

# THE MILITANT

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 Cuban toilers defend revolution, reject return to capitalist past  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 70/NO. 32 AUGUST 28, 2006

## After cease-fire, Israeli forces begin pullout from Lebanon

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

August 16—As the Israeli rulers fell short of their goal of breaking the back of Hezbollah's militias through their month-long invasion of Lebanon, the United Nations Security Council on August 11 unanimously approved a cease-fire resolution. The U.S.- and French-sponsored document establishes a military force to police southern Lebanon in conjunction with an equal number of Lebanese troops. Some of the 30,000 Israeli troops that invaded have reportedly begun to leave the country and turn over villages to UN troops already there.

During their assault Israeli forces killed nearly 1,100, wounded 3,700, and drove about 1 million people from their homes.

From the moment the cease-fire took effect August 14, however, thousands of refugees began to return to their homes in southern Lebanon, the center of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) assault. This took place in spite of the IDF's initial refusal to lift its threat to attack any vehicle on the road south of the Litani River, about 18 miles north of the Israeli border.

"There is a massive movement of tens of thousands if not more toward the south and toward the southern suburbs of Beirut, too," Bashar Abu-Sayfan, a

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## UK cops arrest two dozen for 'terrorist plot'

BY XERARDO ARIAS

EDINBURGH, Scotland, August 15—In overnight raids in London, High Wycombe, and Birmingham August 10, British police arrested 24 people under the Terrorism Act 2000 for alleged involvement in a "terrorist plot" to blow up transatlantic flights. The majority of those arrested are British citizens of Pakistani origin.

One of those arrested has since been released without being charged. The rest can be kept behind bars for 28 days without charges. Their assets have been frozen by the Bank of England, which published on its website the names of 19 of those arrested. Their personal details have been featured in the media across the country.

An article in the August 10 issue of the London Times said the police made the arrests after an international surveillance operation that monitored meetings, travel, spending, and expressed aspirations of a large group of people. The spying operation reportedly began in December 2005, triggered by the capture of a British national in Pakistan.

British prime minister Anthony Blair

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# Chicago conference calls actions for immigrant rights

September rallies to demand legalization, end to deportations



Militant/Christian Castro

National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention took place August 11–13 in Chicago

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

CHICAGO, August 13—The three-day National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention concluded here today. Several hundred delegates took part. Organizers announced that 600 people had registered. They included representatives of immigrant rights groups, trade unions, and other organizations backing legalization of immigrants. A good number of students and other youth attended.

Delegates voted to back actions for immigrant rights already called for the first week of September, around Labor Day weekend. They also approved a call for

**Build mobilizations for immigrant rights**  
 — editorial, p. 9

nationally coordinated actions September 30, before Congress adjourns prior to the November elections, to demand immediate legalization of undocumented immigrants. Delegates also agreed to press the demand for a moratorium on workplace raids and deportations at all

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## U.S. appeals court upholds convictions of five framed Cuban revolutionaries

BY PAUL PEDERSON

On August 9, the full 12-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed an earlier ruling of a three-judge panel of the same court and upheld the convictions of the Cuban Five. The decision came exactly one year after the three-judge panel had thrown out the convictions of the five Cuban revolutionaries and ordered a new trial.

The court had ruled Aug. 9, 2005, that the defendants were denied a fair trial because of "the 'perfect storm' created by pretrial publicity surrounding this case, the pervasive community sentiment, and the government's closing arguments." The U.S. government, which won convictions for the five men in 2001 based on frame-up charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage for the government of Cuba, appealed last year's ruling.

In reversing the 2005 decision the full court of appeals concluded that Miami-Dade County—where the five were tried amidst a media barrage that had labeled them guilty with the regular presence in the courtroom of Cuban-Americans opposed to the Cuban Revolution—"is a widely diverse, multi-racial community

## Day laborers in partnership with AFL-CIO

BY RÓGER CALERO

The AFL-CIO and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) announced August 9 a new partnership between the two organizations. The purpose is to improve wages and working conditions of day laborers, largely undocumented immigrants, seeking daily work in cities and towns across the United States.

NDLON is an umbrella group of some 40 worker centers across the country. The centers assist day laborers, who look for all kinds of work—from landscaping to house cleaning and repairs—in organizing to confront superexploitation and abuse by the employers and fight for livable wages.

A day after the deal with the AFL-CIO was announced, the Laborers' International Union said it will begin next year recruiting day laborers as full-fledged union members for construction jobs, the Associated Press reported. The union, which left the AFL-CIO last year to join the Change to Win federation, represents

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of more than two million people. Nothing in the trial record suggests that twelve fair and impartial jurors could not be assembled by the trial judge to try the defendants impartially and fairly."

The five men—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González—were in Miami on an internationalist mission from the Cuban government to collect information on ultrarightist groups of Cuban-Americans

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Former airline worker in Chicago resists deportation 4

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# British forces expand NATO operations in Afghanistan

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Following weeks of intensive fighting, the head of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David Richards, a British officer, announced August 12 a new offensive against Taliban forces. Under the plan, the imperialist military alliance will move Afghan army units in to defend locations NATO forces had previously been trying to hold. This would free up NATO troops to mount “search and destroy” missions in areas held by the Taliban, which ruled the country until the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Commenting on the scale and intensity of the fighting, Richards said: “This sort of thing hasn’t really happened so consistently, I don’t think, since the Korean War or the Second World War.... This is persistent, low-level, dirty fighting.”

Since May, British troops in the country’s Helmand province have fought 25 major battles in which they have killed about 700 Taliban, the August 6 *Telegraph* reported.

Imperialist forces occupying three outposts in the northern part of the province are reportedly being attacked every day by Taliban fighters. “There is a little bit of Rorke’s Drift about this and if we are not very, very careful we could have a disaster on our hands,” said Major Charles Hayman. He was referring to attempts in 1879 by British colonialists in South Africa to hold a garrison under attack by local Zulus.

In response, Gen. Michael Jackson, head of the British Army, said his forces were “getting stuck in” to the Taliban. NATO forces are using Royal Air Force Harriers and U.S. A10 fighter jets to drop 500 pound laser-guided bombs.

The governor of the Helmand says his

administration does not function in two of the province’s 12 districts and government officials can only travel freely in central areas.

Ten British soldiers have been killed in the area in the past two months, according to BBC News. Preparing public opinion for further deaths, Air Chief Marshal Jock Stirrup said, “We knew we were going to take casualties.”

“We’re here for the long haul,” Richards added.

With NATO taking command since the beginning of August of forces previously led by the U.S. military, the Atlantic military alliance is now engaged in its biggest combat operation outside Europe in its history. Some 18,000 troops are operating under NATO command in Afghanistan.

British forces recently began upgrading their materiel for further combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, replacing Land Rovers, which are vulnerable to roadside bombs or rocket-propelled grenades, with Vector vehicles that are more mobile and durable.

## Toronto: Communist League candidates join protest, oppose Ottawa’s support of Israeli war



Militant/John Steele

TORONTO—Some 2,000 people marched from the Israeli to the U.S. consulate here August 12 to demand an end to Tel Aviv’s murderous assaults in Lebanon and Gaza. Michel Dugré and Beverly Bernardo (center with glasses and foreground), the Communist League candidates for Toronto city council in wards 12 and 14, respectively, joined the action—the third since the war on Lebanon began. The two candidates and their supporters received a warm response as they distributed a campaign flyer that condemned Ottawa’s support for the Israeli war and called for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Canadian, U.S., and other imperialist armed forces from Iraq and Afghanistan.

—BEVERLY BERNARDO

# Report exposes torture by Chicago police

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO—A 300-page special prosecutor’s report was made public here July 19. The report details scores of cases between 1971 and 1992 about men, mostly African-American, who were arrested and tortured by the police on the South Side of Chicago in an effort to extract confessions.

“Four years ago I called for a special prosecutor. They came out with this report that cost \$8 million to \$10 million and took four years to write,” Mary Johnson, a member of the Illinois Coali-

tion Against the Death Penalty, said at the August 4 Militant Labor Forum here. “It doesn’t say anything that’s new to us. And it doesn’t call for prosecution.”

Evidence in the report reveals that Police Lieutenant Jon Burge and those under his command beat suspects, shocked their genitals with electricity, put plastic bags over their heads, stuck guns in their mouths, and inflicted radiator burns on the victims.

The special prosecutor detailed how Burge could be convicted of aggravated battery, perjury, and obstruction of justice in the torture of three African-Americans. An additional 1,452-page report takes up another 145 cases, in half of which Special Prosecutor Edward Egan says he “believes” torture took place, but that there isn’t enough evidence to prove it.

Burge, who was in the military police in Vietnam in the 1960s, became a Chicago cop in 1970. As the police commander accused of overseeing the torture by cops on the night shift, he was fired in 1993. He is now living in Florida

on a \$40,000 pension from the city of Chicago. Some city officials are pressing for the termination of his pension.

While the report found evidence of abuse, it concludes that no charges can be filed because the statute of limitations has run out. Attorneys for the People’s Law Office, however, say that new charges can be brought for a continuing cover-up, including racketeering, conspiracy, or obstruction of justice.

Five federal lawsuits are pending against Burge today. Former death row inmates pardoned in 2003 by former governor George Ryan, when enough evidence of torture came to light, have filed four of these suits.

“People ask me how this can happen,” said Johnson, whose son Michael was tortured in 1972. “First of all, my son is Black. And I’m his mother. I’m poor. They call us minorities. But working people are the majority. Some of us are getting frustrated and angry. That’s why the government is throwing us a few crumbs of truth. They are scared of us.”

## THE MILITANT

### Residency for undocumented now!

Trade unions, immigrant rights groups, and others have called actions in September in the United States to demand legalization of all immigrants. The ‘Militant’ gives you the facts and explains why this struggle is in the interests of all labor. Don’t miss a single issue!



Some 30,000 march in Chicago July 19 for legalization of undocumented immigrants.

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# Cease-fire in Lebanon

**Continued from front page**  
Palestinian refugee in Beirut, told the *Militant*. “People do not want to abandon their homes, their land, their villages. In reality this has meant that the Israeli siege of the south has been broken by the thousands of returning villagers.”

Israeli officials said IDF forces killed five men in southern Lebanon on the first day of the cease-fire, claiming they were approached by groups of armed men, the *Washington Post* reported.

The IDF assault began July 12 following the capture by Hezbollah of two Israeli soldiers. The group offered to release them in exchange for freedom for some of the thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held by Tel Aviv.

The UN resolution demands the “unconditional release” of the Israeli soldiers, but only calls for “settling the issue of the Lebanese prisoners detained in Israel.”

For the first two weeks the IDF carried out a murderous air war but was unable to prevent Hezbollah from firing thousands of rockets into Israeli territory. Tel Aviv reports that as of today 116 Israeli soldiers and 43 civilians have died in the war.

The ink on the UN resolution had hardly dried when the Israeli government tripled the number of its troops in southern Lebanon. By pouring 30,000 soldiers into the area between the two countries’ border and the Litani, Tel Aviv planned to strike further blows at Hezbollah militias prior to the deployment of the Lebanese army and UN “peacekeepers.”

The Israeli air force also intensified its bombings. On August 12 it targeted the highway leading to the Arida border crossing in northern Lebanon, reported the Associated Press. AP described the

crossing as “the last official border post open for humanitarian convoys and civilians fleeing the country.” In the southwest, Israeli jets hit power plants in the major coastal cities of Sidon and Tyre, knocking out power for the population.

The UN Security Council resolution, sponsored by Washington and Paris, legitimizes the Israeli invasion. While calling for “the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks,” it only calls on Tel Aviv to halt “offensive military operations.”

The resolution also authorizes 15,000 troops for UNIFIL, the UN force of 2,000 soldiers that has been present in southern Lebanon since 1978. Once a cease-fire takes hold, the resolution “calls upon the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL...to deploy their forces together throughout the South and calls upon the Government of Israel, as that deployment begins, to withdraw all of its forces from southern Lebanon in parallel.” The expanded UNIFIL—expected to include troops from France, Italy, Turkey, and elsewhere—is supposed to operate with 15,000 Lebanese soldiers.

The resolution calls for the establishment below the Litani of “an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL”; “no foreign forces in Lebanon without the consent of its Government”; “no sales or supply of arms and related materiel to Lebanon except as authorized by its Government”; and, “disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon.”

Hezbollah officials joined with other members of Lebanon’s cabinet in approving the resolution on August 12. “We will

## 10,000 in D.C. protest Israeli attack on Lebanon



Militant/Tim Mailhot

WASHINGTON—Waving Lebanese and Palestinian flags, some 10,000 protesters marched around the White House to oppose the U.S.-backed Israeli assault on Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. A large number of Lebanese youth and others of Arab descent, who rode buses from as far as Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio, put their stamp on the action. Moussa Faraj, 20, a college student from Livonia, Michigan, said he had never traveled so far for a political demonstration. “I was only 13 years old when Israel left Lebanon. Now I’m more alert to what is happening.” The Israeli government’s actions weren’t about rescuing the two soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah fighters, he said, but rather that “they want to control all of the Middle East.”

—SETH DELLINGER

not be an obstacle to any decision taken by the Lebanese government,” Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech. (See article below for background on Hezbollah.)

### Divisions in Lebanon, Israel

Although it has approved the UN resolution, the Lebanese cabinet is reportedly divided over Hezbollah’s militias in the south. Defense Minister Elias Murr announced that Lebanese troops would arrive at the Litani within days. He then, however, told Lebanese television, “The army is not going to the south to strip

Hezbollah of weapons and do the work Israel did not.” Because of Hezbollah’s cooperation with the government, he said, “as soon as the Lebanese army arrives in the south there will be no weapons but those of the army.”

Debate has sharpened within Israeli ruling circles because of the IDF’s inability to deliver a knockout blow to Hezbollah.

Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert told parliament August 14 the “war on terrorism” was strengthened by the invasion of Lebanon. “No longer is a terror organization allowed to operate within Lebanon, as the long arm of the axis of evil, which reaches out from Tehran and Damascus,” he said.

Following Olmert, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu attacked the government. “There were many failures, failures in identifying the threat, failures in preparing to meet the threat, failures in the management of the war, failures in the management of the home front,” said Netanyahu, who linked his charges to the Israeli pullout from Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005.

Ari Shavit, a leading columnist in the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, described the UN Security Council resolution as “the French proposal for a cease-fire and unconditional surrender to Hezbollah.” Shavit fumed that “the day Nasrallah comes out of his bunker and declares victory to the whole world, Olmert must not be in the prime minister’s office.”

After Nasrallah said Hezbollah had emerged victorious from the war, U.S. president George Bush responded in an August 14 press conference, “How can you claim victory when at one time you were a state within a state, safe within southern Lebanon, and now you’re going to be replaced by a Lebanese army and an international force?”

In a sign of Tel Aviv’s uncertainty over the future and an indication the conflict may flare up again, Israeli jets dropped leaflets over Beirut in the last hours before the cease-fire took effect, saying: “Hezbollah has brought you many achievements: destruction, displacement, and death. Can you pay this price a second time? Know that the Israeli Defense Forces will return and work with the required force against any terrorist act that will be launched from Lebanon.”

*Georges Mehrabian in Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.*

## Hezbollah: a bourgeois party modeled on Tehran

BY PAUL PEDERSON

In a recent opinion piece published in the *New York Times*, Robert Pape, a political science professor at the University of Chicago, compared Hezbollah, the organization in Lebanon targeted in the recent Israeli assault, to the “multidimensional American civil-rights movement of the 1960s.”

The Workers World Party presented a similar portrait of the group, saying in an August 10 statement that Hezbollah has “rallied the forces fighting against Zionist expansionism” and “taken up the mantle of the resistance to U.S. imperialism.”

Other middle-class radicals protesting Tel Aviv’s bloody invasion of Lebanon have presented similar views.

But these are not accurate portrayals of Hezbollah, or Hizb’Allah, the “Party of God.”

Hezbollah is a bourgeois political party, not a religious group, with extensive capitalist investments. Its primary goal is to set up an “Islamic Republic” in Lebanon, modeled on the government of Iran, its main backer. It was founded in the early 1980s by a group of Shiite

clerics working with the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran. These clerics remain the central leaders of the group.

Khomeini’s government came to power after the 1979 Iranian revolution

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## CALENDAR

### Actions for Immigrants’ Rights

#### ARIZONA

**Phoenix**  
**September 4**

Rally at 9:00 a.m. at the State Capitol building at 1700 West Washington St. *Sponsored by the We Are America Coalition.*

#### CALIFORNIA

**Los Angeles**  
**September 2**

**March for Immigrant Rights.** Gather at 12 noon at Olympic and Broadway, march to City Hall. *Sponsored by the March 25 Coalition.*

**Wilmington**  
**September 4**

**L.A. Labor Day and Solidarity March.** Gather 10:00 a.m. at Broad and E Street. March and rally at Banning Park.

**San Francisco**  
**September 4**

**Labor Day Mobilization for Workers and Immigrant Rights.** March and rally. Gather at 10:00 a.m. at downtown Civic Center on Grove St. and Polk St. (Two blocks from Civic Center BART Station). *For more information contact the Regional Unity Coalition. Tel.: (510) 839-7580.*

#### ILLINOIS

**Chicago**  
**September 1-4**

**Four-day March for Justice for Immigrant Workers.** Gather in Chinatown at 12:00 p.m., march to House Speaker Dennis Hastert’s office in Batavia, IL. Afternoon rally on Sept. 4. *For more information contact March 10 Movement. Tel: (877) 762-7242.*

#### TEXAS

**Houston**  
**September 4**

Gather at 10:00 a.m. at Herman Square on Milam St. and Congress St.; March to City Hall. *For more information contact Michael Espinosa, La Nueva Raza. Tel.: (832) 277-3903*

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**September 7**

**March to Demand Legalization for All.** Gather at 4:00 p.m. at 7th Ave. and Constitution. March to Washington Monument. Buses coming from along the East Coast. *For more information contact DC Amigos del Barrio or National Capitol Immigration Coalition. Tel.: (301) 431-4185.*

### Free the Cuban 5

#### NEW YORK

**September 12**

Gather at Times Square 4:00 p.m. March to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (E. 47th St. and 1st Ave.) *For more information contact (718) 601-4751, or email freethecubanfive@hotmail.com*

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**September 23**

Gather at U.S. Justice Department at 11:00 a.m. and march to White House. *For more information, contact National Committee to Free the Cuban 5 at: (415) 821-6545. Email: freethefive@freethefive.org*

visit [www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org)

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

#### NEW YORK

**Manhattan**

**U.S. Hands Off Iran! Israel out of Lebanon and Gaza!** Sat., Aug. 26. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner; \$5 program. 307 W. 36th Street. (near 8th Avenue, take north elevators) Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

#### NEW ZEALAND

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**‘The Case of Leon Trotsky’—a New Edition of this Classic Book.** Speaker: Patrick Brown. Fri., Aug. 25, 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$3. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.



# Day laborers and AFL-CIO

**Continued from front page**

some 700,000 construction workers nationwide.

“We see unionizing in construction as a vehicle of growth,” said Terence O’Sullivan, president of the Laborers’ International Union. “We are looking to organize and give immigrant workers power.”

The union said it intends to recruit day laborers from worker centers in Arizona, California, and Texas, according to AP.

Prompted by repeated abuses by the bosses, including being cheated out of pay, being forced to work with no breaks, or even being abandoned at a work site, thousands of day laborers have organized themselves through hiring halls. They use these centers to screen out bosses, get work assignments, and negotiate wages—reducing individual competition and setting a minimum wage. Some day laborer centers have been organizing to enforce a \$10 to \$12 minimum hourly wage.

The July 16 *Chicago Sun-Times* published an article showing how immigrant workers are using such collaboration in some cases much like a de facto union.

“The driver of a black Honda thought he would quickly enlist some guys to load furniture and boxes onto a truck—until he heard the men wanted \$15 an hour,” began the article, reporting from Agoura Hills, California. “‘What? You don’t even have papers,’ the driver told a clutch of Latino day laborers clustered around his car last week. But they stood firm.

“‘We do hard jobs other people won’t do,’ Luis Cap, a Guatemalan, told the man behind the wheel. ‘If you want to save money, that’s OK. You will have to find other workers.’ The Honda drove off, the odd jobs unfilled.

“Three months ago, about 120 immigrants who solicit work along a sun-drenched road in this town outside Los Angeles decided among themselves to only accept work for a minimum hourly wage of \$15—about \$2.50 higher than the previous, informal rate. ‘What they have here is the essence of a union,’ said Pablo Alvarado, national coordinator of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, who supervised the workers’ roadside vote.”

According to a study by the University of California in Los Angeles, 117,000 day laborers seek work each day at more than 500 hiring sites in cities across the country. In the last decade the number of workers centers has grown from four to more than 140 in 31 states. Such centers have opened up in rural areas as well as big cities, according to a statement by the AFL-CIO.

The new partnership will strengthen the labor movement’s “ability to promote and enforce the workplace rights for all workers—union and nonunion, immigrant and non-immigrant alike,” said AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, in a statement released by the two organizations, after the AFL-CIO executive board voted to formalize relations with NDLO.

Under the new partnership, day laborer centers will be allowed to have nonvoting representatives in AFL-CIO central labor councils, even though the day laborers are not yet union members.

Day laborers have been the target of rightist groups and capitalist politicians, in what often become sharply polarized conflicts around “immigration reform.” Rightist groups such as the Minutemen and local capitalist politicians have waged campaigns demanding the deportation of

“illegal aliens,” blaming immigrant workers for crime, overcrowded housing, unemployment, and other social ills. Some of them say they will now directly target the labor movement for its growing support for immigrant rights. “We will come out swinging at unions now,” said Jim Gilchrist, a founder of the Minutemen Project civilian militia, according to AP. “They are going to pay seriously for this in the public eye,” he said in response to the latest announcements.

The AFL-CIO’s decision to establish the new partnership, and the announcement by the Laborers’ International Union it will begin to recruit undocumented immigrants as members, reflect the growing presence of immigrant workers in the U.S. labor force and the impact on the labor movement of the huge working-class mobilizations this spring demanding legalization of immigrants.

“When we improve wages and working conditions and living conditions for the most vulnerable, we are automatically improving the lives and working conditions of all workers in this country,” Alvarado, of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, told the press.

“We don’t bring money, we’re not bringing members,” he said, referring to NDLO’s new partnership with the AFL-CIO. “But we are bringing something that is extremely important: very humble, very vulnerable workers who say, ‘I need to get paid more for what I do.’”

## 100s at Chicago immigrant rights conference

**Continued from front page**

the actions in September.

Representatives of immigrant rights coalitions from 25 states and other groups present also voted to form the National Alliance for Immigrant Rights to serve as a coordinating body for campaigns to press for legislation that would grant residency to the 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

“We reject any bill proposal that offers any less,” said Nativo López, director of Hermandad Mexicana and president of the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) in Los Angeles. He spoke as part of a panel at the opening of the convention, titled “We are for legalization for all, nothing less!”

The opening panel also included Joel Magallán, of Asociación Tepeyac in New York; Moisés Zavala, an organizer for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 881 in Chicago; Margarita Klein, of the UNITE HERE Chicago and Midwest Regional Joint Board; and Jorge Mujica, of the March 10 Movement in Chicago.

A number of delegates gave reports on their experiences in organizing huge mobilizations for immigrant rights last spring. Groups such as MAPA and the March 10 Movement were at the center of mobilizing hundreds of thousands of working people in Los Angeles and Chicago between early March and May Day.

Many of the participants pointed to the effectiveness of the May 1 boycott, which became the first multicity general political strike in U.S. history.

On the first day of the conference, Nilda Flores-González, a professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago, read the results of a survey done during the May Day march in Chicago of more than half a million people. The survey showed that 73 percent of the demonstrators were

### Elvira Arellano, former cleaner at Chicago airport, fights government order for her deportation



AP/Julio Cortez

**Elvira Arellano (left), at Chicago’s Adalberto United Methodist Church August 15, where she has taken sanctuary after refusing to obey a deportation order.**

CHICAGO—Elvira Arellano, a former cleaner at O’Hare Airport here who was arrested and ordered deported following a workplace raid in 2002, is fighting her deportation. “I’m going to fight so that my son and I will be respected. So that all undocumented immigrants will be respected,” she said. Her seven-year-old son was born in the United States.

On August 15 Arellano refused to obey an order to report for deportation and accepted the offer of sanctuary at Adalberto United Methodist Church in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said they consider her a fugitive.

The immigrant rights group Centro Sin Fronteras is mobilizing support for Arellano. She is also backed by the March 10 Movement coalition, which organized a mass protest March 10 for immigrant rights.

—ROLLANDE GIRARD

either full-time or part-time workers and that 72 percent had missed work to be at the march, she said.

“There is a new wave of immigrants coming from countries where they see marching in the streets as a form of political participation, who have a tradition of protesting,” said Mujica. “The Sensenbrenner bill was the drop that made the glass overflow,” he said. Mujica was referring to House Resolution 4437, introduced by Rep. James Sensenbrenner, and passed by the House of Representatives last December. HR 4437 would criminalize all undocumented immigrants in the country and those who aid them.

Delegates also discussed plans for activities around the Labor Day week-

end. Many focused their remarks on building large contingents at the Labor Day parades being organized by the union movement over the September 2–4 weekend.

Plans for such actions are already underway in Los Angeles; Chicago; St. Paul, Minnesota; New York City; Phoenix, Arizona; and other cities, participants reported. (See calendar on page 3 for details.)

Delegates also agreed to return to their regions and reach out to immigrant rights organizations, trade unions, groups in the Black community, and others that did not send representatives to this conference as part of broadly

**Continued on page 8**

## In victory for union, worker reinstated at Hormel packing plant in Atlanta

**BY RACHELE FRUIT**

TUCKER, Georgia—On August 7, Lisa Potash returned to work at Hormel Foods here after having been fired nine months earlier. At the time of her firing, one week before the municipal elections in nearby Atlanta, Potash was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Atlanta City Council president.

Her campaign platform—including support for workers’ struggles to organize unions and to use those they have to resist employers’ attacks on wages and job conditions—had gotten coverage in the local media. On Oct. 20, 2005, a week before the firing, for example, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the daily newspaper in the metropolitan area, had published a related article with a photo of Potash.

The company stated “no misconduct” for her firing but claimed that Potash was still on probation. In fact, Potash had worked two days past her 90-day probation period.

Thirty workers in the plant immediately signed a petition demanding that Potash be reinstated. United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1996, which represents workers at the Hormel plant, took the case to arbitration on the basis that the firing violated the seniority clauses in the union contract. In July, the arbitrator ruled that Potash was to be reinstated with her seniority intact and with back pay for lost wages and benefits.

Workers in the plant were jubilant. A number of them said the news represented a victory for the union. Workers with more than 20 years in the plant said that they had only seen one other worker successfully fight a firing by Hormel.

Announcement of the reinstatement was greeted with applause at the July local union meeting.

*Rachele Fruit is a member of UFCW Local 1996 at the Hormel plant in Tucker, Georgia.*

## Steelworkers in West Virginia stand up to cutbacks

CHARLESTON, West Virginia—Steelworkers won a victory August 1 when Century Aluminum of West Virginia, owners of the Ravenswood plant, backed down on its demands to impose cuts in health-care benefits. The 580 production workers at the plant were within nine hours of going on strike.

Members of United Steelworkers Local 5668-04 voted to accept the new

three-year agreement August 5. The union maintained its health care benefits, gained an improved dental plan, a new vision plan, and wage increases. The union agreed to give up a \$1,000 signing bonus.

“The membership deserves the credit,” Grievance Committee Chair Eli Morris told the *Militant*. “They showed we are still willing to fight a multinational company making millions of dollars in profit and keep our benefits.”

—Linda Joyce

## Northwest flight attendants reject concessions pact again

Flight attendants at Northwest Airlines rejected for the second time in less than two months a proposed \$195 million concession contract. The pact would cut pay 21 percent, reduce benefits, and lengthen work hours. It was rejected July 31 by a vote of 3,266 to 2,637. Northwest filed for bankruptcy in September, then imposed a contract similar to one flight attendants had rejected by an 80 percent margin in June. The Association of Flight

Attendants (AFA) then said that random strikes against Northwest could begin August 15. In response to the newest “terror” alert, AFA officials on August 11 moved the deadline to August 25.

After rejecting the first contract, attendants voted to leave the Professional Flight Attendants Association. They joined AFA, which is affiliated with the Communications Workers of America. A similar contract proposal put to a vote by AFA officials was then rejected as well.

—Brian Williams

# Charging involvement in ‘terrorist plot,’ British police arrest 24

Continued from front page

said his administration had an “enormous amount of co-operation with U.S. authorities,” in this operation. John Reid, the home secretary, also thanked the Pakistani government for its assistance.

“Pakistan played a very important role in uncovering and breaking this international terrorist network,” said Pakistan’s foreign ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam. “There were some arrests in Pakistan, which were coordinated with arrests in the UK.”

British officials said the “British Muslim community” aided the spying operation that led to the arrests.

In addition to the governing Labour Party, both main opposition parties have backed the operation. David Davies, shadow home secretary and member of the Conservative party, said, “Normally you will find me very skeptical of the government and some of its actions on terror but here I don’t

think there’s any argument.”

Reid said the UK’s main political parties are “completely united” over the government’s action to prevent a “terror plot” that would have caused “unprecedented” carnage. He added that the government was engaged in a “long, wide and deep struggle against very evil people.”

According to the *International Herald Tribune*, Reid told the media August 13 that “24 other major terrorist conspiracies” were still under surveillance by MI5, UK’s main “counterterrorism” agency, and other police forces. “There are still people out there who would carry out such attacks,” Reid said. “The threat of a terrorist attack in the UK is still very substantial.”

Speculations have appeared in the media here that the government may use the arrests to extend the period suspected “terrorists” can be detained without charges from 28 days to 90. Reid told the BBC, however, the arrests do not represent “a good time” to look at such measures.

Just a month ago two UK-based Islamist groups—Al-Ghurabaa and the Saved Sect—were banned under laws outlawing the “glorification of terrorism.”

In a note of caution, three Muslim Members of Parliament and others sent an open letter to Anthony Blair in which they urged “the Prime Minister

to redouble his efforts to tackle terror and extremism and change our foreign policy,” reported BBC. The letter said London’s policy in the Middle East is putting at risk civilians at home. Signatories included the Muslim Council of Britain, Muslim Association of Britain, British Muslim Forum, and 35 other community groups.

Kim Howells, the secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, responded by telling the BBC the letter was “facile.” He said, “I have no doubt that there are many issues which incite people to loath the government policies but not to strap explosives to themselves and go out and murder innocent people.”

A Downing Street spokesman defended London’s participation in the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to the BBC, he said, in response to the letter, “We should always remember that the terrorism affecting the West today has blighted Muslim countries for several decades. It certainly predated our decision to support democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq and of course the September 11 attacks. Our foreign policy is focused on supporting the people of those countries in their desire to live in a democracy.”

On the day of the arrests Heathrow and several other airports were brought to a virtual standstill. Since then thousands of flights have been cancelled as draconian security measures have



AFP/Shawn Curry

**British police carry out armed patrols of Heathrow Airport in London August 10.**

been introduced at UK airports.

Authorities banned all hand baggage on board planes except essential travel documents and small wallets, carried in clear plastic bags. All liquids, powders, and gels are banned—from water bottles to toothpaste and makeup. Baby milk and baby formula are allowed only if parents can taste them in front of security guards to show they are harmless. All passengers are being body searched and their shoes X-rayed. Passengers bound for the United States are being searched again at their boarding gate.

Conservative leader Davis has called for the troops to be sent into the UK’s major airports to “help with the security check,” reported the August 14 *Yorkshire Post*.

## U.S. gov’t revokes visas for 100 Iranians

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In early August, more than 100 Iranians traveling to the United States for a reunion in California had their visas revoked, were jailed, and threatened with deportation. The attack on the visitors came as Washington stepped up its campaign against Tehran, which supports Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia group currently fighting against the invading Israeli armed forces.

The Iranians had all received visitor visas to attend a California reunion of alumni of the Sharif University of Technology, the most respected scientific university in Iran. Once they landed in the United States, they were abruptly informed by immigration agents they were unwelcome.

Kourosh Elahidoost, a 49-year-old electrical engineer, told the *Los Angeles Times* that U.S. officials explained to him that visas cannot be issued to nationals of Iran because it is a “state sponsor of terrorism,” unless the individual can prove he or she is not a “threat” to national security.

Elahidoost was given the choice of withdrawing his request for a visa or being deported and denied entrance to the United States for 5–10 years. He withdrew his application. He was then incarcerated overnight in a Santa Ana jail cell with no bed. He flew out of the country the next day. Other Iranian detainees report being transported with their hands chained to their waists or handcuffed.

The Sharif University of Technology Association, which had organized the reunion, held a news conference to protest the visa denials.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



**August 28, 1981**

OBERLIN, Ohio, August 10—This small town, an hour west of Cleveland, has become one of the centers of this confrontation between the labor movement and the federal government. The 500 striking air controllers at the Cleveland Center facility here are part of the national strike by over 12,000 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. They are on strike against the Federal Aviation Administration, which is trying to bust their union and impose intolerable working conditions.

The Reagan administration attack on the air controllers is one of the biggest union-busting drives by the federal government in American history. All the strikers have been fired. The union’s strike fund has been impounded.

It is a threat to every union. The bosses and their government are united in this attack. There are no Democratic or Republican Party politicians who are friends of labor now, when labor is under the gun.



**August 27, 1956**

Radical workers who want to vote socialist in this election have an apparent choice of three different tickets—the Socialist Workers Party, the Socialist Party, and the Socialist Labor Party. The stand of the SWP is to be found clearly stated in its election platform printed in this issue. The SWP is **for** the colonial revolution, **for** the defense of the Soviet nationalized economy born of the October 1917 Revolution, and **for** the extension of that revolution throughout the rest of the world. The SWP’s struggle against the reactionary Soviet bureaucracy is waged within that context.

The SLP declares itself against both the Soviet Union and U.S. imperialism. The program of the Socialist Party is best described as “State Department socialism.” The SP lines up for “democracy” against “totalitarian Communism.”

The SWP is against imperialism and for the world socialist revolution. The SLP is “neutral.” The SP is on the side of imperialism. It is on this basis that socialist-minded workers should choose among them on Nov. 6.



**August 29, 1931**

Before the echoes of the big strikes in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky have died out, and while the rumblings of new anti-starvation rebellions are being heard again in the coal fields, miners by the dozens are being dragged into coal operators’ courts to be railroaded to the electric chair or to long terms of imprisonment.

In Harlan, Kentucky, the grand jury is still in session and continues to turn out one indictment for murder after another. The thirty-four miners who are up for trial in connection with killings that occurred last May at Evarts with four fatalities, now have more than a hundred indictments issued against them.

In Washington, Pa., the trial of another 18 miners has begun. Were it not for the tragic implications of the case, its farcical aspects would assert themselves. In this principality of coal and steel, the jury was selected secretly. The defense attorney was not even given the right to question prospective jurors.



# What's behind U.S. calls for 'transition' in Cuba?

Cubans defend revolution, say no return to capitalist past

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Cuban president Fidel Castro released a statement July 31 announcing his hospitalization for major surgery and the delegation of his responsibilities to other leaders. Since then working people in the United States and elsewhere have been subjected to a barrage of lies about the Cuban Revolution. Articles in the big-business media predict, once again, the collapse of the revolutionary government.

## AS I SEE IT

U.S. president George Bush issued a statement August 3 calling for “a transitional government in Cuba committed to democracy.” White House officials have trumpeted an \$80 million plan offering “humanitarian aid” to Cubans in a “transition” from socialism back to capitalism—if the revolutionary government is first overthrown by forces the U.S. rulers deem “democratic.” These plans call for grabbing the land, homes, and basic industry from Cuban working people and returning them to the former capitalist owners.

If the wealthy U.S. rulers, however, believe the majority of the Cuban people are waiting for the chance to go back to the pre-1959 days, they are engaged in wishful thinking. If Washington ever tries to move in on Cuba, it will be met by millions of Cubans, mobilized and armed, who will defend their gains as they have done for 47 years, outlasting 10 U.S.

administrations.

As Fidel Castro said at a rally on July 26, Cuba “does not need any Yankee transition plan to teach our people to read and write or to vaccinate them and provide health care.” The revolution itself was the “transition” Cubans fought and died for, he noted.

A leadership transition in Cuba has been under way for years. It involves several generations of cadres working together to advance the campaigns of the revolution. At the heart of this process today is the Battle of Ideas. This is a far-reaching effort to expand access by working people to culture and education, to involve youth and workers in resolving social problems, and to mobilize tens of thousands of volunteers in solidarity missions around the world.

These political initiatives have helped confront the pressures of world capitalism that bear down on Cuba. They are helping to win new generations to the socialist revolution. They have reinforced the conviction of millions that socialism, based on working-class cooperation and solidarity, is a superior alternative to capitalism and its dog-eat-dog, “look out for Number One” values.

Why are the U.S. rulers so intent on crushing the Cuban Revolution? It's not because exiled Cuban-American businessmen dictate U.S. foreign policy. The interests of bigger forces, of the capitalist class as a whole, are involved.

Cuba's socialist revolution is a political threat to the ruling U.S. billion-



AFP/ Adalberto Roque

August 8 rally in Havana's San Agustín neighborhood in support of Cuban Revolution

aire families, who correctly fear that Cuba is an example for the oppressed and exploited worldwide.

In 1959 Cuban workers and farmers made a revolution, led by the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement headed by Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, and others. They established a workers and peasants government and overthrew capitalist rule. That government mobilized millions to abolish illiteracy, carry out a land reform, and reorganize the economy on the basis of social needs, not profit for a few. Cuba has gone further than any other country in uprooting racist discrimination and advancing the status of women. Working people are actively involved in shaping the fundamental economic, social, and political decisions.

Cubans have offered selfless solidarity around the world. Tens of thousands of volunteer doctors, teachers, and technicians serve today from Venezuela and Bolivia to Equatorial Guinea.

The Cuban people have stood up to repeated U.S.-organized attempts to overthrow their revolution, from the 1961 mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs to the October 1962 “missile crisis” and Washington's decades-long economic war.

Why do all the imperialist rulers hate Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro?

A few years ago, former U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell put it this way. In China, Russia, and Vietnam “you can see leaders who the world is changing,” he said. But Castro “hasn't changed his views in any way,” he complained. In other words, Cuba's central leadership cannot be intimidated or bought off. It has a consistent record of defending the interests of the majority.

That's why Washington has looked in vain for divisions in the leadership of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Communist Party of Cuba.

Fidel and Raúl Castro have continued to be part of this leadership for a simple reason: they have been at the center of every major leadership initiative that has benefited working people. Raúl Castro, for example, has led the Revolutionary Armed Forces in defending Cuba from imperialist assault, promoting internationalist solidarity, and mobilizing workers and farmers to combat bureaucracy and corruption.

That is why the 1996 Helms-Burton law, which tightened the U.S. embargo against Cuba, stipulated that Washington will only recognize a new government that “does not include Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro.”

In an earlier bout of wishful thinking, capitalist pundits predicted the end of the Cuban Revolution after the crumbling of the Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 1990s. Cuba has successfully resisted and survived, and will continue to do so after Fidel Castro, *because* of the socialist revolution and its leadership.

If a transition is needed, it's not in Cuba. It's working people in the United States and other capitalist countries who need a “transition”—the kind the Cuban people have made. The problem we face is *capitalism*, a system of exploitation breeding increasingly intolerable conditions for billions of people. Capitalism offers us a world where 2 billion people lack access to electricity, a world of imperialist wars like the U.S.-led occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. At home, the ruling capitalists offer us an increasingly brutal assault on the living standards and rights of workers and farmers.

For working people and youth, such as the millions who have mobilized in U.S. streets to demand the legalization of undocumented immigrants, the Cuban Revolution offers a living example. It shows that workers and farmers can organize into a powerful force, defeat the ruling rich, and take destiny into our own hands. That is why Cuba is such a “dangerous” example.

## Appeals court upholds convictions of Cuban 5

Continued from front page

that have had a long record of bombings and other violent attacks against Cuba organized from U.S. soil. They were arrested and jailed in 1998. They were convicted three years later.

In addition to the charge of conspiring to commit espionage, Gerardo Hernández was convicted on a count of conspiracy to commit murder. The latter charge was in connection with the shooting down by the Cuban Air Force of aircraft piloted by members of Brothers to the Rescue, a group of Cuban-American rightists based in Florida with a record of provocations against Cuba. Its pilots violated Cuban air space in 1996 and refused warnings to turn back. Brothers to the Rescue had violated Cuban air space previously, dropping leaflets on Havana that asked Cubans to rise up against their government. Hernández is serving a double-life term for allegedly passing along information that assisted Havana in defending its airspace from the unannounced incursions of the group.

Labañino and Guerrero are serving life in prison. Fernando González and René González are serving 19-year and 15-year terms, respectively.

“The Cuban Five maintain their efforts were restricted to gathering information on violent Miami-based right-wing groups,” the Cuban News

Agency reported August 10. “The goal was to keep Cuban and U.S. citizens from being the victims of terrorist acts promoted by individuals like Luis Posada Carriles, a confessed assassin accused of being behind the blowing up of a Cuban airliner killing 73 persons.”

Posada Carriles was born in Cuba and subsequently became a naturalized citizen of Venezuela. He has boasted to the press that he was among the masterminds of the 1976 bombing. He is currently being sheltered by the U.S. government from extradition to Venezuela where he faces charges in connection with the bombing of the Cuban airliner. A hearing on his request for U.S. citizenship is scheduled for August 14.

The five Cuban revolutionaries have a record of taking part in internationalist missions related to national liberation and advancing the cause of the working class. Three of them were among the 300,000 Cuban volunteer combatants in Angola who played a pivotal role from 1975 to 1991 in helping the Angolan people defeat repeated invasions of their country by the apartheid regime of South Africa.

The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, the group coordinating the defense campaign for the five in the United States, held an emergency

press conference in Atlanta August 10. Attorneys for the five men and other supporters of their case presented the next steps in the fight to win their freedom.

“This decision is not the end of the case, far from it,” said Leonard Weinglass, the attorney representing Antonio Guerrero. “There are nine additional issues which are still pending in the three-judge panel before the court. We can, if we decide to, take this case to the U.S. Supreme Court.” Weinglass said the six attorneys on the defense team will work with their clients over the next week to decide on whether to immediately petition for taking the case to the Supreme Court.

Bruce Nestor of the National Lawyers Guild told the media the court ruling “gives tremendous power to the government to bring politically motivated prosecutions and to then select a favorable location where community prejudice will favor the government.”

“Two days ago we announced we will be holding a national march in Washington from the Justice Department to the White House on September 23,” said Gloria La Riva, a coordinator for the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five. “The march and the forum which follows is more important than ever.” For more information on the action visit [www.freethethefive.org](http://www.freethethefive.org).



# Socialists file petitions in N.Y.

**Continued from front page**  
taped for the Empire Radio Network.  
The SWP ticket also includes Maura DeLuca for governor, Ben O’Shaughnessy for lieutenant governor, Martín Koppel for state attorney general, Willie Cotton for state comptroller, and Nancy Boyasko for U.S. Congress in the 11th District in Brooklyn.

In the press conference, Calero noted that both Democratic senator Hillary Clinton and Republican contender John Spencer are trying to outdo each other in pushing for “homeland security” measures that undermine workers’ rights. The day before, Clinton called for a bigger police and military deployment at home while Spencer defended wiretapping by the National Security Agency.

DeLuca, a sewing-machine operator in New York City, pointed out that “dairy farmers in this state face an unremitting squeeze on their livelihoods and the threat of losing their land.” The price farmers receive for milk is the lowest in years, compounding their losses from recent floods.

“Our campaign calls for government-funded affordable credit to working farmers, price supports to cover their production costs, and an end to farm foreclosures,” DeLuca said.  
A reporter asked about the difference between the SWP and the Working Families Party, “left-wing Democrats,” and “independent socialist” congressman Bernard Sanders of Vermont.

“The difference is that ours is a working-class campaign with a platform to organize working people independently of the Democrats, Republicans, and all other capitalist parties,” Koppel replied. He said the Working Families Party, which has already endorsed the leading Democratic candidates, is “simply a vehicle to get working people to back the Democrats.” Sanders, a social democrat, gives critical support to the Democrats and “claims it’s possible to reform capitalism into a system that will benefit working people, which is impossible,” Koppel said.

Another reporter asked why the SWP ticket includes candidates too young to hold office. “There was a time when



Militant/Matilda Hernandez-Miyares

**Róger Calero and Maura DeLuca, SWP candidates for U.S. Senate and N.Y. governor, respectively, turn in 30,000 signatures August 15 to put socialist ticket on ballot.**

18-year-olds, women, Blacks, and workers without property were barred from voting,” DeLuca replied. “Those restrictions were defeated. If enough people want us to be elected, the current undemocratic legal requirements will be changed, too.”

While legally excluded from holding office, young people and workers who are noncitizens are helping lead important labor and other struggles, said Calero, himself a Nicaraguan-

born U.S. permanent resident.  
“The Democrats and Republicans speak for the tiny class of billionaires,” he noted. In contrast, “our ticket is far more representative of the working class in this country. That’s why thousands signed to have a working-class voice be heard in the elections.”

## California: SWP candidates join antiwar protest, campaign for legalization of immigrant workers

**BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN**

SAN DIEGO, California—Chanting “Who are the terrorists in the world today? Israel, Britain, and the USA!” 250 people marched here August 12 to demand an end to Tel Aviv’s invasion of Lebanon and Gaza and the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

Speakers at the rally included representatives of the sponsoring organizations: Yousef Abudyyeh of the National Council of Arab Americans, and Zani Damuwi of Al-Awda (The Palestine Right to Return Coalition). Also speaking was James Harris, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for California governor.

“We demand the Israeli government stop its assault on Lebanon and withdraw all its troops now,” said Harris, who works in a meatpacking plant in the Los Angeles area. “We urge working people, including those fighting for the legalization of immigrants, and others, to protest Washington’s support to Tel Aviv’s aggression. One of the most important things that your street protest is accomplishing today is getting out the truth—that the Palestinians fight Israel, because Israel stole their land.”

Also joining the protest was David Arguello, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in California’s 51st District. “The new partnership agreement between the AFL-CIO and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network is a positive step for the labor movement,” Arguello told protesters. “Labor must not only demand legalization of all undocumented immigrants, but harness the power and resources of the union movement to this fight.” (See also front-page article.)

“By extending a hand of solidarity to these brothers and sisters, the labor movement strengthens the entire working class and counters the divide-and-rule tactics the bosses use against all of us,” said Arguello, 27, a factory worker and member of the Young Socialists here. As a hotel worker previously, Arguello had been part of a fight at Hotel Del Coronado to bring back a UNITE HERE union local after the new employer threw it out and voided its contract following a change of ownership in 2003.

“Immigrant workers are encountering harassment and efforts to close down their day-laborer sites in Vista, Encinitas, San Marcos, and elsewhere in San Diego area,” said Yolie Ríos, 24, who is part of the Coalition for Justice, Peace, and Dignity in San



Militant/Sylvia Hansen

**James Harris and David Arguello (left to right, in foreground), SWP candidates for California governor and U.S. Congress in 51st District, respectively, campaign at August 12 antiwar rally in San Diego.**

Diego, responding to Arguello’s comments. “Sometimes anti-immigrant groups like the Minutemen pose as the Border Patrol or ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) units to intimidate these workers.”

“I think the AFL-CIO decision is great,” Ríos continued. “The day laborers like it when human rights activists are out there standing with them, and I’m confident they will like having the unions with them even more.”

Ríos said she plans to help campaign for the SWP candidates because “they take a stand on human rights.”

Meanwhile, Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for Board of Education in San Francisco, submitted petitions to get on the ballot. Britton explained in his “qualifications statement” that he was a participant in the historic fight against Jim Crow segregation in the 1960s and struggles against police brutality and for affirmative action in jobs and education.

The SWP campaign also calls for a federally funded program to put millions to work at union scale building schools, child-care centers, and repairing deteriorating infrastructure, Britton told the *Militant*. “But the most important education is that which prepares youth and working people for the greatest battle ahead, the battle of workers and farmers to throw off the negative self-image the rulers teach us, to recognize we are capable of taking power and organizing society in the interests of the vast majority,” he said.

| Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2006 |   |
|--|---|
| California                                 | Lea Sherman, U.S. Senate<br>James Harris, Governor<br>Chauncey Robinson, Sec’y of State<br>Gerardo Sánchez, U.S. Cong., 8th CD<br>Naomi Craine, U.S. Cong., 34th CD<br>Michael Ortega, U.S. Cong., 35th CD<br>David Arguello, U.S. Cong., 51st CD<br>Joel Britton, San Francisco Bd. of Educ. |
| Florida                                    | Bernie Senter, U.S. Senate<br>Omari Musa, Governor<br>Margaret Trowe, U.S. Cong., 18th CD<br>Eric Simpson, U.S. Cong., 17th CD<br>Ruth Robinett, Fl. State Rep. Dist. 109   |
| Georgia                                    | William Arth, Governor<br>Lisa Potash, Lt. Governor<br>Eleanor García, U.S. Cong., 5th CD   |
| Illinois                                   | Dennis Richter, Governor<br>Christian Castro, Lt. Governor<br>Alex Alvarado, U.S. Cong., 4th CD<br>Laura Anderson, U.S. Cong., 7th CD   |
| Iowa                                       | Diana Newberry, Governor<br>Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor<br>Frank Forrestal, Sec’y of Agriculture<br>Helen Meyers, U.S. Cong., 3rd CD*   |
| Massachusetts                              | John Hawkins, Governor<br>Laura Garza, U.S. Cong., 8th CD   |
| Minnesota                                  | Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Senate<br>Brian Taylor, Governor<br>Nelson Gonzalez, Lt. Governor<br>Tom Fiske, U.S. Cong., 4th CD<br>Julian Santana, U.S. Cong., 5th CD   |
| New Jersey                                 | Angela Lariscy, U.S. Senate*<br>Brian Williams, U.S. Cong., 13th CD*  |
| New York                                   | Róger Calero, U.S. Senate<br>Maura DeLuca, Governor<br>Ben O’Shaughnessy, Lt. Governor<br>Martín Koppel, State Attorney General<br>Willie Cotton, State Comptroller<br>Nancy Boyasko, U.S. Cong., 11th CD   |
| Pennsylvania                               | Ved Dookhun, U.S. Senate<br>Osborne Hart, Governor<br>Tony Lane, Lt. Governor<br>Cindy Jaquith, U.S. Cong., 14th CD<br>John Staggs, Pa. State Rep. Dist. 198*   |
| Texas                                      | Amanda Ulman, U.S. Senate<br>Steve Warshell, Governor<br>Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Cong., 18th CD  |
| Washington                                 | David Rosenfeld, U.S. Senate<br>Connie Allen, U.S. Cong., 7th CD  |
| Wash., D.C.                                | Sam Manuel, Mayor<br>María Sánchez, City Council Chair<br>Seth Dellinger, City Council At-Large<br>Janice Lynn, House Delegate  |
| *Confirmed on ballot                       |   |

# Chicago conference calls actions for immigrant rights

**Continued from page 4**  
building the upcoming actions.  
The proposal that was adopted for nationally coordinated local actions on Saturday, September 30, stated: “Congress is set to adjourn on October 6. We propose the slogan, ‘Congress: Don’t Go Home Until the Rights of Immigrants Are Addressed.’ In addition to the demands of the immigrants’ rights’ movement, we should say no to ‘enforcement only’ or ‘enforcement-first’ legislation.... Labor Day rallies and immigrants’ rights’ events, as well as the Mexican Independence Day parades on September 16 can be used to promote the national day of actions.”  
Delegates resolved that in all the

upcoming actions they will promote not only demands for legalization of immigrants but for a moratorium on immigration raids of factories and other workplaces and deportations of immigrant workers.  
The convention backed Elvira Arellano, a former cleaner at Chicago’s O’Hare airport, who was ordered to report for deportation on August 15. In her effort to fight the deportation, she accepted sanctuary at a local church (see photo story on page 4). During the last session, delegates suspended deliberations for a period to call and leave messages en masse with the two U.S. senators in Illinois, demanding that they make every effort to stop

Arellano’s deportation.  
At one point during the conference, a dozen members of the rightist group Minutemen picketed outside the Holiday Inn in Hillside, Illinois, where the meeting was held.  
Trade unionists representing union locals and other labor organizations in the Midwest attended the conference. They included delegations from UFCW Local 881 here and Local 789 in Minnesota, Laborers’ International Union, Teamsters, Service Employees International Union, the Midwest Joint Board of UNITE HERE, and Farm Labor Organizing Committee.  
“I came here to make more contact with other groups, to expand unity,” said

Nicolae Salgado, a 25-year-old factory worker from Cincinnati, and a member of the Ohio Immigrants Network, which was formed two years ago. Salgado said his group joined with day laborers and others to build the May 1 marches in that area.  
“What’s being discussed here is very important,” Oscar Gutiérrez, a 25-year-old meat packer at Dakota Premium Foods in St. Paul, Minnesota, and member of UFCW Local 789, told the *Militant*. “I hope it will be taken forward because we need immigrants to fight with us in the unions. We recently won a contract in our plant.”  
Trade unionists promoting the Justice for Smithfield campaign also attended. This is an effort led by the UFCW to win support for workers at the Smithfield plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, who are trying to unionize the world’s largest pork slaughterhouse and processing plant.  
Three members of UNITE HERE on strike against Lechner and Sons, an industrial laundry in Mount Prospect, Illinois, attended as well. The strikers are demanding a contract and better job conditions. “We are 25, mostly immigrants, on strike for one month against mistreatment from the company,” Esperanza Muñoz, one of the strikers, told the *Militant*. “They change our hours so sometimes we start at 5:00 a.m. and sometimes at noon. We have children. How can we work like this? The 11 drivers who are in the Teamsters are also striking to support us.”  
Juana Nieves, another striker, said she liked the conference. “In terms of unions and immigrants maybe most of the workers who are on strike today and mistreated are immigrants,” she said.  
  
*Ernest Mailhot is a meat packer in Chicago. Róger Calero, Rolande Girard, and Christian Castro contributed to this article.*

## Hezbollah: a bourgeois party modeled on Tehran

**Continued from page 3**  
that toppled the U.S.-backed regime of the shah. That was a profound political and social upheaval that opened political space for workers and peasants, women, youth, and oppressed nationalities. The cleric-dominated bourgeois regime, however, unleashed a counterrevolution attempting to stifle the gains of the working-class revolt that threatened the interests of the propertied classes.  
Hezbollah’s founders in Lebanon adopted the same name used by extralegal squads in Iran that physically attacked workers’ organizations that didn’t agree with the course of the Khomeini government. That course led to the reversal of most of the gains of the 1979 revolution.  
“Iran’s financial involvement in the bulk of our development and social services is not a secret,” said Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah’s current general secretary, according to Ahmad Nizar Hamzeh, author of *In the Path of Hizbullah*.  
Hezbollah’s military forces were trained and are supplied by the government of Iran in cooperation with Damascus.

That government came to power following a mass popular insurrection led by the working class that toppled the Iranian monarchy. The movement that overthrew the shah had the potential to lead to workers and peasants taking political power. However, there was no working-class leadership strong enough to push the revolution in that direction.  
As an editorial in the July 7, 2003, *Militant* said, it is not true that “the current Iranian regime, in a warped form, is a defender of the remaining gains of the revolution.” The editorial pointed out that “there remains little momentum from the 1979 revolution today. It’s been more than 20 years since the early 1980s when the Iranian toilers poured to the battlefield to defend their country from the U.S.-inspired invasion by Baghdad aimed at destroying the gains of the anti-shah revolt.  
“The great revolution against the monarchy did strengthen the Iranian nation vis-à-vis imperialism. It was

truly one of the magnificent popular revolutions of the last quarter of the 20th century. But after 24 years the gains in the relationship of forces have been eroded.”  
From the early years of the revolution, the Khomeini government used not only state power but goon-type forces to target workers’ groups and others it felt may threaten the interests of the propertied classes.  
In her book *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, historian Nikki Keddie says the Khomeini regime had ties to “paralegal forces like...the violent groups called hezbollah. These groups disrupted demonstrations and attacked dissidents.”  
Targets included socialists and trade union leaders who sought to advance independent working-class political action.  
It is those methods and that course that Hezbollah’s leadership has worked to emulate, not the working-class traditions of the U.S. civil rights movement.

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# Build actions for immigrant rights!

Build and participate in the working-class actions demanding legalization of all immigrants around Labor Day and beyond! These include the September 7 march in Washington and the nationally coordinated local rallies on September 30 called by the National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention in Chicago.

These actions are part of the developing movement for the legalization of immigrant workers that exploded in the United States in the spring, strengthening the working-class movement and changing politics in this country.

By downing tools and taking to the streets across the country in numbers never before seen in the United States, millions of workers engaged in what became the first nationwide general strike presenting political demands on the government. These actions quickly spread to cities and towns, large and small, across the country. They were working-class political actions, in which all who took part, not just immigrants, were welcome.

No one can predict today whether the scope and spread of the September actions will approach those of April and May. But last week's events—including the composition and outcome of the Chicago conference, the most important labor gathering this summer—confirm the working-class character of the coming actions and that they will build on the gains of the spring.

The decisions by the AFL-CIO and the Laborers' union to collaborate with the National Day Laborers Organizing Network in joining day laborers, largely undocumented immigrants, in their fight for better wages and job conditions show that the labor movement is being increasingly drawn into this struggle. Broader layers in society are recognizing that the battle to legalize all immigrants,

including opposition to the divide-and-conquer workplace raids and deportations, is in the interests of all working people.

The U.S. rulers, who were caught by surprise by the speed and power of the mobilizations last spring, have not yet recovered. They still don't know what to do. The bill to make every immigrant without proper papers a criminal, approved by the House of Representatives in December, remains dead in the water.

Increasing numbers of immigrant rights groups and others have also correctly become vocal opponents of the version of "immigration reform" the Senate passed in May. That bill would reinforce the police crackdown on the border, establish a "guest worker" program, and offer legal status to some after meeting onerous conditions that include dependence on employers.

All the current proposals by the ruling capitalists aim, not to expel the undocumented, but to maintain a permanent layer of workers in pariah status to be superexploited for the profit of the bosses. This allows employers to foster divisions among our class and lower the wages and worsen conditions for all workers.

The choices for the labor movement are clear.

Back some variant of the chauvinist, America-first immigration policy proposals by the Democrats and Republicans and allow them to use immigration to drag down and weaken the entire working class. Or join the developing working-class movement—becoming clearer of the need to fight for immediate, unconditional legalization of all immigrants—and revitalize the trade unions to fight for the benefit of all working people.

Building the immigrant rights actions in September can help push in this last direction.

# Free the Cuban Five!

The decision by a U.S. court of appeals to uphold the convictions of the Cuban Five and deny them a new trial, reversing a 2005 ruling by a three-judge panel of the same court, is a travesty of justice. One important response is to build a national march in Washington on September 23, and other actions in the United States and other countries that month, demanding that the five revolutionaries be freed and getting out the truth about their case.

The five men are Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, and René González. They were on an internationalist mission to gather information on ultrarightist organizations with a record of violent attacks on Cuba carried out from U.S. soil with Washington's complicity. They were arrested by FBI agents in 1998, and have been imprisoned ever since. Unable to produce evidence of carrying out any criminal acts, the government instead railroaded them on charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." Hernández was also slapped with the most outrageous charge, "conspiracy to commit murder."

The five Cuban militants were convicted in a federal court in Miami in June 2001—after much publicity in the big-business media that branded them guilty from the get-go. They were given sentences from 15 years in prison to a double life term, and locked up in five federal prisons spread out across the country.

In February 2003 the five were thrown into solitary confinement after an order by the Justice Department charging that the exten-

sive solidarity they had received in the form of correspondence and the few visitors they were allowed made them a "national security risk." They spent a month in the "hole." Since then, U.S. authorities have denied visas to Olga Salanueva, wife of René González, and Adriana Pérez, wife of Gerardo Hernández, to travel from Cuba to visit their loved ones.

What's the real crime of the Cuban Five? Being firm defenders of the Cuban Revolution, in which Cuba's working people toppled a U.S.-backed dictatorship, put in power a government of workers and farmers, expropriated the capitalists and landlords, and opened the socialist revolution in the Americas.

Despite a relentless U.S. economic war, the Cuban people have stood their ground. They have defended the revolution and lent internationalist assistance to millions from Africa to the Middle East and Asia fighting to end imperialist domination and achieve national liberation. New generations of revolutionary leaders have been tested and gained experience in the process, answering in practice the question, "What will happen after Fidel?"

The five working-class heroes serving draconian sentences in U.S. prisons are such products of the Cuban Revolution. Three of them, for example, fought in Angola in the late 1980s as volunteer combatants when Cuba helped that African nation defeat invasions by the South African regime's apartheid army. They have shown a similar conduct behind bars, extending solidarity to strikers and other embattled workers in the United States.

Let's build the actions to demand their freedom!

# What Mexico's election reveals

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

In a letter to the *Militant*, Nick Brisini says a recent article on the presidential elections in Mexico "left the reader hanging" on several points. (See "Elections in Mexico reflect class tensions" in the July 31 issue.)

One was that many working people supported the candidate of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The article could have reported more explicitly on this fact, which has been evident in the

## REPLY TO A READER

large rallies the PRD has continued organizing to contest the electoral victory of Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN).

The article did note, however, that as mayor of Mexico City, López Obrador promoted welfare policies that were "popular among the most impoverished"—his main credentials in the election campaign—and that his campaign demagogically professed to be "for the good of all, the poor first."

Brisini also correctly notes that the "article failed to mention that the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) did not support any of the candidates" of the three contending bourgeois parties.

He suggests the article should have reported that "the EZLN leader, Subcomandante Marcos, claimed that the problem in Mexico was the capitalist system."

Such statements by the EZLN leadership, however, are not new. Like many middle-class and bourgeois politicians in Mexico, they often criticize capitalism and talk in classless terms about "those on top" and "those on the bottom," as Marcos did during his several-month-long tour of Mexico dubbed "The Other Campaign."

But critiquing capitalism and all the main political parties means nothing by itself—it's what you are *for* that counts. And no political party or current in Mexico today, including the EZLN, offers a political strategy for workers and peasants to overturn capitalism and take political power.

I would agree with Brisini on the "the need in Mexico for a workers' party to provide leadership to the workers' struggles and for socialism." Advocating that view, however, is better suited for an editorial or opinion column than a news article.

Finally, while it's worth noting what the EZLN leadership is doing in the arena of middle-class radical politics, much more important is the ongoing struggles by working people in Mexico, from the strikes by copper miners in the north to the battle led by teachers in the southern state of Oaxaca and fights by farmers for land and against police violence.

It's in those kinds of struggles—out of which a revolutionary, working-class party can be forged—that the future lies.

## LETTERS

### Mexican elections

Concerning the *Militant* article on the July 2 Mexican presidential election, I felt that the article left the reader hanging. It did point out that all of the capitalist parties—PRI, PAN, PRD—were basically the same. But I don't think that the article made it clear that workers and the poor seemed to support the populist López Obrador of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD). Also, it failed to mention that the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) did not support any of the candidates and the EZLN leader, Subcomandante Marcos, claimed the problem in Mexico was the capitalist system.

Since the *Militant* claims to be a socialist newsweekly, I would think that it would at least call for the need in Mexico for a workers' party to provide leadership to the workers' struggles and for socialism.

Nick Brisini

Hastings, Pennsylvania

### 'Terror threat'

With the current "terror threat" all workers at Chicago's O'Hare airport on August 10 had their cars searched before being able to enter the airport.

Rick Young

Chicago, Illinois

### 'English Only'

Your coverage of efforts by city governments to create discriminatory conditions for immigrants highlights the inclusion of English-Only provisions in local attempts to accomplish what the U.S. federal government has failed to do: establish English as the country's "official" language.

Recent English-Only campaigns have targeted mostly Spanish speakers, but also others. Proponents of English-Only are featured in the press any time bilingual education or immigrants' rights are the topic. They argue that bilingualism is a threat to

English and "American" culture to create hysteria among workers that there is an impending loss, which will be caused by speakers of languages other than English, in an effort to divide workers.

Their claims that workers suffer from multilingualism are false: the capitalists wish to create conditions that favor their profits, and they can only do this at the expense of the workers. Campaigns to scapegoat the foreign born, and speakers of minority languages, are necessary from the perspective of the capitalists, and must be rejected by working people.

Juliet Luther

Bronx, New York

**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.**