of independence today and the degree to which Québécois working people no longer see it as a way to address their most pressing concerns.

Péladeau's statement transformed the election campaign into a "referendum

on the referendum," as it was commonly called in the big-business media, referring to previous referenda on Quebec sovereignty. Polls immediately indicated a shift to the Liberal Party, the other main capitalist party in Quebec and a longtime defender of the status quo.

The PQ responded by digging in its heels and stepping up its anti-working-class "secularist" demagoguery.

Before the April elections were announced, Louise Mailloux, running for the PQ in the Montreal riding of Gouin, equated baptism and circumcision with rape and asserted that kosher food was a racket by rabbis to fund "religious wars." In mid-March Mailloux "absolutely" stood by these remarks and Prime Minister Pauline Marois publicly stood by her. Under pressure Mailloux issued a statement saying she "never wanted to offend or hurt anyone" and apologized "if that has happened."

After months of dodging the question, Prime Minister Marois announced April 2 that adoption of the charter would mean the firing of government employees who wore religious head covering on the job.

At the same time, the PQ launched a campaign against English speakers, initiating measures to prevent Canadian McGill University students born outside Quebec from voting in the April 7 elections. And it lambasted Liberal leader Philippe Couillard for suggesting that Québécois today want their children to learn English. "Is there a single parent," said Couillard, "who doesn't want that his child learn another language?" — a statement more in touch with the prevailing sentiments of Québécois working people today than the self-proclaimed champions of "Quebec values."

The Liberals won 70 legislative seats with 41.5 percent of the vote, obtaining a solid majority in the National Assembly. The number of PQ seats dropped from 54 to 30. Defeated in a riding with a big Québécois majority, PQ leader Marois resigned the night of the elections.

## Talking with working people

In discussions with co-workers and in selling the *Militant* door to door in Montreal leading up to the elections, communist workers noticed that the PQ campaign wasn't popular.

Among immigrant or English-speaking workers, opposition to the Charter of Quebec Values was practically unan-

imous and seen for what it is: a discriminatory assault on workers' rights, including on freedom of worship, speech and association.

Québécois workers had more mixed reactions. Many supported the charter as a way to register the fact that Quebec is a nation with a distinct culture. But even among those who backed the charter, most opposed the idea of firing workers because of how they dressed or their religious beliefs.

Workers' opinions of capitalist Pierre Karl Péladeau were more uniformly negative. For many Péladeau is known as the "lockout king." He is responsible for 14 lockouts in recent years, the last being in 2009 against workers at the *Journal de Montréal*, which lasted 764 days. Few workers are attracted to the idea of an independent Quebec government led by him.

Communist workers have also noticed that although many Québécois don't read English, that hasn't been an obstacle to discussing the revolutionary working-class politics in the *Militant*, an English-language paper. While supporters of the *Militant* have been translating one article per week into French and sending it to those who are interested, French speakers sometimes get the paper so they can improve their English.

## Big changes

The PQ's electoral defeat is a registration of two developments that have strengthened the working class in Quebec over the last half century.

First are the gains Québécois workers have won through mass struggles beginning in the 1960s and '70s against national oppression. The second is the changed composition of Quebec's working class, which is more multinational and heterogeneous today.

In the 1960s the Québécois came to identify their fight with the Black struggle that had erupted in the U.S. *The White Niggers of America*, a book published in 1968 by Pierre Vallières, sought to reinforce such identification and became a symbol of the Québécois struggle at the time.

According to the 1961 federal census, those who spoke French in Quebec had on average incomes 35 percent lower than English speakers. Québécois had an average schooling of eight years, compared to 12 years for those who spoke English. There were two English-language universities in Montreal and



Top, members of Communist League sell *Militant* to striking postal workers in Montreal, June 2011. Inset, Joe Young (left), then Communist League candidate for Montreal mayor, participates in Sept. 14, 2013, demonstration of some 10,000 people against PQ's Charter of Quebec Values.

# French gains won by working class in Canada



At a demonstration, workers locked out by *Journal de Montréal* demonstrated by owner Quebecor Media. “Lockout King” Pierre Bouchard to run as leading PQ candidate in recent elections.

only one in French.

In the factories the vast majority of workers spoke French, while bosses and management, starting with foremen, spoke English. Union contracts were written in English and negotiations were conducted in English. Public signs were often only in English. English was the language of social advancement and new immigrants would overwhelmingly send their children to English-speaking public schools, which usually enjoyed superior facilities.

For the capitalist rulers in Canada, the national oppression of the Quebecois allowed them to pocket superprofits based on lower wages and conditions imposed on a significant section of the working class. And it weakened labor by fostering divisions based on language.

## Mass movement begins in 1960s

Inspired by the mass struggle by African-Americans and the revolutions in Cuba, Algeria and Vietnam, a new movement for Quebec rights that began in the 1960s brought hundreds of thousands of workers and youth into the streets over the next two decades. Trade unions were at the center of this fight, which magnified its power.

In October 1970, the Liberal Canadian government of Prime Minister Pierre-Elliott Trudeau decreed the War Measures Act with the aim of stemming the Quebecois and workers’ struggles, which included moves toward forming a labor party based on the unions in Montreal. Some 8,000 soldiers were deployed to Montreal; more than 500 people were arrested without a warrant; and some 31,700 searches were carried out by the police and the army.

The bosses’ counterstrike failed to quell the fight.

In May 1972, a spontaneous general strike broke out throughout Quebec after three union leaders were imprisoned for refusing to obey a decree ordering back to work some 210,000 government workers on strike for a minimum wage of \$100 per week. It was the biggest union action in North America since the post-World War II strike wave.

Fearful of the growing working-class militancy, the top officialdom of the labor federations sought to channel the fight by the union ranks into support for the Parti Quebecois.

The PQ was formed in 1968 from a split in the Quebec Liberal Party. Its founding leader, René Lévesque, had

been a minister in a previous Liberal government and was credited with nationalizing the private electric companies that existed then under Hydro Quebec — a giant state monopoly.

From the start, the PQ sought to get the Quebec movement off the streets and behind an electoral project of a “sovereign” Quebec (without speaking openly of independence). While saying it had “a bias in favor of workers,” the PQ firmly maintained policies that defended capitalist property.

The PQ was elected for the first time in November 1976, one month after nationwide protests against a federal government wage freeze.

The first PQ government adopted a series of measures that codified the gains of the Quebecois struggle. Among them:

- \* Law 101, which made French the language of work, government and law in Quebec; imposed French on signs; and enrolled children of new immigrants in French public schools. Important mobilizations at the end of the 1980s put an end to repeated attempts by Canada’s rulers to reverse these affirmative action-type measures.

- \* The PQ government refused to implement the federal anti-abortion law. This strengthened the fight for a woman’s right to choose abortion across the country and helped lead to the law’s repeal in 1988.

- \* An anti-scab law was enacted that made it illegal for bosses to hire scabs during labor conflicts. (Over the following decades, bosses were able in practice to strip the law of its content without much resistance from the unions.)

The PQ organized two referendums on Quebec sovereignty, in 1980 and 1995. In both cases, mobilizations in support of the referendum were organized in workplaces and by unions. Both were narrowly defeated. The close results and what they showed about the resolute struggle of the Quebecois scared the Canadian rulers, and eventually led to concessions from the federal government, which included recognition in 2006 that Quebec constitutes a distinct nation within Canada.

## Inequalities largely overcome

According to the 2006 census, the median income among French-speaking men was \$30,854, compared to \$27,008 for English speakers. At the same time, mean average income is about \$4,000 higher for Anglophones. This suggests that there is no longer any meaningful difference between wages of workers who are Quebecois and English speaking, while Anglophones still comprise a greater proportion of those in the highest income brackets — i.e. capitalists and the well-paid professionals. Differences in average years of schooling have also largely disappeared.

French has become the common language of communication at work. More than half of Quebec’s residents whose first language is neither English nor French learn French. By 2006, nearly 70 percent of those whose first language is English in Quebec also spoke French.

As a result of these conquests and the self-confidence earned in struggle, English is no longer viewed as a language of oppression, as something imposed from outside. Bilingualism among na-



AP photos

Mass struggles in 1960s and ’70s pushed back national oppression of Quebecois, strengthening working class across Canada. Top, students rally in Montreal, Oct. 16, 1970, as troops enter city under War Measures Act. Below, unemployed march in Montreal, 1972.

tive French speakers grew from 31.5 percent in 1991 to 35.8 percent in 2006. For young people in particular, speaking French and English is seen as something positive. And many want to learn English because it’s the language of international communication and commerce.

## Rise in immigration to Quebec

The PQ’s inability to use xenophobia is also a reflection of the substantial weight of immigrant workers in the working class in Quebec today. The foreign-born population grew steadily from 7.4 percent in 1961 to 9.9 percent in 2001. But then it shot up to 12.6 by 2011. New immigrant populations come from many countries, starting with Morocco, Algeria, France, China, Haiti, Colombia, Lebanon, Philippines, Iran, Mexico, Cameroon and Romania. Arabic is today the third most common language spoken in Montreal.

For years the PQ enjoyed widespread support among the Arabic-speaking immigrants from North Africa. But that changed overnight with the Charter of Quebec Values, which directly targeted them and turned off broader sections of the working class who sympathized with their co-workers, neighbors and friends.

The recent elections confirm that for several years now the question of Quebec independence is no longer seen by many Quebecois workers as a solution to Quebecois national oppression, most aspects of which have largely been overcome through struggle.

Members of the Communist League in Canada and its predecessors called for support for Quebec independence shortly before the proclamation of the War Measures Act in 1970. The changes described in this article and brought home by the recent elections explain

why the party has not put forward the demand for at least the last decade.

The demand for Quebec independence is no longer an indispensable part of a fighting program to strengthen and unify the working class in Canada and to prepare it for the revolutionary mobilization of workers and their allies to wrest power from the capitalist exploiters.

The blows struck against the national oppression of Quebecois are one of many consequences of the weakening of U.S. and world imperialism since the collapse of the Soviet Union and other Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s.

The ground conquered against national oppression of Quebecois in Canada is one aspect of a world marked by the fact that U.S. imperialism — as well as the privileged ruling Soviet bureaucracies that were wiped out with the fall of the Stalinist regimes — failed to inflict demoralizing defeats on the working class in the former workers states of Eastern and Central Europe. This has been borne out by the recent overthrow of the Viktor Yanukovich government in Ukraine and by the fact that nowhere have the propertied rulers been able to inflict a crushing defeat on working people. As a consequence, toilers around the world, from Montreal to Kiev, are using the political space they’ve carved out to discuss, debate and organize against the bosses in face of the worldwide crisis of capitalist production and trade.

World imperialism led by Washington lost the Cold War against the working class in the former Soviet Union. In similar fashion, Canadian imperialism has lost the Cold War against the working people of Quebec.

This is something to celebrate.

# Protests in east Ukraine

**Continued from page 5**  
was carried by Russian government-controlled media, but before long the truth came out and the story was dropped.

A growing number of journalists have been kidnapped, taken to buildings seized in Slovyansk, and tortured, including Simon Ostrovsky from the U.S.-based Vice News and Irma Krat, editor-in-chief of Hidden Truth TV and the leader of a women's self-defense unit on the Maidan in Kiev.

Vasily Sergiyenko, a journalist in Korsun-Shevchenkivskiy and active member of Automaidan, a movement of car drivers against Yanukovich, was abducted from his home April 4, taken to a nearby forest, stabbed and beaten, and buried after his head had been severed.

Ponomaryov's forces also kidnapped seven U.N. military inspectors with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and paraded them before the press April 27. They also grabbed three members of Ukraine's federal security service, known as the SBU, in Horlivka when they tried to make an arrest in the murder of councilman Rybak.

On April 28 gunmen shot Gennady Kernes, mayor of Kharkiv, a former supporter of Yanukovich who had been backing reconciliation with the new government in Kiev. He is still alive in an induced coma.

After a pro-Ukraine rally of 2,000 gathered in Donetsk April 28, dozens

of thugs armed with bats, metal rods, knives and smoke bombs appeared and attacked. More than 10 protesters were taken to the hospital. Local cops stood aside and some handed over their riot shields to the thugs, who returned them to police after the assault. Five supporters of the city's Shakhtar (Miner) Donetsk soccer team who were defending the rally were taken hostage for a day.

### Russian commandos move in

Thirty armed commandos drove in minivans from Slovyansk to Konstantynivka April 28 and, with no opposition from local cops, took over the police station. The next day they seized the regional administration building in Luhansk, a provincial capital of 465,000. Again, local cops stood aside.

The credit for a number of these operations has been taken by a Russian military intelligence operative who goes by the name Igor Strelkov. He was first identified by the Ukrainian SBU in mid-April as an operative code-named "Shooter," who was taped directing pro-Moscow provocations.

Strelkov introduced himself to the press April 27 as the commander of the Slovyansk militia. "The platoon that came to Slovyansk with me was formed in Crimea, I won't pretend to conceal that," he said. Many have previous combat experience, he said, in Chechnya, Central Asia and a few in Syria.

The SBU reported that Strelkov flew from Russia to Crimea Feb. 26, the day pro-Moscow paramilitary troops seized the parliament building there.

"Those who brandish weapons now think they have all the power," one woman told the *Journal*, "and they appoint their own mayor."

What will happen to anyone who stands against you? Elizaveta Antonova, a reporter from Gazeta.ru, asked Slovyansk "mayor" Ponomaryov April 24. "The liquidation will occur," he replied.

"What do you plan to do with people who consider themselves part of Ukraine?" she asked. "Let them stay,"

### Thousands march against anti-Semitism in Hungary



AP Photo/MTI, Tibor Illyes

Outraged by growing displays of anti-Semitism in Hungary, tens of thousands joined the annual "March of the Living" holocaust commemoration in Budapest April 27, the largest in years.

The march took place three weeks after the ultra-rightist Jobbik party won more than 20 percent of the vote in parliamentary elections, up from 16 percent in 2010.

In November, Jobbik parliament member Marton Gyongyosi called for registering Jews "especially in the Hungarian parliament and the Hungarian government, who, indeed, pose a national security risk." He later claimed he was only referring to those with Israeli passports.

Leaders of the ruling Fidesz party have also espoused thinly veiled Jew-hatred. "They give us dictates," Janos Hargitai, a Fidesz legislator, said in March. "In 1848, it was the Rothschilds and now it's the International Monetary Fund."

The Fidesz party's 2009 election slogan "Hungary for Hungarians" was widely seen as directed against immigrants, Jews and Roma, an oppressed people throughout Europe.

More than 500,000 of the country's Jewish population of 800,000 were executed during World War II by the Nazis with the collaboration of the Hungarian government. Today the Jewish community is estimated at between 35,000 and 120,000, one of the largest in eastern Europe.

"When the economy does not really work and people are poor, somebody has to be blamed," marcher Miklos Deutsch told Reuters, "and the Jews and the gypsies are blamed."

— SETH GALINSKY

he said, "but let them keep a low profile and behave themselves quietly."

### Call for workers' self-defense

The miner-led Donbass Self Defense Battalion issued an appeal April 28 to Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs Arsen Avakov: "We call on you to involve Ukrainian patriots extensively to resolve this situation, help establish volunteer formations, coordinate our activities with those of the National Guard,

and immediately give us arms."

In the eastern cities of Krivii Rih, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk and others local volunteer units have helped prevent pro-Moscow bands from taking over government buildings or carrying out other provocations.

"Despite everything there is already a guerrilla struggle," Volinko told the *Moscow Echo*. "While the central government is sitting on the fence people are resisting."

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# Socialist Workers Party candidates

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for governor across the country — including Eleanor García in California, John Studer in New York, Frank Forrestal in Minnesota, Ilona Gersh in Illinois, David Rosenfeld in Iowa and John Benson in Georgia.

They are joining in efforts by workers and farmers to defend their jobs, wages, working conditions and political rights; calling for solidarity with workers in Ukraine fighting to defend their national sovereignty; participating in activities in defense of the Cuban Five and the Cuban Revolution; and raising demands, such as a government-funded public works program to create jobs, that can advance the unity and fighting spirit of the working class.

Craine, a 43-year-old factory worker, joined supporters of the socialist campaign and *Militant* April 26-27, talking with workers outside the International Longshoremens’s Association hiring hall in Fort Lauderdale and knocking on doors in Miami.

Theresa Collymore, who works in the office of a car wash, described how workers there receive just \$4.91 per hour, because the bosses claim tips bring their pay over the state minimum wage of \$7.93. But frequently, they don’t. “It’s wrong that they work 10 or 12 hours a day and end up with a check of less than \$200 at the end of the week,” Collymore said.

“We need to organize and fight for a big raise in the minimum wage, for everyone,” Craine said. “A couple weeks ago I was at a rally with workers from the Fort Lauderdale airport who have been trying to organize a union and win higher wages, including skycaps who face the same thing — they’re supposed to rely on tips, which they often don’t get.”

Collymore signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* and said she would try to bring some co-workers to the Florida campaign’s first public meeting May 3.

“A restaurant worker from Honduras told me she doesn’t watch the news much because it’s depressing and there’s nothing you can do about it,” Craine told the *Militant* after the day’s campaigning. “I said it’s true, none of us can change the situation alone, but in our millions we can.

“We discussed what’s been happening in Ukraine, where working people have taken action to kick out the Viktor Yanukovych government, defend themselves against the threats from Moscow and fight the bosses,” Craine said. “I also pointed to the record of struggle by workers in the U.S. She ended up getting a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of the Spanish-language edition of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power*.”

# Cuban Five art exhibit in Havana

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the United States. It’s for the Puerto Ricans and all political fighters who have confronted the empire.”

Gerardo Hernández, who was given a double life sentence, is imprisoned in the U.S. maximum-security penitentiary in Victorville, California. After seeing the exhibit, Adriana Pérez, his wife — who has been denied a visa to visit him for more than 15 years — commented that it is a vehicle “to under-

García, SWP candidate for governor of California, joined a team of volunteers April 19 going door to door in Long Beach, near Los Angeles.

At one home she met two truck drivers at the port there where workers have been fighting for the right to a union, higher wages, health benefits and other protections. The trucking bosses claim the drivers are “independent contractors” — who have to bear the cost of operating the trucks themselves — and therefore ineligible to join the Teamsters union.

According to the Teamsters some 49,000 of the 75,000 port truckers in the U.S. are “misclassified” as independent contractors. They make less than \$29,000 a year, while working an average of 59 hours a week. Truckers in Long Beach, Los Angeles and Savannah, Georgia, held a 48-hour strike starting April 28.

“I’ve decided not to sign up for Obamacare health insurance,” one of the drivers, who asked that his name not be used, told García. “I’m better off paying the fine to the government than over \$300 for insurance.”

“Our campaign calls for government-funded universal health care from cradle to grave for all,” García said. “Obamacare is a boon for big insurance firms and other profit-gouging health-related businesses. But workers face tougher economic conditions and more cutbacks to basic services.”

“While I’m worried about health care, what we really need are jobs,” the other driver said.

García also met with Jose Salinas, a longshoreman who recently renewed his subscription to the *Militant*. He bought several books on working-class history and politics and said he was glad that the Socialist Workers were running.

“My campaign is not about what I will do for you, but what we can do to fight together, to build a movement of working people,” García said.

Later that evening García spoke about the campaign at a weekly music and spoken word Open Mic event at Coffee & Crepes cultural center in East Los Angeles. “I’m a factory worker. I work in a plant that builds fuselages for commercial airplanes,” García told the crowd, mostly young artists.

We all face the same enemy, the capitalist class, that is seeking to make us pay for the crisis of capitalism, she said. “We need to learn how to defend ourselves, against their attacks and against their political parties. We are calling for independent working-class political action.”

Paul Pederson contributed to this article from Los Angeles.

stand why Cuba continues to resist, why the Five were able to resist in face of all those pressures, all that psychological torture, all those efforts to get them to trade away their principles.” Despite Washington’s continuing efforts to undermine the Cuban Revolution and create popular dissatisfaction, she said, “Our dignity and our determination are much stronger than any effort to make us submit.”

## — LETTERS —

### Cuba’s internationalism

An older neighbor of mine who always posted a Conservative Party sign on her lawn remarked to me years ago how nice it was of Cuba to help Ukrainian children recovering from the Chernobyl nuclear power accident. Cuba’s internationalism continued even after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Cuba’s example shows what the Cuban Five are defending and helps illustrate the difference between communism and Stalinism.

David Johnson  
Toronto, Ontario

### In solitary, requests ‘Militant’

I just came across your paper and I’m impressed with it, even though the one I have is an old one from last year that someone passed to me to check out. I am in solitary confinement and have nothing to

read about what’s going on in the world today. I would appreciate if you would send me the *Militant*. The paper has a lot to do with freedom of worship and the fight against discrimination, issues I like a lot.

A prisoner  
Florida

#### ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the *Militant* and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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.

# Border cop killings

Continued from front page

borders to slow the flow of immigrant labor, less in demand amid high joblessness.

Since May 2006, the U.S. government has added some 9,000 cops to the Border Patrol, built an additional 600 miles of fencing along the southern border, installed high tech surveillance devices at the border and imposed stiffer penalties on anyone deported who tries to reenter the country. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, part of the Department of Homeland Security, is the largest federal cop agency in the country.

The number of workers without “proper” papers detained by the Border Patrol declined from nearly 1.2 million in 2005 to 420,000 in 2013. Meanwhile the number of immigrants accused of “unlawful reentry” — a federal felony — more than doubled from nearly 37,000 in 1992 to 76,000 in 2012.

On Feb. 27 the *Los Angeles Times* quoted sections of what it called “a scathing 21-page report,” by the Police Executive Research Forum that was commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security in response to protests as well as public complaints from Mexican government officials over shootings and assaults by border cops. The agency and the *Times* refuse to make the report public.

According to the *Times*, the report says that Border Patrol agents have deliberately stood in front of fleeing cars to justify use of deadly force and repeatedly shot people across the border in Mexico for reportedly throwing rocks. The report examined 67 violent acts by border police, including 19 deaths from January 2010 to October 2012.

Seeking to placate outrage over the killings, Michael Fisher, head of the U.S. Border Patrol, issued a memo March 7 saying, “Agents shall not discharge firearms in response to thrown or hurled projectiles” unless they believe there is “imminent danger of death or serious injury.”

“There are two cases that have been critical to the fight against border patrol violence,” Adriana Jasso, program director for the American Friends Service Committee in San Diego, told the *Militant*. “The case of Anastasio Hernández Rojas and of Valeria Monique Tachiquin.”

Hernández was hog-tied, hit by Tasers and beaten into a coma by Border Patrol cops near San Diego in May 2010. He died later that month.

On the second anniversary of his death protesters rallied in eight cities across the country in 2012 demanding a Department of Justice investigation.

His family is organizing a fourth anniversary protest May 28 at the border entry point in San Ysidro, California, Jasso said.

Tachiquin, a mother of five, was killed in Chula Vista, five miles from the border, when an undercover Border Patrol agent shot nine bullets through the windshield of her car in 2012. The cop says she drove into him and dragged him on the hood of the vehicle, a claim disputed by some witnesses.

Jesús Flores Cruz, 41, was killed Feb. 18, while crossing the border near Tijuana, Mexico. The agent who shot him claimed Flores hit him with a rock.

In September 2012 Guillermo Arévalo Pedroza, a construction worker, was shot and killed by a Border Patrol agent who fired from a boat at a family picnic on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande across from Laredo, Texas.

A month later José Antonio Elena, 16, was shot at least 10 times, including in the back, by a Border Patrol cop, through a fence near Nogales, Mexico. The cops claim Elena was part of a group throwing rocks from across the border.

“To me it was cold-blooded murder,” Isidro Alvarado Ortiz, who was walking right behind the youth when the agents opened fire, told the *Miami Herald*. People in the area still point to all the bullet holes on the walls where a sign from the protests says, “We demand justice.”

The Border Patrol has refused to release video of the shooting.

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