

THE MILITANT

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Cuban 5 attorney Leonard Weinglass on defense effort
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Law would boost gov't spying over the Internet

BY ANGEL LARISCY

The White House has announced plans to introduce legislation in Congress next year that would make it easier for spy and cop agencies to eavesdrop on Internet communications.

The new regulations would mandate social networking companies, encrypted e-mail transmitters, and

Chicago action protests FBI, grand jury probe —p. 3

voice-over-Internet service providers to make technical modifications to allow snoops direct access to encrypted communications. As it stands, government agencies often need to get decrypted versions of tapped messages and discussions from service providers, which often requires a court order.

The announced measure represents
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Minneapolis action demands justice in 2006 killing by cop

BY NATALIE MORRISON

MINNEAPOLIS—Hundreds of people gathered here October 2 for a rally and press conference to demand justice for Fong Lee and prosecution of police officer Jason Andersen, who killed the 19-year-old Hmong youth on July 22, 2006. The demonstration took place at the Cityview Elementary School in North Minneapolis, where Fong Lee was chased down and shot



One of many rallies organized to demand justice for Fong Lee since he was gunned down by Minneapolis cop in July 2006.

Economic crisis draws workers to D.C. rally

Speakers urge 'patience' with Democrats



Laid-off Chicago Transit Authority workers were among many union contingents represented at October 2 rally for "job, justice, and education" in Washington, D.C.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

WASHINGTON—Nearly 200,000 people—overwhelmingly workers and many of them African American—answered a call to rally here October 2 "for jobs, justice and education for all." Workers clad in union or NAACP T-shirts streamed into the

National Mall toward the Lincoln Memorial throughout the day in an action sponsored by the AFL-CIO, major unions, NAACP, and several hundred other organizations.

Twenty-four coal miners came from the Cumberland and Emerald mines in western Pennsylvania. "The biggest reason we are here is to stand with our brothers for our rights," said Jeff Marsh, from United Mine Workers of America Local 2300. "We are preparing for the fight of our lives when our contract expires Dec. 31, 2011. It is very important that all unions be

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Washington accelerates drone strikes in Pakistan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In recent weeks the U.S. military has stepped up drone strikes in Pakistan to an unprecedented pace alongside a series of other incursions by U.S.-led NATO forces.

The military operations are fomenting anti-U.S. sentiment in Pakistan and mounting pressure on the country's unstable government, a shaky U.S. ally whose troubles include a spiraling economic crisis, Islamist insurgency, and popular resentment exacerbated by recent failures to deal with massive flooding.

In September Washington carried out 22 drone strikes into Pakistan, nearly double the previous monthly record of 12 last January. The vast majority have targeted a Taliban-allied group led by Jalaluddin Haqqani in North Waziristan.

Three more strikes were launched in the first four days of October, the most recent of which reportedly killed several German nationals in North Waziristan.

Washington declares these increased aerial assaults are in response to its belief that al-Qaeda is plotting terrorist attacks in Europe.

The State Department issued an
Continued on page 9

Unionists at rally attracted to book on 'Workers Power'

BY ANGEL LARISCY

"They don't want you to know your history. But we are never going back," said Denise Ripley, a public school tutor from Philadelphia, as she was thumbing through the dozens of photographs in the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes.

"The only way to change things is to educate ourselves and rely on ourselves," she said, commenting on how the Democratic and Republican politicians try to convince working people that all we can do is vote for one of them.

Ripley was one of some 280 people who purchased *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at the October 2 demonstration in Washington, D.C., called by the AFL-CIO, NAACP, and other organizations around the slogan for jobs, justice, and education. Socialist campaigners also sold 235 subscriptions to the *Militant* there.

Supporters of the paper around the world are on an eight-week campaign to sell more than 1,800 copies of the

book while simultaneously expanding the *Militant's* subscription base by 2,100 readers. The Washington, D.C., protest, along with a number of smaller actions around the country, boosted the international sales effort and brought it on course to reach these goals as we enter the fourth week.

Workers' response to the book at the rally shows the thirst among working people for answers to how we can ad-

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U.S. gov't sanctions take toll on Iranian economy

BY CINDY JAQUITH

October 4—In recent weeks, the governments of Iran and the United States have signaled willingness to resume talks on Iran's nuclear program, as increased military and economic pressures by the U.S. government and its allies have widened fissures within the Iranian ruling class. Meanwhile, Iranian officials confirmed today that a formidable computer worm has infected at least some computers at their Bushehr nuclear facility, as well as other industrial sites.

Startup of the Bushehr reactor at the country's first nuclear power plant has been delayed. It's unclear whether the worm, code named "Stuxnet," is a factor, as Iranian officials attributed the delay to other technical problems.

The worm's sophistication suggests it was designed by a state power, *Stars and Stripes* reported. "A handful of countries, including the U.S., Israel, and Russia, are believed to have the ability to craft such a weapon." The paper said while Stuxnet has also hit other countries, Iran appears to be the target.

On September 22 Russian president Dmitry Medvedev announced that his government is reneging on a deal to sell an antiaircraft missile system to Iran. The weapon would have made much more difficult a military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities. Washington and Tel Aviv have acknowledged discussions on launching such a strike if they cannot get the Iranian government to stop enriching uranium.

The Iranian government says its nuclear program is not aimed at weapons procurement. The country's facilities

enrich uranium in very small amounts and only at grades suitable for power generation and medical research purposes. However, Washington and its allies seek to block any advance in the country's nuclear technology, which would bring it closer to weapons producing capacity.

The White House released a statement praising Moscow's cancellation of the S-300s, saying it "continues to demonstrate how Russia and the United States are cooperating closely on behalf of our mutual interests."

Negotiations on enriching uranium

Last year negotiations fell through on a proposal for Tehran to have its uranium enriched by other countries. By this summer, however, it became clear that sanctions against Iran had begun to hurt and Washington's and Israel's military threats had intensified, leading some in Iran's capitalist class to wonder if the nuclear course Tehran is on is worth it.

On September 22 U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton met with the foreign ministers of Russia, China, Britain, France, and Germany. They announced their "determination and commitment to seek an early negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue."

The next day Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad traveled to New York to address the United Nations. He told reporters, "We are ready for dialogue," and said he expected negotiations to begin soon.

Ahmadinejad's speech to the UN was laced with anticapitalist rhetoric and conspiracy theories, including the anti-Semitic charge that the majority of the

Iowa students march for immigrant rights



Militant/Ellen Brickley

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa—"Education, not deportation!" chanted 200 spirited young people marching September 29 from the high school to the community college here, calling on Congress to pass legislation that would allow children of immigrants without papers to continue with their schooling and potentially gain legal status.

Emily Lynch, 16, who attends Marshalltown High, came along to support her fellow students. "It was an eye-opening experience for me," she told the *Militant*. "Before today I didn't know kids my age were active in things like this."

Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Iowa secretary of agriculture and a former worker at the JBS Swift plant here, marched with the students. She said her campaign calls for legalization of undocumented workers as a way to strengthen the struggles of all working people.

—ELLEN BRICKLEY

U.S. population believes the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center was orchestrated by "segments within the U.S. government . . . to reverse the declining American economy and its grip on the Middle East in order also to save the Zionist regime."

More than 33 UN delegations, including all the European Union countries and the United States, walked out.

The day after his speech Ahmadinejad told reporters that Tehran might stop enriching uranium if the imperialist powers provided it with nuclear fuel for a medical research reactor.

The toll the sanctions are taking on Iran's economy continues to mount. Tehran has just ended subsidies for electricity with no advance notice, Reuters reported September 21. Some Iranians received bills that were 10 times higher than before. The move is the first in a se-

ries of measures the government claims will save \$100 billion by reducing subsidies on food, fuel, transportation, and other basic goods.

Clearly worried about the popular reaction to this attack on Iranians' standard of living, Tehran postponed the ending of the subsidy on gasoline for another month.

Meanwhile, the Tehran prosecutor general, Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi, announced plans to indict two bourgeois opposition leaders, Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi. Both ran for president against Ahmadinejad in 2009.

Iran's national police chief charged October 1 that the opposition will launch "economic sedition" when subsidies are ended. This would include strikes and closing down the bazaars, he said, to "complement the enemies' economic pressures," referring to the sanctions.

THE MILITANT

Support the socialist candidates

Socialist Workers candidates are joining the struggles of working people and urging workers to break from the Democrats and Republicans—two bosses' parties—and fight for a labor party. Follow their campaigns every week in the 'Militant.'



Militant/Wendy Lyons

James Harris, right, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor in Los Angeles.

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Chicago action protests FBI, grand jury probe

BY BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO—As a federal grand jury was convened here October 5, supporters of political rights rallied outside the Dirksen Federal Building for a news conference protesting FBI raids and grand jury investigations against antiwar activists.

On September 24 the FBI raided the homes of political activists in Chicago, Minneapolis, and elsewhere in the country, seizing computers, cell phones, passports, and other documents. The agency issued subpoenas to 14 people to appear before a federal grand jury. FBI spokesman Steve Warfield claimed the raids were part of an “ongoing Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation into activities concerning the material support of terrorism.”

Two of those subpoenaed—Stephanie Weiner, a professor at Wilbur Wright College, and Joe Iosbaker, a union steward and staff member at University of Illinois at Chicago—spoke at the news conference.

“The grand jury process is an attempt to violate the inalienable rights under the constitution and international

law to freedom of political speech, association, and the right to advocate for change,” Weiner told the press.

“We have nothing to say to the grand jury,” Iosbaker said. He added that all 14 people subpoenaed have said they intend to exercise their Fifth Amendment right not to testify. Grand jury dates for Iosbaker and Weiner have been postponed until October 19.

Speakers at the news conference included Jim Fennerty, president of the National Lawyers Guild here and attorney for Weiner, Iosbaker, and others; Miryam Rashid, American Friends Service Committee; and Rev. Dan Dale, of the United Church of Christ.



Militant/Illona Gersh

Protesters outside courthouse in Chicago October 5 where federal grand jury was convened in case against antiwar and union activists whose homes were raided by FBI.

FBI covered up spying on antiwar groups

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA—Justice Department Inspector General Glenn Fine issued a 209-page report September 20 detailing numerous cases of the FBI targeting political activists for spying and disruption while justifying their intrusions as necessary to fight “terrorism” or to prevent potential “crimes of violence.”

The FBI operations were conducted against antiwar groups, including the Thomas Merton Center in Pittsburgh, Greenpeace USA and other environmental groups, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Catholic Worker organization, Quaker peace activists in Seattle, and others.

The spy operations were first unearthed by the American Civil Liberties Union in 2006 based on information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The Justice Department limited its investigation to operations carried out during the administration of President George W. Bush.

The operations were conducted as “anti-terrorism” investigations under new FBI guidelines instituted after Sept. 11, 2001, that expanded secret police spying. These guidelines were loosened further in 2008.

The Justice Department report describes how the cops and their informers attended meetings, took pictures of participants, and opened and maintained ongoing spy files. In a number of cases, activists targeted were placed into the government’s Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File “watch list.” Having their names pop up on a watch list has caused thousands of people to be harassed when trying to travel by plane.

The spy operation against the Thomas Merton Center in Pittsburgh began in 2002. Informers were sent in to “look for international terrorists.” One photographed a woman he thought was of “Middle Eastern descent” to have her checked by “terrorism analysts.”

One agent’s reports described the Merton Center as a “left-wing organization” advocating pacifism and opposing the growing war in Iraq. It said nothing about the center being a terrorist group.

After the ACLU released the files concerning this and other FBI operations, the agency worked overtime to create a justification for its intrusion. Agents wrote and backdated memos, claiming that their spies were operating as an “outgrowth of an FBI investigation.”

This cover story was advanced in

testimony before Congress by FBI head Robert Mueller, where he asserted that the Pittsburgh agents were trying to “identify an individual” that “we believed” was “in attendance” at a rally at the Merton Center.

The Justice Department report says these postdated rationales were all false. The Merton Center was investigated for its political activities.

Yet the report says that what it describes “did not indicate that the FBI targeted any of the groups for investigation on the basis of their First Amendment activities.”

Even if the spying was justified on grounds that were “factually weak,” the report claims, they were still started as investigation of terrorist threats or potential violence, and therefore justified.

At the same time the report was issued, there were a number of new rev-

elations of FBI spying and ongoing government operations against political activists.

In Iowa, FBI documents about their operations against antiwar activists in Iowa City were released September 20.

FBI informants infiltrated antiwar groups, drawing in other cops from the University of Iowa, the Iowa City Police Department, and the Coralville cops.

“Agents staked out the homes of political activists, secretly photographed and shot video of them, pored through their garbage, and studied their cell phone and motor vehicle records,” the Des Moines *Register* reported.

Claiming they were looking for plans of violence for antiwar demonstrations at the 2008 Republican National Convention, as many as six cops would attend meetings or stake out gatherings or homes of activists.

Law eases spying on Internet

Continued from front page

one of the latest government inroads against privacy rights under the pretext of the fight against “terrorism.” The new proposals would apply to all providers of communications services to the U.S. market.

The proposed legislation would expand upon the 1994 Communications Assistance to Law Enforcement Act, which requires all phone and broadband companies to build interception capabilities into their networks.

Marc Rotenberg, executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said over the past 15 years, especially since Sept. 11, 2001, the government has lowered requirements for getting a warrant. “The balance has swung radically toward enhanced law enforcement powers,” he told AP.

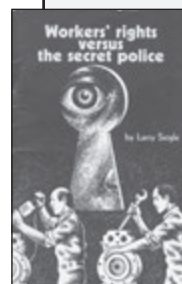
The *New York Times* took note of the lack of any comment on the administration’s plan by most online companies. “Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Yahoo, and Research in Motion—never shy about issuing press releases—all declined to talk about what would be a major shift in privacy law,” the paper said.

In an additional attack on privacy, the Treasury Department proposed a new requirement for banks—they must report all electronic money transfers in and out of the country.

Defending the measure, James Freis Jr., director of the Financial

Crimes Enforcement Network, told the *Times*, “By establishing a centralized database, this regulatory plan will greatly assist law enforcement in detecting and ferreting out transnational organized crime, multinational drug cartels, terrorist financing and international tax evasion.”

Currently banks are required to report cash transactions above \$10,000, keep records on all electronic transfers in and out of the country over \$3,000, and provide that information to law enforcement officials if asked.



Workers' Rights Versus the Secret Police

by Larry Seigle

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups. \$5

Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

by Nelson Blackstock

Describes the decades-long covert counterintelligence program against socialists and activists in the Black and anti-Vietnam War movements. \$15



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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Legacy of Imperialism in India Today. Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 16, 6 p.m. *Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie.* Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Defend Women's Right to Choose! Oppose Prosecution of Australia Couple under Antiabortion Laws. Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. *4/125 Grafton Rd.* Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Is the Recession Over? Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5, unemployed \$1. *5482 Mission St.* Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Worldwide Crisis of Capitalism: Why Working People Need a Revolutionary Party. A benefit for SWP Party-Building Fund. Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C. Sat., Oct. 16, Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. *307 W. 36 St., 10th Floor (Use north elevators).* Tel.: (212) 736-2540.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: How to Approach the Debate on Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region. Speaker: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. *3701 Pulaski Ave.* Tel.: (215) 225-1270.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The 2010 Elections and Deepening Capitalist Economic Crisis—Why Working People Need a Fighting Labor Party. A benefit for SWP Party-Building Fund. Speaker: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California. Sat., Oct. 16, Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; program, 6:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. *5418 Rainier Ave. S. (#7 or #9 bus on Rainier to Brandon).* Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

Oct. 2 boosts sales effort

Continued from front page

vance our class interests in the face of the unrelenting economic crisis.

“A friend of mine showed me this book before, so when I came here I saw it and had to get it right away,” said Patrick Clarke, from Queens, a union staffer for the 1199SEIU in New York City. He bought two copies—one for himself and one for a friend.

“The main thing I discussed with people is the need for the working class to have our own party, a labor party based on a fighting union movement through which working people can contest in the political arena with the twin parties of the exploiting class,” said Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C.

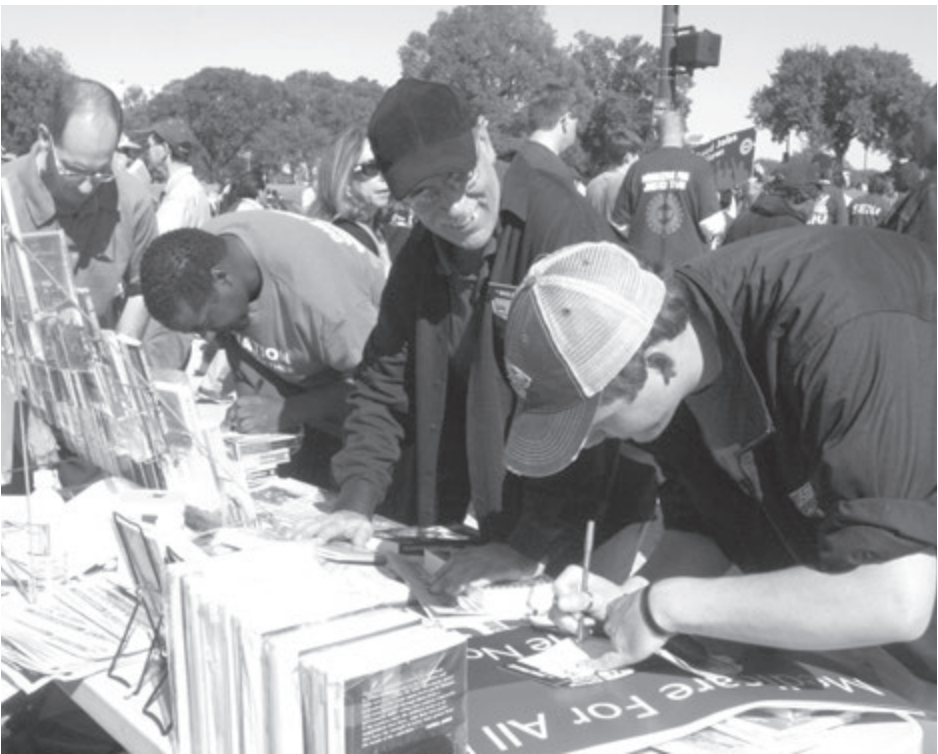
Socialist Workers candidates and

their supporters around the country have been promoting *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* as an integral part of their campaigns. Musa said workers at the rally were interested in the book’s point that the working class must conquer state power in order to begin eradicating all forms of exploitation and oppression perpetuated under the capitalist system, and organize society in the interests of the majority.

Socialists from Chicago came to the action on buses organized by the Chicago Teachers Union as well as the NAACP. “We met some people we will for sure be working with in the future,” said Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois. Kennedy said the campaign was also invited to speak at a high school class.



Diana Newberry, left, SWP candidate for governor of Minnesota, campaigns at October 2 demonstration.



A trade unionist and a college student sign up to purchase *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* with subscriptions to *Militant* at October 2 demonstration in Washington, D.C. A total of 280 books and 235 *Militant* subscriptions were sold there.

the demonstration came back to the campaign hall after the rally for further discussion on the campaign platform with the candidates and supporters,” Martin said.

One proven way to increase book sales is by taking advantage of a special *Militant* supplement that reprints, in English, Spanish and French, the introduction to *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. In fact 1,500 more English supplements have just been printed.

“After reading the introduction to the book, I knew I had to have it,” said Jason Scott, a young Black health-care

worker from the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. He had bought the supplement the week before from Dan Fein, SWP candidate for New York governor. When Fein called him back to ask how he liked the introduction, Scott insisted he bring him the book as soon as possible. Fein responded without much delay, selling him the book.

The campaign runs until November 9. It’s not too late to join in selling the *Workers Power* book and signing up new readers to the *Militant*. Join us! Contact a distributor in your area, listed on page 8, to help.

campaign to sell						
‘Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power’ & ‘Militant’						
Sept. 11–Nov. 9 (week 3)						
Country	‘Workers Power’ books			‘Militant’ subscriptions		
	quota	sold	%	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES						
Boston *	50	34	68%	70	36	51%
Atlanta	120	65	54%	150	72	48%
Miami	50	25	50%	65	31	48%
Washington	145	71	49%	125	69	55%
Philadelphia	65	29	45%	75	33	44%
New York	375	161	43%	325	157	48%
Des Moines	110	47	43%	125	41	33%
Chicago	130	45	35%	130	49	38%
Seattle	130	35	27%	140	29	21%
Los Angeles	135	31	23%	120	50	42%
Houston	50	10	20%	50	14	28%
Twin Cities	100	19	19%	135	37	27%
San Francisco	130	23	18%	155	43	28%
Total U.S.	1590	595	37%	1665	661	40%
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	90	35	39%	90	36	40%
Edinburgh	25	7	28%	35	11	31%
Total UK	115	42	37%	125	47	38%
Canada	62	29	47%	70	33	47%
New Zealand	25	8	32%	60	25	42%
Australia	25	5	20%	55	17	31%
Sweden	18	9	50%	22	15	68%
Total	1835	688	38%	1997	798	38%
Should be	1800	675	38%	2100	788	38%
* Raised both quotas						

Workers give to the party-building fund

BY TOM FISKE

“We started organizing at the beginning and the response is strong,” said Diana Newberry, a leader of the SWP Party-Building Fund effort in the Twin Cities. Supporters of the fund in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area raised their goal from \$7,000 to \$7,500.

The big turnout of workers for the October 2 rally in Washington, D.C., for jobs and justice showed the potential for the fund. New York socialists at the rally collected \$21, most of it at a literature table they set up at the entrance to the National Mall.

“Most of those who gave money either purchased the combination offer of a *Militant* subscription and the book *Malcolm X,*

Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, by Jack Barnes, or a supplement with the introduction to the book,” said Angel Lariscy, who helped staff the table. “They liked what we were doing and when they saw a ‘party-building fund’ collection can on our table, they dropped another dollar or two in.”

Collecting donations at tables has become a regular practice for the New York socialists, who send out teams to working-class neighborhoods every weekend. “The first weekend of the drive to get out the book and paper, we received donations of \$15 at tables,” reports Cindy Jaquith. “We have also started getting contributions outside a pharmaceutical plant in the Bronx where we regularly sell revolutionary literature.” Socialists who work nearby at an electronics factory in New Jersey have adopted a goal of winning five coworkers to become donors to the fund this fall.

The party-building fund is orga-

nized to help finance the work of the party to reach out to working-class struggles in the United States and around the world. The fund began September 11 and continues until November 9. It runs concurrently with a campaign by *Militant* supporters to sell 1,800 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and 2,100 subscriptions to the *Militant*. The fund depends on the voluntary contributions of workers and farmers.

Contributions to the party-building fund can be sent to SWP, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Make out checks to SWP.

Party-building fund Sept. 11–Nov. 9

City	Quota	Paid	%
Des Moines	\$2,700	\$1,285	48%
Washington	\$7,000	\$2,140	31%
Twin Cities*	\$7,500	\$1,970	26%
Seattle	\$8,600	\$1,935	23%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$1,575	20%
Miami	\$3,000	\$510	17%
New York	\$20,000	\$2,975	15%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$1,800	13%
Boston	\$3,600	\$425	12%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$1,075	11%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$539	7%
Houston	\$3,000	\$150	5%
Philadelphia	\$3,600	\$0	0%
Total	\$98,300	\$16,379	17%
Should be	\$98,000	\$24,500	25%
* Raised quota			

Minnesota killing by cop

Continued from front page

used “excessive force.” Earlier, Minneapolis Police Chief Timothy Dolan had awarded Andersen the Medal of Valor for his actions in shooting down Lee.

After being fully exonerated in the Lee case, Andersen has continued his abuse. In September 2009 Dolan fired Andersen over a domestic assault charge.

After being reinstated onto the police force, Andersen was then indicted on federal charges for kicking a Black teenager in the head. The chief of police fired Andersen a second time on September 22 for violating the police department’s “truthfulness” code over the incident with the Black youth.

Numerous rallies have been organized over the past four years to keep drawing attention to the killing of Fong Lee by the cops. His family is also planning to continue legal action to demand justice in the case.

ON THE PICKET LINE

New Jersey dockworkers shut down ports for 2 days

Some 4,500 longshoremen at five New York and New Jersey cargo ports refused to cross picket lines set up September 28 and 29 by dockworkers from Camden, New Jersey, who unload ships for Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc.

This is the first time since 1977 that a strike has shut down New York City-area ports. The longshoremen returned to work at all ports September 30 after a federal judge ordered them back on the job and the bosses were asking the court to impose \$1 million a day in fines.

The dockworkers, members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), were protesting their imminent layoff due to a decision by Del Monte Produce to move its fruit importing operations from Camden to nearby Gloucester City. This move eliminates some 200 union jobs.

"Without solidarity, we got nothing," Camden longshoremen Kevin O'Hara, told the media.

The ILA had recently agreed to big concessions to Del Monte to keep their operations in Camden, including a wage cut from \$31 an hour to \$22.50 for some jobs and from \$24.50 to \$22 for others.

—Seth Galinsky

Kyrgyz gold miners strike Canadian-owned firm

Workers at Centerra Gold's Kumtor mine in Kyrgyzstan went on strike October 1. The mine accounts for one-quarter of the country's industrial output last year and a third of all its exports. It employs about 1,000 workers.

The open-pit mine in the Tien Shan mountains is a joint venture of Canadian Centerra Gold, the Kyrgyz government, and other investors.

Centerra's second-quarter profits jumped to \$29.8 million as gold prices have soared. According to the *Canadian Press*, workers are demanding a 100 percent wage increase but the company has offered only 25 percent.

—Seth Galinsky

London: Coca-Cola workers fight for higher wages

Workers at the north London Coca-Cola bottling plant, members of the Unite union, organized three six-hour strikes in September. Wayne King, Unite regional organizer, told the *Militant* workers are taking action to "oppose the company's imposition of a 2 percent wage offer," and reduce the workers available to cover holiday relief.

Some 110 workers at the plant voted 8-1 to take action, conducting the first six-hour strike September 15. The nomi-

nal raise offer, they argue, is less than half the rate of inflation, and therefore equivalent to a pay cut.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola workers in Gent, Belgium, walked out September 22 following the company's announcement of its eighth consecutive "restructuring" operation, which threatens to cut more than 400 jobs in Europe.

Coca-Cola workers in Atlanta are scheduled to vote October 7 on whether to organize themselves into the Teamsters union.

—Paul Davies

Strike closes 39 sawmills and plywood plants in Finland

More than 4,000 forestry workers in Finland walked out October 1 after the Wood and Allied Workers' Union and the bosses' Finnish Forest Industries rejected a mediator's proposal. The strike shut down 39 sawmills and plywood plants.

According to the online *Trade Union News from Finland*, the main



Militant/Debra Jacobs

Unite union members picket Coca-Cola bottling plant in north London

dispute centers on bonuses based on seniority. The mediator proposed signing an agreement, but leaving bonuses up to future negotiations. *Trade Union News* reports that the seniority-based bonuses have traditionally been

a significant part of workers' income.

If an agreement is not reached by October 8, the union will expand the strike to the whole industry, involving as many as 18,000 workers.

—Seth Galinsky

Cops hold Ecuadoran president captive 10 hours

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

Ecuadoran president Rafael Correa was tear-gassed and held captive September 30 by hundreds of protesting police officers in the capital city of Quito. Cops occupied the National Assembly for some time and detained the president in a police hospital for 10 hours until he was rescued by soldiers.

Correa is a capitalist politician who was elected in 2006 on promises of greater distribution of the nation's wealth to workers and peasants; he was reelected in 2009. His social policies—which include increased government spending on schools, housing, and health care—have made his regime popular among working people.

The Correa government's refusal to pay \$3.2 billion owed to bondholders and promises to pass a law expropriating idle land from wealthy landowners to provide for indigenous and peasant farmers have earned him the enmity of a substantial layer of Ecuador's ruling class. At the same time, many capitalists back the current presidency, which is the most stable government they've have had in more than a decade.

The September 30 assault on Correa began when cops in several cities took over police barracks in protest of cuts in bonus payments that were planned as part of a new austerity law. Elements of the air force also joined the protests in Quito, blockading the runway at the international airport and preventing planes from landing or taking off. Eight people were reportedly killed and 278 wounded in the fighting. The military waited several hours before making its move, with armed forces chief Ernesto Gutierrez first gaining assurances from Correa that the austerity law would be revised.

Although Ecuador is the world's top banana exporter and is rich in copper, gold, and oil, like other economies throughout Latin America, the country has been battered by the worldwide depression. The austerity measures aimed at benefits provided to the police are part of broader steps by the Correa government to keep the capitalist economy afloat.

As the police protests mounted, Correa decided to go to one of their barracks in Quito and confront dozens of jeering cops who were taking part in

the nationwide strike against the civil service law. According to witnesses, Correa taunted the cops, saying, "If you want to kill the president, here he is!" In minutes the cops broke through his small security detail and assaulted him.

Several thousand supporters of the president gathered at the palace to demand his release. There were no widespread worker or peasant mobilizations in response to the assault.

Both Correa and Justice Minister José Serrano have charged that the cop strike was an attempted coup and promise an investigation to determine who is responsible.

Correa has received support from both the head of the armed forces and the main opposition figure in Ecuador, Correa's most powerful rival, Guayaquil mayor Jaime Nebot. In addition, the governments of Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Argentina have all expressed support for Correa.

U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton spoke to Correa shortly after his release encouraging "an ongoing, rapid and peaceful restoration of order," according to her spokesman, P.J. Crowley.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 17, 1985

"Program for Sustained Growth." That's the title of Washington's latest proposal to deal with the snowballing debt owed by the semicolonial countries to the imperialist bankers.

What the White House proposal boils down to is that the World Bank and individual banks would increase their loans to semicolonial countries by \$29 billion over the next three years. In exchange the debtor countries must show they are pursuing "policies for growth."

A different proposal for how to deal with the debt crisis is being discussed throughout Latin America and elsewhere: cancel the debt.

Cuban President Fidel Castro has been leading an international campaign to win support for this proposal.



October 17, 1960

The International Union of Electrical Workers' strike against General Electric is more than a run-of-the-mill dispute. It is the central struggle by organized labor to beat back the anti-union offensive of big business.

At the end of the war in 1945-47 the corporations tried to smash the union movement. They were beaten back by victorious and determined strike actions.

Instead of seeking to break them, the industrialists contrived to housebreak the unions by making small concessions from the superprofits they were raking in. They were assisted in the task by the increasing bureaucratization and conservatism of the top union officials.



October 19, 1935

The flare-up in Ethiopia is rapidly taking on the proportions of a world conflagration. It is now evident that we are confronted not merely with a case of national rape but with a major inter imperialist struggle.

Great Britain and Italy are at each other's throats in a fight for control of the Mediterranean.

Fascist Italy at last embarked upon the conquest of the much heralded new Roman Empire. The Mediterranean is the indispensable gateway to empire. British imperialism, in control of the Mediterranean for generations, must maintain control of the route to her plundered possessions in India, Australia and Far East as a matter of self-preservation.

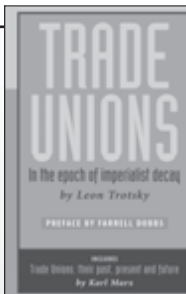
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U.S. gov't paid media in frame-up of Cuban Five

Interview with lawyer on plans for defense effort

Below are major excerpts of an interview with Leonard Weinglass, one of the attorneys on the legal defense team of the Cuban Five. The September 15 phone interview was conducted for the English-language broadcast of Radio Havana Cuba by Bernie Dwyer, an Irish journalist and filmmaker.

The Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González—were arrested by the U.S. government in 1998 while living in the United States monitoring the activities of counterrevolutionary groups in Miami that have a long history of armed assaults and sabotage against Cuba.

The five were convicted on trumped-up charges ranging from failure to register as foreign agents to “conspiracy to commit espionage.” In addition, Hernández was falsely convicted of “conspiracy to commit murder.”

The five were refused a change in trial venue from Miami, the center of counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups, where an atmosphere of prejudice and intimidation ensured the most biased trial possible.

Hernández received a double life sentence plus 15 years. The U.S. government claimed he was complicit in the deaths of the crews of two planes flown by Brothers to the Rescue, one of the right-wing groups the five had been monitoring. The plane was shot down by the Cuban air force on Feb. 24, 1996, after Brothers to the Rescue had repeatedly and provocatively violated Cuban airspace, despite numerous warnings from Havana.

Under growing international pressure, a federal appeals court ruled in June 2008 that the sentences for three of the five were excessive. Labañino’s

life sentence plus 18 years was reduced to 30 years. Fernando González’s sentence of 19 years was reduced to 17 years and 9 months. Guerrero’s life plus 10 years sentence was reduced to 21 years and 10 months. The court refused to reduce Hernández’s sentence or the 15-year sentence given to René González.

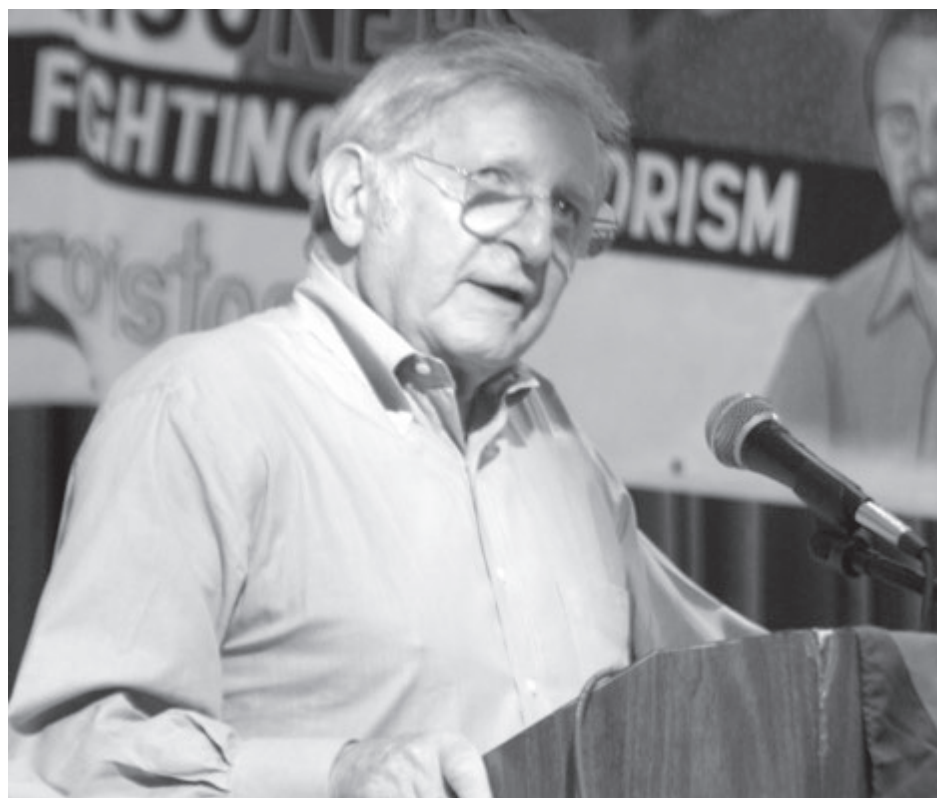


Leonard Weinglass: The five should have been returned to Cuba shortly after their arrest, as is the custom when foreigners are arrested in the United States on missions for their home countries and their activities here caused no harm.

There are numerous examples, most recently the Russian agents who were sent home this year after being held in custody for less than 30 days. Instead they [the Cuban Five] were subjected to cruel conditions of confinement, unjustly prosecuted in a venue that could not afford them a fair trial, victimized by the misconduct of their prosecutors, and excessively and illegally punished with life sentences.

... Following the Supreme Court’s rejection of their appeal in 2009—despite an unprecedented outpouring of support, including 10 Nobel prize winners, the bar associations of many countries, the entire Mexican Senate, two former presidents of the European Union—we are now, in 2010, filing what is called the collateral attack or habeas corpus review for Gerardo on his conviction.

We filed on June 14, 2010, and will be filing a Memorandum of Law on October 11. The government will be given 60 days to respond and then presumably at the end of this year or in early 2011, we will have a hearing on Gerardo’s claims in Miami. If we lose



Militant/Robin Mace

Leonard Weinglass, attorney for Cuban Five, at July 25, 2009 meeting in New York City.

there we go to the 11th Circuit Court on appeal. And if we lose there, we then, once again will ask the Supreme Court to review the case. So we still have legal avenues to pursue.

Bernie Dwyer: Could you give more detail on what is the basis of the ongoing legal process on behalf of Gerardo Hernández?

Weinglass: There are essentially three claims that we are making. One is that the United States government engaged in misconduct by paying a certain number of high-profile reporters in Miami to write articles of a propagandist nature against the government of Cuba for Radio and TV Martí, and at the same time these reporters during the day were also writing articles and speaking about the five in the local media. Those articles and commentary were amongst the most prejudicial and inflamed the hostility of that community.

The government, which has a legal obligation to assure all accused a fair trial in a fair venue, was actually paying reporters who were reporting the most scurrilous material that prejudiced the case. To anyone’s knowl-

edge this has never happened before. That, we argue, is a violation of due process and we are asking the court to overturn the conviction and to once again either free Gerardo or remove his case to another venue to receive a fair trial.

There is even a strong argument that, if what happened is demonstrated, Gerardo cannot be retried, but must be freed outright since he was wrongly put in jeopardy through government wrongdoing the first time.

The second claim is rather technical. The government has a strict obligation to turn over anything in its records that could have helped Gerardo defend his case. This it did not do. Instead, they withheld evidence that would have demonstrated his innocence. They also withheld, and we are making this claim, satellite imagery which would have shown that the shoot down on February 24, 1996, occurred in Cuban airspace and not in international airspace. The key agency of the United States government that maintains satellite data has, up to now, refused to admit or deny that they are holding such data.

Lastly we are claiming that there was a misperception on the part of Gerardo’s attorney about the principles of international law that should have governed the case and a failure to take effective measures to assure Gerardo a fair trial. This was the first case in history where an individual residing at the time in the United States was charged with a so-called conspiracy with pilots of another country’s air force who were doing their duty in defending their country’s airspace. Such a prosecution was outside the realm of

Continued on page 7

New Zealand: More Cuban 5 solidarity needed

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Broad support for the international campaign to free the Cuban Five was evident in the speakers’ panel and turnout at a public meeting of 50 people at the University of Auckland September 30.

José Luis Robaina García, Cuba’s ambassador to New Zealand, said that more solidarity for the Cuban Five is needed. He pointed out that Washing-

ton would only free them “under pressure of the people of the world.”

The meeting was chaired by Robert Reid, general secretary of the National Distribution Union. Other speakers included Keith Locke, Green Party member of parliament; Jane Kelsey, law professor at the University of Auckland; Mike Treen, national director of the Unite union and a spokesperson for the Cuba Friendship Society; and Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League candidate for mayor of Auckland, who participated in the Second International Youth Meeting in Solidarity with the Cuban Five in 2009.

A third international youth meeting in solidarity with the Cuban Five is scheduled for April 2011 in Cuba. The fight to win the release of the five will also be featured at the December 13–21 World Festival of Youth and Students in South Africa, Vermunt told participants, which is expected to draw thousands of young people.

This case “is a travesty of fundamental legal principles of due process and constitutional rights,” said Kelsey.

She summarized how the five didn’t receive a fair trial, including being denied access to their lawyers and to documents while preparing their defense, and having the trial in Miami at a time when an anti-Cuba atmosphere was being whipped up.

Locke pointed to social gains in Cuba made possible by a revolution that overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship and ended U.S. domination of the island. “This is what the Cuban Five case is all about,” he said. “It’s the challenge to the U.S. administration of what Cuba does.”

Washington “paints Cuba in the worst colors,” Robaina said. “It began with the victory of the Cuban Revolution when Cuba said no, and after 50 years continues to say no,” to U.S. domination. “We have no alternative except to fight back.” The meeting passed motions calling on Washington to free the Cuban Five, grant visas to two of the five’s wives, Olga Salanueva and Adriana Pérez, so they can visit their husbands, and to lift the embargo against Cuba.



Gerardo Hernández in 2003 at U.S. Penitentiary in Lompoc, California.

United States vs. the Cuban Five

A Judicial Cover-up

by Rodolfo Dávalos
Fernández

“From start to finish, the proceedings were tainted, corrupt, null and void, vindictive. Every right of the accused to ‘due process of law’ was flouted.” \$22

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Black struggle transformed working class

Below we continue our installments from the recently published book Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The excerpt is from the chapter "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class" based on a speech given by Barnes in Atlanta March 28, 1987. Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

Before World War II three-quarters of African Americans lived in the states of the old Confederacy, the majority of them in rural areas. That changed rapidly during the first half of the 1940s as a result of labor shortages in the war industries. Blacks moved off farms and out of small towns and migrated to cities in the North and West, as well as in the South. Refusing to bow to patriotic pressures to subordinate their struggle for equality to the capitalists' war effort, they organized protests to fight their way into jobs in war production and other industries from which they had long been barred—struggles socialist workers championed, took part in, and covered widely in the *Militant*. By the mid-1960s more than half the Black population lived in the North, three-quarters in cities.

In a talk Malcolm gave in February 1965, just a few days before he was killed, he described the impact of this rapid urbanization and proletarianization on the city of Lansing, Michigan, where he spent much of his youth:

Up until the time of the war, you couldn't get inside of a plant. I lived in Lansing, where Oldsmobile's factory was and Reo's [a now-defunct auto company]. There were about three [Blacks] in the whole plant and each one of them had a broom. They had education. They had gone to school. I think one had gone to college. But he was a "broomologist."

Prior to World War II there were a lot of "broomologists" among the relatively small number of factory workers who were Black. Only in the steel mills, packinghouses, and coal mines were there substantial numbers of Blacks in the industrial work

force at that time.

Malcolm continued:

When times got tough and there was a manpower shortage, then they let us in the factory. Not through any effort of our own. [Malcolm was wrong about that.] Not through any sudden moral awakening on their part. [He was dead right about that.] They needed us. They needed manpower. Any kind of manpower. And when they got desperate and in need, they opened up the factory door and let us in. . . . Then we began to learn how to run machines.

In 1933 the exiled Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky made the accurate observation that on the whole in the United States at that time, no "common actions took place involving white and black workers." There was no "class fraternization" between them, he said. What had been true since the defeat of Radical Reconstruction, however, had slowly begun to change after World War I, first with the extension of struggles by sharecroppers and tenant farmers across the South, and then with the rise of the mass social movement centered on the struggle to build industrial unions. Workers who were Black and workers who were white fought shoulder to shoulder in battles that established the unions making up the newly formed Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). The biggest changes came in the wake of World War II, however, especially under the powerful social and political impact of the Black rights struggles from the mid-1950s through the early 1970s. Common actions and class fraternization among workers regardless of skin color became more and more frequent in the course of strikes, organizing drives, and other battles.

The years following Malcolm's assassination were also marked by revolutionary victories in the world. In 1975 Vietnamese liberation fighters defeated U.S. imperialism after a long and bloody war, reunifying their country. The Portuguese colonial empire, the last in Africa, was brought down in the mid-1970s, and Cuba's twelve-year record of internationalist solidarity with the Angolan people in face of ongoing aggression by South African forces—backed by Washington—is today weakening the foun-



Longshore workers defend themselves against cop assault on picket line in Charleston, South Carolina, January 2000. Possibilities for working-class unity were strengthened by developments in wake of World War II, "especially under the powerful social and political impact of the Black rights struggles from the mid-1950s through the early 1970s," Barnes says.

dations of the apartheid regime as well. Workers and farmers governments were brought to power by popular revolutions in Grenada and Nicaragua in 1979, and we've learned rich political lessons by participating as partisans in those revolutions. The socialist revolution in Cuba is today deepening its proletarian internationalist course through what they call

the Rectification Process.

For all these reasons and more, all of us are better equipped today to understand and act on the political conclusions Malcolm X was drawing at the end of his life. And that includes the many here tonight who never had the opportunity to see Malcolm, to meet with him, or to hear him speak.

Interview with Cuba 5 lawyer

Continued from page 6

anything any trial lawyer in the U.S. had ever faced.

There should have been a complete and thorough examination of the principles of international law, which could have afforded Gerardo a clear-cut defense to the charge of conspiracy to commit murder. We are now providing the Court with a 15-page declaration by an eminent international law professor who explains in detail precisely how the court and the defense should have approached this unprecedented case. Even beyond that, as Judge Kravitch found, the government's case failed to establish that Gerardo had anything to do with what occurred on that day; and under any scenario, he should have been found not guilty.

Dwyer: Let's now move to the cases of the other four and where they stand legally. Could we begin with Antonio, who was serving a life sentence plus 15 years?

Weinglass: Antonio is serving a 21-year sentence which means that he should be free to return home in approximately seven years and maybe even sooner. However, Antonio was also the victim, as was Gerardo, of the fact that the government committed misconduct by paying reporters who were writing the most prejudicial articles against all of the five.

So Antonio has the same claims on that issue as Gerardo and so have Ramón and Fernando. Antonio will be filing his habeas papers in the first week of November, making the same arguments as well as the arguments on the wrongful withholding of information. I

assume that Ramón and Fernando will do the same.

René is so close to being released in 2011 that it remains to be seen whether he will even have to file.

Dwyer: What would be the result if this process is successful? Could they be freed?

Weinglass: Unfortunately, it will go to a trial judge in Miami—the same judge who sat on the original case. However, the interesting aspect is it might be that, if it is found that the U.S. government committed misconduct by paying these reporters, the five could not be tried again because under the doctrine of what's called double jeopardy, their rights were wrongfully violated by the government in the first instance. Since the government put them in jeopardy the government cannot come back now and seek a second trial. That's an issue we will be arguing and I personally feel that we will be successful, assuming a finding of government misconduct.

Dwyer: And all these cases are going to take place in the courts in Miami toward the end of this year?

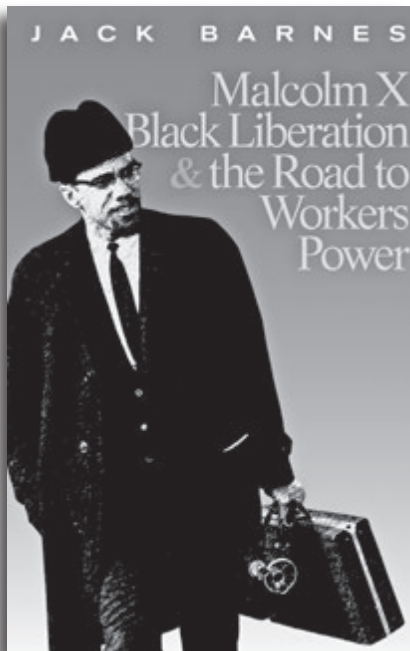
Weinglass: Yes, it will either be toward the end of this year or possibly over into next year, 2011. And it will take place in Miami initially and if we lose there, then we will return to Atlanta before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, where we have the right of appeal.

Dwyer: Do you think that the campaigns that are being run worldwide for the release of the five are having any effect?

Weinglass: Absolutely, it should be continued and if anything increased. . . .

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Capitalist rule, not ‘human nature,’ is source of war

Below is an excerpt from *Sexism and Science* by Evelyn Reed, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for October. The book exposes and refutes a number of sexist and class-biased prejudices in branches of science—especially biology, sociology, and anthropology. Questions addressed include: Are human beings innately aggressive? Does biology determine women's destiny as the “second sex”? The piece below, written in 1970, is titled “An Answer to ‘The Naked Ape’ and Other Books on Aggression.” Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

Since the early 1960s the United States, the most powerfully armed nation on earth, has been conducting an onslaught against Vietnam, a tiny nation far from its shores. This long drawn-out, genocidal war has produced wave upon wave of revulsion among the American people.

Massive, unprecedented antiwar demonstrations have been accompanied by an intense interest in the root causes of military conflict. Many Americans who once believed that wars were waged only to “safeguard democracy” rightly suspect that they have been hoodwinked. They are com-



Militant/N.J. Brown

Active-duty GIs march in antiwar demonstration Oct. 12, 1968, in San Francisco. “To equate animal behavior with imperialist warmaking is to slander not only animals but the vast majority of humans who wish only to live in peace,” stated Reed. “The Vietnamese have not threatened or invaded the territory of the United States. . . . And the average GI has so little warlike animosity for these distant ‘enemies’ that it requires heavy pressure and unrelenting patriotic indoctrination to convince him that he must become aggressive against them.”

ing to see that the only gainers from such conflicts are the monopolists, who seek to safeguard their empire and expand their power, profits, and privileges through them. Thus a political awakening is taking place with regard to the real causes of imperialist aggression, which are embedded in the drives and decline of the capitalist system.

In the same time period a set of writers has come to the fore whose books present a wholly different view of the causes of organized warfare. They claim that man's biological heritage and his “killer” instincts are responsible for wars, absolving the predatory capitalist system of all responsibility. Their paperbacks are bought by the hundreds of thousands and have been high on the best-seller lists. They obviously influence the thinking of many readers who are anxiously searching for answers to the problems of war and other social evils.

The principal figures among these capitalist apologists have produced six such books in the decade. The pacesetter is Robert Ardrey, who brought out *African Genesis* in 1961 and its sequel, *The Territorial Imperative*, five years later. A third, *The Social Contract*, has just been published.

Konrad Lorenz published *On Aggression* in 1963, which was translated into English in 1966. In 1967 *The Naked Ape*, by Desmond Morris, appeared, followed two years later by its companion, *The Human Zoo*. . . .

However much these writers differ in background, training, and temperament, they agree that modern wars are not brought about for economic and social reasons but stem from the biological aggressiveness of human nature.

Their method consists in obliterating the essential distinctions that separate humans from animals and identifying the behavior of both through gross exaggerations and misrepresentations of the part played by instincts in human life. They argue that since mankind came out of the animal world, people are at bottom no better than animals; they are inescapably creatures of their biological impulses. Thus modern warfare is explained by man's “innate” aggression.

This extension of animal aggressiveness to account for imperialism and its military interventions is absurd on the face of it. No animal has ever manufactured an atom bomb, and there are no apes standing ready to hurl them and

blow up the planet. The small group of aggressive men who control the nuclear warheads are not in the zoos or the forests but in the White House and Pentagon.

To equate animal behavior with imperialist warmaking is to slander not only animals but the vast majority of humans who wish only to live in peace. The Vietnamese have not threatened or invaded the territory of the United States; the opposite is the case. And the average GI has so little warlike animosity for these distant “enemies” that it requires heavy pressure and unrelenting patriotic indoctrination to convince him that he must become aggressive against them.

To the new school of writers, however, wars are not made by big business and its agents in Washington; the real culprit is the ape nature of man. With this biological fig leaf, they attempt to cover up the criminal course of the imperialists, and dump responsibility for their aggressions upon “man” in general.

These writers refuse to recognize that, while humankind has grown out of the animal world, we are a unique species which has outgrown animality. A whole series of distinctive attributes divides us from all lower species. Humans alone have the capacity to *produce* the necessities and comforts of life; humans alone possess speech and culture; humans, therefore, make their own history. The laws of social evolution, applicable to humanity alone, are fundamentally distinct from the laws of organic evolution applicable in nature. . . .

Animal fights, personal squabbles, and imperialist wars are all dumped into the same sack to substantiate the falsification that humans are nothing but animals and have never passed beyond that stage of development. This theme is only a variation of the tiresome old argument that “you can't change human nature”—another piece of capitalist propaganda designed to avert revolutionary change in our social system. Their special twist is that “you can't change animal nature” since in their view humans are nothing but animals. History, however, demonstrates that just as the ape became man, so did man radically transform his ape nature and convert it into human nature.

October

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Oppose U.S. strikes in Pakistan

Washington's escalating war in Pakistan often receives less attention than the military campaign it leads in Afghanistan, partly because the Pakistan war relies heavily on aerial drone strikes, which carry no risk to U.S. troops.

Washington conducts its drone campaign in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) bordering Afghanistan and home to many deeply impacted by years of war in which U.S. imperialism has played a major role.

Today, people of the FATA find themselves caught between the Taliban, on the one hand, and the U.S. and Pakistani armed forces on the other. As a tribal elder from North Waziristan told the *Washington Post*, "Everyone in our area is living and moving in a state of fear that we might be hit by a missile from the drones hovering around our region."

Over the last several years, Washington has tested and perfected these deadly robots in the FATA for future use wherever the U.S. rulers' interests are threatened. The Barack Obama administration has ramped up use and production of aerial drones to an unprecedented rate. This past month Washington launched almost twice as many bombing attacks on

Pakistani villagers as the previous monthly record.

The policy carried out by the Pakistani rulers, like the British colonial master that preceded them, is to maintain the economic and cultural backwardness of Pakistan's tribal areas. As under the British, the region continues to be ruled with an iron fist and all political organization is banned.

The capitalist Pakistani government has and continues to use armed Islamist groups in the tribal areas and elsewhere in Pakistan to supplement its armed forces, prop up its weak state, and keep working people in line. The video recently posted on the Internet of Pakistani soldiers executing blindfolded men in civilian clothing in nearby Swat District gives a picture of life in the Pakistani countryside.

Like all of U.S. imperialism's wars, it's military campaign in Pakistan is aimed at maintaining the U.S. rulers' class dominance on a world scale, as they attack the living standards and rights of workers at home.

Working people should oppose Washington's drone attacks and solidarize with the toilers in northwest Pakistan, who are killed, maimed, and displaced by these pilotless murder machines.

Workers rally in Washington, D.C.

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united to make sure our kids can grow up to be union workers."

Six hundred United Auto Workers unionists came from Michigan alone. There were also members of the United Steelworkers, International Association of Machinists, United Food and Commercial Workers, Sheet Metal Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Utility Workers, and the International Longshore unions.

Tens of thousands of public employees and health-care workers also turned out, many of whom have been hit with cuts by state and municipal governments around the country. These included teachers' unions; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Service Employees International Union; American Federation of Government Employees; 1199 hospital workers; and numerous transit unions.

A busload of workers from Chicago came in T-shirts reading, "Laid-off workers—CTA." Last February the Chicago Transit Authority laid off nearly 1,100 workers, most of them bus drivers, and reduced bus service by 18 percent and train service by 9 percent.

"Jobs," said Aisha Kelley, a 22-year-old nurse's assistant in Philadelphia, as the reason she came with her union, Local 1199C. Raising two children, Kelley has worked part-time for the last two years. She has never been able to get a full-time job.

Many chapters of the NAACP in major northeastern cities sent large contingents, but the group also brought thousands from cities and towns that were far away.

Black college students turned out as well, including from the NAACP youth council at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Brittany Stapleton from Winthrop University in Rockhill, South Carolina, came in a van with eight other students. "African Americans are 13 percent of the population, but 32 percent of the unemployed," she said.

Stapleton supported President Barack Obama in the 2008 elections, but "the next time around I'd have to think more carefully about that. He could be more aggressive. I feel like there could be a lot more getting done."

The call put out by the NAACP for the rally appealed to "the people who got thrown out—thrown out of our jobs, schools, houses, farms and small businesses." The civil rights group made a point of urging participation from all groups facing discrimination, from "the new immigrants, raising our children in the torchlight of the Statue of Liberty, while confronting the shadows that are bigotry and mass deportations," to those denied equality because of race, sex, or sexual orientation.

The National Council of La Raza was among the immigrant rights groups endorsing the action. The

group brought 50 people from Charlotte, North Carolina, many of them construction workers. Another National Council contingent of 58 came from Ashtabula, Ohio, made up mainly of farmworkers. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee brought workers. Immigrant workers also proudly marched in their union contingents.

At the rally, speakers focused on getting out the vote for Democratic politicians in the November elections. MSNBC host Ed Schultz, one of the featured speakers, said Republicans in the Senate "want to see Obama fail. We cannot let that happen," while he acknowledged that those who backed Obama in 2008 "have not gotten everything we wanted in the first two years."

Schultz was among many speakers who struck an American nationalist theme. He said unemployment was high because Republicans were sending "American" jobs overseas. That protectionist stance found an echo from some union members.

Speakers also urged rally participants not to lose confidence in the two-party system, echoing recent remarks by Obama that "people need to shake off this lethargy; people need to buck up," and by Vice President Joseph Biden that we must "remind our base constituency to stop whining."

This is the second time in less than two months that such large numbers have been drawn to mobilizations because of the capitalist economic and social crisis. A rally here in late August called by right-wing talk-show host Glenn Beck attracted hundreds of thousands—both middle-class layers and workers—who face loss of jobs, foreclosures, and other economic uncertainties.



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Demonstrator riding NAACP bus that brought working people from Waterloo and Dubuque, Iowa, and Rockford, Illinois, to October 2 rally in Washington, D.C.

Drones in Pakistan

Continued from front page

alert for U.S. citizens traveling there. German interior minister Thomas de Maizière downplayed this alleged threat, saying there is no "concrete evidence" that such an attack is imminent.

"The Pentagon and CIA have ramped up their purchase of drones, but they aren't being built fast enough to meet the rapid rise in demand," reported the *Wall Street Journal*. The U.S. military is also "secretly diverting aerial drones and weaponry from the Afghan battlefield" for expanded attacks in Pakistan, the paper noted.

In the latest helicopter incursion in Pakistan, NATO gunships traded fire with Pakistani border troops September 30 in Kurram, a tribal agency in northwest Pakistan. While the exact sequence of events is unclear, the outcome was not: three Pakistani Frontier Corps soldiers were killed and three wounded by NATO missiles.

The attack comes several days after U.S. military helicopters launched three air strikes into Pakistan, killing more than 50 people. The attacks were aimed at Haqqani forces, which represent a major component of the military forces waging war in Afghanistan from bases in Pakistan.

The Pakistani government publicly condemned the helicopter gunship attacks as violations of the country's sovereignty. "We will have to see whether we are allies or enemies," said Pakistani interior minister Rehman Malik.

Several hours after the latest U.S. helicopter strike that killed the soldiers, Pakistani authorities closed the Khyber Pass route at Torkham in northwest Pakistan. This pass is the main entry point for U.S. and NATO supplies traveling through Pakistan into Afghanistan.

According to the American Forces Press Service, about 50 percent of nonlethal supplies, including water, food, and fuel, reach Afghanistan through this border crossing. Another major crossing in southern Pakistan remains open.

The day after the border closing, some three dozen NATO fuel tankers were set on fire as they were waiting to enter Afghanistan, reported Reuters.

Factionalism among Pakistani rulers

Meanwhile, there are signs of growing factionalism within the Pakistani ruling class, and between the military leadership and the civilian government. The Pakistani military has directly ruled the country for much of its history and remains the strongest pillar of bourgeois rule.

A top Pakistani official described to the *Washington Post* a September 27 meeting between Chief of Army Staff Gen. Ashfaq Kayani, and President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani. General Kayani "conveyed a plain message to the civilian leadership . . . that it must put its house in order," the *Post* reported.

Three days later, CIA director Leon Panetta met with all three in Islamabad, in an effort to pressure the Pakistani government to conduct military operations in North Waziristan. "Pakistani leaders were stunned by Mr. Panetta's menacing tone," reported the Pakistani newspaper *Dawn*, "and assured him of intensifying the military offensive against militants in the tribal areas."

The Pakistani military has been embroiled in its own war against Taliban factions in Pakistan that oppose the government. But a major aspect of Washington's strategy has been to press Islamabad to go after other groups that focus on fighting in Afghanistan, including Haqqani, a longtime military asset of the Pakistani rulers.

Offensives have been carried out by the Pakistani military against Taliban forces in Swat District and a number of tribal agencies over the last couple years, which have caused many civilian casualties and imposed great hardship on millions of people. Despite Washington's demands, however, the Pakistani government has held off launching such attacks in North Waziristan where Haqqani's group is based.

The Pakistani military has maintained tight control in Swat with harsh conditions imposed on its population. A recent video posted on the Internet in early October shows Pakistani soldiers executing six men bound and blindfolded in civilian clothing.