

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
2 talks: 'Defense of Cuban 5 begins with defense of revolution itself'
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 10 MARCH 12, 2012

Protests push back Virginia anti-abortion legislation

BY JOHN STUDER

After a week of pro-choice protests and nationwide media attention, the Virginia state legislature scrapped bills that would have mandated invasive vaginal ultrasound procedures for many women seeking abortions. Protests are continuing against a watered-down version that would require women to undergo an external ultrasound.

The original bill was scuttled after Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, who reportedly has his eye on the Republican vice presidential nomination, called for it to be changed. McDonnell said he got legal advice “that these kinds of mandatory, invasive requirements might run afoul of Fourth Amendment law.” The amendment asserts individuals’ right “to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizure.”

On Feb. 20 more than 1,000 people held a silent protest against the bill. “Lawmakers had to walk the 300 feet from their offices to the State House with hundreds of demonstrators

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New book on Cuban Five launched in Havana

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND RÓGER CALERO

HAVANA—The new Spanish-language edition of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, published by Pathfinder Press, was presented here Feb. 18. It was one of the numerous book launchings and other events that were part of the Havana International Book Fair, a popular festival drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors between Feb. 9 and 19. After Havana, the fair has traveled to cities across the island.

The title, also recently published in a new English edition, is a collection of articles from the *Militant* on the fight to free five Cubans—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González—framed up by the U.S. government on charges ranging from conspiracy to commit espionage to conspiracy to commit murder. Four of the Cuban Five, as they are known around the world, have been imprisoned for going on 14 years;

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Caravan builds support for locked-out workers

Kicks off with sugar workers’ rally in Minn.



Militant/Natalie Morrison

Hundreds of sugar workers demanding end to lockout by American Crystal Sugar march to company headquarters Feb. 22, joined by locked-out Cooper Tire Steelworkers and others.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL, NATALIE MORRISON AND LAURA ANDERSON

More than 300 locked-out workers and their supporters rallied Feb. 22 in Moorhead, Minn., where the corporate headquarters of American Crystal Sugar Co. is located.

The event kicked off the “Journey for Justice”—a 1,000-mile solidarity caravan from the Red River Valley to Findlay, Ohio.

Four Steelworkers locked out by Cooper Tire and Rubber Co. in Findlay were there—Rob Greer, Dave

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Come to March 10 meeting on working-class road forward!

BY JOHN STUDER

Members of the Socialist Workers Party are building participation in and organizing transportation to the March 10 national public meeting “After Labor Resistance and

Solidarity: What’s the Revolutionary Political Road Forward for the Working Class?” Workers and young people who are engaged in or support the fights of working people against

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Protesters stand up to cop abuse of Latinos in East Haven, Conn.



Militant/Kevin Dwire

Some 400 march in East Haven, Conn., Feb. 25 against police anti-immigrant campaign.

BY SARA LOBMAN

EAST HAVEN, Conn.—“There is no reason to be arrested and assaulted by the police for a traffic violation,” Herman Zúñiga, president of the Community of Immigrants of East Haven, told more than 400 participants in a rally here Feb. 25 to protest cop abuse against Latinos. “We will not accept racism, injustice and discrimination on the part of the police.”

The protest culminated in a march down Main Street in this New Haven suburb of 29,000 people.

On Jan. 24, the FBI arrested Sgt.

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New York City

Saturday, March 10

**After Labor Resistance and Solidarity:
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Jack Barnes

Socialist Workers Party national secretary

Mary-Alice Waters

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Pro-choice actions in Va.

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linked arm-in-arm on both sides of the sidewalk,” said Sarah Okolita, one of the organizers, in a Feb. 26 phone interview.

There were other bills aimed at limiting a woman’s right to choose abortion, Okolita, a graduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University, pointed out. “A ‘personhood’ bill declaring that a fetus is a person at conception was dropped by the legislature. But they may try to reintroduce it next year.

“The second is a bill to cut Medicaid funding for women who seek an abortion because the fetus is determined to have ‘birth anomalies,’” she said. “We are still organizing against this one.

“I was in touch with a number of others who were angered by recent attacks

on abortion, including the decision by Komen for the Cure to cut funding for Planned Parenthood. They were inspired by the number of people who spoke out and forced them to reinstate funding,” Okolita said. “So when these bills were coming up for a vote, we decided to provide a way for people to come out.

“We are planning two protests this week, a ‘Take Back the Right’ candlelight vigil and another statewide action on March 3 to tell the legislators not to push these laws again next year.”

More than 100 people turned out for the Feb. 27 Take Back the Right action. Speak Loud With Silence, which organized the vigil, reported they were watched by “SWAT officers complete with an armored RV” and “over 30 officers carrying riot gear and riot shields.”



AP Photo/Steve Helber

Police move pro-choice demonstrators to sidewalk at state Capitol in Richmond, Va., Feb. 23. Several recent actions there have pushed back bills aimed at curtailing women’s rights.

Women’s rights, freedom of religion and health care ‘reform’

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The big-business press has covered the controversy over whether Catholic-run institutions can deny employees health insurance coverage for birth control. The question has largely been presented in the framework of bourgeois politics and the debate among two capi-

businesses, such as Catholic hospitals and universities, must provide coverage beginning in August 2013.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2010 lays the groundwork for a massive government bureaucracy to compel most employers to provide health insurance or pay fines, and mandates that individuals who are not insured through their job buy insurance or pay fines beginning in 2014.

This “health care reform,” touted by President Barack Obama as one of his biggest accomplishments, will provide a profit bonanza for insurance companies, while most likely accelerating the decline in the quality of health care for millions of working people. Only now everyone, one way or another, will be either “insured” or fined. And having insurance doesn’t mean you can afford

to see the doctor.

The health bill has been accompanied by inroads against existing social programs, particularly Medicaid and Medicare.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops denounced the new requirement that religiously affiliated businesses cover birth control in their health care plans as an attack on “religious freedom,” because the church preaches against contraception. All of the major Republican presidential candidates joined in condemning the mandate.

Three weeks later, Obama announced a “compromise,” saying that religious-affiliated employers who object to providing coverage for contraceptives won’t have to pay for it. He asserted that insurance companies would cover what employers refuse to pay for because it’s more expensive to cover pregnancies and childbirth than birth control.

The right of women to control their own bodies—including access to birth control and abortion that are safe and affordable—is a crucial question for the working class. (Abortion is explicitly excluded from insurance under the new mandate.) Being able to decide whether and when to have children is essential to women’s full participation in society.

The argument that “birth control is cheaper than pregnancy” is harmful to defending this right. It provides ammunition to opponents of women’s rights, who try to claim the moral high ground

by saying the issue shouldn’t be an “economic” question. They are right, it is a social and political one. The point is it’s a woman’s right to choose.

The Conference of Bishops called Obama’s compromise “unacceptable,” and is pressing for legislation to exempt any employer from covering any services contrary to their “religious beliefs or moral convictions.”

The working class should always defend freedom of worship—the right of every individual to practice religion or nonreligion free from government interference, hindrance, or “support.”

That’s different than citing “freedom of religion” to justify imposing the positions of the church hierarchy on millions of people. As of 2003 there were more than 600 hospitals affiliated with the Catholic Church in the U.S., 12 percent of the total. In some rural areas they are the only health care provider. These facilities represent huge social wealth, the product of labor of working people. The services they provide should not be limited to those that meet clerical approval.

Finally, this debate highlights the fact that the Democratic and Republican politicians alike are committed to maintaining health care as a profit-making business. As long as this is the case—with or without government insurance mandates—many workers will be faced with limited access and declining quality of medical care, despite the immense resources that our labor has created.

COMMENTARY

talist parties, the Democrats and Republicans. But the working class has a stake in several issues posed.

On Jan. 20 the Department of Health and Human Services announced that churches will be exempt from providing insurance for contraceptives to employees, but that other “religiously affiliated”

THE MILITANT

Back workers’ struggles against tyranny

Syria is embroiled in a nationwide rebellion, met with bloody repression by the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Working people have seized the opportunity to fight to remove the boot of tyranny. The ‘Militant’ covers this and other struggles by toilers worldwide.



Funeral protest in Homs, Syria, Feb. 7.

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Five areas raise goals in ‘Militant’ renewal drive!

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Nearly halfway through a five-week effort to increase the long-term readership of the *Militant*, five areas have increased their goals—Des Moines, Houston, Minneapolis, San Francisco and New Zealand. This brings the sum of quotas around the world to 501—one above the international goal of 500.

So far, 316 readers have renewed or signed up for long-term subscriptions, 63 percent of the overall goal.

“A Tesoro oil refinery worker, Ben Fields, signed up for a 12-week subscription earlier this month at a protest outside the plant against company demands for concessions,” said Betsey Stone from San Francisco. “He was attracted to the *Militant*’s coverage of workers’ struggles. At a second protest at the refinery the following week, he upgraded his subscription to one year and got another one-year subscription for his father.”

“I want an alternative to the papers that only present a capitalist party line,” Fields said.

Stone said people who recently signed up for long-term and renewed subscriptions include hotel and catering workers, workers fired by Pacific Steel Casting after an immigration audit, a former striker at the American Licorice Co., and two workers who signed up during a student strike at the University of California at Berkeley.

“Since the beginning of the year,” writes Ellie Garcia from Los Angeles, “regular *Militant* sales by members of the Socialist Workers Party to long-shore workers have picked up at the port here. We usually sell from 15 to 30 copies.

“International Longshore and Ware-

house Union members have been interested in discussing the fight of ILWU Local 21 workers in Longview, Wash., as well as the recent on-the-job death of a coworker (see article on page 4) and other issues. One young worker renewed his subscription and two bought six-month subscriptions. In addition, 10 books have been sold,” says Garcia.

Five books on revolutionary working-class politics are on special discount with a subscription. (See ad below.)

“I like the *Militant* because it talks about the whole world, not just America. It is bold, not afraid and it doesn’t try to please the right or the left,” said Erica Thomas when she renewed her subscription from coworker Jacob Perasso. Both work at Yamaha in Newnan, Ga., a plant that makes golf carts and all-terrain vehicles.

“Members of the Communist League here,” writes Paul Davies from London, “have now sold 15 renewal subscrip-



Militant/Ruth Robinett
Deborah Liatos sells *Militant* in Bronx, N.Y., Feb. 18 where hundreds attending funeral for Ramarley Graham demanded prosecution of police officer who shot and killed him.

tions toward the goal of 20, including to people who first picked up subscriptions to the paper from door-to-door sales teams in the working-class neighborhoods of Dagenham and Eltham.

“Some of those who renew,” adds Davies, “are taking the paper to work

to pass on to coworkers. Several readers who bought subscriptions at Occupy London and other political events last year have also renewed.”

With a number of areas well ahead of schedule, are there any others out there bold enough to raise their goals?

Come to March 10 meeting in New York

Continued from front page
the capitalist offensive today should make every effort to come.

The March 10 meeting begins with a reception at 2 p.m., followed by a political program, time for questions and discussion, dinner and a party. The next morning a meeting will be held for those attending one of their first national meetings of the communist movement to continue discussion on the political themes from the day before and to learn more about the Socialist Workers Party.

U.S. bosses, and their competitors around the world, are driven to attack the working class by a decades-long crisis of capitalist production and trade, which has escalated sharply since 2008. Their profit rates are increasingly being squeezed, leading to intensifying cutthroat competition

among the capitalist owners within each country, as well as from rival nations. The exploiting class is united only in a frontal assault against the working class to deepen the exploitation of labor.

On the plant floor, wage cuts, speed-up, slashed health care and pensions, and union busting are the order of the day. The bosses use their government to target Social Security, Medicare and other social gains wrested in struggle by the working class, in order to shift responsibility onto the backs of workers and their families, pocketing more of the surplus value workers produce.

These steps are a *necessity* for the employers to attempt to revive production and profits. Spreading impoverishment, widespread unemployment, broken trade unions, large-scale imprisonment of working people, es-

pecially African-Americans—this is what is in store for us, as month after month, year after year, the bosses grind away on this course.

Workers who are Black are a special target of the massive expansion of “stop and frisk” and plea-bargain-driven imprisonment. This is the rulers’ answer to the demonstrated fighting capacity of the Afro-American nationality, forged in two centuries of resistance to slavery, Jim Crow segregation and systematic racist discrimination.

These mounting assaults are being met by resistance, from the docks of Longview, Wash., to American Crystal Sugar in the Upper Midwest, generating crucial solidarity. They provide workers with a quick education on how the bosses mobilize their cops, media, courts and government against our class.

What lies ahead is a cycle of defensive battles, temporary lulls, followed by the bosses pushing further and another fight.

What workers need is to take the fight onto a different level—a political road forward, to build a proletarian party, drawing on the continuity of more than 150 years of working-class struggle, that can chart a course toward political power.

They can look to the experiences of workers and farmers in Cuba, who conquered power through revolutionary struggle, and have defended and maintained that political power for more than 50 years.

In the course of making and consolidating their revolution, millions of Cuban working people transformed themselves, gaining the confidence and experience to wield their new state power to transform the world around them. Pressed by the bosses’ relentless assaults today, working people must take the same political course here and elsewhere in the world.

These questions, the answers to which will be decisive to whether the working class will prevail against the dictatorship of capital or be crushed in the name of private profit, will be at the heart of the March 10 meeting.

‘Militant’ Renewal Drive			
Feb. 11 - March 18			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Miami	20	15	75%
Philadelphia	20	14	70%
Chicago	35	24	69%
Twin Cities*	45	30	67%
San Francisco*	40	26	65%
Los Angeles	30	19	63%
Houston*	20	12	60%
New York	55	33	60%
Seattle	40	24	60%
Des Moines*	32	16	50%
Lincoln	6	3	50%
Atlanta	35	17	49%
Boston	15	7	47%
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Total U.S.	408	245	60%
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London	20	15	75%
Manchester	10	3	30%
UK Total	30	18	60%
NEW ZEALAND*	25	21	84%
CANADA	23	18	78%
AUSTRALIA	15	14	93%
Total	501	316	63%
Should be (Feb 28)	500	245	49%
* Raised goal			

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Militant subscription rates on page 2

Port workers in New Zealand strike over new ‘labor model’

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—More than 300 workers at the container wharves here went on strike Feb. 24 to block attempts by the Ports of Auckland to impose “a new labour model” that would allow bosses to change work schedules on short notice.

The port’s labor contract expired Sept. 30 and the company, which is owned by the city council, is demanding the union agree to flexible work rosters in place of the present eight-hour shifts.

Ports of Auckland Chief Executive Officer Tony Gibson said Jan. 12 that with negotiations no closer to resolution, the port was looking at contracting out the work presently done by permanent employees.

The Maritime Union of New Zealand has said the strike is planned to last three weeks.

Daniel Silver, secretary of the Importer’s Institute, told Radio New Zealand Feb. 24 that the government should “break the strike.”

Port workers, family members and other union supporters held an expanded picket line and picnic on the weekend after the strike began. Grant Dungan, a stevedore, told the *Militant* that the company had proposed a 10 percent wage rise in exchange for the concessions on work hours. “People might think we’re crazy to turn down 10 percent, especially in these economic times,” he said. “But it’s nothing to do with the money. It’s got to do with working conditions and your ability to see your family.

“At present, we get every third weekend off,” Dungan said. “They want to change this with 24 hours’ notice. The shifts would be between three and 12 hours. And they could change your start time with five hours’ notice.”

Auckland is New Zealand’s largest container port, handling 37 percent of total container trade.

The company argues that labor productivity in Auckland is lower than at the port in Tauranga, its main competitor. Ports of Auckland did not respond to requests by the *Militant* for an interview.

“Time for port union to come to its senses,” read the headline on a Feb. 25 editorial in the *New Zealand Herald*. The article noted that Mayor Len Brown, a Labour Party politician, backed the city council demands for

a “much better than 6 per cent return on investment in the port.”

The union has been working to shore up solidarity with port unions in Australia and other countries. Pickets said they are confident that union action at the docks in other countries would thwart any attempt by the company to work ships with the 70 non-union workers still operating equipment.

Meanwhile, the meat export company AFFCO has announced it will lock out 762 workers in five plants on Feb. 29. “The lockout demands of the company are very similar to those being demanded of the workers at the Port of Auckland,” said Meat Workers Union Secretary Dave Eastlake in a Feb. 25 statement.



Militant/Pat Starkey

Striking dockworkers picket Auckland port in New Zealand Feb. 25 to oppose bosses’ demand the union agree to flexible work rosters instead of current eight-hour shifts.

Caravan builds solidarity against lockouts

Continued from front page

Burns, Teresa Brown and Linda Jones. “This lockout has brought our union closer together,” said Brown, Women of Steel Coordinator for United Steelworkers Local 207L, who has worked at Cooper Tire for 12 years.

More than 1,000 members of the USW were locked out Nov. 28 after rejecting Cooper Tire’s contract demands to cut wages, speed up production, and implement lower pay and benefits for new hires. After the Journey for Justice began, the Steelworkers voted 627-321 Feb. 27 to accept a contract.

The Findlay workers traveled with four workers from American Crystal Sugar—Becki Jacobson, Nathan Rahm, Lee Schlichtmann, and Paul Woinarowicz—who, along with 1,300 other members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union have been locked out since Aug. 1 after rejecting a concession contract by a margin of 96 percent.

Following the rally, locked-out workers attempted to deliver petitions with more than 33,000 signatures demanding American Crystal end the lockout and resume negotiations. But they were stopped by company security. American Crystal did not return calls for comment.

That evening more than 60 people attended an event at the offices of the Minnesota State AFL-CIO in St. Paul, Minn. Organizers announced that more than \$5,000 had been raised from local unions. Pat Walker, a retired member of

Teamsters Local 120, said he was taking 40,000 pounds of food and supplies to the Red River Valley.

“What both unions face are systematic attacks,” Rahm, who has worked four years at American Crystal’s plant in Hillsboro, N.D., told rally participants. “By banding together, we are stronger. This is the new reality in the U.S.”

The day before, \$1,752 was raised in a collection from participants at the Iowa Federation of Labor legislative conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

‘This trip is about solidarity’

“This trip is about solidarity of workers against the offensive of the corporations,” Greer, an electrician at Cooper Tire, told 50 workers demonstrating Feb. 23 in front of the American Crystal plant in Chaska, a western suburb of Minneapolis. “There are currently 17 lockouts in North America.”

Participants in the action came from about half a dozen different unions. Ten of the 18 workers locked out at the Chaska plant were there. Other BCTGM workers came from Minneapolis, Mason City, Iowa, and Keokuk, Iowa. The Journey for Justice made two stops in Wisconsin. About 25 people gathered for a luncheon at the International Association of Machinists Lodge 873 hall in Horicon, which represents workers at John Deere. Members of the IAM, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, and Family Farmer Defenders attended.

Sixty people, including BCTGM

members from the Nestlé Chocolate plant in Franklin Park, Ill., and the Kraft plant in Chicago marched and leafleted in front of Wal-Mart in downtown Chicago to protest American Crystal’s lockout.

Jorge Rios, a 27-year-old machine operator from Aurora who joined the Chicago rally, said, “If you stay in your own area you don’t see what’s out there, and people here got to learn about their struggle.”

In Woodburn, Ind., outside of Fort Wayne, 20 supporters welcomed Journey for Justice participants Feb. 26 at the Steelworkers Local 715 hall. The union organizes 1,200 workers at the nearby BF Goodrich plant and raised thousands of dollars for the Cooper Tire workers during the lockout.

USW officials announced Feb. 24 that they had reached a tentative contract with Cooper Tire, and cancelled the final events of the caravan, a Feb. 25 National Day of Action at Cooper retailers and a Feb. 27 “hands around the plant” solidarity rally.

“We’ve learned there are many other companies using the recession as an excuse for taking advantage of their workers too,” Lee Schlichtmann said at a gathering organized by the Ohio AFL-CIO at its Columbus headquarters at the conclusion of the caravan. “It’s bullying, and workers shouldn’t have to take it.”

Tom Fiske and Ilona Gersh contributed to this article.

‘We need to enforce safety codes’ on the docks

BY JASON MADERA

WILMINGTON, Calif.—As a 40-foot loaded container came tumbling down to the deck, dock foreman Steve Saggiani, 47, went running for safety. The containers were stacked six high. Saggiani was unable to escape and was crushed to death on Jan. 19. He was a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 94. It is not known if a cable snagged the container or if it was accidentally bumped.

“Newspaper accounts don’t really explain it,” said Michael Black, a member of ILWU Local 13, who drives utility tractors. A container weighs four tons empty and up to 35 tons full. Some workers on the dock said it sounded like

a bomb had exploded.

Workers at the dispatch hall expressed shock at the initial response of the Long Beach Police Department. As ILWU Local 13 President JoJo Cortez attempted to board the ship he was greeted by an aggressive officer, who refused to allow him to assess the situation of his union brother. Cortez quoted the officer as saying, “I don’t give a bleep who you are, take one more step and I’ll arrest you! This is a crime scene!”

“How many more workers have to die before we can start enforcing safety rules?” asked Gary Swisher, an ILWU Local 13 member with eight years on the job. “It’s unsafe to work with a 30-ton container over your head. So what if

you lose 10 minutes, so what!”

This has become a common scene on the waterfront, where workers often rush through the yards and work in hazardous conditions with inadequate equipment and insufficient staffing. If the union allows these companies to provide an unsafe, unhealthy environment, then we’re heading down a slippery slope. Just a reminder, we get paid by the hour—not the container.

We need to enforce the safety codes which our forefathers fought and died for. Because an injury to one, is an injury to all!

Jason Madera is a member of ILWU Local 13.

Recommended reading



Order from pathfinderpress.com

ON THE PICKET LINE

Canada Caterpillar workers win increased severance pay

MONTREAL—On the heels of weeks of determined picketing and solidarity action by members of Canadian Auto Workers Local 27, the 465 workers at the Caterpillar locomotive plant in London, Ontario, Feb. 23, ratified a deal with Electro-Motive Canada on severance pay and pensions that goes beyond the legal minimum. The agreement passed in a 400-22 vote.

The workers were locked out Jan. 1 after rejecting the bosses' demands for a 50 percent wage cut and steep cuts to pensions and benefits. The company closed the factory Feb. 3.

Following the shutdown announcement, the workers maintained picket lines to prevent unfinished locomotives and equipment from being taken out of the plant before establishing an agreement on the severance package.

Labor laws in Ontario stipulate workers with less than five years on the job aren't entitled to severance, while those with more than five years experience get one week's pay for each year served to a maximum of 26 weeks.

The agreement stipulates three weeks pay for each year served with no cap and includes workers with less than five years experience.

"The company was feeling the pressure from us and the media," Rick Walter, a locomotive painter, said in a phone interview.

"What I will get with six and a half years seniority sort of covers the time I have lost," said Walter. "But, it is grim out there. I have been sending out resumes, but there is nothing."

"Personally I wasn't all that happy," welder Nelson Sarky told the *Militant*. "But, we are damn proud of what we did. We didn't give in to corporate greed. Hopefully what we did will help other people."

—John Steele and Michel Dugré

Los Angeles 'carwasheros' win contract, lunch breaks

LOS ANGELES—Car wash workers celebrated winning union contracts at car washes in South Central Los Angeles—the second and third to be organized into the United Steelworkers union—at a news conference by the Vermont Car Wash Feb. 21. "We are *carwasheros* fighting for justice and dignity," chanted participants.

"We worked for 10 hours and would get paid for five," Manuel Aguilar, who works at this car wash, told the crowd. "We had no lunch breaks. If we tried to sit down for five minutes the manager would come and shake the table and tell us to get back to work. With the union we will be paid for our hours of work

and get an uninterrupted lunch break. I want to tell other carwasheros, 'Don't be afraid. Let's unite.'"

Richard Trumka, president of the national AFL-CIO, was among the speakers. "This should be the headline: Car wash workers make history in L.A.," he said. "And the labor movement and Los Angeles community stand shoulder to shoulder with them."

—Wendy Lyons

Calif. country club workers protest two years of lockout

PLEASANTON, Calif.—More than 300 people from the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond joined two dozen Castlewood Country Club food service and janitorial workers to demand "End the lockout now!" The Feb. 25 march from downtown Pleasanton to the golf course marked two years since 61 members of UNITE HERE Local 2850 were locked out after rejecting management's concession contract.

Staff and workers from the Steelworkers, United Food and Commercial Workers, Teamsters, Longshore and Warehouse union, and other unions participated along with a contingent from nearby St. Mary's College and activists from Occupy Oakland.

Workers used to get medical benefits without charge. But then "Castlewood demanded that workers with families pay \$739 a month," said locked-out



Militant/Wendy Lyons

Workers at Feb. 21 press conference at Vermont Car Wash in Los Angeles celebrate successful fight for union contract that includes right to lunch breaks and pay for hours worked.

worker Francisca Carranza.

UNITE HERE officials report that a ruling is expected March 1 reviewing the decision by the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board last August that the lockout is illegal.

—Joel Britton

Newspaper strikers in Greece publish weekly to win support

ATHENS, Greece—"Nearly 800 employees, administrative staff, press operators, journalists, photographers and translators, from all of the paper's departments have been on strike since

the end of December," Magda Klavdianou, a copy editor with 16 years at *Eleftherotypia* newspaper here, told the *Militant*. "We have not been paid since last August."

"We want to be excluded from the company's bankruptcy protection proceedings," she added. "We are employees and not creditors."

Eleftherotypia was the second-largest daily in Greece.

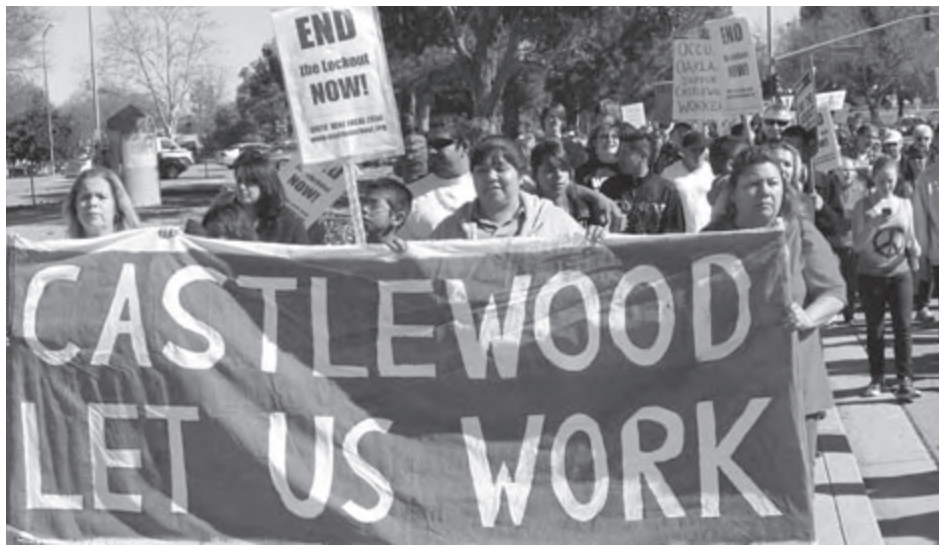
"The first to bring food donations to us were the strikers from Alter TV," Klavdianou said. "And the president of the striking steelworkers at Halivourgia spoke at our membership meeting and gave us courage."

Alter TV workers have not been paid for more than a year. Some 500 people attended a Jan. 30 concert in solidarity with the *Eleftherotypia* and Alter TV strikers.

On Feb. 15 the *Eleftherotypia* workers' published the first issue of their own 56-page weekly newspaper. "Support of the trade union movement and of working people will be essential for us to continue publishing and advancing the fight," said striking *Eleftherotypia* journalist Moisis Litsis in an interview.

"Solidarity is our strength," said Yannis Fovakis, an image processor.

—Georges Mehrabian and Maria Plessa



Militant/Joel Britton

"Castlewood demanded workers with families pay \$739 a month for health care," said Francisca Carranza, holding center of banner, one of 61 workers locked out since Feb. 2010.

Locked-out Ohio tire workers vote for contract

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

FINDLAY, Ohio—Members of United Steelworkers Local 207L, locked out of their jobs for three months by Cooper Tire and Rubber Co., approved a new five-year contract Feb. 27 by 627 to 321.

The lockout began Nov. 28 after workers rejected 606 to 305 the company's "last, best and final offer."

The company had demanded a wage scale with undisclosed piece rates and productivity standards. This was removed from the new proposal and replaced with "minimum performance levels" ranging from 80 to 85 percent of the average. The contract also dropped a proposed five-tier classification system.

But lower pay and benefits for new hires was retained. Workers hired after Jan. 1, 2009, have a starting wage of 70 percent of pay of other workers and cap out at 85 percent of the previous pay scale. New hires receive lump sum bonuses of \$1,200 in 2012 and 2013 and hourly wage increases totaling 45 cents over the following three years. New hires start out at \$13 per hour.

Instead of a wage increase, workers hired before 2009 receive three annual bonuses of \$800, and undefined lump sums in the final two years.

Defined benefit pensions for workers hired before 2009 are maintained at the previous level. Newer workers will only get individual 401(k) retirement accounts.

"We achieved some major goals, but we were disappointed that we didn't achieve everything," Rod Nelson, president of USW Local 207L, told the *Militant*. "We got the top pay levels of new hires raised from 80 to 85 percent. We all stood together and very strongly, but there are some hurt people who are pretty upset."

During the lockout the local reached out to the community and received widespread support. They organized two rallies of hundreds. During the last weeks union members spoke to college classes and joined sugar workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar in a Journey for Justice solidarity caravan.

On Jan. 26, members of USW Local 752L at Cooper Tire in Texarkana,

Ark., approved a contract and on Feb. 16 a new four-year agreement was ratified by USW Local 556L in Clarksdale, Miss. Two days later, truck drivers who are members of Teamsters Local 20 in Findlay also ratified a contract with Cooper Tire.

"We could have gotten more," said Christina DeLaRosa, a utility worker with 20 years in the plant. "It's going to be harder to get equality now."

"I voted yes," said Ron Shepherd, a tire builder for 11 years at the plant. "Maybe it's not the best thing for the long term but you have to take care of 'now' and look out for your family. It's hard to find a decent job these days."

"We got the legs knocked out from under us when all the other plants are signing," Doug Bolmer, who has worked at Cooper Tire for 23 years, told the *Militant*. "If we were all out it would make a hell of a difference. Under the circumstances, it is the best we can get. We stuck together and got a better contract than what we had started with."

Laura Anderson contributed to this article.

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1942 Japanese internment, fight against it not forgotten

BY PATTI IYAMA

SAN FRANCISCO—Feb. 19 marks the 70th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's executive order for the mass incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry. Here the occasion was marked by a Day of Remembrance meeting of some 200 dedicated to Gordon Hirabayashi, who died Jan. 2 in Edmonton, Canada. Hirabayashi was the last living member of a group who legally challenged the evacuation and imprisonment in concentration camps of Japanese-Americans during World War II—a fight that was part of the resistance to Washington's assault on the rights of workers and others during the second world imperialist slaughter.

Hirabayashi, along with Minoru Yasui and Fred Korematsu, challenged the curfews and evacuation orders that were part of the internment policy.

In the summer of 1942, the U.S. Army evacuated 120,000 people of Japanese descent from the West Coast. They were incarcerated in 10 remote and heavily guarded concentration camps.

Two-thirds of the evacuees held without trial were U.S. citizens. The others were immigrants denied citizenship by law.

When ordered to register for evacuation, Hirabayashi, a 24-year-old student, instead turned himself in to the FBI office in Seattle. His typewritten statement called the internment racially discriminatory and defended the rights of Japanese-Americans.

His trial lasted only one day. The judge told the jury, "You are instructed to return a finding of guilty, and if you will not you are violating your oath." Hirabayashi was convicted.

Like Korematsu and Yasui, Hirabayashi took his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court in his case unanimously upheld the curfew as a military necessity.

The internment of Japanese was part of Washington's suppression of struggles by workers and their allies during the war. These included no-strike pledges aimed at housebreaking the labor movement, infiltration and disruption of organizations fighting anti-Black segregation and racist discrimination.

The incarceration rested on a history of anti-Japanese discrimination. Following the pattern of inequality legalized against the Chinese before them, by 1924 Japanese were barred by law from becoming citizens, buying land, marrying Caucasians, and entering the United States.

The U.S. rulers appealed to jingoist and racist prejudice to whip up support for the war and disguise its true nature—a conflict among competing imperialist powers for control of markets and resources.

Hirabayashi served two concurrent three-month prison terms. On the grounds that the loyalty questionnaire sent to all Japanese-Americans was racially discriminatory, he later refused induction into the army and served one year in federal prison.

Using new evidence of government suppression and alteration of records, a team of lawyers, mostly Japanese-American, filed appeals for the three men in the 1980s.

Hirabayashi's conviction was vacated in 1987. The following year President Ronald Reagan officially apologized for the Japanese internment and signed a Congressional bill authorizing reparations of \$20,000 each to the 56,000 surviving internees.

"In 2011 President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act," Robert Rusky, from the legal team who helped overturn the Supreme Court decisions, told the predominantly Japanese-American participants at the Day of Remembrance meeting. "It affirms the use of military force to hold indefinitely without charges any person who supports, aids or is associated with 'terrorists.' This is the same justification used for interning Japanese-Americans."

"Gordon showed us that we must challenge unfair, racist laws," Dale Minami, another member of the legal team, told the *Militant*. "The courts won't protect you. The Constitution won't protect you. The only bulwark against tyranny is people organizing to protest injustice."

Korea: 1,000th protest against WWII sex slavery

BY SETH GALINSKY

Twenty years after their first demonstration, Korean women who were forced into sexual slavery during World War II and thousands of supporters held their 1,000th weekly Wednesday protest outside the Japanese Embassy in Seoul Dec. 14. Heading into and during the war, the Japanese military forced between 100,000 and 200,000 women and girls into brothels set up for Japanese soldiers in Asia.

When the extent of this sexual slavery first became public, the Japanese government denied involvement, claiming the brothels were organized by private businesses. But in 1993, as more evidence came to light of the Japanese military's systematic organization of "comfort stations," including kidnapping some of the women, Tokyo offered a weak apology and later set up the Asian Women's Fund to offer some compensation from private funds.

Tokyo admits that many were "recruited against their will," including teenagers, and that "they lived in misery ... in a coercive atmosphere." Many were told they were going to work in

Quebec students oppose tuition fee hike



Militant/John Steele

MONTREAL—On Feb. 23, some 10,000 students marched in the streets here to protest increased tuition fees. During the march students chanted, "We want to study, we don't want to go in debt" and "We are students not clients." The Quebec government is planning to increase annual fees, which are presently \$2,168, to \$3,793 by 2016.

At the present time there are 54,000 students on strike against the fee hike and some 90,000 other students will be voting whether to join them over the next two weeks. Another march is planned in Quebec City on March 1 and a big Quebec-wide mobilization will take place in Montreal on March 22.

"Everyone has a right to education and it has to be accessible to everyone," Gabriel Gagnon, who attends Vieux Montreal pre-university public college, told the *Militant*. "The government is making it a privilege and not a right."

"My education is paid for by my parents but I feel it's important to support the other students in this fight," said Bruno Tousignant from Concordia University.

—JOE YOUNG

hospitals and promised high wages. Eighty percent of the women were Korean, Ahn Seon-mi, a spokesperson for the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery, told the *Militant* in an email, but there were also Chinese, Dutch, Filipina and Indonesian women.

The full picture will never be known, Seon-mi wrote, because "the Japanese government destroyed most of the documents."

But the Japanese government has never agreed to government-funded reparations for the survivors. It writes off as exaggerations the accounts by women who say they were forced to have intercourse with a dozen or more men in a day and often beaten and abused.

Tokyo's position especially infuriated many in Korea, which was a Japanese colony from 1910 until the end of World War II. Tens of thousands of Koreans were killed, wounded or arrested as they fought to free themselves from Japanese imperialist rule.

As the war was ending, Washington replaced Japan as the dominant imperialist power in the region and sent troops

to occupy the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. forces faced a mass resurgence of the fight for Korean independence and working-class struggles, including the expropriation by peasants of large landlords and the expansion of workers committees, which controlled almost all the Japanese-owned factories in the country. U.S. forces brutally suppressed the movement and returned to power collaborators with the Japanese occupation.

With the agreement of the counter-revolutionary regime in Moscow, the country was divided into north and south in September 1945. That division was consolidated after Washington's failed attempt to gain control of the entire peninsula during the 1950 to 1953 Korean War.

For the next four and a half decades, South Korea was ruled by a succession of U.S.-backed military regimes.

In the 1980s under the pressure of protests by workers and students against martial law, some of the most blatant repressive measures in the South were loosened. This also opened the door to discussion of previously taboo topics, including the fight for reunification of North and South.

In August 1991 Kim Hak-sun became the first surviving comfort woman to speak out publicly.

During a visit to Seoul by then-Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, 10 people protested outside the Japanese Embassy on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 1992, demanding an apology and reparations. The Wednesday demonstrations have taken place every week since.

The Japanese government must "acknowledge the war crime, reveal the truth in its entirety about the crimes of military sexual slavery, make an official apology, make legal reparations, and punish those responsible," Seon-mi told the *Militant*. And it must "accurately record the crime in history textbooks."



One thousandth weekly protest, Dec. 14, in Seoul demanding Japanese government make reparations and tell entire truth about Tokyo-organized sex slavery during World War II.

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‘Keep fighting,’ Clemons tells NY meeting from death row

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—Reggie Clemons, a 39-year-old African-American, has been on death row in Missouri for nearly 20 years, framed-up for the murder of two Caucasian women on April 4, 1991. The fight by his supporters against the frame-up is winning new support and exposing the reality of class “justice” under capitalism.

A chronology put out by the Justice for Reggie Clemons Campaign outlines facts about the case.

Clemons was convicted in 1993 as an accomplice to the murder of the two young women—Julie and Robin Kerry—who drowned after plunging from the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis into the Mississippi River.

He was among a group of four youths who encountered the sisters and their cousin, Thomas Cummins, on the bridge. Cummins initially implicated himself in the murder but recanted and was released.

Three days after the women’s deaths, police detectives without a warrant

picked up Clemons at his home. Clemons’ request for a lawyer was denied. According to the Justice for Reggie Clemons Campaign, the cops beat him for several hours and coerced him to sign a statement admitting to rape of one of the women, but denying he pushed them off the bridge.

At his arraignment two days later the judge, upon seeing Clemons’ injuries, sent him to the hospital.

At the trial prosecutors conceded that Clemons neither pushed the women nor planned the crime. There was no physical evidence linking him to the crime. After Clemons was convicted of murder, the prosecutor dropped rape and robbery charges connected to the case.

Clemons received “grossly ineffective” trial counsel, the fact sheet notes.

In May 1997 the Missouri Supreme Court affirmed Clemons’ conviction and sentence. In August 2002 U.S. District Court judge Catherine Perry vacated his death sentence, but not his conviction, on the grounds of “prosecutorial misconduct” and the improper ex-



Rally in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 28 against frame-up and death sentence of Reggie Clemons.

clusion of a potential juror. She ordered the state to either resentence Clemons to life imprisonment or grant a new trial. Two years later a federal appeals court overturned this decision. In October 2005 the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review Clemons’ case.

But Clemons and his supporters did not give up the fight. Shortly before a June 2009 execution date a federal ap-

peals court issued a stay at the request of Clemons’ lawyers. A “Special Master” was appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court to review evidence in the case. The hearing date has been postponed several times and is now scheduled for Sept. 17, 2012.

“This is the first time ever in 20 years we’ve been heard to any extent at all,” Vera Thomas, Clemons’ mother, told a Feb. 27 meeting at City College of New York. “This started out as a nightmare in 1991” and since then “we’re trying to bring justice to the issue.” The event was hosted by Amnesty International.

“The prosecutor concealed evidence on the rape and robbery charges,” Thomas told the meeting, and the trial judge wouldn’t let the jury hear about the police beating of her son.

Clemons called the meeting from prison. “Even though they’ve pushed the [Special Master’s] hearing back, just keep on fighting,” he said.

Thomas told the *Militant* she’s getting a “good response” speaking around the country, including at events sponsored by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the NAACP. “People are appalled by justice in this system,” she said.

“This is the beginning of getting out the word about Reggie’s case in a bigger way in the New York area,” said Thenjiwe McHarris, a local organizer for Amnesty International.

For more information on the case go to www.justiceforreggie.com.

Conn. march protests cop abuse of Latinos

Continued from front page

John Miller and three of his subordinates on charges of conspiracy, false arrest, excessive force and obstruction of justice. This long-standing abuse received national attention in February 2009 when cops arrested Father James Manship as he videotaped them harassing Latinos.

“Miller’s boys,” as the arrested officers were known, were notorious for arbitrary detentions and beatings. In the wake of the charges, Police Chief Leonard Gallo retired.

Some 81 percent of East Haven residents are Caucasian and 10 percent are Latino—up from just 1 percent in 1980. Yet 20 percent of traffic stops were of Latino drivers.

Many on the march demanded the resignation of East Haven Mayor Joseph Maturo. The day the cops were arrested, Maturo told reporters, “We have a great police department.” Asked what he would do to improve relations with the Latino community, he said he “might have tacos” for dinner.

Edgar Marin told the *Militant* that his hand was broken by a police officer last year. “But this abuse isn’t new,” he said. Marin explained that his organization, United Latinos in Action, was formed 10 years ago in response to discrimination.

Barbara Wells, who is Black, moved to East Haven from New Haven more than a decade ago. “Blacks used to have the same kind of trouble with the cops here,” she said, “until the big fight around Malik Jones pushed them back. Now they target the Latinos.”

In 1997 East Haven police officer Robert Flodquist chased Jones’s car into New Haven where cops surrounded it. Flodquist then walked to the driver’s side, broke the window, and fired several times at point-blank range, killing the unarmed 21-year-old. After the killing, Flodquist was promoted to department spokesman, a job he held until his retirement.

Jones’s death was met with outrage. Religious groups, the NAACP and a broad coalition organized by Emma

Jones, Malik’s mother, organized public protests.

Emma Jones sued the city of East Haven. An initial verdict awarding her \$2.5 million was thrown out due to a technical error. In 2010 a jury awarded her \$900,000. An appeal filed by the town of East Haven was heard in the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in New York City Jan. 19, less than a week before the arrests of “Miller’s boys.”

Participants in the protest came from throughout Connecticut and from as far away as New York and Boston.

Miryam Mejía, who cleans industrial buildings, came with about 30 other members of the Service Employees International Union from Bridgeport, Norwalk and Stamford. “If we let them get away with it in East Haven, then it will get worse everywhere,” she said in an interview.

‘Stand up for your rights’

Abel Sánchez, who came with a delegation from the Church of New Jerusalem in New Haven, said the police sent him to the hospital in 1998. They had stopped his brother-in-law. When Sánchez asked what was happening they “called me stupid and beat me, breaking my nose. Then they gave me a ticket.”

Patrice Gordon and Darnette Richards, activists in the fight to prosecute the cops who killed Ramarley Graham, came to the rally from the Bronx, New York. Graham, an 18-year-old Black youth, was shot and killed in the bathroom of his home by police officer Richard Haste Feb. 2 after Haste and another cop broke in without a warrant. “This is your land, too. You’ve got to stand up for your rights,” Richards told the rally.

The United Front of Ecuadoran Immigrants brought 15 people from New York. Students from Yale University, Yale Law School, Wesleyan University, and other schools in Connecticut also participated. Yale Law School students had helped residents file petitions with the U.S. Department of Justice that led to the original investigation.

Some of those who watched the march go by were friendly. Kirt Swanson, the

owner of X-Pert Automotive, and some of his employees, handed out lemonade and candy.

Others were hostile. “This is just bull,” Elizabeth Lage, standing outside her apartment complex, told the *Militant*. “If they don’t have a green card, they have no rights.”

A counterprotest of some 50 people gathered across the street from the rally. One carried a Confederate flag. Another held a sign that said, “We support the East Haven Police Department.” “Show me your papers,” “Speak English,” and “Get out of here,” were among the rightists’ chants.

Guillermo Estrella held a sign that said, “No excuse for this abuse.” He told the rally that in 2006 he was beaten by East Haven cops when he stopped to aid one of their victims. The sign included photos of his swollen lip and blood-stained shirt. He said he had been silent for many years, but the protests gave him the confidence to speak out.

Tucson students walk out over Mexican-American study ban

BY BETSY MCDONALD

TUCSON, Ariz.—Some 250 students walked out of four high schools here Jan. 23, protesting state and local school board decisions that closed down the district’s Mexican-American Studies program, banned a series of textbooks and removed them from classrooms.

On Jan. 6 Arizona State Superintendent John Huppenthal ruled that the Tucson Unified School District had violated a 2010 statute that bans ethnic studies if they “promote the overthrow of the U.S. government, promote resentment toward a race or class of people, are designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group, or advocate ethnic solidarity instead of the treatment of pupils as individuals.”

Under threat of losing \$15 million a year in state funding, the TUSD school board voted 4-1 to dismantle Mexican-

American Studies.

Seven books used in the program were taken out of district classrooms, including *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures* edited by Elizabeth Martinez, *Chicano! The History of the Mexican Civil Rights Movement* by Arturo Rosales and *Message to AZTLAN* by Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales.

“Since the walkout Tucson superintendent John Pedicone has been sending letters to teachers telling them to control their students or be fired,” high school student Flor Burreal told the *Militant*.

The students’ fight to win Mexican-American Studies and the books back has won broad support, including from the American Library Association and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. More than 11,000 people signed petitions in Tucson demanding their return.

Cuban Five

Continued from front page

René González, released after 13 years in prison, is now being forced to serve three years of “supervised release” in Florida and has been denied his request to return to Cuba and his family.

Before their arrests in 1998, the five revolutionaries had been gathering intelligence for the Cuban government about the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups in South Florida. These groups have a long record of carrying out deadly attacks against Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution on U.S. and Puerto Rican soil with the knowledge, if not complicity, of U.S. authorities.

Speaking at the book launch were Kenia Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), and Mary-Alice Waters, Pathfinder president and one of the book’s authors.

The program also included readings by two well-known Cuban poets, Pablo Armando Fernández and Edel Morales, vice president of the Cuban Book Institute. In addition, the meeting room featured an exhibition of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, who learned to paint from fellow inmates in the Florence, Colo., maximum-security U.S. penitentiary. The collection, entitled “*Cubania en mariposas*” (Cubanness in butterflies), depicts butterflies native to Cuba. The paintings were created by Guerrero for Havana’s Natural History Museum.

In the front rows of the audience were several members of the families of the five revolutionaries. These tireless combatants in the worldwide campaign included Adriana Pérez, Olga Salanueva, and Rosa Aurora Freijanes, the wives of Hernández, René González, and Fernando González, as well as María Eugenia Guerrero, Antonio’s sister. Serrano paid tribute to them as “Marianas all,” a reference to one of the most revered figures in Cuba’s struggle against Spanish colonial rule, Mariana Grajales, who encouraged all eight of her sons to join the independence struggle.

Part of U.S. class struggle

The purpose of the book, Waters said, is to arm readers with the facts and “enable them to understand what otherwise seems inexplicable—why, despite all evidence to the contrary, our five comrades were framed and convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage against the U.S. government, and even conspiracy



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Presentation of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* at Havana International Book Fair, Feb. 18. From left: Cuban poet Pablo Armando Fernández; Mary-Alice Waters, co-editor of booklet and president of Pathfinder Press; Kenia Serrano, president of Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP); Cuban poet Edel Morales, vice president of Cuban Book Institute.

to commit murder, and locked up in U.S. prisons with sentences up to double life plus 15 years.”

Waters noted that “frame-ups are part of the system of class rule in the United States. What was done to the Cuban Five is something all too familiar to the vast majority of working people. It is one of the reasons they identify with them and respect them as they learn the facts.”

Pointing to examples of the unfolding resistance among workers and farmers to the brutal effects of the capitalist economic crisis, she said, “From the long-shore workers to the sugar beet workers and beyond, these are the men and women who in growing numbers will belong to what Gerardo has accurately referred to as the ‘jury of millions’ that will free them. It is along this class-struggle road, where the battles are intensifying because of the workings of the capitalist system, that their freedom will be won.” (For the text of remarks by Waters and Serrano, see page 9.)

Serrano thanked Pathfinder Press for publishing *The Cuban Five*, which she said “gives voice” to the five and to their defenders. Reading the book, Serrano said, reminded her of what she had learned during “an unforgettable speaking tour of nearly 50 U.S. universities” she made in 1995 as a leader of Cuba’s

Federation of University Students. “We visited striking workers on picket lines, talked to workers at a Ford auto plant,” and had other exchanges with working people engaged in struggles.

Impact of Angola combat mission

Serrano cited facts from the book on the records of each of the Cuban Five as revolutionists. She was particularly struck by a 2005 interview with the Cuban newspaper *Trabajadores*, reprinted under the headline “Angola Made Me Grow,” in which René González talks about the deep political impact his experiences in that country had on him. In 1977-79 González was among the hundreds of thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers between 1975 and 1991 who joined with Angolan combatants to beat back the invading armed forces of South Africa’s apartheid regime.

The Cuban Five was one of the most sought-after Pathfinder titles at the book fair, selling out at most events before the demand was satisfied. At the book launch, throughout the fair, and at other meetings, a total of 550 copies were sold.

The book was featured at several presentations in Havana after the book fair along with another new Pathfinder title, *Women in Cuba: The Making of*

a Revolution Within the Revolution by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, and Yolanda Ferrer. One meeting was held at the national center of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. The Union of Young Communists, the Federation of Secondary School Students, and the Federation of University Students organized two meetings with students and teachers, one at the Salvador Allende teacher training high school and another at the University of Havana’s Enrique José Varona Teacher Training Institute. Workers at a hotel where Waters and reporters for this newspaper often stay in Havana also organized a book presentation.

Cubans are very familiar with the case of the five imprisoned revolutionaries through extensive coverage in the press, radio and television here. Nonetheless, many purchasing the book said it was the first time they found a book presenting in depth the story of these combatants—the key facts, including a number they were unaware of, and the political context of the case in the United States. They were particularly drawn to the photos and articles illustrating how the fight for the freedom of their five compañeros is being waged in the United States and other countries.

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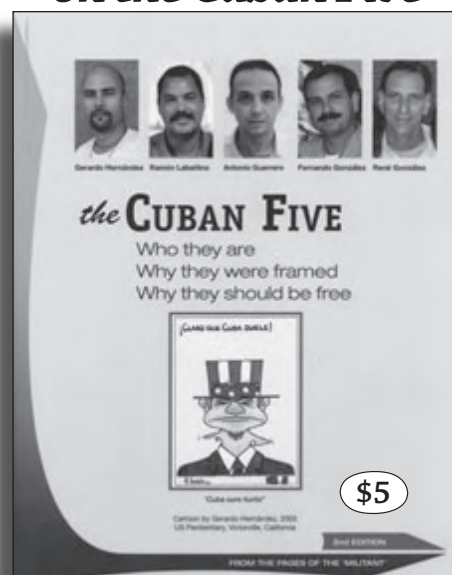
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New, updated booklet on the Cuban Five



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‘Defense of the five begins with Cuban Revolution itself’

Presentation by Mary-Alice Waters in Havana launches new book on ‘The Cuban Five’

The following remarks by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, were given at the presentation of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* at the Havana International Book Fair, Feb. 18. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Footnotes are by the Militant.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

On behalf of Pathfinder Press, welcome to all. And a special welcome to members of the families of Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René, who are with us here today.

It’s an honor to have Kenia Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, on the platform. For us, Kenia has been a comrade in arms since we first worked together in 1995, when she toured the United States defending the Cuban Revolution, speaking to students, workers, and farmers across the country.¹ There’s a wonderful photo of Kenia taken during that tour talking with striking workers at the Caterpillar plant in York, Pennsylvania; you can find it in the Pathfinder book *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*.

It’s also a pleasure to be doing the presentation today surrounded by this impressive gallery of Antonio’s paintings, and listening to poets such as Pablo Armando Fernández and Edel

1. In March and April 1995, the University of Minnesota-based Faculty-Student Cuban Youth Lectures Committee sponsored a six-week tour of Cuban youth leaders Kenia Serrano and Rogelio Polanco that reached thousands of people in 28 cities across the U.S.

The tour included meetings on nearly 50 college campuses, eight high schools, one middle school, and 18 other meetings, including with unionists and in communities. In addition they talked with workers in workplaces or on picket lines on 12 occasions.

Rogelio Polanco is currently Cuban ambassador to Venezuela.



Militant photos by Rosemary Ray (above); Frank Forrestal (above right); and Carole Lesnick

“Our goal is to enable a still small but growing vanguard of combative workers—and youth attracted to their struggles—to understand why the fight to win freedom for the Cuban Five is *our* struggle, part of the class struggle inside the U.S. as well as internationally,” said Mary-Alice Waters. **Above**, meeting at United Steelworkers hall in Toronto in solidarity with Cuban Five, Aug. 2010. From left: Jack Layton, then leader of New Democratic Party; Olga Salanueva, wife of René González, one of Cuba Five; Adriana Pérez, wife of Cuban Five prisoner Gerardo Hernández; and Irma González, daughter of Salanueva and González. Tony Woodley, then joint general secretary of Unite union in U.K., and Ken Neumann, director of USW in Canada, also spoke. **Above right**, Rally on bridge in Fargo, N.D., for workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar, Oct. 2011. **Below right**, students discuss frame-up of Cuban Five at forum sponsored by Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity at University of California, Davis, May 2009.



Morales, vice president of the Cuban Book Institute.



Los Cinco Cubanos is a selection of articles from the pages of the *Militant*, “a socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people,” as its masthead proudly states—a paper circulated not only in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, but around the world.

Taken from many dozens of articles run by the *Militant* over the years of this struggle, the selection does not pretend to be a book of record. It doesn’t attempt to cover everything of importance about the multifront battle to win the freedom of our five comrades. It has been published by Pathfinder to be used as one

of the many weapons in that battle. We chose the format because it is easy to adjust the content—to add new articles, eliminate others that have been superseded, include new photos, produce new editions.

In fact, the second edition in English will be out in a matter of days. In English and Spanish, some 2,000 copies are already in print and circulating widely.

The books Pathfinder publishes are not sold primarily through bookstores or on the Internet. They are distributed by workers and young people who are communists and who take them to plant gates and into factories in their lunch boxes, and sell them wherever working people and youth looking for answers to the deepening crisis of capitalism are engaged in action. We sell them on pick-

et lines and from tables in working-class neighborhoods. Take them to gatherings of small farmers across the country. Sell them on university campuses, and at social protests and political events.

The book’s purpose is to arm those who read it with knowledge about Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René. The objective is to enable working people to understand what otherwise seems inexplicable:

Why, despite all evidence to the contrary, were our five comrades convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage against the U.S. government—and, in the case of Gerardo, even conspiracy to commit murder—and locked up in U.S. prisons with sentences up to double life plus fifteen years? We aim to make it

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‘Jury of millions will free the Cuban Five’

Presentation by ICAP President Kenia Serrano at Havana Int’l Book Fair

The following remarks by Kenia Serrano were given at the presentation of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* at the Havana International Book Fair, Feb. 18. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press for the translation from Spanish. Reprinted by permission. The footnotes are by the Militant.

BY KENIA SERRANO

Dear family members of our Five Heroes, who are here with us; Mary-Alice and all the compañeros from Pathfinder; Edel Morales, poet and vice president of the Cuban Book Institute; compañeros from the Union of Young Communists, Editora Política, and other institutions who have joined us for this presentation.

Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, Fernando González Llort, and René González Schwerert continue to be unjustly imprisoned. An enormous wall of silence has been erected to hide the truth about their case.

This compilation of articles—by Mary-Alice Waters, Martín Koppel, Sam

Manuel, Seth Galinsky, Ernest Mailhot, Michel Poitras, and Naomi Craine, along with two others about René’s and Gerardo’s experiences in Angola, taken from the Cuban newspapers *Trabajadores* and *El Guerrillero*, the provincial paper of Pinar del Río—explains their almost fourteen-year-long struggle for justice. The booklet gives the floor to those who are fighting for the Five, to their people, to their defense attorneys, to the Five themselves, to those who know them, and those who defend their cause.

Opening space for this truth to reach people in the United States and other parts of the world where Pathfinder gets out its message—Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada—is a very good decision by a publisher known to Cuban readers for its seriousness and its timely selection of political literature. These books are useful both to those who have long been committed to progressive ideas, as well as those just beginning to look for political works that defend the working class and its conquests.

I have to confess I began reading these

books sixteen years ago, while I was on an unforgettable tour of nearly fifty US universities, representing our well-loved Federation of University Students. Compañero Rogelio Polanco, who was representing the Union of Young Communists, and I visited striking workers on picket lines, talked with workers at a Ford auto plant, and were in Los Angeles for the opening of *Strawberries and Chocolate*. We explained the truth about our people. For us it was a kind of real-time course in politics, transmitted live and in full color, as we saw how elementary rights were being stripped away from the workers of that country, the land of the heroes of Chicago.¹

In Minnesota, Native Americans showed us maps detailing the cruel dispossession from land that had belonged to the ancestors of Leonard Peltier. In Philadelphia, we met people already then fighting for freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. We learned about and supported the causes of people like Mark Curtis, who likewise had been framed up, and we met young Afro-Americans who, like Rodney King, had been vic-

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Cuba and the COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION
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possible for those who read the book to connect this nightmare to their own life experiences as workers who refuse to stop fighting for their rights, for a future for themselves and their fellow working people.

Our goal is to enable a still small but growing vanguard of combative workers—and youth attracted to their struggles—to understand why the fight to win freedom for the Cuban Five is *our* struggle, part of the class struggle inside the U.S. as well as internationally.

If there is one thing I hope those here today will take away with you, it is our conviction that the fight for the return of our five Cuban brothers will be advanced, not by the good will of Barack Obama or any other chief executive of a party of the imperialist empire, but because of what is changing in the world today—the increasing resistance by working people in the United States and internationally to the consequences *for us* of the capitalist crisis, a crisis still just in its opening stages. As is evident from the streets of Greece to factories throughout the U.S., it is not we who are initiating the battles, it is the employers and their state apparatus who are forcing those battles upon us.

But more and more—in the same way that the people of Cuba have responded many times—working people in the United States are beginning to say, “Enough!” More of us are going to stand and fight. It is even our dignity as free human beings that is at stake.



For us in the Socialist Workers Party, the defense of our five comrades begins with the Cuban Revolution itself. It begins by explaining why each of the five accepted the dangerous mission asked of them—to live and work in the United States, gathering intelligence on paramilitary counterrevolutionary groups like Brothers to the Rescue, which operate with Washington’s knowledge, if not its complicity. Why each of our compañeros said with pride in the courtroom that if asked to accept that responsibility again, they would do so with no hesitation.

Brothers to the Rescue was repeatedly violating Cuban airspace, knowing full well that Cuba, like any sovereign country, would defend its people and its



Dawn Des Brisay

“As they go through their own battles, workers rapidly learn from their own experiences how the cops and courts are stacked against those who fight, who resist, who refuse to accept the conditions capitalism imposes on us. And above all, how the cops are used against those who refuse to break,” said Waters. **“These militants come to admire the five Cuban combatants and will come to emulate their determination and courage.”** **Above,** cops assault members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union at Sept. 7 protest against EGT Development’s attempt to shut union out of its grain terminal at Port of Longview in Washington state. **“It’s battlefronts like these to which members of the Socialist Workers Party take *The Cuban Five*, and where dozens of workers with subscriptions to the *Militant* read about the case week after week.”**

territory. The counterrevolutionaries, we explain, were intent on provoking what they hoped would become a military confrontation between the U.S. government and Cuba—something the Cuban government successfully prevented from happening. We explain how the Clinton administration was determined to find a way to retaliate against the Cuban people.²

Without this broad historical perspective, working people in the United States can make no sense of why the five are in prison, why the fight to free them is above all a *political* fight in defense of the Cuban Revolution. Nor can they appreciate the full revolutionary caliber of our five comrades and totally identify with them.



Pathfinder’s book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Socialist

Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes is dedicated to our five brothers with the following words:

For Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando and René

Five exemplary products of the Cuban Revolution who today, even if against their will, serve with honor on the front lines of the class struggle in the United States.

While we never cease explaining why and how they were framed up and railroaded to prison with draconian sentences, we also ceaselessly point to their revolutionary example. Our five comrades—like their loved ones and families—do not conduct themselves as victims, much less suffering martyrs nailed to a cross. They act as proletarian internationalists, as revolutionary combatants who take their places on the front lines of battle wherever they find themselves.

As many of you here well know, there are some 2.5 million men and women incarcerated in the prisons of the United States. It is the country with the highest percentage of prisoners in the world, the large majority of them working people framed and railroaded to jail, often without trial, after being blackmailed by the threat of very heavy sentences or sometimes the death penalty and pressured into taking so-called plea bargains—that is, pleading guilty to some “lesser” crime they did not commit.

Within the working class and among the Black nationality and other oppressed peoples especially, there is hardly a family that does not have some relative who is jailed or has been in, or who knows someone in their circle of friends and acquaintances who is serving or has served time, or is now on probation or parole.

Frame-ups against workers are part of the system of class rule in the United States. What was done to the Cuban Five is something all too familiar to the vast

majority of working people. It is one reason, as they learn the facts, that workers identify with Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René and respect them.

We know firsthand the kind of political work carried out by each of the five not only from what they themselves

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2. Brothers to the Rescue is a U.S.-based Cuban American counterrevolutionary outfit that falsely portrayed itself as a “humanitarian” group rescuing Cubans who were leaving the island on rafts. Its CIA-trained leader, José Basulto, was involved in the 1961 failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs by some 1,500 Cuban mercenaries organized, financed and deployed by Washington.

Planes flown by Brothers to the Rescue pilots repeatedly violated Cuban airspace, conducting some 25 such illegal incursions between mid-1994 and February 1996, according to Cuban officials. Havana filed numerous protests with the U.S. government, which Washington ignored.

On Feb. 24, 1996, three Brothers to the Rescue planes flew into Cuban airspace heading toward Havana. Pilots ignored warnings by Cuban air traffic controllers to turn back. Cuban fighter planes then shot down two of the aircraft, killing four Brothers to the Rescue members. The third plane, flown by Basulto, got away. All provocative flights ceased after the shootdown.

In response, the Clinton administration stepped up its hostile actions against Cuba. That included signing in March 1996 of the Helms-Burton Act aimed at tightening the U.S. economic embargo against the revolution and the frame-up of the Cuban Five in September 1998.

Hernández was sentenced to one of his two life terms for the trumped-up charge of “conspiracy to commit murder” on the baseless claim that he had been “supporting and implementing a plan” by the Cuban government to shoot down the Brothers to the Rescue planes over international waters.



Militant

“Books Pathfinder publishes,” said Waters, **“are distributed by workers and young people who are communists and sell them at work, on picket lines, from tables in working-class neighborhoods, to gatherings of small farmers, on university campuses, and at social protests and political events.”** **Above,** Maura DeLuca introduces *Militant* newspaper and books on revolutionary working-class politics to high school student in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 2011.

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tims of police brutality.²

I recount these experiences now—at the same time that I encourage you to read the articles in this new booklet and share them with whomever you can—to express my appreciation to the *Militant*. Thanks to this compilation, I realized that when *René* was in Angola and went through that extraordinary experience, he was twenty-one: the same age I was when I first visited the United States.³

The impact that internationalist mission in Angola had on him is explained by René himself, and I quote:

An experience that had a big impact on me was seeing the hunger in the faces and bodies of the children. The look on their faces made you shiver. Through some tacit and silent agreement, each one of our two hundred combatants agreed, from the first day, to give up a portion of their meager rations to feed a dozen children who would wait for us by the side of the road three times a day as we were taking food to a small group of troops deployed near their village.

There are two juxtaposed moments that will forever be etched in my memory: those happy faces returning to their village, and witnessing a neighboring family making a small coffin.

The experiences that any revolutionary lives through in defending his homeland and fighting for justice are never forgotten. They come to the fore



Kenia Serrano (right) talks with workers on strike against Caterpillar in York, Pa., during U.S. speaking tour in spring of 1995. "It was a kind of real-time course in politics," said Serrano, "transmitted live and in full color, as we saw how elementary rights were being stripped away from workers." Photo is in *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*.

in moments like those our Five brothers have been forced to live through in the prisons where they are being held. They were able to endure months of harsh punishment in the hole because of their moral strength and the experiences they lived through as they were becoming revolutionaries.

In another article in the book, a friend

of *Gerardo's*—José Luis Palacio Cuní, who was with him in Angola—describes how twelve men had to sleep in a bunker six meters long and two or three meters wide.⁴

As the book informs us, *Fernando* earned his membership in the Communist Party of Cuba while in Angola—and he learned how to conquer what he calls the interminable paperwork it took to be able to marry Rosa Aurora while in prison, as she explains in *Letters of Love and Hope*.

The story of *Ramón* is gripping. He earned his membership in the party when he was twenty-eight and kept his work as an agent of state security so confidential that his mother, Nereida, died without ever knowing he had left Cuba in early 1990 dedicated to the fight against terrorism. In one of these articles, his father Holmes explains he didn't know about Ramón's work. They never talked about it, nor had he ever asked Ramón. But "since [Ramón] was very young he always knew what to do and did the right thing."

We are presenting this book today, surrounded by *Antonio's* impressive paintings of butterflies. In trying his hand at painting, however, he first did a portrait of his mother—another detail that can be found in these pages. The book explains how the Five, as Mary-Alice just said—despite all efforts to silence them and isolate them from the American people—have made contact with working people in the United States inside these prisons walls.

In 2003, when international solidarity and energetic demands by their attorneys finally brought an end to a special punishment the Five had been subjected to, thrown in the hole for a month, Antonio requested that he be assigned to share a cell with Andre, an African American prisoner who had taught Antonio his first drawing techniques. Later, during a prison lockdown, Antonio painted two beautiful portraits, one of [José] Martí and the other of [Cuban writer] Cintio Vitier, figures who are very symbolic for us.⁵ When Andre was transferred to another prison, Antonio was given a new cell mate, in this case a Native American, with whom he formed a solid friendship.

Fernando has been in the same prison

with Oscar [López Rivera], one of our Puerto Rican brothers who continue to fight for the right of that island to be independent.⁶

These five brief summaries fill us with confidence that the jury of millions will be created, the jury that will free the Five and bring them home. We know the struggle on their behalf is at the same time a struggle in support for the more than two million men and women who are prisoners in US jails, and for their families, as Martín and Mary-Alice explain in their introduction to this book.

The cartoon chosen for the cover of the book—drawn by Gerardo, who has the heaviest sentence among our five—is masterful. Cuba is depicted as stuck in the empire's throat. It is as if they were here among us listening to the rich vernacular spoken on any street corner, and the cartoonist is saying that the empire simply can't "swallow" us. The caption, too, is very Cuban: "Of course Cuba hurts."

A thank you to Pathfinder for the decision to publish this book. A thank you to all of you who will now be leaving here with this book under your arm, as you enjoy the exhibition of Tony's art. And a thank you to the Five, for giving us this lesson of love and resistance.

1. The 1994 movie *Strawberry and Chocolate* deals candidly with antigay prejudices in Cuba.

Heroes of Chicago refers to the Haymarket Martyrs. On May 1, 1886, 190,000 workers walked off the job across the United States in support of the eight-hour day, including 40,000 in Chicago. On May 4, eight workers were framed up for a bombing that occurred at rally of several thousand workers in Chicago's Haymarket Square. Four were hanged. The events are the basis for the May 1 holiday, celebrated throughout the world as International Workers' Day.

2. Native American activist Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned for more than 35 years on frame-up charges of killing two FBI agents during a 1975 government siege of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a journalist and political activist, spent 29 years on death row for the 1982 frame-up conviction of killing a Philadelphia city cop. In April

2011, a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled his death sentence unconstitutional.

In March 1988 Mark Curtis, then a member of the Socialist Workers Party, was framed up on rape and burglary charges a few hours after leaving a meeting to defend 17 of his coworkers threatened with deportation at the Swift meatpacking plant in Des Moines, Iowa. In Sept. 1988 he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He was paroled in June 1996.

Rodney King, a Black worker, was brutally beaten by four Los Angeles cops in March 1991. The videotaped assault sparked widespread outrage. Following the April 1992 acquittal of the cops, anti-cop riots broke out in the city, which were violently suppressed by soldiers and police.

3. Between 1975 and 1991, more than 375,000 Cuban volunteers served as internationalist combatants in Angola in southern Africa, helping the Angolan people defeat invasions by the white supremacist South African regime.



Three of the Cuban Five participated in Cuba's 16-year internationalist mission aiding the people of Angola to defeat U.S.-backed military invasions by army of white supremacist South Africa. **Above**, Gerardo Hernández, standing at right, making coconut dessert with members of reconnaissance platoon in northern Angola, sometime in 1989-90.

4. The account by José Luis Palacio, who served under Hernández in Angola, was originally published under the title "Twelve Men and Two Cats" in March 2006 in *Guerrillero*, the provincial newspaper of Pinar del Río in western Cuba.

5. José Martí (1853-1895), Cuba's national hero, led the fight against Spanish colonial domination and U.S. designs on the island. He organized the 1895 independence war and was killed in combat. Cintio Vitier (1921-2009) was one of Cuba's outstanding writers.

6. Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera has been jailed in the U.S. since 1981, making him one of the longest-held political prisoners in the world. Both Fernando González and López are currently jailed in the Federal Correctional Institution in Terre Haute, Ind.



Cartoon by Gerardo Hernández showing "that the empire simply can't 'swallow' Cuba," commented Serrano, "with a very Cuban caption: 'Of course Cuba hurts.'"

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write us. We also know it from the not infrequent requests we receive for subscriptions to the *Militant* and copies of Pathfinder books from prisoners each of the *compañeros* have crossed paths with. Both the *Militant* and Pathfinder have long had special reduced prices for prisoners that make it easier for them and their families to afford them. One such request we received in recent weeks was from a prisoner asking for a copy of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, and he continued:

I enjoyed the [copy I saw of] *The Cuban Five*. I was impressed because I know one of them [in this case it was Antonio], and he and I have discussed different subjects about the world we all share. Your help in their struggle is appreciated by me as well as by people all over the world.



I want to end by saying why we are so confident we will win the battle for the freedom of our five comrades.

The economic crisis that exploded with such violence in 2008 has had far-reaching consequences for the working class in the United States. A slight upturn in production is occurring now, part of the normal cyclical course of capitalism—up or down. But the impact of high levels of long-term unemployment, the millions of families who have lost their homes, medical coverage, pensions, and hopes for the future—all this has been devastating.

For millions of workers who have eventually found employment again, it is often at wages that are a fraction of what they earned before. Others, also numbering in the millions, have simply stopped looking for a job and are no longer even counted by the government as unemployed.

The brutal speedup and intensification of labor, along with the slashing of wages, especially for new hires, have given employers a taste of blood. In factory after factory, owners are demanding new concessions on wages and working conditions and then locking out workers who refuse to accept the new contract terms.

This doesn't reflect a *choice* by the U.S. capitalists. It's the course along which they *must* make progress if they are to recover from the crisis their system—not the workers—produced. Pauperization, a large reserve army of unemployed workers, broken trade unions, large-scale incarceration of angry workers—especially among African Americans: all these are *neces-*

sary preconditions for a capitalist recovery.

You have heard a lot about the activities that have taken place under the name of "Occupy Wall Street" or "Occupy" whatever else. But unless you are a reader of the *Militant*, you are probably unaware of the broad scope of labor battles in the United States.

The Cuban Five is not the only thing the bourgeois press refuses to write about, and their silence is not a conspiracy. They don't have to conspire. No one has to tell them it is not in their interests for workers to be able to learn from the example of others. But what is happening in the course of these labor battles is far more important than the expressions of discontent registered by the Occupy phenomenon. Above all, it is important because vanguard workers are learning of each other and extending the hand of solidarity across industries, regions, and national borders.

From the sugar workers along the Canadian border in northern Minnesota and North Dakota, to tire workers in Ohio, to workers protesting anti-immigrant laws in Alabama, to longshoremen in the state of Washington on the West Coast, the labor battles have an intensity and sharpness that has not been seen in the United States for some time.³ In a confrontation with the port workers in Longview, Washington, the Obama administration had ordered the Coast Guard to escort the incoming ship and protect it as it was being loaded by scab labor. At the last minute, a settlement was won restoring union protection for longshoremen at a major company on those docks.

More than 200 port workers were arrested in the course of this standoff, however, and charged with various felonies for which some of them still face costly court battles and the possibility of lengthy prison sentences if convicted.

These are the kinds of battlefronts to which we take *The Cuban Five*, and where dozens of workers with subscriptions to the *Militant* are reading about



"There are some 2.5 million incarcerated in U.S. prisons, the large majority of them working people framed, often without trial, after being pressured by the threat of very heavy sentences to plead guilty to some 'lesser' crime they did not commit," said Waters. **Above**, overcrowded California State Prison in Los Angeles, Aug. 2006. **Right**, Vincent Thames, center, and Terrill Swift, right, leave Chicago court Nov. 16 after judge ordered new trial for 1994 rape and murder they and two others "confessed" to under police coercion. The "Englewood Four," as they became known, spent more than 15 years behind bars.



the case week after week. As they go through their own battles, they rapidly learn from their own experiences how the cops and courts are stacked against those who fight, who resist, who refuse to accept the conditions capitalism imposes on us. And above all, how the cops are used against those who refuse to break. These militants come to admire the five Cuban combatants and will come to emulate their determination and courage.

At the same time the West Coast longshore battle was intensifying, a showing of Antonio's paintings was organized by the teachers union and some students at one of the colleges in nearby Seattle. One of the port workers, a woman, who had been arrested during an action organized by the union and was facing trumped-up felony charges, saw a postcard for the Seattle art showing, a card that reproduced Antonio's painting of his prison shirt. Her response, with a touch of pride, was, "One day my prison shirt

too will be hanging on a peg."

It took a decade of bloody civil war and then revolutionary struggle in the United States for working people to win the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirming the right to "equal protection under the law." It will take another revolution in the United States, led by the working class and its allies, to make that constitutional right a reality for working people.

From the longshore workers to the sugar workers and beyond, these are the men and women who in growing numbers will belong to what Gerardo has accurately referred to as the "jury of millions" that will liberate them. It is along this class-struggle road, where battles are intensifying because of the workings of the capitalist system itself, that their freedom will be won.

That is what gives those like us fighting inside the United States such confidence today. And this is why the publication of *The Cuban Five*, and how it will be used, is important.



"It took a bloody civil war and revolutionary struggle in the U.S. for working people to win the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirming the right to 'equal protection under the law.' It will take another revolution in the U.S., led by the working class and its allies, to make that constitutional right a reality," said Waters. **Above**, First South Carolina Volunteers, a Union Army Black combat regiment, listen to reading of Emancipation Proclamation, 1863.

3. Some 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union in the Upper Midwest have been fighting a lockout by American Crystal Sugar since Aug. 1, after they refused bosses' concession contract demands.

Some 1,050 members of United Steelworkers Local 207L were locked out Nov. 28 in Findlay, Ohio, after rejecting Cooper Tire and Rubber Co.'s contract demands to cut wages, speed up work, and establish lower pay and benefits for new hires. The lockout ended after workers voted to accept a contract offer Feb. 27.

Members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 led a six-month fight against attempt by EGT Development to shut the union out of its terminal in the Port of Longview, Wash. If successful, EGT would have set a precedent with the first West Coast grain terminal run without ILWU labor in eight decades. After an eight-month struggle, EGT conceded to hiring ILWU labor.



"One day my prison shirt will be left hanging," pastel drawing by Antonio Guerrero, one of Cuban Five. "One day my prison shirt too will be hanging on a peg," echoed a longshore worker, who was arrested during action by ILWU and faces trumped-up felony charges, when she saw postcard for showing of Guerrero's artwork in Seattle.