

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

End 55-year US embargo against Cuban Revolution!
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 39 NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Join final push in Socialist Workers Party fall drives!

BY JOHN STUDER

“With two weeks to go, the Socialist Workers Party asks all those who look to the party to join in a day-by-day effort to bring both our fall drives — to expand the circulation of the *Militant* and to collect the \$100,000 Party-Building Fund — to successful conclusions,” Naomi Craine, the party’s subscription drive director, told the *Militant* Oct. 21.

“Continuing working class resistance — from autoworkers at Fiat Chrysler; Steelworkers at ATI, U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal; workers fighting for \$15 and a union in fast food restaurants, car washes, retail stores, airports, and other places; and rail workers fighting for safety on the

Continued on page 3

DC rally reflects rise in Black rights struggle

1995 march, 2015 rally point to fights to come



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

More than 100,000 people attended “Justice or Else” rally Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

In one of the largest political events this year, more than 100,000 people turned out in Washington, D.C., Oct. 10 for the “Justice or Else” rally,

COMMENTARY

marking the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March. Like that historic rally, it highlighted what African-Americans face in the United States.

Louis Farrakhan called both actions, but participation went way beyond the followers of his Nation of Islam.

The hundreds of thousands of Black men and youth who packed the National Mall in 1995, overwhelmingly working people, were demonstrating Black pride and rejection of an image in society of Black men as violent criminals and an irresponsible “underclass.”

Continued on page 6

Attacks on Jews, Israeli gov’t brutal response deal blow to working class

BY SETH GALINSKY

The spate of stabbings and other attacks on Jews in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Israel — encouraged by Hamas and with the acquiescence

of Palestinian Authority leaders — has struck a blow against working-class solidarity and set back the fight for Palestinian national rights. It has handed the Israeli government a pretext to close political space and respond with brutal and disproportionate force, including carrying out

END ATTACKS ON JEWS AND BRUTAL ISRAELI RESPONSE

— Editorial, page 9

“collective punishment” against the Palestinian population and destroying homes of Palestinian families.

From mid-September to Oct. 19 nine Jews were killed and dozens wounded in more than 30 attacks, most carried out by permanent residents of East Jerusalem. Many of the attackers were shot dead.

At the same time, Israeli troops have killed at least 17 Palestinian demonstrators and wounded hundreds during protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the last several weeks.

The Israeli government’s response to the terror attacks has inflamed

Continued on page 4

Washington seeks road to maintain hold in Middle East

BY MAGGIE TROWE

After more than four-and-a-half years of civil war in Syria, the government of President Bashar al-Assad, reinforced by Russian air attacks and a ground offensive that includes combat troops from Iran and the Iranian-backed Lebanese militia Hezbollah, is reversing months of losses by the dictatorial regime in Damascus. Reinforced government troops are gaining ground in western Syria and have launched a battle to recapture the strategic city of Aleppo from opposition groups, including forces backed by Washington.

The war, which began with Assad’s brutal repression of popular protests for political rights in 2011, has so far left 250,000 dead and displaced more than 11 million — half the population. Many of those with the means have fled for Europe.

U.S. imperialism remains the dominant world power, but is far weaker than when its World War II victory allowed Washington to im-

Continued on page 9

Chicago protest demands: ‘Fire cop who killed Rekia Boyd’

BY ALYSON KENNEDY AND DAN FEIN

CHICAGO — More than 150 people turned out for a Chicago Police Board hearing here Oct. 15 to demand that detective Dante Servin be fired for the shooting death of 22-year-old African-American Rekia Boyd on March 21, 2012. Protesters have been

Continued on page 9

Socialist Workers Party drive for new readers!
Help win 2,300 subscribers
Sept. 5 - Nov. 3 (week 6)

Country	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Lincoln*	15	13	87%
Twin Cities	65	49	75%
Chicago*	175	129	74%
Oakland	180	130	72%
Philadelphia	120	81	68%
Atlanta	160	106	66%
Washington, D.C.	110	70	64%
Los Angeles	140	88	63%
Seattle	125	66	53%
New York	380	178	47%
Boston	70	30	43%
Miami	120	51	43%
Other	40	41	
Total U.S.	1700	1032	61%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Manchester	100	85	85%
London	100	70	70%
Total U.K.	200	155	78%
CANADA			
Calgary	65	41	63%
Montreal	80	47	59%
Total Canada	145	88	61%
AUSTRALIA			
	75	61	81%
NEW ZEALAND			
	65	49	75%
PRISONERS*			
	20	17	85%
Total	2205	1402	61%
Should be	2300	1725	75%

*Raised quota

Inside

Washington reverses course, troops stay in Afghanistan 2

Court reinstates suit against NY cop spying on Muslims 4

Jobless numbers hide jobs crisis facing workers 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Airport contract workers in Florida win wage hike

Steelworkers press fight against concessions, lockout

Washington reverses course, troops to stay in Afghanistan

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Following the precipitous loss by Washington-backed Afghan forces of the major northern city of Kunduz to a much smaller force of Taliban insurgents Sept. 28, the Barack Obama administration reversed course and announced it will prolong U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2016. At the same time, Islamic State forces are making inroads against both the government in Kabul and the Taliban.

The Afghan government had as many as 7,000 troops in the area when Taliban forces took over the provincial capital, a district governor in Kunduz province, Zalmay Farooqi, told the *New York Times*. "The problem wasn't lack of security forces, but there was no good leadership to command these men," he said. The Taliban routed them with an estimated force of some 500. They held Kunduz for two weeks before government forces retook it, backed by U.S. airstrikes and Special Operations advisers.

The specter looming over Washington is a repeat of the collapse and rout of the Baghdad army as Islamic State took control over western Iraq last year.

As in Iraq, Obama had made the drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan a centerpiece of his foreign policy. The administration's plan was to remove all combat forces by the end of 2016, leaving 1,000 troops to defend the U.S. Embassy in the capital. But in recent months, senior military officials have pressed the administration to change course.

"The Afghan security forces' uneven performance in the fighting season un-

derscores that their shortfalls will persist well beyond this year," Army Gen. John Campbell, the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, told the Senate Armed Services Committee Oct. 6.

"Afghan forces are not as strong as they need to be," said Obama in an Oct. 15 statement. "The bottom line is, in key areas of the country, the security situation is still very fragile, and in some places there is risk of deterioration."

He then announced the decision to keep 9,800 troops through most of 2016 and 5,500 beyond, when Obama will no longer be in office.

NATO officials announced Oct. 19 that their deployment of 6,000 troops would also continue. The largest troop commitments in the 40-country force are from Germany, Italy and Turkey.

In the revised plan U.S. troops will stay at bases in Bagram and Jalalabad in the east and Kandahar in the south. Obama said the troops have the two-fold task of continuing to train Afghan forces and supporting counterterrorism operations.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan says the Taliban insurgency is more widespread in the country than at any time since 2001. The U.N. group has evacuated four of its 13 provincial offices.

The Taliban controls or heavily influences close to 50 percent of Afghanistan as their forces have regained areas lost during the U.S.-led "surge" from 2009-12, the editors of *Long War Journal* wrote Oct. 16. The journal says it provides information for use by military and intelligence officers in Washington

SWP candidate 'brings working-class issues to forefront'



"His pro-labor stances have brought working-class issues to the forefront of the campaign," reads a profile of Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, in the *Philadelphia Daily News*. "His well-stated arguments for stronger representation of workers' rights and benefits have given mainstream credence to the Socialist Workers Party he represents." The profile includes a photo of Hart, above, wearing a \$15/hr minimum wage button.

Hart and fellow SWP candidate John Staggs for City Council at-large are receiving increasing attention in the media.

Hart spoke at the United Way candidates debate Sept. 29 and has been interviewed by radio stations WHYI and WURD-AM. Staggs will be interviewed by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* Oct. 22 and will take part in a candidates debate Oct. 27 sponsored by the Committee of Seventy. Hart is writing an op-ed piece to be published in the *Inquirer* Oct. 25.

— MAGGIE TROWE

in the "global war on terror."

Since December, Islamic State has made inroads, gaining its largest foothold in the Nangahar province on the Pakistani border. A majority of its fighters are deserters from the Taliban who have switched allegiance out of disillusionment with the group's leadership and for cash inducements. There have been violent clashes between the Islamist groups, both of which are fighting to control the narcotics trade as a key source of income.

After 14 years of war, Washington has failed to create a regime in Afghanistan that both serves the U.S. rulers' interests and has the political authority and military capacity to stop the country from falling apart in sectarian violence.

In an Oct. 15 editorial, the *Times* said that the Obama administration and the Pentagon have been "disingenuous, and at times downright dis-

honest," in their public assessment of the progress American forces and civilians have made in Afghanistan. This "raises far-too-familiar memories of the Pentagon's habit of manipulating the facts to maintain public support for wars that are going badly," pointing to Vietnam, Iraq and previous instances in Afghanistan.

Correction

In the article "Lac-Mégantic Action Demands Rail Safety, Condemns Frame-Up" in the Oct. 26 issue, Fritz Edler is misidentified as a former official of the rail union SMART and an executive board member of Railroad Workers United. Edler was a Division level officer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, part of the Rail Division of the Teamsters union. He was not an officer in SMART or of the RWU.

THE MILITANT

Join fight for rail safety, against frame-up!

The conditions imposed by the Canadian government and rail bosses are responsible for the 2013 oil train disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

The 'Militant' backs the fight for workers control of safety on the job and the campaign to beat back the frame-up of rail workers Thomas Harding and Richard Labrie.



Militant/John Steele
"Never again!!!" reads banner in Oct. 11 march in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

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On the Picket Line Editor: Maggie Trowe

Editorial volunteers: Rôger Calero, Naomi Craine, Frank Forrestal, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Gerardo Sánchez, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

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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.

Join push in SWP fall drives

Continued from front page tracks to prevent further derailments and deaths — is fueling deep interest in the capitalist depression unfolding today and how to fight it,” Craine said.

“From big cities to rural areas, union fights to protests against police brutality and killings, the *Militant* is appreciated and needed,” she said, “to find out about struggles worldwide, learn from the experiences of past revolutionary battles and discuss what we can do next.

“Through these campaigns we’re building support for the party, its program and activity. We’re building the meetings in November for leaders of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples that are a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the example of the Cuban Revolution. We’re building participation in the Nov. 10 national day of action for \$15 and a union.

“The fund drive is decisive for the SWP to take advantage of growing openings to join workers’ struggles and expand the party’s influence,” she said. “It makes it possible for party leaders to travel internationally, deepen solidarity with Cuba’s socialist revolution and broaden the fight to end Washington’s brutal embargo of the island.”

Workers around the country are taking part.

“I try to pass the *Militant* around on my job. I like the world view, the ideas of the SWP are important,” James Nobles, a sanitation worker from Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, told Arlene Rubinstein in Washington, D.C., over the phone. “Workers face a problem that is not going away. Some of us are paying 20 percent of our paycheck for health care. The SWP says health care

should be universal. Like in Cuba, when you’re sick, you go to the doctor and get well. You don’t have to get out a magnifying glass to read your policy first.”

He also pledged to give to the fund drive. “I get post-traumatic syndrome when I look at my paycheck,” he said, “but every contribution helps.”

Many new subscribers also take advantage of the special offers to get a selection of key books on revolutionary politics and history from Pathfinder Press at half price. (See ad below.) SWP supporters in Chicago sold copies of *Teamster Politics* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism* along with four subscriptions knocking on doors in a trailer park in Minooka, Illinois.

“We just got the Teamsters union recognized for school bus drivers here,” Rich Fisher told Dan Fein as he signed up for a subscription. “The boss kept pissing off workers which led to the victory. In 20 days we’ll start negotiations for our first contract. This paper is for me.”

“We got a renewal from a construction worker on Saturday whose teenage daughter also reads the paper. Like most construction workers we talk to, he has a lot to say about the fight for safety on the job,” Katy LeRougetel wrote from Calgary, Alberta. “He called his daughter over and showed her the various books on special to see if she wanted one.

“She read the back cover of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, which describes the vanguard place of workers who are Black in the proletarian-led social and political struggles and the



Militant photos: Above, Ruth Nebbia; inset, Dan Fein
Top, Arlene Rubinstein, left, of Socialist Workers Party, campaigns to win readers to *Militant* and revolutionary working-class books at Oct. 10 “Justice or Else” rally in Washington, D.C. Inset, Rich Fisher in Minooka, Illinois, signs up for a subscription.



fight to overthrow the dictatorship of capital in the U.S., and said she wanted that one,” LeRougetel said.

Planning how to use every day, from now until the drives end Nov. 3, is decisive to success, Craine said. “We need to carefully map out taking advantage of each opportunity, from joining protests like the Oct. 24 march against police brutality here in New York, taking the paper to talk to workers looking for something different at big rallies scheduled for Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, to knocking on workers’ doors.”

Close the gap in the fund drive

Party supporters in every area also need a battle plan to reach and surpass their fund goals. This is the only way to go over the top, since local quotas are some \$5,000 short of the \$100,000 goal.

“We are confident we will make and exceed our target,” Joel Britton wrote from Oakland Oct. 19. “We still have yet to hear from some usual contributors and we’re getting donations as we’re meeting people campaigning with the *Militant*.

“After a political discussion about the party, the *Militant* and the fund, one construction worker whose door

we knocked on excused himself for a couple minutes and returned with a \$20 bill for the fund,” Britton said.

SWP members in Atlanta decided to raise their goal by \$900 to \$9,500. “We are getting contributions from party supporters in Texas also,” wrote Janice Lynn.

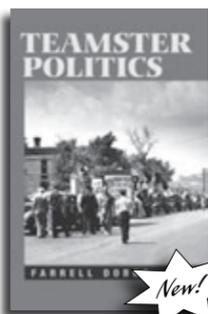
“We’ll be sending in a sizable chunk tomorrow putting us over our goal of \$3,400,” Frank Forrestal wrote from Twin Cities Oct. 18. SWP members there have raised their goal three times. “When all is said and done, we should be sending in around \$3,800.”

If this kind of effort is emulated everywhere, we can make the fund, Craine said.

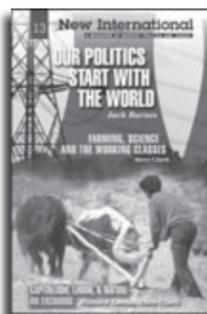
To find out how you can help get the *Militant* around and to contribute to the fund, contact the Socialist Workers Party branch nearest you listed in the directory on page 8.

John Studer is the 2015 SWP Party-Building Fund director.

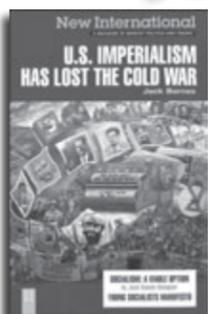
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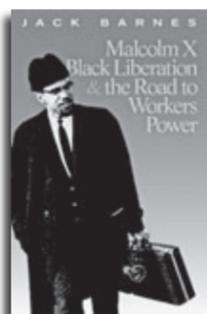
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 Third in four-volume series
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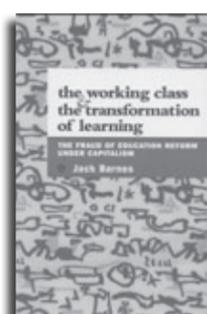
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If you subscribe or renew, these special offers are for you.
 Contact a distributor listed on page 8.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland
 Build the Nov. 10 National Protests! Support the Fight for \$15 an Hour Minimum Wage and a Union. Speaker: Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fight Frame-Up of Quebec Rail Workers. Why the Fight for Rail Safety Is in the Interests of All Workers. Speakers: Fritz Edler, retired Amtrak locomotive engineer; John Studer, Socialist Workers Party, editor of the *Militant*. Sat. Oct. 31. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.

CANADA

Calgary
 The Deepening Crisis in Syria and the Middle East. Support the Kurdish Struggle. Speaker: Katy LeRougetel, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. 4909 17th Ave. SE, Unit 154. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

Party-Building Fund Week 6

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Omaha*	\$1,400	\$2,111	151%
Oakland*	\$14,500	\$11,083	76%
Twin Cities*	\$3,645	\$2,720	75%
Atlanta*	\$9,500	\$6,545	69%
Boston	\$3,250	\$2,145	66%
Lincoln	\$175	\$110	63%
Miami	\$3,000	\$1,547	52%
Chicago*	\$11,000	\$5,560	51%
New York	\$20,000	\$9,485	47%
Philadelphia	\$3,200	\$1,445	45%
Seattle	\$8,300	\$3,680	44%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$3,218	40%
Washington, DC	\$7,700	\$2,912	38%
Other	\$1,200		0%
Total	\$94,870	\$52,561	53%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$75,000	75%
*Raised Goal			

Attacks on Jews, Israeli response

Continued from front page

tensions and encouraged vigilantism against Arabs. In a widely viewed video Basaraa Abad, a 30-year-old Arab citizen of Israel, is holding a knife after attempting an attack in the Afula bus station, near Nazareth. Although she makes no move toward the police who surrounded her, they open fire, shooting her a half dozen times.

Hamas, the reactionary Islamist group that governs the Gaza Strip and is the main competitor to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, lauded the attacks. "We are proud of you, the heroes of the knives," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said Oct. 9, calling the attacks a new *intifada* or uprising.

The first *intifada* — which began in 1987 and lasted four years — was a mass uprising in Gaza and the West Bank, led by a young generation of fighters. It reaffirmed that Palestinians would not stop fighting as long as they face national oppression and discrimination. It won support among large numbers of Israelis, but did not succeed in forging a new leadership that could provide a revolutionary alternative to groups like Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party and reactionary Islamist forces.

The knife attacks are the opposite, a consequence of the political bankruptcy of these organizations that claim to speak for the Palestinian people.

On Oct. 18, Habtom Zarhum, an Eritrean refugee, was shot by a security guard who allegedly thought he was part of a terrorist attack at the Beer-sheba bus station. While Zarhum lay bleeding, he was beaten by a mob and later died. Israeli authorities say they will investigate his death but have ruled out charging any of the vigilantes with homicide.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered checkpoints placed around Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, a form of collective punishment, despite widespread acknowledgement that most Palestinians have nothing to do with the terror attacks.

"It's not good," car wash worker Ahmed Rajabi, a Palestinian in East Jerusalem, told the *New York Times*, referring to a terror attack on a nearby bus Oct. 13. "We don't agree with those things."

In addition to demolishing the houses of alleged terrorists — leaving their families homeless — no new construction will be allowed at the sites. Netanyahu's cabinet called for accelerating the construction of the separation wall, which cuts through large swaths of the West Bank, making it hard for Palestinians to get to their farms and neighbor-

ing towns.

Seven Palestinians were killed and 50 wounded in Gaza Oct. 9 when Israeli soldiers fired across the border into a crowd that was throwing stones and rolling burning tires toward a guard post. The Israel military later announced it would no longer break up "riots" on the Gaza border with live ammunition, but would instead use more rubber bullets and tear gas.

Dispute over Al-Aqsa mosque

The attacks on Jews accelerated after Abbas addressed the United Nations General Assembly Sept. 30.

He accused Netanyahu of scheming to undo the arrangement where the Jordanian government and the Waqf Muslim religious authority administer East Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque — one of the holiest sites in Islam — known to Jews as the Temple Mount. The agreement dates to the 1967 Six Day War, when the Israeli army captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem. As part of the deal, Jews visit the site only at designated times.

Netanyahu says the government has no intention of changing the status quo. But he has often looked the other way as rightist groups, including members of his cabinet, have organized provocative visits. Israeli authorities have increasingly imposed bans on Muslim worshippers under age 40, supposedly to lower the chances of violence. To ease tensions Netanyahu recently banned all members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, from visiting the site.

In the U.N. speech Abbas listed violations by the Israeli government of the rights of Palestinians, including continued building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and incarceration of 6,000 Palestinian political prisoners.

But instead of presenting a road to mobilize the Palestinian masses, take the moral high ground, and win support from working people and others inside Israel, Abbas said the Palestinian Authority would no longer be bound by previous "agreements and that Israel must assume all of its responsibilities as an occupying power, because the status quo cannot continue."

Court reinstates suit against NY cop spying on Muslims

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia Oct. 13 reinstated a lawsuit challenging extensive and indiscriminate spying by the New York Police Department against Muslims in New Jersey, overturning a lower court ruling that threw out the case last year.

The lawsuit, *Hassan v. City of New York*, was filed in 2012 on behalf of 11 Muslim groups and individuals by Muslim Advocates and the Center for Constitutional Rights. The plaintiffs demanded that New York cops' spying program be declared unconstitutional and halted, that the NYPD be ordered to destroy all records gathered through this operation and provide financial compensation.

The appeal was backed by legal briefs filed on behalf of dozens of other religious and political groups, including the National Council of the Churches of Christ and the Union for Reform Judaism. The appeals court said that the issues before it were straightforward to resolve in favor of the plaintiffs. "Lurking beneath the surface, however, are ques-



Active Stills/Oren Ziv

Checkpoint in East Jerusalem, Oct. 18. Stabbings of Jews and brutal reprisals of Israeli government against Palestinians are blows to working class and Palestinian national rights.

When the recent bloody attacks on Jews began, Abbas refused to condemn them. Instead, he and most Palestinian-owned media have referred to the attacks as "alleged," or denied that they even took place.

The terror attacks have created an atmosphere of fear among many Jews and Arabs in Israel. Shops in the Arab town of Nazareth that cater to Jewish customers as well as tourists have been deserted. The same is true in many restaurants and stores in Jerusalem, Haifa and elsewhere.

In revenge some Israeli Jews have attacked Arabs. Uri Rezken, a Jewish worker, was stabbed Oct. 13 in a suburb of Haifa. "I'm working, and suddenly I feel four knife stabs in my back," he told Israel's Army Radio. "I heard a shout, 'You deserve it, you deserve it, Arab bastards!' When I turn around I see a Haredi [ultra-orthodox Jewish] man."

"If I were Arab, it still wouldn't have been OK," Rezken said. "We are all human beings, we are all equal."

Increased Arab-Jewish relations

There are more ties and relations between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel than any time since the country's foundation. It is not unusual for Jews and Arabs to work side by side in the same factories or businesses, to belong to the same labor unions and at

times to socialize.

East Jerusalem, where the majority of the knife attacks have occurred, is home to 300,000 Palestinians. While they are entitled to become Israeli citizens, most have refused; instead they are permanent residents with the right to travel throughout Israel.

Nearly 80 percent of Arab families in Jerusalem live below the official Israeli poverty line, compared to 21 percent of Jewish families. Arab neighborhoods have potholed streets and inadequate water, sewage and garbage collection. Every year municipal authorities demolish dozens of Arab homes that they allege are illegally built, while allowing right wing Israeli groups to buy up property in the Muslim Quarter and the Silwan neighborhood. There are now more than 1,000 Jewish settlers there.

The West Bank, ostensibly under control of the Palestinian Authority, is more like a honeycomb of cantons, with 60 percent of the territory under direct Israeli control, 22 percent under Palestinian civil control but with Israeli cops doing the policing and 18 percent under the rule of Abbas' Palestinian Authority. According to an Israeli army official interviewed by the daily *Yedioth Ahro-noth*, West Bank settlers "have ripped out hundreds of olive trees belonging to Arabs, ruined houses, smashed cars," while Israeli authorities turn a blind eye.

tions about equality, religious liberty, the role of courts in safeguarding our Constitution, and the protection of our civil liberties and rights equally during wartime and peace," the judges wrote.

"We have been down similar roads before," the court said. "Jewish-Americans during the Red Scare, African-Americans during the Civil Rights Movement, and Japanese-Americans during World War II are examples that readily spring to mind."

Facts about the cops' surveillance, which had been going on for nearly a decade, became public when a series of Associated Press articles in 2011 released secret police documents detailing NYPD spying on Muslim mosques, schools, restaurants, stores and other locations in New Jersey and New York. Informants were also placed in Muslim Student Association groups.

City officials and cops claimed the invasive spy program was justified to prevent terrorist attacks. "American Muslims cannot be treated like second-class citizens by police because of their faith," Muslim Advocates Legal Direc-

tor Glenn Katon said in a statement. "We look forward to continuing our case to ensure that no American should be spied on simply because of the way he or she prays."

The appeals court ruling "is tremendously significant for our plaintiffs," said Omar Farah, an attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights, in a phone interview Oct. 19. "It reaffirmed that the NYPD was terribly wrong in singling out the Muslim community for discriminatory policing."

The "ruling paves the path to holding the NYPD accountable for ripping up the Constitution. Enough is enough," lead plaintiff Farhaj Hassan, a soldier in the U.S. Army, told the Muslim Advocates.

In June, the cops agreed to a settlement in a similar lawsuit filed in 2013 by Muslim mosques and individuals in New York City. That suit, argued by the American Civil Liberties Union and the NYCLU, demanded an end to NYPD's Muslim Surveillance Program and a bar to future spying based on religious affiliation.

New International
A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY
Washington's assault on Iraq
OPENING GUNS OF
WORLD WAR III
by Jack Barnes
\$14
1945: WHEN U.S. TROOPS
SAID 'NO!' by Mary Alice Waters
7
SPECIAL WAR
ISSUE
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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column is dedicated to giving voice to those engaged in battle and helping build solidarity. ATI Steelworkers are locked out; major contracts in rail, auto, basic steel and East Coast Verizon have expired or are approaching expiration. I invite those involved in fights against concessions to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Maggie Trowe

Airport contract workers in Florida win wage hike

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Airport workers, members of Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, and supporters rallied outside the Broward County Commissioners meeting here Oct. 13 to celebrate the extension of the Broward Living Wage Ordinance to employees of contractors at major airlines.

The wheelchair pushers, cabin cleaners, baggage handlers and other employees of contractors G2 Secure Staff and Eulen America held a one-day strike Sept. 1.

The commission voted unanimously to end the exclusion of contract workers from the county minimum wage. Starting Jan. 1, workers will make at least \$11.68 an hour if they're getting health benefits and \$13.20 if not.

Before the vote more than 1,200 contractor employees at the airport earned an average of \$8.14 an hour with minimal benefits.

"The treatment we've been receiving is completely unjust," said Esperanza Ariza, a leader of the G2 workers. "We make just \$8.50 per hour and they pay us only for the flights we work on. Most of us have to work two jobs or more just to make ends meet. It took us four years of organizing and struggle to reach this point and it's a big victory."

—Steve Warshell

Brooklyn warehouse workers demand union recognition

NEW YORK — Workers at two B&H Photo Video warehouses in Brooklyn made their yearlong fight for union recognition public at a rally here Oct. 11. According to union organizer Arturo Archila, 85 percent of the 240

workers have signed cards saying they want to join the Steelworkers.

Some 75 of the mostly Mexican- and Guatemalan-born workers along with more than 150 supporters marched from a nearby subway station to B&H's superstore in midtown Manhattan. A delegation of workers went inside and delivered a letter to the company demanding the union be recognized.

The workers want higher pay and an end to forced overtime and abusive treatment by supervisors. "There is no regular work schedule or quitting time," Raúl Pedraza told the *Militant*. "Sometimes we start at 7 a.m. and then at the end of the day they say you have to stay until 11 p.m."

"There is no medical insurance," he said.

"Sometimes they tell you to climb way up the storage bins," said Juan Sosa. "But they don't provide a safety harness."

—Seth Galinsky

California county hospital nurses strike for better staffing, pay

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Registered nurses at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and health clinics here



Militant/Eric Simpson

California Nurses Association members picket Contra Costa Regional Medical Center Oct. 7 during two-day strike for higher nurse-to-patient ratio and pay. Their contract ran out in July.

organized a two-day strike for better staffing and pay. The California Nurses Association members have been working without a contract since July.

"When I visited your hospital I saw that every single nurse had a strike button on," Katy Roemer, a leader of the California Nurses Association, said at an Oct. 7 rally.

"We had a six-week strike at the Tesoro oil refinery earlier this year. I want to thank you for the energy you brought to our picket line. We are fighting for adequate staffing in the refineries, too," Mike Smith, a member of United Steelworkers Local 5 told the strikers. He was one of more than a dozen oil refinery unionists who came to the nurses' picket line.

"Stand up, look around, there's a health care crisis in this town," chanted hundreds of nurses marching from the

hospital picket line to a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors Oct. 6.

"I come here to advocate for the patients, not for dollar signs," emergency room nurse Judy Gonzalez said, adding she was appalled that the county spent \$3.7 million to hire strikebreakers.

"Short staffing means nurses can't provide safe care," nurse Norma Irazo told the *Militant*. "We've been pushed to the point where enough is enough."

According to the union, wages at the county hospital are 30 percent lower than at nearby private hospitals, leading to a high turnover rate.

About one-third of the nurses are employed on a "per-diem" contingent and on-call basis, without health coverage. The union demands a single contract for all nurses.

—Eric Simpson

Steelworkers press fight against concessions, lockout

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

PHILADELPHIA — "U.S. Steel is trying to take everything from us," Bill Coe, president of United Steelworkers Local 4889 at U.S. Steel in Fairless Hills said in a phone interview Oct. 11. Coe had just returned from negotiations in Pittsburgh.

Some 17,000 workers at U.S. Steel and 13,000 at ArcelorMittal mills have been working without a contract

since Sept. 1, facing steep concession demands from the bosses.

"Capitalists are the problem," Luke Glantz, a safety representative for Steelworkers Local 9462 at ArcelorMittal in Conshohocken told the *Militant*. "They come up with more creative ways to maximize profits. The only thing we have to fight back with is solidarity."

At the same time, 2,200 Steelwork-

ers locked out Aug. 15 by Allegheny Technologies Inc. have been picketing at 12 plants in six states.

In Brackenridge, locked-out crane operator Mickey Karns said he was inspired by members of the United Auto Workers at Fiat Chrysler, who voted down a contract that maintained the hated two-tier wage structure, forcing the company to back off from some concession demands.

Pickets have seen four or five ambulances driving out of the plant with injured strikebreakers, Karns said. "ATI doesn't care about anybody."

Mitchel Rosenberg is a member of USW Local 10-1 at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 2, 1990

SUVA, Fiji — Some 400 garment workers struck the Just Cham Garment Company at Nausori, a small town several miles outside Fiji's capital, protesting starvation wages and sweatshop conditions.

Strikers were averaging US\$14 for a 40-hour week. Because of illegal deductions by their employers, some take home less than \$10 a week. The workers, all women, are also denied lunch and other breaks, forced to work Saturdays unpaid, and subjected to sexual harassment from management, such as strip searches, allegedly to look for stolen garments.

The garment workers are organized by the Fiji Association of Garment Workers. This is the latest in a series of strikes by garment workers seeking to narrow their wage gap with other Fijian workers.



November 1, 1965

Cuba continues to firmly press its revolutionary foreign policy. This is apparent from the speech delivered by Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa to the General Assembly of the United Nations on Oct. 15.

Indicting U.S. aggression, the Cuban spokesman declared:

"It is they who brutally attack the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. ... They supply weapons and money to check the emancipation of the subject peoples of Angola, Mozambique and so-called Portuguese Guinea. It is they who indirectly bomb Laos, who threaten the independence of Cambodia, who undermine the sovereignty of Cyprus, who oppose the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, who indirectly or directly organize individual or collective invasions against Cuba."



November 2, 1940

The shift of the main theater of war to the Mediterranean signifies the beginning of a new phase in the titanic world struggle between British and German imperialism.

Hitler has apparently abandoned for the present any attempt to crush Britain by direct assault, invasion of the British Isles. He is moving instead to isolate the British completely from the European continent and from the Near and Middle Eastern units of its empire.

To do this he has to make the Mediterranean an Axis lake. This is the ultimate objective of the drive begun by Italian forces against Greece early last Monday morning.

From the standpoint of the war in general, the Mediterranean offensive of the Axis opens what is certain to be a lengthy and costly struggle.

DC rally reflects resistance

Continued from front page

That outpouring reflected the irreversible gains won with the victory of the mass working-class led movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and '60s. This strengthened the working class and transformed the possibilities for united action among toilers across the racist divisions generated by the capitalist rulers.

At the same time it registered widespread anger among African-Americans at what they continue to face. The turnout was fueled by the offensive of the bosses and government already underway against the wages, social conditions and democratic rights of working people.

The rally posed — though it offered no solution to — the social effects of centuries of slavery and racist oppression on the Black family. In 1965 Daniel Moynihan, then an adviser in the administration of President Lyndon Johnson, drafted a paper saying the government was underestimating the damage done to Black families by “three centuries of sometimes unimaginable mistreatment.” His proposals, not included in the report, included establishing a guaranteed minimum income and government jobs program.

On the heels of the overthrow of Jim Crow, the working class won some victories in establishing affirmative action and other programs aimed at closing the gap in economic conditions facing African-Americans. However, the propertied ruling families refused to divert resources from their profits to underwrite the requisite expansion of jobs, wages and social programs.

Impact of ruling-class offensive

Instead they opened wide their prison gates. From the mid-1970s to the mid-'90s, the incarceration rate quadrupled, from 150 to 600 per 100,000.

The soaring rates disproportionately affected African-American men, as both the federal and state governments

adopted a raft of laws under the rubric of a “war on drugs” and draconian mandatory minimum sentencing laws. The unemployment rate for workers who are Black was roughly double the national average. And just days before the rally Jonny Gammage, a Black businessman, was beaten to death by cops in a suburb of Pittsburgh.

In the 20 years since the Million Man March these trends have continued. The expansion of the prison system accelerated throughout the presidencies of William Clinton and George W. Bush to the point where the U.S. today has the highest incarceration rate in the world, even with a slight decline in the last couple of years. The number of workers behind bars grew 500 percent between 1980 and 2010. The incarceration rate for Caucasian men in their 20s tripled. The effect on African-Americans was even higher.

Another hallmark of the Clinton presidency was the 1996 repeal of Aid to Families with Dependent Children — the first time an entire category of working people, single mothers and their children, were removed from protections under the Social Security Act.

During his 2008 presidential campaign Barack Obama said that while he worried at the time that ending AFDC would have disastrous results, he had become “absolutely convinced” that Clinton’s “welfare reform” had to remain “a centerpiece of any social policy.”

But far from having productive jobs at good wages, by 2005 only half of those pushed off AFDC were employed at all, forced into low-paying, nonunion jobs. The 50 percent of former AFDC recipients who were Black and unemployed had fallen more than 30 percent further below the official government poverty line than they were in 1999. And this was before the deep 2008 recession that sent unemployment skyrocketing.

Bourgeois politicians from Clinton to Obama, offered sanctimonious lectures to workers who are Black on how to be



Militant/Seth Galinsky

‘Justice or Else’ rally was marked by rise in resistance to police brutality, mass incarceration, boss attacks. Above, April 24 protest in Baltimore against police killing of Freddie Gray.

better parents, while pushing all social responsibility onto the individual family. They obfuscate the fact that capitalist property relations are the root of so much individual and “family” misery today.

Rally marked by rise in resistance

The Justice or Else rally was marked by the recent rise in resistance to these conditions. The explosion of Black Lives Matter struggles centered on the brutal treatment meted out by the cops has had an impact. The rulers have been forced to take steps to rein in their police. Killer cops have been hit by firings, indictment and jail. It was these struggles, alongside the continued changes in attitudes won by the massive battles for Black rights in the 1950s and '60s, that led to the victory this summer when the Confederate battle flag in South Carolina was brought down.

In California and elsewhere, tens of thousands of workers behind bars have organized hunger strikes and other protests against solitary confinement and other abusive conditions, forging unity in action among inmates who are Black, Latino and Caucasian, and asserting their humanity.

These struggles have also increased

pressure on the government to change some of the most egregious policies on incarceration and the prisons. On Oct. 6, for example, it was reported that the Justice Department plans to release 6,000 people imprisoned on nonviolent drug charges, the largest one-time release of federal prisoners to date. Prominent figures in both the Republican and Democratic parties have called for reducing mandatory minimum sentences and other steps to reduce the number of Blacks and others in prison.

The fights against police brutality, mass incarceration and prison conditions have intertwined with struggles to raise the minimum wage and for unionization.

Shawnette Richardson, a McDonald’s worker active in the Fight for \$15 in Brooklyn, and her 18-year-old son joined a group of fast-food workers and others involved in Black Lives Matter protests to travel to Washington. She told the *New York Daily News* that beyond the fight to raise wages, “my children, all children, deserve to be respected and safe. And I deserve not to fret every time my son steps out of the house.” These fights are “one and the same,” she said.

The organizers of the rally, starting with Nation of Islam leader Farrakhan, presented no road forward — just various pro-capitalist “self-help” proposals that the Nation has promoted from the beginning.

But many who came felt the sense of pride and confidence that comes from struggle and were strengthened by coming together with others like them.

‘We want truth about what happened to our son’

BY JANICE LYNN

SENECA, S.C. — “We’re not going to give up trying to find out the truth about what happened to our son Zach,” Paul Hammond told the *Militant* at an Oct. 14 visit to his home. He recently retired after working 38 years at the nearby Michelin tire plant. Zachary Hammond, 19, who is Caucasian, was shot twice and killed by Seneca police officer Mark Tiller July 26 in a Hardee’s restaurant parking lot.

Zachary and Tori Morton, a female companion, had driven to Hardee’s to get ice cream. The cops say they stopped his car as part of a drug sting aimed at Morton. She was ultimately charged with simple possession of marijuana.

Tiller drew his gun and yelled “that he would blow our f---ing heads off and immediately started firing,” Morton said in an affidavit.

Tiller claims he fired fearing for his life when Zachary drove his car at him. But an independent autopsy requested by the family found that the youth was shot in the back, showing that the officer could not have been worried about being run over when he pulled the trig-



Zachary Hammond in 2011 photo.

ger. The official autopsy has not been released.

The family has organized vigils, press conferences, written to the governor, and filed a civil lawsuit in federal court seeking the truth about the death of their son. They demand release of the video of the shooting taken by the dashboard camera in the cop’s car.

“We’ve gotten a lot of support,” Paul Hammond told the *Militant*. “My wife, Angie, was recently interviewed by a

radio station in San Francisco and by a news organization in Russia. I didn’t know before this happened that so many people fear the police and have faced harassment. We need to keep up the pressure.”

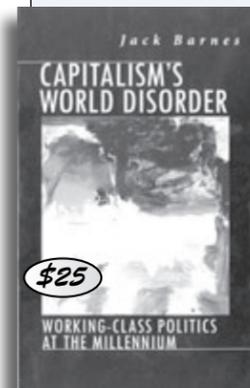
The *Greenville News* and other papers have filed a lawsuit against the State Law Enforcement Division seeking access to the video and other records under the state’s Freedom of Information Act.

“Here we are again talking about Zachary Hammond,” Chenjerai Kumanyika, one of a half dozen people wearing “Justice for Zach” T-shirts, said at the Seneca City Council meeting Oct. 13. “It’s been 11 weeks and no answers. Do you honestly feel you’ve done everything to stand up and ask questions?” Kumanyika, who is African-American, is from nearby Clemson.

“We will allow the process to take its course,” Mayor Dan Alexander responded. “At this time I have no reason not to support my men and women in blue. We will wait until all the information is gathered and then make a decision if we have to.”

Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes



“A new pattern is being woven in struggle today as working people emerge from a period of retreat. The emerging pattern is taking shape, defined by the actions of a vanguard whose ranks

increase with every single worker or farmer who reaches out to others with the hand of solidarity and offers to fight together.”

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End 55-year US embargo against Cuban Revolution!

Fidel Castro: 'Imperialists worry about our example'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Oct. 19 marked the 55th anniversary of the imposition of Washington's embargo against Cuba and full-fledged economic war aimed at overturning the revolution.

Totally misreading the revolutionary mettle of Fidel Castro and the cadres of the July 26 Movement who led the Jan. 1, 1959, revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, the U.S. rulers hoped that with a little pressure and financial inducement, Castro and company would see the light. New faces would be in power, but the island would remain under U.S. imperialist domination.

Washington's hopes were dashed as Cuban revolutionaries implemented the revolutionary program they had promised during the fight against Batista and continued to mobilize and lead Cuban workers and farmers in taking control of their country. In May 1959 the first agrarian reform law was passed, expropriating large plantations, including many owned by U.S. capitalists, eliminating the system of rents and mortgages and granting land to those who worked it.

By the end of 1959 Washington was not-so-secretly backing armed counter-revolutionaries seeking to overthrow the new government.

At the beginning of June 1960, three companies that dominated the importing, refining and distribution of oil in Cuba — U.S.-based Esso and Texaco and British-Dutch Shell — refused to refine oil that Cuba obtained from the Soviet Union. Large working-class mobilizations accompanied the revolution-

ary government's seizure of the refineries.

In retaliation, President Dwight Eisenhower canceled that year's quota for Cuban sugar exports to the U.S.

A month later Castro announced the expropriation of 26 U.S.-owned companies at a rally of thousands of cheering workers. Early in the morning of Aug. 17, large numbers of workers gathered in front of the Cuban Telephone Company and the Cuban Electric Company, both U.S.-owned, tore down the old signs and took over.

An article in the Oct. 15 *Granma* notes that the first steps taken by the revolutionary government to expropriate U.S.- and other foreign-owned companies "had little impact on private industrial interests" owned by Cuban capitalists.

But by the end of 1959 and the beginning of 1960 "the majority of large proprietors increasingly sabotaged production," *Granma* said. "After withdrawing huge sums of cash from operating funds, many left the country, abandoning their businesses ... other proprietors made common cause with enemies of the Revolution, financing subversive groups which proliferated in support of U.S. plans to attack Cuba."

On Oct. 13, 1960, the Cuban Council of Ministers approved laws that nationalized 382 Cuban-owned companies, including 105 sugar mills, 60 textile and garment companies, 18 distilleries, 16 rice processors, 13 department stores and eight rail companies, as well as most banks.

These measures were popular with working people in Cuba, but not with



Bohemia

Cuban revolutionaries implemented the program they had promised during the fight against Batista and continued to mobilize and lead Cuban workers and farmers in taking control of their country. Above, workers at Havana department store rally in August 1960 supporting revolutionary measures. Sign says, "We support nationalization of companies."

Washington, which tried to weaken support for the revolutionary mobilizations by calling the Cuban leaders communists.

Castro took on the red-baiting charge during a "Meet the Press"-style nationwide TV program Oct. 15. He described having talked with a group of people who had been put on trial after joining counterrevolutionary actions in Santa Clara, saying they had been disoriented by Washington's propaganda.

"I said to them, 'Do you want the land to be taken away from the peasants and given once again to the big landowners?' 'No, No!' 'Then do you want us to take the teachers away from you?' 'No.' 'Do you want us to raise rents back up again?' 'No.' 'Do you want us to close the beaches and return them to private ownership?' And so they agreed with everything." To the laughter of the TV

audience, Castro told them, "If you say we are communists, then you are communists too."

Imperialist governments "are not so much interested in the amount they lost because of the revolutionary measures," Castro noted. "They are much more worried about the significance of this example to the other peoples" of Latin America and the world.

On Oct. 19, 1960, Eisenhower officially imposed a punishing trade embargo, prohibiting all exports to Cuba except food, medicine and medical supplies.

That embargo remains in place today, despite the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba. But it has failed to bring revolutionary Cuba to its knees and the example of working people in power and their internationalist solidarity inspire working people around the world.

On Oct. 27 the United Nations General Assembly is scheduled to vote on a motion demanding Washington end the embargo. The motion will pass overwhelmingly as it has for the past 23 years. Washington has said it hasn't yet decided how it will vote.

Jobless numbers hide jobs crisis facing workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Department of Labor reports that unemployment is at a seven-year low — 5.1 percent for August and September. But this paints a false picture of the real jobs crisis facing millions of workers today. Government statisticians blithely eliminated more people from the workforce count in September than the number of jobs created, many who the government says are "discouraged" and no longer looking for work. As a result, the labor force participation rate actually declined last month to 62.4 percent, the lowest point since October 1977.

Depression conditions today, including the large number of unemployed and underemployed, are rooted in a prolonged decline in capitalist production and trade worldwide. The propertied rich either turn their funds into unproductive speculation or drive to boost sagging profit rates by attacking workers' wages and hours, speeding

up production and slashing safety on the job.

There are fewer workers employed in manufacturing today than at the beginning of the year. Over the past two months alone 27,000 production jobs have been eliminated. Plant capacity utilization fell to 77.5 percent in September.

Average real wages for production jobs, adjusted for inflation, have been stagnant for decades. They peaked in January 1973 at \$22.41 per hour in today's dollars, and have mostly remained at or below \$20 ever since. The bosses' success in instituting two-tier wages, a major issue auto workers are fighting against in "Big Three" negotiations today, have lowered weekly pay for many workers.

The numbers of women in the U.S. workforce has also declined, a big reversal from trends over the past several decades. Last year the labor force participation rate "of prime-age American women fell behind that of Japan," reported the *Financial Times*, as well as "Sweden, France, and even Greece."

This matches drops among men in the "prime" 25-to-54-year-old working ages. For them, "only Italy and Israel have lower participation rates among 34 countries tracked by the OECD [Organization for Economic Coopera-

tion and Development]."

As bosses gut pension plans that guarantee monthly payments for life, they're "nudging" workers to put more money into 401(k) investment plans or, when they can get away with it, just doing it for them. A number of companies like Google are simply putting 10 percent of workers' pay into 401(k) accounts. In a growing number of cases, they do so without increasing company matching contributions, placing a greater and greater share of the "burden" of longer life on the backs of working people.

Rising health insurance premiums and deductibles are also slashing into workers' paychecks. Since the Affordable Care Act — better known as Obamacare — was instituted in 2010, the average annual premium for a family policy has risen by about \$1,000 to nearly \$5,000.

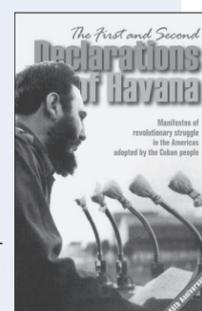
Over the past five years deductibles have increased more than six times faster than workers' earnings. Policies offering lower premiums set high deductibles, some as much as \$6,000 per year, discouraging workers from seeing a doctor when they get sick.

Starting next year monthly premiums for about one-third of the millions of people on Medicare are set to rise as much as 52 percent.

Fight for \$15 and a union!
National day of action
Tues., Nov. 10
 For more info on your city visit: fightfor15.org

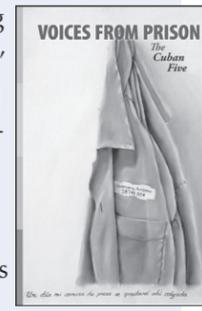
The First and Second Declarations of Havana

Nowhere are the questions of revolutionary strategy that today confront men and women on the front lines of struggles in the Americas addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in these two documents, adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962. **\$10**



Voices from Prison

The Cuban Five
 How the unbending dignity, truthfulness, and integrity of the five Cubans framed up by the U.S. government won them the admiration and respect around the world and among their fellow prisoners as well. **\$7**



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'To be a revolutionary doctor, there must first be a revolution'

The Spanish-language edition of Che Guevara Talks to Young People is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. It contains eight talks given between 1959 and 1964 by the Argentine-born revolutionary who helped lead the first socialist revolution in the Americas in Cuba. The selection is from "To Be a Revolutionary Doctor, You Must First Make a Revolution," a speech given Aug. 19, 1960, at a gathering of several hundred medical students and health care workers in the assembly hall of the Confederation of Cuban Workers. Copyright © 2000 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

Almost everyone knows that a number of years ago I started out my career to be a doctor. And when I started, when I began to study medicine, the majority of the concepts I hold today as a revolutionary were absent from the storehouse of my ideals.

I wanted to succeed, as everybody wants to succeed. I dreamed of being a famous researcher. I dreamed of working tirelessly to achieve something that could really be put at the disposal of humanity, but that would be a personal triumph at the same time. I was, as we all are, a child of my environment.



Council of State Office of Historical Affairs

Che Guevara, center, set an example as a tireless fighter for Cuban Revolution. In course of revolutionary struggle, Guevara said, "a new type of human being is coming into being." This transformation has allowed Cuban toilers to defend their revolution for more than 55 years.

Through special circumstances and perhaps also because of my character, after receiving my degree I began to travel through Latin America and got to know it intimately. Except for Haiti and the Dominican Republic, I have visited — to one degree or another — all the countries of Latin America. Given how I traveled, first as a student and afterward as a doctor, I began to come into close contact with poverty, with hunger, with disease, with the inability to cure a child due to lack of resources, with the numbness that hunger and unrelenting punishment cause until a point is reached where a parent losing a child becomes an accident of no importance, as is often the case among those classes in our Latin American homeland who have been dealt the heaviest blows. And I began to see there was something that seemed to me almost as important as being a famous researcher or making a substantial contribution to medical science: it was helping those people. ...

Then I realized a fundamental thing: to be a revolutionary doctor, or to be a revolutionary, there must first be a revolution. The isolated effort, the individual effort, the purity of ideals, the desire to sacrifice an entire lifetime to the noblest of ideals — all that is for naught if the effort is made alone, solitary, in some corner of Latin

America, fighting against hostile governments and social conditions that permit no progress. A revolution needs what we have in Cuba: an entire people who are mobilized, who have learned the use of arms and the practice of unity in combat, who know what a weapon is worth and what the people's unity is worth.

Then we get to the heart of the problem that today lies ahead of us. We already have the right and even the obligation to be, before anything else, a revolutionary doctor, that is, a person who puts the technical knowledge of his profession at the service of the revolution and of the people. Then we come back to the earlier questions: How does one do a job of social welfare effectively? How does one reconcile individual effort with the needs of society?

Once again we have to recall what each of our lives was like prior to the revolution — what each of us did and thought, as a doctor or in any other public health function. We must do so with profound critical enthusiasm. And we will conclude that almost everything we thought and felt in that past epoch should be filed away, and we should create a new type of human being. If each one of us is his own architect in doing so, then creating that new type of human being — who will

be the representative of the new Cuba — will be much easier.

It is good for you — those present here, residents of Havana — to absorb this idea: that in Cuba a new type of human being is coming into existence, one that cannot be entirely appreciated in the capital, but that can be seen in every corner of the country. Those of you who went to the Sierra Maestra on July 26 must have seen two absolutely unheard-of things: an army with picks and shovels, one that takes such pride in marching in the patriotic celebrations in Oriente province with its picks and shovels ready, side by side with the militia compañeros marching with their rifles. [Applause] But you must also have seen something much more important: You must have seen some children who by their physical stature appear eight or nine years old, but who are nevertheless almost all thirteen or fourteen. They are the most authentic children of the Sierra Maestra, the most authentic children of hunger and poverty in all its forms. They are the creatures of malnutrition.

In this small Cuba, with four or five television channels, with hundreds of radio stations, despite all the advances of modern science, when those children for the first time came to school at night and saw electric lights, they exclaimed that the stars were very low that night. Those children, whom some of you would have seen, have now been brought together in schools where they are learning everything from the ABCs right up to a trade, right up to the very difficult science of being a revolutionary.

These are the new types of human beings emerging in Cuba. They are being born in isolated places, in remote points in the Sierra Maestra and also in the cooperatives and workplaces.

All that has a lot to do with the topic of our talk today: the integration of the doctor or any other medical worker into the revolutionary movement. Because the revolution's tasks — of training and nourishing the children, educating the army, distributing the lands of the absentee landlords among those who sweated every day on that same land without reaping its fruit — those are the greatest works of social medicine that Cuba has achieved.

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

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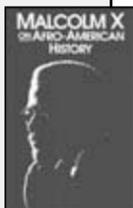
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End attacks on Jews, brutal Israeli response

The stabbings and other attacks on Jews in Israel, praised by Hamas and acquiesced to by the Palestinian Authority, and the brutally disproportionate response by the Israeli regime pose more sharply than ever the need for a revolutionary working-class leadership in Palestine and Israel. The Socialist Workers Party calls for an immediate end to the attacks on Jews and the Israeli government's murderous response.

The terrorist actions set back the just struggle of the Palestinian people for national rights and against discrimination. They deepen divisions among Jewish, Arab and other workers in Israel and politically strengthen the hand of the capitalist Israeli government.

Neither the reactionary Islamist Hamas nor the bourgeois nationalist Palestinian Authority has any perspective to mobilize and lead the Palestinian toilers effectively. Instead they organize and encourage terrorist actions and provocations — including unconscionable assaults on civilians — that can only lead to repression and demoralization.

Nor is there any revolutionary working-class leadership in Israel that fights to unite all toilers in the country to battle side by side in defense of their class

interests. Such a party would campaign against expanding settlements in the West Bank, for ending the economic embargo of Gaza and to stop discrimination and brutality against Palestinians and other Arab citizens. It would oppose deportation of immigrant workers.

A working-class leadership is needed in Palestine and Israel that can chart a course to increase the confidence and capacity of workers and farmers to combat Palestinian national oppression and capitalist exploitation. Toilers in the Middle East have proven their ability to forge such a leadership, for example in the revolution that brought a workers and farmers government to power in Algeria in 1962.

Such a leadership can be constructed in the fight to recognize the state of Israel, demand a contiguous, economically viable Palestinian state, and advance immediate demands to give the toilers space to live and organize. These include: End the "collective punishment" and destruction of the homes of Palestinian families by the Israeli regime! Guarantee the right of Palestinian toilers to land, water, and the ability to travel to work! Halt the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank! Oppose Jew-hatred in any form!

Washington seeks to maintain hold in Mideast

Continued from front page

pose a Mideast order in its interests. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Stalinist regimes across Eastern Europe more than two decades ago, Washington lost Moscow's help in curbing and corrupting revolutionary movements in the Middle East and elsewhere.

As the old imperialist world order unravels, the U.S. rulers have sought new alliances to maintain stability and a measure of dominance, through the recent nuclear accord with Iran and "reset" with Russia.

The speed and forcefulness of Russia's move into Syria took the Barack Obama administration aback. Russian President Vladimir Putin is shoring up Russian access to Mediterranean ports and strengthening Moscow's hand in politics in the region, in collaboration with Tehran and Baghdad. Moscow claims it is joining in efforts to stop the terrorist Islamic State, but in fact it's focused on efforts to reinforce the Assad regime.

For the first time since the civil war began, Assad traveled outside Syria to meet with Putin in Moscow Oct. 20.

While the U.S. government carries out aerial attacks on Islamic State, Kurdish forces have sustained the most effective and successful fight on the ground. In Syria, Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) regained 17 villages in the Mt. Abdulaziz area of Hasakah province, reporting more than 100 Islamic State soldiers killed in an early October offensive.

The U.S. rulers — like the capitalist governments of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran — oppose the ambitions of some 30 million Kurds for a homeland, but they benefit from Kurdish advances on the ground.

Washington recently ended a \$500 million program to train fighters against Islamic State who had to agree not to use their weapons against Assad. The Pentagon said it was able to field less than a dozen such troops.

Instead, they have begun to pass more weapons along to already existing groups on the ground. Some forces resisting the regime's new Moscow-backed offensive say they have gotten their hands on U.S.-made TOW anti-tank weapons.

No alternative for Washington

Some U.S. politicians and pundits — from Republican Sen. John McCain to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton — have assailed Obama's "inaction" in Syria and called for stepped-up direct U.S. intervention. Clinton and others have called for Washington to impose a "no-fly zone" over parts of Syria, enforcement of which

would pose confrontations with Russian planes.

Bernie Sanders, vying with Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination, opposes that proposal and backs Obama.

Republican front-runner Donald Trump has expressed support for Russian airstrikes against Islamic State and reluctance about U.S. intervention. During a Sept. 20 interview with Trump, Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly said, "Once Putin gets in and fights ISIS on behalf of Assad, Putin runs Syria. He owns it. He'll never get out, never."

"Do you want to run Syria? Do you want to own Syria?" Trump replied. "I want to rebuild our country."

"I'm looking at Assad and saying, 'Maybe he's better than the kind of people that we're supposed to be backing,'" Trump added.

In a similar vein, ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan in an op-ed column titled "The Antiwar Insurgency," argued that the U.S. invasion of Iraq led to the rise of Islamic State. "For anti-interventionists, Trump vs. Sanders is the ideal race," Buchanan wrote, saying Sanders and Trump were gaining support because they opposed the Iraq war and today's U.S. intervention in Syria.

Political figures from differing backgrounds have argued there is little basis for any course counter to the one being pursued by the Obama administration. "Republican bloviating about 'weakling' Obama notwithstanding, any future president will face this foreign-policy dilemma: The distance between America's idea of itself and what it can plausibly achieve is widening," wrote *New York Times* columnist Roger Cohen Oct. 15.

"The destruction of ISIS is more urgent than the overthrow of Bashar Assad," Henry Kissinger, national security adviser and secretary of state under the Nixon and Ford administrations, said in an op-ed article in the *Wall Street Journal* the next day. Washington's acquiescence to a Russian military role in Syria made sense, he said, because the two countries share "compatible objectives" in the fight against Islamic State.

He wrote that in a possible future federated Syria "a context will exist for the role of Mr. Assad, which reduces the risks of genocide or chaos leading to terrorist triumph."

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Protest Chicago cops

Continued from front page

at every monthly board hearing since Servin was acquitted six months ago on charges of involuntary manslaughter, reckless discharge of a firearm and reckless conduct.

The Independent Police Review Authority recommended in September that the veteran officer be fired — a first in the board's history. Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy has 60 days left to accept or reject the agency's recommendation.

After McCarthy told the hearing he needed more time, speaker after speaker detailed their own experiences with police brutality and called for Servin's immediate firing.

"You had three years," said Aislinn Sol, a leader of BlackLivesMatter Chicago. "You don't need another 60 days."

"Stand up or step down, McCarthy," said LaCreshia Birts, a member of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and Black Youth Project 100. "Stand up and hold police who commit crimes against civilians accountable."

"The only reason for the decision to recommend Servin's firing is due to the people sitting behind me who have organized march after march for Rekia Boyd," said Dan Fein, representing the Socialist Workers Party. "The police do not 'serve and protect' working people. The role of the cops is to defend this system of exploitation and to put working people in their place. Fire Servin now!"

A contingent of young activists from Fight for \$15 attended the hearing, including Solo Littlejohn, a worker at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Cicero, who is African-American.

"Fight for \$15 supports the Rekia Boyd struggle," Littlejohn told the *Militant*, "because both are about justice for workers."

"It's been over three years since my sister got killed," Martinez Sutton, Boyd's brother, told the rally. "I didn't get an apology from the mayor. The police superintendent didn't apologize to us. She is just dead. This decision should have been made back in 2012."

On Oct. 12 Sutton spoke at a protest to mark the one-year anniversary of the police killing of Ronald Johnson, 25. He was killed near Washington Park in south side Englewood, where the vigil was held.

"We can't do this fight by ourselves, but united as one we are powerful," Sutton said, turning to Dorothy Holmes, Johnson's mother, and her family.

The Cook County medical examiner's office said Johnson died from multiple gunshot wounds and ruled his death a homicide. But the cops claim Johnson was shooting at them and they fired in self-defense. Holmes has been fighting for the release of the cops' dash-cam video that she is sure would show that Johnson was unarmed and shot in the back.



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Dorothy Holmes, mother of Ronald Johnson, speaks to reporter surrounded by family members at vigil Oct. 12. Holmes is demanding release of cop video of her son's death.